
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

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Changes to our museum grounds!

Work is being completed to relocate the handicap and wheelchair access ramp to the Kilian Building to enhance the view of the central courtyard. Volunteers also constructed a loading dock as part of the improvement project to facilitate moving supplies in and out of the building. In addition, earth fill was placed around the ramp and adjacent grounds to address the drainage problem at the northwest corner of the Kilian Building.

Within the Fold...

In Memoriam

Arnold Schulz of Carrollton, Texas, passed away December 10, 2005. Arnold was a TWHs member since 2004.

Mildren Noack Krautz of Winchester, Texas, passed away December 17, 2005. Mildred was a TWHs member since 1991.

Bonnie Linscomb of Cost, Texas, passed away November 26, 2005. Bonnie was a TWHs member since 2005.

A.W. (Bill) Knippa formerly of San Antonio, Texas and most recently of Houston, Texas, passed away December 24, 2005. Bill was a TWHs member since 1980.

Leroy Zoch of Spring, Texas, passed away December 27, 2005. Leroy was a TWHs member since 1992.

President's Message

I offer a most sincere greeting to one and all and very best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous new year. Just as we all look to 2006 with our individual plans and goals, the same can be said for our Texas Wendish Heritage Society. I am excited to see some ongoing projects taking shape that were begun last year as well as the start of some new ones.

If you have had the opportunity to visit the museum grounds in the past couple of months, you no doubt have noticed improvements to the area drainage around the Kilian building, replacement of building skirting, removal of the blackjack tree, flower bed improvements and modifications to the Kilian Building wheelchair access ramp. Several volunteers committed their time and treasure to bring this project to where it is today and have committed to its completion as well. I especially want to thank Pearl Symmank, Jan Slack, Vivian Dube and Laverne Gersch for providing the outstanding food for the workday meals. It tends to be a whole lot easier to stay the course and remain motivated for a long workday

when fueled with a high quality meal, and these ladies provided exactly that and I thank them for their effort.

In months to come, look for the kick-off of more maintenance, repair and upgrade projects. As the years go by, exterior woodwork must be repainted, roof leaks must be repaired and decayed wood must be replaced, and it is time to address these needs. Because of your generous support, we look to preserve our common heritage reflected in the museum buildings and grounds. To God be the glory.

God's richest blessings to you all,
Steve Hooper

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 19, 2006, 2:00 PM

The next quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is scheduled for Sunday, February 19, 2006 at the Museum complex. The business meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m.

The program, following the business meeting, will be on the decline of the Wendish language in Germany, especially among the younger people. There are a limited number of schools in Germany that teach Wendish and some of them teach it only as a second language. George Boerger will give the program on the use of Wendish in German schools, including some of the successes and disappointments during recent years.

Questions? Contact the Museum at (979) 366-2441.

Walk-In Coffee, February 14, 2006

The annual Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale to benefit the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum will be held on Tuesday, February 14, from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Giddings, located across Grimes Street from the Schubert-Fletcher Museum and northeast of the Lee County Courthouse.

For a free will donation, you can enjoy a delicious noon meal or coffee break of sandwiches and baked goods (coffee cakes, cheese cakes, pies, cakes, and cookies). Free will donations assist in the cost to operate the museum.

Please call (979) 366-2441 if you are able to assist with this worthwhile project, if you want to donate baked goods, or if you have any questions. Above all, please plan to stop in for a snack or the noon meal and support our Museum.

Bus Trip to 2006 Folklife Festival

The chartered bus excursion to the Folklife Festival in San Antonio last June was quite successful, and we are making preliminary plans for a trip to the Festival this year. Dates for this year's event, held on the grounds of UT's Institute of Texan Cultures, are June 8–11. The bus trip will be Saturday, June 10. We will depart from the museum around 8:00 a.m. and will stop at the SAS Shoe Factory Outlet for a bit of shopping on our way to San Antonio. Additional information and a registration form will be included in the April newsletter. For more information, contact the museum at (979) 366-2441 or by email at wendish@bluebon.net.

Memorials

From J.B. Gersch, Jr., in memory of Melvin Winkler.

From Mildred Kilian, in memory of Mildred Krautz.

From Dr. and Mrs. Rudy Zoch, in memory of Arnold Schulz.

From Roy Sharrock, in memory of Geneva Maryanna (Bernstein) Sharrock.

From Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. Boyce, in memory of Ernest O. Bernstein, for the computer fund.

From Herb and Mildred Schulz, gift to the Museum.

Noodle Committee

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

Another year has passed and the noodle-making continues! Thus far for 2006, we have made 150 pounds, so the New Year is off to a running start!

Visitors

During the months of October, November, and December 2005 the museum hosted visitors from all parts of Texas, the states of California, New Mexico, South Carolina, Indiana, Wisconsin, Alaska, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Georgia, and from Ukraine, France and Poland.

Tours

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

During the months of November, December and January 2005, the museum hosted 5 tours. Six are scheduled for March, 2006. Spring is shaping up to be a busy season!

Landscape Project Updates

Doug Symmank

The Landscape Committee wishes to recognize the generosity of the following people who assisted the committee in making improvements to the museum grounds:

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Dube, for the purchase of building materials for the relocated handicap ramp. This allowed us to build the ramp from all new materials instead of using recycled materials from the old ramp as was originally planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Becker, Jr., for donating two dump truck loads of topsoil for use in resolving some of the drainage problems around the Kilian Building and to improve the soil in other planting areas.

Mr. James Kalbas of B&N Oilfield Equipment Company of Northrup for hauling the topsoil from the Becker farm to the museum.

