

TWHS News

Newsletter of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Volume XXI, Number 3

July 2008

Königswartha Blaskapelle from Germany, featured performers at the
20th Annual Wendish Fest on September 28, 2008!



Zetkamy so w Serbskim Festiwalu!

President's Message

Organizations exist for some purpose – or purposes. At their beginnings most organizations have a more or less clear idea of what that purpose (or those purposes) is. I can tell you what the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum's purposes are. They are contained in the second article of our bylaws, titled "Objectives":

The objectives of the Society shall be to:

1. Offer the members a deeper understanding and appreciation of the cultural background of their ancestors.
2. Promote understanding and appreciation of the Wendish culture through the efforts of the Society.
3. Provide an opportunity for the membership to meet with each other for fellowship and exchanging knowledge of the Wends.
4. Engage in recruitment of new members for the Society.
5. Maintain the history of the Wends by conserving in the museum relics, manuscripts, artifacts, tapes, and other important items relating to the Wends.
6. Cultivate the usage of the Wendish language.
7. Establish the syllabus for a chair on Wendish history/culture at a university or college and/or provide assistance to a graduate linguistic student dedicated to the preservation of the Wendish language.
8. Organize local chapters.
9. Develop and maintain endowment funds with specific purposes. Interest income only from endowments may be used to fund the particular purposes.

Most organizations, as they age, need to go back to their stated purposes for existence and (1) see how they are doing in fulfilling those purposes, (2) decide whether the stated purposes need to be revised, and (3) decide how to improve their performance to those purposes. I think its time we check out how TWHS is doing with its objectives.

Obviously, we are doing some things quite well. George Boerger, who is our Accountant and oversees membership issues, told the Board of Directors this past Saturday that TWHS now has over 1,000 members. The physical plant has never looked better. (Check out the work that Raymond "Red" Arldt and his crew have recently completed on the exterior of the St. Paul building – and just wait until they work on the interior of that building sometime this winter!) The Wendish noodle business is booming. (Got to love the "noodle ladies": Hattie Schautschick, Evelyn Kasper, and Irene Boriack have made over 3,000 pounds so far this year, and Laverne Gersch only recently decided to "retire".) Doug Symmank's design and maintenance efforts on our gardens has made a big difference. Tours of the Museum and St. Paul's Church are regular events. Thanks to Ron Knippa and his family and friends, the Wendish booth at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio won first place! And the twentieth annual Wendish Fest is in preparation. (By the way, we REALLY need volunteers to help this year. Call the Museum at 979-366-2441 if you're willing and able to lend a hand.)

From you I'd like to know what most needs our focus and attention to better fulfill our objectives. What would you like to see TWHS do? How could we help you and your family better understand and appreciate our Wendish culture and heritage? How might we better involve our children? I know that our website needs to be revised and revitalized, but what would you want to find there? Call the Museum with your ideas and input – or email us at wendish@bluebon.net. YOU are TWHS, and from YOU we need feedback and ideas.

Considering the fact that almost all of the work to make TWHS what it is today was (and is being) done by "amateurs", we have come an incredibly long way since those five women got together in 1971 to plan a Wendish booth at the Texas Folklife Festival. By God's grace and with His aid we will continue to celebrate the history and the people to whom we owe so much.

Chuck Dube, President

In Memoriam

Emajeane Schkade Moody of Paradise, TX, member since 1987, died January 16, 2007

Annette Scharath Albrandt of Arvada, CO, member since 2002, died April 9, 2007

Gus Wolf of Shore Acres, TX, member since 2003, died October 16, 2007

Benjamin Wagner of Granbury, TX, member since 2004, died February 2, 2008

Adell Knippa of Houston, formerly of San Antonio, member since 1980, died June 6, 2008

Martha Biehle Toll of Cedar Park, TX, member since 1995, died June 11, 2008

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Barbara Hielscher

Doris and Charles Reagan, for Landscape Fund

George and Florence Boerger

Karin Gottier, on behalf of the North American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups

Raymond and Anne Bamsch

Otto Becker

Josephine Ellis

Walter and Laverne Gersch

Mary Schulz Guggisberg

Joyce Kolbe

Leroy and Shirley Lorenz

Doug Malke and Beverly Malke

Edna Noack

Ruby Koslan

Chuck and Vivian Dube

Monroe Prelllop

J.B. Gersch, Jr.

