



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings to everyone! We hope your summer has been relaxing and that you are ready to either attend Wendish Fest or to help us make it happen on September 24. By now you should have received your work assignment for the day. If you will not be able to work your assigned shift, please call us at the Museum and let us know so a replacement can be scheduled. Of course, we hope you will all be able to be there on September 24 to help make the day a success as well as to enjoy the entertainment and fellowship the event provides. One special note I would like to mention is that Louise Peter, who is a descendant of Pastor Johann Kilian and whose financial assistance made it possible to build our Museum, will celebrate her 101st birthday on the day of this year's Wendish Fest, September 24. That is quite a milestone!

During the past seven months serving as President of this Society, I have become familiar with many of the people who work behind the scenes to either keep the organization running on a daily basis or who provide valuable assistance without necessarily receiving accolades in return. We are very lucky to have such a wide spread base of support, both from our membership and from those who simply volunteer because they believe in the mission of the Society. I would like to mention a few of these people, because their input or assistance has been extremely valuable in our efforts to promote the Society and Museum.

Dr. David Zersen, President of Concordia University, Austin, decided early in his term as Concordia's President that the unique history of the founding of Concordia Austin by Wendish descendants was a story he could take to heart. He has been instrumental in providing information concerning our history to students at Concordia as well as in making connections with Wends, or Sorbs, in present-day Germany.

Tim Harris, a recent addition to our membership roster, provided, for a number of years, our first internet presence and, more recently, gave me invaluable advice on development of our new site. Of his own free will and time, he developed the first web site for the Society and Museum, from which many people surfing the web either learned about their own Wendish background or about our story.

Marion and Jack Wiederhold, who quietly work behind the scenes, as time allows in their busy professional schedules, to maintain and update the displays at the Museum, utilizing all the wonderful artifacts that we continue to receive as donations.

Daphne Garrett and Susan and Michael Unger, who provide our gift shop with the beautiful decorated Wendish Easter eggs that we sell, and who annually give their time to demonstrate their talents at the Wendish Fest and at many other events during the year.

Jarrene and Doris Mitschke, Royce and Gladys Krakosky, Crystal Schautschick, Janice Toyne, Lorine Domel, J.B. Gersch, Adeline Nietzsche, and Renata Fichte who, whenever asked, work behind the scenes performing such tasks as cooking and washing dishes for tours or bagging noodles for sale.

These are just a few of the folks who help make our Museum "happen." I know there are many more of you who give your time, and I hope to meet each of you one day. To all of you, we say "thank you."

Jan Knippa Slack, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 4** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Labor Day
- SEPTEMBER 24** 12TH Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul picnic grounds
- OCTOBER 27-29** GTHS Annual Convention in Galveston at the Tremont Houston
- NOVEMBER 19** General Membership at the museum Complex at 2:00 p. m.
- NOVEMBER 23** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving Day.
- DECEMBER 24 & 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for the Christmas holidays.

AAAAAAAAAAAA

NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

THREE INTERESTING SPEAKERS IN ONE PROGRAM

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society met for their quarterly meeting on Sunday, August 20. Following an opening devotion and a brief business meeting, the program was presented by three very interesting individuals.

DR. RAY MARTENS, President Emeritus at Concordia University at Austin, spoke about his recent trip to Bautzen, Germany, where he signed on behalf of Concordia an articulation with the Domowina (the Sorbische cultural preservation group in Germany) which committed both sides to mutual collaboration in scientific and cultural research. Like the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Concordia University at Austin is an associate member of the Domowina because it is the only university in the world founded by people largely of Wendish ancestry.

Following Dr. Martens' presentation was a report from DR. CHARLES WUKASCH about his recent trip to the Wendish homeland in Germany. Dr. Wukasch holds M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in Slavic studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He studied in the Wendish Department at Leipzig University in 1965 and is now on staff at Austin Community College. He writes extensively on the Wends and has written the only English-language practical grammar of Wendish.

REV. ELMER HOHLE of Austin closed the program by singing a few hymns in the Wendish language.

