
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Newsletter

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Work continues on the Kurio log cabin

During 2005, the roof was replaced and other repairs were made to the Kurio log cabin. Currently, work is underway to repair/replace the chinking between the logs. Many thanks to Milton (Chicken) Fischer for doing such expert, detailed work on the cabin. As can be seen in the photo, there is quite a difference between the areas that have been completed and the areas that have yet to be re-chinked. When the work is completed, we hope to have a weather- and rodent-proof log cabin!

Within the Fold...

Olivia R. Groeschel Lent of San Antonio, member since 2006, died March 28, 2006.

Richard Lent of San Antonio, member since 2006, died January 1, 2006.

President's Message

Happy Easter! Well, it is spring again, and I am privileged to offer greetings to members and friends. I sincerely hope that each of you were refreshed and renewed as you worshiped during Holy Week and celebrated Easter morning. As I worked with other volunteers on the flower beds recently, I could not help but think of the meaning of Easter with the blooming flowers all around me. No doubt, Christians over the decades and centuries have equated springtime explosions of flowering color with the resurrection and have come away with a renewed spirit. I know that I certainly have and I rejoice in stating with each of you the powerful words of the hymn, "I know that my Redeemer lives!"

Maintenance and repair work all around the grounds is proceeding nicely. Take note the next time you pass the museum. Some things are obvious, for example, an extension of the Kilian Building roof over the expanded porch/loading area. This area will serve the Noodle Committee well as raw materials are brought in and finished product is carried out. Also, the staging of materials and supplies for Wendish Fest can now be accomplished more easily. Another task that is evident is the new coat of paint; the painters are doing an outstanding job. Some of the work isn't quite so obvious. Take a look around the perimeter of the "noodle building" at ground level. The rusted, decayed skirting has been replaced with new framing and cement board siding. Critters will now have a much tougher time finding a way under the building. The various projects will continue to completion over the next few weeks as the weather allows.

All of the much needed maintenance, improvement and upgrade work are possible due to generous donations of time and treasure. On behalf of every individual interested in the preservation of Wendish heritage, I offer thanks for those donations and look forward to the opportunity to educate future generations about our heritage.

God's richest blessings to you all,

Steve

This edition of the TWHS newsletter

includes, as an insert, some interesting information about our Wendish history and about present-day Protestant Wends in Lusatia that was written by Gertrud Mahling (Trudla Malinkowa) of Bautzen, Germany. The text, along with some photos and maps, was originally published in German as a color brochure. After being translated into English by Martin Strauch of Germany, Mrs. Mahling shared it with us because we felt that the information would be of value to our members and museum visitors. She also provided photos and maps that, along with the translated text, will be printed as a color brochure that will be available in our Museum gift shop in the near future. We hope you enjoy reading Part 1 of the information. Part 2 will be included in the July edition of our newsletter. Please be sure to order a brochure as soon as it is available – it will be a nice keepsake. We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Mahling for sharing her article with us, and to Martin Strauch for his expertise in translating. We also want to give credit to Jürgen Matschie and Martin Wirth for the photos and maps we will use in the brochure.

Quarterly Membership Meeting, Sunday, May 21, 2006, 2:00 PM

The next quarterly Membership Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2006 at the Museum complex. At press time, the program was still being developed but will include a video about events in Saxony. We hope to see you on May 21 for fun, fellowship, and good food!

Memorials and Donations

From J.B. Gersch, Jr. in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Jan and Charlie Slack, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Jarrene Mitschke and Doris Mitschke, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Mr. and Mrs. Edward Buscha, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Margo Latimer, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Barbara Hielscher, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Rev. and Mrs. Robert Boyce, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts, in memory of Terry Key.

From Chuck and Vivian Dube, in memory of Melvin Winkler, for the Landscape Fund.

From Chuck and Vivian Dube, in memory of Al Gruetzner, for the Landscape Fund.

From Barbara Hielscher, in memory of Terry Key.

From Leroy and Delores Knippa, in memory of Edgar Knippa.

From David Goeke, in memory of Bill Knippa.

From Mr. and Mrs. Richard Magers, in memory of his mother, Lydia Hobratchk Magers.

From Florence and George Boerger, in honor of Evelyn and Arnold Kasper's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Florence and George Boerger, in honor of Laverne and Walter Gersch's 50th wedding anniversary.

From Florence and George Boerger, in memory of Leroy Zoch.

From Florence and George Boerger, in memory of Bill Knippa.

Landscape Corner

Vivian Dube and D.G Symmank

April 8 was a special day at the museum.

Following the quarterly Board meeting, a number of board members and directors and their spouses enjoyed a hearty meal furnished by Pearl Symmank and Vivian Dube as reward in advance for spreading mulch and attacking the weeds and grass that came with the spring rains. Our objective to provide mulched pathways through the quad gardens has been accomplished, which will enable visitors to enjoy the plants more easily, especially the new antique roses and crepe myrtles that were planted by Vivian and Chuck Dube to add blooming color. Thanks to the Dubes and the rest of the work crew – Red Arldt, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Walter Gersch, Steve Hooper, Jan and Charlie Slack, and Pearl and Doug Symmank – much was accomplished to move toward project completion. But much work still remains.