Nelda D. Winkler

Winchester Area Volunteer Fire Dept.

Dan and Wynona Banks

Susan and Michael Unger

In memory of Adell Knippa

George and Florence Boerger

In memory of Annette Albrandt

George and Florence Boerger

In memory of Frieda Wendland

George and Florence Boerger

In memory of Eberhard Proske

George and Florence Boerger

In memory of Norma Jean Hohle

George and Florence Boerger

In honor of Martha Biehle's 98th birthday

Doris and Charles Reagan, for Landscape Fund

In memory of Martha Biehle Toll

Evelyn Buchhorn

In memory of Emily Zoch

Irene Weaver

In memory of John and Theresia Synatschk

Synatschk Family Reunion

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Donates \$20,605.00 to Texas Wendish Heritage Society

We are happy to announce that Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative awarded our museum a grant in the amount of \$20,605.00.

“Preserving history by making donations to community organizations such as the Wendish Heritage Society is an extremely important part of Bluebonnet’s commitment to community,” said Mark Johnson, Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative community representative, “By donating this money, Bluebonnet hopes to further the Ser-

bin community’s work to maintain the only Wendish museum in America.”

Work began on the St. Paul Building during the spring. Improvements to the exterior, which are now complete, included a new paint job, termite treatment, replacement of siding and skirting, and addition of new storage space. In the fall, work will begin on the inside of the building to upgrade lighting and wiring, add solar screens to some of the windows, upgrade insulation, and put a coat of fresh paint on the walls.

We are truly grateful to Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative for their generosity, and for their involvement in the communities they serve.

Upcoming Events and Dates

August 17	Quarterly Membership Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Museum complex
August 23	German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Meeting, Houston
September 1	Labor Day Holiday
September 28	20 th Annual Wendish Fest, Museum Complex and St. Paul Picnic Grounds, Serbin
November 2	Daylight Savings Time ends

Quarterly Membership Meeting Sunday, August 17, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Following a brief business meeting, our guest speakers will be Dr. Beryl and John Dunsmoir, who will tell us about their experiences living in China and teaching English and Western Culture. Following is a brief introduction to the Dunsmoirs, in their own words:

“Some of us (we are 67) take longer to prepare than others. God is very patient - consider Abraham and Sarah!

We were born and raised in the north of England during the Second World War. The living conditions then would be regarded today as somewhat “primitive”, not that we thought it so, growing up at that time. However, there is no doubt that it was great preparation for our life in rural China! It is amazing to re-discover what you can manage without and still live comfortably!

We met in the university Christian Union. Following graduation and engagement, we had planned to become missionaries but God had other ideas, so we returned home to teach Biology. John went off to Uganda for two years to teach Math and Physics in the school where the current President of Uganda was then a student. We were married on September 11th, four weeks after his return, and John joined IBM the following week.

We immigrated to the US in 1979, living initially in the northeast, and then moved to Austin in 1993, where we joined Redeemer Lutheran Church. Beryl worked at Concordia University

(CUA) and John continued with IBM. We were introduced to LCMS short-term missionary service in 2000, and spent three summers teaching English to Chinese teachers of English in various parts of China (2000, 2001, and 2005). John eventually retired in 2006, after 41 years of service and eight house moves.

Following “retirement” - this word is not found in the Bible! - we decided to go back to China. God already had the place chosen for us: Huang Shan University, in Anhui Province, east-central China. One of our Chinese teachers from year 2000, now a Deputy-Head in her school, wrote to the university and “**told**” them to hire us. We have now taught English and Western Culture there for three semesters. We will return for the next academic year at the end of September, 2008.

What’s in store for us next? Only God knows!”

Wendish Fest 2008

Included in this newsletter is a flyer describing the 20th Annual Wendish Fest. The featured performers this year will be members of the Königswartha Blaskapelle from Germany.

After worship services in English (8:30 am) and German (10:30 am) at St. Paul Lutheran Church, come out and enjoy some great food, Kovanda’s Czech Band, *antique and classic car display*, *plant sale*, *silent auction*, *coffee cake bake-off*, *Easter Egg decorating*, and the many other fun activities running throughout the day. For the children, activities include a *coloring contest*, *train rides*, *face painting*, *moon walk*, *stick horse races*, and *Klettern Pfosten*!

