
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

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Hello, I am Cecil Ray Brown, III, and I want to tell you about a great product I found...Wendish noodles! They are so delicious that I can't get enough of them! Mom said it is because they are made with love by very special people. Even with fever and a cold, I still have the energy to eat them. So next time you are feeling under the weather, add Wendish noodles to any soup bowl and I guarantee you will feel better!



Bye for now!



(Photos and ad courtesy of Laverne Gersch)

President's Message

Eunice Urban Dunk

Happy New Year to all! Once again we were blessed beyond measure with many willing workers who provided the manpower for a successful year and we thank each and every one who helped in any way. We sincerely appreciate the years of service by three former board members, Jeanette Huelsebusch, Vivian Taylor, and Walter Zoch, and look forward to continuing to work with them in the Society. At our first Board meeting of 2003, we welcomed new board members Luise Green, Steve Hooper, Margo Latimer, and Doug Symmank, and look forward to working with them.

We have many projects planned for the coming year, including the following for the first quarter: the annual Walk-In Coffee on February 11, and a booth at the Winedale Spring Festival on March 29-30 at Winedale. Both of these events will give us an opportunity to continue to spread the word about our museum and our society while helping to raise funds to keep the doors open. Please contact the museum if you have any questions or if you want to help in any way.

By June of this year, Ron Knippa and his crew of willing workers will be setting up our booth for the Folklife Festival in San Antonio. If any of you can help work at this event, please contact the museum and we will pass on your name and number to Ron—you will certainly enjoy this unique event and your assistance will be very much appreciated.

Plans for Wendish Fest 2003 are definitely beginning to take shape and we urge you to mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to spend Sunday, September 28, 2003, in Serbin. We are again looking forward to hosting about 34 visitors from Germany who will provide our special entertainment.

In addition to the above opportunities to be with your fellow Wends, quarterly membership meetings are planned for the third Sundays in February, May, August, and November.

I am sure that everyone who attended the November meeting enjoyed the results of the hard work of Sandra Matthijetz, who planned and prepared a wonderful old-fashioned Christmas party for our enjoyment. Although the next three meetings will not be quite that special, you will always have the opportunity to visit with your fellow Wends after enjoying an interesting program. Please mark your calendars and join us.

Our tours committee is again preparing to host groups who will visit our museum and enjoy a good Wendish meal while there. If you would like to help with one of these tours, call the museum and we will be happy to put you on the volunteer schedule.

If you have not sent in your membership dues for 2003, please do so as soon as possible and encourage your family and friends to join. Also, our gift shop is well stocked with very interesting books which are good resources for genealogical research or simply make for interesting reading. For further information, visit our website under Concordia University or contact the museum for a complete list of available books. We also have many other unique gifts in stock for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Confirmation, graduation, and birthdays.

May you be blessed with good health and happiness during 2003!

2003 Annual Walk-In Coffee

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society's annual Walk-In Coffee will be held on Tuesday, February 11, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located at 132 South Grimes, across the street from the Schubert-Fletcher House, in Giddings.

Sandwiches, chips, pickles, cakes, pies, coffee cakes, cookies, and other homemade goodies will be available for a free-will donation. Any and all donations will be sincerely appreciated!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11	Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Giddings, TX
February 16	General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
March 29-30	Winedale Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, Winedale Historical Institute near Round Top, TX
April 13	Museum CLOSED for Palm Sunday
April 20	Museum CLOSED for Easter
April 14	Deadline for articles for the April newsletter

General Membership Meeting

February 16, 2003, 2:00 PM

The next general membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2003 at 2:00 PM at the Museum complex.

Our speaker will be Jack Wiederhold who will give a short program to better acquaint us with the Wendish Dudy "bagpipe" that was donated to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum by Chor Meja last September. The Dudy or Kozoł is also an important instrument in the folk music of other Slavic groups such as the Czechs, Slovaks, Polish and Russians.

Please join us on the 16th to learn more about this unique musical instrument. Refreshments will be served following the program.

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. Please let us know if you want to volunteer your time with any of these tours!



