



TWHS News

Newsletter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Volume XXI, Number 1

January 2008

Džakuju so! / Danke! / Thank You!

Much-needed financial assistance was provided to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum during 2007

- ❖ A grant in the amount of \$1500 in matching funds from the *Colorado-Fayette County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* through their Care in Regions Program was awarded to the TWHS last November. Through the program, Thrivent 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 will be used to help



cover the expense of reroofing the covered walkways at the museum complex, which is just a small part of the maintenance and improvements that are planned for the museum buildings during 2008. To all of our members and friends who helped by donating time or money, thanks go to you also because without your support this grant would not have been possible for us. The check was presented to TWHS (see photo above) by Jeanette Huelsebusch (right), 2007 President of Thrivent's Colorado-Fayette County Chapter. Accepting the check was TWHS Grants Chair Eunice Dunk (left) and 2007 TWHS President Steve Hooper (center).

- ❖ A \$1000 gift from *Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative, Inc.* was given to the TWHS in December to be used toward the purchase and/or preservation of historical items. Thank you Bluebonnet Electric!
- ❖ And last but certainly not least, a number of *individuals and businesses around Lee County* donated funds to support the 19th Annual Wendish Fest last September. Wendish Fest is our largest and most ambitious fundraiser each year, and having sponsor support is very important to the financial success of the event. A complete list of Wendish Fest sponsors will be included in the April 2008 edition of this newsletter.

**Strowe Nowe Lěto!
(Happy New Year!)**

President's Message

I just came from my first meeting of the TWHS Board of Directors, and I am even more excited about and a bit more intimidated by stepping into the role of President. It is also even easier now for me to understand why Steve Hooper used his last President's Message in 2007 to thank all the people who put so much of their time and effort into making the Society what it is today. Rest assured, with this group of people as Directors, you and TWHS are in good hands.

The meeting raised again for me the question of why people put so much energy into "preserving the past". Why are so many (over 900) TWHS members willing to invest membership dues in what might be regarded as "dead history"? Well, for us our history is not "dead". In the school where my wife Vivian taught in California was a poster that read, "Give our children roots and wings". That's the significance of our Wendish history – it represents our roots. It is "from whence we came". We are not like tumbleweeds that suddenly blow into view. We stand on the shoulders of men and women whom we know, whose courage we honor, and for whose sacrifices we thank God.

TWHS is the instrument for preserving that Wendish history and for making it more available to us all. Local businesses have graciously supported us in pursuing these goals. As you will see on the front page of this newsletter (in addition to a neat new logo – thanks, Jan), Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative gave us sizeable grants last year. "Red" Arldt and Eunice Dunk found local sponsors for the Wendish Fest who donated a total of \$1,750. For our part, the Board will be working hard also to fulfill those goals by creating and sustaining events and programs, by managing and growing the Museum, and by maintaining and improving our facilities. Your part consists of participation and support. Know and use the resources of the Museum. Tell us what you expect from the Society. Be aware of and attend TWHS-sponsored events and programs. Support TWHS through your prayers, through volunteering some of your time and energy when possible, and through your financial gifts to create an even stronger program.

Learn more about our roots, our Wendish heritage – and pass it on.

Chuck Dube

Upcoming Events/Important Dates

February 6	Ash Wednesday
February 12	Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, Giddings, Texas
February 17	General Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
March 1	Texas German Society Convention, Bellville, TX
March 9	Daylight savings time begins
March 16	Palm Sunday, Museum closed
March 21	Good Friday, Museum closed
March 22	Museum closed
March 23	Happy Easter! Museum closed

Quarterly Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 17, 2008, 2:00 PM

"Everything you have ever wanted to know about the TWHS Museum but were afraid to ask" is the program topic for the first TWHS membership meeting of 2008. The regular business meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building. Following the business meeting, we will move to the Peter Building where members of the Board of Directors will provide information and answer questions about the library, vault, gift shop, work room, and a number of the displays.

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

In Memoriam

Robert Berry of Lubbock, Texas, member since 2004, passed away January 30, 2007.

Carolyn Anne Walters of Lufkin, Texas, member since 1999, passed away November 3, 2007.

Norma Jean Hohle of Liberty Hill, Texas, member since 1990, passed away November 13, 2007.

Richard Weaver of Saltsburg, PA and Warda, Texas, member since 1993, passed away December 17, 2007.

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Mattie N. Kleiber:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts
Barbara Hielscher

In memory of Mrs. Louise P. Lehmann:

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Watts
Barbara Hielscher

In memory of Henry Schatte:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch for Landscape Fund

In memory of Richard Weaver:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch for Landscape Fund

In memory of Danny L. Walther:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch for Landscape Fund

In memory of Alma Mitschke:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch for Landscape Fund

In memory of Joyce Carleston:

Kimberly Glattstein

In memory of Norma Hohle:

Margo Latimer
Rev. Elmer M. Hohle

Christmas gift in honor of Jan and Charles Slack

Eric and Christy Murray for Building Fund

Gift for purchase/preservation of historical items:

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative

Museum Activities and Committee Reports

Visitors

During the months of October, November, and December 2007 the museum hosted visitors from Arizona, Tennessee, Michigan, Alaska, New York, Nebraska, Ohio, Germany, Czech Republic, and the United Kingdom.

Thank You Museum Docents!

During the months of October, November, and December 2007, the following served as docents at the museum: Carolyn Bohot, Monroe Miertschin, Ruby Koslan, Evelyn Kasper, Freddie Zoch, J.B. Gersch, Jr., George Boerger, Sandra Matthijetz, Chuck and Vivian Dube, Jan Slack, Steve Hooper, and Rev. Robert and Georgie Boyce.

Noodle Committee Report

Hattie Schautsick, Chair

The year 2007 was a busy one for our noodle committee and volunteers. A total of 5,385 pounds of noodles was made, bagged and sold during 2007. That amount is an increase of 949 pounds over 2006, and the noodle-making continues! Thus far for 2008, we have made 299 pounds, so the New Year is off to a running start.

Tours

Evelyn Kasper, Chair

Three tours are currently scheduled for January and February. The spring season is just around the corner, and we anticipate that it will be a busy tour season.

Upcoming Events

Walk-In Coffee, February 12, 2008

The annual Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale to benefit the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum will be held on Tuesday, February 12, from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 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 want to help or donate baked goods, or if you have any questions. And if you are in the area, please

plan to stop in for a snack or the noon meal and support our Museum.

2008 Folklife Festival Bus Trip

We are working with the Round Top Roadrunners to plan a trip to the 2008 Folklife Festival. Dates for this year's event, held on the grounds of UT's Institute of Texan Cultures, are June 13-15. The bus trip will be Saturday, June 14, departing from the museum at 8:00 a.m. with a stop at the SAS Shoe Factory Outlet for a bit of shopping on the way to San Antonio. Estimated cost will be \$45 per person, which includes admission to the festival grounds (no meals included).