And speaking of *silent auction* and *plant sale*, we hope you will help us make them bigger and better than ever. If you have items or plants to donate, please bring them to the museum before Wendish Fest or to the Silent Auction and Plant Sale booths no later than 10:00 a.m. that day.

We also need your homemade desserts, especially coffee cake and most especially cheese coffee cake. Proceeds from the sale of your donated desserts, along with other profits from the Wendish Fest, help defray the cost of operating our Museum.

If you have ever wanted to participate in the *coffee cake bake-off*, following are the contest rules:

- ❖ No entry fee.
- ❖ A 5" square piece of each entry will be used for judging; the remainder will be sold at the dessert stand.
- ❖ Entries must be delivered to the dessert stand on the picnic grounds no later than 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Entries will be judged in one of 3 categories: cheese, streusel, or special. Cheese and streusel must be yeast raised and at least 10" x 13". The "special" category must be a full recipe and yeast-raised (angel food or bundt cake pans can be used), and can include cinnamon rolls, or fruit or nut toppings.

For questions about the Plant Sale, please contact Altha Garrett at (979) 242-3822. For more

information about the Silent Auction or other Wendish Fest activities, please contact the museum at (979) 366-2441.

Calling all Volunteers!

Wendish Fest needs you! As we grow and add new activities to Wendish Fest, we find ourselves running short on good help.

If you are able to be here on September 28, we hope you will consider volunteering a couple of hours of your time to work in one of the booths.

If you have family members who would be interested in giving some of their time, this is a wonderful opportunity for a family project.

Please contact Eunice Dunk at the museum or by email at gedunk@cmaaccess.com for more information or to sign up as a volunteer.

To all members:

Your Board of Directors voted unanimously at the Board meeting on July 26, 2008 to recommend a change in the Bylaws of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

This change concerns the definition of a quorum at quarterly membership meetings. It is recommended that the definition now read: *The presence of those eligible members in attendance, following notification of the membership of a properly scheduled meeting of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for membership meetings and the presence of a majority of members shall constitute a quorum for boards and committees.*

According to Article XIII of our Bylaws, which governs the way changes are made, the membership is to be notified thirty (30) days prior to

the meeting at which a proposed change in the Bylaws will be voted upon. A two-thirds vote of those present and voting is required to change the Bylaws.

This newsletter article shall serve to give notice of a special membership meeting and vote to be taken on the question on Sunday, September 28, 2008 (Wendish Fest). Members will find a ballot box and ballots at the information booth on the picnic grounds. Please consider this request carefully, as it is necessary since the TWHS has been blessed with a growth in members who are scattered far and wide, thus diminishing the percentage able to attend meetings. Then stop at the booth and cast your ballot.

Thank You
Board of Directors

Sorbian Proverb

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

Little children put everything in their mouth, and old women everything in the oven.

Małe džěći wšo do hubki a stare žony wšo do kachli tykaja.

(MAH-weh JIH-chee WSHOH DO HOOP-kee A STAH-reh ZHOH-nee WSHOH DO KAHK-lee TEE-kahyah.)

Source: *Sorbian Proverbs*, S. Hose & W. Mieder. Phonetic spelling: Dr. Charles Wukasch.

Museum Activities and Committee Reports

Visitors

During the months of April, May and June, the museum hosted visitors from Wyoming, Louisiana, Indiana, Minnesota, Tennessee, California, S. Carolina, Nebraska, Washington, Oklahoma, Arizona, West Virginia, Arkansas, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, all parts of Texas, and from France, Australia, Canada, Germany, and Switzerland.

Thank You Museum Docents!

During the months of April, May and June, the following served as museum docents: Freddie Zoch, Ruby Koslan, Sandra Matthijetz, George Boerger, Carolyn Bohot, Jan Slack, Vivian Dube, Chuck Dube, Eunice Dunk, J.B. Gersch, Jr., Margo Latimer, Betty Jo Knippa, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, and Monroe Miertschin.