Report from the Noodle Committee

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

We have finished another year of noodle-making! I would like to thank Evelyn Kasper and Laverne Gersch for keeping us stocked with flour and eggs. I also want to thank the many volunteers who help make and bag the noodles throughout the year. Special thanks to Walter Gersch for keeping the noodle machine in good working order, and to Herb Schautschick for building 5 new noodle-drying screens. We produced 3,907 pounds of noodles during 2002, and that is a lot of flour and eggs! Thus far for 2003, we have made 194 pounds. Onward and upward!

Presentation to the Texas German Society, Spring Branch Chapter

Luise Green, a TWHS member, made a presentation to the Spring Branch Chapter of the Texas German Society on January 9 about the Wends, their history, costumes, and crafts. Luise is quickly becoming an expert spokesperson for the TWHS. Thank you Luise!

WENDISH SETTLERS 1848 - 1853

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

Before the *Ben Nevis* entered the harbor at Galveston, two groups of Wends had already landed in Texas. The members of the first group arrived between 1848 and 1853 and that group was composed of individuals with three surnames: Seydler, Helas, and Wagner. The second group arrived in 1853 after suffering shipwreck off the coast of Cuba. During this year, 2003, we will commemorate the 150th anniversary of these early pathfinders and in this issue we will begin with the first group.

The Wends who were the first to migrate did so as part of the German migration to Texas. Their motives, most likely, were economic, similar to those of the majority of the Germans. Certainly the motives were not religious. They all listed Bautzen as their place of origin, which probably was their actual place of residence and not just the largest town nearest to their village. If they were indeed from Bautzen, then they would have been more cosmopolitan in their views and more at ease in a German setting than a Wend living in an isolated village. And when they settled in Texas, they assimilated into the German community.

The best evidence for their Wendish heritage is a letter which they sent to Bautzen in 1855 and which was published in the Wendish newspaper, *Serbske Nowiny*. The editor, in his brief introduction, called them Lusatians. That in itself does not make them Wendish, because many Germans lived in that region. But because the editor does identify two of the five signatories as Germans, one could conclude that the first three were not Germans and were therefore Wends because residents in Lusatia would be either German or Wendish.

Additional evidence of their Wendish ties was the familiarity of the 1853 migrants with these earlier immigrants. The members of the second group knew exactly who had preceded them and where in Texas they lived. The two Germans who

signed the letter had traveled on the *Ben Nevis* and their names were penciled in on the passenger list. The penciled names are almost invisible, but, thanks to Dr. Joseph Wilson's eagle-eye, some of the information can be deciphered. If the numbering were continued, they would be numbered 162 and 171.

As you read the letter, watch for several points. First of all is the matter of leadership. Who led the group, Pastor Kilian or some laymen? How did the five correspondents learn so much about the details of the voyage and the goals of the migration? Is it reasonable to conclude that some of the *Ben Nevis* Wends were disgruntled and expressed their feelings to the five men? What image comes to your mind when the word "colony" is used? Is it the duplicate of a European village? What would have been Kilian's image? Were the negative comments justified?

[Preliminary remark by the editor of *Serbske Nowiny*.]

Three former Lausitzers who emigrated to America, namely the messieurs F. G. Seydler from Bautzen, R. Wagner from Bautzen and Jurij [George] Helas from Bautzen, together with two Germans, who in the past year moved to Texas with the Sorbs (Karl Eifler from Schöps and J. G. Gedlich from Ruppertsdorf near Herrnuth) have sent us a letter. In the letter they issue a major reproach to Mr. Kilian and the planned Sorbian colony in Texas and admonish them for participating. We will publish this letter and Mr. Kilian, who has received a copy of the letter from us, can use his discretion on how he will defend himself.

