



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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OPEN TUESDAY THRU SUNDAY 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M. CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII

NUMBER II

APRIL, 1999

President's Message

The month of March 1999 brought a very wonderful experience for me when I was blessed with a trip to Germany, in the company of my daughter, Lisa Jones, and grand daughter, Ketrin Jones, of Abilene, Texas, and my niece, Jenny Sharrock Pecore, of Houston, Texas. It was a marvelous experience for three generations of Wends to fly to Dresden, rent an automobile, and drive to Bautzen. There we had lodging at Pension Dom-Eck, which is near the Dom St. Petri in the historic section of the city, and yet offers all modern conveniences. The Dom-Eck and the Sorbische restaurant, Wjelbik which serves a delicious Hochzeit meal, are owned by Stefan and Veronika Mahling, brother-in-law and sister-in-law of authoress, Gertrud Mahling, who graciously functioned as our translator for two busy afternoons.

We had the opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of the *Domowina*, where we were greeted by Jurji Wuschansky with wonderful refreshments, and gifts for the Museum. I was also honored to meet with President Jakob Brankatschk to discuss TWHs affiliation, (non-voting membership), with the *Domowina*, as well as some of our common goals and ambitions regarding our history and culture. Afterward, we made purchases for TWHs gift shop at the Domowina bookstore.

We were also able to visit *Sorbisches Institut e.V.*, where I met with Annerose Schaffrath, Technical Director of the Sorbische Central Library, and delivered copies of back issues of our TWHs newsletter. We discussed their interest in the Wendish language (Lutheran) *Agenda*, translated in 1883, by Jan Kilian. She also asked that I encourage the use of their library for research concerning the Sorbs, but asked that I stress that this is not a genealogical library.

Other highlights in Bautzen included visiting the *Sorbisches Museum* and director, Tomasz Nawka. We enjoyed demonstrations of decorating Wendish Easter eggs at the Sorbisches Culture Center, and Ketrin got to try her hand at decorating an egg. Several evenings were spent with Michaela Delenk, who was one of my houseguests during the visit of *Volkstanzgruppe-Schmerlitz* at our 1998 Wendish Fest. On Friday evening we attended the *Deutsch-Sorbisches Volkstheater*. Michaela is now working in Bautzen for the *Sorbisches National Ensemble* in public relations.

On a personal note, the girls and I visited the many towns and villages, to the east and northeast of Bautzen, which were homes to our ancestors. In Spreewitz, Suzanne Hornich showed us the restoration work that has been done on the church, but is incomplete due to lack of funds. Schleife has a neat Sorbisches Culture Center with many homemade Sorbisches items for sale, and also a restaurant featuring Sorbische food. Hoyerswerda information center had many beautifully decorated Easter eggs for us to buy. In Baruth, Gertrud took us to meet ceramic artist, Eva U. Lange, at her home.

Upon returning to Dresden, Peter Langer (who brought the Sorbisches group to our 1996 Fest) and his friend, Heika Neubert, were kind enough to guide us to some of the cultural and historical sights in Dresden, including dining in the 15th Century atmosphere of Anno Domini Restaurant.

Thank you Lisa, Jenny, and Ketrin for a wonderful and memorable trip!

Georgie Bernstein Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 15** Lee County Courthouse Centennial Celebration
- May 16** General Membership meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- May 30** Serbin Homecoming Picnic at the St. Paul Picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas
- May 31** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Memorial Day
- June 20** Winchester Picnic at St. Michael's Lutheran Church Park, Winchester, Texas. Museum will be **CLOSED** for Father's Day
- June 28** Deadline for articles for June newsletter
- July 4** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Independence Day
- August 5-8** Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas
- August 15** General Membership meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.

