
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

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New Exhibit at our Museum!

We are excited to announce a new exhibit at the Wendish Museum in Serbin. Two mannequins (donated by J.B. Gersch, Jr.) are dressed in traditional Wendish costumes. The male mannequin is displaying a Dudelsack donated to the Museum by members of Chor Meja following their performance at Wendish Fest in 2002. Both costumes were donated to the Museum by members of the Trachtentanzgruppe Zeissig following their performance at Wendish Fest in 2003.



How many Wends does it take to dress a Dudelsack player?

Left to right: J.B. Gersch, Jr., Georgie Boyce, Marian Wiederhold and Evelyn Kasper
(See Page 2 for a photo of the finished exhibit.)



Our new Museum exhibit!

Photos courtesy Georgie Boyce

Quarterly Membership Meeting, Sunday, August 15, 2004, 2:00 PM

The next quarterly Membership Meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2004 at the Museum complex. Following a brief business meeting, the program topic will be the Wends of Australia. Our Vice-President/membership program chair, Doug Symmank, says the presentation will be quite interesting, and we hope to see you on August 15!

President's Message

Greetings to one and all and God's richest blessings to members, families and friends. I join with ranchers, farmers and gardeners in the local Serbin area in thankfulness for the early summer rains. The rains are evident as you travel around the community and see livestock tanks full of water and what sure looks like a bountiful hay crop. Apparently the length of time that the rains lasted delayed much of the hay harvest, and concentrated a lot of work in a short period of time. Within the past several weeks every hay field that I observed looked like an ant mound of activity as the harvest shifted to high gear.

Speaking of busy times of the year, here we are at the end of July with the annual Wendish Fest rapidly approaching. The festival committee has already invested numerous hours in the planning process, and many more are sure to come. I offer a sincere thanks to all involved in the process. It may seem that September 26th is a long way off, but when I consider all the plans, details, and volunteer efforts that must be coordinated, the time starts to shrink. The good news is that the process is in extremely capable hands, and I look forward to the opportunity to work together with as many volunteers as possible.

For those of you who have volunteered to work during Wendish Fest, whether as a green-hand for the first time, or as an "old pro", we thank you.

I look forward to seeing you in September!

Steve Hooper, President

Within the Fold...

Murphy Biehle of The Woodlands, a member since 1999, died July 6, 2004.

Larry James Grimm of Houston, a member since 1999, died July 15, 2004.

News from the Texas German Society. Lee County Chapter

Ruby Koslan

The Lee County chapter of the German Society met Thursday, July 1, with twenty-five members and two guests present. Gerda Neimeyer of Germany presented a very interesting question and answer program. German songs were sung and refreshments were served by members having a birthday in July.

On Monday, August 9, the German Society will have their annual summer picnic at Holy Cross Community Hall in Warda, beginning at 4:00 P.M. A potluck salad supper will be served at 6:00 P.M. All members are asked to bring two salads or desserts. Drinks will be furnished by the Society. Our special guests will be the Winedale Singers who will perform for us.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, September 2, at the First National Bank Community Room beginning at 5:00 P.M.

Guests and visitors are always welcome.

Report from the Noodle Committee

Evelyn Kasper

Thus far for 2004, 2,487 pounds of noodles have been made by the Noodle Committee and their faithful volunteers. Special thanks to Linda Jolly noodle lady-in-training, and to Laverne and Walter Gersch's chickens for providing those fabulous eggs without which the noodles just wouldn't be the same!

Report from the Tours Committee

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

Five tours were provided during the months of May, June and July. One tour included 26 Kindergarten-3rd graders from Giddings, and a tour on July 19 was provided for visitors from Germany who were staying with Ruby Bohot and Mr. & Mrs. Anton Lorenz.

Thank you Museum Docents!

During the months of April, May and June, the following served as docents at the museum: Mildred Kilian, George Boerger, Linda Jolly, Carolyn Bohot, Margo Latimer, Henry and Emily Zoch, Evelyn Kasper, Ruby Koslan, Freddie Zoch, Georgie Boyce, Marian Wiederhold, Jan Slack, J.B. Gersch, Jr., and Barbara Hielscher.