Additional information and a registration form are included as an insert in this newsletter, so mark your calendars!

Minutes of the November 18, 2007 General Membership Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:10 PM in the Kilian Building on Sunday, November 18, 2007, by Steve Hooper, President. Thirty-two members and one guest were present.

The minutes of the August 19, 2007 meeting were approved as presented in the November newsletter.

Elections for 2008-09 TWHS officers was held. Those elected were:

President - Chuck Dube

Vice President - Eunice Dunk

Secretary - J. B. Gersch, Jr.

Treasurer – Evelyn Buchhorn

Note: Ballots were destroyed.

Membership Report: George Boerger stated that we currently have 964 members including 115 first time members; six years ago we had 395 and our goal for 2008 is 1000. He urged everyone to renew and consider giving gift memberships to their family and friends.

Library: Vivian Dube reported that all donations for 2007 have been entered into the computer and progress is being made on 2006 donations.

Noodle Committee: Hattie Schautschick reported that noodles will be made next week and once in December and hope to have around

5000 pounds for this year.

Tours with meals: Evelyn Kasper reported that volunteers hosted a group on Nov. 6th and one more is scheduled for Nov. 29th.

Tours with no meals: Barbara Hielscher said one is scheduled in January 2008.

J. B. Gersch Jr. reported that the bus trip to the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio will be on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Wendish Fest: Red Arldt and Eunice Dunk are hoping to get a group from Germany to perform.

Landscape: Doug Symmank thanked the volunteers that erected the second arbor and weeded plant beds the week before Wendish Fest.

Executive Director's report: Barbara Hielscher reported that renewals for memberships are coming in daily.

Grants: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' Care in Regions program awarded TWHS \$1500 in matching funds.

Outgoing President Steve Hooper thanked everyone for their support during his term.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Buchhorn, Secretary

Wendish Immigration after 1854

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Not much has been said about the Wends who came after the *Ben Nevis*, yet they were important because they infused the Serbin community with Wendish speakers, they helped the earlier settlers clear the land and create their farms, and they provided the core of settlers as the Wends expanded to communities on Serbin's periphery. This project, first mentioned in the January 2007 issue, produced a preliminary immigration list that was published in the August 2007 issue. Additions and corrections were made, which resulted in the list that is included in this issue.

This list may be the final list, but it is not the final word. Be aware that some persons on the list may not be Wends, and most likely there are Wends who are not on the list. Other corrections also will be necessary. But at least it is a start and I am most grateful for all the assistance that was given me.

One immediate result, however, is the correction of a long-held misconception which maintained that the number of Wends who migrated after 1854 was small. The Civil War suppressed migration for a time, but more than 924 Wends migrated after 1854. The list also shows that the migration continued after the *Ben Nevis* for fifty years.

(date of birth); [additional information]; *italics* = name of ship

{ } = verified as Wends and documented by a family member

1855 Andreas Malke (1801), Anna [Pech] (1795), Johann (1830), Agnes (1832). (4)

1856 Andreas Kappler (1832), Agnes [Groeschel] (1839); Johann Kasper (1794), Maria [Breda] (1796), John (1837); August Malke (1834); Christian Mathias (1790), Andreas (1831). (8)

1857 Christoph Mitschke (1846); Johann Mitschke (1841). (2)

1858 John Groeschel (1829); {Johann Sim-mang (1796), Magdalena [Prochno Mickan] (1808), Hanna Mickan (1842), Johann Mickan (1845), Peter Mickan (1849)}. (6)

1859 Peter Gersch (*Adolphine*) (1827), Christine [Winkler] (1833); {Johann Gross (*Iris*) (1800), Hertha [Lowke], (1800), Anna (), Agnes (1840)}; John Jeremias (1826); Andreas Kiesling (1827), Hanna [Pietsch] (1835), Maria (1853), Johann (1855), Helena (1858); {Andreas Lehmann (*Iris*), (1807), Anna [Mehle] (1811), Johann (1838), Andreas Edward (1841), August (1843), Ernst (1845), Carl (1848), Maria (1854)}; {John Lehman (*Iris*) (1806), Johanna [] (1804), Magdalena (1837), Ernst (1845)}; {Carl Michalk (*Iris*) (1843)}; Adam Ritter [*Iris*] (1795), Magdalena (1829), Christiana Rachel (1841), Adam (1850); Andreas Symmank (*Iris*) (1808), Maria [Ritter] (1817), Samuel (1848), Anna (1849), Magdalena (1850), Christian (1857), Mary (1858); August Winkler (*Adolphine*) (1805), Maria [Hoebel] (1806), William August (1839), Johann Ernst (1841), Karl August (1844), Hanna Maria (1846). (42)

1860 Johann Deo (1820), Joseph (), Marie (1853); Andreas Falke (1819), Anna [Gruhl] (1822), Maria (1847), Johann (1851), Andreas (1853); Carl Roitsch (), Maria [Krause] (1823), August (1855), Ernestina (1858), Christiane (1833), Hanna (1832). (14)

1861 (Prior to 1862): George Symny (1804), Agnes [Ponich] (1803), Johann (1830), Maria (1842), Magdalena (1844). (5)

1862

1863 George Merting (1830), Maria [Schulze] (1836). (2)

1864

1865

1866 Johann Drosche (*Iris*) (1821), Christiane [Ketzler] (1823), Ernst (1844), August (1847), Johann Traugott (1852), Carl Hermann (1855); Carl Felfe (*Weser*) (1847), Rakele (1848), Julius (1866); John Hoppenz (1820), Christiane [Roitsch] (1833), Carl (1859), Ernst (1862), John (1866). (14)

1867 George Fabian (1851), Maria [Zindler] (1851); Christiana Schneider [Richter] [widow] (1815), Hanna (), Christiana (1856), Maria ();

1867 (continued)

Traugott Zindler (*Carl*) (1825), Johanne (Simbank) (1824), Maria (1851), August (1855), Gottlieb (1859); Matthias Zoch (*Carl*) (1841), Marie [Schneider] (1843), Traugott (1849), George (1853), Traugott (1863); Johann Gottlob Zschiesche (1826), Maria [Nowotnik] (1822), Maria (1858), Hanna (). (20)