The Landscape Committee plans to plant antique roses and additional crepe myrtle trees in the central courtyard and add a concrete bench and a 2-3 tier water fountain. If you would like to make a contribution in memory of a loved one to offset the expense of these items, please contact Vivian Dube at (512) 253-6662 or J.B. Gersch, Jr. at (979) 542-2923.

Thank You Museum Docents!

During the months of October, November, and December 2005, the following served as docents at the museum: D.G. Symmank, Mildred Kilian, Freddie Zoch, Sandra Matthijetz, Vivian Dube, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Lorine Domel, Janice Mitschke, Margo Latimer, Vivian Taylor, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Linda Jolly, George Boerger, Carolyn Bohot, Monroe Miertschin, and Georgie Boyce.

Buchhorn, Wiederhold and Wilson Honored for Lutheran History Contribution

Rev. Michael Buchhorn and Mr. Jack Wiederhold of Serbin, Texas and Dr. Joseph Wilson of Winchester, Texas received the Award of Commendation for their materials relating to the 150th anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin, Texas, from the Concordia Historical Institute.

The award, presented at the 31st Annual Awards Banquet in St. Louis, Missouri on November 3, 2005, recognizes 3 publications and a CD. The publications are: *A Collection of Histories of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, 1854–2004*; *Confirmation Records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, 1856 – 2003*; and *Pastor H. T. Kilian, Baptismal Records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, 1884 - 1919*. The CD is entitled, *Serbin Choralbuch, Music from Gerhard Kilian's "Choralbuch für die evangel:luth Gemeinde in Serbin, Texas."*

(The publications and CD are available for purchase from the TWHS Museum Gift Shop.)

The Life of a Servant Leader

Walking George: The Life of George John Beto and the Rise of the Modern Texas Prison System, by David M. Horton and George R. Nielsen. Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2005.

Walking George, the book which focuses on the life of Dr. George J. Beto and the impact he had as a leader in both the religious and secular world, shares the story of a great man of God whose entire life was a demonstration of James 2:18: "... I will show you my faith by what I do." It is the inspirational story of a Lutheran minister who uniquely demonstrated the proper balance of Law and Gospel in his educational leadership within the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the proper balance of secular law and spiritual Gospel as head of the criminal justice system of Texas.

The book, co-authored by David Horton and George Nielsen, begins with a review of Beto's early years as a child and youth in Montana, North Dakota, and Illinois, and then focuses on his leadership contributions, challenges, and experiences as Dean and President of Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, Texas, Governor's appointed member to the Texas Prison Board, President of Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, Director of the Texas Department of Corrections, and Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University.

Some biographical books are dull and uninspiring. That's not the case with *Walking George*. The authors have done an excellent job of bringing George Beto to life in our hearts and minds as they share his humor, his relationship with students and adults, his unique style of teaching, his fearlessness in addressing prejudice as well as opposition to change, and his pioneering approaches to Christian service in the church, in community, and the world.

The book doesn't attempt to picture Beto as a saint, and knowing my departed friend and mentor as I do, he would be disappointed in such a depiction. As one begins reading his biography,

you are introduced to the actions of a preacher's kid who was both sinner and saint, sometimes devoutly religious, at other times developing the reputation in the community as being one of the town's leading pranksters. His published letter in which he challenges the editor of the *Lena Weekly Star* and requests an apology is a classic that's worth the cost of the book.

During his student years at Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri, his gift of leadership was discovered by both students and faculty, resulting in his being selected as the leader of numerous seminary events, projects, and organizations. He enjoyed the seminary; however, the authors of the book also give us a brief glimpse of Beto's resentment of professors who tried to bind his conscience in certain teachings that he later discovered, through study and experience, were wrong.

After graduating from the seminary in 1939, Beto accepted the offer to become assistant professor at Concordia College at Austin, Texas. The book provides interesting insights to Beto's unique teaching skills, his close ties with and influence on his students, and his great sense of humor. Students usually received either a nickname or some clever reference associating them with their hometown.

As the authors review the 20 year ministry of Beto at Concordia Austin, one comes to know and appreciate this man as not only an outstanding teacher in the classroom, but also a very talented administrator, communicator, fund raiser, and visionary. From an entry level teaching position, Beto through the years was assigned an ever increasing number of leadership responsibilities, and was chosen to serve as President of Concordia less than ten years after his arrival.

Admiration and appreciation of Dr. Beto increases as one reads about some of his accomplishments as President of Concordia Austin, such as: expanding the campus facilities; increasing the enrollment; transitioning the school to welcome female students; and resisting the deeply engrained southern segregation against blacks by welcoming the first black student on campus.

These accounts translate into very exciting reading.

During this demanding period in Austin, he still had time to marry a lovely Austin lady with strong Lutheran [and Wendish] roots, earn Master's and Doctor's degrees from The University of Texas, and accept the governor's appointment to the Texas Prison Board where he began to make his mark as a reformation leader of the Texas prison system.

The book's authors give us a detailed and revealing understanding of the Texas prison system, the politics involved with people in high places, and the initiation of George Beto into this new adventure. It is interesting to read and learn how this gifted man of God expanded his leadership ministry to effectively serve both the church and the government.

Beto's impact on the LCMS was expanded when he accepted the call to serve as President of Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Illinois. The book relates how Beto, during the three years he served as President, brought about major improvements, including campus building expansion, increased faculty, school accreditation, and an increased enrollment, resulting in Concordia Springfield having the highest enrollment among all Lutheran seminaries in the country.

Three years after assuming the Presidency of Concordia Seminary, Dr. Beto was notified that he had been chosen to serve as Director of the Texas Department of Corrections. He turned down the offer, but the Texas Board of Corrections, determined to get their man, and knowing his spiritual commitment, added the title "Chief of Chaplains" to his job description. Beto accepted, and moved back to Texas.

