



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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Volume XV, Number 4

## Newsletter

October 2002

Dear Members and Friends:

We thank our Lord for the rain before the Wendish Fest and the wonderful cool dry weather during the event. We estimate that we had approximately 3000 guests on September 22 and we served 1500 noon meals.

We thank the Chor Meja for singing at both services and taking flowers to Pastor Kilian's grave and singing a hymn after the second service. Two of the hymns sung by the choir during services were written by Pastor Kilian. Members of the choir were a delightful group and our hosts enjoyed them but were sorry that they had so little time to visit with them. Our hosts for the choir members were Otto and Alice Kunze, Louis and Helen Malke, Charles and Gladys Arldt, Wilbert and Carol Noack, Arnold and Evelyn Kasper, Otto and Janiece Becker, Raymond and Evelyn Kunze, William and Carol Jurk, Rev. Thomas and Cynthia Hoyt, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, and James and Linda Tate. In addition to this, Steve and Louise Green hosted the Easter Egg folks again.

We were delighted to receive the gift of a Dudelsack (Sorbish Bag Pipe) for the Museum. By the way, music for the choir was furnished by two Dudelsacks.

We can't begin to list all who made our Festival a success, but you all fit into the 2000+ hours of volunteer service necessary to put on this large undertaking.

Thank you so much for helping at Wendish Fest 2002 and we look forward to working with you again. With your continued help and God's guidance and blessings, we can count on having many more successful festivals.

Sincerely,

Eunice Dunk  
President

Evelyn Kasper  
Chairman, Wendish  
Fest Committee



## *Within the Fold...*

### **In Memoriam**

#### Stephanie Denise Schwausch

Stephanie Denise Schwausch of Round Rock, Texas passed away on Monday, August 19, 2002.

Stephanie, wife of Texas Wendish Heritage Society Board member Marvin Schwausch, was a registered nurse. She is survived by her husband, Marvin; parents, Jim and Sue Wyatt of Electra; brothers, Jay Wyatt and D.J. Wyatt; sisters, Ashley Wyatt and Kimberly Wyatt; grandmother Virinda Wyatt; and parents-in-law, Walter and Julia Schwausch. Our prayers are with her husband, Marvin.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 7	Lee County German Society membership meeting, 6:30 PM, Community Room of the First National Bank in Giddings
November 17	Annual Membership Christmas Party and General Membership Meeting with election of Museum Board members, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
November 28	Museum CLOSED for Thanksgiving
December 9	Lee County German Society Christmas party, 4:00 p.m., Holy Cross Community Hall, Warda
December 24 & 25	Museum CLOSED for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
January 1, 2003	Museum CLOSED for New Years Day
January 22, 2003	Deadline for articles for the January newsletter

### **Video and Audio Tapes Available!**

Audio cassettes and video tapes of the St. Paul Lutheran Church worship services held on Sunday, September 22, prior to Wendish Fest, are still available for order from the church. Audio cassettes are \$3.00 and video tapes are \$10.00 each and include the special music that was sung by Chor Meja from Germany. If you are interested in purchasing a cassette or tape, please contact the St. Paul Lutheran Church office at 979-366-9650.

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### **General Membership Meeting**

**November 17, 2002, 2:00 PM**

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society general membership meeting and Christmas party will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the Museum complex. Following the business meeting, we will gather around the organ to sing carols in German and Wendish, followed by an old fashioned gift exchange. During the time of our ancestors, gifts were usually simple and useful, such as sewing needles and spools of thread, peppermint sticks, or maybe a pretty handkerchief. So put on your thinking cap and bring a gift that you think "might" have been found under our ancestors' Christmas trees during their early years in Texas. To add to the fun, dress of the 1800's is encouraged; what might great-grandpa and great-grandma have worn to a Christmas party? Maybe he in his newest overalls or she in her best black skirt? Refreshments will be furnished, so you only need to bring your special gift! We hope you can join us and enjoy this step back in time to an early Texas Wendish Christmas.



