
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

Volume XVI, Number 4

October 2003

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Johann Kilian, Pastor

We are pleased to announce the publication of Dr. George Nielsen's latest book entitled, *Johann Kilian, Pastor*. The much-anticipated work is a study of the life of Johann Kilian, the religious leader of the Texas Wends.

Reverend Kilian was a university graduate and the most educated member of the group of Wends who immigrated to Texas on the ship *Ben Nevis* in 1854. Dr. Nielsen offers a very interesting story of Pastor Kilian's life leading up to his acceptance of the call from the Wends, and of his life in Texas following their arrival in December 1854. The story provides us with a fascinating glimpse of what life was like for our Wendish ancestors as the group established their lives in a new country and gives us a better understanding of the joys and difficulties experienced by Rev. Kilian as he served his congregation in their new country.

Copies of *Johann Kilian, Pastor*, as well as Dr. Nielsen's first book on the Wends entitled, *In Search of a Home: Nineteenth-Century Wendish Immigration*, are available through the Museum gift shop. *Johann Kilian, Pastor* is available in both soft and hard cover (see order form included in this newsletter).

We hope you will check out the many interesting and informative items available through our gift shop as you plan your Christmas gift-giving list!

Within the Fold...

In Memoriam

Correction to the notice included in the July newsletter: Waldemar John (Wally) Hobratsch, born January 20, 1919 at The Grove, Texas, passed away April 16, 2003 in Dallas.

President's Message

Eunice Urban Dunk

In this my final President's message, I extend my sincere thanks to the Executive Board for all of their hard work during the past two years—you have been a joy to work with! The Board joins me in expressing sincere thanks to everyone who helped us to promote our organization; we have had so many generous donations of time and money and without your commitments the Society's accomplishments could not have happened. Thank you for your help with the Wendish Fests, the Walk-In Coffees, the Folk Life Festivals, ~~various other~~ fund raising events and tours, as well as with the day-to-day operations of the museum. You gave unselfishly when we asked for assistance (including the most recent gift of the dudlesack's mannequin and display case) and we are grateful. Please remember the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum as the Lord blesses you with time and talents in the future.

Wendish Fest is over, or is it? Around the museum we "walk and talk" Wendish Fest all year long, but particularly for next year since 2004 will be a very special celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the large 1854 Wendish immigration. If you want a schedule of the special events being planned by the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church to observe this milestone, contact the church office at 979/366-9650 or visit their website at www.stpaulserbin.org. If you are interested in obtaining an audio or video copy of either the English or German Wendish Fest worship services, you may contact Marilyn Miertschin by mail at 1646 CR 210, Giddings, TX 78942, or by phone at 979/366-9224.

We were a bit overwhelmed with the crowds that gathered so quickly on September 28. We appreciate everyone's patience with us this year and will make every effort to make next year flow more smoothly. Our best estimate for meals served this year was about 1,700 plates and the crowd during the afternoon was even larger. The dance group, orchestra, and support team that accompanied them were all impressed with the hospitality ~~shown~~ to them by everyone—thank you so much to each of you who helped make their stay a memorable one. We will keep you posted as our plans for the 16th annual Wendish Fest are finalized. For now, we can tell you it will be on September 26, 2004, so mark your calendar and make your plans to join us.

Our August membership meeting was great! Mr. and Mrs. Carl Droemer and Ben Droemer hosted our first ever "field trip" for a meeting at the Lehm Berg Winery at 1266 CR 208 just outside of Giddings. Thirty-five members and guests enjoyed the hospitality and the opportunity to learn about the winery as well as the brick factory that was located adjacent to the present winery. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to visit the facilities and would recommend that you do so the next time you are in the area. You may obtain information at www.lehmbergwinery.com. Please plan to attend our November membership meeting, which will include the singing of German Christmas carols followed by fellowship and refreshments. Even if you can't sing German, you can hum along!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president and may you and yours have a Happy Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year.