During his years of service as Director of the Texas Department of Corrections, he succeeded in bringing about major reforms aimed at rehabilitating prisoners, including a system of schooling for inmates through the college level. This was the first of its kind in this country, and helped to establish Beto as one of the best prison

directors in the world, not only for the improvements he created in the institutions, but also for his personal interest in and care for each inmate. Beto came to be known as "Walking George" because of his routine of walking through the prisons talking, listening, and responding to prisoners who wanted a word with him.

The book, in detail, covers both the good days as well as the frustrations experienced by Beto in his attempt to make the Texas prison system the best in the world. To develop his new projects required state money, lots of it, and the book's authors reveal the process Beto undertook to convince top leaders of the state, including the governor and state legislators, as to the importance of their support for financing the prison projects. His outstanding reputation and gift of communication usually translated into success in fulfilling the project's financial needs.

During his ten years as head of the Texas prison system, Beto was a strong force in the creation of the Institute of Contemporary Corrections and Behavioral Sciences, later to be known as the College of Criminal Justice, at Sam Houston State University. In 1972, he resigned from the directorship of the prison system to accept the position of Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at the University, where he taught until he retired in 1991.

It was a fitting conclusion to the outstanding career of Dr. George Beto that he would end his ministry where it began some 52 years earlier, in the classroom, adored by his students, molding and influencing their lives for future service in God's world.

Dr. George J. Beto died a few months after he and his wife Marilyn returned to Austin, where he had been named Chief of Chaplaincy Services for the Texas Youth Commission. But for many, he will remain alive in the influence he has had upon countless individuals, the changes for good and for God that he initiated in both the church and society, and the example he set for leaders in how to function within political situations, whether church or society, while refusing to be identified with any political conflict, in spite of the efforts of

some to place on him the label of being "liberal" or "conservative".

While reference is made to the fact that some identified him as a "liberal" because certain Springfield Seminary professors he recruited later became involved as liberal leaders in the Synodical conflict, the book fails to mention, probably because the authors were unaware of it, that Beto was also accused of being identified with the "conservatives." Two of the professors he had recruited, Jack Preus and Robert Preus, later became prominent conservative leaders in the Synodical conflict. To those accusing him of being either "liberal" or "conservative", George Beto gave the same response: "I hired them because they were outstanding professors in their field, and not for their politics."

The book will reveal to its readers one of the most influential Lutheran leaders in the 20th century, who accomplished what few have ever done, namely, become a positive change agent for both the religious institution of the LC-MS, and the secular institution of the criminal justice system.

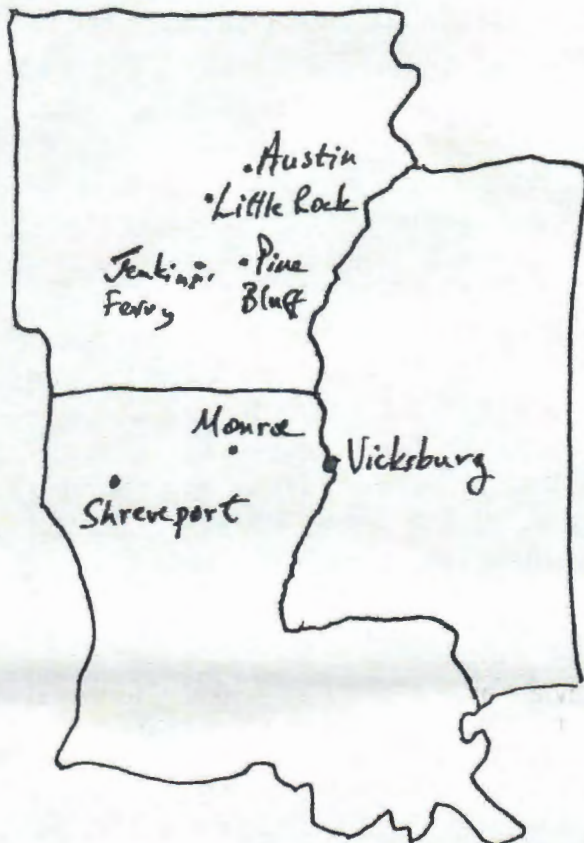
Review by the Rev. Ray Schkade, former student of Beto, pastor, LC-MS Texas District Executive Director, retired, and TWHS member. (*Walking George* is available for purchase from the TWHS Museum Gift Shop.)

Apiculture – beekeeping – in the Spree Forest area of Germany started with keeping wild bees in the woodlands where favorable conditions included the woods, meadows and fields. Colonies of wild bees could be found in the woods near fresh brooks. Wild beekeeping decreased in the late 1800s as the population of the area grew, bringing increased farming and soil cultivation, which made keeping wild bees more difficult. However, apiculture did not disappear but developed into a domestic trade. The Spree Forest is an appropriate place for beekeeping, as it is a large stretch of fruitful land where willow catkins grow, feeding the honey-gathering bees well into springtime.

Source: *Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness*, E. Rauprecht and E. Albert, REGIA Verlag (undated).

Reluctant Confederates: Wends in the Civil War (Part 3)

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor
SEVENTEENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT



The second group of Wends who enlisted joined the Seventeenth Infantry Regiment. The 17th was organized during January and February 1862 at Camp Terry, a camp on the Colorado River near Austin. Robert T. P. Allen, the officer in charge, was trained at West Point and had graduated fifth in his class. In 1857, he and his son established the Bastrop Military Institute, and in 1861 he gave his support to the secession movement. His first position had been with the Fourth Texas Infantry, but because he was a strict disciplinarian the men considered him a martinet and drove him from the camp. When the 17th was being organized he was made the colonel and remained in that position until November 1863 when he was placed in charge of a prisoner-of-war camp near Tyler.

