

TWHS News

Newsletter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Volume XXI, Number 4

October 2008

20th Annual Wendish Fest – September 28, 2008

Rev. Elmer Hohle (left) and Rev. Robert Boyce kick off the day with the opening prayer in Wendish



President's Message

The 20th Annual Wendish Fest is now history—and what a party it was! There may have been some people at the event who did not enjoy themselves, but I didn't meet any of them. The *Blaskapelle Königswartha* from Zeissig, Germany played some good German music; Kovanda's Czech Band (with a wonderful new female vocalist, Christiana Gentry, who happens to also be a TWHS member) entertained the crowd with their lively music; kids climbed the *Kletternpfosten*, raced stick horses, rode the train, and exercised on the Moon Walk; adults enjoyed lots of good conversation with new and old friends; everyone enjoyed lots of good food and drink; the vendors pretty well sold out of their supplies (including Kornelia Thor with her Wendish Easter eggs); lots of people explored the museum; and the Wendish Society members and volunteers who did all the work chalked up a great success. Wendish Fest is our crowning event of the year, and it goes a long way toward fulfilling the third objective in our mission statement: "Provide an opportunity for the membership to meet with each other for fellowship and exchanging of knowledge of the Wends."

For the second year in a row, a number of local friends and businesses helped sponsor the festival, and they each received our recognition as Gold, Silver, or Bronze sponsors, depending on the level of their support. Our Gold-level sponsors include First National Bank of Giddings, Citizens National Bank of Giddings, Calvin and Ina Mitschke, and B&N Oilfield Equipment, Inc. Silver-level sponsors include Insurance Network of Texas, Classic Bank of Giddings, Raymond Arldt, and Paige Tractors, Inc. At the Bronze level were Jaeger's, Inc. (who also generously loaned us the use of a new John Deere Gator), K&K Machine & Supply, Inc., State Farm Insurance of Giddings, B&W Grocery,

Pumpco, Inc., and Mike Hopkins Distributing, Inc. The support these folks and businesses provided allowed us to pinch a few less pennies and cut a few less corners in order to make the festival a fun, family-oriented event. Please tell our sponsors thanks when you see them.

Coming away from the excitement of the Wendish Fest, our museum has been selected as one of twenty museums in Texas to participate in the Hands-On-Experiential Learning Project (HELP). Mid-American Arts Alliance is implementing HELP in Texas in partnership with the Texas Commission on the Arts and with the generous support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, and The Meadows Foundation. HELP provides museums with on-site, affordable learning opportunities that further skills in areas critical to successful museums today. Several of our board members attended a two-day workshop in Austin, where we discussed the process of planning and setting goals for the next year. Along with setting out the plan and goals, our participation will involve working toward fulfilling those goals with help from an expert consultant from the HELP project, attending meetings with staff of the other participating museums, and reporting on the results of our efforts during the course of the coming year. The discussion in the opening session of the two-day workshop highlighted the important role that museums like ours play in preserving history, telling a story, or presenting art in a way that helps us reconnect with our roots. I would again invite you to send us your ideas and concerns as our Society and Museum continues its efforts to promote a greater understanding of and appreciation for the Wendish culture.

Chuck Dube, President

In Memoriam

Vernell Kruemcke of Giddings, TX, member since 2004, died August 13, 2008

Charles Miertschin of El Paso, TX, member since 2001, died May 30, 2008.

