



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

(409) 366-2441

OPEN FROM 1:00 To 5:00 P.M. EVER DAY DAY EXCEPT HOLIDAYS
Phone 409/366-2441

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This week Ron and Cindy Knippa are busy finalizing plans for the best ever Wendish booth at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio. This is the 23rd year of participation by our society.

Good News! At the February 20, 1994 board meeting action was taken to submit an application for Giddings hotel-motel tax funds in the amount of \$4,000.00. The funds would be used for a 25" TV, VCR, and stand - Wendish Fest promotion, wooden outdoor benches, and picnic tables with benches. There were requests amounting to \$98,745.00 of which \$50,560.70 was allotted. Our society received \$2,000.00. The TV set, VCR, and stand have been purchased and will be available for programs and tour groups (especially school groups). Some of the \$2,000.00 will be used for Wendish Fest promotion and the remainder for benches or picnic tables.

A big THANKS to Bob and Daphne Garrett and the Exxon Corporation for the new Rainbow vacuum cleaner which was purchased recently.

Doris Reagan, along with the board, has been updating the by-laws of our organization. Hopefully the final draft can be acted upon at our November general membership meeting.

On July 4th Captain Telford Zoch and Co-captain Freddie Zoch entered the Ben Nevis float in the Round Top parade. There were over 80 entries and our float received the overall Grand Prize ribbon! Riders were Walter, Laverne, Shaina, Minerva, and Sarah Gersch, Freddie and Jennifer Zoch, Elizabeth and Sarah Schwartz, and driver Telford Zoch.

Everyone enjoyed the August, 1993 program. James Kalbas discussed his Wendish organic garden, and answered many questions. He will again be our speaker for the August 1994 meeting, so bring your questions and comments to the meeting.

See you at the Folklife Festival!

Laverne Gersch
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 4-7 Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas

August 21 General Membership Meeting at the Museum at
2:00 P.M.

September 25 Sixth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum
Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin picnic
grounds

October 18 Walk-in coffee/bake sale at Elinor's
cottage behind the Fletcher Home in
Giddings, Texas

November 20 General Membership Meeting at the Museum at
2:00 P.M. with election of officers

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The speaker for the August general membership meeting will be James Kalbas, owner of Big Three Lease and Well Service in Northrup. Mr. Kalbas is an expert in organic gardening, and will have slides and video footage.

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DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of May and June: George Boerger, Leroy Steglich, Vivian Taylor, Laverne Gersch, Hattie Schautschick, Esther Buscha, Evelyn Kasper, Georgie Boyce, Ruby Koslan, Elsie Socha, Linda and Sara Schwartz, Henry and Emily Zoch, Carol Lewis, Lester, and Leslie Carpenter, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Mildred Kilian, Freddie Zoch, Ken Weiser, Heather Hielscher, and Herbert and Laverne Falke.

VISITORS

During the months of May and June there were visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Oklahoma, California, Tennessee, Germany, Utah, Alabama, Kansas, South Carolina, New Mexico, Arkansas, Maryland, Oregon, Norway, Louisiana, Iowa, and New Jersey.

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Thank you to Rev. Elmer Hohle of Liberty Hill for having the devotion and presenting the program for the May membership meeting.

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GENERAL MEETING, MAY 15, 1994

Pastor Elmer Hohle of Liberty Hill opened the meeting with a prayer in Wendish. He then had a program on the Wendish language including singing of Christmas carols by the congregation in Groditz and by Carl Miertschin, and some folk lore.

Laverne Gersch welcomed the members attending for the first time, Doug and Pearl Symmank of Giddings and Walter Zoch of Austin, and visitors, Harold Theiss of Houston, Harry and Esther Kempe of Dallas, who are related to Pastor Hohle. The visitors who had attended the Camp Lone Star retreat for OWL (Old Walther Leaguers) were welcomed. Harold and Andrea Scheibner of Italy and Germany were guests of Walter and Laverne Gersch. They had visited here several years ago when they did filming in the Serbin area.

Pastor Hohle gave the museum a copy of a Christmas Carol in Wendish which was written in Germany in 1966 to a tune composed in 1754. This was given to him by a Pastor Reinsch from Germany. He also gave us a copy of a wood block picture of child in a manger which he made and thought could be used for a Christmas card.

Evelyn Kasper announced that a group from Zion Lutheran Church in Tomball would be arriving for a luncheon tour on Monday, May 16th. After the meeting adjourned and refreshments of coffee cake and brownies were served, members helped set up the tables for the luncheon.