Even though the three companies that included Wends (B, F, and H) trained together during the

spring and summer months, they did not head for battle together. No records refer directly to the separation; however the service records of some of the men of Company F indicate their presence in Austin, Arkansas during the first year of service while Companies B and H spent the winter in Texas, probably at either Camp Terry or Camp Groce. The records do show that during the first year in Texas many of the men of B and H were absent from their units because of illness, but no reason has been found for keeping the companies behind.

Brief Unit History

Company F, along with the 17th took the train from Houston to Navasota, arriving on August 2. From Navasota, the men marched through Tyler, crossed the Arkansas border on September 6, and arrived at Little Rock on September 23. The destination was Camp Nelson at Austin, Arkansas, northeast of Little Rock, which would be the staging area for Walker's Texas Division. There the 17th first became part of the 3rd Brigade of Brig. Gen. Henry E. McCulloch's First Division, II Corps, Army of the Trans-Mississippi. After Maj. Gen. John G. Walker took over the command of the division in January 1863, it became known as Walker's Texas Division or Walker's Greyhounds because of its ability to travel fast. It was the only division in Confederate service to be composed, throughout its existence, of men from a single state. No Wends died at Camp Nelson, but 1,500 other Texans did. Because many of the soldiers had grown up in rural isolation they had not been exposed to common childhood diseases, so when they contracted such diseases as measles without receiving proper care, they died. In early November the men finally received weapons, but most were the same type of smooth bores issued to Waul's Legion. The division left Camp Nelson on November 24 and marched to various places in southern Arkansas and at the end of the year they were at Camp Wright, four miles north of Pine Bluff on the Arkansas River. In early December, Johann Kubitz became ill and was hospitalized at Pine Bluff. On April 24 they left for Monroe, Louisiana. On March 23, 1863 companies B and

H, which had spent the winter in Texas, left their camp and in May joined their regiment, possibly at Monroe.

In the meantime General Grant, in January 1863, moved his forces west and south of Vicksburg and by April crossed the Mississippi to enclose the city on the south and east. Unable to supply the forces within the city, the Confederates hoped to break Grant's supply line by attacking at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana, a bend in the Mississippi River northwest of Vicksburg. At dawn on June 7 the Confederates engaged the Union forces and got the better of the fight, which was largely hand-to-hand. As the Union troops retreated toward the river, Union gunboats began bombarding Confederate forces, and at noon the Confederates withdrew. The 17th Texas, assigned to the center of the line, suffered almost half of the Confederate losses with 21 killed, 68 wounded (including Col. Allen), and three missing. Among these casualties were Andreas Ernst Falke and Andreas Matthiez who were captured, and Christopher Lowke who was fatally wounded. The battle did not weaken Grant's hold on Vicksburg, and it fell on July 4, 1863. On July 12, the 17th Texas Infantry marched to Alexandria, Louisiana.

From then on, Walker's Greyhounds participated in both segments of the Red River Campaign, successfully preventing the two-pronged Union invasion. Two battles in Louisiana, Pleasant Hill and Mansfield, persuaded Union general Nathaniel P. Banks to retreat back down the Red River. Another Union general, Frederick Steele, based in Little Rock and under orders to join Banks, had started an offensive, moving southwest to Camden, Arkansas. Upon hearing of Bank's retreat, he began pulling back toward Little Rock but was overtaken by the Confederates 40 miles south of the capitol city. The battle of Jenkins' Ferry, fought April 30, 1864, was the last battle of the Red River campaign. The Confederates, because they held the field, considered themselves the victors. It was, however, a Pyrrhic victory because they suffered larger casualties and had failed to destroy Steele's retreating army. On April 24, 1864, just before the battle of Jenkins'

Ferry, Walker's Greyhounds were joined by the Wends from Fedor who served in the 3rd Texas Infantry. One member of this unit, Gustave Wiederaenders, a German, was killed.

In July 1864 the decision was made to send Walker's Division east across the Mississippi River. Hundreds of Texans, sensing a mission creep that would expose their homes and families to enemy forces, deserted to avoid doing so. Union forces also heard of the plans and increased the patrols and gunboats on the river. Confederate plans to cross the river were then abandoned and the remaining Texans spent the winter on the western side of the Mississippi near Minden, Louisiana. On November 12, 1864 the troops received their pay for the first time in two years. In spring, the Confederate officers suspected another invasion of Texas by a Union force from New Orleans and the order was given on March 5, 1865 to return to Texas. On March 15 they crossed the border into Texas. The division reached Camp Groce, about 2 ½ miles east of Hempstead, a month later and on April 22 they learned that General Lee had surrendered. Realizing the futility of further military action, the men began departing for their homes. On May 19, Walker reported that the men who remained had broken into the military stores and stables and carried off anything they could get their hands on. Demoralized and frustrated with nothing to show for their years in the service, they even sacked the town of Hempstead. The unit, that during its tour of duty had walked the equivalent distance from New York to San Francisco, disintegrated.

Military Service Records

Co. B. 17th Infantry Regiment (Joseph Z. Miller)

+Christopher Lowke (b. 27 July 1839) enrolled on March 22, 1862 and mustered in on March 30. Paid on August 31 and October 31, 1862. Present for the January to February roll call but was sick. Lowke and those wounded at Milliken's Bend were taken to Monroe, Louisiana and that is where he died. (d. 25 June 1863 in Monroe, Louisiana.)

August Miertschin (b. 8 July 1842) enrolled March 22, 1862 and mustered in on March 30.

