
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

Volume XVIII, Number 2

April 2005

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Trans Texas Corridor Update

The Trans Texas Corridor, a new multimodal highway corridor system being developed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), includes four elements, one of which is known as TTC-35. As currently envisioned, TTC-35 would extend from the Texas/Oklahoma border, north of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metropolitan area, south through Central Texas, to the Texas/Mexico international border and/or the Texas Gulf Coast. The study area for the proposed TTC-35 is approximately 800 miles long – generally paralleling I-35.

Why is this highway project so important to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society? Because at least two of the corridor routes under consideration would pass through Lee County in close proximity to the Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church, and would have a direct impact on farms in the area that are owned by Wendish descendants.

As we consider the proposed Trans Texas Corridor, it is important that you make your opinions and thoughts known to TxDOT and your state officials. There are many important points to remember, including at least the following:

- We, the people who comprise the TWHS, are dedicated to the preservation of our heritage in the historically significant community of Serbin.
- This community was settled by the ancestors of the TWHS who emigrated in 1854 primarily seeking religious freedom. These emigrants, led by Pastor Johan Killian, built St. Paul Lutheran Church, which stands today in Serbin and is listed in the State of Texas Registry of Historic Places.
- The congregation of St. Paul celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2004 and is the oldest active Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation in Texas.
- In addition to the church building, an adjacent cemetery is the resting place of many of the original immigrants and their descendants. TWHS Museum, which is comprised of restored original period structures, is located on the grounds.
- The majority of the farms in this area are still owned by Wendish descendants and some of these farms have small family cemeteries.
- People come from all over the world to celebrate their heritage at our annual Wendish Fest in September.

If you would like to comment on this highway project, see Page 9 for contact information.

Within the Fold...

Elizabeth Teinert Hinsley Kunze of Warda, member since 1999, died January 28, 2005.

Luise Green of Warda, member, died January 14, 2005.

Henry M. Zoch, Sr. of Giddings, member, died January 11, 2005.

President's Message

God's blessings to each and every one of you as we rejoice in this awesome spring season. The array of beautiful flowering plants including some of the most spectacular iris and lilies that I have ever seen are really putting on a show on our Museum grounds. The folks who work so hard year round to groom, maintain and improve the grounds deserve a whole-hearted thanks and our utmost appreciation. I can think of nothing more welcoming to visitors and members alike than the awesome display of color and fragrance as we visit the presentation of Wendish heritage and culture, than this magnificent display of God's handy-work.

The spring and summer seasons are shaping up to be a busy time this year. In addition to the work related to traditional annual events and activities, capital improvement projects are planned in several areas. First, much needed improvements to the wastewater system are on the drawing board with completion scheduled prior to the Wendish Fest this year. Second, improvements to site drainage are planned to better accommodate surface water drainage, principally from the area around the Killian Building. Third, the log cabin is scheduled for some much needed time and attention, including a new roof and the rehab of the front porch. As we move through this busy time of year, watch for progress in these areas.

Finally, I would like to address the subject of the ongoing planning period related to the Trans Texas Corridor. Public input is being received by the State of Texas through the 22nd of April for the current round of public meetings. I encourage each of you to carefully consider the project, and

then, as invited by representatives of the Texas Department of Transportation, make your voices concerning the project heard to those involved in that decision-making process. This is a very material issue to all of us, whether you are a Wendish descendant, family member or friend; because at least two of the proposed corridor routes pass through Lee County in close proximity of St. Paul and the TWHS grounds.

May God continue to richly bless each and every one of you throughout the year.

Steve Hooper, President

Memorials and Donations

From Paul Schmidt, in memory of Henry M. Zoch.

From Bob Garrett, in memory of Daphne Garrett, for the new archives computer. Daphne was the Museum archivist for 15+ years and this donation will provide funds for a new computer that will store a database of the Museum's archives. A matching gift from Exxon will also be received.

From Freddie E. Zoch, in memory of Henry M. Zoch.

From Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, in memory of Milda Lehmann.

From Walter and Laverne Gersch, in memory of Luise Green, for the Landscape Fund.

From Walter and Laverne Gersch, in memory of Henry M. Zoch, for the Landscape Fund

From Rev. and Mrs. Robert Boyce, in memory of Luise Green.

From Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, in memory of Joseph E. Ellis.

From Barbara P. Hielscher, in memory of Joseph E. Ellis.

From J.B. Gersch, Jr., in honor of Gloria Mae Gersch's 80th birthday.

From Vivian and Frank Taylor, in memory of Edwin Royce Krakosky.

From Dr. and Mrs. Rudy Zoch, in memory of Henry M. Zoch, Sr.

From Renate Hardaway, in memory of Thomas R. Hardaway.

From Barbara P. Hielscher, in memory of Milda Lehmann.

Donation to the Museum, from the Kiesling Family Reunion.

From Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, in memory of Lillian Tonn, mother of BEC employee Ted Tonn.

Quarterly Membership Meeting, Sunday, May 15, 2005, 2:00 PM

The next quarterly Membership Meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2005 at the Museum complex. Following a brief business meeting, the program will feature a video, the subject of which is an outdoors festival in Cottbus, Germany that includes performances by musical bands, singing and dancing groups. Very festive and colorful! We hope to see you on May 15 for fun, fellowship, and good food!

Texas A&M Landscape Architecture Class Project

Dr. Nancy Volkman and her class in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University will visit our Museum and grounds on April 20, 2005. As a class project, the students and Dr. Volkman will develop a redesign of our grounds utilizing plants the early Wendish settlers may have grown in their yards. Their plan will also address water drainage problems and possibility for expansion of the garden areas.

Lee County German Society Meeting

The next meeting of the Lee County German Society is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2005 in the Community Room at the First National Bank, Giddings, Texas beginning at 5:00 p.m. Mr. J.D. Fain of Pieratt's Pharmacy will provide the

program. All members are encouraged to attend and guests are always welcome.

Lisa Kilian wins Music Awards

Lisa Kilian, a senior at La Grange High School, took top honors in San Antonio at the ATSSB/TMEA All-State band competitions recently. Lisa earned a sixth chair in one of three all-state band groups and placed in the top symphonic band. She also received first division on her University Interscholastic League solo and will perform in the state music finals at Texas State University in San Marcos in May. Lisa has been accepted to the North Texas State University music program, where she will major in music theory. She is the daughter of David and Karen Kilian and the granddaughter of long-time TWHS member and volunteer, Mildred Kilian. Congratulations Lisa!

13th Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off, May 21, 2005

The 13th Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off is scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2005 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.

Report from the Noodle Committee

Evelyn Kasper

A total of 2,080 pounds of noodles have been made thus far for 2005. The committee members are making noodles about 3 times a month and are still having trouble keeping up with demand. We have two new customers, Lukas Bakery and Junior's Texas Best Smokehouse.

2005 Texas Folklife Festival

The 2005 Texas Folklife Festival is scheduled for June 9-12, 2005 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The TWHS is again organizing a bus trip to the event on Saturday, June 11. If you are interested in joining us, please note there is a registration form on Page 11 of this newsletter.

Report from the Tours Committee

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

The months of January, February and March were busy at the museum, with 15 tours hosted. Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who continue to provide much-needed assistance in helping to share our history with others.

Visitors

During the months of January, February and March, the museum hosted visitors from Colorado, Ohio, Arkansas, Washington, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, California, Alabama, New York, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin, Arizona, Australia, Sweden, South Africa and Finland.

Of special note was a guided tour for Carolus and Gunilla Lehtinen from Parainen, Finland, who were in the area visiting James and Meri Krause. James is the nephew of our Noodle Committee Chair, Hattie Schautschick. While the Finnish guests were in Central Texas, they had a chance to feed cows at the Krause farm and enjoy a homecooked Wendish meal at Herb and Hattie Schautschick's home.

Thank you Museum Docents!

During the months of January, February and March, the following served as docents at the museum: Linda Jolly, Mildred Kilian, Evelyn Kasper, George Boerger, Freddie Zoch, Margo Latimer, Georgie Boyce, Vivian Dube, Vivian Taylor, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Jan Slack, Ruby Koslan, Sandra Matthijetz and Barbara Hielscher.

Another Wend who Broke the Settlement Pattern

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Reminder: The topic for the July issue is "The Wends in the Civil War." If you have any information on one of the soldiers who served or any story of your family during the Civil War period, please send it to me at 1132 Enchantment Rd. Rapid City, SD 57701 or Gnie857317@aol.com.