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Frieda Wendland
Mark and Amy Wendland
Margie Wendland

In memory of Kenneth A. Weise
Paul Weise
Donald K. Weise

In memory of Lee Stange
Marge and Arnold Mathias

Gift to Museum
Cindy Mrosko Gentry

In memory of August and Maria (Biar) Schulz
The 25th Schulz Family Reunion

In memory of Mildred Schulze
Evelyn Buchhorn

Upcoming Events and Dates

November 2	Daylight Savings Time ends	past, will be on site to assist with your research and answer all of your questions. There will also be someone available to help with translating German script.
November 8	Genealogy Workshop, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Museum Complex	Deadline for registration is October 31, 2008 or until we receive a maximum of 15 participants. Additional registrants will be enrolled in a 2009 workshop.
November 16	Quarterly Membership Meeting with Board elections and Annual Christmas Party, 2:00 p.m., Museum Complex	The registration fee is \$25, which will be used to increase the Museum's family history holdings and genealogy resources.
November 27	Thanksgiving Day, Museum closed	Please bring a hard copy of your family pedigree chart to leave with the Museum, and a sack lunch. Laptop computers are allowed for this workshop.
December 24-25	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Museum closed	For more information, contact Weldon Mersiovsky at (512) 863-6418 or Weldon@ecpi.com, or the Museum at (979) 366-2441 or wendish@bluebon.net.
January 1, 2009	New Year's Day, Museum closed	
February 10, 2009	Walk-In Coffee	

Genealogy Workshop

The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum is hosting a Genealogy Workshop on Saturday, November 8, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Museum. Participants will be provided with access to our genealogy library, which holds more than 70 published family histories, copies of records from many of the area churches, publications on conducting genealogy research, histories of area counties, cemetery records, and many more resources. Weldon Mersiovsky, who has conducted similar workshops at our museum in the

Quarterly Membership Meeting Sunday, November 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Our Annual Christmas Party will be held Sunday, November 16 at the Museum Complex. Following a brief business meeting and election of Board members, the party will commence with a Christmas carol sing-along and lots of good refreshments. Please bring a plate of your favorite sweet or savory snack to share. We look forward to seeing you on November 16!

Wjeso le Hody! (Merry Christmas!)

Museum Activities and Committee Reports

Wendish Fest 2008

Eunice Dunk and Raymond Arldt, Co-chairs

Our twentieth Wendish Fest is now history, and what a day it was! Our Gracious Lord gave us beautiful weather, and countless members and friends shared the day with us.

We were blessed to have many people, young and old, from far and near, who helped make the day a success. There are numerous TWHS members who have helped at each event for the past 20 years, and who now have children and grandchildren becoming involved to carry on the tradition. We are also grateful for the help provided by people who have joined our ranks in more recent years, and to those who helped us for the first time this year. The Lutheran Adult Fellowship group at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin again provided us with many hard-working volunteers. Whatever job you did, we thank you and we hope you will be willing to help us in future years.

In addition, the families that hosted the German band members and friends during their visit to Serbin will forever be in our debt. Having featured performers from Germany adds so much to Wendish Fest, and being able to provide our performers with comfortable places to stay and hosts who are willing to entertain them during their visit is vitally important to our ability to attract German musical groups in the future. To our host families, we say *thank you!*

We also want to express our sincere gratitude to our Wendish Fest sponsors, for their generous support enabled us to meet the extra expenses that have become a regular part of events such as Wendish Fest. Your generous contributions helped make the day a fun, safe, family event.

While visiting with our demonstrators and vendors toward the end of the day, I learned that the stone ground cornmeal demonstrator sold 600 pounds of his freshly ground cornmeal, and Joe Musil and his helpers, who demonstrate the art of making homemade sauerkraut, sold most of their jars of sauerkraut and homemade pickles.

In addition, 117 pounds of noodles were cooked and served during the day. A good time was had by all!

Mark you calendars! Plans are already underway for next year's Wendish Fest, scheduled for September 27, 2009.

Visitors

During the months of July, August and September, the museum hosted visitors from Colorado, Virginia, Washington, Florida, Oregon, South Dakota, California, and from all over Texas, as well as from Switzerland, Mexico, Japan, Australia, and Canada.

Thank You Museum Docents!

During the months of July, August and September, the following served as museum docents: Freddie Zoch, Ruby Koslan, Sandra Matthijetz, George Boerger, Carolyn and Monroe Miertschin, Jan Slack, Vivian Dube, Chuck Dube, Eunice Dunk, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Evelyn Kasper, and Hattie Schautschick.