Although absent because of illness in the fall of 1862, he served until April 23, 1865 when he was given a seven day pass. In February 6, 1863 he was assigned to the regimental band and held the position of musician. Musicians traditionally doubled as medical aides on the battlefield. (d. 17 May 1917 in Serbin.)

John Miertschin (b. 6 August 1835) enrolled June 24, 1862 and mustered in on June 25. Present at several roll calls and paid a \$50 bounty on February 27, 1863 (or 1865). When his wife, Agnes, applied for a pension, August Miertschin testified that John had served until the end of the war. A. E. Falke and John Schelnick supported the testimony but stated that he was in Company A under Col. George "Wash" Jones. (d. 9 May 1899 at Serbin.)

+George Prellop (b. ca. 1831) enrolled March 22, 1862 and mustered in on March 30. He was absent from roll call because of illness in September 1862 and in August 1863. Because there were no battles during that time, he could have died of illness. (d. 12 September 1863 Monroe, Louisiana.)

+Matthaus (Matthew) Schubert (b. 6 July 1839) enrolled March 22, 1862 and mustered in on March 30. He was absent from roll call in July and August 1862 because of illness. He went on furlough on October 1, 1863 and the muster roll of January and February 1864 listed him as absent without leave. The service record stated: "Supposed to be dead as he has not been heard from."

August Teinert (b. 19 December 1837) enrolled on June 25, 1862 and mustered in on June 20 [sic]. From September onward he was absent because of illness, but in August 1863 he was declared absent without leave. He received a \$50 bounty payment on February 27, 1865. (d. 27 January 1900 at Serbin.)

Ernst Teinert (b. 6 June 1843) enrolled on March 30, 1862 and mustered in on March 22 [sic]. He was present for the roll calls from March 30 until February 1863 when he was on detached duty. He evidently served as a teamster and received pay of

25 cents a day. He was absent because of illness in July and August and in April 23, 1865 he received a seven-day pass. He was paroled in August 1865 at Brenham. (d. 28 August 1905 at Thorndale.)

Co. F. 17th Infantry Regiment (E. P. Petty)

Andreas Ernst Falke (b. 11 October 1841 or 27 October 1842) enrolled June 27, 1862 and mustered in the same day. He was present for the remainder of the year, and in February 1863 he was present even though he was sick. He was captured at Milliken's Bend and taken as a POW to Cairo, Illinois where he was freed. On his way back to Texas, Falke came across some cotton bales that had been abandoned by the Yankees who had taken the cotton during a raid. He then commandeered some of the bales and with the assistance of a slave drove the wagons to Mexico and sold the cotton. Using the funds, he returned home and opened a store and business constructing cotton gins. (d. 19 December 1916 at Warda.) (Assistance from Walter Penk.)

Andreas Kappler (b. 6 December 1832) enrolled on June 24, 1862 and mustered in that same day. He was paid on June 30 and went on a ten-day furlough. He never returned and in December 1862 he was declared AWOL. According to family tradition their third child had been born while the father was away, but died before it could be baptized. The death of the child without the sacrament of baptism was a burden on his conscience, and he was determined not to let it happen again. (d. 7 July 1902 at Giddings.) (Assistance from LaNell Kappler Mahler.)

Johann Kubitz (1841) enrolled on June 24, 1862 and mustered in on that same day. He became sick at Pine Bluff, Arkansas and was absent in December 1862. In January and February 1864 he was detached to the hospital. On April 10, 1865, as they were approaching Camp Groce, he left his unit. (d. 29 November 1899 at Serbin.)

Andreas Matthiez (b. 29 October 1831) enrolled on June 27, 1862 and mustered in the same day. He was absent because of illness in November and December 1862 at Austin, Arkansas. He was captured, probably at Milliken's Bend, and signed

a Non-combatants Oath at Young's Point, Louisiana on June 13, 1863. In that oath he swore loyalty to the United States and that he would not aid or encourage rebel forces. Andreas was the only Wend who had previous military experience in Germany. He had not sailed on the Ben Nevis because he had entered the Prussian army in 1852 and was not released until 1856. There is no indication that his experience in the Prussian infantry was utilized in his service to the Confederacy. (d. 28 January 1908.) (Additional source: Esther L. Mathias and Dianna L. Tupa, *The Mathias Family History*.)

August Polnick (b.12 March 1823). His record was difficult to read, but his service was short, if at all. Either he or someone in his family was sick. (d. 25 July 1876 at Fedor.)

John Schelnick (b.9 July 1838) enrolled on June 27, 1862, mustered in on the same day, and then received a five-day-furlough. In November he was assigned to the cooking detail at Austin, Arkansas, and on one occasion was paid 25 cents per day as a teamster. He later applied for a pension and stated that he was mustered out of service in June 1865 at Alexandria, Louisiana. John Teinert, John Pillack, and August Miertschin supported his claim. (d. 14 December 1917 at Giddings.)

Christoph Vogel (b.1831 or 1829) enrolled on June 27, 1862 and mustered in on the same day. In November and December 1862 he was absent either because of illness or he was at Bastrop. After that he was AWOL. (d. 2 March 1903 at Serbin.)

Co. H. 17th Infantry Regiment (H. E. Jordt)

Johann Noack (b. March 1823) enrolled April 7, 1862 and mustered in on April 11, 1862. He was absent because of sickness from October 1862 until August 1863 when he was declared AWOL. When he applied for a pension in 1899 he reported that he had served for eight months but was discharged because of rheumatism (arthritis) that resulted from his service. He lived near Nelsonville. (d. 15 December 1907 at Serbin.)

+John Noak (b. 15 December 1839) (d. 17 July 1863 Washington, Louisiana.) No service record was found.