Eunice Urban Dunk

Memorials

From Herb A. Schulz, Life Membership in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hermar T. (Emma Gloyna) Schulz and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernst (Anne Christiane Hentschel) Gloyna and Mr. and Mrs. Christian (Magdalena Christine Schoppa) Schulz.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6	Lee County German Society, Community Room, First National Bank, Giddings, 7:00 p.m.
November 16	Annual Membership Christmas Party with election of officers, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
November 27	Museum CLOSED for Thanksgiving
December 8	Lee County German Society's annual Christmas Party, Holy Cross Community Hall, Warda, 4:00 p.m.
December 25	Museum CLOSED for Christmas
January 1	Museum CLOSED for New Year's Day

General Membership Meeting and Christmas Party

Sunday, November 16, 2003, 2:00 PM

Mark your calendars, Sunday, 2:00 PM, November 16, 2003 is the date for the General Membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and our Second 1800's Christmas Party, to be held at the Museum Complex. Oh My! What will I wear! Put those thinking caps on and let's have a fun day "dressing up 1800's style."

After the general meeting, a festive Christmas lunch will be provided and if you'd like to participate in this year's gift exchange, bring an ornament. It would be fun to see how many "copies" of 1800's ornaments we can still find today. See you there!

Silent Auction Another Success!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Silent Auction again this year. We had a tremendous crowd of people who looked at the items, but it seems like the serious bidding did not start until after lunch. However, we still raised nearly \$2,000, which will be a big help in funding museum operations.

A special thanks to the following people who donated the seventy-eight items included in the auction: Otto and Janiece Becker, Mildred Bohot Larkin, Mary Watts, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Citizens National Bank, First National Bank, Round Top State Bank, Hattie Schautschick, Flying Z Ranch, Jaeger's, Inc., Doris Reagan, Bettie Hutchinson, John and Geraldine Green Estate, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Herbert and Lorine Zoch, Mike Hopkins Distributing, Brenda Duff, Lee County Ace Hardware, Lee County Peanut Company, George and Liz Kunze, J. B. Gersch, Freddie Zoch, Walter and Laverne Gersch, Raymond and Sandra Matthijetz, Kathy Steglich-Smith, Katherine Richards, Lena Bell Sohns, Ruth Mittasch, Georgie Boyce, The Secret Garden, George Boerger, Martin M. Schrank, Barbara and Gene Zoch, Evelyn Buchhorn, George and Eunice Dunk, and the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum.

We sincerely appreciate everyone who helped make this part of Wendish Fest a success. We plan to have a silent auction again next year and hope that everyone will be on the lookout for unique items to donate to the cause.

Wendish Fest Contest Winners

Congratulations to the following who were winners in various contests during Wendish Fest on Sunday, September 28.

Washer Pitching: 1st Place Glenn Albrecht and Eric Albee. 2nd Place Shea Kasper and Chris Kovar. 3rd Place Jeff Roberson and Chris Becker.

Coffee Cake Bake-Off: Streusel, 1st Place Irene Boriack, 2nd Place Elsie Mertink, 3rd Place Gladys Saegert. Kaese, 1st Place Gladys Saegert, 2nd Place Elsie Mertink, 3rd Place Irene Boriack. Special, 1st Place Karen Roberts, 2nd Place Gladys Saegert, 3rd Place Evelyn Buchhorn.

Cross Cut Saw Contest: Women's, 1st Place Julie Schatte and Lisa Teinert, 2nd Place Cristine M. Pogue and Jennifer Pogue, 3rd Place Carolyn Bamsch and Carolyn Jurk. Men's, 1st Place Josh Tonn and Caleb Tonn, 2nd Place Ralph Bamsch and Allen Jurk, 3rd Place Harvey Hobratschk and Wayne Chapman. Mixed, 1st Place Ralph and Carolyn Bamsch, 2nd Place Lloyd Aldt and Samantha Reynolds, 3rd Place Allen and Carolyn Jurk.

Children's Coloring Contest: Pre-Kindergarten, 1st Place Malyn Parker, 2nd Place Jordan Mitschke, 3rd Place Jacob Birnbaum. First and Second Grades, 1st Place Jaclyn Carothers, 2nd Place Brooke Carothers, 3rd Place Maggie Ericksen. Third and Fourth Grades, 1st Place Corie Schimank, 2nd Place Alyssa Wilkins, 3rd Place Ashley Becker.

Report from the Tours Committee

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

The museum hosted tours on August 20, October 7, October 11, October 21, and one is scheduled for November 14. Thank you to volunteers who continue to help with these important events!

Report from the Noodle Committee

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

Thus far for 2003, the Noodle Ladies have made 3,583 pounds of noodles. That means 1,055 pounds of noodles were made since the last newsletter! A total of 130 pounds of cooked noodles were served at Wendish Fest and 405 pounds of dried noodles were sold. Onward and upward!