1868 Johann Ernst Berger (1868): George Boback (*Texas*) (1825), Magdalena [Stephan] (1828), Johann (1858), Andreas (1864); Andreas Buettner (*Texas*) (1834), Magdalena (1838), Anna (1855), Johann (1864), Ernst (1867), Amelia [] (1798); Charles Drosche (1868); Johann August Foerster (*Texas*) (1824), Carolina [Freund] (1830), Amelia Maria (1854) Johann (1856), Anna (1858), Ernst (1861), Amelia (1864); Johann Franke (*Texas*) (1827), Emilie [Ebert] (1823), Anna (1864), August (1865); Andreas Noack (*Texas*) (1835), Anna [Richter] (1840), August (1857), John Paul (1861), Ernst (1867); Johan Noack (1864); Heinrich Klipps (*Texas*) (1834); Maria Schlemmer [*Texas*] (1851); {Michael Schoppa (*Texas*) (1833), Maria [Zoch] (1840), Johanne (1860), Marie (1861), Christian (1864), Magdalena (1866), Christiane (1868)}; Andreas Schubert (1830), Maria [Wuensche] (1828), Anna (1854), Johann (1858), August (1860), Maria (1862), Ernst (1865) (died on voyage), Magdalena (1867); Carl Gustave Symank (1844); Carl Vogel (*Texas*) (1822), Maria [] (1820), Hanna (1851), Johann Nowak (1841) (step-son); {Christoph Wojte (*Texas*) (1821), Hanna [Rensch] (1835), Hanna (1848), Gottlieb (1851), Ernst (1854), Johann (1858)}; {Michael Zoch (*Texas*) (1855)}. (57)

1869 Johann Carl Bernstein (*Galveston*) (1827), Magdalena [Jeremias] (1832), August (1856), Ernst (1861), Clara (1863), Paul (1868); {August Biehle (*Galveston*) (1836), Christiana [Regmann] (1841), Maria (1864), August (1867)}; Matthes Bjeron (*Iris*) (1830), Maria [Schellnick], (1830), John (1855), Hanna (1858), Christoph (1862); Maria Dallwitz (*Galveston*) (1843); Johan Deo (*Galveston*) (1819), Maria [Hillsberg] (1822), Hanna Christiane (1844), Maria (1850), Johann (1856), Christiana (1858), Agnes (1865);

Matthes Doman (1840), Maria [Grosa/Jakob] (1841), Christian (1865), Johanna (1867); Mattheus Domaschke (1829), Christiane [Pulpe] (1833), Johann (1855), Mattheus (1858), Maria (1860), Anna (1863), Christoph (1869), William (); {John Groeschel (1827), Christiane (1827), Johann (1859), Charley (1860)}; {Christian Grosa/Jacob (1849)}; August Kalbas (1852); Peter Kieschnick (1847); George Kraskosky (1831), Amalia [Freund] (1834), Maria (1859), Anna (), Maria Amalie (1865); Christopher Kubitz (1845); Andreas Kunze (*Galveston*) (1819), Hanna [Dube] (1828), Johann (1848), Johanna (1855), Ernst (1857), Anna Magdalena (1866); Peter Medack [*Weser*] (1833), Magdalena [Drilling] (1829), John (1858), Andreas (1860), August (1863), Anna (1867) John (1868), Maria Medack (1838); Ernest Noack [*Weser*] (1832), Johanna [] (1832), Marie (1857), Maria (1857) [*sic*], Christiane (1860), Magdalena (1862), Johann (1864), Ernst (1868); John Noack (*Galveston*) (1819), Anna [Wacker] (1824), Andreas (1857), Maria (1859), Hanna (1861), Johann (1864), Helene (1870); Matthes Paulo (1817), Maria, [Sarodnik] (1827), Hanna (1849), Maria (1854), Magdalena (1857), Matthes (1864); Johann Richter [*Galveston*] (1837), Magdalena [Hempel] (1837), August (1862), Andreas (1864), Maria (1866), Anna (1869); John Schatuschick (1827), Maria [*Schubert*] (1839), Johann (1859), Hanna (1863), Maria (1866); George Schiwart (*Erna*) (1823), Johanne [Domaschk] (1827), Rosina (1851), Johann (1853), Carl (1856), Maria (1859), Andreas (1861), Auguste (1863), (Johanne (1866), Magdalena (1868); John Schiewart (*Erna*) (1821), Maria (1859), Anna (1869); {John Schmidt/Kowar (1801), George (1843), Anna (1848)}; {Andreas Schneider (1782) (*Weist*), Anna (1792), Andreas Schneider (1825), Maria [Schneider] (1835), Johann (1857), Theresia (1860), Ernst (1862), Gustav (1864), Helena (1866), Bertha (1870)}; August Schneider (*Galveston*) (1849), Maria [Nowotnik] (1849); Ernst Schulze (*Galveston*) (1828), Paulina [] (1840), Anna (1863), Maria (1867); Carl August Stephan (1830), Hanna [Roitsch] (1832), Johann (1862) Andreas (1865); John Wukasch (*Weser*) (1809), Agnes [Wieder] (1810), Johann (1842), Christiane (1845), Johanna (1849);

1869 (continued)

Michael Zimmerman (*Galveston*) (1827), Theresia (Wagner) (1827), Maria (1850) Magdalena (1854), Christiane (1865), Johann (1863); {Johann Zoch (*Frankfort*) (1814), Anna [Schneider] (1818), Anna (1851), Gottlieb (1859); Johann Zoch (*Frankfort*) or (*Burghammer*) (1843), Johanna [Kowal] (1842), Traugott (1868); Christian Zoch (1846), Magdalena [Jacob] (1846)}; August Zschech (1843), Wilhelmina [] (); William Zschesche (1856), Herman (186). (154)

1870 Andreas Bibass (1853); Matthes Jank (*Erna*) (1802), Maria [] (1805), Magdalena (1846), Christina (1840), Johann August (1869); Karl Keiling (*Frankfort*) (1827), Theresia [Zieschang] (1835), Anna (1861); Hanna [] Paulick (1827), Johann (1850); Johann Ernst Poldrack (*Frankfort*) (1843); {Andreas Proske (1830) Hanna [Kasper] (1830), Johann (1857)}; Johann Protze (1826) (*Frankfort*), Gertraude [Zieschang] (1841), Anna Augusta (1861); John Schiwart (*Erna*) (1821), Anna [Wukasch] (1822), Anna (1869); Andreas Suchy (*Galveston*) (1825), Anna [Baer], (1826), Maria (1857), Agnes (1859), Anna (1863), Magdalena (1868); Peter Zieschang (*Frankfort*) (1827), Magdalena [Rentsch](1824), Johann (1858), Carl (1861), August (1830), Magdalena [] (1835), Hermann (1864), Johann (1822), Marie (1820), Agnes (1853); {John Zschech (*Frankfort*) (1836) Anna [Lehmann] (1835), Johann (1860), Marie (1863) Johann Ernst (1863), Anna (1865)} (43)