## President's Message

### Eunice Urban Dunk

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Wendish Fest a very successful event enjoyed by so many people. Our German visitors truly enjoyed the hospitality extended to them. Many of our stateside guests were impressed with the tremendous number of volunteers who gave of their time and energy to see that all of the work was done to accommodate the large group of visitors who attended the festivities. We have begun plans for Wendish Fest 2003 and urge you to mark your calendar for September 28, 2002. Start inviting your family and friends to join you in Serbin on that day!

With Wendish Fest behind us, our thoughts are turning to the Fall tour season and the membership drive which will be in full swing during the last two months of 2002. We have nine tours scheduled from October 21 through November 21 so our volunteers will be very busy accommodating them. Please call the museum if you are interested in helping.



For the membership drive, please take the time to renew your own membership now and, if you have been meaning to ask some of your family members, friends, neighbors, or business associates to join the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, NOW is the best time to do so. You may even consider paying their dues as a Christmas gift. If you would like to have an invitation sent to your prospects, please send us their name(s) and address(es) and we will send them an invitation. If you prefer to contact them yourself, call 979/366-2441 and ask for membership card applications and Barbara will be happy to mail them to you. Members do not have to be of

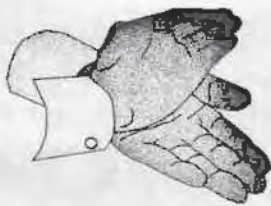
Wendish descent, and it is a great way to learn more about the unique heritage this group shares.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! As always, the Christmas season will begin in the Wendish Museum with the quarterly membership meeting on November 17. After a brief business meeting, we will gather in the St. Paul Building and sing German Christmas carols along with the Wendish Christmas carol we learned at the August membership meeting. If you cannot sing Wendish, you are welcome to join me and we will hum along with the fortunate ones who were able to master the words. I am fortunate to have been born 100 years later than most of the folks who immigrated or I would never have learned how to talk! We will have an old fashioned Christmas tree on display close to the pump organ and everyone will enjoy taking a step back in time to what it may have been like in the early years after our forefathers immigrated to America. Please read the meeting notice and make your plans to join us on November 17.



The officers, directors, and staff of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum join me in wishing each of you a blessed Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year. We keep hearing about how depressed our economy is now and the effect it will have on the upcoming gift buying season, but I try to remember what I was told about the experience of my ancestors when they first came to America, and realize how truly blessed we are! In fact, for most of us it is just taking a step back to our youth and we quickly realize how much more we have today than we ever dreamed of having—let's thank God for His many, many blessings as we end another year!





### **Thanks for Making the Silent Auction a Success!**

Items donated included: a Texas flag, handmade planter, plants, collector cars and trucks, a wonderful assortment of cookbooks, aprons, bonnets, baskets, metal tubs, Santas, angels, Christmas ornaments, Advent wreath, angel candle holder, one piece nativity set, State Issue Quarter set, paintings, afghans, quilts (from lap to baby to queen-sized) lingerie holder, floral arrangements, Easter egg case, suede leather liederhosen, shirts, socks, caps, Aggie brief case, miniature tractor, cutting boards, candy dish, iron cross, shelled peanuts, oil lamp, crocheted doilies, candles, candle holders, doll dressed in Wendish costume, toy airplane, canned goods including pears and jellies, watermelons, jewelry case, centennial plate, antique tea set, collectible wall shelf, photo album, cooking utensils, Dale Earnhart flag, carryalls, thermometer-rain gauge, and ice chests and coolers.

Donations for the auction were received from: State Senator Steve Ogden, Otto Becker, Jr., Maggie's Fabric Patch, Kathy Steglich, J. B. Gersch Jr., Hattie Schautschick, Jack Wiederhold, Carol Noack, Fedor Volunteer Fire Department, Evelyn Buchhorn, Herbert Zoch, Doris Reagan, Martha Biehle, Martin Schrank, Georgie Boyce, Freddie Zoch, Eugene Zoch, Lee County Farmers Co-op, Jan Slack, Betty Wolfram, Carolyn Bohot, TWHS, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Matt Smith, Adele Wilson, Kleiber Tractor and Equipment, Hopkins Distributing, First National Bank, Betty Hutchinson, LeeCo Industrial Plastics, Citizens National Bank, Walter and Laverne Gersch, George and Liz Kunze, Larry Hoft, James Honig, and George and Eunice Dunk.

