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# TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

## Newsletter

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### Searching for Texan Craig Schkade's Ancestors in Germany

By Kerstin Preuss  
Komptendorf, Germany

On March 1, 2002, I received a letter from Craig Schkade from Texas, in which he explained his search for his ancestors. After he had exhausted all sources in the U.S., he contacted me for help in his research in Germany. He had a good start concerning his immigrant ancestor, the birth date and place. Carl Heinrich Schkade was born June 20, 1850 in Weigersdorf and immigrated to the U.S. in the 1870s. He settled in the vicinity of Serbin, Texas. This means he did not come with the legendary Kilian group and probably did not belong to Kilian's church.

First we had to find out to which parish the Carl Heinrich belonged. A few telephone calls helped. The churches usually keep archival records and will give information, for a fee, up to 1874. In the state of Brandenburg the records were microfilmed a few years ago and are now available in the Archive Berlin-Brandenburg, Bethaniendamm 29, 10997 Berlin (<http://www.ezab.de>). For solid proof it is important to also check other sources. Dr. Walter Wenzel researches the families of Slavic descent from the Lusatia area and lists his sources concerning these family names in his publications.

The main task is to establish a connection of the person in question to the available sources. If that can be accomplished, then it might be possible to extend a family tree back to the middle of the 14th century, as was possible for the Schkade family. The biggest problem is the existence of the sources. Printed material is always at risk of destruction, and certainly during WWII many church records were lost.

For centuries the format used to register births, marriages, and deaths has remained the same. The registers go back to the time of Martin Luther, who requested a decree to register Protestants. In the parish of Baruth, the parish where Craig's ancestors worshipped, the church records start in 1652 and continue to this day with little change. *(Story continued on Page 2.)*

(Continued from Page 1.) In addition to name, date, year, and place of birth, marriage, death, parents' names, siblings, and later the father's occupation and sponsor names are found in these records. The first entries are brief and sometimes incomplete. For example, the name of a Schkade ancestor was omitted from a birth record in 1659. Perhaps the name was not known at the time, but the duty of keeping the register was fulfilled. When many people with the same name live in the same area, it is especially helpful to find the type of occupation mentioned in the records. Craig's ancestors are known as parish-farmers since 1640, the farmers that cultivate the land that belongs to the church. Even if a daughter inherited the farm and married, the name of the farm would remain the same. In 1707, the oldest daughter, Hana, of the church farmer Jan Schkade, married Juri Hebel. The first children born to this couple were registered with the name of both parents in the church books, later the name Hebel was omitted. When father Juri Hebel died, his name was recorded as Juri Schkade in the death records. The church records made it possible to trace back 10 generations on this family tree. The oldest family ancestor who was listed in the records was Barbara Schkade who died 31 December 1678 at the age of 87 years.

Before the churches started keeping records, peoples' names could be found in tax records, documents, and court records. The oldest surviving city register of Bautzen, "an old thing from 1359", mentions a Petir Skode in 1377. So far a connection to the Schkade family parish farmers from Weigersdorf has not been established.

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### President's Message

God's blessings to each and every one of you as we rejoice in this awesome spring season. The beautiful iris and lilies and the multitude of other plants growing on the Museum grounds are providing an impressive display of color and

fragrance. It is hard to imagine a better way to welcome visitors, family and friends to the presentation of Wendish history, culture and rich heritage than with this magnificent display of God's handy-work.

We are truly blessed that so many dedicated people invested their time, talent and treasure in years past to preserve all that we see on the Museum grounds today. The buildings themselves, the many artifacts and relics on display, the manuscripts and records catalogued, as well as additions to the collection that continue to this day; all document the story of the Wendish journey in Texas. The depiction of life prior to the immigration, the story of the voyage from Europe to Texas in 1854, as well as the rich history in Serbin and Lee County; are all components of our story that must be preserved for future generations. I join with each of my fellow Officers and Directors in stating that it is an honor to serve and to continue the work of our Texas Wendish Heritage Society in preserving our cultural background and in seeking ways to promote an understanding and appreciation of the Wendish culture.

It is my privilege to have the opportunity to address you for the first time as President of our Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Your Directors and Officers alike look forward to a year of remarkable opportunity. Fantastic growth in membership provides an opportunity to see many new volunteer faces in various activities. Anticipation of the Wendish Fest in September, that is likely to set records, will offer new members many opportunities to be involved, and we invite each to step forward and join in the fun. The Festival will require an extra measure of planning and preparation but will be a joy to experience. Finally, and probably most importantly, we join St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin this year in celebrating 150 years of God's blessings.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to the chance to meet and work with as many of you as possible in the upcoming year.

Steve Hooper, President

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## Memorials

From Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Bohot in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hannusch in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Mr. and Mrs. Eugene McGill in memory of Esther Pampell.

From Hazel Steglich in honor of Leroy Steglich's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

From Chris, Kelli and McKay Bloxham in memory of E.A. Lehmann.

From Kirt and Jordan Watts in memory of E.A. Lehmann.

From Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts in memory of E.A. Lehmann.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6	Texas German Society meeting, 5:00 p.m., Lehm Berg Winery, Giddings
May 16	Quarterly Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
May 30	Serbin Homecoming Picnic and St. Paul's main 150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, St. Paul picnic grounds, Serbin
June 10-13	Texas Folklife Festival, Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio
June 20	Museum CLOSED for Father's Day
June 20	Winchester Picnic, St. Michael's Park, Winchester
July 25	Service of music, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin

## Quarterly Membership Meeting, Sunday, May 16, 2004, 2:00 PM

The next quarterly Membership Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2004 at the Museum complex. Following a brief business meeting, the program will feature a 27-minute video produced by the Institute of Texan Cultures entitled, *Behind the Lone Star*. The video provides an interesting preview of the many activities and sights to be seen and enjoyed at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio, which our Society has chartered a bus to attend on June 12, 2004 (for more information or to make reservations for the bus trip, see insert in this newsletter).

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off, May 15, 2004

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2004 in the food court pavilion at Fireman's Park fairgrounds, 2.2 miles west of Giddings, Texas on Highway 290. Judging for the cook-off, sponsored by First National Bank of Giddings, begins at 2:00 p.m., followed by a ceremony at 3:00 p.m. to award the state title, trophy, and cash prizes. A public tasting party will be held following the judging. Live entertainment will be provided from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and late registration ends at 2:00 p.m. For further information or to enter the cook-off, contact Bob Mutschink at 1-800-485-3787.

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## Thank You Bob Garrett!

We want to make special mention of the generous donation to the Museum gift shop from Bob Garrett, long-time TWHS member, of a large number of copies of books authored by his late wife, Daphne Garrett. The books Daphne authored include *The Wendish-Texan Coloring Book*, *Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, 1899-1949: A History of the Newspaper and Print Shop of the Texas Wends*, and *The Art of Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs*. We are most appreciative!



## **Report from the Noodle Committee**

### **Evelyn Kasper**

A total of 1,480 pounds of noodles has been made thus far for 2004. A special thank-you to Barbara Hielscher who helped with noodle-making during the month of April and to Doris and Jarrene Mitschke for helping bag the dried noodles while Hattie Schautschick, our fearless chairperson, was unable to help. The Noodle Committee is now busy making all the noodles that will be cooked and sold with the barbeque at the Serbin Picnic on May 30.

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## **Report from the Tours Committee**

### **Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson**

The months of January, February and March were busy at the museum, with 10 tours hosted. Of special note was a chance to meet 2 young men from Finland who were in Texas visiting Hattie Schautschick's nephews. Thank you to Pastor Buchhorn for helping with that visit.

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## **Visitors**

During the months of January, February and March, the museum hosted visitors from South Dakota, Michigan, Arkansas, Indiana, Tennessee, Missouri, Florida, Maryland, Minnesota, Hawaii, Virginia, California, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Illinois, Oregon, Connecticut, Finland, Canada, Germany, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Costa Rica.

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## **Thank you Museum Docents!**

During the months of January, February and March, the following served as docents at the museum: Evelyn Kasper, J.B. Gersch Jr., Linda Jolly, Laverne Gersch, Walter Gersch, Hattie Schautschick, Rev. Michael Buchhorn, Barbara Hielscher, George Boerger, Carolyn Bohot, Freddie Zoch, Ruby Koslan, Mildred Kilian, Georgie Boyce, Mel Winkler, and Gladys Dillman.

## **The Texas Folklife Festival for 2004 is About to Happen!**

### **Ron Knippa, Chairperson**

Mark your calendar for June 10-13, 2004. We will once again have a Wendish booth at the Texas Folklife Festival on the grounds of the Institute of Texan Cultures in downtown San Antonio during June 10—13. If you would like to help in any way, setting up, tearing down, demonstrating how to make noodles or decorating Wendish Easter eggs, or working in the booth during Festival hours, please contact me by mail at 2662 Pebble Bow, San Antonio, 78232, by phone at 210-496-3105, or 24-hour Audix at 1-800-756-3344, extension 8306.

Also, some of you may not know that in our booth we have an 8' x 12' stage where you and/or your group could come to entertain! Please contact me by May 20 if you wish to volunteer.

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## **Texas German Society News**

### **Ruby Koslan**

The Texas German Society met Thursday, April 1 in the First National Bank Community Room with 20 members and 5 guests present. Ms. Renata Hughes read from the *Portals of Prayer* and also an article from a German magazine.

Brian Krause of Katy presented the program. Last summer he traveled to Lima, Peru with a group of youth and adults to serve with Adventures in Missions, teaching the local children patience, compassion and mercy. Through Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, they taught the children how to love and care for one another.

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

The next meeting will be held at the Lehm Berg Winery in Giddings on Thursday, May 6, 2004 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Carl Droemer will present the program and give us a tour of the winery. Refreshments will be furnished by members having a birthday in May.

Guests and visitors are always welcome.



## Wendish Leaders

### Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Johann Carl Lehmann (Jan Korla Wicaz) (Ben Nevis #6)

Although Carl Lehmann and his wife had no children of their own, they could easily claim the title of Godparents of the Serbin community. In the thirty-year period from 1854 to 1883, they served as sponsors or witnesses at the baptisms of fifty-six children. This record, as much as any other indicator, testifies to the respect and affection the Wends had for this couple.