1871 Anna Greilich [widow] (), Maria (1868); {Heinrich Hentschel (1834), Magdalena [Krakowsky] (1843), Anna Christina (1860), Pauline (1865), Anna Emilie (1866), August (1869)}; Peter Noack [*Meteor*] (1836), Johanne Christinae [Mitzscherling] (1840), Johann Gustav (1867), Heinrich Paul (1869), Hanna Marie (1868); Carl Heinrich Schkade (1850), August Friedrich (1854). (15)

1872 Traugott Drojgk (1839), Anna [Budschick], (1938), Christian (1863): Johann Greutzner (1829), Magdalena [Proft], (), August (1861); Emil Litke (1866); Johann Moerbe (1855); George Najorka (1838), Maria [Kubitz] (); Andreas Noack (1817); Gottlieb Roensch (1850); Michael Schulze (1845),

Magdalena [] (1844); Peter Urban (1833), Henriette [Schiller] (1828), Hermann (1856), Otto (1859). (18)

1873 Fr. Herman Beisert (1832), Maria [Nakonz] (1847), August (1869), Anna (1873), Herman (father) (1800); {Johann Berk (1833), Maria [Buhl] (1834) Andreas (1856) Johanna (1859), Maria (1867), August (1870)}; Gottfried Domschula (1850), Anna (1840); Andreas Handrick (1822), Anna [Noack] (1826), Maria (1856), John (1862), Andreas (1864); Johann Jank (1832), Maria [Schneider] (1837), Johann (1863), Traugott (1868); John Krautschick (1825), Agnes [Hattas] (1830), Anna (1861), Johanna (1864), Christiana (1866); Traugott Patschke (1831), Maria [Kraal] (1832), Anna (1859), Maria (1861); Matthais Proske (1832), Magdalena [Noack] (1834), Marie (1854), Johann (1859), Christiane (1860), August (1863), Ernst (1867), Anna (1869); Johann Wukasch (1839), Anna [Willenberg] (1839), Maria (1865), Anna (1868), John (1873). (44)

1874 Johann Jannasch (1829), Anna [Zschech] (1829), Anna Maria (1852), Maria Theresia (1857), Maria Helena (1862), Anna Christiane (1864), Maria Ernestine (1867), Christiana Augusta (1871); Karl Wagner (1850), Anna [Geyer] (). (10)

1875 Christian August Andres (1852), Anna Marie [Kalz] (1850), Gustav Adolph (1874), Friedrich (1857), Anna Marie [Liesk] (1819) (mother); Anna [Mroske] Fritschke (1809), Christiana (1837), Ernst (1872)}; Johann Carl Leschber (1823), Ernestine [Paul] (1831), Anna Maria (1855), Karl (1863), Carl Gustav (1865), Anna Selma (1868), Julius (1873); Johann Moerbe (1830), Maria [Skade] (1843), Andreas (1857), Carl (1860), Herman (1864), Maria (1867), Magdalena (1871), Paul (1874); Anna (1863); {Andreas Nutschan (1839), Anna [Fritschke] (1840), Ernst (1869), Anna (1873)}; Charles Sybank (1873); Ernst Waiser (1843); Adolph Winzer (), Anna [Jassynk] (), Maria (1854), Anna (1859), Christiane (1865). (35)

1876 {Peter Jurk/Yurk (1831), Magdalena [Paul] (), Peter (1864), Traugott (1868), Agnes (1869), Maria (1871), Johann (1873), Magdalena (1875)}; Maria Nowotnik (widow) (1828), Johann August (1853);

1876 (continued)

{William Schur (1859)}; Johann Tschatschula (1810) (*Hamburg*), Maria [Tooper] (), Christiana, (1855); Johann Tschatatschula (1839), Maria [Frenzel] (1842), Matthaeus (1864), Johann (1866), Maria (1868), Anna (1871), Magdalena (1873). (21)

1877 August Beisert (1858); Johann August Budschick (1857), Maria [Kubitz] (1843); Christian Gloyna (1860); Oscar Horn (1853), Ida [Schade] (1857), Hugo (1877); Matthius Kneschk (1834), Anna [Wolsch] (), August [Wolsch] (), Anna [Wolsch] (1845); Heinrich Koslan (1855); Paul Lehmann (1861); John Noack (1839) Maria [Lowke] (1842), John (1877); {Christine [Jassenk] Schur (1837), Gottfried (1865)}. (18)

1878 John Boriack (1838)(*Hannover*), Magdalena [Bolding/Baltink] (1844), Johanna (1866), John (1869), Gotthilf (1871), Traugott (1875), Mary (1877); Theodore Buettner (1836), Anna [Kallenbach](1840), Johanna (1866), Johann (1869), Heinrich (1872), Augusta (1876), Bertha (1877); Michael Grosa (1854) (*Hannover*); Georg Hanusch (1850) (*Hannover*); Matthes Heintze (1856) (*Hannover*); August Nakunz (1869), Friedrich (1873); Carl Noack (1839), Agnes (1842); Christian Noack (1846), Bertha [Heinze] (1847), Maria (1868), Maria (1873), Christian (1875), Johann (1877); Christian Petrik (1860) (*Hannover*); {Christian Richter (1845)(*Hannover*), Magdalena [Skoring] (1849), John (1867), Christian (1870), Gottlieb (1872), August (1874), Traugott (1877)}; George Seiler (1857); Mathias Tschatschula (1811)(*Hannover*), Hanna [Marusch](1816), Johanna (1855), Magdalena (1857), Mathias (1875). (41)

1879 Ernst Balzer (1863) (*Nuremburg*); John Droigk (1846), Christina [Droigk] (1853), Traugott (1877); Traugott Faske (); {August Gloyna (1845)(*General Werder*), Ernst (1857), Christian (1860)}; Ernst Julius Neitsch (1866), August (1869); Johann Handrick (1832), Maria [Pubner] (1842), Wilhelm (1861) August (1863), Hanna (1865), Adolph (1871), Paul (1874), Augusta (1876); Hanna Hanusch [Nowsch] (1847), Johann (1876), Mary (1878); {Ernst Michalk (1857), Ernestine [Zieschang] (1863), Ernestine Michalk (1862)};

Hanna Nowsch (1847), Johann (1876), Maria (1878); Johann Pobran (1852); {Christian Schulz (1862)(*Hanover*), Traugott (1855), Matthes (1857)}; Matthes Spreiz (1844), Hanna [Laitko] (1843), Matthes (1864), Maria (1874); Theresia Symmank (1861). (36)