If you have had a chance to visit the museum lately, you probably noticed the changes to the buildings and gardens. It is all "a work in progress." Plans still include the installation of a fountain, benches and a watering system. The garden project provides a perfect opportunity to donate a plant, bench, or fountain in memory or in honor of someone. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact the museum (979-366-2441), J.B. Gersch, Jr. (979-542-2923) or Vivian Dube (512-253-6662) for details. And if you visit the garden and see a few weeds, feel free to pull them up!

Wendish Fest 2006

Mark your calendars – September 24, 2006! Plans for Wendish Fest 2006 are well under way.

Featured performers will be the Houston Liederkrantz, and Rev. Dr. Klaus Detlev Schulz from Ft. Wayne, Indiana will conduct the English and German worship services and Bible Class at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin that morning.

Individuals have often asked about opportunities to help support Wendish Fest, often because they live too far away and are not able to volunteer

their time at the event. If not being able to attend is a problem for you, we hope you will consider a monetary donation that would help defray expenses incurred with all the little extras that go into making Wendish Fest such a wonderful day. Those expenses include renting a bus to transport the featured entertainers to Serbin, carts to transport Fest attendees to and from parking areas, meals for entertainers, additional liability insurance, and many more.

Making a donation to Wendish Fest is an excellent way to help, and every dollar received will be used for Fest expenses.

For more information, contact the museum (979-366-2441 or wendish@bluebon.net or by surface mail at the address on the front cover of this newsletter).

14th Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off, May 20, 2006

The 14th Annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off, held in conjunction with the Lee County Fair and Rodeo, is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2006 in the food court pavilion at Fireman's Park fairgrounds, 2.2 miles west of Giddings, Texas on Highway 290. Competition is open to all Texas residents. Any individual or group that makes homemade noodles is eligible to enter and there is no entry fee.

Registration begins at 1:00 p.m., with judging starting 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. Late registration ends at 2:00 p.m. For further information or to enter the cook-off, contact Tonya Poncik at (979) 542-2753 or visit the Lee County website at <http://lee-tx.tamu.edu>.

Noodle Committee

Evelyn Kasper

A total of 1,200 pounds of noodles have been made thus far for 2006. The supply is running a bit short due to all the tour groups that have

visited the museum this spring. But the committee members plan to put in some extra hours replenishing the supply.

2006 Texas Folklife Festival

The 35th Annual Texas Folklife Festival is scheduled for June 8-11, 2006 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The TWHS is again organizing a bus trip to the event on Saturday, June 10. If you are interested in joining us, we have included a registration form on Page 13 of this newsletter for you to complete and mail to the museum with your registration fee.

Tours Committee

Evelyn Kasper, Chairperson

Spring has been busy at the museum, with 5 tours hosted in March, 3 in April and 1 tour schedule for May. Many thanks to the faithful volunteers who continue to help us share our history with others.

Visitors

During the months of January, February and March, the museum hosted visitors from Germany, Australia, Missouri, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Michigan, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Georgia, New Mexico and all parts of Texas.

Thank you Museum Docents!

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

Reluctant Confederates: Wends in the Civil War (Part 4)

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

THIRD REGIMENT TEXAS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY Company K, Captain Julius Bose's Company - Comal County

While Waul's Legion and the 17th Infantry were expected to engage the enemy beyond the borders of Texas, the 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry was considered to be home guard and was assigned to the defense of the state in the event of an attack by Union forces. Most of its time was spent in Texas, but near the end of the war when a Union army in Arkansas was threatening to invade Texas, the 3rd Regiment left the state. The records usually do not say how the unit traveled around Texas, but it would have been on foot and occasionally by steamboat or railroad.