Carl was born at Dauban, three miles north of Weigersdorf, on March 4, 1814, where his father, Michael, owned a mill. His wife Magdalena n. Bosche, whom he married in 1850, was from Bloesa, in Saxony, and fifteen years his junior. He was one of the early members of the independent congregation that eventually called Johann Kilian of Kotitz to be the pastor of their Old Lutheran congregation. Until the sanctuary could be built, services were held in homes, including the Lehmann home. Lehmann must have been successful because he eventually owned his own mill and some additional property, and Kilian identified him as a master miller. When the number of Wends interested in migration was sufficiently large, they formed an emigration association and elected Lehmann the president. Then in May 1854, Lehmann, as president, signed the call from the association to Kilian asking him to be the pastor of the group migrating to Texas. During the voyage to America Lehmann continued to serve as leader of the church council.

Johann Traugott Lehmann, a younger brother, also migrated to Texas. He never married, and although he was described as sickly, he lived to the age of fifty-one. In Europe, he worked as a mill foreman.

Lehmann and Johann Dube were instrumental in obtaining the land for settlement and went to the Land Office in Austin to find not only a block of land, but a person who had title and was willing to sell. After they purchased the league of land, Lehmann received title to 247 acres and in 1855

was the second largest landholder in the community. One 111-acre tract of land adjoined the congregation's ninety-five acres, and Kilian referred to him as his neighbor. Another portion of land he subdivided into lots and sold to create the town of Serbin. In addition to farming, Lehmann worked as the miller in the colony. Anne Blasig, in her book, reports that Lehmann took his mill with him to Texas and, using steam for power, ground corn into cornmeal for the settlers.

Lehmann, as a trustee, participated in the construction of all the church buildings. His support was especially important for the edifice still used today, when he helped gather the materials for construction and advanced money to purchase them. The construction was completed in 1871, and by 1874 the congregation's debt had been reduced to \$1,000. Two hundred dollars was owed to Lehmann.

Lehmann kept in touch with the European Wends by subscribing to the Bautzen newspaper, *Serbske Nowiny*. In 1859, he provided diplomatic assistance in patching up the rift – dating back to the days of migration – between the newspaper's editor, Jan Smoler, and Pastor Kilian. Then in 1872, when some Texas Wends desired to purchase Wendish books, he headed a project to collect money and ordered the books from Smoler's book shop in Bautzen.

According to the 1880 Agricultural Census Lehmann, then at age sixty-six, had fifty acres under plow, and owned an additional 140 acres of unimproved land. He owned two horses, six milk cows, twenty-one other cattle, and eleven swine. And he produced ten bushels of corn and one bale of cotton. Eight years later, in 1888, this stalwart of the Wendish community died, leaving a widow who lived on until 1905.

Johann Carl Teinert (Ben Nevis #9)

Teinert was twice blessed, once with a long life of eighty-eight years and once with a large family. Nineteen children came under his roof, although by the time of his own death, he had buried nine

of them. Carl was born on September 13, 1816 in the Weigersdorf -Dauban area and died on November 19, 1904 at Warda.

His first wife was Maria Schneider who was born in 1816 and died at sea in 1854. The children from this union were: August (1837), Johann (1841), [Johann is the one who, in the 1880s, wrote a memoir of the voyage and the death of his mother.] Ernst (1843), Anna (1846-Kasper), Maria (1850-Herbrig), and Magdalena (1852-Zoch).

In 1855 he married Hanna Michalk. who was born on May 8, 1825 at Oelsa. She also sailed on Ben Nevis, (#37), listed as a maid. She gave birth to: Agnes (1855-Zoch), Andreas (1858), Theresia (1860-Liberty, Kriegel), and Ernestina (1862). Both Ernestina and her mother died in 1863, on successive days.

Carl married Hanna Symny in 1864, who was born on May 15, 1835. At this time Carl adopted Johann (1855) and became the father of Johanna Ernestina (1864), Carl Hermann (1865), Emma Johanna (1868-Graf), Clementina (1869-Noack), Johann Carl (1871), Wilhelm (1873), Selma (1876-Paul), and Magdalena Augusta (1879). Hanna lived for nine years after her husband's death and then died on May 20, 1913 at Terra Bella, California.

Teinert, along with Carl Lehmann, was one of the first persons to leave the Prussian state church and helped organize a group of Lutherans. His home also was one of the places for the Lutheran gatherings. After Kilian accepted the call to serve the Dauban congregation, Teinert chauffeured Kilian as they visited other Lutheran clusters, and helped as organist and cantor. In 1854 when the desire for emigration grew, he was chosen as secretary of the emigration association and was one of the signatories of the call to Kilian. En route to America he served as one of the section leaders.

After the Wends celebrated Christmas in Houston, Teinert, along with five families, including Kilian's, hauled their possessions on two ox-drawn wagons to Frelsburg. He rented some land there for two years and then moved to the Louis

Settlement (Swiss Alp) where he again rented. In 1857 he finally made it to Serbin where he first rented and then bought some land. From then on he owned farms near Lincoln, on Rabbs Creek, and at Warda, where he settled in 1885.