State of Texas, Austin County
New Ulm, February 22, 1855

In the summer of the year 1854 it happened that almost 600 people, mostly of Sorbian nationality, gathered themselves at the Bautzen railroad station to bid farewell to their native land, in which they as children spent many happy years, and to search for a new home in a foreign country. Who can imagine the feelings that must have passed through the minds of many of them as

they thought of building a new colony? The only person who can do that is one who has already left dear friends behind and emigrated to a strange country, and who is already acquainted with the conditions in the new fatherland. Only he can sympathize with those who, after entering America, will soon find their lofty sentiments disappearing, and that instead of beautiful dreams, one will confront deep apprehension and hard everyday needs. And considering that the emigrant has been misled by their leaders, makes it sadder still. We will therefore consider, 1) how the Sorbs, on the question of founding a colony, were in error and 2) how they were exploited and cheated.

It is a big mistake if one thinks that several hundred people could establish some sort of a colony here. When the Sorbs arrived, [1854] they thought that according to the present laws, every incoming family would receive a grant of 160 acres of land from the Texas government. (1 acre equals 1.5 Dresdener Scheffel.) But this hope could not be fulfilled because such a gift could be received only by those who had settled here before the end of 1853. Where should these Sorbs find land to establish a colony? Was there sufficient money at their disposal to buy land in an already settled area and in addition to buy cattle, implements, and food for one year? They did not have the means to do that. Or would they prefer to settle on the frontier next to the wild Indians, because there the land was cheaper? Yes, even if they had brought along a big army to protect against Indian raids, they definitely would not put themselves in that position even though a dollar would buy 1000 acres.

But in order to further achieve this unplanned colony, several of these Sorbian emigrants with sufficient wealth bought some of this wild but wooded land, nearly 4000 acres. However it is difficult to build good farms out of such land. It takes lots of money, effort, and stamina and that under unpredictable weather conditions. And besides, the portions of land assigned to each family for supporting itself are too small, as any one who knows the present situation can see. But

they would not listen to good advice and will suffer for it. Already upon entering America the largest part of the Sorbian emigration separated from the leaders, and scattered in many directions. For this reason the colony, so to speak, appears stillborn.

Now let us consider how the Sorbian emigrants were treated unfairly and were cheated. As the pious emigrants were being prepared by agents and assistants according to their will, they arrived at Hamburg. There it was firmly determined that each passenger was obliged to pay \$55 for the ocean crossing. Was that a cheaper price? No. For at that time the crossing could have been made on any other ship for \$50. So \$2000 was thrown away. Furthermore each of them had to pay \$3 to Mr. Kilian, the pastor of the colony, so another \$1500 were thrown away. Then everyone changed his money to the kind used in America. Whoever gave the administrator some money to exchange, gave up anywhere between 25 and 100 Taler for the treasury of the new colony, and again forfeited several thousand. It was from this treasury that the fares for the poor were paid. The poor migrant will never be able to pay it back, so everyone who lost such a percentage, has lost it forever. And no one can regain in America what was promised whenever and wherever because no foreign agreements have any validity in America. From all this everyone can see that the Sorbian emigrants have been cheated of their money because of the stupidity and dishonesty of their leaders and many have been driven to death or into need because of it. Although advice came from all sides not to go through England, the leaders insisted on their plan and thereby were drawn into the throat of the dreaded cholera epidemic. And as they arrived in America, the word was, "Every man for himself, the money is all gone." And the pitiful people had to roam around during the cold, wet season in a strange land, begging so as not to die of hunger.

It's a pity that many honest Sorbs let themselves be duped in this way. Pitiful is the word to describe it even though it happened because of the stupidity of the leaders. To announce oneself as a

leader of men is an easy matter, but to lead men wisely is something else. And he who offers himself as a leader of men and then through stupidity lacks discretion and through rascality causes misery, that calls for the highest reproof.

Those Sorbs who arrived in America, as already mentioned, have, for the most part scattered to seek work in order to live. Only a few families remained to found a colony, and for this purpose acquired some land. But a difficult time is facing these people because it is too late to plant maize [corn]. The time for preparing the land for cotton has also already passed. So the colonists have missed the first corn and cotton harvest and they will need to live an entire year from the pocketbook and that might have some dire meaning in these bad times.

F. G. Seydler senior from Bautzen

Robert Wagner from Bautzen

Juri Helas from Bautzen

Karl Eifler from Schöps and J.G. Gedlich from New Ruppertsdorf, members of the emigrated Sorbs.