Matthes Wukasch was four years old when he migrated with his parents on the *Ben Nevis* (#16). He was born on September 18, 1850 at Buchwalde, Saxony. His father purchased 171 acres of land in the Delaplain League, so Matthes grew up and was confirmed in Serbin. In 1869, he began attending Teachers' Seminary at Addison, Illinois (now in River Forest) and graduated in 1873. (Gerhard Kilian, teacher at Serbin, had graduated the previous year.) Wukasch's first and only teaching position was at Frohna, Missouri, one of the settlements established by the Saxons in Perry County in 1839.

Wukasch wrote to Kilian, his former pastor and teacher, and four of Kilian's letters of response remain. The first Kilian letter, written in 1874, shows Kilian attempting to clarify for himself how he should address a former student who had become a fellow church worker.

"Dear Brother," Kilian wrote, "I am answering your lovely, dear letter of August 5, this year, somewhat late. I ask your pardon. How should I address you? Should I write Du [familiar] or Sie [formal]?" Kilian decided to stick with Du as long as Wukasch did not object.

When Wukasch indicated his satisfaction with Frohna and described his duties in the congregation, Kilian was pleased and encouraged him to do his best. However, Kilian added, "Only one thing does not please me, that you call yourself a poor Wend. The solid knowledge of some other language is an asset and not a liability. You have certainly learned the German language well, as I see from your letter, which is good in phrasing, spelling, and nicely written. I truly

marvel about your progress. But isn't a person who is sound in two languages not richer than someone who commands only one? And you also cannot know how your Wendish could become beneficial: 'Commit thy way unto the Lord, hope also in him and he will bring it to bear.' Do you have the desire to study in the Seminary in St. Louis for a year in order to become a pastor? I believe your style would lend itself to being a pastor. Greet your pastor and share my letter with him if you like."

In 1876, while still single, Matthes traveled to Serbin to see his parents. He also visited with Kilian on several occasions and the former student and his teacher had opportunity to talk. The next year Wukasch married Anna Fischer and after her death, Johanna Schieferdecker. Wukasch taught at Frohna for fifty years, until 1923, when he retired because of failing eyesight. After he retired, he moved to St. Louis to live with one of his seven children. He died of pneumonia in the spring of 1925 and was buried at Frohna on March 22, 1925.

Historical Footnotes

1. In August 1855, just five months after the purchase of the Delaplain League, Johann Kilian corresponded with Jacob de Cordova about the possibility of purchasing land in what would become Kimball County. De Cordova proposed a meeting in Waco and then an inspection of the land.

No further correspondence followed and the Wends remained in Serbin.

See James M. Day, *Jacob de Cordova: Land Merchant of Texas* (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1962), 90.

2. The end of the *Ben Nevis* voyage was as dreadful for the Jannusch family as the early part had been for the Schatte family. Three of their children, August, age nine, Ernst, age four, and Emil, age two, all died as the ship approached Galveston. The *Ben Nevis* entered the harbor on December 15, and the final death took place on either December 14 or 15. A surviving daughter, Maria, age eleven, later in life reported that the

decision was made to hide the child's body under some straw out of fear that the ship would be placed in quarantine at Galveston just as it had been in Ireland.

Maria, who married Johann Carl August Lehman, also reported that the child's name was Emil. Johann Kilian, however, recorded in both the *Ben Nevis* ship list and in a letter to Europe that Ernst was the last of the three to die. Even though there is a disagreement on the name, the incident Maria related is valuable and helps us understand the emotional and physical hardships of the voyage, and how eager the Wends were to get off the "plague-ship," as they called the *Ben Nevis*.

The tragedy for the Jannusch family did not end at Galveston. The next year in the month of August, both parents and a daughter, Anna, died in Houston leaving two orphaned children, Johann and Maria. The cause of death for the three lads on the ship was cholera, while, most likely, the parents and Anna died of yellow fever. Johann remained in Galveston and Maria traveled with the group to Serbin and lived her life there.

(Source: Patricia Larsen, member of the TWHS, whose father heard the story from Maria.)

Membership Report

George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

Another Life Member!