Teinert's major contribution to the Serbin congregation was in music. Kilian wrote about him: [see the July 2003 Newsletter for entire letter] "Carl Teinert, our farmer, plays the organ nimbly even though he has forgotten how to read notes. He also plays the violin quite well. He previously learned the notes and the key and how they fit together. Now he does not want to know anything about notes, but plays every melody that he can sing. And he is a good singer and sings most melodies. If a new melody is introduced, I play the notes for him until he knows them well enough to sing them. Then he plays them on the organ. Even an organ with pedals and many registers is not an embarrassment for him. But he is poor and in debt and a father of many children. He faithfully plays the organ here and receives nothing more than an annual gift of \$20 and gifts for each baptism and marriage. He is a Lutheran through and through, and was one of the first of the Wends in Prussia who left the royal Prussian state church. Our Teinert, who always has been a member of the church council will humbly take Mr. Leubner under his wing. Then all will go well, that concerns singing and the organ. Our present organist, Carl Teinert, is pleased with the vote because Mr. Leubner must first learn how to play the organ. Teinert will gladly instruct him how to play the organ if he is willing to become a student."

The Mr. Leubner Kilian referred to was Ernst Leubner who came from the Teachers' Seminary in Addison, Illinois in 1868 to relieve Kilian from teaching responsibilities. As the teacher he was also called to play the organ. But he was not well trained in playing and, as a German, did not know the ways Wends liked to sing. (On a personal note: When my father became the teacher and organist at Thorndale in 1939, Gerhard Biar, the Vorsinger, coached him on the Wendish preferences.) The optimism Kilian reflected in the



preceding letter was not realized and instead a controversy resulted. One dimension of the controversy was Leubner's refusal to learn how to lead Wendish singing. Leubner believed that the Wends should learn how to do it the German way. Kilian postulated that when a missionary goes to foreign lands, he learns the language of the people he hopes to serve. The music issue, in turn, meshed with the growing Wendish/German language controversy within the congregation. And finally, as Leubner's playing skills improved Leubner insisted that, by virtue of his call, he should play every Sunday. One possible reason for the desire to play was that the congregation obtained a new organ in December 1869. It was a pedal-equipped harmonium with nineteen registers. Teinert had selected the instrument, and when the ship from Europe delivered it to Houston, went to pick it up. Eventually, an agreement was struck whereby Leubner and Teinert played on alternate Sundays. Throughout this controversy Teinert and Kilian were on the same side, and that was Wendish.

Even though Kilian and Teinert agreed on Wendish emphasis, they disagreed over the formation of satellite congregations. Kilian hoped to retain all the Lutherans of the area in his congregation, while Teinert and others living a distance away preferred a church in proximity to their homes. Even more important was a neighborhood school, important for the safety and convenience of their children. So Teinert was instrumental in opening a school several miles southeast of Serbin, and in 1873 helped establish a congregation. Kilian strenuously objected when the Missouri Synod provided them with a pastor. This new pastor, A. L. Timotheus Stiemke, was endowed with a gracious nature, and, in contrast to Teacher Luebner, learned Wendish. After Teinert left the Serbin congregation, Kilian and Teinert did not see each other for three years, until they participated in the installation of J. A. Proft at Eben Ezer (on the San Antonio Prairie, not Manheim.) There Teinert played the Melodeon, to Kilian's delight.

Then Pastor Stiemke, in an act of pastoral diplomacy, asked Kilian to baptize Stiemke's first child, and as sponsors selected Mrs. Leubner, wife of the teacher of the new-formed St. Peter's congregation in Serbin, Kilian's nineteen-year-old daughter, Theresia, and Pastor Proft of Eben Ezer. Kilian wrote, "So yesterday I had to conduct a baptism at Pastor Stiemke and be a guest at the baptism with C. Teinert." The faith they all held in common trumped the strained relationships.

In 1881 a new sanctuary was built at Warda, three miles away from its initial location and further away from Serbin. The congregation at Warda, Holy Cross, continued to grow, especially as more Wends immigrated and settled in the area. The poor cottager from Dauban left a legacy, not only his nineteen children, but three congregations which he helped establish, two in Texas and one in Prussia.

(Thanks to Pastor Robert Boyce and Arnold and Vic Mathias for assistance on these sketches.).

Anyone who can assist with the sketches of Johann Hohle, Christopher Kokel, Ernst Adolph Moerbe, or Johann Urban, please let me know at Gnie857317@aol.com or 1132 Enchantment Rd. Rapid City, SD 5770.

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### **Photos of Ben Nevis Immigrants Needed**

As part of Wendish Fest 2004, we would like to prepare a special display of photographs of the individuals or families who emigrated to Texas on the Ben Nevis in 1854. If you have photos of any of the original immigrants, we would appreciate your sending us a laser copy. Please use a separate sheet of paper for each photo and identify the person or persons in the photos in "left to right" order. Also, please include your family relationship to those in the photo, if applicable (i.e. "grandson," granddaughter," etc.).

Most commercial printing shops, such as Kinko's, or stores such as Office Depot or Office Max will be able to make a laser copy, which has far better resolution and clarity than regular photocopies. You can mail or bring your copies to the museum



at the address on the front of this newsletter. We would appreciate receiving your copies by July 15, 2004, to allow time to plan and construct an appropriate display to honor our ancestors.

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## **Wendish Schools in Germany**

### **George Boerger**

This is the first in a series of articles that will focus on Wendish-related schools. This article focuses on the Wendish or Sorbian region in Germany called Lower Silesia. Most of the Texas Wends came from Upper Lusatia around Bautzen and they spoke the Upper Wendish dialect. The other major Wendish area is north of Bautzen around Cottbus, an area called Lower Lusatia, where the Lower Wendish dialect is spoken. Lower Silesia is a small area between the two and their Wendish draws from the Upper and Lower dialects. Some of the Texas Wends came from this area. The small towns mentioned in this article are between the larger towns of Spremberg and Weisswasser, south of Berlin near the Polish border.