Noodle Committee Report

Thus far for 2008, we have made 3,996 pounds of noodles. A total of 117 pounds of noodles were cooked and served at Wendish Fest, which is 25 pounds more than were cooked for Wendish Fest 2007. About 400 one-pound bags of dried noodles were also sold during Wendish Fest.

Hattie Schautschick, Chair

Tours

Tours and an old-fashioned Wendish meal were provided to a group from San Antonio, Texas on October 10, and a group from Metropolitan Baptist in Houston will visit us on November 7.

Museum tours were provided on October 4 and October 27.

Evelyn Kasper, Chair

Minutes of the August 17, 2008 General Membership Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:05 PM in the Kilian Building on Sunday, August 17, 2008, by Chuck Dube, President. There were 30 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Rev. Al Gallmeier presented the devotion based on John 10:27, Give A Hand..

The minutes of the May 18, 2008, meeting were approved as presented in the May newsletter.

George Boerger reported that the finances of the Society were doing fine and that he was projecting a balanced budget at year end.

Jan Slack reported on the joint development, printing and cost sharing for three Wendish-related projects with Concordia University Press. The first project would be a reprint of Charles Wukasch's book, *A Rock Against Alien Waves*. The next project would be an English translation of *Ufer der Hoffnung (To the Shores of Hope)*, originally published in German and Wendish by Gertrud Mahling. Some time in the future a project would be undertaken to translate into English a book of Jan Kilian's poems and hymns. Sponsors are being solicited to help fund these projects. Chuck Dube announced that a substantial donation has been received from Sandra and Raymond Matthijetz to be used for the *Ufer der Hoffnung* project.

Steve Hooper discussed a proposal to amend the By-laws of the Society to change the definition of a quorum for membership meetings. A ballot would be available at this year's Wendish Fest to vote on the Amendment.

Raymond Arldt reported on the progress of the work on the St. Paul Building. The outside of the building has been repainted and the porches enclosed. The inside would be completed by year end.

Vivian Dube reported that there would be a landscape clean-up day on September 13, 2008, in preparation for Wendish Fest. She asked that anyone willing to volunteer let her know.

George Boerger reported that the current membership is 1027 with 170 new members.

Hattie Schautschick reported that close to 5,000 pounds of noodles had been made to-date in 2008.

Evelyn Kasper reported on the tours with meals on May 21, May 29 and June 13 and those with tours only on May 22 and June 17.

Chuck Dube asked that everyone give Ron Knippa and crew a round of applause for taking First Place for the Wendish booth at the Folklife Festival.

Eunice Dunk reported that we will host 21 visitors from Germany for the Wendish Fest. She thanked everyone for their help at the Fest and asked that they respond as soon as possible if they cannot be available when scheduled to work.

Weldon Mersiovsky shared plans for a Genealogy Workshop in early November. A modest fee of \$25 would be charged, which would go back into Genealogy books and supplies.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:50 PM.

Evelyn Buchhorn introduced the guest speakers, Dr. Beryl and John Dunsmoir. They shared their experiences living in China and teaching English and Western Culture. Their presentation included slides and videos taken while in China.

Following the presentation, refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,
J. B. Gersch, Jr., Secretary

In and Around the Museum

It was a dark and stormy night (somewhere), but not stormy enough for Lee County, Texas. Our museum gardens, much like the rest of the landscape in Central Texas, has suffered greatly from a very long, hot, dry summer. But I am happy to report that all our rose bushes and other plants are still thriving, and we even witnessed a better-than-expected flush of school-house lily blooms in mid-September.

If you have used our Museum library for research, the shelves will now be different for you. We are moving resources around to accommodate the growth in our collections. We continue to contact churches to request copies of their older records, which may include people of Wendish descent. These records usually include baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials.