For the 8th quarter in a row, we have at least one new life member. Joel Meador of Fulton is our latest life member! He joins the chain consisting of Marvin Schulze, Herb Schulz, Ruth Wuensche Wright, B. J. Scharath, Sandra Miertschin Matthijetz, Ralph Weiser, Bobby Zoch, Jr., Herbert Fritsche, J.B. Gersch, Jr., and Don Graf. We now have 18 life members! Who will be next?

Last year we had 853 members. This year's goal is 950. As of April 9th, we have only 814, which includes 115 first-time members toward the goal of 160. This is already the 3rd highest number of first-time members in our 35-year history.

In the last quarter, we added a member from a previously unrepresented state. Shantelle Grace bought a gift membership for her uncle, Bill Malish, from Hawaii. The states not yet represented in our membership rolls are Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and West Virginia. If you have a Wendish relative or friend in one of these states, you might especially consider giving them a gift membership. You never know, maybe your cousin in North Carolina will appreciate the newsletter so much, they will invite you to come visit them in their mountain home this fall when the leaves are turning.

If you haven't paid your 2005 dues, this will be your last newsletter. A final notice letter was mailed three weeks ago. If you are not sure if you have paid your dues, you can always look at the mailing label on the newsletter. If it says 2004, you are past due. If you sent your renewal recently, we may not have updated it yet.

Thanks to the following volunteers who have helped me with membership this year: Linda Jolly, Mildred Kilian, Steve Hooper, Jan Slack, Freddie Zoch, and Andrew Blaschke.

Patron Members (\$30)

Helga Doctor	Trucklee, CA
Gunther Dube	Braunschweig, Germany
Paul Dube	Huntington Woods, MI
Carol Grote Flores	Edinburg
Shantelle Grace	Dublin, GA
Mary Schulz Guggisberg	Vernon
Eugene Hemmann	St. Charles, IL
Wayne Herbrich	Houston
Donald C. Hilsberg	Elizabeth, CO
Rodney Koenig	Houston
Margo Latimer	Lexington
Bill Malish	Princeville, HI
Ken Mersiovsky	Houston
Norris H. Miertschin	Katy
Kathy Lee Miller	Ellinger
Kimberley Jurk Odom	Lampasas
Kay Dube Overton	Hamilton
Linda Rives	Austin
Lawrence L. Schkade (PhD)	Arlington

Sponsor Members (\$50)

Mary Ann Davenport	Eules
Carroll J. Dorsett	Adkins
Kayron Dube	Houston
Sandy Ericksen	Carrollton
Mark Fritsche	New York, NY
Linda Jolly	Anderson
Jerry Knippa	Boerne
Joyce Pelkemeyer	Brenham
Monroe Prellop	Houston
Candy Schoppa	Lubbock
Kenneth Schoppa	Lubbock
James Schutt	North Zulch
Denise Snyder	Houston
Dian Teinert	Houston
Ruth Teleki	Houston
David W. Weise	Eastland
Craig Zoch	League City

Century Members (\$100)

Linda Boerger	Wharton
Weldon Boerger	Wharton
William J. Dube III	Waco
Sandra Killian	Manvel
Karen Koepke	Houston
Thelma Synatschk	
Oberndorfer	Cypress
John Clark Wagner	Johnson City
Glenna Weise	Dallas
Jess Weise	Dallas

Life Members (\$1,000)

Joel Meador	Fulton
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Student Members (\$7.50)

Laura Domaschk	Dallas
Mandy Domaschk	Dallas
Mark Hobratschk	Denver, CO
Aaron Hohle	St. Louis, MO
Ketrin Jones	Abilene
Allison Hart Karisch	Austin
Constance Dale Karisch	Spring
Christiana Lammert	Helotes
Johanna Lammert	Helotes
Katy Lammert	Helotes
Crystal Schautschick	Leander
Katlin West	Abilene