Andreas Sonsel (b. 1841) enrolled April 7, 1862 and mustered in on April 17. He was present at all roll calls. He was a musician. According to a pension application he was discharged in Louisiana in May 1864. (d. 1924 at Peters, Texas.)

August Sonsel (b.29 June 1833) enrolled April 7, 1862 and mustered in on April 17. He was present at all roll calls. When he applied for a pension, he testified that he had served until the end of the war. (d. 6 December 1914 in Colorado County.)

Ernst Sonsel b. (b.1840) enrolled on May 4, 1862 and mustered in on the same day. He was regimental musician until October 1, 1862. He was absent because of sickness from November to December 1862. (No information on death.)

Co. F. 4th Texas Field Artillery (Horace Haldeman)

John A. Kiesling (b. 29 October 1832). Kiesling's experience was different from most of the Wends because he had not migrated into the interior of Texas, but remained in Houston. He joined on May 26, 1862. His service record reports (probably erroneously) that he was conscripted, but that he received the bounty. Family tradition holds that he enlisted. His artillery unit was also sent to Camp Nelson in Arkansas, except it left earlier than the infantry. It arrived at Navasota from Houston on July 17. Like Petty's company, Kiesling arrived at Pine Bluff on January 9, 1863. At one point he went AWOL but was captured and sentenced to death. Confederate General Theophilus Holmes pardoned him and spared his life. Not all deserters were as fortunate. Haldeman's company had been especially hard hit with desertion and 47 men had left their posts. On March 12, 1863, in an open field near Pine Bluff, two men, identified as German Catholics from Houston who had been apprehended, were shot by a firing squad. (d. 1898 in Houston) (Assistance from Brady Kiesling.)

Membership Report

George Boerger

Last year we had 917 members. This year's goal is 950. As of January 15th, we have 587 members with 56% having renewed so far. Last year at this time 60% had renewed. We also have 58 first-time members toward the goal of 100. At this rate, we will fall short of 100 new members. However, we are on pace to have a record number of Sponsor (\$50) and Century (\$100) members.

We have added a member from a previously unrepresented country. Patrick Bones, who lives in Spain, has joined. We also added two members from a state where we did not previously have a member. Linda Rives gave a gift membership to Charles Layton of Anchorage, Alaska; shortly thereafter Rodney Carlson, Jr. of Eagle River, Alaska joined. Our members now live in 7 countries and 40 states. So if you have a relative in Maryland, New Hampshire or Delaware, please consider buying them a gift membership!

If you are wondering if you have paid your membership for 2006, turn to the back page of the newsletter and look at the mailing label. It will show the year through which your membership is paid and your current membership level. If this is incorrect, please let us know.

Finally, to update you on our youngest member, Amélie Boerger is now 4 months old, usually sleeping through the night, smiling, laughing and cute as can be!

Patron (\$30) Members

Franklin Arldt	Austin
Duannah Ashmore	Austin
Linda Jean-Lewis Barnett	Pontiac, MI
Bill E. Biar	Carrollton
Martha Biehle	Smithville
Rodney L. Carlson, Jr.	Eagle River, AK
Christine Champion	Many, LA
Doris M. Danner	Fort Worth
Kirsten Wukasch Egedi	Fillmore, CA
Nathan Emmrich	Buda
Herbert Foerster	Giddings
Altha Frasier Garrett	Warda
Robert L. Garrett	Warda
Carol Gaskamp	Leander

Lillian Groeschel
Renate Hardaway
Eugene Hemmann
Wayne Herbrich
Donald C. Hilsberg
James H. Hingst
Glenn Hobrathschk
Mark Jatzlau
Ardilla N. Johnson
Melonnie Johnson
Elinor Hannusch Kenyon
Verne M. Kolba
Vernelle Kremcke
Emma Michalk Kroeker
Margo Latimer
Sandra C. Magers
Arnold Mathias
Marge Mathias
Ken Mersiovsky
Gene Miertschin
Druanne Mills
Katherine Moerbe
Dana Zoch Mortimer
Thelma Synatschk Oberndorfer
Kimberley Jurk Odom
Barbara Schimentz Peckham
Vicky Pollock
Doris Biehle Reagan
Karlene Kaddatz Rich
Katherine Ruse Richards
Wilfred Schrader
Alvina Schroeder
Arnold Schulz (now deceased)
Marianna Schulz
Ruby Lorenz Sisco
Thomas Sisco
H. Melvin Symmank (Rev)
Martha Toll
Walter Toll
Ruth Krakosky Tschatschula
Mary Wachsmann
John A. Wuensche
John Anthony Wuensche, IV
Vernon A. Wuensche
Barry Wukasch
Ted Wukasch

Sponsor (\$50) Members

Dan R. Beto
Donna Beto
Anne Christiansen

Bellaire
Cypress
St. Charles, IL
Houston
Elizabeth, CO
San Antonio
Mayfield Heights, OH
Lexington
Dixon, MO
Collinsville
Kansas City, MO
Morris, IL
Giddings
Turlock, CA
Lexington
Dallas
Waco
Waco
Houston
Boerne
Alpine
Austin
Bridge City
Cypress
Lampasas
Urbana, IL
Laramie, WY
Austin
Ponca City, OK
Austin
Pensacola, FL
Navasota
Carrollton
Carrollton
Harker Heights
Harker Heights
Garland
Cedar Park
Austin
Brehnam
Astoria, NY
Victoria
Kingsville
Corpus Christi
Cave Creek, AZ
Groves