WE HAVE BILLBOARDS GIVING DIRECTIONS TO THE WENDISH MUSEUM

We presently have two large directional signs advertising our location, so when you are passing through Lee County you will know that you are close to us!

In the past, folks passing from the Bush Presidential Library in Bryan to the Johnson Presidential Library in Austin, or from Texas A & M University to the University of Texas in Austin, saw no reminders that they were passing through Wendish territory. That changed on July 20 when a large billboard was erected along Highway 21 about a mile east of the intersection with Highway 77. You can't miss that one even if you are not looking for it.

We have another wonderful location on Highway 290 just west of the 180 cut-off (leading to Lake Somerville) but at the present time some brush clearing needs to be done along the right - of - way. Once Highway 290 is widened in accordance with the plans for the future, it will stand out just as much—until then, we are trying to get the brush cleared so that everyone can see it whether or not they are looking for it. We have had wonderful comments concerning both of these and look forward to getting one more large sign situated directing people to our museum.

Several smaller signs will soon appear along the roads leading to the museum. Thanks a million to everyone who worked so hard to make these a reality, and for the grant from the Giddings Hotel-Motel Funds which supplied funds without which we could not have done the project.

APRON DISPLAY

This year at the Wendish Fest we will feature an apron display. This will be a tribute to our mothers and grandmothers who always had an apron on during their many hours spent in the kitchen. If you have an apron you would like to display during the Wendish Fest, you may contact the museum or Marian Wiederhold (979-366-2335). Our apron display will be a change from the quilt display from this year, and we will see what our response will be.

NOACK REUNION

The reunion of the Johann and Maria Noack heirs is scheduled for October 1st at the Warda Picnic Grounds, with a potluck lunch. Johann and Maria came to America with their daughter and husband, Maria and Karl Schulze. Their son, Jakob Noack and wife, Anna Medack Noack, had come here earlier. After Jakob's death, Anna married Andreas Wieder. All of the Noack, Schulze and Wieder heirs are invited.

FRITSCH REUNION

The heirs of Peter Fritsche are invited to the reunion on October 15th at the St. Paul picnic grounds in Serbin. The year 2000 is the 100th anniversary of the death of Peter Fritsche. Flowers will be placed on the altar and later taken to the cemetery. Come and join this family for a potluck dinner and meet your relatives.

LIBRARY REPORT

I know it's been a long time coming for me to write a report on the Library. I would like to invite all of you to visit and see the numerous books and resources we have available. This is a self-help Library. We have many books on Wendish and German customs, records from many local Churches, assortment of family history books with family trees with photo's.

I'd like to request that if you live outside of the Giddings, LaGrange area, and are able to send us a copy of an obituary of family (or friends) members who have Wendish or German background to please send them to the museum. Send copies that you do not want to have returned, all copies will become property of the Wendish Museum. We have many visitors looking for ancestors and we have found that other than the local church records, obituaries are very helpful. Send your copies on a regular (8 ½ x 11) sheet of paper to the Museum. It will then be filed.

To view all historic books or photo's, you must make a reservation with the Archivist. You may call the Museum and leave your name and phone number for the Archivist to make an appointment with you. We regret this inconvenience, but we are not staffed to have an Archivist on duty.

A listing of some of the books donated in 1999 were:

- "Czech History" donated by Michael Unger
- "About Bautzen, Germany" donated by Domowina
- "The Historical Phonology U & L Sorbian Language" donated by Gunter Schaarschmidt,
- "4 paper dolls" purchased from Germany by G B B
- "The Lutheran Annual" donated by Kenneth Weiser
- "Durch die Jahrhunderte" by Ketrin Jones
- "1957 West Texas Historical Assn. " Year book by Jenny Shairock-Pecore
- "The Gaeke Church book" (Art Window Photograph) donated by Rev. Wilbert Sohns
- "Johann Dube Family History" by Jed Dube
- "My World War II" by Paul Knippa, Jr. donated by Roy Knippa
- "Who are the Wends?" donated by Kellye D. Halpern
- "Kilian Hymns" donated by Martin Kaltschmidt.