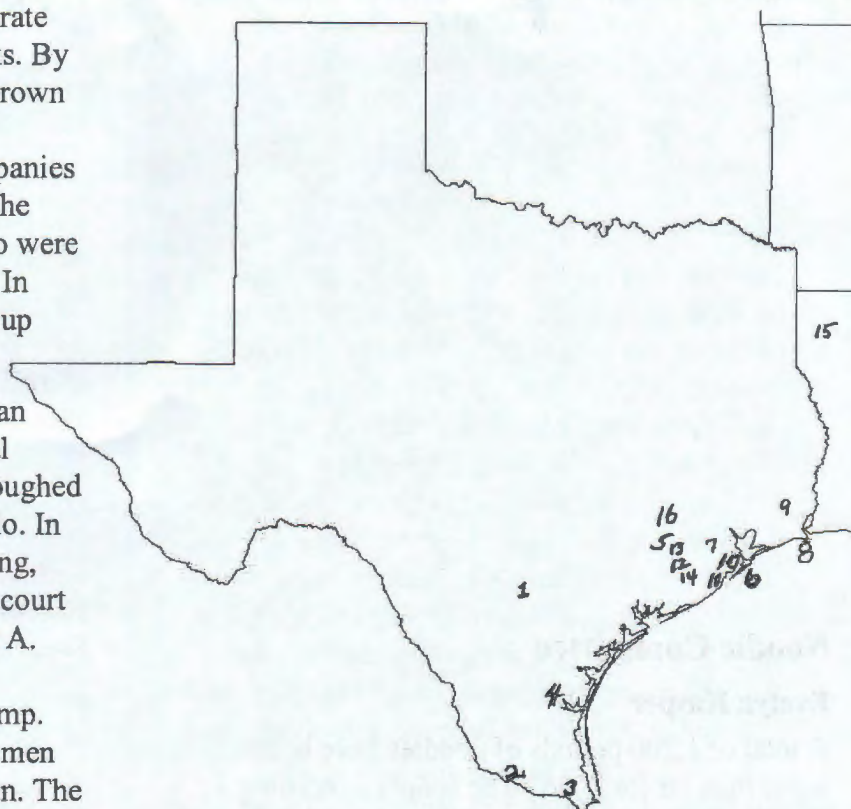
Brief Unit History

In the summer of 1861, Col. Philip N. Luckett, a resident of Corpus Christi who had served as a surgeon in the Texas Rangers, was authorized to recruit men for the 3rd Texas Infantry Regiment. But competition from recruiters for Confederate units prevented Luckett from filling the ranks. By November 1861, at his headquarters in Ft. Brown on the Rio Grande River, he had only two companies present for duty. One of the companies had been recruited at Corpus Christi, while the other was made up entirely of Mexicans who were continually deserting and crossing the river. In December he raised another company made up primarily of foreigners and some Mexicans.

Further efforts at recruitment continued at San Antonio and Austin and in June 1862 several Wends from Fedor enlisted. They were furloughed until July 7, when all reported to San Antonio. In mid-August while engaged in military training, some of the men also learned the process of court martial proceedings. Ten privates, including A. Pillack, Carl Dube, and August Dube were ordered to cook for some prisoners in the camp. The prisoners were most likely some young men who hoped to avoid Confederate conscription. The ten refused to obey the orders and were charged

by Captain Bose with "disobedience to orders." The accused did not deny the charges but offered the following statement in their defense: "[We] submit to your honorable Court, that being free citizens of a free Government, enlisted at the first call of our Governor to rally for the defense of our Country, we did not think that when doing so, the Government could at the same time, while we were ready to shed our blood for our common cause, think us menial enough, to do such degrading work as to cook for men, imprisoned for the highest crimes known to men, who try to shake off the shackles of tyranny. Never entered it our mind to disobey orders of our captain, but believing it as we stated before as too much degrading the state of a citizen soldier of the Southern Confederacy we were of the firm persuasion that we have done perfectly right in refusing to do so." The court, meeting on August 14, 1862, found them guilty and sentenced them to be confined to their quarters, under guard, for five days. (Source: National Archives)

Finally, by November 1, 1862 the regiment was at full strength with ten companies totaling 648 men.



The following is an itinerary of Company K based largely on the service record of Capt. Bose. The numbers in parentheses correspond with the numbers on the map.

(1) October 31, 1862 Camp Herbert near San Antonio

December 1862 still at Camp Herbert. Co K received 69 percussion muskets

January 9, 1863 departed San Antonio

(2) February 1, 1863 Ringgold Barracks

(3) February 3 departed for Fort Brown, a distance of 120 miles. The barracks were between Fort Brown and Brownsville.

May 14, 1863 departed from Fort Brown

May 17, 1863 Molators Ranch, distance 45 miles.

(4) May 31, 1863 arrived on King's Ranch at Santa Gertrudis

June 6 departed King's Ranch for Alleyton, distance 274 miles

(5) June 29 1863 arrived at Alleyton

(6) June 30 departed Alleyton and arrived at Galveston on July 1, distance 130 miles. Philipp Arnold of Co. K deserted at Galveston on July 3, 1863.

On August 10, while the unit was at Galveston, the men of regiment, with the exception of Company D, staged a mutiny. The days had been hot, the men had not been given furloughs since their departure from San Antonio, and the rations at Galveston were inadequate. They received only beef, molasses and cornmeal. The cornmeal was sour and filled with weevils and worms, and the molasses was contaminated. Even though they might have accepted this diet in trying times, they knew that better food was stored at Harrisburg and Columbus. The men simply refused to leave their quarters for drill. Later that day they did appear at the court house square for the daily dress parade, but the officers surrounded them with cavalry and artillery and ordered them to stack arms. The arms were taken to the arsenal and the men were marched back to the quarters and placed under

guard. Luckett arrived the next day and learned that discontent extended into other units as well. He suspended drills until better food was provided and thereby ended the mutiny. (Source: Official Records - Series I Volume XXVI/1, pp. 241-248.)

(7) August 16 left Galveston and arrived at Camp Lubbock Springs (three miles from Harrisburg) on August 17, distance 50 miles.

(8) On September 9 the regiment was dispatched to Sabine Pass to respond to a major attack by Union forces that had occurred on September 8. They saw no action because a small force of Texans under Lt. Dick Dowling had beaten back the attack.

September 30, 1863 Corporal Wuensche charged for loss of three canteens. Pvt. C. Dube charged for loss of one canteen.

(9) The unit departed from Sabine Pass on the steamboat "The Sunflower" for Beaumont. From there they traveled to Houston by train even though they experienced a derailment, a locomotive explosion, a fire in the ammunition car, and a locomotive unable to pull the entire train of cars up a hill near San Jacinto. (Oscar Haas, *History of New Braunfels and Comal County, Texas, 1844-1946*).

November 25, 1863 arrived at Camp Lubbock

(10) December 2, 1863 departed Camp Lubbock and arrived at Sandy Point (17 miles NW of Angleton in Brazoria County) that same day.

(11) December 5, 1863 departed Sandy Point and arrived at Fort Velasco (mouth of Brazos River - north side - Brazoria Co.) on December 7, 1863, distance 89 miles.