Memorials

From Mr. and Mrs. Larry Kiesling in memory of Harry Miertschin.

From the August and Marie (Biar) Schulz family reunion.

From Sanford and Mannie Fritsch Schmidt, donation.

Be sure to pick up your copy of the August issue of *Texas Highways*

Magazine and check out Page 58 where you will find an article entitled, "Gone with the Wends!" by Marion Amberg, who also wrote an article about the Wendish Museum and Serbin for *German Life Magazine* a few years ago. If you don't have an opportunity to purchase your copy of the magazine while they are available, copies of the August issue will also be available for sale at Wendish Fest on September 26.

ATTENTION!!! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

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.).

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 August 31, 2004, to allow time to plan and construct an appropriate display to honor our ancestors.

The Serbin Picnic and the 150th Anniversary Celebration at St Paul Lutheran Church

Reverend Robert Boyce

Sunday, May 30, 2004, The Day of Pentecost and the annual Serbin Picnic, provided the setting for another wonderful event in the yearlong 150th Anniversary Celebration at St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Serbin, Texas!

Appropriate for these occasions, this day began with a traditional service of worship at which the Reverend Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, current President of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and great grandson of Johann Kieschnick (one of the passengers on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854), served as the Guest Preacher.

Dr. Kieschnick's sermon, entitled *An Easter Past with a Pentecost Future*, focused on the unchanging truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the eternal impact of His glorious resurrection, and the equipping power of The Holy Spirit of God, Whose historic coming is celebrated on the Day of Pentecost. As clear as the voice of the church bells that tolled to begin this worship service, all in attendance were reminded of God's unchanging love and His equipping power, not only for the Wends, but also for the entire world. With his wife, Terry, and his mother, Edna, among the attendees, Dr. Kieschnick offered congratulations to the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, and shared the personal joys that he has experienced in learning more about his own Wendish heritage. His entire sermon ultimately pointed to the fact that the same gracious God, Who has blessed us with such a

firm foundation and heritage, continues to be at work in each of us, for each of us, and through each of us, by the power of The Holy Spirit. "While our challenges and opportunities are different, it is the same unchangeable God, Who calls and equips all of His people."

In testament to the continuing work of Christ's Kingdom at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin, Texas, Pastor Michael Buchhorn, who served as the Worship Leader on this glorious day, also administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Malia Ruth Droegemueller, the infant daughter of Josh and Kim Droegemueller, both of whom are teachers at St. Paul Lutheran School.

Following the worship service, and some additional remarks by Dr. Kieschnick at the Bible Class that followed, it was on to the newly expanded facilities of St. Paul's Picnic Grounds, and a truly delicious barbeque meal and trimmings prepared by the members of St. Paul. With a gentle mist falling during the mealtime, it was almost as if "tears of joy" were falling from heaven and the eyes of those who made this day a reality as, generation after generation, Christ's Kingdom has continued to be manifested here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Many visitors toured the Museum Complex during this day, and the local members of TWHS were glad to welcome some very able "helpers" who live farther away!

At 2:00 p.m., with appetites satisfied and most in more casual attire, a large number of people returned to the church for a "Program of Remembrances." Very fittingly, the church bells tolled 150 times, (for each of the 150 years), to start the program. The assembly sang, *Our God our Help in Ages Past*, and the students of St. Paul Lutheran School retold the history of St. Paul congregation. Next came the "Recollections and Greetings from former Teachers" who were in attendance, and the reading of the names of others, both living and deceased. The assembly was invited to join in the singing of, *Your Boundless Love*, the 150th Anniversary Hymn that was composed for this year of celebration.

The "Pastor Recollections" included the reading of the names of the eight (Yes! Only 8) Pastors who have served St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, during these 150 years.

Reverend Paul W. Hartfield, Pastor Emeritus, shared a lifetime of memories of St. Paul, beginning with visits made during his youth with his father, Reverend Herbert Hartfield, who served at Loebau and Warda. Reverend Hartfield's recollections included his own twenty-two years (1977 – 1998) as Pastor, and continuing now as Pastor Emeritus. By his own admission:

"I remember only the good!"