Items were purchased by: Dee Herbert, Betsy Guettler, Kenneth and Madeline Reinsch, Carol

Noack, Nancy Hilmer, Violet Alexander, Arthur and Dianna Noack, Taylor DuBose, Gordon and Cathy Smith, Hilton and Bessera Wieder, Mike Hopkins Distributing, Connie Neitsch, Barbara Zoch, Caroline Dube, Linda Jolly, Hilda Neidig, Sharon Speck, Ann Chernosky, Kathy Steglich, Carol Doell, Tim Walther, Janet Oltmann, George and Eunice Dunk, Berta S. Menn, Don Graf, Danette Brymer, Gladys Brewer, Elizabeth Dube, Libby Whitmire, James Kalbas, Lisa Teinert, Shirley Spies, Adam Perry, Rachel Townsend, Cliff Townsend, Daniel Winkler, Lois Johnson, Karen Hawkins, Vernon Wuensche, Shelley Meador, Kristen Meador, Jean Jackson, Debbie Farenthold, Gene Iselt, Melba K. Schneider, Winfred Kaine, David Hempy, Douglas Hartfield, Heather Taylor, Rebecca Burgdorf, William Jurk, and Bobby Zoch.

We also want to thank Hengst Printing and Supply in La Grange for donating our Silent Auction banner.

Due to the tremendous success of the auction, we may have left out some donors, items donated, or purchasers. If so, please forgive the error.



### **Wendish Fest Contest Winners**

Congratulations to the following who were winners in various contests during the Wendish Fest held on Sunday, September 22.

Washer Pitching: 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Glenn Albrecht and Jeff Robertson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Michael Schmidt and Mike Mitschke; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Austin and Andre Andrews.

Coffee Cake Bake-Off: Streusel, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Irene Boriack, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Gladys Saegert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Evelyn Buchhorn. Kaese, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Doris Mitschke, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Vernelle Zoch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Betsy



Guettler. Special, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Betsy Guettler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Irene Boriack, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Christine Boriack.

Cross Cut Saw Contest: Mixed Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Carolyn and Al Jurk, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Laverne and Walter Gersch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Jane and Wayne Chapman. Men's Division, 1<sup>st</sup> place Harvey Hobratschk and Wayne Chapman, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Al Jurk and Bill Pfeiffer, Jr., 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cliff Kurio and Dennis Kurio. Women's Division: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Carolyn Jurk and Carolyn Bamsch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Lisa Teinert and Julie Schatte.

Children's Coloring Contest: 0-5 Years, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Amber Schulze, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Faith Ezernack, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Taylor Cubois. 6 & 7 Years, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Allison Kaiser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Karly Visashi, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Cori Schimank. 8 & 9 Years, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Kelsey Muniz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Kalyn Speck, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Alyssa Wilkins.

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## Wends Who Broke the Pattern of Settlement

**Dr. George Nielsen,  
Special Features Editor**

*J. George Boback*

George Boback was born on September 29, 1825 at Dauban, in Prussia, the village Kilian made his home in 1848 after he accepted the call to serve the independent Lutherans in Prussia. Although Boback would have been cognizant of Kilian's congregation, we do not know if Boback joined Kilian's church or if he remained a member of the state church. At the age of 25 he left his home, boarded the Helena and arrived at Adelaide Australia on December 26, 1851. Working as a carpenter and farmer, he joined the Wends in South Australia who had migrated in the prior three years. In 1853 he married one of these Wends, Maria Mickan. Sadly, the next year Maria, as well as her new baby, died. Two years later, in 1856, Boback married another Wend, Maria Magdalena Stephan, who had been born in 1828 at Rascha. They were blessed with two

sons, Johann Traugott in 1858 and Andreas Ernest in 1864.