First Time Members

Dorothy Albin	Houston
Mirl Albin	Houston
Andria Brannon	Dallas
Karen Brown	Humble
Edward Buscha	Giddings
Christine Buscha	Giddings
Kim Comer	La Grange
Tim Comer	La Grange
Paul Dube	Huntington Woods, MI
Guillermo Ehler Flores	Linn
Larry Foerster	Conroe
C. Diane Fritsch	Fort Worth
Rose Mary Gatlin	Dallas
Cathleen White Hart	Houston
Dolleen Froehlich	
Hausenfluck	Bryan
Terry Hausenfluck	Bryan
Vivian Hauser	White Bear Lake, MN
Al Jurk	Giddings
Carolyn Jurk	Giddings
Constance Dale Karisch	Spring
Sandra Killian	Manvel
Bill Malish	Princeville, HI
Ruby Neitsch	Georgetown
Walter Neitsch	Georgetown
Thelma Synatschk	
Oberndorfer	Cypress
Elvira Fritsche Pfluger	Austin
Kenneth Schulze	Lexington
James Schutt	North Zulch
Denise Snyder	Houston
Bill Teinert	Hondo
Sandy Teinert	Hondo
John Clark Wagner	Johnson City

Financial Report

George Boerger

Financially, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society had a very successful year in 2004. The operating surplus was \$4,852. This is a result of widespread generosity, hard work and much time donated by dedicated and gifted volunteers. This surplus is due, in part, to the following:

1. A large increase in membership
2. Higher interest/investment income than expected

3. Tour income exceeded budget
4. Profit from the Wendish Fest slightly exceeded budget
5. Total expenses were \$1,352 favorable compared to budget

In addition to running a surplus, we also were able to pay our remaining balance to St. Paul Serbin for the improvements made to the picnic grounds. Book, CD and craft item sales were especially strong in 2004 with many new items added to the inventory. The corresponding purchases along with a quantity purchase of cookbooks and Wendish T-shirts increased inventory, which should result in a lower number of inventory purchases in 2005 as we reduce inventory of several major items. We did receive a grant from the Summerlee Foundation that funded Rachel Hildebrandt's exhibit: *Images of Home: Pictures of the Lusatian Landscape*. In September, we received a grant from the Giddings Hotel Motel Tax Fund to help pay for advertising, primarily for the Wendish Fest.

The endowment fund increased by \$18,260 in 2004, with \$11,190 coming from memberships in excess of \$15.00 and \$7,070 from gifts and memorials. The endowment fund balance is \$146,941.

The 2005 approved budget projects a balanced budget. Revenue will decrease by \$11,706 and cost of sales will decrease by \$13,706. The year 2004 saw record revenue in gift shop sales and from the Wendish Fest due to the 150th

Anniversary and the related activities. We are assuming lower gift shop revenue and a large, but smaller, Wendish Fest this year. Cost of sales will decrease as less gift shop items are purchased and Wendish Fest expenses decrease. Expenses will increase 17% as we intend to make major repairs to the 1856 Kurio log building and buy a new computer for archives and library.

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

Family Reunion Notices

2005 Jakobeit Family Reunion

The 2005 Jakobeit family reunion will be held Saturday, April 30 at the St. Michael's Park and Pavilion in Winchester, Texas.

All descendants of the Edward and Christiana (Schober) Jacobeit family are invited to attend.

A potluck noon meal will be served. Bring a covered dish. Drinks and eating utensils will be provided.

Contact Shandell Jakobeit-Crider at
(979) 247-4239 or by email at
jakobeit_research@hotmail.com.

Fischer Reunion

The family of August Fischer (11-11-1857 to 10-08-47) and Anna nee Schuster Fischer (12-20-1862 to 04-06-38) will be having the *FISCHER REUNION* on June 18th at the home of Irene and Mary Beth Fischer at their home west of Giddings beginning at 10 A.M. with a noon meal being served.

Attendees are asked to take a salad or dessert and an item for the live auction if desired. Tableware, coffee and tea will be provided.

The children of August and Anna Fischer were Herman Carl, John August, Marie Therese (Schubert), Bertha Anna (Kieschnick), August Friedrich, Emma Johana (Gliedt), Emil George, Lina Clara, Esther Ida (Kunkel), Emilie Martha (Saage), Ida Mathilda (Schelsteder), and Edward Frank.

For further information or directions, please contact Evelyn Buchhorn at (512) 837-4000.

Join us for the 54th Annual Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion

June 12, 2005

American Legion Hall, Highway 77
Giddings, Texas

Barbecue lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Silent Auction

Moonwalk for the kids

This year we will honor the 150th Anniversary of our ancestors' arrival in Texas

Special program guest: David Goeke

All Dube's, relatives of Dube's, and friends of Dube's are invited!