Under the heading of *A Church in Mission*, Pastor Buchhorn presented the list of those past members of St. Paul who have become Lutheran Teachers and Pastors.

The church bell solemnly tolled 73 times, honoring the memory of those who died during the trip to America on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854. As the bell tolled, the assembly sang *For All the Saints Who from Their Labors Rest*.

Pastor Buchhorn offered "A Prayer for The Church's Future", and the program concluded with the singing of *Now Thank We All Our God!*

Perhaps a bit verbose, but for those who could not be in attendance, we wanted to offer a glimpse of this event, which is only one in the series of celebrations that make up the 150th Anniversary Celebration of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

A Celebration of Music, which was held on July 25th, was an evening hymn festival marking the 100th anniversary of St. Paul's organ, (Pfeifer Organ), which was dedicated as a part of the congregation's 50th Anniversary Celebration in July of 1904.

The 16th Annual Wendish Fest will be on **September 26th**, a celebration of 150 years of this Wendish community at Serbin, Texas.

* As a reminder to other 'non-local' members who will be coming to the 16th Annual Wendish Fest on September 26th: If you would be willing to help with some of the activities and events, please contact the office to be added to the work-list.

Other 150th Anniversary Services at St. Paul will include a Mission Festival on October 10th (English services at 8:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., German at 10:30 a.m.), and All Saints Remembrance on November 7th (8:30 a.m. English Worship).



Reverend Dr. Gerald and Terry Kieschnick
pictured at the Museum

Photo courtesy of Georgie Boyce



From Bronowice (Poland) to Jonesboro (Texas)

Kerstin Preuss, Komptendorf, Germany

There is no better story that could be told in the year of the European East Expansion than the story of Norman M. Kneschk from Jonesboro, Texas.

In the spring of 2004 I received an e-mail from Norman M. Kneschk, asking for help in finding information about his Wendish roots in Germany. Those roots led me to a region away from the well known towns around Weigersdorf from which Jan Kilian had left with his immigrants. The ancestors of Norman Kneschk lived in Braunsdorf, a village on the other side of the River Neisse, which marks the border with Poland since 1945. The village is now called Bronowice and neither Germans nor Wends live there any longer. They fled or were moved out of the area. The new inhabitants came from areas in east Poland. There, in White-Russia, they lost their home according to Stalin's plans. However, these events took place a long time after Norman's grandfather, Johann Matthaeus Kneschk had left the town.

During his lifetime, the biggest European park was created on both sides of the Neisse. It covered 600 hectare (2.5 square miles). Hermann prince

von Pückler-Muskau (1785 – 1871) began to rule over this region in 1815. To his principality belonged the 3,000 inhabitants of Muskau and villages like Braunsdorf. This area was to be shaped into one big park in the style of an English garden. It is possible that Johann's father, Martin (1802 – 1847), was one of the 200 workers who had to move great amounts of earth to move the riverbed of the Neisse, transplant big trees, and so mold the area into a beautiful park.

Johann Matthaeus Kneschk, born 3 May 1833, descended from the Wendish farmer's family of Hans Kneschk from Braunsdorf, who was born about 1720. That is the earliest date this family can be documented. The name appeared in the region as early as 1552, but fires, especially in 1634, during the 30 Year War and then again in 1766, destroyed the church and church documents.

The existing documents begin in the year 1766 and give a very detailed family tree for Norman M. Kneschk. According to the documents, the daughter had inherited the original farm. In the past this was the usual convention that a daughter would inherit her father's farm if there were no male descendents or if the father died before a son was old enough to assume responsibility for the farm. This is probably what happened in this case. In this manner, the immigrant's grandfather, also named Martin Kneschk, became a Hausmann (a cottager). He had three sons but died before they were grown. For none of them being a "Hausmann" could provide a sufficient living.

The sons left Braunsdorf. In 1832, the youngest son, Martin, settled as Halbbauer (half farmer) in Weisswasser, a larger town not too far from Braunsdorf. In this town, Martin and Anna Maria Kneschk's first child, Johann Matthaeus, was born. In 1877 he left his Wendish home with his family for Texas.