Noodle Committee Report

Hattie Schautschick, Chair

Thus far for 2008, we have made 3,350 pounds of noodles. The day before noodles are actually made, dozens of eggs are set out and flour is measured into 10-pound increments. Noodle-making day begins no later than 8:00 a.m. and the workers go home by 4:00 p.m. That is a full day of work!

Tours

Evelyn Kasper, Chair

Tours and an old-fashioned Wendish meal were provided to a Lifeline group from Katy, Texas on May 21, a group of AT&T retirees on May 29, and a group from Houston on June 13.

Museum tours were provided on May 22 and June 16.

Minutes of the May 18, 2008 General Membership Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order at 2:00 PM in the Kilian Building on Sunday, May 18, 2008, by Eunice Dunk, Vice-President. There were 20 members in attendance.

Rev. Al Gallmeier presented the devotion.

The minutes of the February 17, 2008 meeting were approved as presented in the April newsletter.

Evelyn Kasper reported that 2496 pounds of noodles had been made to-date in 2008.

Evelyn Kasper reported that tours with meals were provided on March 12, March 26, and April 25.

Eunice Dunk reported that a grant application to LCRA was awarded, and the funds would be used for painting, repairs and storage additions to the St. Paul Building.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:20 PM. Following the meeting, refreshments were served and a tour of the St. Paul Building was provided for attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
Eunice Dunk, acting Secretary

In and Around the Museum

Two books were received this spring for the Museum library. The first, entitled "Upper Sorbian," is a revised edition and part of the larger series of Languages of the World. The book will be most helpful to linguists learning the Upper Sorbian (i.e. Wendish) language.

The second book, entitled "Mord in Texas," is a collection of letters written in German in the 1880s. Two men were killed during a robbery at the Fedor, Texas store in November 1883, and the letters are from a young woman and her father in Texas to the sister and mother of the

younger man who was killed. The letters have been in the collection of his family in Germany and were recently compiled into book form. This book has generated much interest from the "history detectives" of our society. They email each other with translations, genealogy findings, newspaper articles, and photos. One photo being sought is of Helena Zszech Biar Wiederanders (1865-1959), the young woman who wrote most of the letters to Germany. Please contact the museum if you can help us locate a photo.

Vivian Dube, Librarian

New Wendish projects on the horizon

Have you been looking for a significant way to help with projects at our museum? Do you want to help in some substantial way but live too far away to give your time? We might have the answer you have been looking for! The TWHS has joined forces with Concordia University Press (at Concordia University Texas) to develop, print and cost share two projects, the results of which will provide additional resources for anyone wanting to learn more about our Wendish heritage, history, and language.

❖ The first project involves translating “Ufer der Hoffnung” (“To the Shores of Hope”) from German to English and publishing the English version. “Ufer der Hoffnung,” written by Gertrud Mahling, provides additional information about our ancestors’ migration to Texas. Target completion date for this project is 2009. To complete this project, we need to raise \$4,000.

❖ The second project involves translating poems and hymns in “Jan Kilian: Poems and Hymns” from Wendish, and possibly develop an accompanying CD. The idea under consideration for the project is to translate a number of the poems and hymns into English or German, and produce an accompanying CD that would include hymns from the book being sung by a choir, and poems being read in Wendish or German. Particular hymns or poems that are recorded on the CD would be referenced in the book, so the reader would be able to listen to the hymn or poem while following along with the text. Target date for completion of this project is 2010. To complete this project, we need to raise \$5,000.

If you would like to sponsor one of these projects, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Jan Slack (jan@mail.utexas.edu or 512-303-7971) or Chuck Dube (dube@aol.com or 512-253-6662) for more information.

Wends Demonstrate in Berlin

Dr. David Zersen

The Wends in Europe are fighting for their culture. Well-known author and journalist, Yuri Koch, also a Wend, says “We demonstrate here for our cultural survival as a Slavic ethnic group.”

The Wends (or Sorbs as they are known in Europe) processed on May 29th to the Brandenburg Gate to protest a reduction in subsidy from the German Federal Government. Typically, the Domowina (the Federation of Lusatian Sorbs) receives 15.6 million Euros (about \$24 million US) to provide for language instruction, cultural support and administrative costs for the Federation. These monies come from the Federal Government and from the State governments of Saxony and Brandenburg.