The collection of family histories also needed more shelf space and has been moved to another section, where you may need assistance to locate their new homes. We think these books will be more accessible for the Genealogy Workshop on November 8.

Printed obituaries contain useful information for individuals doing genealogy research. Our collection of obituaries has been waiting for a volunteer to add the printed copies to our notebooks. Two of our faithful volunteers, Betty Jo Knippa and Monroe Miertschin, have been extremely helpful with locating, clipping, copying, alphabetizing, and filing our collection into notebooks that have been placed next to the church records. Let the museum know if you would like to help with this on-going obituary project.

Seeking Wendish Family Histories

If you have researched your Wendish family history and have it in an organized format, such as a typed collection of pages in a binder or even a bound published copy, we would like to have a copy for our Genealogy library.

We are interested in adding to our collection of Wendish surnames and family histories, which are an important resource for genealogical research. If you have a family history to share with us, please consider sending a copy to our Museum.

Vivian Dube, Librarian

Financial Report

Our profit from the Wendish Fest exceeded last year's profit by \$4,500 and it will also be favorable versus the budget by \$4,000! The plan is to use this surplus to pay for repairs at our museum, which have been discussed in previous newsletters. The income from the Wendish Fest is a very important component to operating and maintaining our museum.

The preliminary net income from the Wendish Fest is \$13,072, which includes:

Food/drinks/misc.	\$ 7,129
Fixed cost *	(\$ 5,833)
Business sponsorships/donations	\$ 4,040
Hotel/Motel Tax	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
Gross profit	\$ 7,836
Silent Auction	\$ 2,154
Donated desserts	\$ 554
Plant sale	<u>\$ 381</u>
Sub-total	\$10,925
Noodle, Craft & book sales	<u>\$ 2,147</u>
Total	\$13,072

* advertising, entertainment, golf carts, grounds rental, trash, sound system, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
George Boerger

Membership Report

A New Membership Record!

For the 7th year in a row, we have set a new membership record with 1,031 members surpassing the last year's record of 964, and, of course, our first time over 1,000. In 2008, we had 143 first time members, the second highest ever, and 29 former members rejoined.

Our goal for 2009 is 1,040 members. While it seems like a modest increase, it will take a large amount of effort from our members to achieve this as it is projected that we will lose 12% of our members this year, which is normal. Even if we gain 23 former members, we will still need 110 first time members. Please consider buying someone a gift membership for Christmas or birthday.

We have 30 Life members going into 2009, down one from 2008. Earlier this year we lost our last founding member, Frieda Wendland. The other founding members from 1971 were

Lillie Moerbe Caldwell, Gertrude Mitschke, Emma Dube Wuensche, and Laura Zoch.

In the last 5 years, we have added 24 new Life members. Hopefully you will consider becoming a Life member this year. An added perk of being a Life member is that you don't receive renewal letters, reminder e-mails or phone calls.

In the very near future, you will receive a 2009 renewal notice (unless you have already paid). Please complete the card and mail in your check. If your employer has a matching gift program, please fill out the form and send it in as well. Your membership dues not only pay for the newsletter, but also pay part of the cost of operating the museum. When you join at a higher level, the extra money is added to the endowment and the interest from the endowment also helps to defray museum operations expenses. Without all of your generous contributions of time, talent, and money, the TWHS could not exist!

George Boerger, Chair

First Time Members

Joyce M. Hensel Baker	Waco	Carla Knippa	Georgetown
Rebecca Brier	Pacific Grove, CA	Don Knippa	New Braunfels
Ryan Buchhorn	Georgetown	Dorit Knippa	New Braunfels
Erika Delk	College Station	Charles Mitschke	Houston
Pamela Delk	Refugio	Barbara Niemeyer	Willis
Robert Delk	Refugio	Jan Wukasch Pelosi	Austin
David Drager	Bowie	Eugene Price	Spring Branch
Vonia Drager	Bowie	Sue Saathoff	Austin
George DuBois	Wimberley	Doris M. Schaeffer	Carlsbad, CA
Sherril DuBois	Wimberley	Belinda B. Schmidt	San Antonio
Dr. Beryl Dunsmoir	Round Rock	Eleanor Lynn Schreiner	Lake Ridge, VA
John Dunsmoir	Round Rock	Gayle M. Standard	Baytown
Sylvia D. Kelinske	Lexington	Nanette Townssend	Wimberley