(12) January 24, 1864 departed Velasco and arrived the same day at Camp Wharton.

(13) January 27 departed Camp Wharton and arrived at San Bernard the same day.

(14) January 31, 1864 departed San Bernard and arrived at Camp Slaughter (on Brazos River east of West Columbia) the same day.

February 1864 Camp Slaughter. In a report in February 1864 on the "drill, discipline and general

efficiency" of the troops in the District of Texas, Luckett's Regiment was one of the five units rated as "very good."

March 13 Luckett's regiment is directed to march to Louisiana by way of Houston.

(15) April 11 the regiment is ordered to move to Shreveport as rapidly as possible.

On April 24, 1864 the 3rd Texas Infantry, a green regiment was added to Scurry's Brigade and fought at Jenkins' Ferry. (Richard Lowe, *Walker's Texas Division C. S. A.: Greyhounds of the Trans-Mississippi*, page 214. See Installment 3, TWHs January 2006 newsletter.)

May 6, 1864 Camden, AK

December 22, 1864 camped between Shreveport and Minden, LA

April 1, 1865 departed Crockett, TX

(16) April 18, 1865 arrived at Hempstead, distance 120 miles. Bose promoted to Major.

Military Service Records

Co. K. Third Texas Volunteer Infantry (Julius Bose)

Carl August Dube (b. 9 March 1831). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24, 1862 at Camp Terry. Furloughed from June 24 to July 7. He was present at roll calls until February 1864. (d.1 May 1911 at Fedor.)

Carl Traugott Dube (b. 6 July 1839). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24, 1862 at Camp Terry. He was furloughed from June 24 until July 7 and then was present for roll calls until February 1864. He was not at the roll call on April 1865 because he was sick and on March 2 he went to Burleson County. (d. 22 May 1890 at Fedor.)

Ferdinand Jacob Moerbe (b. 6 December 1828). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24, 1862 at Camp Terry. On furlough from June 24 to July 7. Discharged on July 14, 1862 by reason of surgeon's certificate of disability at San Antonio. Family tradition holds that his disability was severely bowed legs and that he was sent to San Antonio to sew uniforms. The *Ben Nevis*

passenger list identifies his occupation as tailor. (d. 13 December 1896 at Thorndale.)

Andreas Pillak (b. 10 February 1840). Enrolled and mustered in on June 14, 1862 at Camp Terry. Consistently present for roll calls except when he deserted on January 9, 1863. Stoppage for equipment \$100. Stoppage for Ordnance stores \$0.35. Absent on leave for 26 days since April 12, 1865. He signed parole papers as prisoner of war at Columbus, TX on 18 July 1865 as the result of Kirby Smith's surrender to Gen Canby. (d. 13 August 1910 at Fedor.) Stoppage was a procedure for withholding from the bimonthly pay. Privates were paid \$11 per month until June 1864 when the pay was raised to \$18.

Johann Pillak (b. 1834). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24, 1862. On furlough from June 24 to July 7, 1862. AWOL since October 26, 1862. Present again at roll calls up to August 31, 1863. (d. 1 March 1920 at Serbin.)

Michael Urban (b. 18 June 1830). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24 at Camp Terry. On furlough from June 24 to July 7, 1862. Paid on June 30, 1862. Discharged because he was appointed mail carrier just prior to the day of enrollment. Discharged at San Antonio on August 19, 1862. (d. approximately 1866.)

Carl Wagner (b. 11 June 1828). Enrolled on June 7, 1862 by Bose and mustered in by R.T. P. Allen. Present and paid at muster rolls. Stoppage for equipment \$100. Sick at Virginia Point since August 7, 1863. Virginia Point was opposite Galveston. The hospital was a three story house built by Judge William J. Jones and was called "a black hole of tribulation." April 1865 he was absent because of sickness at Chappel Hill, Texas since March 6, 1864. (d. 26 June 1885 at Fedor.)

Andreas Traugott Wuensche (b. 20 September 1841). Enrolled on April 29 at Camp Terry by Bose and mustered on the same day by R.T. P. Allen. Stoppage \$50 bounty. Present and paid. On May 19, 1862 he was promoted to 2nd Corporal. Stoppage for ordnance stores \$0.55 and for equipment \$165. (d. 1 July 1893 at Serbin.)

Johann August Wuensche (b. 15 December 1837). Enrolled and mustered in on June 24, 1862. On furlough from June 24 to July 7, 1862. He was discharged on September 16, 1862 by order of General Hamilton P. Bee at San Antonio. (d. 15 November 1908 at Thorndale.)

INDIVIDUAL ENLISTMENTS

John Teinert (b. 14 May 1841) was probably the first Wend to enlist. On October 12, 1861 he was in San Antonio and enrolled in Edmund Creutzbauer's artillery, the 5th Regiment Texas Field Artillery Battery. He was present for the roll calls from January to June, but he fell sick in August and was discharged on September 26, 1862. The surgeon at Ringgold Barracks (Rio Grande City) identified his ailment as disease of one of the heart valves. According to the family history, Teinert did spend some time along the Rio Grande River to protect the border from an invasion by Mexicans. The unit also camped on the King Ranch and enjoyed the generous gift of beeves. (d. 8 March 1932 at Copperas Cove.)