Visitors

The Museum hosted 348 visitors during July, August and September from Tennessee, Idaho, California, New York, Missouri, Louisiana, Germany, and cities and towns across Texas.

Museum Docents

Thank you to the following volunteers for serving as museum docents during July, August and September:

Georgie Boyce, Hattie Schautschick, Evelyn Kasper, Henry and Emily Zoch, Freddie Zoch, Carolyn Bohot, Ruby Koslan, Eunice Dunk, Mildred Kilian, J.B. Gersch, and Joyce Carlston.

Lee County German Society News

Ruby Koslan

On Thursday, October 2, the Lee County German Society met at the First National Bank Community Room with twenty-seven members and three guests present. Renata Hughes opened the business meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a short devotion in German.

Jack Wiederhold presented a very interesting program, showing slides of the early Wends in Serbin and also telling us of the upcoming celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin.

The table prayer was recited in German, after which refreshments were served.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 6, beginning at 7:00 PM (please note the time change). Mr. Eric Dawson will present the program. His topic will be "Giddings Noon Lions Club celebrating 75 years of service to the community." Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Wendish Immigration Monument

As part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Wendish immigration of 1854, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin plans to dedicate a monument to those who died during the voyage to Texas. It is planned to dedicate the monument in November 2004, and donations are being received to help with the cost. If you would like to help preserve the memory of those who died en route to Texas, please send your contribution to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1572 CR 211, Giddings, Texas 78942. Please mark your gift for the "Monument Fund." Contributions given as memorials will be acknowledged in St. Paul's weekly church bulletin.

Additional Sketches of the 1853 Immigrants

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Even though the 1853 group of Prussian Wends joined to cross the Atlantic, they did not create their own little community in Texas. Some remained in the New Ulm area, others joined the Serbin settlement, while others soon moved to other communities. Nevertheless, a feeling of kinship remained for a time and members of the group maintained some ties, such as serving as attendants at baptisms and marriages.

Matthes Matthiez (b. 11 April 1821 at Kaschel) was listed first on Kilian's list and most likely served as a leader or spokesman. He may have had a higher status in the community by virtue of the fact that his father owned one-half of a farm, which carried more prestige than positions such as cottager and laborer. Matthes also knew life outside the village, having served in the military for two years and living in Dresden for two years. He died on December 4, 1880 at Serbin.

His wife, Dorothea Rehle (b. 10 July 1822 at Kaschel) died at Serbin on May 4, 1900.

The birthplaces of the children illustrate the migration of the family. Three of the eight children were born in Kaschel: Andreas (b. 7 September 1847), Hanna (b. 15 August 1849) and

Maria (b. 28 August 1851). Agnes (b. 9 October 1853) was born on board the ship and was baptized by George Schelnick. The remainder were born in Texas: Johann (b. 1 March 1856) at New Ulm, Carl August (b. 30 April 1858) at New Ulm, Theresia (b. 19 June 1860) at Willowbranch [Willy Branch], and Ernst (b. 25 May 1863) at Willowbranch.

The second generation also illustrates a typical residential pattern of the segment of the Wendish immigrants who stayed in the general Serbin area and married Wends: Andreas married Magdalena Zwahr; Hanna married Johann Mitschke; Maria married Ernst Mitschke; Agnes married Johann Fritsche; Johann married Maria Schellnik; Carl August married Maria Magdalena Mertink; Theresia married Carl August Nowak; and Ernst married Agnes Deo.

Other travelers with the family were Maria Matthiez (an unmarried sister), and Johann Schmidt (age 16).

Johann Matthiez (b. 9 December 1816) was the older brother of Matthes. He never married and died at Serbin on 10 March 1880. The 1870 census indicates his real estate worth \$250 and personal property of \$100. He lived with his uncle, George Schmidt.

George Schelnik (b. at Dürrbach on 27 January 1824) a farmer, joined the Serbin settlement in 1857. He died on 29 June 1867 at Serbin.

His wife, Maria Hollass (b. in 1820 at Oelsa) died on 20 September 1889 at Lincoln. The widow is listed in the 1870 Bastrop County Census as possessing \$800 in real estate and \$200 in personal property.

Children of George and Maria Schelnik were Johann Carl (b. 1854), who married Maria Stephan and Maria (b. 3 January 1858), who married Johann Matthiez (1856).

Others traveling with the family were Hanna Hollass (Maria's mother), Hanna Hollas (Maria's sister), and Christoph Hollas.