Patron (\$30) Members

Rebecca Brier	Pacific Grove, CA	Pamela Wuensche Nordbrock	Bloomington, IL
Leona Meissner Foster	Midland	Rev. Leo Symmank	Seabrook

Sponsor (\$50) Members

Teri Kramer	Fort Worth	Sue Saathoff	Austin
Margurete Lent	Bellevue, WA	Elise Hall	Alameda, CA

Century (\$100) Members

Gayle Standard	Baytown
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Student (\$7.50) Members

Austin Pierce	Yorktown, VA	Erika Delk	College Station
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Excerpts from Emilie (Woelfel) Michalk's "Recollections on My Life"

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Emilie (Woelfel) Michalk was born in Thorndale on January 31, 1898, to Nicholas and Magdalena Woelfel. Eighty-six years later, she told Edward Bernthal the story of her life. Although her heritage was German, she married a Wend, Adolph Michalk. Mr. Bernthal, now living in Waupun, Wisconsin, married Emilie's daughter, Bernice. After graduating from Concordia - River Forest, Mr. Bernthal taught at Lutheran schools in Galveston and Racine, Wisconsin and served as Director of Christian Education in Waupun. (Conrad Bernthal, the pastor at St. Peter's Church in Serbin from 1892 -1906 was a relative.) Edward was gracious enough to permit me to edit sections of Emilie's life's story for the Newsletter. Many of the names and places she mentioned in her story were part of the Wendish experience in Texas and in addition her "Recollections" tell about a third generation Texas Wend who became a missionary to France.

Recollections on My Life

We lived on a farm about three miles west of Thorndale. I started school when I was seven. The school was in two buildings, one for the lower grades and one for the upper. Teacher Werner's son, who was a seminary student, and the pastor [A. W. Kramer] helped with the teaching. All the classes were in German. Later on English was taught in the afternoon. There were more than a hundred children in the school. Very few went to high school.

On the farm I had to help gather broomcorn to start the fire in the stove, gather the eggs and feed the chickens. I also learned how to chop cotton, pick cotton, chop and gather corn. We also raised potatoes. Since I was the oldest girl I had to help take care of the younger brothers and sisters. When the others had the measles I had to milk the cows too. We had a favorite cow we called "Schakah" (because she was a speckled cow.) [Schakah is the Wendish word for a speckled cow.] The washing we had to do on a scrub board.

We drove to church in a two-seater buggy. Father and mother sat in the front seat holding the

smaller children. The rest of us sat on the second seat. The services were in German. We had our first English service in 1913 when the Texas District met in Thorndale. They had English services in the evening during the convention. I was confirmed in 1911.

My mother died in 1912 of pleurisy and pneumonia. Mother was 38 when she died and my youngest brother was less than a year old. Later my father talked about getting married again but we did not want that to happen. And he never did.

In 1913 our family moved to Bishop, Texas. Father and mother had decided on this just before mother died. The reason we moved to Bishop was because the land down there was being offered for sale by a developer F. Z. Bishop, after whom the town was named. He had built a fine hotel where he entertained and housed the people that came on the train and were interested in buying land. Other families from Thorndale were moving to Bishop to buy land. Among these were six Michalk brothers. They were John (who later became my father-in-law), Willie, Henry, Charlie, Robert, and Sam. Sam became a land agent for Mr. Bishop.