For a reason unknown the young family left Australia and returned to Germany in 1865 and lived there for three years. By 1868, following the Civil War, Wendish migration had resumed to Texas and he took his family there, arriving at Galveston on the Texas. He bought land on the West Yegua, 20 miles from Serbin, until he owned approximately 3,000 acres. He then subdivided the large bloc of land and sold it off in smaller parcels, often on time payments. Many of the Fedor Wends bought some of these parcels.

His arrival at Serbin coincided with the turmoil of the second schism, but before the actual division, so even though he lived on the Yegua, he joined the single Serbin congregation. But tragedy struck again and Maria Magdalena died of fever in September 1869 at the age of 41. Eight months later, in May, he married Maria Dallwitz daughter of Gottlieb Dallwitz in Niederkotitz. She had migrated the previous year on the Galveston, along with the Kunze and Bernstein families. While at sea, off the coast of England a child, Johann, was born to the Kunzes and Maria served as a sponsor when the child was baptized. Kilian performed Boback's third marriage, but there was no sermon.

In 1870 the new St. Peter's congregation was formed in Serbin and the congregation called Johann Pallmer as their pastor. The Boback's affiliated with St. Peter's and served as sponsors at two more baptisms. At the same time the settlers on the West Yegua decided to form their own congregation and when Pastor Th. Brohm visited at Serbin he also traveled to Fedor to counsel the Lutherans there. Pastor Pallmer served the congregation in the early days until Pastor Johann Proft arrived in 1871. Johann Boback, the eldest son, was confirmed at Fedor in 1872.

On January 15, 1872 Boback sold 50 acres to the Fedor congregation for \$5.00, but he attached some conditions to the sale. He first of all insisted that only those who adhered to the "doctrine of the Evangelic Lutheran Church as laid down in the Book of Concord of the Ev. Lutheran church



which contains the unaltered Confession of Augsburg, the two Lutheran catechisms, etc." would be considered members. He also attached the restriction that "if all the members of said church which, Gott forbid, should renounce said doctrine of the Ev. Lutheran church which they now acknowledge to be true and pure and in accordance with the word of God, then the above Deed shall be null and void the money paid for said property forfeited and the right of ownership of the said tract of land be transferred to the Ev. Lutheran Mission."

The Bobacks did not remain in Fedor, however, and moved Washington, Missouri. The first child of the third marriage, Maria, was born there in January 1875. After relocating several times in Missouri, the family moved one final time, in approximately 1887, to Lamar, Arkansas. George lived until February 20, 1912 and Maria until February 7, 1945. Both are buried in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery in Lutherville, a small community north of Lamar.

According to family tradition, the Bobacks introduced the Christmas tree to the Arkansas community, a custom which the community adopted. Even though the family separated itself from the Wendish settlement in the mid 1870s and was absorbed by the German community, their Wendish heritage, according to Betty Thiemann, a descendant, is still alive 130 years later.

#### *Christian Kolba*

Christian Kolba (Number 56 on the Ben Nevis list) and his family began their lives in Texas much like the other Wends. They first rented land in New Ulm, Texas for four years until 1859 and then purchased some land on Low Pinoak Creek, near Serbin. They left the Serbin area in the mid-1860s and farmed some land at Swiss Alp in Fayette County. Then, in 1873, the family with at least six children, broke the pattern by moving to Wisconsin. For three months they lived with the Pritzlaff family which owned a hardware store in Milwaukee and which contributed generously to the construction of Concordia Seminary in St.

Louis. From there they moved to central Wisconsin, Westfield Township, near the town of Loganville in Sauk County where they farmed. The 1880 census showed that they also lived in Reedsburg, Wisconsin where was a laborer. Maria, the mother, died in 1904 at Reedsburg, Wisconsin and Christian then moved to New Ulm, Minnesota to live with a daughter. He died there in 1906. Two of the children died as infants and are buried at Serbin, three children continued to live in Wisconsin, three moved to Minnesota, and one lived in Oklahoma.