### The Language – in Kindergarten and Schools of the Region

The use of the Sorbian language has declined over the decades. Some of the reasons for this decline are the arrival of industry and collectivism. Therefore, the regional alliance is concentrating on the advancement of the Sorbian language. In September 1988, the "Witaj" project was started in the pre-school in Rhone. The children were taught using the immersion method and so learned the language very easily. The initiative found support from many parents and so the Witaj project is also planned for Trebendorf and Halbendorf/Gross Drueben. In the Kindergarten of Boxberg and Uhyst the children learn about Sorbian traditions and Sorbian songs.

In schools of the region, Sorbian is taught according to the B school program as a second language. Presently, 200 students are learning the Sorbian language in Schleife, Boxberg, Klitten, Trebendorf and Rhone; and 20 students are

learning the Sorbian language in the intermediate school in Schleife and Boxberg. The elementary school in Klitten is at risk because of the declining number of student enrollment. Although a concentration of elementary schools in one region would not further the advancement of the Sorbian language.

Since the school year 2000-2001, the Witaj project as been taught in Schleife. This project is supported by the German speaking parents, who are now also trying to learn the Sorbian language. The Sorbian culture center in Schleife has offered Sorbian language classes for two years and the classes have been well attended.

The Sorbian language is also very much a part of the entertainment program of the cultural heritage groups and the artistic ensembles.

(From the Domowina website [www.sorben-Wenden.de](http://www.sorben-Wenden.de). Thanks to Luise Green for translating from German to English.)

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## **Attention Members!**

### **Ron Lammert**

Around 1970, while I was living in Austin, I spent a lot of time with Arthur Moebus, teacher in Serbin, doing Wendish research. We did audio tapes of some of the old timers singing in Wendish. This may be some of the last recordings made of Texas folks who learned Wendish as a native language. I still have these available.

Teacher Moebus also had a large collection of glass photographic negatives made by a photographer in Giddings. My recollection is that there were at least a hundred of these glass plates in his collection. At that time I had access to a photo darkroom, so I borrowed a bunch of these and made contact prints. I kept some of the prints and made slides of the really interesting ones. I still have the hand full of slides I made, but I do not know what became of the prints I had.

A lot of these were pretty common subjects. There were a lot of portraits of individuals and families; death photos of infants; wedding photos



with black dresses, etc. But there were also some that showed men working on pulling oak stumps, some buildings and general store interiors.

I distinctly recall returning the glass negatives and most of the photos I had made to Teacher Moebus. Since there was no museum at the time, he was about the only repository for items of this kind.

Years later, when he died, I inquired if anyone knew what had happened to the negatives and photos. I never got an answer to that question.

I wanted to publish this in the newsletter in hopes that someone may know what became of these valuable artifacts. If anyone has any idea of what may have become of these items, please contact me by phone at 210-695-5421; email at ron@lammertinc.com or mail at 10307 Open G Trail; Helotes, Texas 78023.

If we can get enough interesting photos together I would like to publish them in some form.

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## Membership Report

### George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

If you recall in the last newsletter, I asked the question, "Who will be next?" And the answer is: Sandra Miertschin Matthijetz of Winchester is our newest life member! This marks four quarters in a row that we have added at least one new life member. Sandra joins the chain consisting of Marvin Schulze, Herb Schulz, Ruth Wuensche Wright and B. J. Scharath. Dare I ask again? Who will be next?

In the last newsletter I wrote that at the rate we were going, we would not reach the goal of 150 first-time members. Since then, 88 first-time members have joined and we now have 164 first-time members including 33 descendants from the Johann Teinert family. If you have a family reunion mailing list and are willing to share it with us, we would be glad to send a nice invitation to everyone telling them something about the TWHS and asking them to join.

Last year we had 657 members. This year the goal was 750. As of April 16<sup>th</sup>, we have 769 members! With a little more help from you, we could easily exceed 800 members. The record 164 first-time members is truly remarkable. The goal of 150 new members did not seem realistic, but it was the perfect number for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From 1983 through 2001, we averaged 48 first-time members a year and never exceeded 70. Our previous record was 124 set in 1979 during the early years of the TWHS.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who has helped and please keep helping. Surely you have friends and relatives who might be interested in learning more about the Wends. So sign them up or send me their names and addresses and we'll get an invitation to them in the mail.