Johann Kasper (b. 1807 at Kolpen) died at New Ulm in October 1855, one month after the death of Hans Caspar and two years after he migrated.

His wife Hanna n. Schramm (b. 2 November 1819) married twice-widowed Johann Pampel, living in Industry, in 1858. They later moved to Serbin where Pampel died in 1867. The widow Hanna and four children were in the 1870 Bastrop County Census listed as Anna Pampel with \$300 in real estate and \$200 in personal property. She is also in the 1880 census living with Traugott and Anna. She died on 16 August 1888.

Children of Johann and Hanna Kasper were Johann (b. 1845), who died while fighting in the Civil War in 1863; Magdalena (b. at Kolpen), who married Heinrich Becker; Hanna (b. 25 June 1849; 5th child, 2nd daughter); Johann Traugott (b. 10 June 1852), who married Magdalena Fritsche in 1879; and Maria (b. 24 February 1855).

Hans Caspar was the first head of a Wendish household to die in Texas. He died on 26 September 1855, just two years after he migrated. On 27 January 1856, Michael Hering from Sandy Creek married Johanne (n. Christiane), the widow of Hans Caspar, who was living at the Lower Pinoak Settlement (Serbin).

August Polnick [Polnik] (b. 12 March 1823 at Förstgen) was a mason and farmer. The family lived on Rabbs Creek before the *Ben Nevis* arrived, and when the Kilians could not find housing in the New Ulm area, they went on to live with the Polnicks. Later, the Polnick family temporarily joined the Wends at the Lower Pinoak Settlement (Serbin) and then moved to Fedor where August died in 1876.

His wife Maria n. Wagner (b. 3 February 1823 at Weigersdorf) died in 1889 at The Grove.

The children of this family were the most scattered of the 1853 families. Two children, Johann and August, died on the voyage. Andreas (b. 16 October 1849 at Weigersdorf) (see photograph) survived the voyage. Andreas married Johanna Ida Angermann and, evidently for reasons of health, lived in Scurry County, Bosque County and then finally at Fordyce, AK where he died. Carl August was born on 23 December 1854 while the Polnicks lived on Rabbs Creek. He married Henrietta Ida Symmank and lived at Aleman in Hamilton County. Anna

Magdalena (b. 25 November 1856 at Low Pinoak Settlement) has not been further identified. Maria Ernestine (b. 25 September 1859), married Heinrich Koslan and lived at Manheim until her death in 1881.

Anna Wagner (b. 13 April 1820 at Weigersdorf), Maria Polnick's sister, who was not married, also traveled with the family.



Andreas (Andrew) Polnick and Johanna Caroline Ida Angermann Polnick

Johann Domaschk (Thomaschke)-Janak (b. 20 November 1819 probably at Reichwalde) died at Serbin on 12 October 1857, four years after his migration.

His wife was Hanna n. Sarodnik (b. 30 April 1826 at Wunscha). After the death of her husband, Hanna married Johann Hohle and gave birth to three more children. She died at Serbin on 12 May 1870.

Two children, Christoph (b. 10 September 1848) and Hanna (b. 5 November 1850) were born in Europe, and two children Johann (b. 4 October 1854) and Maria (b. 25 April 1857) were born in Texas. Children from Hanna's second marriage were Hanna Theresia (b. 2 August 1859), Johann Ernst (b. 17 September 1861,) and Carl August (b. 9 March 1866).

The children of this family illustrate the scattering of Wends to secondary Wendish settlements where they married Wends. Christoph was a blacksmith in Giddings, Hanna married Andreas Miertschin and moved to Thorndale, Johann married Maria Theresia Schellnik and moved to Warda, and Maria married Adolph Pampel and moved to Loebau. Hanna Hohle married Johann Schellnick and died at Mannheim, Johann Hohle died at Loebau, and Carl August Hohle died at The Grove.

Thanks Bettie Polnack Fry and Dr. Joe Wilson for assistance. Photo courtesy of Bettie Polnack Fry.

Membership Report

George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

For the second quarter in a row, we have a new life member. Herb Schulz of Torrance, California upgraded his membership in August. Herb has been a member since 1987. We now have 10 life members. Thank you Herb!

The final count for 2003 is 657 members, a 17% increase over last year! This large increase was accomplished by:

- Adding 110 first-time members, including 22 spouses of current members
- Regaining 29 former members
- Losing only 43 members from 2002, which is half the normal attrition rate. A record 518 people renewed. Before 2002, our all time record was 509.