It was also announced that the Bake Sale held at La Grange on Friday brought in \$326.50 and that AAL Branch 1559 will match \$300.00

Evelyn Kasper,
Evelyn Kasper
Acting Secretary



Victoria County Historical Commission

VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

The Victoria County Historical Commission has begun a project to compile a computer database of immigrants who arrived in the United States through the Port of Indianola, Texas. From the landing of Prince Solm's German settlers on the beach in December 1844 until the destructive hurricane of 1886, Indianola was second only to Galveston as the major port of entry on the Texas coast. Thousands of German, Polish, Czech, English, Irish, French and other settlers stepped ashore here to begin a new life.

If your ancestor came to the United States through the Port of Indianola, we would like to include him/her in our database. All you have to do is complete the form on the bottom of the page and return it. Please include as much information as possible. We will accept information gleaned from diaries, deeds, bibles, church records, family accounts, obituaries, and news articles as well as official immigration records. Although we would appreciate a photocopy of any record you may have verifying this data, it is not necessary in order to have your ancestor registered.

For further information, contact Patsy Hand (Project Coordinator), 417 Cottonwood St., Victoria, Tx 77904...phone 512 575-0049.

Name of Immigrant _____

Birthdate _____ Place of Birth _____

Deathdate _____ Place of Death _____

Spouse's Name _____ Marriage Date _____

Children _____

Date of Arrival at the Port of Indianola _____

Destination in the United States _____

Name of Ship _____ Other information _____

Source(s) of information _____

Submitted by _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Return form to: Patsy Hand (Project Coordinator), 417 Cottonwood St., Victoria, Tx 77904 512 575-0049

KASPER REUNION

The Silver Anniversary of the Mathis and Christiana (Zimmerman) Kasper Family Reunion at the Warda Picnic Grounds on Sunday, May 1st, brought 102 family members together.

Flowers for this special occasion were furnished by the August Kasper family, and were sent to Mrs. Michael (Albina) Lehmann, who is ill.

Laverne and Tom Tackett of Schulenburg prepared the delicious roast beef and family members brought side dishes and desserts. There was also a beautiful and delicious anniversary cake, donated by Ellizabeth Kappler, for the occasion. Soft drinks were donated by Margie and Buddy Whited and beer was donated by the the Robert E. Pietsch family.

Darlene and Les Schuessler of Humble are in the process of updating the family history and putting it all on computer. By sending your family information and \$5.00 to them, they will send you a copy of the history.

Officers are Lana Swearingen, President, Evelyn Kasper, Vice-President, and Norma Powell, Secretary/Treasurer.

Prizes awarded were, a beautiful afghan donated by Less Schuessler, and a number of lottery tickets.

HIELSCHER REUNION

The Second Annual Hielscher reunion was atteded by 51 decendents of the Ernst and Amalia (Foerster) Hielscher family at the Zilss Memorial Community Hall at Winchester, Texas on June 5, 1994.

After a short devotional, and the common table, led by Jimmy Throckmorton, everyone enjoyed a delicious Bar-B-Que chicken and sausage meal prepared by Billy Graeber, and Jerry and Carroll Hielscher. Side dishes were provided by everyone attending.

There was a short business meeting at which time it was decided to have the next reunion at the same location on the 1st Sunday in June, 1995.

The following were introduced: The youngest person attending was Ashley N. Hielscher, 5 months, from Hendersonville, Tennessee, the oldest person attending was Richard Hielscher of Austin, Texas, 84 years, the couple who traveled the farthest distance was Mr. & Mrs. Bill Graeber, of Corpus Christi, Texas, the couple married the longest was Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Joyce of Austin, Texas, 60 years, and the couple most recently married was Mr. and Mrs. Mark Metcalf, of Austin, Texas, 11 months.

TEINERT REUNION HELD

THE DESCENDENTS OF J. HERMAN & CHRISTIANA WINZER TEINERT GATHERED TOGETHER ON JUNE 11, 1994, AT THE HOLY CROSS PICNIC-FELLOWSHIP HALL FOR THEIR SECOND REUNION. THE HOST FAMILY WAS THE DESCENDENTS OF ALVIN TEINERT, SR.

A MEAL OF BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN AND SAUSAGE AND MANY DELICIOUS SIDE DISHES WAS SERVED AFTER THE FAMILIES WERE WELCOMED BY ROGER TEINERT. PASTOR ROBERT BOYCE HAD AN OPENING ADDRESS AND THE GROUP JOINED IN HYMNS AND THE COMMON TABLE PRAYER AND SINGING OF THE DOXOLOGY.