As time and space permits, there will be more listings of donated books and perhaps a brief sentence or two of the books contents. We have a variety of resources available, so plan on spending the entire evening if you are doing research. Any donations made to the Museum are not returnable. They become the property of the Museum. All items are of historical value and some are not out for public view. They may be seen by appointment only. If you wish to donate item(s) to the Museum, you must fill out a form stating you are donating item to the Museum.

We are not staffed to do individual research. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 1-5 p.m. closed on holidays. Come visit our Library any afternoon Tuesday through Sunday:

Eleanor Schulze, Librarian

TOURS

We enjoyed a visit from our neighbors, the Joy Group from the Baptist Church in Giddings on July 17th. They asked for the table prayer in Wendish. Mr. Walter Schulze and his wife were invited as guests and he asked the blessing in Wendish, in German and in English.

Our next group will come on August 31st.

by Evelyn Kasper

On July 11, 21 members of the Comel County Genealogy Society did a "self-guided" tour of the Painted Churches of Fayette County. Connie Krause, the tour organizer, began the morning with a tour of the Wendish Museum complex and St. Paul Lutheran Church. As a friend of Connie's, Vivian Taylor, joined them to answer questions and point out interesting hi-lights. The group as a whole were very interested in learning more about the Wends. Some were acquainted with us through the San Antonio Folk Life Festival. Our museum received many favorable comments. The round-clipped cedar trees on the church cemetery were especially noted. Several of the group are actively involved in recording and preserving old cemeteries. Another member was quite interested in seeing the Pfeifer church organ. He restores old organs and had restored another Pfeifer. When we were at High hill in St. Mary's, I learned that his great-grandfather had been the wood carver for the altars in that church. He had a notebook with copies of the sketches and completed works of his great-grandfather's, including St. Mary's. Needless to say, he was thrilled to actually see the work of his ancestor.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that this is one of the rewards of volunteering as a docent for our museum. It is always a pleasure to meet and visit with the many different folks who seek us out. I would encourage you to try it. If you would like to become a docent, give the museum a call. If we can get 2 or 3 or more, we will arrange to have a training session. One session would probably suffice. Printed information would be available for study. It isn't difficult and there are NO TESTS! EVERYONE PASSES!!! Please do consider volunteering.

by Vivian Taylor

IN SEARCH OF---

We have received emails from the following individuals asking for our help in their research. Can you help one (or more) of them? They would appreciate hearing from you!

From Heather DelRosario, <hdelrosario@sprint.ca.>
regarding MARKUS/MARKUSCH/YURDT:

My father, David Markus, has done previous research on our family. He unfortunately has passed away and I would like to continue the research he started. The furthest that he got would be my great-great grandfather Martin Markus(ch) born in Drachausen, Berchelioung, Germany who was married to Caroline Yurdt born in Mallen, Germany. They immigrated to Renfrew County, Ontario, Canada in 1890. He indicated they are Wends. Do you possibly know where I can access maps of Germany around that time period? Do you know of any large immigration of Wends to the Ottawa Valley, Renfrew County, Ontario around that time period.

From Jan Hicks, jan<jg_b98@yahoo.com>:

I am doing research on my husband's family before they migrated to the United States and I am in need of a map that shows where Lusatia is located. Do you have one for purchase or know of a resource that would?

The family I am searching came from Prebis, Silesia, Prussia. The surnames are WENDE, HOLZ, and HANCHEN.

From Herb Stelzer in New Jersey <RUNVSZ68@aol.com>

Sir/Madam:

I have been searching for information about my great-grandfather for over two years and viewed hundreds of ship arrival lists. By accident, I came across the Ben Nevis arriving at Galveston in December, 1854, and listed two Schulze families..... My grandfather was born 12-12-1822.

the Ship Ben Nevis listed Johann Schulze and family, one son being Johann born 12-12-1822. Can you provide me with any information on the Johann Schulze family that arrived on the Ship Ben Nevis? Who were they? Where did they go? Where did they settle? Any information would be most appreciated. I thank you in advance.