1880 Matthes Budschick (1825), Anna [Hermann] (1822); August Buchhorn (1855), Carl Buchhorn (1859); Traugott Faske (1851), Maria Auguste [Geier] (1847), Maria Emma (1860), Herman (1875), William (1879); Ernst Traugott Felfe (1858); Johann Ernst Gloyna (1857); Karl Hanuschk (1857); August Hanusch (1869), Lena [] (1866); Gotthilf Kalmbach (1863), Johann (1866); {Andreas Kunze (1857) (*America*)}; {Andreas Lowke (1831), Henrietta [Deurlich] (1834), Johann (1859), Carl August (1865), Andreas (1867), Anna Maria (1869), Anna Theresia (1870), Christiane Lydia (1873), Ernst (1879);} John Nerettig (1858); John Petzold (1849), Marie [Hultsch] (1847), Wilhelmine (1879); John Pietsch (1881); Friedrich Poppelz (1844), Anna [Jannusch] (), Christine (1871), Pauline (1874), Gustav (1877); John Reinhardt (1848), Mary [Lowke] (1847), August (1871), Maria (1879); Magdalena Schkade [](widow) (1821); Matthais Schwausch (1832), Magdalena [] (1833), Johann (1861), Matthaus (1863), Marie (1866), Magdalena (1869), Anna (1872), Gustav (1877); August Weiser (1831), Christiane [Noack] (1849); Andreas Weiser (1833), Magdalena [Mitsch] (1839), John August (1862), Herman (1863), Anna (1868), Ernst (1869) Anna Helena (1872), Andreas (1874), Auguste (1879). (60)

1881 Karl August Balzer (1865); Ernst Benedikt (1836), Edward (1866); Carl Heinrich Bjerka [Birke] (1849), Christiane [Schneider] (1863); Matthes Bohot (1825), Dorothea [Nowak] (1821), Maria (1847), Maria Magdalena (1854), Matthes (1860), Johann (1863); August Budschick (1849), Maria [] (1851), Maria (1878), Gustav (1880); John Fischer (1826), Anna (1827), Johann (1859), Friedrich August (1857); Johann August Glona (1845); August Herzog (1845), August (1876), Anna (1873); {Andreas Hobratschk (1824), Hanna [Jacob] (1833), Peter (1861), August (1865), Johann (1872), Andreas (1876)};

1881 (continued)

Matthes Jakobik (1852), Magdalena [Bohot] (1854), Hanna (1875); Johann Karisch (1866); Johann Leitko (1854), Maria [Noack] (1866), Johann (1878), (Matthes (1881); Andreas Michalk (1840), Caroline [Krakosky] (1846), Johann (1868), August (1869), Ernst (1871), Heinrich (1873), Maria (1874), Anna (1876), Carl (1878), Anna (1879), Anna Amanda (1881); Johann Miersch (1830), Maria [Bartke] (1841), Ernst (1863); Michael Mickan (1857); Matthew Marosko (1822), Christiane [Krueger] (1841), August (1861), Friedrich (1865); Maria [] Mutschink (1833), August Karl (1863), John (1868), Ernst (1876); Traugott Nagorka (1881); August Lehman (1864); Carl Traugott Pietsch (1860); Michael Pietsch (1847); Caroline Mersiovsky [Richter] (1857); John Schimank (1845), Maria [Kubitz] (1848), Augusta (1880); Ernst Schneider (see Bjerka); {Johanna [Mojsass] Schulz (1829)(*Kronprinz Friedrich*), Magdalena (1864), Johann (1867), Gottlieb (1869), Maria (); Friedrich Michael Synatschk (1826), Maria [Schneider] (1837), Hanna Maria (1858), August Ernst (1861), Anna Christina (1864), Johann August (1866), Ernst (1869); Johann Zwahr (1850), Pauline [Zaenker] (1851). (82)

1882 August Benofsky (1840), Magdalena (1842); {Ernst Graf (*Salier*)(1839), Anna [Heintze] (1844), Anna Christina (1864), Heinrich (1865), Wilhelm (1867), Marie Henrietta (1867), Paul (1866), Ernst August (1875)); {Ernst Fritsche (*Hohenstaufen*) (1842) (widower), Martha (1867)); Christian Graf (1841); Anna Jentho [Tscherniak] (1824) (widow), Carl Jentho (1858), Gottlob (1863); Matthaus Jurischk (1846), Maria [Berghold] (1849), Christian (1869), Anna (1872), Matthaus (1874), Maria (1877), Christiana (1879); {Johann Kulke (1836), Agnes [Miersch] (1831), Anna Marie (1871), Johann (1866)); Johann Matz (1837); Anna [Nowotnick] (); John H. Noack (1871); Magdalena Schurk (1857); John Symm (1882), Anna Christian [Noack] (1848), Johann (1876), Ernst (1878); Gustav Herman Symmank (*The Queen*) (1863); George Zwahr (1849), Emma [Rothenburg] (1849), Karl Ernst (1857), Anne (1860), Agnesa (1862), August (1865), Agnesa Zwahr (widow) [Wenk] (1827). (43)

1883 Moritz Benedix (1846), Emil (1875); John Bensch (1875); Carl William Boettcher (1867), Herman (1870); Anna Boriack (1861); {Johann Dutschmann (1841) (*Herman*), Anna [Boschk] (1843), Anna (1862), Matthais (1866), Magdalena (1880) Johanna (1849)); John August Farrack (1866); Andreas Hannusch (1839), Maria [Noack] (1847), Johann (1871), Anna Theresia (); Johann Hannusch (1835), Helena (1879), Ernst (1882); Anna Hoebel [Malke] (), Paul (1879), Ernst (1882); Gustave Mitaschk (); John Niemtz (1803), Matthes (1848), Annie (1883), John (1873); {John Noack (1859), Anna [] (1865)}; Andreas Poldrack (1847), Johanna [Lotzman] (1845), Max (1873), Gustav (1878), Theodore (1881); Robert Polnick (1863); August Polnick (1862); {George Schulz(e) (1830), Maria Hanna [] (1830); Johann (1858) (*Weser*), Anna (1860), Johann Ernst (1867), Johann August (1871)}; Karl Schulze (1854), Maria [] (1851); Carl August Symank (1858); {John August Symmank (*Westphalia*) (1835), Johanna [Golner] (1840), August (1860), Bertha (1867), Emma (1869), Ernestine Pauline (1877), Reinhold (1879)}; Matthais Tschatschula (1842), Maria [Groza](1852), John (1881); August Wacker (1883). (57)

1884 Andrew Wieder (1850); Marie Karisch [Mehlda] (1844)(widow). (2)

1885 John Noack (1864); Andreas Pietsch (1836); Gustav Pietsch (1867). (3)

1886 Andreas Bohot (*Elbe*) (1858), Rosine [] (1861) Gustav (1884); John Herenz (*Elbe*) (1827), Agnes [](1836), John (1853), Ernst (1866), August (1875), Agnes (1877); C?? Karisch (1842)(*Elbe*), Christiane (1841), Julius (1869), Carl (1872), Gustave (1879), Anna (1882); Mary Lowke (1842); {Andreas Niemtschk [*Elbe*] (1809), Andreas (1850), Clara [Richter] (1857), Ida (1877), Martha (1879), Anna (1883), Emma (1886)}; August Niemtschk (1855), [] [Schkade] (1853), Henry (1877). (26)