MAY MEETING PROGRAM

by Rachel Hildebrandt

Have you ever wondered about what happened to the thousands of Wends who did not board the Ben Nevis back in 1854? Like many other people with Serbin roots, I had no idea how rich the history and culture of the Wends were until I spent three months in Bautzen (the Wendish "capital city") in autumn 1998. While interning at the Sorbian Institute there, I was fortunate to learn much about both the past and present situation of this small group of people. On May 16, I will share, with the aid of slides, a few of my extraordinary experiences in "Wendenland," which not only proved educational, but greatly enriched my appreciation for my own Wendish heritage.

We are excited to have Rachel Hildebrandt of Red Bank, Tennessee here for our May meeting. She will be in the area doing research.

THANK YOU to Georgie Boyce, Evelyn Kasper, Irene Weaver, Elsie Mertink, and Evelyn Buchhorn for providing refreshments for the February general meeting.

THANK YOU also to all who provided baked goods for the Ethnic Fair at Concordia University on January 23, and for the Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale at Eleanor's Cottage on February 9.

VISITORS

During the months of January thru April we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Germany, Missouri, Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois, Colorado, West Africa, Louisiana, Oklahoma, California, and Mississippi.

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL REPORT

by Ron Knippa, Chairman

Preparations are well under way for the Society's participation at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio, August 5th thru 8th. There will be many new things happening in our booth this year.

Along with our usual noodles, pickles, Koch Kase sandwiches, bar-b-que chicken legs, and Shiner Beer, we hope to have an expanded selection of bonnets, aprons, shawls, and blouses for sale in the craft booth, along with a wide variety of hand-made keepsakes.

The most ambitious addition this year however, will be **live entertainment in our booth area**, provided by us; that is all the talented Wends out there who will come to the Festival with their banjos, fiddles, accordians, drums, horns, voices, and bodies, to spread our joy in being active for the Lord. We are building a stage on the slope (burm) behind the craft booth. It will only be large enough for 1 to 5 people.

The work we do yearly at the Folklife Festival, I am convinced, positively influences the lives of thousands of people.

So, if you can help at this year's Festival in any way please contact:

Ron Knippa
2662 Pebble Bow
San Antonio, TX 78232
Ph: 210/496-3105 or 1-800-756-3344, ext 8306

P.S. I especially need volunteers to decorate Wendish Easter Eggs.

I AM EXCITED !!!

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of January thru April: Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Georgie Boyce, Eleanor Schulze, Vivian Taylor, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Laverne Gersch, Erna Mersiovsky, Jan & Charles Slack, Ken Weiser, Bea Tschatschula, Laverne & Walter Gersch, Irene Boriack, Barbara Hielscher, Ashley Hielscher, and Laverne & Herbert Falke.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Tonya Z. Hettler, Lubbock, TX
Murphy O. Biehle, Houston, TX
Rena Hardaway, Cypress, TX
Karlene Rich, Ponca City, OK
Renata Fichte, Washington, TX
Mrs. Bob Proft, Georgetown, TX
Alvarine Schatte, Whitewright, TX
W. P. (Bill) Haynes, Houston, TX
LaVerne C. Wagner, Houston, TX
Joyce M. Hebert, Houston, TX
Eva Zoch, Houston, TX
Myra Kirchoff, Cedar, KS
Mrs. George Linebrink, Austin, TX
Joyce Carleston, Giddings, TX
Carol G. Flores, Edinburg, TX
JoZell Horne, Corpus Christi, TX
Newyn Phillips, Smithville, TX

Sylvia Furr, Olney, TX
George Dillingham, Brenham, TX
Kimberley J. Odom, Lampasas, TX
Karen Knippa, Evanston, IL
Bob Proft, Georgetown, TX
William A. Schatte, Whitewright, TX
Carolyn A. Walther, Lufkin, TX
Kim S. Strickland, Bryan, TX
Dr. Ivo Vukceovich, Camarillo, CA
Elizabeth Kunze, Warda, TX
Hilda Theis, Bishop, TX
Clarence Mehlow, Austin, TX
Kenneth Watts, Houston, TX
Judy LaVanway, Waterbury, UT
Jordan Watts, Katy, TX
Kenneth D. Kiesling, Allen, TX
Deb Wukasch, Auburn, WA