Mr. Stelzer is asking about the possibility of his grandfather being **the** Johann Schulze whose name was spelled Stultz, Schultz, Schulze, and by 1880 it was Stelzer. Does anyone have any information regarding this???

If you can shed any light on either of the three inquiries and would like to respond to the people who are asking the questions, they will be forever grateful and it may be the beginning of a long friendship!!

12th Annual
WENDISH FEST

September 24, 2000

**Texas Wendish Heritage Museum &
St. Paul Lutheran Church Picnic Grounds
Serbin, Texas (Located 5 miles SW of Giddings)**



**THE FAYETTE CZECH
SINGERS & DANCERS**

SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE - 3:00 P.M.

KOVANDA'S CZECH BAND - 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

From Fayetteville, Texas

JACK WIEDERHOLD & DOUG MALKE - German Sing-A-Long - 4:30

Wendish Noon Meal Served 11:15 AM - 1:30 pm

COFFEE CAKE BAKE-OFF - 10:30 AM

Other Contests: Children's Activities:

Washer Pitching - 1:30 PM Coloring Contest - 2:30 PM

Cross Cut Saw - 4:00 PM "Klettern Pfosten" & More

WENDISH FOLKWAYS & DEMONSTRATIONS

Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs Noodle Making

Quilting Blacksmithing

Museum Phone: 979-366-2441

Fax: 979-366-2805

E-Mail: wendish@bluebon.net

VISITORS

During the months of June and July we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: California, Kansas, Nebraska, Florida, Arkansas, Colorado, North Carolina, Illinois, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Arizona, Canada, Nevada, and Missouri.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of June and July: J.B. Gersch, Jr., Eleanor Schulze, Herbert & Laverne Falke, Henry & Emily Zoch, Freddie Zoch, Jan & Charles Slack, Ruby Koslan, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Hattie Schautschick, Ashley Hielscher, Barbara Hielscher, Mildred Kilian, Janice Mitschke, and Telford Zoch,

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Alvin Schmidt	M/M F. Woodrow Bush	\$100.00

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Thank you to Hattie Schautschick for helping to get the newsletter for June ready for mailing.

## Texas Mendish Heritage Society and Museum

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GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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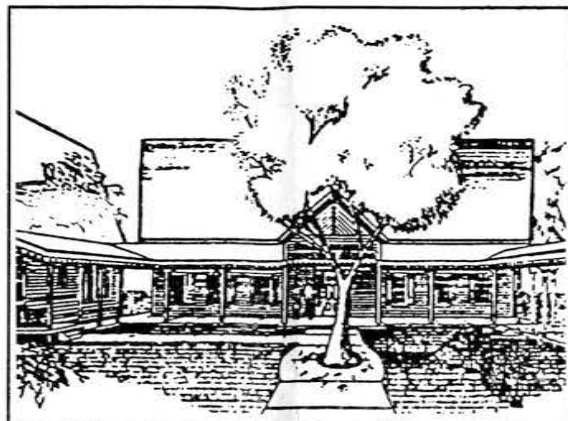
Special Guest Performance  
by  
**The Fayette Czech  
Singers and Dancers**



The Fayette Czech Singers and Dancers, established in the fall of 1985 for the 1986 Sesquicentennial Pageant, "The Fate of Fayette", perform authentic Moravian, Bohemian and Slovak folk dances and songs. They are sponsored by the Fayette Chapter of the Czech Heritage Society of Texas and S.P.J.S.T. Lodge #1, Fayetteville. The singers are accompanied by George Koudelka, flutist and Lee Roy Matocha, accordionist. Carolyn Sumner Meinert serves as director for the singers and Helen Trnovsky Mikus is the dance instructor.