Documentation after 1875 is closed to further investigation because of data protection. The story could have stopped right there. But after successfully finding information on this family, the question arose if there were any living relatives now in Germany.

There was hope, because a sister had stayed behind who had married into an old established family by the name of Bresagk. This name is mentioned for the first time in the region in 1648. Peter Bresagk, a fifth generation direct descendent, presently lives with children and grandchildren in the family home that was built in 1912 in Weisswasser. The photograph above, taken in 1941, shows members of the Bresagk family including Anna Maria (born 12 February 1863) in her black Wendish costume which reminds us of the era when her uncle, Johann Matthaeus Kneschk, migrated to Texas.

Peter Bresagk is also very interested in family research and will now be able to expand his family tree by adding the American branch of his great-great-grandmother Eva Christiane, nee Kneschk, the sister of the immigrant Johann Matthaeus.

The story of Braunsdorf can also be expanded. The village and the park became Polish territory in 1945, which brought about a sad division. This division happily came to an end when Poland joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. Today both sides of the park and the town of Braunsdorf/Bronowice are accessible for everybody. The Park is being renovated and Germany and Poland are working together to bring this about and have the park named a World Cultural Treasure.

Thank you to Luise Green of Warda and Evelyn Weiser of Germany for translating from German to English.

Iowa Wends: The Dragons' Children

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

At the conclusion of a session at Concordia Historical Institute, a retired pastor from Iowa informed me that a group of Wends had also settled in State Center, Iowa. Although I found it difficult to imagine that such a settlement could exist and not be hinted at in Texas sources, I kept his assertion in the back of my mind. Finally, in 1989, I wrote to Pastor Marvin Flansch, pastor of

St. John Lutheran Church, a congregation three and one-half miles north of State Center, for verification. He substantiated the existence of the Wends and on a subsequent trip to the area I examined the church records of St. John Lutheran Church and spoke to a woman named Mrs. Atvea Schmelich Zeisneiss who said "My father spoke Vendish."

During the next years I tried to piece together a picture of the Wends using church records and census material, but not until I came across a study group of Wendish descendants did I make significant progress. The group's primary focus was family ties, but they knew their families were Wendish and that in one way or another, they were friends or relatives. The two who helped me the most were Cathy C. Petersen in California, who manages the clearing house for email messages and Connie Lyall of State Center. The members are scattered all over the United States, but are connected by the Internet. One of them, LeRoy Mehlow lives in Austin and his children attend a school with children who are Texas Wends. The vitality and enthusiasm of this group is boundless and not only are the members cobbling together the Wendish families in the United States, they are learning German and restoring social contacts with the relatives in Lusatia. One of their projects is to transcribe the church registers from 1824 to 1875 of their church in Europe and record them on the computer.

Drachhausen

The Iowa Wends were predominately from Drachhausen, a small village north of Cottbus in Lower Lusatia. Drachhausen, meaning house of the dragon, has just celebrated its 500th anniversary in June of this year, and to acknowledge this event I have delayed the sketches of the Wendish leaders until the October issue in order to report on the Iowa Wends. Drachhausen is located on the north edge of the Spreewald and is surrounded by flat terrain with sandy soil. The village is also the home of the parish church which served residents of the village and a few neighboring villages. The nearest large town is Peitz, located on a large lake and well

know regionally for its delicacy, carp. This northern location probably helps explain the absence of information in Texas about the Iowa Wends. The Iowa Wends were from Lower Lusatia while the Texas Wends were from Upper and Middle Lusatia.

The citizens of Drachhausen may have been isolated, but they were not ignorant of the outside world. During the mid-nineteenth century at least one resident migrated to Australia, at least twenty-two found homes in Canada and thirteen traveled to South Africa. During that same period, and extending into the twentieth century, more than eighty migrated to Iowa.