According to family tradition, as told by Frances Leake, Christian wanted to live where he could grow a good potato crop. Although far away from Texas, the family still is aware of its "Vendish" heritage. Verne M. Kolba, a great-grandson, is a member of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

Johann Sommer Update: (See January, April, and July 2002 issues)

Thanks to Vivian Dube and Lesley Charles Sommer, all the children of Johann Sommer have been identified including the daughters Yetta, Ella, and Ernestina (instead of Christina). None of the six children married Wends, but their Wendish heritage was not forgotten. Mrs. Dube, now living in California, has traveled to the Sommer's ancestral village of Quatitz and continues to prepare some Wendish foods such as coffee cake with butter and sugar streusel and a salad made with tomatoes, onions and cinnamon.

#### *Future Issues*

Next year is the 150th anniversary of the first group of Wends to migrate to Texas. The group included the seven families of Krause, Noack, Kasper, Mattiez, Mitschke, Polnick and Domaschk-Janak. It would be appropriate to feature them as well as the Seydler, Helas, and Wagner families who preceded them. If you have photographs of the family or are willing to write a short sketch, please let me know at 1132 Enchantment Rd. Rapid City, SD 57701 or GNie857317@aol.com.



## Memorials and Donations

From Mary Guggisberg, in memory of Alwina Schulz Wallace.

From Rev. Robert and Georgie Boyce, in memory of Alwina Schulz Wallace.

From Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch, in honor of the 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Pampell.

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## Visitors

Visitors to the Museum during the months of July, August and September were from North Carolina, Georgia, Colorado, Illinois, Nebraska, New York, Germany, Louisiana, New Mexico, Australia, California, Michigan, Washington, Florida, Oklahoma, and all parts of Texas.



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## Docents

Thank you to the following who worked as docents for the months of July, August and September: Hattie Schautschick, J.B. Gersch Jr., Carolyn Bohot, Freddie Zoch, Lorine Domel, Mildred Kilian, George Boerger, Eunice Dunk, Ashley Hielscher, Crystal Schautschick, Emily and Henry Zoch, and Ruby Koslan.

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## Report from the Tours Committee

### Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

Tours are scheduled for October 21, 22, 29, 30, and November 1, 8, 12, 13, and 21. The fall 2002 tour season will be much busier than the Spring 2002 tour season, thanks in large part to recent articles in Houston and other area newspapers.

## Report from the Noodle Committee

### Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

Over 3,000 pounds of noodles have been made by the "noodle ladies" thus far this year. We are proud to report that 105 pounds of cooked noodles and 330 pounds of dried noodles were sold at the Wendish Fest. And that's no yoke!

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## Membership Report

### By George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

The final membership count for 2002 is 561 members, reflecting a 42% increase over 2001! This large increase was accomplished by regaining 108 former members, adding 89 first-time members (including 24 spouses of current members), and losing only 31 members from 2001, which is half the normal attrition rate.

The membership goal for 2003 is 600! Increasing membership will be more of a challenge in 2003. In a normal year, we add an average of 40 first-time members, but for 2003 we will need to add 100 new folks to our roster.

How can you help? Recruit family and friends, give a gift membership, and suggest potential members by mailing or e-mailing their name and address and we will send them an invitation.

In the near future, you will receive a 2003 renewal notice (unless you have already submitted your 2003 dues). Please complete the card and return it to the Museum with your check. The membership dues not only pay for this newsletter, but also help cover expenses to operate and maintain the Museum. When you join at a higher level, the amount you pay above the basic level is added to the endowment fund, and the interest from this fund also help pay for Museum operations. Without all of the generous contributions of time, talent and treasure from our members, the TWHS would not exist, and we thank you for your willingness to help support this ongoing effort!