1887 John Kurio (1844), Maria [Symank] (1854), John (1872); Johann Kulke (1835), Agnes (1831), Anna Marie (1871). (6)

1888 John Buscha (1840). (1)

1889 Paul Bohot (1877). (1)

1890 Gottlieb Roensch (1850), Anna [Sarodnik] (1850); Johann Jakob/Grosa (1849), Anna Margareta (1844). (4)

1891 Mathais Buscha (*Havel*) (1861), Maria [Wobuza] (1859), Johann (1864), Elisabeth (1873), Maria (1889), Louisa Buscha (1873); {Maria [Schulz] Domel (widow) (1846), Reinhold (), August (1875) Friedrich (1878) Adolph (1879), Johann (1883), Hermann (1886);} John Paul Noack (1892), [] Mittasch (), Mary [] (1862), Annie (1889), Johan (1890), Maria (1891). (19)

1897 John Noack (1877). (1)

1909 Richard Urban (1884). (1)

1910 {Mattheus Fabian (*Bremen*) (1866), Elizabeth [Wobusa] (1865), George (1894), Maria (1897), Frieda (1907), Erna (1909), Martha (1912)}. (7)

1911 Theodore Simmang (*Frankfort*) (1890), Anna (1851). (2)

In Search of...

Patsy Mellen is seeking information on Christian Pohlenz, a Wend who migrated to New Berlin, Wisconsin in 1859. He later moved to Sterling, Nebraska. After his wife, Caroline, died in 1899 it is said that he moved to Texas and homesteaded, then donated the land to the church and school. He returned to Sterling at some point, where he died and is buried. If you have information to share, please contact Patsy at 2401 W. Davey Rd., Davey, NE 68336, or by email at Hemi1978@hotmail.com, or by phone at 402-785-9106 (home) or 402-560-3123(cell).

Mary Pampell Watts and Barbara Pampell Hielscher are seeking information on Peter Pampel (born 1/18/1808) and August Pampel (born 5/7/1844). Peter Pampel is #93 on the *Ben Nevis* passenger list. Mary and Barbara are particularly interested in locating photos of Peter or August. If you have information or photos to share, please contact Mary at 281-829-0688 or Barbara at 979-366-2441.

Genealogical Resources

Ancestors in German Archives: A Guide to Family History Sources (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 2004) by R.S. Wright III, N.S. Rives, M.J. Kirkham and S.S. Bunting, is a single published source in English that describes all the public archives in Germany. The archives are organized first by German province, then alphabetically by locale. Each archive description provides postal address, telephone, fax, and Web site address if a Web site exists. Also included in archive descriptions is an ex-

planation of the type of archives available at each address. All German cities and towns are indexed, enabling the user to find the archive that would hold records for a given locality.

The "Genealogy Exchange" at www.lutheranonline.com is a resource for Lutheran families looking for data about family members and ancestors. The Web site is hosted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Happy Easter!

Wjesole Jutry! (Upper Sorbian)
(WYEHsoweh YOOtree!

Wjasole Jutry! (Lower Sorbian)
(WYAHsoweh YOOtree!

Membership Report

Five New Life Members & More

George Boerger, Chair

Our latest life member is Denise Gersch Snyder of Houston. This would be great news by itself, but Martin Meissner, life member since 2000 and member since 1981, did something we have never seen before: he gave 4 life memberships as gifts to his three sons and his brother! Coincidentally, brother Melvin had already paid for his annual membership, so he gave that membership as a gift to his daughter Evelyn Green.

Wallace Dube bought 8 gift memberships for his Dube cousins who were not members, saying that Aunt Emma (Dube) Wuensche (a founding member) would be happy. I knew Emma and she would be very happy. And if you cousins don't renew next year, you know Aunt Emma would have wanted me to diligently follow up with you, and I will!

Evelyn Tucker from Basalt, Idaho joined in 2007. This year she bought memberships for her husband and 6 children!

Ophelia Harp of Uvalde bought her daughter a membership and is trying to recruit 3 of her Knippa cousins. At 98, Ophelia is still an active supporter of the TWHS!

Some current statistics:

- ☞ We currently have 709 members (as of January 12th) towards our goal of 990. We have 100 first-time members (goal - 110), 23 former members (goal - 22), and 61% of the 2007 members have renewed so far (goal - 89%). A renewal reminder letter will be mailed about the same time as this newsletter. If you are unsure if you have paid, check your mailing label on the newsletter: if the label says 2007, we think you haven't paid. If that is incorrect let us know.
- ☞ Stephani Kokel from Maryland joined as a new member, giving us members from 42 states. We also added Paula Becker Carter from Quebec, so now we have members in 4 Canadian provinces.
- ☞ Last year we had 31 members with the last name of Zoch, 19 Dube's, 14 Noack's, and 11 Symmank's. With all the new Dube members, the Zoch family needs to sign up a few more relatives in February.

Whenever we have a new life member, I always ask: Who will be next? But this time all I can say is WOW!!!!!!!!!!

Life (\$1000) Members

George Boerger	Houston	Fred Meissner *	Midland
Jerry Caldwell	Cypress	Ivan Martin Meissner *	Midland
Michael Danner	Sanger	Martin Meissner	Midland
Charles Dube	Lincoln	Melvin Meissner *	Midland
Vivian Dube	Lincoln	Carol Teinert Moravec	Axtell
Herbert Fritsche	Houston	Monroe Prellop	Houston
Mannie Fritsch-Schmid	La Grange	B. J. Scharath	Indian Springs, AL
J.B. Gersch, Jr.	Giddings	Sanford Schmid	La Grange
Don Graf	Lubbock	Marvin Schulze	Austin
Elizabeth Hutchinson	Gonzales, LA	Denise Gersch Snyder *	Houston
Valerie "Vera" Kopp	Freeport	D. G. Symmank	Giddings
William Kopp	Freeport	Ralph Weiser	Magnolia, AR
Margo Latimer	Lexington	Frieda Wendland **	Elgin
Sandra Miertschin Matthijetz	Winchester	Ruth Wuensche Wright	Corpus Christi
Joel Meador	Harwood	Robert Zoch, Jr.	Lincoln
Edward Meissner *	Allen		

* new for 2008
**Founding Member

Silver (\$250) Members

Delores Little Penk	New Braunfels	Walter Penk	New Braunfels
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Century (\$100) Members