Student Members

Sara Buchhorn, Austin, TX
Ashley N. Hielscher, Lebanon, TN
Heather Hielscher, Winchester, TX
Jordan A. Watts, Katy, TX
Ketrin L. Jones, Ailene, TX

Sara Friedrich, Houston, TX
Charles S. Hielscher, Lebanon, TN
Jerald Hieslcher, II, Winchester, TX
Josh Knippa, Austin, TX
Carol G. Flores, Edinburg, TX

Patron Members

Vivian Dube, Claremont, CA
Tonya Z. Hettler, Lubbock, TX
George Dillingham, Brenham, TX
Kimberley J. Odom, Lampasas, TX
Alleen Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX
Elo Toll, Cedar Park, TX
Ardie F. Engelhart, Chase, MI
Rev. Clarence Ehler, Muldoon, TX
Mary S. Guggisberg, Vernon, TX
Emma M. Kroeker, Turlock, CA
Sandra C. Magers, Dallas, TX
Janet Schorlemmer, Eagle Lake, TX
Lloyd Schuhmann, Giddings, TX
Vivian F. Taylor, Weimar, TX
Kenneth A. Wagner, Jasper, TX
Paul Weise, Palm Coast, FL
Ted Wukasch, Groves, TX
Hilda Theis, Bishop, TX
Alleen Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Carol T. Moravec, Axtell, TX
Herb Schulz, Torrance, CA
Donald Hilsberg, Elizabeth, CO
Margo Latimer, Lexington, TX
Betty Teston, San Angelo, TX
Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX
Wilbur Simank, Stillwater, OK

Charles Dube, Claremont, CA
Murphy O. Biehle, Houston, TX
Rena Hardaway, Cypress, TX
Karlene Rich, Ponca City, OK
Jan Slack, Austin, TX
Linda N. Domelsmith, Temple, TX
Martha B. Toll, Cedar Park, TX
Dr. James Zwernemann, Bronxville, N.Y.
Stephen E. Flowers, Smithville, TX
E. C. Knippa, Jr., Lincoln, TX
Frances Maxwell, Dallas, TX
Hubert C. Noack, Waco, TX
Wilfred H. Schrader, Pensacola, FL
Ruby L. Sisco, Harker Heights, OK
Ruth Tschatschula, Brenham, TX
Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX
Ken Weiser, Giddings, TX
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Arlee Miller, Austin, TX
Hubert Noack, Waco, TX
Emmett Cloyna, Edna, TX
Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX
Linda S. O'Leary, San Antonio, TX
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, TX
Eugene E. Hemmann, St. Charles, IL
Kenneth Moerbe, Waco, TX

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 Elizabeth C. Kunze, Warda, TX
 Mrs. George Linebrink, Austin, TX
 Dian Teinert, Houston, TX
 Herbert Foerster, Giddings, TX
 Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX
 D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX
 Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX
 Natalie Waggoner, Houston, TX
 George Nielsen, Rapid City, SD

Jeanette Huelsebusch, La Grange, TX
 George W. Kunze, Warda, TX
 Ruth B. Scheffer, Fullerton, CA
 David Weise, Eastland, TX
 Bernice F. Schulz, Houston, TX
 Doris Zabel, St. Louis, MO
 Joy Teinert, Lubbock, TX
 Vernon Weber, Schulenburg, TX
 Dana Z. Mortimer, Orange, TX
 Dr. Helena A. Frost, Indian Wells, CA

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 Marvin R. Schulze, Austin, TX
 Barry Wukasch, Cave Creek, AZ
 Floyd Zoch, El Campo, TX
 Margie Loomans, Austin, TX
 Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX

J. B. Gersch, Jr., Giddings, TX
 Rev. Dr. Wilbert Sohns, Gatesville, TX
 Bettye Zoch, El Campo, TX
 Esther Herbrich, Houston, TX
 Carroll J. Dorsett, Adkins, TX
 Hilton Wieder, Houston, TX