Chain Migration

While the Texas Wends illustrate migration in a group, the Iowa Wends fit under the category of chain migration. In 1854 five hundred fifty-some Texas Wends migrated at one time, traveling together, and bringing along a pastor and religious items such as the bell for the church and a processional cross. Entire families, including infants, made the journey. The Iowa Wends, on the other hand, crossed the Atlantic as individuals, often young adults, or in small groups, over a period of years. In chain migration one person found a place in the United States that suited him and then sent back letters with directions and generally funds or tickets for the next unit to make the crossing. For the Iowa Wends, there are two examples of even greater assistance. One Wend, John Schmellik, returned to Drachhausen in 1896 for a visit and brought back fifteen immigrants. Another, Martin Riese, went back on several occasions, and returned with an individual and paid the fare on the condition that the immigrant would work for him for a year.

Probably, the first person from Drachhausen to settle in southeastern Iowa was Christian Wilhelm Stempel. Although Drachhausen was largely Wendish, Stempel, a physician, was most likely a German. He owned land near Drachhausen and migrated in 1848 because of political reasons. Many Germans, such as Carl Schurz, after they failed to establish a parliamentary government for their country, migrated to the United States.

Stempel also took with him a resident from Drachhausen who worked for him as a carpenter. There is no specific evidence that his migration began the chain, but either Stempel or the carpenter could have provided the residents of Drachhausen with information of their new home.

The one individual who was a Wend and who attracted more immigrants, was Christian Gullick. He, with his wife and two children, migrated in 1853, five years after Stempel. (That same year, 1853, the first group of Wends, the ones who suffered shipwreck near Cuba, went to Texas.) The route the Gullick family took went through England, and was similar to the 1854 *Ben Nevis* group. However, instead of going to Galveston, Gullick disembarked at New Orleans and traveled upriver to Fort Madison, Iowa, where Stempel had settled, and bought some land along Sugar Creek. Four years later, in 1857, the Muschick family of ten people, the largest single family to migrate to Iowa, joined the Gullicks. But then, in 1861, the American Civil War began and only Matthes Schlodder migrated in 1863. No more followed until 1868 when the Bubner and Schmellik families of four people made the journey.

The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 - 1871 disrupted conditions in Europe and the Panic of 1873 brought bad times to the United States. The only families to migrate between 1868 and 1881 were from Canada -- August Woito in 1869 and the Martin Riese family in 1871. They had been part of the Wendish migration to Ontario, but fertile Iowa soil held greater appeal than the rocks of Canada.

Also in 1871, French Grove, as the location just north of State Center was called, joined Fort Madison as a destination. After one of the Muschick daughters had gotten married and the young couple decided to find a new home further west from Fort Madison, the entire family followed. From that time on the new migrants went to either place, some finding work in agriculture or with the railroad at Fort Madison and some in agriculture near French Grove. But the Wendish families kept in touch even though separated by 150 miles.

From 1881, when migrations resumed, to 1884 the Markus, Mehlish and Nuemann/Neumann families and the individuals including Martin Schergun, Matthes Bulkow, and Martin Mehlow migrated. Then followed another break in the migration until the 1890s when many single individuals migrated such as Martin Buckwar, Matthes Kullowatz, Johann Gushmann, Christian Martin Bohrisch, and Otto Richter. Fred Hannusch migrated in 1893 and then in 1897 his parents and six siblings followed. Migration continued into the twentieth century with members of the Mehlow family migrating in stages from 1898 to 1910 and the Domann family from 1905 to 1924.

Religious Affiliation and Wendish Awareness

The number of German speaking residents in southeastern Iowa was small when the first Wends arrived in Fort Madison, so the religious choice was limited because of language. They had been members of the Prussian state church and most had not found problems with the royally ordained blending of Lutheranism and Calvinism. One exception was the Marcus family whose staunch Lutheranism made religion a factor in migration. In general, those Wends living in Fort Madison affiliated with the one German speaking congregation which served both Lutherans and Calvinists and eventually became St. John UCC, a Calvinist or German Reformed church.

The largest concentration of Iowa Wends was French Grove, near State Center and the church they attended was Lutheran, a congregation of the Missouri Synod. Both Lutheran bodies, the Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, currently maintain congregations in State Center itself, and descendants of Wends can be found in both synods.