Herbert Carleston	Giddings	Rev. Elmer Hohle	Liberty Hill
Anne Christiansen	Chapin, SC	Nancy Kilgore-Ganer	San Antonio
Neal Christiansen	Chapin, SC	Karen Koepke	Houston
Elwood Domaschk, Jr.	Houston	Jay Kruemcke	Austin
Jeannette Domaschk	Houston	Kenneth Markert	Cuero
Clarence Dube, M.D.	Houston	Linda Markert	Cuero
James Dube	Dalphine, AL	Mike Hopkins Budweiser	Brenham
Susan Dube	Dalphine, AL	Rev. Dr. Kenneth Moerbe	Waco
William J. Dube III	Waco	R. J. Nitsche	Giddings
Alan Fritsche	Houston	Ruth Nitsche	Giddings
Sandy Fritsche	Houston	Candy Schoppa	Lubbock
David Goeke	San Antonio	Kenneth Schoppa	Lubbock
Clarence Hobratschk	Littlefield	Janet Richter Schorlemmer	Eagle Lake
Gladys Hobratschk	Littlefield	Natalie Waggoner	Houston

Sponsor (\$50) Members

Raymond Arldt	Giddings	Sandra Magers	Dallas
Dan Banks	Boerne	Lee Meador	Powell, WY
Dan Beto	Bryan	Frances Dube Miller	Houston
Donna Beto	Bryan	Dana Zoch Mortimer	Bridge City
Bill Biar	Carrollton	Gladys Noack	Waco
Suzanne Pfluger Buck	San Antonio	Hubert Noack	Waco
Jim Cook	Luverne, MN	Thelma Synatschk	
Margaret Cook	Luverne, MN	Oberndorfer	Cypress
Mable Davee	Weatherford	Lottie West Randle	Richardson
Wayne Davee	Weatherford	Dr. Gunter Schaarschmidt	Sidney, BC, Canada
Alice Dietrich	Friendswood	Bernice Foerster Schulz	Houston
Helga Doctor	Truckee, CA	Edgar Schulz	Houston
V. Kayron Dube	Dime Box	Lawrence Schulz	Midland
Angeline Mitschke Frerichs	Kingwood	Cathy Schutt	North Zulch
C. Diane Fritsch	Fort Worth	James Schutt	North Zulch
Christiana Gentry	Kingwood	Charlie Slack	Bastrop
Cindy Mrosko Gentry	Kingwood	Jan Slack	Bastrop
Kimberly Carleston Glattstein	Duxbury, MA	Violet Miertschin Tarpey	Katy
Mary Schulz Guggisberg	Vernon	Eleanor Teinert	New Braunfels
Steve Hooper	Kingwood	Herman Teinert	Lubbock
Lillian Kilian	San Antonio	M. Joy Teinert	Lubbock
Delores Knippa	New Braunfels	Ruth Teleki	Houston
Jerry Knippa	Boerne	David Weise	Eastland
Leroy Knippa	New Braunfels	Paul Weise	Davenport, IA
Glen Kokel	Spring	Hilton Wieder	Magnolia
Dr. George Kunze	Warda	Nelda Winkler	Giddings
Bryan Leitko	Manvel	Dr. Charles Wukasch	Austin
Alleen Kuretsch Lyons	Copperas Cove	Ray Zoch	Irving

Patron (\$30) Members

Duannah Ashmore	Austin	Herbert Foerster	Giddings
Wynona Banks	Boerne	Charles Greschel	Roseville, CA
Linda Jean-Lewis Barnett	Pontiac, MI	Lillian Groeschel	Bellaire
Mary Lou Bonnifield	New Ulm, MN	James Hingst	San Antonio
Christine Champion	Many, LA	Lucy Domask Holt	Phoenix, AZ
Charlotte Fritsche Collins	Houston	Doris Hooper	Hale Center
George Drager	Sunset	Henry Hooper	Hale Center
Gunther Dube	Braunschweig, Germany	Ardilla Johnson	Dixon, MO
Mark Dubbe	Conroe	Melonnie Johnson	Collinsville
Kirsten Wukasch Egedi	Fillmore, CA	Betty Hobratschk Jones	Herford
Elinor Fischer	Houston	Allan Jurk	Giddings

Patron (\$30) Members (continued)

Carolyn Jurk	Giddings	Kathryn Schkade	Giddings
Rodney Koenig	Houston	Katherine Schmelter	Houston
Stephani Kokel	Ellicott City, MD	Ernestine Weiser Schnell	Dawson
Verne Kolba	Morris, IL	Alvina Schroeder	Navasota
Emma Michalk Kroecker	Turlock, CA	Wilbert Schubert	Weimar
Glenda Lammert	Helotes	Ben Schurmeier	Giddings
Ron Lammert	Helotes	Jenny Sharrock	Houston
Arnold Mathias	Waco	Sara Foerster Sick	Houma, LA
Marge Mathias	Waco	Christian Symmank	Dusseldorf, Germany
Carol McGrath	Keller	Rev. H. Melvin Symmank	Garland
Gene Miertschin	Boerne	Betty Teston	San Angelo
Ruby Neitsch	Georgetown	Walter Toll	Austin
Walther Neitsch	Georgetown	John Anthony Wuensche IV	Kingsville
Kimberley Jurk Odom	Lampasas	Barry Wukasch	Cave Creek, AZ
Irene Kappler Peyton	Houston	Ted Wukasch	Groves
Doris Biehle Reagan	Austin	Connie Zoch	Spring
Katherine Ruse Richards	Austin		

Student (\$7.50) Members

Emma Dixon	The Woodlands	Andrew Stine	Kingwood
Lauren Jones	Round Rock	Amelia Symm	Farwell
Christiana Lammert	Helotes	Anna Marie Symm	Farwell
Johanna Lammert	Helotes	Eli Symm	Farwell
Katy Lammert	Helotes	Elizabeth Symm	Farwell
Mason Mathias	Austin	Victoria Taylor	Pflugerville
Justin Morris	Magnolia	Jan Tschatschula	Finsterwalde, Germany
Kimberly Morris	Magnolia	Mitchell Austin Wagner	Keller
Zander Morris	Magnolia	Cameron Zoch	Friendswood
Crystal Schautschick	Ruidoso, NM	Noelle Zoch	Friendswood