Century Members

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 Herbert Fritsche, Jr., Houston, TX

Jerry L. Knippa, Boerne, TX
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Life Members

Reinhold A. Teinert, Austin, TX Irene S. Teinert, Austin, TX

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Donor

Amount

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 Josephine Kasper
 Brenda Goodson
 Sidonia Weiser
 Ludwig Groeschel
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 Ludwig Groeschel
 Alfred Krause
 Lydia Mrosko

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Taylor
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 Rita McCelvey
 Mr. & Mrs. Vic Mathias
 Mr. & Mrs. Ray Herbrich & Family

 Ruth Lindner
 The Naomi Gordon Krause Family
 Cindy Gentry & Patsy Vanstone

\$20.00

In Honor of:

Donor

Amount

Mr. & Mrs. George Boerger
 Wedding\Endowment Fund

Mr. Leroy Steglich

\$35.00

A \$60.00 donation was received from Mr. & Mrs. John Schmidt from Watkins Sale

GERMAN TEXAS SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum were represented at the annual GTHS meeting in Austin, September 11-13, 1998. Many thanks to Bob and Daphne Garrett for setting up the display and helping Vivian Taylor and Evelyn Buchhorn with the sales and questions about the "Wends" and the Museum.

**Third Annual Austin Ethnic Fair
January 23, 1999**

By Jan Slack and Della Mullens, Co-Chairpersons

The third annual Austin Ethnic Fair was held January 23, 1999 at the Woltman Activities Center on the Campus of Concordia University at Austin. The Ethnic Fair, sponsored by the University's Wendish Council, is a celebration of Austin's rich ethnic diversity, and is scheduled on the Saturday closest to January 25 in observance of Ptaci Kwas or the Birds' Wedding, an annual Wendish holiday.

David Goeke shared emcee duties this year with Olga Campos, Austin's KVUE Channel 24 anchor. Various cultural groups performed throughout the day including the Austin Scottish Country Dancers, Austin Saengerrunde Men's and Women's Chorus, Round Rock High School Ballet Folklorico, Philippine Art and Performing Group, Taylor Czech Singers, Austin Chinese School, Okinawan Dancers, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dance, and KINESIS Dance Theatre Project. Representatives from various ethnic groups including Polish, Japanese, Italian, Czech, Greek, German, Cuban, Mexican, Swedish, Puerto Rican, and Scottish displayed, demonstrated, and sold various folk arts, artifacts and ethnic foods. And, of course, our Wendish booths included sales of books and arts and crafts, demonstrations of egg decorating and noodle-making, and food including smoked sausage and chicken legs, sauerkraut, noodles, and coffee cake. A silent auction was held throughout the day offering many wonderful items donated by Austin area businesses and by some of the groups participating in the Fair, including the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

We wish to thank all the hard-working committee members organizing this event and the Wendish booths including Dr. David Zersen (President of Concordia-Austin), Laura Arldt (Concordia's Director of Events), Evelyn and Alan Buchhorn, Monroe Karcher, Ted Zoch, Rev. Robert and Georgie Boyce, Barbara Hielscher, Kenn Stephens (Concordia's Director of Facilities), David Goeke, Ruby and Thomas Sisco, Charles Slack, Walter and Laverne Gersch, Evelyn Kasper, Vivian Taylor, Hattie Schautschick, and Eleanor Schulze. Special kudos to our Noodle Committee and those responsible for cooking them—folks with the Swedish and Scottish groups especially stated that they looked forward to the Ethnic Fair so they could get more of those wonderful noodles!

Mark your calendars now for the fourth annual Austin Ethnic Fair to be held on January 22, 2000!