... How did we move to Bishop? We had to move all our household things, farm machines, and animals by train. There were four horses and two cows (including "Schakah"). Mr. Kappeler, a neighbor of ours who was moving with us, went along in the train that brought the two families. Father went along in the train that was moving the things of the two families. It took three days for the train to arrive with our things. We lived in the rented farm house about eight miles from town. We grew cotton, corn, and some small grain. The area settled by the group from Thorndale was called "The Concordia Settlement." The settlers built their own church which they named Concordia Lutheran Church. Our first pastor was Rev. [E. J.] Moebus who was married to a daughter of John Killian, the pastor of the Wends. We lived about a mile from the church.

Father bought 160 acres of land and rented a farm home. Unfortunately, he lost the land by foreclosure within two years. But he remained to farm some land that he rented. We had to haul our cotton to the gin in Bishop. The round trip by wagon and mules took most of the day. We children had to be picking cotton while Father was going to town. Father told us "When you are lazying around the devil is riding you" so that we wouldn't play around in the field instead of doing our work. We had a fair crop in 1914 and 1915. But one year a hurricane and another year the drought ruined the crops. [Pastor Moebus noticed that many of the Lutherans who bought land in the Valley, lost the land and moved away. An estimated amount of \$500,000 was lost by Lutherans who hoped to make the Valley their home. H. W. Bewie, *Missouri in Texas* (Austin: The Steck Company 1952), p. 84]

Uncle Steve Woelfel had farmed in West Texas and wanted our family to move up there. Father took a train trip up there and was persuaded to leave Bishop and move to West Texas. Father and Paul went up alone to build a smokehouse and dugout home. They lived in a tent. Meanwhile I was left in charge of the rest of the family in Bishop.

While we were living on the farm in Bishop (1916) I got interested in Adolph Michalk. We had gone to school together in Thorndale. We were both in the bridal party for Walter and Lydia Moerbe's wedding. After the ceremony everybody gathered at the house for the wedding celebration. People sat in the parlor and sang songs. I remember that Adolph played the violin. On the 4th of July there was the church picnic in Moerbe's Woods. The young folks gathered at the church to shoot off their fireworks. They had about 40 Roman candles to shoot. We were told that when you see a shooting star you should make a wish and it would come true. I did. The next Sunday the youth got together for a house party. We played "Looby Lou" and other games like that. Each boy had to choose a partner. Adolph chose me. That fall Adolph left for St. Louis to go to the seminary. He asked me to write to him. Over the years there were 99 letters in all. I saved them for a

long time. I think they were buried in a barbecue pit at Riesel many years later.

In 1917 father asked us to come up and meet him in Dallas. He had decided that the family would try to make a living by picking cotton. He had two mules and a covered wagon in which we slept as we moved from place to place picking cotton. There was Father, Paul and I, and three sisters and three other brothers in the group. In the fall father hired himself out with the wagon to haul goods for other people and we girls got jobs as housemaids in Dallas. The next summer father decided to return to Bishop to pick cotton, and after the season was over, we moved to a rented farm in West Texas between Wilson and Tahoka, about twenty miles south of Lubbock. I lived there until I got married.

Upon graduation from the seminary Adolph got his first call which was to Galveston. I wanted to be a June bride, but we had to settle for July 1 as our wedding day. It was the custom in those days to have the weddings on Tuesday. We were married in our house near Wilson. Rev. [John] Kollmeyer, a classmate of Adolph, performed the wedding ceremony. The next day I packed my trunk and got ready to leave on the train for Bishop. We got to San Antonio by noon and to Bishop by the 4th of July. On Sunday afternoon all the people got together at Adolph's house to celebrate the wedding. It was a large gathering with much food but no beer. The county had gone dry on July 1. We stayed at Bishop for the rest of the summer and left for Galveston on August 28. I still remember the fish smell in the air when we got off the train.