Bryan
Bryan
Chapin, SC

Neal Christiansen	Chapin, SC
Michael J. Danner	Sanger
Caren Couch Ertel	Grapevine
Mark Ertel	Grapevine
Angeline Mitschke Frerich	Humble
Mary Schulz Guggisberg	Vernon
Ben Herbrich	Queens Village, NY
John Hingst	Kokomo, IN
Steve Hooper	Kingwood
Barbara A. Jannasch	La Marque
Louis W. Jannasch, Jr.	La Marque
Floyd E. Kiesling	Vernon
Nancy Josephine Kilgore-Ganer	San Antonio
Lillian Kilian	San Antonio
Delores Knippa	New Braunfels
Jerry Knippa	Boerne
Leroy Knippa	New Braunfels
Glen Kokel	Spring
George Kunze (Dr)	Warda
Alleen Kuretsch Lyons	Copperas Cove
Helen Mathias	Austin
Vic Mathias	Austin
Lee Meador	Powell, WY
Calvin Mitschke	Giddings
Ina Mitschke	Giddings
Alfred C. Prellor (Rev)	Baton Rouge, LA
Lottie West Randle	Richardson
Gunter Schaarschmidt (Dr)	Sidney, BC, Canada
Candy Schoppa	Lubbock
Kenneth Schoppa	Lubbock
Bernice Foerster Schulz	Houston
Edgar Schulz	Houston
Jenny Sharrock	Houston
Roy Sharrock	Garland
Charlie Slack	Bastrop
Jan Knippa Slack	Bastrop
Wilbert Sohns (Rev)	Gatesville
D. G. Symmank	Giddings
Pearl Symmank	Giddings
Dian Teinert	Houston
Eleanor Teinert	Houston
Herman Teinert	Lubbock
M. Joy Teinert	Lubbock
Natalie Waggoner	Houston
David W. Weise	Eastland
Paul Weise	Davenport, IA
Hilton Wieder	Magnolia
Nelda Winkler	Giddings
Charles Wukasch (Dr)	Austin

Century (\$100) Members

Linda Boerger	Wharton
Weldon Boerger	Wharton
Charles E. Dube	Lincoln
Clarence Dube, M.D.	Houston
James Dube	Daphne, AL
Vivian Dube	Lincoln
William J. Dube III	Waco
Susan Dube	Daphne, AL
Clarence Hobratschk	Littlefield
Gladys Hobratschk	Littlefield
Gerald Kieschnick (Dr)	Dallas
Mike Hopkins Budweiser Dist.	Brenham
R. J. Nitsche	Giddings
Ruth Nitsche	Giddings
Delores Penk	Canyon Lake
Walter Penk	Canyon Lake
Denise Gersch Snyder	Houston
Michael Vukobratovich	Sierra Vista, AZ

Silver (\$250) Members

Insurance Network of Texas	Giddings, TX
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Life (\$1,000) Members

George Boerger	Houston
Jerry Caldwell	Cypress
Herbert Fritsche	Houston
J. B. Gersch, Jr.	Giddings
Don Graf	Lubbock
Elizabeth Hutchinson	Gonzales, LA
Sandra Miertschin Matthijetz	Winchester
Joel Meador	Harwood
Martin Meissner	Midland
Carol Teinert Moravec	Axtell
B. J. Scharath	Indian Springs, AL
Herb Schulz	Torrence, CA
Marvin Schulze	Austin
Ralph Weiser	Magnolia, AR
Frieda Wendland	Austin
Ruth Wuensche Wright	Corpus Christi
Robert M. Zoch, Jr.	Lincoln

Student (\$7.50) Members

McKay Bloxham	Katy
Emma Dixon	The Woodlands
Christiana M. Gentry	Kingwood
Aaron Hohle	St. Louis, MO
Lauren Jones	Round Rock
James Lovallo	Sacramento, CA
Margaret Lovallo	Sacramento, CA
Kayla Newman	Austin
Elizabeth Symm	Farwell
Anna Marie Symm	Farwell

Eli Symm
Jan Tschatschula
Mitchell Austin Wagner
Jordan Watts

Farwell
Finsterwalde, Germany
Keller
Katy

First Time Members

Erich K. Bauch
James C. Behnken
David Bone
Patrick Bones
Rodney L. Carlson, Jr.
Martha Clevenger
Emma Dixon
Peggy Dubose
Jordan Hagerman
Tanner Hagerman
Andrea Hooper
Barbara Hooper
Katy Hooper
Kenneth Hooper
Whitney Hooper
Insurance Network of Texas
Lauren Jones
Elizabeth Jones
Ryan Jones
Charles Layton
Carolyn Mehlow
Loujean Stauffer Miller
Dianna Mitschke
Percy M. Mrosko
Christy Murray
Eric Murray
J. P. Murray
David O'leary
William Schlondrop
Gary Schmidt
Ruth Schmidt
Eli Symm
Peggy Symmank
Mitchell Austin Wagner
Candace Wright
Julie Zersen
Edith Zoch
Kenneth Zoch
Gladys Zoch

Portland
Albuquerque, NM
London, ON, Canada
Castelldefels, Spain
Eagle River, AK
Burke, VA
The Woodlands
Houston
Bryan
Bryan
Plainview
Kingwood
Lubbock
Plainview
Kingwood
Giddings
Round Rock
Round Rock
Round Rock
Anchorage, AK
Austin
Three Rivers
Austin
Temple
Austin
Austin
Austin
Antioch, CA
Katy
Katy
Farwell
Magnolia
Keller
Huntsville
Austin
Gonzales
Giddings
Giddings

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

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:05 PM in the Kilian Building on Sunday, November 20, 2005, by Steve Hooper, President.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn provided the opening devotion. We are again at the end of a church year and are looking forward to the holy days ahead. He asked us to think of the holidays we keep in our Wendish heritage and if our children will continue to celebrate them. In particular, a holiday celebrated by our forefathers was the Wedding of the Birds on January 25. We were encouraged to celebrate our festivals.