For more information on Hotel/Motel accommodations in the Lee County area, contact the Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce, 171 East Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942.  
Phone 979/542-3455

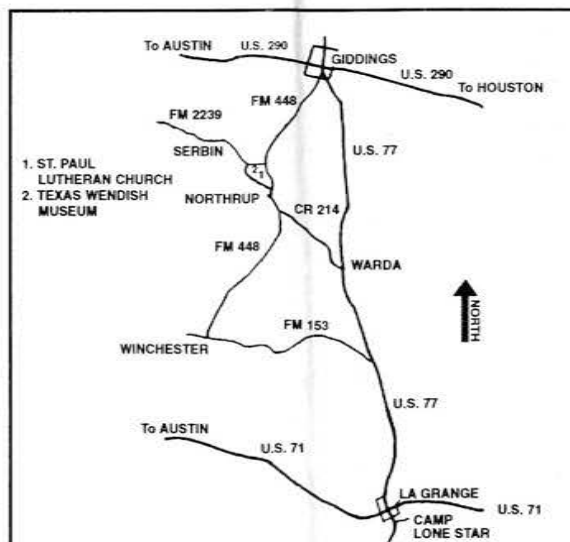


## HOURS

Museum and Library  
open Tuesday thru Sunday 1-5 p.m.  
Closed Mondays and holidays.  
Archives by appointment only.

Group tours may be scheduled  
with or without a Wendish meal.

For More Information, call:  
979-366-2441 or Fax: 979-366-2805  
E-mail: [wendish@bluebon.net](mailto:wendish@bluebon.net)



## Witajcie K'nam Welcome



## TWELFTH ANNUAL WENDISH FEST

SERBIN, TEXAS  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2000**



# WENDISH FEST

September 24, 2000



## St. Paul Church

- 8:30 a.m. English Service  
Rev. Harold Schroeter of San Antonio
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School  
Rev. Harold Schroeter of San Antonio
- 10:30 a.m. German Service  
Rev. Harold Schroeter of San Antonio
- 1:00 & 2:00 p.m. Church Tours

## St. Paul Picnic Grounds

- 10:45 a.m. Noon meal ticket sales
- Adults \$6.00  
Children \$3.00  
Tea and Coffee included  
All Take-out plates \$6.00  
Desserts 50 cents

Noon meal served until 1:30 p.m.  
Menu: Sausage, Green Beans, Noodles, Beets,  
Peaches, Bread, Coffee or Tea

Short-Order Booths open at 2:30 p.m.  
Chicken drumsticks  
Sausage-Sauerkraut Boats  
Sausage wraps  
Noodles  
Desserts

## Band Stand

- 11:30 - 2:30 KOVANDA'S CZECH BAND
- 3:00 - 4:00 The Fayette Czech Singers & Dancers
- 4:30 - Close Jack Wiederhold & Doug Malke  
German Sing-A-Long

# DEMONSTRATIONS



Coffee Cake Bake-off  
(St. Paul Picnic Grounds)

Deadline for Entries 10:30 a.m.  
Winners Announced 12:30 p.m.



Noodle Making Picnic Grounds  
2:00 p.m.

Sausage Stuffing Picnic Grounds/  
2:30 p.m. Pavilion

Old Fashioned Butter Churning Kilian Building  
2:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Decorating Kilian Building  
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Handmade Quilt Display St. Paul Building  
Quilting  
Wine Making Information

Blacksmithing Picnic Grounds  
Stone Ground Corn Meal



TWHS Craft Booth Circle Drive at Museum



The Museum Complex will be open from 10:00 a.m.  
until 5:00 p.m. with Genealogy help available in the  
Library located in the Peter Building.

# ACTIVITIES



Washer Pitching (sign-up 1:30 sharp)  
2:00 p.m. Picnic Grounds

Cross Cut Saw Contest Picnic Grounds  
4:00 p.m.

## Children's Activities

Coloring Contest Picnic Grounds  
2:30 p.m.

Train Rides

"Klettern Pfosten"

Cedar Plaque Making Using Cross Cut Saw

Corn Shucking - Shelling - Feed The Geese

Wendish Couple picture taking  
Props available all day



# OTHER ATTRACTIONS

## Picnic Grounds

Watkins Booth  
Concordia University Booth  
Lutheran Layman's League (LLL) Booth  
Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Booth  
Lutheran Brotherhood Booth