In addition to the frequency of marriage between Iowa Wends, the church records hint at the close ties the Wends maintained. Very often the choice of witnesses at the Wendish weddings and the sponsors at the baptisms of infants of Wendish families were Wendish. The continual migration of Wendish speakers also reinvigorated the use of the language. Wendish could be heard well into

the twentieth century when John Schulze and one of the Hannusch men daily talked in Wendish on the telephone. Even so, Wendish was generally replaced by German and English. A major deterrent to the perpetuation of German and Wendish came in World War I, when Iowa, like Nebraska, passed legislation prohibiting public use of all foreign languages.

Other Migrations

The settlement at French Grove, in central Iowa, was only the initial settlement, and soon Wends began to spread to other small neighboring communities such as Zearing, St. Anthony, and Clemons. The Schlodder family moved further afield and settled in northeastern Kansas. Others, such as some of the Muschicks, went directly from Drachhausen to New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and the Zachow brothers went to upstate New York. Thanks to modern communication and transportation, and the energy of the descendants, the scattered children of Drachhausen are celebrating their Slavic heritage. This column is not the last we will hear from this group.

Wendish Schools in Germany, Part II

From the Newsletter of the Wend Sorb Society of South Australia, Inc., March 2004

In July 2003 the Sorbian middle school at Crostwitz was closed. Parents, with the support of Sorbian organizations, have taken the case to court and the case is still pending.

Meanwhile, another school is facing closure. Quoting from an article written by Brigitte Alfter from EuroLang, the European news agency for minority languages:

The primary school at Heinersbrück/Most near Cottbus is expected to be closed at the end of the summer holidays [June 2004]. A solution for 42 children will have to be found. The school is a bilingual school with a strong Sorbian profile. Some of the children have been traveling up to 20

km to attend the school because of its reputation in Sorbian.

The school will be closed according to legislation in the German province of Brandenburg, which requires a minimum of 15 students in a double-class (that is where two classes are taught together). For several years, the school in Heinersbrück/Most was granted exemptions from this rule, but this will not be extended, as the 3rd and 4th year again lack students.

There are two options as to which school the children will be sent to. WITAJ, the Sorbian language centre in Cottbus, prefers that the students be sent to the school at nearby Jänschwalde, which has a bilingual cultural tradition, rather than Peitz, which is a traditionally German town.

Another Life Member and Another Record

George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

For the 5th quarter in a row, we have at least one new life member. Ralph Weiser of Magnolia, Arkansas is our latest life member! Ralph joins the chain consisting of Marvin Schulze, Herb Schulz, Ruth Wuensche Wright, B. J. Scharath, and Sandra Miertchin Matthijetz. We now have 13 life members. If you are superstitious and don't like this number, you can change it with a \$1,000 life membership. Dare I ask again? Who will be next?

As of July 19th, we have set a new membership record, again, with 848 members! Membership is up 114% compared to 2001. This year we have added a record 244 new members, including 209 first-time members and 35 former members. Our seemingly outrageous goal of 150 first-time members now looks a little puny. Thanks to everyone for their efforts to increase membership; please keep it up!

In the last newsletter, I left out some of the first-time members, but they should all be included in the following list.

Patron Members

James Dube	Dalpne, AL
Susan Dube	Dalpne, AL
Don Graf	Lubbock
Lillian Groeschel	Bellaire
Wayne Herbrich	Houston
Larry Kiesling	Kenedy
Leona Kokel	Jarrell
Jenny Sharrock	Houston
Roy Sharrock	Garland
Dana Smith	Fort Worth

Sponsor Members

Suzanne Pfluger Buck	San Antonio
Mark Herbert Fritsche	New York, NY
Nancy Hillmer	La Grange
Norris Miertschin	Katy
Lawrence L. Schkade (PhD)	Arlington
Tami Stefanatos	Las Vegas, NV
Ellinor Teinert	Houston

Century Members

Delores Penk	Canyon Lake, TX
Walter Penk	Canyon Lake, TX

Life Members

Ralph Weiser	Magnolia, Arkansas
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Student Members