### Patron Members

Theresa Teinert Allen	Lubbock
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### Sponsor Members

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Gladys Hobratschk	Littlefield
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Glenna Weise	Dallas
Jess Weise	Dallas

### Silver Members

Deborah Mathias	Austin
Matt Mathias	Austin

### Life Members

Sandra Miertschin Matthijetz	Winchester
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### Student Members

Laura Domaschk	Dallas
Mandy Domaschk	Dallas
Mark Hobratschk	Denver, CO
Jan Tschatschula	Finsterwalde, Germany

### First Time Members

Cherie Fuller	Austin
Edna Gillespie	Ballinger
Mariella Gillette	Dallas
Michael Gillette	Dallas
Vivian Hagood	Hutto
Bill Hartzoge	Midland
Carolyn Teinert Hartzoge	Midland
Gail Dube Hauserman	Langenselbold, Germany
Eleanor Headley	Huntsville

Adele Held	Houston
Karen Hensley	Georgetown
Lee Hensley	Georgetown
Alice Hobratsch	Dallas
Raymond Hobratsch	Hutto
Clarence Hobratschk	Littlefield
Gladys Hobratschk	Littlefield
Delores Holick	Houston
Mark Jatzlau	Lexington
Larry Jenke	Giddings
Phyllis Jeschke	Georgetown
J.B. Johse	Wharton
Liliana Johse	Wharton
Jo Ann Karokzak	Burg, Germany
Glen Kokel	Spring
Larry Kokel	Walburg
John Konescheck	Eagle Lake
Dennis Lee Latimer	Irving
Benjamin H. Lippe	Odessa
Lille Rose Meissner Lippe	Odessa
Deborah Mathias	Austin
Erna Mathias	Copperas Cove
Matt Mathias	Austin
Margaret Meissner Matzke	Good Thunder, MN
Kathy Dube Mauermann	Seguin
Karen Meador	Powell, WY
Lee Meador	Powell, WY
Henry Meissner	Good Thunder, MN
Lucille Schnieder Meissner	Good Thunder, MN
Melvin Meissner	Midland
Linda Dube Morris	Liberty Hill
Elizabeth Ann Noack	Horseshoe Bay
Herb Noack	Houston
Patricia A. Noack	Houston
Paul G. Noack	Austin
Betty Peterschmidt	Victoria
Jeannine Richter	Pflugerville
Eugene Rummel	Garland
Evelyn Rummel	Garland
Sabra Sauer	Victoria
Don Schroeder	Houston
Wilburn Schroeder	Houston
Terry Smith	Richardson
Bishop Bob Studtmann	Tulsa, OK
Barbara Studtmann	Tulsa, OK
Bertina Synatschk	Midland
Martin Synatschk	Midland
Ruth Teleki	Houston
E. L. Toppel	Needville
Erika Wuensche Ward	Spanish Fork, UT
Nelson Zoch	Kingwood



## **Financial Report: 2003 Actual and 2004 Projected**

### **George Boerger**

Financially, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society had a very successful year in 2003. The operating surplus was \$8,303. This is a result of hard work and much time donated by dedicated and gifted volunteers. This surplus is due, in part, to the following:

1. Higher interest/investment income than expected.
2. A large increase in membership.
3. Tours income was double the budget, partially due to publicity from a 2002 article in the *Houston Chronicle*.
4. Noodle sales were almost \$2,000 over budget.
5. Gift shop, book and CD sales exceeded the budget by \$4,677.
6. Total expenses were \$1,256 favorable compared to the budget.

Some of the favorable items above were partially offset by higher cost of sales. For example, we over-spent the budget for gift shop items, tours, and noodles, but the revenue increase was higher than the cost increases. We did make less than expected on the Wendish Fest because we are contributing to improvements to the picnic grounds, grants were lower than expected, and we had some extra expenses in 2003.

The endowment fund increased by \$11,200 in 2003, with \$8,225 coming from memberships in excess of \$15.00 and \$2,975 from gifts and memorials. The endowment fund balance is \$128,681.

The 2004 approved budget projects a balanced budget. In 2004, revenue will decrease by \$8,124 and cost of sales will decrease by \$1,076. The major changes in revenue are the assumptions of lower tour revenue; gift shop, book, and CD revenue (we had two new, very successful items introduced in 2003); and a shift in contributions from the general fund to the endowment. Expenses will increase 3%.

To request a copy of the financial statements, please notify the museum.

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## **Kilian Year Celebrated with July Remembrance in Europe**

The immigration to Texas of the Wends in 1854 is being remembered with a three-day celebration in Germany this summer over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Sponsored by the Evangelical Academy in Goerlitz, the Sorbian Institute in Bauzten and organizations of both State Church and Free Church congregations, the event named "To the Shores of our Hope" seeks to celebrate in those settings in Lusatia from which the immigrants came.

Conducted in a retreat setting, there are worship services, lectures, excursions and common meals. Superintendent Mahling is delivering a lecture on "Kilian and the Sorbian Immigration," while his wife, noted authoress, Gertrude Mahling, introduces the participants to an exhibition entitled "Traces and Witnesses of Jan Kilian in Upper Lusatia." Bus excursions take the participants to churches and cemeteries where Kilian served (and two of his daughters are buried). A closing Sunday service employed the hymns and liturgies of Kilian, all written while he was still in Germany.



## **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY at AUSTIN HERITAGE TOUR**

**CELEBRATING THE KILIAN  
SESQUICENTENNIAL (1854-2004)**

visiting

Berlin, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Dresden,  
Bautzen, Prague

Eleven Days: October 14-24, 2004

Hosted by President Emeritus and Mrs. David  
Zersen

\$2599 from Austin

Information or brochure: 1-800-923-2482 or  
[dzersen@aol.com](mailto:dzersen@aol.com)

### **Calling all Lee County-Area German Speakers!**

My name is Karen Ewing and as part of my research at UT Austin (which is also part of the Texas German Dialect Project), I am interviewing German speaking Wends in and around Lee County. If you would be interested in talking with me in German about your heritage, memories etc., then please contact me either by phone (512)401-9714, or email [ewingj@austin.rr.com](mailto:ewingj@austin.rr.com). I will be happy to meet with you at your home, or wherever is convenient for you. Thank you!