August Groeschel (b. 22 July 1827.) 3d Battalion of Mounted Reserves. Listed in Bill Moore, *Bastrop County 1691-1900* as serving from March 1, 1865 to April 1, 1865. (d. 4 October 1905.) [Assistance from Edna Groeschel.]

Johann Carl Michalk [see photo below] (b. 15 August 1843, Sandförstgen.) Migrated in 1859 on the *Iris*.

Although he lived at Serbin among the Wends who enlisted in the Confederate forces, he decided to join the Union. No insight into his decision has been found. To get to the Union forces he traveled by way of Mexico. En route he worked for a short time for a Mexican rancher and attracted the attention of the rancher's daughter. But he rejected a marriage proposal, and slipped away at night and continued on to Vera Cruz.

From Vera Cruz, he sailed to New Orleans, which had been captured by the Union forces on April 25, 1862. At New Orleans, on May 27, 1862, he enlisted in the Union Army for a three-year term. He was assigned to the 9th Regiment Connecticut Infantry and participated with that unit at the

Battle of Baton Rouge on August 5, 1862. He was transferred from 9th Connecticut to Company A, First Regiment of the Texas Cavalry beginning November 1, 1862. The colonel of the newly organized regiment was Edmund J. Davis, later Republican governor of Texas. Michalk was present for roll calls from December 31, 1862 to April 1863. On April 15, 1863 his commanding officer cited him for an action near Camp Carrollton, LA. Michalk was herding horses when two picket guards approached with a prisoner. The prisoner struck one of the guards and broke free. Michalk ordered him to halt and when he did not, pulled his revolver and shot the prisoner in the heart. He was present for the May and July roll calls, and was promoted to Corporal on July 31, 1863.

From October 23 to December 2, his unit was sent to the Rio Grande. At Brownsville, Texas on December 4, 1863 he was promoted to Sergeant. He was absent from roll calls on January 1864, April 25, 1864, and May 1864 because he was assigned to scouting duty. In action on June 24 at Rancho Las Rinas he was captured and was taken to Camp Groce, two miles east of Hempstead. (Camp Groce also served as a prison camp from the spring of 1863 until December 1864 and held 1,105 POWs. Of that number 150 prisoners died and 74 were missing.) According to family tradition, all of Michalk's 120 men had also been captured and only eight survived. He had some money hidden in the waist band of his pants, and he used it to buy corn and sweet potatoes to share with the men.

Michalk was paroled on December 12, 1864 and was delivered to a ship off Galveston. He reported at New Orleans on December 20 and declared exchange on January 8, 1865. The unit was ordered to Vidalia, District of Natchez, Mississippi on May 23 and he was mustered out on May 26, 1865, his term of enlistment having expired. He was honorably discharged on June 3, 1865 at Natchez. His unit was ordered to Texas and he must have gone along with them because he appeared on the muster out roll at San Antonio on Oct 31, 1865. The unit was dissolved in

November. He had been paid a \$25 bounty and was due another \$75.

After his return to Serbin, he moved to Fedor in 1877 and then Thorndale in 1886. There he donated the ten acres of land for St. Paul Lutheran Church. In 1890, he applied for an Invalid Pension because he was unable to earn a support by manual labor, by reason of "hemorrhaged very bad while in prison." He was awarded a pension of \$12 per month. Family tradition says there was some local resentment for his Union service and pension. He and his family also belonged to the Republican Party. (d. May 26, 1901 at Thorndale.) [Assistance from Bill Biar and Edward H. Bernthal.]



John Carl Michalk

James Gabel of Rapid City, S.D. has provided valuable direction for all of the articles on the Wends and the Civil War.

Membership Report

George Boerger, Membership Chairperson

We ended 2005 with 917 members. This year's goal is 950. As of April 9, we have 808 members in 2006, including 81 first-time members toward

the goal of 100. We also have 17 former members who have rejoined.

We did not add a new state or country this quarter, but four of our first time members are from outside of Texas and another is from Canada.

We had two members in the New Orleans area and both have renewed. One is now in Alabama and the other in Tennessee. In fact, all 11 of our Louisiana members have renewed for 2006.

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

A final renewal notice has been mailed to anyone who has not renewed. If you have not renewed, this will be your final newsletter. So please renew. We don't want to lose you!

Patron Members (\$30)

Charlotte Collins Fritsche	Houston
Vera Deterling	Houston
Helga Doctor	Truckee, CA
Gunther Dube	Braunschweig, Germany
Paul Dube	Huntington Woods, MI
Carol Grote Flores	Edinburg
Ann Wukasch Gamel	Austin
Shantelle Grace	Dublin, GA
Charles H. Greschel	Roseville, CA
Milton Kaiser	Houston
Esther Hobrathsch Kempe	Frisco
Teri Kramer	Fort Worth
Arnold Kriegel	Austin
Marguerite Loftin	Bozier City, LA
Kathy Lee Miller	Ellinger
Charles Moerbe	Dripping Springs
Linda Rives	Austin
Barbara Schneider	Nashville, TN
Sara Foerster Sick	Houma, LA
Don C. Wukasch, M.D.	Houston
Richard Wukasch (Rev.)	Grimsby, Ontario, Canada
Sylvia Wukasch	Grimsby, Ontario, Canada
Walter Charles Wukasch II	Austin
Doris Malke Zabel	St. Louis, MO
Eunice Malke Zimmerman	Glendale, MO