After we had been in town just one week Galveston was hit by a hurricane. We stayed in the house overnight but the next morning the landlord persuaded us to go to the courthouse for safety. At first we rented a Baptist church for \$10 a month and later the third floor of the YMCA. The church and parsonage were completed in 1921. We had lived in the new parsonage for about six weeks when Bernice was born.

In 1930 when we were expecting another baby (Dorothy) we received a second call to Fedor. I remember arriving at Fedor. When I first saw the house we were to live in I didn't want to get out of the car. The yard was overgrown with weeds. There was one big room that was to serve as the bedroom for the whole family. I asked Adolph for permission to talk to the elders about the house and they agreed to make some changes. The bathtub was moved into the pantry and new cabinets were built in the kitchen. But the congregation was helpful too. The members invited our family out to meals. They brought us fresh produce. We had three gardens in which we grew most of our own vegetables. We also had two hogs to butcher and one cow for fresh milk. When the war broke out, Paul (b. 1923) joined the Air Force and became a navigator. He was shot down over Germany during the last days of the war and was listed as lost in action.

In 1946 Dad [Arthur] got a call to Riesel. I was glad to get to live in a better house. It was also easier for Dad to get to his Mission Board meetings which were held in Waco.

[In 1948] Dad got a call to go to Alsace and Lorraine in France to serve a group of the Free Church [independent of the state church] congregations there. [Alsace and Lorraine became part of Germany in 1871 but reverted to France in 1919. A large portion of the population spoke German.] That was a laugh! "You want to go there?" I said. But Dad felt that it was a call from the Lord and he decided to go. He had been recommended since he could preach in German. We sailed on September 24, 1948 after Dad had a meeting with the Mission Board in

New York. I was seasick for the first three days of the trip. The steward told me to eat apples. We lived in the parsonage at Schillersdorf. The parsonage was built of heavy brick and not very modern. I cooked on a woodstove and we heated the house with coal. Half of the house served as the church. It seated about 100 people. Dad served four congregations. Besides Schillersdorf there was Obersoulsbach, Woerth, and Lembach.

We came home for three-month furloughs in 1953 and 1956. We returned home to stay in 1958. Before we left for France in 1946 we had three grandchildren. By the time we returned in 1958 there were about a dozen.

After returning Dad served a congregation in Smithville from 1958 to 1962. He retired on January 1, 1962 and we decided to move to Giddings. We had the New Year's Day service in Smithville that morning. The young people of the congregation helped us load our things after the service. By 4:00 in the afternoon we were drinking coffee in our house in Giddings. We lived at 1208 E. Austin Street from 1962 - 1974. Dad was assisting the pastor at Immanuel in Giddings but had problems crossing Highway 290 in front of our house. After Dad had two accidents we decided to buy a house closer to the church.

We lived at 427 N. Leon for two years before Dad died on June 12, 1975. He had preached at the nursing home on that Wednesday. After listening to the news we went to bed as usual. He died in his sleep of a cerebral hemorrhage

[Emilie died on February 11, 1992 at the age of 94.]

In Search of...

Jan Slack would like to find photos of the children of Johann and Christiana Knippa. In particular, she is seeking photos of Johanna, Johann Jr., Carl Wilhelm, Magdalena, Christiana Theresia, August, Ernestine, Wilhelmine, or

Heinrich Traugott. If you have photos or know of someone who does, please contact Jan at 512-303-7971, by email at jslack4@austin.rr.com, or by surface mail at 123 W. Tanglebriar Ct., Bastrop, Texas 78602.

Wendish Fest 2008!