[Translated from Sorbian to German by Dr. Siegmund Musiat and from German to English by William H. Nielsen]

Robert Wagner

The sketch of Robert Wagner is based on information provided by Mrs. Martha Prince. Her husband, John Luther Prince III is a great-great-grandson of Robert Wagner and also a descendant of the Wend, Johann Tschornack. Mr. and Mrs. Prince are both members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

Other than the information provided by the 1855 letter, nothing definite is known about Friedrich August Robert Wagner in either Europe or Texas until his name appeared in the 1860 census. (New Homes in a New Land lists a Friedr. Wagner as migrating on the ship *Franklin* in 1852, but the town of origin is given as Rohrbach instead of Bautzen). According to the census he was single,

a merchant, and lived with the Koch family in Austin County. At one time he owned a business in New Ulm. He evidently was extremely courteous to his customers and highly solicitous, so his friends called him "Herr Schoen-Diener." Although a merchant, he was a member of the Agricultural Society of Austin County.

On May 10, 1863 he married Marianne Constant, an immigrant from Berlin. The baptismal records of Trinity Lutheran Church in Frelsburg, Colorado County, list the baptism of four of their children. The 1870 census shows him living in Industry, age 52, and a grocer. His wife Mariane was 30 years old. The three children living in the census year were, Bertha, age 6; Hermann, age 4; and Walter, age 3.

Wagner's death evidently took place within the next decade because his wife Marianne married Ernst Uhlig on January 3, 1880 at the Deutsche Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston. The pastor of that congregation was Caspar Braun, the clergyman who had welcomed the Wends to Houston and to the first Christmas in Texas. Braun may have performed the ceremony, but at that time he was in ill health and died later in the year.

George Helas

The Helas family, composed of George, age 43; Mathilde, age 40; Clara, age 12, Bernard, age 6, and Otto, 9 months, migrated on the *Hamburg* on December 15, 1849. Along with the family was Maria, age 48. He purchased some land in Austin County, near New Ulm, in 1851 for \$200 and nine years later in 1860 he told the census recorder that his total wealth amounted to \$2,500.

His wife, Caroline Mathilde died on September 22, 1867, so George moved to Flatonia where he lived with his daughter Clara, who had married a merchant, H. W. Yeager. He was still living at her home at the time of the 1880 census, having reached the age of 74.

Fr. Gustave Seydler, Sr.

F. G. Seydler migrated in 1849, also on the *Hamburg*, and first bought some land and settled

near New Ulm. In 1854 he moved to High Hill, about five miles from Schulenburg. He lived there until his death on November 20, 1869. His wife, Augusta Fiebeger, also from Bautzen, continued to live at High Hill until her death on August 20, 1890.

His five sons, all born in Saxony, also migrated. The oldest, Friedrich Gustave, Jr. was 18 years old and in 1853 worked as a mason in Houston. They all settled in Fayette County and chose farming, merchandising, and teaching for their occupations. Two of Seydler's younger brothers also migrated with them and settled in Fayette County.

Future Plans

The next issue will concentrate on the 1853 group. The group included the seven families of Krause, Noack, Kasper, Mattiez, Mitschke, Polnick and Domaschk-Janak. If you have photographs of any of the families or are willing to write a short sketch, please let me know at 1132 Enchantment Rd. Rapid City, SD 57701 or by email at GNie857317@aol.com.

Financial Report

By George Boerger

Although we have not received all the information to make a final 2002 financial report, I am pleased to report that, overall, we did take in more money than we spent. A final report will be presented at the February 16th membership meeting and will be included in the next newsletter

Membership Report

By George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

Thanks to the tremendous response from our members, we are on target to reach our goal of 600 members this year. As of January 11, we have 451 members, compared to just less than 400 at the same time last year.

For those of you who have been thinking of buying a gift membership or telling someone about the TWHS, now is the perfect time!