The membership goal for 2004 is 750! Wow! Could this number be correct? Yes, and it can be proven mathematically. Remember, the 1854 migration occurred 150 years ago. If the TWHS had started out with 5 members in '55 (1855) when they founded Serbin and grew by just 5 members each year, we would have 750 members in 2004. To meet the goal, we will need **150** first-time members in the **150th** year! Only 3 times have we exceeded 100 first-time members (124 in 1979, 102 in 1981 and 110 in 2003). In each of the following newsletters, you will receive an

update as to how we are tracking towards this goal.

In the last two years, many of our members have generously answered my pleas for help and given gift memberships, supplied people's names and addresses to send invitations to, and recruited friends and family. A few may be able to do even more, but we really need others to jump in. It is a great way to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the largest Wendish migration to Texas.

In the very near future, you will receive a 2004 renewal notice (unless you have already paid). Please complete the card and mail in your check. The membership dues not only pay for the newsletter, but also pay part of the cost of operating the museum. When you join at a higher level, the extra money is added to the endowment and the interest from the endowment also pays for part of the cost of operating the museum. Without all of your generous contributions of time, talent, and money, the TWHS could not exist!

October 2003 Sponsor Members

Gail Lerche	Austin, TX
Larry Lerche	Austin, TX
Lottie Randall	Richardson, TX

October 2003 Life Members

Herb Schulz	Torrance, CA
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October 2003 Century Members

Kayron Dube	Houston, TX
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October 2003 Student Members

Oscar Beisert, Jr.	Austin, TX
Melanie Dube	McDade, TX

October 2003 First-Time Members

Alice Dietrich	Friendswood, TX
Kayron Dube	Houston, TX
Melanie Dube	McDade, TX
Ann Wukasch Gamel	Austin, TX
Chris Gamel	Austin, TX
Carol Gaskamp	Leander, TX
Ethel Kriegel Hikel	Houston, TX
Betty Jo Knippa	Lincoln, TX
Vernelle Kremcke	Giddings, TX
R.D. Latimer	Lexington, TX
Gail Lerche	Austin, TX
Larry Lerche	Austin, TX
Marguerite Loftin	Bozier City, LA
Joey Miertschin	Dallas, TX
John E. Miertschin	New Orleans, LA
Betty Mitschke	Odessa, TX
Annette Peters	Katy, TX
Roy Peters	Katy, TX
Lottie Randall	Richardson, TX
Linda Rives	Austin, TX
Katherine Schkade	Giddings, TX
Rev. Ray Schkade	Giddings, TX
Ben Schurmeier	Giddings, TX
Ruth Schurmeier	Giddings, TX
Dorothy Michalk Street	Houston, TX
Odell Street	Houston, TX
Edith Teinert	Alvin, TX
Victor Teinert	Alvin, TX
Benjamin Wagner	Granbury, TX
Helen Wagner	Granbury, TX

October 2003 Patron Members

Ann Wukasch Gamel	Austin, TX
Chris Gamel	Austin, TX
Vernelle Kremcke	Giddings, TX
Annette Peters	Katy, TX
Roy Peters	Katy, TX
Barry Wukasch	Cave Creek, AZ
Don C. Wukasch	Houston, TX
Walter Charles Wukasch II	Houston, TX
Dr. James Zwernemann	East Haddam, CN

Financial Report

George Boerger

The Wendish Fest is our biggest event of the year and its success is critical to the organization in many ways, including financially. Approximately 34% of our annual gross revenue came from the Wendish Fest this year. Because we use both tickets and cash in some booths, it is difficult to determine exactly how much money each booth took in, but I have made some estimated allocations. So in general terms, here is how we did:

Revenue:

Picnic Grounds:

Meal tickets	\$ 9,600
Beer	\$ 2,400
Tea, Desserts & Snacks	\$ 1,700
Soda & Water	\$ 1,300
Crosscut saw	\$ 200
Miscellaneous	\$ 100
Silent Auction	\$ 1,700
Donations	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Picnic Grounds total	\$18,000

Museum Complex:

Craft Items	\$ 1,421
Noodle Sales	\$ 1,337
Book Sales	\$ 997
Admissions	\$ 779
CD Sales	\$ 324
Memberships	<u>\$ 305</u>
Museum Complex total	<u>\$ 5,163</u>
Grand total revenue	\$23,163

Estimated Costs:

Picnic Grounds	\$11,800
Museum Complex	<u>\$ 2,000</u>
Total expenses	\$13,800

Estimated Profit \$ 9,363

As you can see, all the hard work preparing for Wendish Fest results in a fun and profitable day! This profit is used to help cover the over \$40,000 needed to operate the museum and the organization.

Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting August 17, 2003

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:00 p.m. at the Lehm Berg Winery on Sunday, August 17, 2003 by Eunice Dunk, President. Thirty-five members and guests were present.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion.

The minutes of the May 2003 membership meeting were approved as presented in the July 2003 newsletter.

George Boerger reported that membership is now at 657, an increase of 96 members from 2002. We are now gearing up for 2004 and a goal of 700 members.

Hattie Schautschick reported that the noodle committee will meet after the membership meeting to pack about 100 pounds of noodles, and help is needed.

Evelyn Kasper reported that the museum hosted two luncheon tours during July and August.

Evelyn Kasper reported that plans for Wendish Fest are in progress. We expect to host 40 visitors from Germany. The cooks plan to prepare enough place lunches to feed 1,500. Popcorn will be a new item sold at the snack booth.

Eunice Dunk reported that the Folklife Festival was held in San Antonio in early June and the Wendish booth was awarded 3rd Place.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Carl Droemer of Lehm Berg Winery provided the program on the history of the winery, followed by a tour and wine tasting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Slack, Secretary



In Search of...

Dee Osborn is seeking information on her Witte ancestors. She is specifically tracing the line of John August Witte, born 1878 in Bardenfeltz, Oldenberg, Germany, who settled in Lee County around 1892. He married Lena Ludwig (b. June 30, 1873) in 1905 in Lee County. They moved to Nueces County where their children Alma, Fred August, Selma, Klara, Ella Louise, Walter, Henry, and Ida Frieda were born. She would like information on the parents and grandparents of John August Witte and Lena Ludwig Witte. If you have information, please send it to Dee at 2361 Willow Loop, Florence, Oregon 97439 or by email to rdosborn@oregonfast.net

Mary Gromatzky is seeking information on the Wendt and Woik families. If you can help her, please contact her by email at marygeee@juno.com

Frank Wissel is seeking information on his great-grandparents. His great-grandfather's name was Matthes Mattiza who was married in Serbin on February 3, 1889 but he does not know the name of his great-grandmother. If you can provide any information, please contact him at 6881 Retherford Drive, Huntington Beach, California 92647 or by email at wisselfm@prodigy.net.

The Lone Star Experience

Sandra Matthijetz

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society recently participated in the 9th Conference of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International held at the Omni Hotel Westside in Houston from October 16–18, 2003. Barbara Hielscher, Sandra and Raymond Matthijetz and Mary Watts worked the booth for the three-day event introducing people to our society and museum as well as selling books, noodles and decorated eggs. Income for the museum from booth sales totaled around \$700.

Approximately 300 registrants attended from not only Texas, but also from New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Iowa, Oregon, Wisconsin, Florida, California, Canada and Europe. Most who attended had never heard of the Wends and were eager to learn about our unique Slavic heritage, our society and museum. We also received a personal invitation from the president of CGSI to participate in future conferences.

When the event was over, we returned home tired but proud to know that information shared about the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum was now traveling across the country by car and plane. We had to chuckle at the thought of those bags of noodles waddling along the conveyors toward the x-ray machines at Bush and Hobby airports.



Book table at the CGSI convention in Houston



Attending the table at the convention were:
Left to right, Mary P. Watts, Barbara P. Hielscher,
Sandra M. Matthijetz, and Raymond Matthijetz

Scenes from Wendish Fest 2003 (photos courtesy of Georgie Boyce)



Coffee Cake Bake Off judges Allen and Alice Birnbaum, James and Joyce Arndt with Diane Wassenich, contest moderator



Kornelia Thor and Joachim Koch from Finsterwald, Germany



Male dancers with the Trachtentanzgruppe Zeissig



Presentation of gifts to TWHS



Presentation of dudelsack player's costume
for the TWHS Museum



Giddings Mayor James Arndt with Wolfgang Finger (Mayor of Zeissig), Horst-Dieter Brahmig (Mayor of Hoyerswerda), Eunice Dunk and Rev. Bob Boyce

*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 or Fax (979) 366-2805

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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