### 2002 New Members

Carolyn Bamsch	Giddings, TX
Ralph Bamsch	Giddings, TX
Edith Benton	Roscoe, TX
Heide Knippa Bocter	Austin, TX
Matthew Bocter	Austin, TX
Annie Mae Bohot Dickstat	Navasota, TX
Amanda Domaschk	Dallas, TX
Alice Farrack	Houston, TX
Gail Gersch	Weatherford
Rachel Hildebrandt	Red Bank, TN
Melissa Jolly	Anderson, TX
Jeffrey Knippa	Austin, TX
Scott Linebrink	Taylor, TX
Orville Michalk	Moody, TX
Elvie Jean Mutschink	Austin, TX
Judy Patschke	Lexington, TX
Melissa Lehmann Pinter	Houston, TX
Sadie Raschke	Taylor, TX
Paulette Schulze	Lexington, TX
Aimee Jolly Williams	College Station, TX
Glenna Wiese	Victoria, TX
Jess Wiese	Victoria, TX

### 2002 Century Members

Ralph Weiser	Magnolia, AR
Glenna Wiese	Victoria, TX
Jess Wiese	Victoria, TX

### 2002 Patron Members

Jay Kruemcke	Austin, TX
Frances Maxwell	Dallas, TX

### 2002 Sponsor Members

Fred Wuensche	Houston, TX
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### 2002 Student Members

Amanda Domaschk	Dallas, TX
Melissa Jolly	Anderson, TX

## Financial Report

### By George Boerger

I am pleased to report that the TWHS currently has an endowment totaling \$115,926. The principal is invested and the income is used to support the operations of the Museum. Some facts of note about the endowment are:

- The return on investment for 2002 is projected to be 4%.
- The endowment is managed by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas and is invested in CDs and bonds.
- The income provides about 8% of the operating income of the TWHS.
- In the 1970s, much of the profit from the Folklife Festival was put into the endowment.
- During the 1980s, endowment contributions were primarily from memorials.
- Beginning around 1990, the endowment began to increase from contributions, memorials, and higher membership levels. For example, when a member joins at the \$50 sponsor level, \$15 is placed in the general fund and \$35 is placed in the endowment.
- Over the past five years, the extra money from higher membership levels has added \$16,926 to the endowment.

Endowment contributions and memorials are individually recognized on the Wall of Honor endowment plaque at the entry to the Museum. Recognition levels are \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, and \$10,000.

I hope you will keep the TWHS endowment in mind when considering charitable contributions. Your donations will help keep the Museum operating for many years to come.





## **Presentation to the Washington County Genealogical Society**

Luise Green, a TWHS member, made a presentation to the Washington County Genealogical Society in Brenham, Texas on October 7 about the history of the Wends/Sorbs, where they are to be found in Germany today, language differences, traditions, costume variations, and how to conduct genealogical research in connection with the LDS branch library. Luise is a native of Germany and has been a tremendous asset to the TWHS with her ability to translate written documents from German to English, and with her knowledge of the German Wends. Thank you Luise!

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## **Lee County German Society News**

On Thursday evening, October 3, twenty-seven members and two guests met in the First National Bank Community Room. Refreshments were served, after which Renata Hughes conducted the business meeting. Carolyn Bohot presented a very interesting program about her ancestors from Switzerland and Germany who settled in New York, and later in Giddings. She also displayed old photos and a pair of leather baby shoes worn by one of her ancestors that she estimated to be about 100 years old.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, in the First National Bank Community Room, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be furnished by members celebrating birthdays in November. Eunice Dunk, President of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, will present the program. Her topic will be "Who are the Wends?" Mrs. Hughes will lead us in singing German songs. All guests and visitors are welcome.

The annual Christmas party will be held at Holy Cross Community Hall in Warda on Monday, December 9, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

## **Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting May 19, 2002**

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:00 p.m. in the St. Paul Building on Sunday, July 18, 2002, by Eunice Dunk, President.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion. We are all familiar with cultural barriers and how those barriers separate people, much the same as our forebears must have experienced after they arrived in Texas. However, God is our uniting force and He accepts everyone. Since God accepts everyone, we can be happy to celebrate our own heritage and culture because we are one united through Christ.

There were 22 members present and 1 visitor in attendance.

The minutes of the May 2002 meeting were approved as presented in the July newsletter.