First Time Members

Alice Medack Aalund	Giddings	Daniel Kilgore	Dallas
Ruth Adell	Corona, CA	Stephani Kokel	Ellicott City, MD
Martha Berry	Austin	Rev. L. R. Krout	Sycamore, IL
Mary Lou Bonnifield	New Ulm, MN	Mary Krout	Lancaster, PA
Edith Bourland	Houston	Antje Kullowatc	Brookline, MA
Paul Bowlin	La Porte	Gerald Lucas	Glendale, MO
Evlyn Standifer Boyd	Longview	Kenneth Markert	Cuero
Rev. Michael Buchhorn	Midland, MI	Linda Markert	Cuero
Paula Becker Carter	Pointe Claire, Quebec	Paula Dube Meier	Allen
Charles Chang, M.D.	Plano	Edward Meissner	Allen
Ruth Coffey	San Antonio	Fred Meissner	Midland
Keith Cunningham	El Paso	Ivan Martin Meissner	Midland
Lisa Deschamps	Idaho Falls, ID	Patsy Mellen	Davey, NE
John Dube	McDade	Glenda Lehman Merz	Thorndale
Loretta Dube	McDade	Carolyn Neitsch	Montague, CA
Melvin Dube	McDade	Bev Peters	Brenham
Robert Dube	McDade	Ken Peters	Brenham
Victor Dube	McDade	Zelda Schautschick	
Lillian Zoch Graham	Pearland	Richards	Missouri City
Evelyn Meissner Green	Sultan, WA	Rev. Roy Schoppa	Riverside, CA
Joan Grice	Elgin	Carlene Buchhorn Schultz	Houston
David Hingst	El Paso	Lawrence Schulz	Midland
Lauren Hobraths, M.D.	Plano	Diana Searle	Everett, WA
Philip Hohle	Cedar Park		

First Time Members (continued)

Peggy Smith	Weatherford	Ken Tucker	Basalt, ID
Rev. Stephen Sohns	Spring	Richard Tucker	Idaho Falls, ID
John Speck	Bastrop	Elva Ulbrich	La Grange
Andrew Stine	Kingwood	Georg Ulbrich	La Grange
Anna Marie Symm	Farwell	John Walling	Willis
Paul Taylor	Pflugerville	Bruce Allen Walther	San Antonio
Victoria Taylor	Pflugerville	Steven Milton Walther, M.D.	San Angelo
David Tucker	Orofino, ID	Vickie Elaine Walther	Lufkin
James Tucker	Kelso, WA	Cheryl Dube Worley	Houston

Did you know?

Included among the hundreds of interesting items on display in and around our museum are several lebenswecker (“life awakener” in German), brought to Texas from Germany by our Wendish forefathers. The lebenswecker, a medical instrument invented by Carl Baunscheidt and first produced in Germany in 1848, is made of turned wood consisting of a moveable shaft protruding from a fixed stem. The bulbous head of the instrument, which contains a number of thin steel needles on a metal plate, was used by holding the head against some part of the patient’s body, drawing back the spring-loaded handle, and letting it go quickly to cause the top layers of skin to be punctured. A drop of a special medicinal oil would then be applied to encourage the formation of blisters. The purpose of this instrument was to raise blisters, thereby diverting blood flow from an illness or infection in one part of the body by setting up a secondary inflammation on another part of the body. Baunscheidt believed that it worked because it created “additional pores” in the skin, allowing toxic substances to be more readily eliminated. Others believed that the treatment was similar to acupuncture. The lebenswecker did work, at least for some of the many illnesses it reportedly cured, and it became extremely popular. The company started by Baunscheidt in Bonn, Germany in the 19th century continued to produce the instruments until 1944 when it was destroyed by Allied bombing.

Sylvia Grider, while conducting research and interviews for her book entitled, “The Wendish Texans” (The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, 1982), stated that the lebenswecker remained popular with our Wendish descendants in Texas until the special medicinal oil could no longer be obtained.

One lebenswecker in particular that is on display in the museum was originally owned by Mrs. Elder Zoch of Winchester, who donated it to our museum along with an instruction pamphlet. She used the instrument for many years and was said to have been cured of some of her illnesses through its use.

So the next time you visit our museum, be sure to check out the lebenswecker display!

You may have noticed that this newsletter sports a new look. The front page now includes a logo, an outline of the State of Texas with a Lusatian linden leaf over the area where Serbin is located. The logo represents the connection between the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and the Sorbs in Lusatia.

“Jährchen”

A custom in the Spree Forest region in January was the baking of a sweet specialty nicknamed “Jährchen”, or little New Year cakes. The dough cake was often baked in shapes such as horses, riders, bulls, monkeys, donkeys, camels and pipes for boys; shapes that interested girls included cradles, dolls, geese with eggs, and cows. Farmers fed the dough figures to livestock as fodder for breeding purposes. It was an established custom, but only a few now remember the time when it was the tradition. Today these figures are made of savory dough given to relatives as presents or as a bearer of good tidings for the new year.

Source: “Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness”, REGIA Verlag, published by Edeltraut Wiegand and Interforum e.V.

The Spinning Room

Thanks to the girls and women who gathered to spin flax and sing songs, Sorbian/Wendish folklore has survived to the present day. In earlier times, spinning evenings were held in the villages of Lower Lusatia. While the spinning wheel was whirring, the girls would sing old folksongs and carols or would set poems to music, writing ballads. Each spinning room had a lead singer, or “Kantorka”. Because of those spinning room gatherings during the long winter evenings, stories and legends of long ago were retold again and again and have never been forgotten.

Source: “Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness”, REGIA Verlag, published by Edeltraut Wiegand and Interforum e.V.

The Hungry Dragon

If anyone in the Spree Forest became prosperous, people assumed that Plon the dragon might be involved. Hungry dragon Plon had his home in the attic and lived on the farmer’s hospitality. In return for food and lodging, he made the farmer’s wishes come true. Once upon a time there was a farmer who wished to get rid of the dragon because of his voracity. Apparently, Plon had already given the farmer a rich reward, therefore having more riches did not matter to the farmer. The well-to-do farmer attached a boot, with the bottom cut out, to a barn beam and ordered Plon to fill the boot with gold or he would not be fed. The dragon poured masses of gold coins into the bottomless boot, the coins fell through, and the boot remained empty. Plon almost died of starvation. Finally the rich farmer was punished when the dragon transformed all the gold into horse-droppings.

Source: “Spree Forest: Region of Uniqueness”, REGIA Verlag, published by Edeltraut Wiegand and Interforum e.V.

Sorbian Proverb

(text in parenthesis is phonetic spelling of the Wendish translation: emphasis [in capitals] is on the first syllable of each word)

Everything has an end, but the sausage has two.

Wšitko ma swój konc, kołbasa ma dwaj.
(Wsheet-koh MA SWOY KONTS, KOH-bah-sah MA DWAY.)

Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei.

Source: Sorbian Proverbs, S. Hose & W. Mieder

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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Hours: Museum and Genealogy Library are open 1:00-5:00 pm
Tuesday through Sunday except holidays.

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Newsletter editor: Jan Slack

Special Features Editor: Dr. George Nielsen

Send newsletter submissions to Editor, TWHS News, at the above address.