Katy Carlson	Monument, CO
Christiana Lammert	Helotes
Johanna Lammert	Helotes
Katy Lammert	Helotes
Margaret Lovallo	Sacramento, CA

First Time Members

Theresa Teinert Allen	Lubbock
Annette Miertschin Alvarado	Giddings
Marian Appelt	Round Rock
Suzanne Pfluger Buck	San Antonio
Donna Beto	Bryan
Andrew Blaschke	McDade
Barbara Carlson	El Paso
Katy Carlson	Monument, CO
Kelly Carson	Aurora, CO
S. Glenn Carlson	El Paso
Sylvia Chase-Meadows	Lincoln
Chris Champion	Many, LA

Alice Childress	Victoria
Gary Childress	Victoria
Angie Collier	Rio Rancho, NM
Martha Cooley	San Antonio
Doris Danner	Fort Worth
Michael J. Danner	Sanger
Thelma Deterling	Houston
Vera Deterling	Houston
Gladys Dillman	Giddings
Helga Doctor	Truckee, CA
Curtis Doering	Giddings
Ruth Doering	Giddings
Gordon Domaschk	Dallas
Jeannette Domaschk	Houston
Kim Hardin Domaschk	Dallas
Laura Domaschk	Dallas
Bernice Drosche	Austin
James Dube	Dalphone, AL
Katie Dube	Brenham
Susan Dube	Dalphone, AL
Janet Excell	Tucson, AZ
Mannie Fritsch-Schmid	La Grange
Alfred Gallmeier (Rev)	Riesel
Kathryn Gallmeier	Riesel
Don Graf	Lubbock
Lillian Groeschel	Bellaire
Eldor Harmann (Rev)	Brenham
Mildred Harmann	Brenham
Wayne Herbrich	Houston
Nancy Hillmer	La Grange
Vera Schoppa Isham	Amarillo
Aletha Jeske	Houston
David Jeske	Houston
Leona Kokel	Jarrell
Christiana Lammert	Helotes
Johanna Lammert	Helotes
Katy Lammert	Helotes
Dorothy Mantsch	St. Charles, IL
Brenda Miertschin Masselink	Round Rock
Edna C. McGrath	Keller
Gordon Mickan	Copperas Cove
Larry Noack	McKinney
Geda Nunley	Pineland
Annie Patton	Denton
Delores Penk	Canyon Lake
Walter Penk	Canyon Lake
Katherine A. Schoppa	Planview
Arnold Schulz	Carrollton
Marina Schulz	Carrollton
Roy Sharrock	Garland
Dana Smith	Fort Worth

Tami Stefanatos	Las Vegas, NV
Charles Symmank (Rev)	Medford, OR
Ellinor Teinert	Houston
Ann Washington	Edinburg
Barbara Wilson	Rio Rancho, NM
Mary Wilson	Rio Rancho, NM
Judy Kieschnick Word	Smithville
Virginia Goebel Yancey	Smithville
Nina Zoch	Deer Park
Rachel Zoch	Deer Park

Financial Report

George Boerger

This report is intended to give an overview of where the TWSH's money comes from and where it goes. The numbers come from the approved 2004 budget.

Gross profit:			
Noodles	\$	7,700	20.0%
Interest Income	\$	7,100	18.4%
Memberships minus newsletter expenses	\$	6,800	17.7%
Wendish Fest	\$	6,500	16.9%
Folklife Festival, Walk-In Coffee, misc. donations	\$	2,900	7.5%
Admissions	\$	2,800	7.3%
Gift Shop	\$	2,800	7.3%
Tours	\$	1,900	4.9%
Total adjusted gross profit	\$	38,500	100.0%

Expenses:			
Employee/Worker/Professional Services Expenses	\$	19,900	51.7%
Utilities/Insurance/Maintenance	\$	12,900	33.5%
Office	\$	4,000	10.4%
Supplies/Postage/Miscellaneous			
Archive, Curatorial, Library	\$	1,700	4.4%
Total budgeted expenses	\$	38,500	100.0%

As you can see, our revenue is not dominated by one category. The high profitability of noodles is due to volunteer labor. Our dedicated noodle volunteers make and bag noodles about 60 days a year. Interest/Investment income comes primarily from our endowment of \$135,000.