Sponsor Members (\$50)

Suzanne Pfluger Buck	San Antonio
Carroll J. Dorsett	Adkins
Ruth Teleki	Houston
Edith Moerbe Walters	Mill Valley, CA
Ray Zoch	Irving

Century Members (\$100)

Robert L. Creech	Ithaca, NY
Karen Koepke	Houston
Janet Richter Schorlemmer	Eagle Lake

Student Members (\$7.50)

Jordan Boessling	Houston
Greg Boothe	La Grange
Guillermo Ehler Flores	Linn
Ketrin Jones	Abilene
Allison Hart Karisch	Austin
Constance Dale Karisch	Spring
Mason Mathias	Austin
Krista Noack	Spring
Crystal Schautschick	Ruidoso, NM
Deana Venema	Austin
Melodie Weber	Austin

First Time Members

Helen Blaschke	McDade
Jordan Boessling	Houston
Charlotte Fritsche Collins	Houston
Robert L. Creech	Ithaca, NY
Mable Davee	Weatherford
Wayne Davee	Weatherford
Faye Ehler	Muldoon
Kimberly Carleston Glattstein	Duxbury, MA
Henry Grice	Elgin
Mary Kiesling	Kenedy
John Krpec	The Woodlands
Carolyn Krpec	The Woodlands
Mason Mathias	Austin
Marvin A. Mertink	Hillsboro
Pauline Miertschin	Katy
Marie Hooper Nelson	Ore City
Alice B. Schkade Remmele	Paridise
David Schkade (Dr)	San Diego, CA
Penelope Boyd Taylor	Gilmer
Debra Wuensche	Edmond, OK
Sylvia Wukasch	Grimsby, Ontario, Canada
Kevin Ziehr	Fort Worth

Financial Report: 2005 Actual and Projected 2006**George Boerger**

Financially, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society ran a deficit of \$2,744 in 2005. The reason for the deficit was Hurricane Rita. Wendish Fest was the day after Rita came ashore and it was only through the valiant effort of our volunteers that the Wendish Fest occurred at all. However, attendance was down significantly, which was felt financially.

We did have favorability in the following areas:

- More tours than budgeted
- Higher interest/investment income than expected.
- Higher membership than budgeted.
- Favorability of expenses due to donations.

Year 2005 was an incredible year of donations. Thrivent's gift allowed us to make badly needed improvements to our septic system. The Sanford Schmid grant allowed us to buy a new computer, and current and future donations for landscaping and repair work are going to result in much needed property maintenance in 2006. We are also grateful for the Giddings Hotel/Motel tax money that allows us to advertise the Wendish Fest.

The endowment fund increased by \$16,233 in 2005, with \$6,389 coming from memberships in excess of \$15.00 and \$9,955 from gifts and memorials. The endowment fund balance is \$163,174.

The 2006 approved budget projects a balanced budget. Revenue will decrease by \$1,363 and cost of sales will decrease by \$8,823. Cost of sales were unusually high in 2005 (partially due to building inventory), and should be more in line in 2006. Expenses will increase \$4,934 in various categories with no category increasing by more than \$833.

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

Let's Learn Wendish

(Phonetic spellings for the Wendish translations, courtesy of Dr. Charles Wukasch, are indicated in parenthesis. In Wendish, stress is always on the first syllable of a word, indicated here by capital letters.)

- The egg claims to be smarter than the hen.
Das Ei will kluger sein als die Henne.

[German]

Jejo chce mudrise być dyžli kokoš.

(YEHyo TSEH MOO-dree-sheh BEECH
DEEZHlee KOkosh.) [Upper Sorbian]

Jajo jo mudrjejše ako kura.

(YAHyo YO MOO-drey-sheh AHko
KOOrah.) [Lower Sorbian]

Source: *Sorbian Proverbs*, S. Hose and W. Mieder

- Happy Easter!

Wjesole Jutry! (Upper Sorbian)
(WYEHsoweh YOOTree!)

Wjasole Jutry! (Lower Sorbian)
(WYAHsoweh YOOTree!)

46th Annual Michael Schoppa Family Reunion

June 16-18, 2006 (Father's Day Weekend)

Camp Graham Ball at Lake Kickapoo

(Approximately 31 miles south & 5 miles west of
Electra, Texas off Highway 25)

Facilities include RV hookups, cabins with air
conditioning and bunk beds, or bring your tent

The fun begins Friday, June 16 at 4:00 p.m. when
the camp opens, and ends Sunday, June 18 at 4:00
p.m. when the camp closes.

Facilities include RV hookups, cabins with air
conditioning and bunk beds, or bring your tent.

Activities include lots of eating, fellowship, bingo,
swimming, fishing, Silent Auction (bring nice,
new items for bidding), and more.

For more information contact Dennis or Lisa
(Schoppa) Full at (979) 562-8491 or
fullhouse5@sbcglobal.net

55th Annual Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion

Sunday, June 11, 2006

11:00 a.m.

American Legion Hall

Highway 77, Giddings, Texas

Barbecue lunch will be followed by a program and
Silent Auction

Moonwalk for the kids

For more information contact Ron Lammert
210-695-5421

Remember: Dube is "Oak Tree" in Wendish

In Search of...