There were 25 members and guests in attendance. Steve Hooper welcomed all of the members.

Steve Hooper announced that the election of officers for the next two years was scheduled for this meeting. He presented the slate of nominees: Steve Hooper, President; Doug Symmank, Vice-President; Evelyn Buchhorn, Secretary; Laverne Gersch, Treasurer. He opened the floor to additional nominations. There being none, George Boerger made the motion that the ballot be accepted by acclamation. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes of the August 21, 2005 meeting were presented in the October newsletter. Doug Symmank made the motion, seconded by Laverne Gersch, to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Eunice Dunk and Raymond Arldt thanked everyone for their hard work this year on the Wendish Fest. While the uncertainty of the weather and the high temperatures were prime factors in this year's event, there was a large turnout and the dance group from Germany performed with skill, enthusiasm and excitement. Thanks to ALL!

Doug Symmank reported on the upcoming landscape project and asked for volunteers for a workday on Saturday, December 3, 2005 starting at 8:00 AM. He indicated that some of the things

to be accomplished were putting in fill dirt to redirect the water that was now draining into the courtyard, relocate the handicap ramp at the Kilian Building, and remove a couple of trees. The ladies have agreed to provide the workers with a meal at noon.

Steve Hooper reminded the members that the annual Walk-In Coffee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2006 in the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Giddings.

There being no further business, the business meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Monroe Bieberstein and Ivadell Koenig led the group by playing Christmas carols on their keyboards while the members joined in singing either in English or German.

Those wishing to participate in a gift exchange were asked to bring a gift selected from the Museum Gift Shop. Gifts were numbered as they were placed under the Christmas tree. Participants then drew a number from the basket and the corresponding gift was theirs, unless they saw a gift that someone previously had received and asked that person to exchange their gifts with them. Gifts of noodles and shelled pecans seemed to be the preferred gifts of the afternoon and people getting those were repeatedly asked to give them up for another gift.

Refreshments provided by the attendees were enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. Gersch, Jr., Secretary

In Search of...

John Barr is seeking information on his ancestors, George Born (b. January 9, 1826) and Maria Born (b. November 4, 1823). George and Maria were from Crosta and were part of the large group that migrated to Texas on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854. If you have any information to share with him on George, Maria or any of their relatives, please contact him by surface mail at 6901 Smokey Hill

Road, Austin, Texas 78736 or by email at johnmbarr@gmail.com.

Carolyn Ender is seeking information pertaining to the death date of Ernestina Ender Domschke [Domschke possibly misspelled]. Her maiden name may have been Christina Ernestina or Ernestina Christina. She married Karl Domschke [sp?] on April 15, 1888 in Lee County, Texas. If you have information to share, please contact her by email at cender@verizon.net.

Zapust – Shrove Tuesday – marks the occasion for the most impressive traditional costume processions in the villages of the Spree Forest region of Germany. Traditionally, boys and girls paraded through the village streets accompanied by bands playing marches. In more modern times, young couples have become involved in the carnival enjoyment. The parade ends in the village inn and everyone is invited to dance. In days gone by, women were not allowed to enjoy public dancing for fun except at Shrovetide and on the Emperor's birthday. Young girls who were fond of dancing ventured onto the dance floor hopping as high as possible. An old saying held that "the higher the jump, the higher the flax will grow."

Source: *Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness*, E. Rauprecht and E. Albert, REGIA Verlag (undated).

One of the traditional handicrafts of the Spree Forest region is basket-making. It is said that the craft has been practiced for as long as willow trees have been growing in the wetland areas. Thin, bendable strips of wood were woven and twisted together to form baskets of all shapes to hold potatoes, fruits and vegetables. Spree Forest people would not do without their wicker-work articles when working in the fields and on the farm.

Source: *Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness*, E. Rauprecht and E. Albert, REGIA Verlag (undated).

Thrivent Financial's Care in Regions program presents \$5000 for TWHS

Thank you to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for awarding the TWHS with \$5000 through its Care in Regions program. Through the program, Thrivent Financial members receive financial support for hands-on service activities and/or supplemental dollars for fund-raising activities benefiting individuals, families, qualified nonprofit organizations and congregations with significant needs. The funds were used for much-needed upgrades to the museum's septic system. Pictured below are TWHS board members accepting the grant from Debra Wied (Thrivent Financial Director for Colorado/Fayette County Chapter) and Carl Lueker (Thrivent Financial Associate representative).



1st row L-R: Steve Hooper, Eunice Dunk, Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Gersch, Debra Wied and Carl Lueker
2nd row L-R: J.B. Gersch, Jr., Raymond Arldt, George Boerger, Doug Symmank, Vivian Dube, Jan Slack,
and Evelyn Buchhorn

Important Dates

- February 14 Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Giddings, Texas
- February 19 General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
- April 1-2 Winedale Spring Festival and Texas Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Winedale Historical Center near Round Top, Texas
- April 2 Daylight savings time begins
- April 4 Deadline for April newsletter
- April 9 Palm Sunday, Museum CLOSED
- April 14 Good Friday, Museum CLOSED
- April 16 Easter Sunday, Museum CLOSED

Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Executive Director.....	Barbara Hielscher
President	Steve Hooper
Vice President	D.G. Symmank
Secretary	Evelyn Buchhorn
Treasurer	Laverne Gersch
Newsletter Editor.....	Jan Slack
Special Features Editor.....	George Nielsen

Please send Newsletter submissions to:

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Email wendish@bluebon.net or Fax (979) 366-2805

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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