The largest expense relates to paid services. This includes salary and benefits for Barbara Hielscher,

our Executive Director and regular employee. It also includes substitutes' stipend for when Barbara is out, gas allowances for the weekend docents, and accounting fees. Some special projects are funded through special donations over and above the general fund budget.

Half way through the year, gross profit is tracking slightly ahead of budget and expenditures are overall on target. We are counting on a successful Wendish Fest and continued strong noodle sales.

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

Members Enjoy Trip to 2004 Texas Folklife Festival

J.B. Gersch, Jr.

Fifty-four members and guests boarded a chartered bus at 8 AM on Saturday, June 12, 2004, to attend the Texas Folklife Festival. Their first stop after arriving in San Antonio was the SAS Shoe Factory Outlet Store. One lucky guest won a free pair of shoes from the SAS Factory while the others shopped for their favorite styles. Those not shopping for shoes enjoyed going through the rustic store crammed with antique items, sampled the nickel bags of fresh popped popcorn or peanuts in the shell, or quenched their thirst with small bottles of Coca-Cola. Those finishing their shopping early could rock in rockers on the screened front porch or view the antique automobiles parked around the store. From there, they boarded the bus to be the first in line to enter the Festival grounds at noon. The members that had attended a Folklife Festival previously shared with the first time visitors their favorite ethnic foods to sample or ethnic entertainment that was scheduled. A highlight of the day was visiting with Ron Knippa at the Wendish booth or watching Jan Slack demonstrate decorating Easter eggs. Of course, no one could leave the shady Wendish booth before partaking of a "cool" one from Shiner (beer, that is). The afternoon was spent enjoying the many ethnic entertainment venues and tasting the wide variety of foods

offered for sale in the booths. Also, many got an early start on their Christmas shopping by visiting the arts and crafts booths on the grounds. Everyone was ready at 7 PM to reboard the bus and head back for home. A great day was had by ALL!!!!

Concordia University's Celebration of the Sesquicentennial of Lutheran Immigration to Texas

The anniversary of the 1854 immigration is being remembered by a number of events at Concordia University in Austin this fall. The "big event" is a worship service (3:00 p.m.) and dinner (5:00 p.m.) on Sunday, October 31 on the Concordia campus. Tickets for the Wendish Banquet and entertainment are \$12.50 for adults and \$9.00 for children 12 years and younger. Tables for 8 can be purchased for \$100. For more information, contact David Zersen at dzersen@aol.com or by phone at 512-219-5677.

The Stroebitzer Trachtentanzgruppe (the featured performers for this year's Wendish Fest on September 26) will perform at a free concert to the public under the auspices of Concordia University, the German Texan Heritage Society, and the Austin Saengerrunde at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2004 at Saengerrunde Hall, 1607 San Jacinto in Austin.

In Search of...

Mrs. Elli Bigon from Boxberg, Germany, is seeking descendants of Matthes Biegon, born on October 27, 1830 in Duerrbach and died October 16, 1888 in Serbin. If you have any information for Mrs. Bigon, please send your information to her at Teichstrasse 3, 02943 Boxberg, Germany, or to Jan Slack by surface mail at 123 West Tanglebriar Court, Bastrop, Texas 78602 or by email to jslack4@austin.rr.com for forwarding to Mrs. Bigon. Any information you can share will be greatly appreciated!

IMPORTANT DATES

August 9	Lee County Chapter, Texas German Society, annual summer picnic at Holy Cross Community Hall, 4:00 p.m., Warda
August 15	Quarterly Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
September 6	Labor Day Holiday, Museum CLOSED
September 26	Wendish Fest, St. Paul Picnic Grounds, Serbin
October 10	Special Mission Festival and service, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin
November 21	Annual Christmas Party and quarterly membership meeting with election of board members

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 or Fax (979) 366-2805

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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