THE AFTERNOON WAS SPENT VISITING AND A GROUP PLAYED MUSIC FOR ALL.

A SHORT MEETING LED BY RANDY TEINERT WAS HELD AND IT WAS DECIDED TO HOLD THE NEXT REUNION ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF JUNE, 1996-JUNE 8, 1996. THE HOST FAMILY WILL BE DESCENDENTS OF THE GERHARD TEINERT FAMILY.

ROLL CALL OF FAMILIES WAS TAKEN FOR A TOTAL OF 147 FAMILY MEMBERS REGISTERED AS PRESENT.

KATHY STEGLICH SMITH HAD PREPARED DESCENDENT HISTORY OF THE J. HERMAN TEINERT FAMILY.

RECOGNITION WAS GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING FAMILY MEMBERS PRESENT: THE OLDEST FAMILY MEMBER PRESENT JOHANNA PIETSCH; THE YOUNGEST WAS SHELBY BARROW WHO WAS BORN ON APRIL 25, 1994; ALMA AND ROLAND FROELICH WAS THE COUPLE MARRIED THE LONGEST, 62 YEARS; THE COUPLE MOST RECENTLY MARRIED WAS LUDWIG AND ONETA TEINERT OF LUBBOCK; THE ONE TRAVELING THE FARTHEREST WAS ROGER AND JAN TEINERT FROM JONESBORO, TENNESSEE; THE OLDEST GREAT-GRANDCHILD WAS JUNELL (PIETSCH) SCHULZ; CHRISTOPHER MAYFIELD WON THE JELLY BEAN COUNT; MARK WAYNE YOUNG WON THE CANDY CORN COUNT; NATHAN TEINERT WON THE GUMMI BEAR COUNT; AND HERMAN WILLIAM TEINERT WON THE NAIL COUNT.

THE KUTSCHKE-KRIEDEL REUNION

June 5, 1994 saw members of the Kutschke-Kriegel families gather for a reunion at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Paige.

The Kriegel line is descended from Karl Kriegel, who emigrated from Germany in 1882 with his wife Ernestine and children, Anna, Fred, Max, Marie, plus a pair of young twins. The twins died in route. The family settled on a farm outside of Giddings. Karl was a charter member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and continued to be an active member. Louise, Gus, Auguste, Otto and Hulda were born in America and baptized and confirmed at Immanuel.

The Kutschke line is descended from Carl Kutschke, whose children, Herman and Henriette, also emigrated from Germany and settled in the Giddings area. Herman married Anna Kriegel.

This year's reunion highlighted the family of Max Kriegel and they were also the hosts. Family history displays showed pictures, stories, and craft items, such as small wooden pliers, whittled by Martin Kriegel from a single piece of wood, that actually opened and closed.

Max was born in Germany in 1873. He married Bertha Scharf of Giddings in 1897. In 1904 they moved to Copperas Cove, Texas, where they raised seven children - Ben, Martin, Selma, Alma, Alvin, Herbert and Walter. Selma and Alma married brothers, Erich and Herbert Miller.

Over 100 people attended the reunion from as far away as California and New Mexico. Gifts for the annual raffle were brought by the attendees and many were hand-made, some by persons as young as 8 years of age.

The 1995 reunion will be held again next year the first Sunday in June at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Paige.

50th NOAK REUNION

The descendants of Peter and Johanna Mitzscherling Noack met for their 50th reunion on Sunday, March 20, 1994 at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall. "Celebrating Our Heritage" was the theme for this special gathering. There were 167 adults and children in attendance from the Central Texas area.

Committee members for this year were from the Paul and Hulda (Hinze) Noak family. They were: Kirby and Velorie Dippel, Houston; Ernest and Frances Menn, Franklin and Evelyn Menn, Brenham; Virginia Fuchs, Burton; Lamar and Waldine Cason, Austin; and Tom and Dorothy Rothermel, Carmine.

A catered meal was enjoyed at noon. A special cake, decorated with a family tree, an immigrant sailing ship depicting arrival of the family at Galveston, Texas on January 30, 1871 was served at the end of the noon meal,. Additional desserts were brought by the family members.

A display of pictures, wedding and/or confirmation, church records from Germany, a bulletin board of news articles about family members, books, and photograph albums of past reunions were available to learn more of the family lineage. A booklet was available for purchase that contained information about the Peter Noack family in Germany. The booklet had pictures of the churches in Germany and information of the villages of Groditz, Liebstadt, Goeppersdorf and Struppen, the places family members were married, birth places, had lived, before immigrating to America. Descendants lists and ancestral charts were also available to acquaint everyone with the past and present.