The following table shows how we are tracking our goal:

	Goal	Year-to-date	% of goal achieved
Membership renewals	488	359	73%
First-time members	73	100	73%
Former members rejoined	12	19	158%
Total	600	451	75%



2003 Life Members

George Boerger	Houston, TX
Jerry Caldwell	Cypress, TX
Elizabeth Caldwell Hutchinson	Gonzales, LA
Martin Meissner	Midland, TX
Carol Teinert Moravec	Axtell, TX
Irene Spatz Teinert	Austin, TX
Reinhold Teinert	Austin, TX
Frieda Wendland	Giddings, TX

2003 Century Members

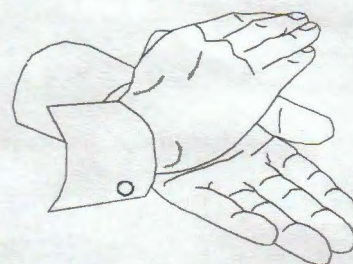
Mary Rose Kieschnick	Houston, TX
Linda Boerger	Wharton, TX
Weldon Boerger	Wharton, TX
Dr. Clarence Dube	Houston, TX
Herbert Fritsche	Houston, TX
J.B. Gersch, Jr.	Giddings, TX
Michael Vukobratovich	Sierra Vista, AZ
Ruth Wuensche Wright	Corpus Christi, TX

2003 First-Time Members

Leroy Anderson	Austiin, TX
Frank Arldt	Austin, TX
McKay Bloxham	Katy, TX
Herbert Carleston	Giddings, TX
Chlorene Dube	Seguin, TX
LaNell Dube	Eules, TX
Kathryn Early	Snohomish, WA
Judy Faske	Lincoln, TX
First National Bank	Giddings, TX
William Fischer	Houston, TX
John Gerber	Morro Bay, CA
Roxanne Gerber	Morro Bay, CA
Emma Jo Goodman	Tuscon, AZ
Carol Domaschk Green	Austin, TX
Steven Green	Warda, TX
Olga Grimm	Marquez, TX
Hank Hall	Wharton, TX
Sally S. Hart	Grapevine, TX
Jeannelle Karcher Hintze	St. Louis, MO
Mark Hobratschk	Denver, CO
Melonnie Johnson	Collinsville, TX
James R. Jones	Georgetown, TX
Mary Rose Kieschnick	Houston, TX
Chris Kilgore	Houston, TX
Lillian Kilian	San Antonio, TX
Marcia Kneusel	Highlands Ranch, CO
Eugene McGill	Round Top, TX
Alice Meinke	Canyon Lake, TX
Mrs. A.A. Melde	Texarkana, TX
Mike Hopkins Dist. (John Durrenberger)	Brenham, TX
Calvin Mitschke	Giddings, TX
Otis E. Moerbe	De Soto, TX
Marilyn Nahas	San Diego, CA
Eric Noack	Plano, TX
Joe O'Leary	San Antonio, TX
Sylvia Owens	San Marcos, TX
D. John L. Prince	Tucson, AZ
Martha H. Prince	Tucson, AZ
Myrtle Proske	Austin, TX
Crystal Schautschick	Leander, TX
Laura Schautschick	Leander, TX
Richard Schlondrop	Elm Grove, WI
Melvin Schmidt	Sealy, TX
Dorothy Schrader	Stillwater, OK

2003 First-Time Members (continued)

Sara Foerster Sick	Houma, LA
Vicky Squires	Dallas, TX
Jan Tschatschula	Finsterwalde, Germany
Martina Tschatschula	Finsterwalde, Germany
Udo Tschatschula	Finsterwalde, Germany
Mavis Waggoner	Austin, TX
Iris Wuensche	Hoffman Estates, IL



2003 Sponsor Members

First National Bank	Giddings, TX
Rev. Elmer Hohle	Liberty Hill, TX
Steve Hooper	Kingwood, TX
Jerry Knippa	Boerne, TX
Teri Kramer	Ft. Worth, TX
Sandra C. Magers	Dallas, TX
Rev. Kenneth Moerbe	Waco, TX
Frances Kilian Pfluger	Austin, TX
Barbara Schneider	Metairie, LA
Janet Richter Schorlemmer	Eagle Lake, TX
Bernice Foerster Schulz	Houston, TX
Edgar Schulz	Houston, TX
Rev. Wilbert Sohns	Gatesville, TX
Diane Teinert	Houston, TX
Betty Teston	San Angelo, TX
Natalie Waggoner	Houston, TX
David W. Weise	Eastland, TX
Hilton Wieder	Houston, TX