Stick Horse Race Winners

	Pre-K	Kindergarten		1st Grade	2nd Grade
1st Place	Emily Kessler	Courtland Tharp	1st Place	Chase Carothers	Timothy Medack
2nd Place	Sadie Claxton	Eziekial Hilscher	2nd Place	Andrew Murphy	Coady Wester
3rd Place	John Murphy	Bo Killough	3rd Place	Carlos Gonzales	
	3rd Grade	4th Grade		5th Grade	
1st Place	Thomas Birnbaum	Dalton Brister	1st Place	Nick Parker	
2nd Place	Erin Michael	Jonathan Hawkins	2nd Place	Christopher Schulz	
3rd Place	Breanna Schuessler	Jonathan Wooddell	3rd Place	Shirra Irham	



Coloring Contest Winners

	Pre-K and Kindergarten	1st and 2nd Grade	3rd and 4th Grade
1st Place	Tori Victoria	Sadie Klos	Tori Hopson
2nd Place	Sarah Allen	Madison Birnbaum	Malyn Parker
3rd Place	Bo Killough	Maddie Hopson	Anna Schmidt



Coffeecake Bake-off Winners

	Streusel Division	Kaese Division	Special Division	Youth Division
1st Place	Gladys Saegert	Gladys Saegert	Gladys Saegert	Thomas Birnbaum
2nd Place	Alice Wilson	Alice Wilson	Franklin Birnbaum	Nicole Birnbaum
3rd Place	Christine Boriack	Altha Garrett	Christine Boriack	



Winners and judges



Judging homemade coffeecake - everyone's favorite job! (L-R: Clayton & Pat Kleiber, Carrie Oltmann, Beverly Gotzky, and Curtis Oltmann)

Washer Pitching Contest Winners

1st Place	Clayton Wickle and Jeff Finky
2nd Place	Brandon Charanza and Tom Aly
3rd Place	Howard Burns and Nick Johnaon

Cross-cut Saw Contest Winners

	Men's Division	Women's Division	Mixed Division
1st Place	Scott Spencer & Michael Schramm	Caroly Jurk & Romona Wobst	Al Jurk & Carolyn Jurk
2nd Place	Al Jurk & Frank Wobst	Kim Droegemueller & Wilma Droegemueller	Hansi & Sabine Tillich
3rd Place	Michael Schramm & Curtis Recek	Laverne Gersch & Ricki Klos	Michelle Auyer & Darren Owens

Laverne Gersch gives the cross cut saw her best effort!



Eunice Dunk and Evelyn Kasper



Kornelia Thor demonstrates the challenging art of decorating Wendish Easter eggs



Larry Hoff, Blacksmith demonstration

Antique car
display



The youngest driver at
Wendish Fest!



Arthur and Dianna Noack

Rev. Richard Wukasch (left, from Grimsby,
Ontario, Canada) and Dr. Charles Wukasch
(right, from Austin)



Mark Wendland, waiting for
visitors to the Log Cabin



Kovanda's Czech Band,
with vocalist Christiana
Gentry, a TWHS member
and Wendish descendant

Königswartha Blaskapelle
from Germany, featured
performers at the
20th Annual Wendish Fest



Train engine...

...and train caboose!
An all-time favorite
children's activity -
thank you Lee
County Volunteer
Fire Dept.!

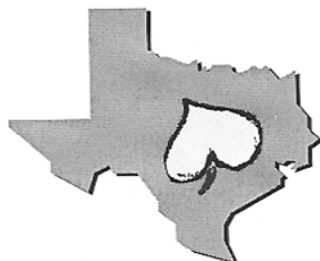


Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

1011 CR 212
Giddings, Texas 78942-5940

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Email: wendish@bluebon.net

Phone: (979) 366-2441

Fax: (979) 366-2805

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

President: Chuck Dube

Vice President: Eunice Dunk

Secretary: J.B. Gersch, Jr.

Treasurer: Evelyn Buchhorn

Membership rates (paid annually except for Life membership level):

\$25 for couples

\$7.50/person (students), \$15/person (regular membership), \$30/person (Patron), \$50/person (Sponsor), \$100/person (Century), \$250/person (Silver), or \$1,000/person (Life) payable as lump sum or 2 installments. Members receive the Annual Membership Directory, 4 quarterly newsletters, and free admission to the Museum.

Newsletter editor: Jan Slack

Special Features Editor: Dr. George Nielsen

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