Robert Creech is seeking information about his
grandmother, Selma Martha Hanusch, born
December 10, 1885 possibly in Warda, Texas.
She was confirmed in 1899 at Holy Cross
Lutheran Church in Warda. If you have
information to share, please contact Robert by
surface mail at 3309 Krum's Cross Road, Ithaca,
NY 14850, or by email at bjc3309@aol.com.

Kathryn Bullen is seeking information about her
great grandparents Martin Schurgott and Maria
Kschinka Schurgott. Martin and Maria and one
child migrated to South Australia in 1877 on the
Peter Godeffroy from Kolkwitz. They lived at
Peters Hill, S. Australia, where there was a
Wendish community, for at least 12 years and
where 6 more children were born. They
eventually settled south of Adelaide. Apparently
there was another Kschenka family already
residing at Peters Hill, having arrived in 1858.
Kathryn would like to make contact with anyone
who has information related to any Schurgott
family or has done research on the family name.
Alternate spellings include Shurgott, Schurgot,
and Shurgot. If you have information to share,
please contact Kathryn by surface mail at 5
Bellevue Place, Unley Park, South Australia 5061
or by email at bullendk@senet.com.au.

Minutes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society General Membership Meeting, February 19, 2006

The quarterly membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:05 P.M. in the Kilian Building on Sunday, February 19, 2006, by Doug Symmank, Vice President, in the absence of President Steve Hooper.

Doug Symmank offered a prayer to begin the meeting and welcomed the 18 members present.

The minutes from the November 20, 2005 meeting were approved as published in the October 2005 newsletter.

The Membership report was given by George Boerger. Membership totals remained as published in the October 2005 newsletter.

The financial report was given by George Boerger.

Raymond Arldt reported on the building and grounds noting the following needs: chinking of the log cabin, changing of the roof line to cover handicap ramp, replace bad skirting and facelift on all buildings including a coat of paint.

J. B. Gersch, Jr. reported on the effort to charter a bus for folks to attend Folklife Festival in San Antonio on June 10th.

A grant application was denied by the Texas Historical Commission. The application sent to the LCRA is still pending.

Hattie Schautschick reported that the volunteers have made about 600 lbs. of noodles so far this year. Margo Latimer reported that Peterson's Grocery in Lexington will begin to stock the Wendish noodles.

There are several tours scheduled in March including one for the Lutherhostel participants staying at Camp Lone Star in La Grange March 13-17.

Revenue from the Walk-In coffee held in Giddings on February 14th was \$1040.

The Schleife Group from Germany has been extended an invitation to perform at the Wendish Fest this year. To date, no response has been recieved.

Much work has been done by volunteers on the relocation of the handicap ramp into the Kilian Building. In an effort to enhance the landscaping in the courtyard and provide walkways through the quadrants, some plants, lilies, and bulbs have been dug up and transplanted. Weed barrier has been placed on the walkways to be topped with mulch. To highlight the various plants and trees in the gardens, labels or signs will identify them, a fountain and bench will be added. In addition, a drip system will be installed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 P.M.

George Boerger gave a presentation on the former and present Sorbian schools in Germany, and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Buchhorn, Secretary

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| May 14 | Mother's Day - Museum closed |
| May 19-20 | Lee County Fair and Rodeo and State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off |
| May 21 | General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m. - Museum Complex |
| May 28 | Serbin Homecoming Picnic - St. Paul Lutheran Church Picnic Grounds, Serbin |
| May 29 | Memorial Day - Museum closed |
| June 8-11 | Folklife Festival - Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio, Texas |
| June 10 | TWHS bus tour to the Folklife Festival, departing from the museum at 8:00 a.m. |
| June 18 | Father's Day - Museum closed |
| June 18 | Winchester Picnic - St. Michael's Park, Winchester, Texas |
| July 4 | Fourth of July - Museum closed |

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Invite you to join them in attending

THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

San Antonio, Texas

June 10, 2006

- 8:00 a.m. Depart from TWHS Museum complex, Serbin
- 10:30 a.m. Arrive at the Antique Rose Emporium Gardens, San Antonio
- 10:45 a.m. Arrive at the SAS Factory Outlet Store, San Antonio
- 12:00 p.m. Depart SAS Factory Store for pick-up at Antique Rose Emporium and on to Folklife Festival grounds
- 7:00 p.m. Depart Texas Folklife Festival for Serbin
- 9:30 p.m. Arrive at TWHS Museum complex, Serbin

Price: \$32 per person (includes admission to Festival grounds, NO meals).

Call the Texas Wendish Heritage 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 Society, 1011 CR 212, Giddings, TX 78942

First come, first served!

Reservation deadline: May 20, 2006

Number of reservations _____ @ \$32 per person

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Telephone number:

Total enclosed \$ _____

Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Executive Director.....Barbara Hielscher
Officers.....Steve Hooper, President
Doug Symmank, Vice President
Evelyn Buchhorn, Secretary
Laverne Gersch, 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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GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-5940

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The Protestant Sorbs (Wends) (Part 1 of 2)

The Sorbs (Wends) are the smallest Slavonic nation. They are descendants of the Slavonic tribes who around 600 AD, during the migration of peoples, settled in the territory between the Rivers Oder/Neiße and Elbe/Saale, and between the Baltic Sea and the East German secondary mountain chains. These tribes were not able to establish state structures of their own. Their territories became part of the Roman Empire during the High Middle Ages. For hundreds of years the Sorbs have lived under German statehood. There is no "Mother State" beyond the German borders.