Remember: "Dube" is "oak tree" in Wendish

Contact Ron Lammert at 210-695-5421, by email at ron@lammertinc.com or mail at 10307 Open G Trail, Helotes, Texas 78023

45th Annual Michael Schoppa Family Reunion June 17-19, 2005 Father's Day Weekend

Camp Graham Ball at Lake Kickapoo
Approximately 31 miles south and 5 miles west of
Electra, Texas, off Highway 25

Facilities: RV hookups, cabins with air conditioning, or bring your tent

Activities: swimming, playground, fishing, kids' games, bingo, silent auction (bring something nice, new for bidding)

Contact Dennis or Lisa (Schoppa) Full at
(979) 562-8491 or by email at
fullhouse5@sbcglobal.net.

Did you Know?

If you are researching ancestors in Australia, the Lutheran Church of Australia's website includes a link to the Lutheran Archives, the official repository of historical material relating to the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA). It holds records of the present LCA, as well as records of the earlier Lutheran Synods in Australia which in time amalgamated to form the present LCA.

Most records are available for inspection. (Some records have closed or restricted access. Private records of church departments which are less than 30 years old are generally not open for research, unless special permission is gained.)

The Archives has a limited collection of items from the Lutheran Church of New Zealand. (If further details are required, researchers can contact the President of the Lutheran Church New Zealand, or the Archives collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.)

Contact information:

<http://www.lca.org.au/lutherans/archives.cfm>

The Lutheran Archives
27 Fourth Street, Bowden SA 5007
Telephone: (08) 8340 4009
Email: archives@lca.org.au

In Search of...

Paul Dube is interested in exploring a connection between the Wendish Dube's and the Dube's who settled in French Canada about 1640. Other than the fact that the first French Dube settler, Mathurin Dube, was from the general area of Rochelle, France, his ancestry is unknown. If you would like to explore this connection further with Paul, please contact him by e-mail at padcsd@aol.com, by phone at 248-546-1039 or by surface mail at 25716 Ivanhoe, Huntington Woods, MI 48070.

Ernestine Weiser Schnell is seeking information about Traugott Droigk and Anne Budschick

Droigk or their children, Christian, Heinrich, Anna Paulina Koch, and Christa (or Christiana) Benedix. If you have information to share, please contact Ernestine at schnell@wacotx.cx or (254) 578-3395.

Myrna Weiland is seeking information on her maiden name, Schuppan. She has been told the name is Wendish and would like to verify that and possibly learn the meaning of the name. Her great-great grandfather, Friedrich Adolph Schuppan, emigrated to the U.S. in 1834, finally settling in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. He was born in Neudorf on the Spree and baptized at Klix, Germany. If you have information on the Schuppan name, she would like to hear from you. Her email address is rmweiland@juno.com and surface mail address is 13210 Windbrooke Lane, St. Louis, Missouri 63146-2222.

Want to Comment on the Trans Texas Corridor?

If you would like to comment on the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed Trans Texas Corridor project, you may send your comments to:

Ed Pensock, Jr., P.E.
Director of Turnpike Corridor Systems
Texas Turnpike Authority Division
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 14707
Austin, TX 78761-4707

Contact information for sending comments to your state legislators can be found at:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/house/house>

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlo/senate/senate>

***Please note that hand-written comments and letters are given more serious consideration than form letters, emails or faxes.*

Austin Genealogical Society Workshop

The Austin Genealogical Society is sponsoring a _-day workshop on Saturday, April 30, 2005 at Highland Park Baptist Church, 5206 Balcones Drive in Austin. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (doors open at 9:00 a.m.). The schedule includes sessions entitled *Caring for Family Records: Preserving Photographs and Documents*, and *The How-To of Heritage Scrapbooking*. For further information, visit their website at <http://www.austintxgensoc.org> or call Janis Templeton Trayler at (512) 689-6146.