Among Our Members and Friends

Daphne Garrett reports that her latest publication, **Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, 1899-1949; a History of the Newspaper and Print shop of the Texas Wends** has drawn a lot of attention from universities which have a Slavic studies department, thanks to our member **David Chroust**. David is Monographs Cataloger at Texas A&M University's Evans Library. He belongs to a Slavic librarians' chat group on the Internet, and posted a notice about the book. She has received orders from the libraries of Harvard, Stanford, Duke, Texas A&M, Univ. of Cincinnati, Toronto, Ohio, Michigan, Texas, Texas A&M and many others; also from public libraries including Dallas, and New York City Public Library which ordered two copies. The Sorbische Institut in Bautzen is also very interested, especially because the book describes Daphne's discovery of an unknown Wendish language *Agenda* written by Pastor John Kilian in 1883 and printed, but not published, by John Proske in 1909. The book can be ordered from the Gift Shop of the Wendish Museum and from Garrett Historical Research at P.O. Box 35, Warda, Texas, 78960.

Joseph (Joe) Wilson is now retired from the Department of German and Slavic Languages at Rice University. He now holds the title of Professor Emeritus and maintains an office in the main Library. He looks forward to having more time to work on his many Wendish related projects.

Robert (Bob) Robinson-Zwahr sends his greetings to the members of the Wendish Heritage Society. He has been extremely ill during the past year and has almost lost use of his hands. We have missed Bob, and send best wishes for his recovery.

George Boerger and Florence Guihéneuf of France, were married on March 20, 1999 in Houston, Texas at Our Savior Lutheran Church. They will make their home in Houston.

Dr. Lotar Balke, reports from Drebkau, Lusatia, that part of his extensive Easter egg collection is on special exhibit at the Wendish Museum in Cottbus, and the other part of the collection is on exhibit at the Sorbisch Museum in Drebkau.

Michal Dube wrote from Erlangen, Germany, February 3, 1999. She had arrived in Dresden around the first of January, and after a couple weeks made her way up to Berlin to meet her boss, Pastor Robert Hartfield and his wife, Lilly. There she spent two weeks getting prepared to start this year's long project of getting to know our fellow Lutheran churches in Central Europe. At the end of March, she would be leaving for her first visit, most likely to Sopron, Hungary.



Shown left to right are:
Gertrud Mahling, Georgie B. Boyce,
and Jakob Brankatschk

TOUR FROM AUSTRALIA

Day 13 (October 2, 1998) of a 29 day tour of the United States was our opportunity to host a Lutheran Tour from Australia.

Olga Radke who had visited with Gersch relatives here in 1991 was with the group and it was good to see her again. She had mentioned a craving for a Shiner beer in a letter to Walter and Laverne Gersch, so they brought before dinner Shiner for the group. All of the docents had a delightful time visiting with these folks and as written by Mr. Saegenschnitter in his letter of February 16th, they enjoyed it too. He says, "please convey to the members of your Society and particularly to those who assisted on the day that our Lutheran Tour group visited Serbin, our sincere thanks for your very generous hospitality."

"Many of our group were uncertain of what to expect on that day because they previously knew very little of the Wends. However, I am pleased that we included Serbin in our tour and that day proved to be one of the real highlights of our entire month long holiday in the USA. From the lists of Australian Wendish family names which Olga Radke left with you, many of our group could readily trace some Wendish ancestry in their family."

"We had an excellent holiday throughout the USA. We were very fortunate with weather conditions throughout that time and we all returned home safely."

"We had an informal meal and fellowship evening of our tour group in January to share experiences, photos, memorabilia, etc, of that holiday. Many are still talking about the day we spent with you and the evening meal we had at Louis Biar's property at Serbin."

The letter goes on with a sad note telling us that their son, Andrew (19), who was with them on the tour, lost his life in a road accident on January 22nd. We extend sympathy to the family.

Should any members wish to tour in Australia Mr. Saegenschnitter would be prepared to assist in co-ordinating the itinerary for such tour including places of Wendish heritage there.

On Monday, March 15, 1999, Vivian Taylor gave a presentation on "WHO ARE THE WENDS?" to the FORTNIGHTY CLUB of Brenham International Affairs Department an affiliation of the Texas Women's Federation of Clubs. Thanks, Vivian, for a job well done!!