2003 Student Members

McKay Bloxham	Katy, TX
Greg Boothe	La Grange, TX
Sara Buchhorn	Austin, TX
Mark Herbert Fritsche	New York, NY
Aaron Hohle	St. Louis, MO
Jordan Watts	Katy, TX

2003 Patron Members

Linda J. Lewis Barnett	Pontiac, MI
Anne Christiansen	Chapin, SC
Neal Christiansen	Chapin, SC
Allen Cluck	Winchester, TX
Gunther Dube	Braunschweig, Germany
William J. Dube III	Waco, TX
Kirsten Wukasch Egedi	Fillmore, CA
Leona Meissner Foster	Midland, TX
Larry James Grimm	Houston, TX
Mary Schulz Guggisberg	Vernon, TX
Eugene Hemmann	St. Charles, IL
James H. Hingst	San Antonio, TX
John Hingst	Kokomo, IN
Ardillo N. Johnson	Dixon, MO
Melonnie Johnson	Collinsville, TX
Milton Kaiser	Houston, TX
Nancy J. Kilgore-Ganer	San Antonio, TX
E.C., Knippa, Jr.	Lincoln, TX
Emma Michalk Kroeker	Turlock, CA
Anna Knippa Land	Austin, TX
Margo Latimer	Lexington, TX
Curtis Leitko	Round Top, TX
Mary Leitko	Round Top, TX
Alleen Kuretsch Lyons	Copperas Cove, TX
Arnold Mathias	Waco, TX
Helen Mathias	Austin, TX
Marge Mathias	Waco, TX
Vic Mathias	Austin, TX
Dr. Hughes Meredith	Huntsville, TX
Ken Mersiovsky	Houston, TX

2003 Patron Members (continued)

Mike Hopkins Dist. (John Durrenberger)	Brenham, TX
Angeline Mitschke	Humble, TX
Katherine Moerbe	Austin, TX
Dana Zoch Mortimer	Orange, TX
George R. Nielsen	Rapid City, SD
Pam Wuensche Nordbrock	Bloomington, IL
Kimberley Jurk Odom	Lampasas, TX
Kay Dube Overton	Hamilton, TX
Edwin E. Scharath	Spicewood, TX
Craig Schkade	Fort Worth, TX
Candy Schoppa	Lubbock, TX
Kenneth Schoppa	Lubbock, TX
Wilfred Schrader	Pensacola, FL
Herb Schulz	Torrance, CA
Ruby Sisco	Harker Heights, TX
Thomas Sisco	Harker Heights, TX
Dennis Storch	Lubbock, TX
D.G. Symmank	Giddings, TX
Pearl Symmank	Giddings, TX
Herman Teinert	Lubbock, TX
M. Joy Teinert	Lubbock, TX
Hilda Wuensche Theis	Bishop, TX
Walter Toll	Austin, TX
Ruth Krakosky Tschatschula	Brenham, TX
Marvin F. Wappler	Groves, TX
Paul Weise	Davenport, IA
Barry Wukasch	Cave Creek, AZ
Ted Wukasch	Groves, TX

Volunteers give the time of their lives!

Let's Learn Wendish! Lesson No. 3

Dr. Charles Wukasz

Wendish is a highly inflected language. Now what do we mean by an inflected language? An inflected language (and almost all languages, including English, are inflected to some degree) is a language where words have different forms or endings depending on the situation. Let's take a few cases from English to illustrate this:

The pronoun "I" takes a different form when it's the direct object of a verb. For example, we say "I like Mary" (not "me like Mary"), but "Mary likes me" (not "Mary likes I"). The -s on "like" is another example. We say "Mary likes me", not "Mary like me". Or to give still another example to illustrate the principle of inflection, take the forms of adjectives to express degrees of comparison. We say, for example, "John is old. Mary is older. But Susan is the oldest of all."