Ernest Menn of Brenham offered the prayer prior to the noon meal. After this, the group joined in singing the table prayer.

Vanessa Dippel Marshall of Missouri City, opened the afternoon meeting with a prayer of thankfulness and gratitude for our family gatherings of many years. Dorothy (Noak) Rothermel of Carmine, presided over the meeting. Several songs were sung during the meeting. The children in the audience sang "Jesus Loves Me" just as their parents and grandparents had done at earlier reunions. Edith (Weigelt) Klump of Round Top, played the piano keyboard to accompany the group. She has performed this duty faithfully for many years. Evelyn (Noak) Kieke of Wallis, led the group singing as well as singing a special song in German, "Der Best Freund ist im Der Himmel."

Recognition of third generation living family members were for: Erra Noak, Delta (Noak) Jaster of Burton, Viola (Noak) Franke of Hondo, and Herman Greif of Columbia South Carolina. The above are children of the late Paul Noak, Gus Noak and Rev. Herman (Noak) Greif. Others recognized during the meeting were: Viola (Noak) Franke of Hondo, oldest female present; Leroy Goehring of Round Top as the oldest male present; James Louis

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Mertz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Welton Mertz of Brenham as the youngest baby present; Welton and Debbie Covington Mertz of Brenham, the most recently married couple; Leroy and Nola (Noak) Goehring of Round Top, were married the longest; Marcus Weigelt of Missouri Valley, Iowa had traveled the longest distance (1,010 miles). Ron and Helen of Tulsa, Oklahoma had traveled the next greatest distance.

Family members who had served in World War I were Paul Noak, Willie Noak, and Alfons Weigelt. Those who are presently serving in the military are: CM Sgt. David R. Noak-Air Force-Kaiserlautern, Germany, Nathan E. Weigelt-Nato-Brussels, Belgium, and Ryan Becka in South Carolina.

Since the 1993 reunion, there have been 10 births, 4 marriages, and 8 deaths. There are four family members residing in local nursing homes.

A prayer was offered for the following family members who had died since the last reunion: Waldemar Noak, Sr. of Round Top; Barbara (Richter) Harboth of Eagle Lake; Jeremy Spies of Bryan; Ella (Noak) Marburger of Giddings; Jerry Mikeska of Fredricksburg; Herman Dale Weigelt of Taylorville, Illinois; Lee Roy Richter of Wallis, and Robert Stahlecker of Chicago, Illinois.

The Paul and Hulda (Hinze) Noak Family will host the 1995 re-union. Officers elected were: president, Dorothy (Noak) Rothermal of Carmine, Diane (Noak) Kallus of Victoria and Nelson Noak of La Grange, treasurer.

A set of dominoes with the family tree logo was won in a raffle drawing by Melanie Huebel of Columbus. Numerous door prizes were awarded.

Submitted by Dorothy (Noack) Rothermel



Pictured above left to right are Connie & Leroy Zoch Co-chairpersons of the National Genealogical Society Annual Conference in Houston, Texas and volunteer Lillian Graham

National Genealogical Society Annual Conference
Houston, Texas June 1-4, 1994

The Wendish Heritage Society Booth in the Exhibitors Hall of the NGS National Convention was visited by many attendees, most of whom knew nothing about the Wends of Lusatia or Texas. But now they know the answer to their question, "Who are the Wends?" thanks to the many volunteers and the outstanding leadership and organization of Co-chairpersons Leroy and Connie Zoch.

Answering questions, handing out Museum Brochures, Who Are The Wends? brochures, Group Tour information, and selling items from the Museum gift shop were: Lillian Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Herbrick, Ken Mersiovsky, Rudy Mersiovsky, Rev. Donald Zuhn, Ray Boriski, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Kaiser, Gretchen Isaac, Clarence Pampell, Vivian Taylor, Walter Hoelter, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Zoch, Harold Theiss, Bill Karisch, Emily Luker, Elwood Domaschk, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Atkins, Marge Gross, John Gruener, Mary Watts, Daphne Garrett, and Leroy and Connie Zoch. (Leroy and Connie were there for five straight days!)

The primary purpose of the booth was to make people aware of the Wendish Heritage, but the sales were also a success. Total sales reached \$470, an all time record for convention sales. This included books, gift items, and 65 pounds of noodles. Many people were very interested in bringing an organization for a group tour of the Museum. All in all, the booth was a huge success, and the Society thanks its members for responding so well. Leroy Zoch reports that everyone who promised to help came at the appointed time.