The Texas German Society Annual Convention was held on April 10, 1999 in Columbus. The Museum had a book table which was set up by J. B. Gersch, Jr. Thanks to J. B. we made approximately \$200 in sales.

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society
General Meeting
February 21, 1999**

President Georgie Boyce called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the museum complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, February 21, 1999.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, led the group in singing two hymns about journeys, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" and "Jesus, Lead Thou On." We were reminded of our ancestors' journey to Texas and their ultimate journey to their heavenly home. This ultimate journey is one we all take, the price of which was paid for by God living among us in the worst of circumstances and dying on the cross willingly so we would have passage to our heavenly home.

Forty-two members were present. Also attending the meeting as visitors were Marie Richards, Betty Smith, Pearl Heckmann, Al and Carolyn Jurk, and Lisa Stapp.

The minutes of the November 15, 1998 General Meeting were approved as presented.

George Boerger presented the 1998 Actual and 1999 Projected financial report, stating that 1998 was a strong year for the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. The Society closed the year with \$3,138 in surplus even with the unexpected expenses involved with the Museum burglary and advertising for the Wendish Fest. The 1999 projected budget includes an increase in expenses to cover purchase of a new copy machine and hiring an additional employee, a part-time Museum director, during mid-year. It was suggested that the Board should order an occasional audit of the financial records, and this idea will be brought to the Board for consideration at the April 1999 meeting. Motion was approved to accept the Financial Report as presented.

Hattie Schautschick, Noodle Committee Chairperson, reported that the Committee members produced 4,139 pounds of noodles during 1998. Thus far for 1999, 520 pounds have been produced.

Evelyn Kasper thanked everyone for donating money or baked goods for the Hielscher bake sale held November 20, 1998 in La Grange. Cash donated totaled \$275, sales totaled \$590.51, and the Serbin AAL Branch donated matching funds of \$500 for a total of \$1,365.51 presented to Carroll and Barbara Hielscher to help offset expenses incurred during Carroll's recent cancer surgery and ongoing treatment. Carroll is now undergoing chemotherapy and we are all asked to keep Carroll and Barbara in our prayers.

Jan Slack reported on the Austin Ethnic Fair, which was held January 23, 1999 in the Woltman Activities Center on the Concordia University campus. Austin's Channel 36 Saturday morning news gave good coverage of the event during their broadcast. Everyone was thanked for helping with this fun event, which was deemed a success, overall, and will be held again on January 22, 2000. Georgie Boyce announced that extra sausage is still available for sale at a cost of 2 links for \$4.00.

Hattie Schautschick gave a report on the Walk-in Coffee, which was held February 9, 1999. Sales and donations for the day totaled \$675.00. Special thanks were given to Eunice Dunk and everyone who donated their time or personal funds. For those desiring to contribute to this effort, cash donations are still being accepted.

Georgie Boyce reported that the billboard project is gaining momentum. The grant money has been spent and four locations have been chosen for the signs. Bluebonnet Electric will provide the

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labor and materials to set the poles. Ken Weiser was thanked for his work and guidance with this project.

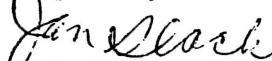
Georgie Boyce reminded everyone present that docents are needed to work Saturdays and Sundays. If possible, volunteers are requested to choose a specific Saturday or Sunday each month to work, and to be responsible for finding a substitute if they cannot work their chosen day.

New business:

- (1) Museum Director. The Board is considering the idea of hiring a part-time Museum director. If anyone has suggestions or comments on this, please give them to Georgie Boyce for consideration at the April 1999 meeting.
- (2) A new temporary exhibit in the Museum displays artifacts, pictures and information about area businesses. A permanent display on the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt has been prepared.
- (3) Several letters have been received from Rachel Hildebrandt seeking information on the Texas Wends for a project. Specifically, she would like personal stories about Johann Kilian. If anyone has memories of stories told to them by their elders about Reverend Kilian, please send them to the Museum.
- (4) It was noted that the Giddings Courthouse Centennial will be in May 1999. Georgie Boyce will inquire about the Texas Wendish Heritage Society's possible participation in this event.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 PM with thanks given to those providing refreshments. Georgie Boyce then presented the video entitled "A Visit to the Lusatian Sorbs," which was filmed in the Wendish areas of Germany.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Slack
Secretary