### **Kilian Sesquicentennial Recognized with Major Events During Fall 2004**

Jan Kilian and the Wendish immigration of 1854 will not be forgotten if the Anniversary Committee which has been meeting for the last six months has anything to say about it. Five major events, and a number of smaller ones, will take

place to remember the heritage brought to Texas 150 years ago this coming December.

In July, Concordia's President, Dr. Thomas Cedel, will host a reunion of the Kilian family on Concordia's campus, all of which has been built around the old main building from 1926, Kilian Hall. A workshop for students called "Voyage into the Unknown," celebrating risk-taking and career building, will be led by Dr. Roger Birkman, a motivational psychologist and great-grandson of Jan Kilian.

An international conference for scholars will take place around the topic "Impact of Central European Immigration to New World Settlements."

Joining scholars at the University of Regensburg in Germany and Concordia University at Austin by video-conferencing technology, the event is co-sponsored by Concordia University and The University of Texas at Austin. The video conference on the morning of October 23 will be followed by an afternoon of folk-life events involving various ethnic communities.

An opportunity to visit sites related to Wendish heritage (along with Luther sites and LCMS heritage sites) will take place between October 14-24. The trip costs \$2599 and is led by Dr. and Mrs. David Zersen. (A brochure can be requested by calling 1-800-923-4282 or writing to [dzersen@aol.com](mailto:dzersen@aol.com).)

The "big event" will be a worship service in Birkman Memorial Chapel on October 31 at 3:00 p.m. at which the Rev. Victor Kilian, great-grandson of Jan Kilian, will be the preacher. It will be followed by a Wendish banquet in St. Paul's Parish Hall with entertainment (including a surprise visit from Jan Kilian himself!). "Surprise Stories" from life in Kilian Hall will be shared, and musical tributes will be brought by local ethnic groups. Tickets for the banquet are \$12.50 per person with special prices for children and tables of eight at \$100.

Additional events include roping off the outline of the Ben Nevis in the Concordia Quadrangle and constructing a prow of the ship to be used as a



permanent display. A booklet of Kilian's hymns is being translated, Kilian's liturgical texts are being prepared for use by congregations on Reformation Day, October 31, and a display is being prepared for viewing at Concordia during the fall semester.

Members of the Committee which have developed the events and programs include Victor Kilian, Jane Martens, Jan Slack, David O'Leary, Laura Arldt, and David Zersen, Chair.

### **44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MICHAEL SCHOPPA FAMILY REUNION**

June 18, 19 & 20, 2004  
Father's Day Weekend  
4:00 p.m. Friday—4:00 p.m. Sunday  
Boys Club Facilities  
At Lake Kickapoo, Texas  
Approx. 31 miles South & 5 miles West of  
Electra, Texas, off Highway 25

Questions? Contact Ken & Candy Schoppa  
7106 E CR 6700  
Lubbock, Texas 79403-7818 (806) 765-0340  
[kencandy@odsy.net](mailto:kencandy@odsy.net)

### **ATTENTION ALL DUBE FAMILY DESCENDANTS**

The 53rd Annual Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion will be held at the American Legion Hall in Giddings on Sunday, June 10, 2004. All Dube clan members are invited for barbecue lunch and fellowship starting at 11 a.m. A silent auction and a "moonwalk" for kids will be features of the reunion again this year.

Contact Ron Lammert at 210-695-5421, by email at [ron@lammertinc.com](mailto:ron@lammertinc.com) or mail at 10307 Open G Trail, Helotes, Texas 78023 for more information.

### **In Search of...**

We would appreciate any help in pursuing the ancestors of Johannes Bernhardt Rein, also used the names George B. Rein, G.B. Rein, Johann Von Rein, and John Rein. Johannes was born in 1821 in Germany and emigrated to America on the ship *Sophie*, arriving in Galveston on January 19, 1852. He moved to the Serbin area soon after arrival. He was a farmer and married Hedwig Lydia (Therese) Kunze about 1853. The couple had 7 children (6 daughters and 1 son). The oldest daughter, Charlotte Julianne Rein, married Albert Droemer on December 26, 1875 in Serbin. Helena Rein married Rudolph Droemer on November 4, 1877 in Lee, Texas. Daughter Emma Hedwig Rein married Peter Ernst Urban on November 22, 1879 in Serbin. We know that Johannes was living in the Serbin area after 1875 and before 1881, during the period in which he died. We don't know the exact death date or burial location. If anyone can help us to determine his death date, burial location, and his hometown in Germany, we would be forever grateful. Please contact Barb and Glenn Carlson at 10832 Sombra Verde, El Paso, Texas 79935-3623, by phone at 915-591-3886, or by email at [glenbarb@swbell.net](mailto:glenbarb@swbell.net).

Mrs. Frahnaw, the mayor of Preilack near Cottbus, Germany, is seeking information on her relative who immigrated from Cottbus to the U.S. in 1864. Her family name is Albin. If anyone has information on this family name, please contact JoAnn Karolczak, Kantorweg No. 14, 03096, Burg in Spreewald, Germany.

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### **Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting, February 15, 2004**

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, February 15, 2004, by Steve Hooper, President.



Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion. In reviewing the early history of the St. Paul congregation for the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, it was noted that as early as the 1860s disagreement arose among the members on the use of Wendish vs. German. In 1868, the congregation split and formed the St. Peter congregation as a result of that disagreement. Ironically, when the time came to install the new minister at St. Peter, the Synod assigned Reverend Jan Kilian that task. He delivered his message, as reported later in *Der Lutheraner*, in the morning to the congregation at St. Paul in Wendish and that same afternoon for the opening of St. Peter in German. Reverend Kilian told the congregations that they were all united in the same goal: the goal of heaven. Reverend Buchhorn said that might have been the first major disagreement but that even now everyone still doesn't agree on everything.

There were 35 members present and 8 visitors in attendance. Steve Hooper welcomed all of the members and first time attendees. He then introduced himself and gave a brief personal background. He indicated that he and his family live in Kingwood outside of Houston, Texas. He and his wife of 27 years have three children. His Wendish ties are from his Mother's side, the Wukasch family. He has been a member of the Society for three years and has served as a Director for one year. He indicated that he was presiding at this meeting due to a chain of events that had recently occurred. Doris Reagan, who had been elected Vice President at the November 2003 meeting, resigned in early January. In the same month at a Special Meeting of the Directors, Steve Hooper was elected to fill the vacated position of Vice President. Also at that meeting, George Boerger was elected as a Director to fill the position that had been vacated as a result of Steve's move to Vice President. Shortly after the Special Meeting of the Directors, Sandra Matthijetz resigned her position as President. Under the Society By-Laws, the Vice President automatically fills the President's position when vacant. In a Special Meeting of the Directors prior to this Membership Meeting, the Directors

elected Doug Symmank to fill the Vice President position. Evelyn Buchhorn was appointed a Director of the Society to fill the vacancy left by Doug Symmank. President Hooper indicated that under Article V of the Society By-Laws, if a vacancy shall occur on the Board, the Board of Directors must appoint a member to fill the vacancy with approval by the Society at its next regular meeting. A motion was made from the floor and seconded that the appointments made by the Board of Directors be approved. Motion carried.

The minutes of the November 2003 meeting were approved as presented in the January newsletter.

In the absence of George Boerger, Raymond Arldt presented a Financial Report prepared by George Boerger. The Texas Wendish Society had a very successful year in 2003, ending the year with an operating surplus of \$8,303. The 2004 approved budget projects a balanced budget. To request a copy of the financial statements, please notify the museum.

In the absence of George Boerger, Raymond Arldt reported that we have a new membership record of 670 members surpassing last year's record of 657. There are 119 first time members. Our goal this year is 150 first-time members with a total membership of 750.

Hattie Schautschick reported that 500 pounds of noodles had been made already this year. The annual Walk-in Coffee that was held in Giddings this past week was a great success. The even cleared a profit of \$948. Thanks to all who participated by baking or stopping by to enjoy the good food.

Evelyn Kasper reported that three luncheon tours have already been scheduled for March.

Eunice Dunk reported that we had received confirmation that the German dance group that was to come over in 2001 will be here for the 2004 Wendish Fest in September.

Laverne Gersch welcomed everyone to help themselves to a packet of poppy seeds that she had collected. They are the old-fashioned poppies

and can be planted now or this Fall. Steve Hooper asked that everyone join him in thanking Walter and Laverne Gersch for removing a tree stump in the Museum courtyard and planting an old-fashioned honey locust in its place.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m. Dr. David Zersen introduced the speaker for the afternoon's program, Dr. Hans Boas of the Germanic Studies Department at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Boas' presentation was on the Texas German Dialect Project he is directing. Dr. Baos was seeking to involve German-speaking families in the project from Lee and surrounding counties as well as determine how Wendish phrases and customs may be remembered in families who had a Wendish heritage.

Following the program, refreshments were enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

J.B. Gersch, Jr., Secretary

**The Texas Wendish Heritage Society  
and**

**Round Top Roadrunners**

Invite you to join them in attending

**THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL**

San Antonio, Texas

June 12, 2004

- 8:00 a.m. Depart from Texas Wendish Museum complex, Serbin
- 10:30 a.m. Arrive SAS Factory Outlet Store, San Antonio
- 12:00 p.m. Depart for San Antonio
- 7:30 p.m. Depart Texas Folklife Festival for Serbin
- 10:00 p.m. Arrive at Museum complex, Serbin

Price: \$27.50 per person (includes admission to Festival grounds, NO meals)

Call the Texas Wendish Museum at 979-366-2441 or J.B. Gersch, Jr., at 979-542-2923 for additional information.

To insure your seat on the bus, send your check to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, 1011 CR 212, Giddings, TX 78942

First come, first served

Reservation deadline: May 28, 2004

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ @\$27.50

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Telephone number:

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Serbin Picnic, Sunday, May 30  
St. Paul Picnic Grounds, Serbin**

**Texas Folklife Festival, June 10-13, 2004  
Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio**

*Texas Wendish Heritage Society*

Executive Director.....	Barbara Hielscher
Officers.....	Steve Hooper, President
	Doug Symmank, Vice President
	J.B. Gersch, Jr., Secretary
	Raymond Arldt, Treasurer
Newsletter Editor.....	Jan Slack
Special Features Editor.....	George Nielsen

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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