For our participation in the Exhibits, we received a free advertisement in the program. The program also included a brief article on each of the Texas ethnic groups which populated Texas.



**Texas Wendish Heritage Society
and Museum - Serbin, Texas**

**Preserving the history of the Wends,
Slavic immigrants to Texas from Lusatia, Germany**

**Quarterly Meetings - Newsletter
Annual Wendish Fest - 4th Sunday in September**

**Museum, Research Library, Archives, Gift Shop
Hours: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Daily except Saturday**

**Annual Membership \$12 - Student \$7.50
Route 2, Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942-9769 (409) 366-2441**

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Robert L. Rummel	Mary Guggisberg	\$20.00
Mrs. Bernice Malke	Bessie Mertink	\$10.00
Fred Schulz	M/M Herb Schulz	

On Occasion of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Telford Zoch	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		

MEMBERSHIP

Student Members

Minerva Gersch, La Grange, TX	Candace Gersch, La Grange, TX
Shaina Gersch, Giddings, TX	Alicia Gersch, Giddings, TX
Sarah Gersch, Giddings, TX	Sarah R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX
Elizabeth R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX	

New Members

Brenda, M. Anderson, Houston, TX	Gus W. Wolf, La Porte, TX
Sandra Wuensche, Cypress, TX	Ed Wuensche, Cypress, TX
Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX	Bobby Manning, Jarrell, TX
Joyce Noack, Clovis, N. M.	Emily Tisinger, Austin, TX
Hilton C. Wieder, Houston, TX	Margaret W. Ruse, Austin, TX

Patron

Teresa Z. Worm, Dallas, TX	Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX
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OUR YOUNG WENDS!

Kristi Wendt took advantage of spring break by learning to make streusel coffee cake. She later, by herself, made a cake to enter in the Youth Fair at the Travis County Livestock Show and Rodeo. She won reserve grand champion and received \$325.00 at the auction.

Kristi is the daughter of Harry and Arlene Wendt and granddaughter of Irene and Reinhold Teinert.

Heather Hielscher, of Winchester, was selected to be one of the La Grange Jr. High twirlers for the 94-95 football season. She is the daughter of Jerry and Judy Hielscher and granddaughter of Barbara and Carroll Hielscher.

This summer Nathan Wiedehold, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, is Working as a trainer for the Dallas Cowboys at their summer practice camp. Nathan also works as a trainer for the Texas Longhorns during the remainder of the year. He is an honor student majoring in Biology and hopes to eventually have a job in research.

Nathan is the son of Jack and Marian Wiederhold and the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Kasper, and Mr. Edgar Wiederhold.

EXXON GRANTS \$1000 TO MUSEUM

The Museum has received a grant in the amount of \$1000 from Exxon through Bob Garrett and Exxon's Volunteer Involvement Fund for the purpose of buying a high quality vacuum cleaner. The museum purchased a Rainbow vacuum, which has a very powerful system and uses a water trap filter instead of paper bags. The package included a motorized attachment for carpets, special attachments for hard surface floors, dusting, etc., and a shampooer.

We appreciate the many volunteer hours Bob Garrett has spent at the Museum since we opened in 1980. He does carpentry, repairs, a lot of hauling, computer printing of exhibit labels, and other special requests. This is the third Exxon grant given through Bob's volunteer involvement. Previously, Exxon gave a grant for the Kroy lettering wheel, and the computer and printer.

ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST APPOINTED

Linda Zoch Schwartz has been appointed Assistant Archivist in charge of maintaining the records of the Society and Museum. Archivist Daphne Garrett and Photograph Archivist/Librarian Georgie Boyce are particularly grateful for Linda's commitment to the job. The paper work generated by our modern society, the ever expanding activities of the Society and Museum, and the mushrooming historical collection have created a heavy load on the volunteer archivists.

MUSEUM SUMMER STUDENT WORKERS

We are fortunate to have two summer workers, Jessica Menzel and Julio Menzel of Serbin, assigned to the Museum by the Private Industry Council student work program. The Council pays their salary for four hours a day each, and provides insurance. Jessica assists the Director, Librarian, and Archivists while Julio assists the Curator and others with indoor and outdoor projects. Working with Jessica and Julio this past month were Barbara Hielscher, Daphne Garrett, Bob Garrett, and Marian Wiederhold. Jessica and Julio also volunteer on tour days. Due to their excellent work, they received the Outstanding Student Worker awards from the Council for the first summer period. We are delighted to have these young people working at the Museum---Helping hands certainly make the work go faster!

Texas Mendish Heritage Museum

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