Wendish is much more inflected than English is. Let's learn the forms of the pronouns in what is called the nominative case (subject of the sentence):

ja	I	my	we	mój	we (two of us)
ty	you	wy	you (plural)	wój	you (two of you)
wón,	he	woni	they	wonaj	they (two of them)
wona,	she				
wono	it				

Now let's learn the forms of the verb **być** ("to be"):

	singular	plural	dual
1st person	sym	smy	smój
2nd person	sy	sće	staj
3rd person	je	su	staj

Now let's practice the pronouns and verb forms together. Remember, we do the same thing in English: "I am", "you are", "he is", etc. (The word for "here" is **tu**.)

Ja sym tu.	I am here.
Ty sy tu.	You are here. (talking to one person)
Wón je tu.	He is here.
Wona je tu.	She is here.
Wono je tu.	It is here.
My smy tu.	We are here.
Wy sće tu.	You (plural - "y'all" as we say in the South) are here.
Woni su tu.	They are here.
Mój smój tu.	The two of us are here.
Wój stjaj tu.	The two of you are here.
Wonaj stjaj tu.	The two of them are here.

Note: The pronoun **wy**, although plural, is used for one person when you're talking to an adult with whom you're not close, when a child is talking to his/her teacher, pastor, etc. (It's like with German **du** and **Sie**.) **Wy** shows respect.

November Membership Meeting Refreshments

Thank you to Sandra Matthijetz for planning and preparing the decorations and refreshments enjoyed at our annual Christmas party and membership meeting. A good time was had by all!

News from the Texas German Society

On Thursday evening, January 2, 2003, the Texas German Society met in the Community Room of the First National Bank in Giddings. There were 27 members and 5 guests present. Renata Hughes opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance in German and a short devotion. The German Society is planning to have a booth at the Junior Livestock Show during March 21-22. Membership dues are payable by March 1. George and Eunice Dunk were welcomed as new members.

Sherry Bamsch presented the program, speaking about her trip to China during the summer of 2002.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the First National Bank. Members having a birthday in February will furnish refreshments. Dorothy Leyendecker, who serves as State President of the Texas German Society, will be the guest speaker. Her topic will be "Walk Through the Past - German Tombstones." Guests and visitors are welcome to attend.

Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting

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, November 17, 2002, by Eunice Dunk, President.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion. There were 37 members and 5 guests in attendance.

The minutes of the August 2002 meeting were approved as presented in the October 2002 newsletter.

George Boerger reported that we have received a large number of TWHS membership renewals and reminded everyone to please submit their renewal if they have not already done so.

Evelyn Kasper reported that Wendish Fest 2002 was a success and thanked all those who had provided housing for the Chor Meja members or had volunteered their time during Fest weekend.

Hattie Schautschick reported that over 3,000 pounds of noodles had been made thus far for 2002. Hattie also reminded everyone that the Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale is scheduled for February 11, 2003.

Election of Board members was held to fill the following expiring terms: Ron Knippa, Hattie Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, Jack Wiederhold, Marvin Schwausch, and Walter Zoch. Those nominees elected to serve as Board members for 2003-2004 were: Luise Green, Steve Hooper, Evelyn Kasper, Doug Symmank, Ron Knippa, and Hattie Schautschick. Eunice Dunk mentioned that, as we prepare to celebrate the national day of Thanksgiving, it was a good time to give a heartfelt "thank you" to all those who give their time during the year for Wendish Fest, the tours, noodle-making, fund-raising, spreading the word about our organization, the Walk-In Coffee, Folklife Festival, and the numerous volunteer hours spent maintaining the facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Following the meeting, everyone gathered in the Kilian Building to sing Christmas carols led by Jack Wiederhold, and then enjoyed special Christmas refreshments, decorations and door prizes provided by Sandra Matthijetz.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Slack, Secretary

HAPPY 2003!

We hope to see you at the Museum this 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:

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