Domowina website address has changed
their new website address is www.Domowina.de

The Snake King-a Sorbisch Folktale

Snakes held a special meaning for the people of the Spree Forest. There are many stories about snakes that would hide in the folds of the swampy ground or wriggle through undergrowth. Some snakes even had wings. The snakes were ruled by a king whose crown was made of ivory and attached to his head by two bucked hooks. This crown was said to be very valuable. The man who was able to capture the crown would become a man of wealth and property. One story tells of Lynar from Lübbenau, a brave but poor knight. It was well known that the snake king was a sun worshiper. When sunbathing and dancing, he would remove his crown and leave it on a white piece of cloth. The knight decided one day that the way to wealth was to take the snake king's crown. So he left a white piece of cloth on the ground and hid himself in nearby bushes. As daylight broke, the snake king and his attendants commenced their sun-worshipping ceremony, the king removed his crown and laid it on the white cloth in order to move more freely. Lynar snuck up to the white cloth and grabbed it with the crown inside, jumped on his horse and rode away. The group of snakes, making an earsplitting noise, chased the rider. When the knight saw a stone wall in his path, he thought he would be caught by

the snakes, but to his surprise his wonderful horse jumped over the hurdle and saved the knight. As a rich man, he showed his gratitude by designing a coat of arms with the symbol of a wriggled snake and a wall. The entrances to many timbered houses in the Spree Forest are fixed with a coat of arms featuring crossed snake heads, which means "good tidings."

From *Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness*, text by Erika Rauprecht, published by REGIA Verlag Edeltraut Wiegand and Interforum e.V.

Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting, February 20, 2005

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:10 PM in the Kilian Building on Sunday, February 20, 2005, by Steve Hooper, President.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion based on the theme "Good Old Days." Reverend Buchhorn shared some thoughts on the contents of a translated letter he read which was written by Reverend Kilian soon after his arrival in Texas to a colleague in Germany.

There were 25 members and 2 guests in attendance. Steve Hooper welcomed all of the members and first time attendees.

The minutes of the November 21, 2004 meeting were approved as presented in the October newsletter.

George Boerger reported that we have 719 members with 103 new members to-date.

Evelyn Kasper reported for Hattie Schautschick that 800 lbs of noodles had been made so far this year. She reported that ten luncheon tours and one tour without a meal have been scheduled to-date through July.

Eunice Dunk reported that we have a Dance Group coming from Germany that will perform at the Wendish Fest this year. The group reenacts a traditional Wendish Wedding.

George Boerger handed out a summary financial report: 2004 Actual & Projected 2005.

Financially, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society had a very successful year in 2004 with an operating surplus of \$4,852.

Steve Hooper indicated that there were sign up sheets available for anyone who would like to volunteer some time helping clean up the Museum grounds. The workday would be scheduled on a Saturday in March.

Eunice Dunk reported on the Wreath laying ceremony in Galveston on December 16, 2004. She reported that while the weather did not cooperate (it was raining and cold), the ceremony was very well planned and most impressive. The wreath can be seen in the entryway at the Museum. Suggestions have been made to repeat the event again in five years.

Joyce Carlestone expressed her concern about the possible effect that the planned Trans-Texas Corridor would have on the Museum location. She indicated that while there were other route options, one being planned would be across this part of Lee County. Doug Symmank made the motion, seconded by Joyce Carlestone, that a letter be written to the Planning Commission expressing our concern and identifying the historical nature of the property in the area. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the business meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Dr. Debra Allen, a professor of history at Concordia University at Austin, presented the program. Dr. Allen received a Fulbright scholarship to teach at the American Studies Center of the University of Warsaw during the Fall/Winter semester in 2003-04. She talked about her experiences in Poland and showed slides that she had taken while there.

Refreshments brought by the members 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 11, 2005

- 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: \$29.50 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 27, 2005

Number of reservations _____ @\$29.50

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Telephone number:

Total enclosed \$ _____

Upcoming Events:

- May 15 General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m. - Museum Complex
May 29 Serbin Homecoming Picnic - St. Paul Lutheran Church Picnic Grounds, Serbin
May 30 Memorial Day - Museum closed
June 9-12 Folklife Festival - Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, Texas
June 11 TWHS bus tour to the Folklife Festival, departing from the museum
June 19 Father's Day - Museum closed
June 19 Winchester Picnic - St. Michael's Park, Winchester, Texas
July 4 Fourth of July - Museum closed

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:

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Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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