The Federal Government has a commitment to support its minorities in Germany. The Saxon Minister of Science and Art, Hans Meyer, says “The Sorbs are a piece of Europe in Germany and a bridge to our Slavic neighbors.” Given the treatment of the Sorbs under Hitler, Ger-

many is dedicated to showing its appreciation for this cultural minority group.

Domowina Chair, Jan Nuk, says that because it seems likely that the Federal Republic will not provide its full commitment this year, he is taking his concern to the European Parliament in Strassbourg on June 18. If it’s not possible to secure the funding, then 55 employees of the Domowina and the language schools will have to be dismissed.

The Lusatian Sorbs number 60,000. Of these, nearly 40,000 are in Saxony and 20,000 in Brandenburg. The Domowina has a membership of 7,200.

Although costs continue to rise, subsidies for the Wendish minority have declined by 20 percent in the last 16 years. The situation for the Wends has been difficult because their region is a part of the former East Germany, a kind of border territory (adjacent to Poland and the Czech Republic) where economic development has been slow.

Jan Nuck accompanied the Chor Meja to Texas in September, 2002 when the choir performed at Wendish Fest.

Wendish Booth Wins First Place at Folklife Festival!

The Wendish booth won First Place of 32 booths at the 37th Annual Folklife Festival, held in San Antonio during June 13-15. As Richard Noack, volunteer worker since 1986 and great-great grandson of Johann Kilian stated:

“This makes me very proud, as I’m sure it does you. I cannot begin to tell the hard work put into this effort by Ron Knippa and his sons, supported by other family members and friends. Without Ron, there would be no Wendish booth. We won first place because of Ron’s efforts and the story we had to tell about our heritage and ancestors, which truly represents the

theme of the Folklife Festival: telling the story of the many ethnic groups that settled Texas. Special thanks also goes to David Goeke for his eloquent presentation to the judges when asked, ‘What is Wendish?’”

When David was asked how he answered that oft-asked question, “What is Wendish?”, his response was “I simply told the Wendish story, and how we ended up at the Folklife Festival originally. Of all the booths at Folklife Festival, I believe the Wendish to be the most unique. Our emphasis on education, along with the food and crafts, makes us stand out. I know of no other ethnic group that emphasizes education as we do. Years ago, when it was Emma Wuensche, Laura Zoch, Laverne and Walter Gersch, Evelyn Kasper, Mr. & Mrs. Hale, Ron Lammert and myself (and I apologize in advance for names left out...there are many), the main concern was telling the story of the Wends. Ron Lammert did an outstanding job in his handout entitled, "Who Are The Wends?" but Ron and Cindy Knippa made the Wendish booth what it is today, with Cindy's creativity and Ron's “nose to the grindstone” attitude, coupled with the repeated and hearty volunteers. I want to lift up Ron Knippa. And who could forget his mom and dad, Bill and Adele Knippa, both now with the Lord, faithfully being there to make the event come



Ron Knippa (on right) accepting First Place ribbon

off in remarkable fashion? Okay, back to my story to the judges. It wasn't and isn't my story. It's OUR story. The story of people of conviction, strong faith and Godly vision. Not perfect people. But, a people set apart, culturally, ethnically, and above all, spiritually. So, when the judges came by, I simply told the story. And that's what I think our goal is, to tell the story accurately, concisely, and with a degree of excitement. It's not about noodles, pickles, kochkaese sandwiches and beer. It's about the story of our fathers, who came to Texas for reasons of sound Christian doctrine, maintenance of their unique language, the furthering of customs and folklore, and opportunities in a new, free land. It's the story of people who left everything comfortable, put all of their belongings in a trunk, and came to a land they knew very little about, unable to converse in the native tongue, but who put their sole trust in Almighty God. As long as we convey that truth, we will have accomplished our goal. So, let's give thanks to God, first of all, and to the five ladies who started this whole thing rolling, and to our forefathers whose vision and faith brought them here and whose story those ladies wanted to maintain. May our story be more than a story. May it be a testimony of God's grace and mercy to a people undeserving, yet, very blessed. To Him alone be the glory!!”