Sorbian territory has been shrinking for about 1,000 years. As the Industrial Age began, the remainder of the Sorbian territory in Lusatia began to break up. The growing domination of the German language and culture in all spheres of life, often aided by the suppression of all Sorbian activities in the church, schools, and in public life led to the loss of the language and the culture of the Sorbs. They became a minority in their own country. Only a small area populated by Catholic Sorbs has managed to survive as a result of being a kind of "religious island" and because of its extended agricultural structure. Here, the Sorbian language and culture have been preserved into the 21st Century. At the end of the 19th Century there were approximately 160,000 Sorbs. Today they number about 30,000.

The terms "Wends" or "Sorbs" are, generally speaking, interchangeable. For centuries the term "Wends" was widely used. The term "Sorbs" is derived from the Sorbian word "Serbja" and became the official term after World War II. In Lower Lusatia the term "Lower Sorbs/Wends" is preferred.

The Lower Sorbian and Upper Sorbian languages are of Slavonic origin and in them quite a number of Old Slavonic characteristics are found. In Lower Lusatia, in the southern parts of Brandenburg, the people speak Lower Sorbian, which is quite closely related to Polish. In Saxony, in Upper Lusatia, the people speak Upper Sorbian, a language quite similar to Czech. There are some regional dialects along the border line in the Hoyerswerda and Weißwasser areas.

With the Reformation the Sorbian people became Protestant, though some communities near Kamenz and Bautzen remained Catholic. The mother-tongue principle of Luther led to the development of the Lower Sorbian and Upper Sorbian literary languages. As early as 1548 Luther's version of the New Testament was translated into Lower Sorbian, but remained in manuscript. It was followed by Luther's catechism, which was printed first in Lower Lusatian in 1574 and later in 1595 in Upper Sorbian. By educating and training priests as well as teachers, the Sorbian people for the first time acquired an intellectual leadership.

The Church history of the Protestant Sorbs was influenced by two essential and inter-regional movements: (1) in the mid-18th Century by the development of the "Brüdergemeine" ("Moravian Brethren") of Baron Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf at Herrnhut and (2) in the mid-19th Century by the separatist movement of Old Lutherans in Prussia. Today's "Brüdergemeine" at Kleinwelka, founded in 1751 as a Sorbian colony, and certain parishes in Upper and Lower Lusatia belonging to the independent Protestant-Lutheran church are evidence of this process. They left the united state church as independent Lutheran parishes in the 1840s.

Emigration affected the Protestant Sorbs from the 1850s till the end of the 19th Century. The U.S. and Australia were the main countries of interest, followed by Canada, South Africa, and South America. The largest group of emigrants was that which in 1855 founded the town of Serbin in Texas. Here, the settlers most clearly showed their intention to preserve Protestant Sorbian traditions. Here and in Australia, you can still find societies and parishes today that keep alive the cultural and religious heritage of their ancestors.

The cultural development of the Sorbian people was, until the end of the 19th Century, mainly in the hands of the Protestant educated class. The birth of Sorbian middle-class culture was more or less the fruit of their work. The achievements of the Sorbian people in the arts, in culture, and in the sciences can scarcely be paralleled among other nations of comparable size. Owing to the intensified assimilation process among the Protestant Sorbs, the intellectual leadership of the Sorbian people was taken over in the 20th Century by the Catholics.

The Bible and hymn-books have existed in both Sorbian languages since the 18th Century. The New Testament was first published in Lower Sorbian in 1709, the Old Testament in 1796, and the complete Bible in 1824 and 1868. The first Lower Sorbian hymn-book appeared in 1574, the latest in 1915. An Upper Sorbian version of the New Testament came out in 1706, followed by the whole Bible in 1728. The latest of its eleven editions appeared in 1905. The Upper Sorbian hymn-book of 1710 appeared in its most recent edition in 1955. At present, new editions of hymn-books in both languages are being prepared. Since 1854, there has also been an Upper Sorbian edition of the Lutheran confessions.

"Pomhaj Bóh" and "Pomagaj Bog" are journals published for the Sorbian Protestants and named after the Protestant greeting (in German: "Gott helfe dir"; English equivalent: "God speed"). Founded in 1891, the Upper Sorbian "Pomhaj Bóh" is an independent monthly, whereas "Pomagaj Bog," first published in 1988, is a part of the Lower Sorbian weekly newspaper.

The national costumes of the Sorbian people are of an astonishing variety and beauty. They are still worn today in the regions of Hoyerswerda, Weißwasser (Central Lusatia) and Cottbus (Lower Lusatia) by women of the older generation. The younger generation wear them for special occasions and festivals. More and more, "Costume Societies" have been founded in recent years.

Sorbian customs are widely followed in all regions of Lusatia. Among them are the winter and spring customs "Birds' Wedding", the "Wendish Carnival", "Witch Burning", "Felling the May Pole", and "Mid-Summer Day's Riding". Around harvest-time there are "Plucking the Cock", "Beating the Cock", "Stubble Riding", and "Moving the Frog on a Wheelbarrow." Important church festivals are sometimes combined with special customs. At Christmas, there is the Žišetko (Child of God) and at Easter there are Easter Fires, girls fetch "Easter water," eggs are decorated and Easter hymns are sung in the night. Often you can also see the colourful national costumes.

Trudla Malinkowa
Translated by Martin Strauch