George Boerger reported that the TWHS has 559 members, which is an all-time record high, and an increase of 42 percent over 2001. He reminded everyone to please send him names of potential members to invite to join the TWHS.

Evelyn Kasper reported that 41 visitors from Germany will be here for Wendish Fest. Housing has been arranged for the visitors. The assignment list should be mailed during the next week. She asked everyone to please donate baked goods to sell for desserts that day. Also, donations are needed for the silent auction. The auction will be set up in the barbecue area again this year.

Evelyn Kasper reported that the annual Folklife Festival, held in June in San Antonio, did well financially. She also reported that three luncheon tours are scheduled during November and one has been scheduled for April 2003.



Laverne Gersch asked that the membership recognize Ron Knippa for the wonderful job he does at the Folklife Festival each year. He works very hard to make sure that the booths are set up, the food is in place, and that volunteers are on hand for the four-day festival, and the TWHS appreciates his efforts. Thank you, Ron.

Charles Wukasch reported that he and Dr. David Zersen are planning a 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of the birth of Mato Kozyck. This celebration will be in the form of a one-day symposium at Concordia University in Austin, perhaps the Saturday before Wendish Fest in 2003, and will include 3 or 4 lecturers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Pastor Elmer Hohle gave a presentation on the Wendish language, and taught the audience how to sing the hymn *Silent Night, Holy Night* in Wendish.

Following the program, refreshments were enjoyed and a drawing was held for door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Slack, Secretary

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### August Membership Meeting Refreshments

Thank you to Eunice Dunk, Irene Boriack, Jan Slack, Laverne Gersch, Sandra Matthijetz, and Evelyn Kasper for providing refreshments for the August General Membership meeting.

### In Search of.....



Irene Furrey is seeking information about her great-grandparents, Carl Busch and Fredericka Schmidt (Schmid). They lived near Waldeck or Ledbetter, Texas. They are listed in the 1880 census, along with 3 children, the oldest of which was born in 1875. She would like to locate a marriage record or certificate. If you can provide any information, please contact her at 4625 South 209 East Ave., Broken Arrow, OK 74014 or by email at [chexmix8@geotec.net](mailto:chexmix8@geotec.net).

Jo Zell Boehnke Horne is seeking information on her great-grandfather, Michael Frederick Boehnke. He was married to Anna Handrick, daughter of Johann and Hanna Handrick. If you have information on this family that you can share, please contact her at [jozzie@att.net](mailto:jozzie@att.net).



## Scenes from Wendish Fest 2002



Chor Meja

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce



Blacksmith, Larry Hoff, from Brenham, Texas

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce





Jan Nuk, President of Domowina, presenting Dedelsack to TWHS President Eunice Dunk  
and Wendish Fest Chairperson Evelyn Kasper

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce



Michael Harig, District Administrator of Bautzen with James Arndt, Mayor Pro-Tem of Giddings

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce





Kornelia Thor and Joachim Koch of Fensterwald, Germany demonstrating  
the art of decorating Wendish Easter eggs

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce



Riding the train!

Photo courtesy of Giddings Times-News





Enjoying a Wendish meal!

Photo courtesy of *Giddings Times-News*



Dudelsack musicians

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce





Coffeecake bake-off winners (front row) Irene Boriack, Christine Boriack, Betsy Guettler, Gladys Saegert and Evelyn Buchhorn with contest judges

*Photo courtesy of Giddings Times-News*



Coloring contest winners

*Photo courtesy of Giddings Times-News*



*We wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and  
a Happy New Year!*

*Texas Wendish Heritage Society*

Executive Director.....	Barbara Hielscher
Officers.....	Eunice Dunk, President
	Sandra Matthijetz, Vice President
	Jan Slack, Secretary
	Laverne Gersch, Treasurer
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief.....	Jan Slack

Please send Newsletter submissions to:

Newsletter Editor, 1011 CR 212, Giddings, Texas 78942-5940

Email [wendish@bluebon.net](mailto:wendish@bluebon.net) or Fax (979) 366-2805

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum**

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