Wendish Communities

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Johann Kilian's Call

Dr. George Nielsen, Special Features Editor

Following is the text of Rev. Johann Kilian's Call to serve as pastor for the group of Wends that emigrated on the *Ben Nevis* in 1854. The original document is located in the archives of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas and a typed copy is included with the Serbin Collection at Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri. The document provides information on both the intent of the immigrants and the duties of the pastor.

It also gives an insight into the role of the lay leaders and the extent of their planning. According to the Prussian currency system, twelve Pfennig equaled one Groschen (silbergroschen) and thirty Groschen equaled one Taler.

A Taler was similar to a dollar, and the exchange rate at Galveston in 1854 equated one US dollar to one Taler and 12 Groschen.

In these recent times an Evangelical Lutheran Association has been organized, which up to now has been based at Dauban in the Rothenburg district. The purpose and details have been fully stipulated in a special document, written at Dauban and dated March 25, 1854. Any future issues not addressed in this document would call for newer resolutions. This document has been presented to the royal, most honorable government [office] at Liegnitz.

The main purpose of the organization is to emigrate to North America, and there to form a pure evangelical Lutheran congregation for themselves, and also to establish a community in keeping with all civic regulations. The leaders of all these matters are mentioned in the document.

One of the most urgent needs is the installation of a pastor [Seelsorger] in the spirit of evangelical Lutheran Christianity, and as the emigration to America by the association will take place as a group through God's working, therefore this need of the installation of a teacher

and pastor for this congregation shall be fulfilled here in the German fatherland.

The congregation, or the association, obligates its pastor:

- I. to perform and carry out conscientiously the office of the ministry according to Lutheran religious customs.
- II. likewise, to administer the holy sacraments according to this religious tradition.
- III. in addition to the pastoral office, to assume the position of the elementary school teacher of the children and to perform the teaching for an entire year during the first year in the newly established homeland.

In return, the congregation or present association obligates itself:

- a) to pay the new pastor a salary of 1,000 (one thousand Taler) for the first year, including travel costs, and resolves that this salary be paid in the following installments:

300 Taler (three hundred Taler) to be paid by the association on the first of July of this year.

700 Taler to be paid to the pastor by the association through its officers, 10 days prior to the appointed departure.

[The payments were not made as stipulated and one year later, on October 14, 1855, Pastor Kilian reminded the congregation of its promise.]

- b) but should the stipulated salary of its pastor be insufficient in the new homeland, then the association obligates itself to grant the potentially necessary funds from the association's account.
- c) The payment for the ceremonial duties of the pastor are set down on the following list:
 1. One baptism—10 Groschen
 2. First church attendance after childbirth [churching - see *In Search of a Home*, p. 121] (freewill offering, but not under 5 Groschen)

3. Marriage ceremony—1 Taler, plus free-will offerings of the wedding guests. Bans [marriage announcements]—10 Groschen.
Presentation to another pastor in case the groom holds membership elsewhere—10 Groschen.
Marriage certificate when the couple marries elsewhere—10 Groschen.
 4. Funerals
 - [a.] with only the collect [prayers]—10 Groschen
 - [b.] with a brief address, that is called a eulogy [Abdankung] or half funeral sermon—20 Groschen
 - [c.] with brief address and funeral sermon—2 Taler
 - [d.] When the pastor goes to the house and accompanies the casket [to the church or cemetery]—3 Taler and 15 Groschen
 5. The Confession contribution is freewill, but not less than 2 Pfennig or a silver Groschen, 1 Groschen
 6. The confirmands for the instruction received—10 Groschen
 7. Also the pastor is to receive 4 freewill offerings, to which every member contributes according to choice, but not less than 2 Pfennig or 1 Groschen.
 8. For issuing a church certificate, a baptismal certificate, marriage certificate, or a death certificate, excluding the seal—10 silver Groschen.
A statement from the church records—5 silver Groschen.
- d) The above named association obligates itself to grant and secure also the following conditions:
1. To yield to the pastor the property closest the parsonage grounds in the planned settlement in the new homeland either by outright sale or resolution [Actien] as his personal property.
 2. In the event that the pastor is called away by death from his newly formed congregation, through the wisdom of God, the congregation pledges itself to support conscientiously the widow and his family.
- The civil and churchly circumstances in the new homeland will require many changes in the present arrangements. Therefore there can be, for the time being, no different arrangement provided for the ministerial office than the present one. When time and conditions force that revision, the congregation or the association in cooperation between the pastor and its leaders shall take matters in hand so that the entire affair can be preserved and made to prosper and so that the position of the pastor will be recompensed according to necessity and to the best of our ability.
- All this with the grace and the help of God.
- Under these mutual conditions and guarantees, the congregation ventures to name as its future pastor and caretaker of souls the Pastor John Kilian of Weigersdorf, in the hope that he willingly may accept and conduct this office in God's name.
- May the Lord grant us also His Holy Spirit that we might remain in His love and in the love towards our pastor, until after our pilgrim journey we all enter into his heavenly kingdom where we shall laud and praise God and our dear pastor eternally. Amen
- Dauban 23 May 1854
- In the name of the Lord, the leadership committee
 Carl Lehman current Chairman, from Dauban
 Carl Teinert committee member, from Dauban
 Ernst Adolf Moerbe, from Klix near Bautzen
 Johann Hohle, from Jahmen
 Christoph Kokel, Reichwalde
 Johann Urban, from Rackel.
- [Wm. Nielsen, trans. and Dr. Joseph Wilson, consultant]