I would like to thank the members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society for giving me the opportunity to serve as Secretary during 1998. As a new-comer to the Executive Board, it has been a most enjoyable year and I have learned much about how the Museum and Society function and how many people are involved in keeping this wonderful project growing and successful. Preserving the story and the legacy of our Wendish ancestors is a most fitting way to show respect to our forefathers and gratitude to our Lord for bringing them to this wonderful country so we could live as free citizens. I realize that many, many people help with the countless tasks involved, but I want to especially express my gratitude to Evelyn Kasper, Barbara Hielscher, Georgie Boyce, Hattie Schautschick, Eleanor Schulze, Doris Reagan, Vivian Taylor, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, George Boerger, Della Mullens, Ken Weiser, Ron Knippa, Telford Zoch, Freddie Zoch, Laverne and Walter Gersch, and Eunice Dunk for giving so freely of their time, talents and treasures. I've witnessed the hard work and long hours they give to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, and as David Goeke so aptly states, they are truly living God's command to "honor thy Father."

55th NOAK REUNION HELD

The 55th annual Noak Family Reunion was held on Sunday, March 21, at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with 98 members of the Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine Mitzscherling Noack (Noak) family in attendance. There were also two visitors present.

Before the catered noon meal was served, Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham asked the blessing. After the meal, the business meeting was called to order by David Noak, Sr. of La Grange. Diana Kallus of Victoria read the minutes and Lanette Williams of Carmine gave the treasurer's report from the previous year.

Three births were reported since the last reunion. The youngest person in attendance was Stephanie Nichole Moehlmann, 7 week old daughter of Fred and Sharom Moehlmann of Brenham. The female living the longest present was Irene Noak, 81 hears, of La Grange. The male living longeset present was Lee Roy Goehring, 83 years, of Round Top.

Three Marriages were reported since the previous reunion. The most recently married couple in attendance was Jarrod and Courtney Bernhard of Bryan, with two weeks. The longest married couple present was Leroy and Nola Goehring of Round Top with 58 years.

Two deaths in the family were reported since the last reunion, including George Marburger and Shirey Noak. A moment of silent prayer was offered for them.

Traveling farthest to the reunion was Ron and Helen Greif of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Other Texas cities represented were Houston, Round Top, Taylor, Burton, Orange, La Grange, Brenham, Wallis, Austin, Hallettsville, Victoria, Carmine, Danbury, Flatonia, Bryan, and Columbus.

Members of the Marie Noak Weigelt family will assume the duties of president for next year and assume responsibility for reunion set-up. Diana Kallus and Lanette Williams were re-elected to serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The meeting adjourned with David Noak, Sr. leading the Lord's Prayer in German, after which all joined in praying in English.

Submitted by:

Diana Kallus
361/573-0394



"IN SEARCH OF....."

Information on relatives of Carl Christian Alexander Buvinghausen and Caroline or Carrie Conzelman (Konzelmann). Please contact: Alice (Mrs. Donald) Corfman, 1060 Rainbow Lane, Des Moines, WA 98198 or e-mail: alice@corfman.com.

Any information about the name or families with the name of **Tschierswitz**. Please contact: Rita J. McKillip, 2260 N. Summit Ave. #112 Milwaukee, WI 53202, phone: 414-347-1335.

Descendants of Carl Ernest Weise (born: June 26, 1874 at Serbin) and wife, Anna. Please contact: David Weise, 606 S. College, Eastland, TX 76448 or call 254-629-8009.

Family genealogists seeking help locating ancestors, send your request to **"In Search of..."**, Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, Rt.2, Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942-9769. Please let us know whether this new addition to the Newsletter has been helpful!!

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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