Membership Report

Membership Breaks 1,000

By George Boerger

We have surpassed 1,000 members for the first time! Currently we are at 1,013 versus 964 members last year. In 2001, we had only 395 members. I remember in 2002 talking to a member who said we should have a thousand members and I thought he was being ridiculously optimistic.

The key to membership growth this year has been the 142 first-time members, which surged when several members gave multiple gift memberships. This is the second highest number of first-time members in our history.

Thanks to all the members who have supported the TWHS and helped recruit new members!

First-time Members

Denise Alvarado	Giddings	Laura Mersiovsky	Elgin
Ted Bardo	Houston	Don Moerbe	Corpus Christi
Bernice Blaschke	McDade	Jack Moody	Paradise
Laverne Blaylock	Friendswood	Marie Cain Richards	Elgin
Robert Blaylock	Friendswood	Steven Schlabach	Houston
Paul Buchschacher	Plano	Mary Zieschang Schubert	Jarrell
Mrs. Paul Buchschacher	Plano	Rab Sharp	Seattle, WA
Terry Davis	Giddings	John Lindsey Teinert	Conroe
Hubert Dube	Lexington	Karen Watson	Universal City
Edward Krause	Weatherford	Millard Watson	Universal City
Brian Mersiovsky	Elgin	Polly Sue Wingerter	San Antonio

Student (\$7.50) Members

Denise Alvarado	Giddings	Payton Williams	Spring
Rab Sharp	Seattle, WA		

Patron (\$30) Members

Martha Biehle	Smithville	Calvin Mitschke	Giddings
David Hingst	El Paso	Ina Mitschke	Giddings
Edward Krause	Weatherford	Linda Rives	Lakeway
Arnold Kriegel	Austin	Dennis Storch	Lubbock
Vernell Kruemcke	Giddings		

Sponsor (\$50) Members

Larry Kokel	Walburg	Randy Noack	Spicewood
Michelle Kolbe	Austin	Joyce Pelkemeyer	Brenham
Weldon Mersiovsky	Walburg	Steven Schlabach	Houston

Silver (\$250) Members

Anna Dube	Portland, OR	Edward Lent	El Paso
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In Search of...

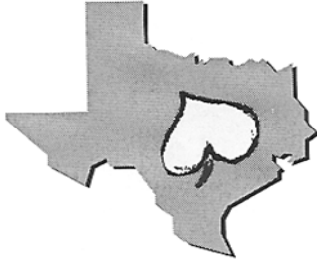
John Teinert is seeking information on August Teinert, the first son of Johann Karl Teinert (the first song leader at St. Paul, Serbin). August Teinert was born December 19, 1838 and died January 26, 1901. His wife, Johanna Kasperick Teinert, was born April 29, 1844 and died January 21, 1914. Both are buried at Serbin. John would particularly like to find existing photos or information about their lives in Texas. If you have information or photos to share, please contact John by mail at 10611 Royal Sterling Dr., Conroe, TX 77303 or by phone at (936) 856-5692.

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

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Great food, Wendish Easter egg decorating demonstrations,
homemade noodle-making demonstration, childrens' activities,
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