



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 34 MARCH 2005



Above and below: Heritage Village, Bundoora Park



Northcote Cemetery



Join our March tour

**Visit to Bundoora Park's Heritage Village:
12-13 March 2005**

Our March tour will cover areas of germanic and wendish settlement in Northcote, Preston and Westgarthtown.

On Saturday 12 March, we will visit the Heritage Village in Bundoora Park (Melway Map 19 F4). This Park's farm, wildlife and heritage displays cater well for the whole family and include spinning and weaving, printing, blacksmithing and exhibitions of early germanic and wendish settlers, including a Zwar descendant who was called the "King of Preston".

At 12 noon, we will receive our group discounted entry of \$4.50 each at the Visitors Centre and then take part in our BYO barbecue or picnic lunch near the Ibis Room. Café food is also available. To get a discounted entry, please provide us with your names beforehand.

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Calendar of events

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At 1.30 pm, we will meet in the Ibis Room to hear guest speakers Merv Lia of the Preston Historical Society and Robert Wuchatsch of our Society. Merv is the expert on Bundoora Park and Robert is the expert on the settlements of Germans and Wends in northern Melbourne. These include the farming settlement at Northcote, with its cemetery in Separation Street, the Westgarthtown farming settlement and Northcote/Preston businesses set up by Germans and Wends.

At 3.30 pm a tractor ride through the wildlife park, and a walk through the Heritage Village with its demonstrations of pioneering skills and typical farm experiences, will be available

At 6.30 pm, our meal with traditional german food, music and dancing will be held at the Austrian Club, 76-90 Sheehans Road, Heidelberg West (Melways 19 F9).

Please book beforehand with Gladys (03) 9432 3113 or Glenys on (03) 9891 6652.

On **Sunday 13 March**, we will visit heritage sites in northern Melbourne. At 9.30 am we will meet at Ziebell's Cottage in Gardenia Street, Westgarthtown/Lalor (Melway 8 H5). The cost is \$3.00 per person for a guided tour and morning tea or coffee. Between 10 and 11 am, we can visit the cemetery and have a car tour of some of early homesteads, including those of the Graf, Maltzahn, Siebel and Wuchatsch families.

At 11.15am, a Lutheran Church Service will be held in the historic bluestone church. After this serv-

ice, we will meet at 12.30 pm for our BYO picnic lunch at Ziebell's Cottage.

Our afternoon program from 1.30 - 4pm includes the inspection of some former germanic and wendish heritage sites, factories, businesses and farms in the Preston and Northcote area and a visit to the recently renovated Northcote cemetery (Melways 30 G8). Early settlers here include Arndt, Fritsch, Gursansky, Heiner, Hellwig, Kupsch, Muller, Schosnick and Tillack.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at this fun weekend.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon: Sunday 3 April, 2005

Our next Pleasant Sunday Afternoon will be held on 3 April. We will meet from 12 noon at the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe for a Community Lunch with tea and coffee provided. Please bring along a plate of finger food.

At 1.30 pm we will hold a brief Annual General Meeting, at which printed reports will be available for inspection and election of office-bearers conducted.

After this meeting at about 2pm, we will listen to some traditional germanic and wendish folksongs and then hear our South Australian guest speaker Geoff Saegenschnitter talk about his visit this year to the Wends in Texas. He will illustrate this with some extracts from his video recordings. The Texas Wends are a very active group and we look forwards to hearing all about them and their activities.

Annual Dinner: Saturday 8 October 2005

Our Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 8 October 2005 at 6.30pm at the new Community Centre, Calvary Lutheran Church, 1 Oldstead Road, Greensborough. (Melway 11 C9)

Kevin Zwar will speak about prominent Wends in Victoria and their contribution to public life, for example, Dr Bernard Zwar and MP's Albert and Henry Zwar. (www.zwar-zwahr.com keeps members of this family informed about its heritage.)

The cost is \$25.00 per person for pre-dinner sherries and a delicious german meal. Please BYO wine. Please send the names of all attending and payment to Wendish Heritage Society Aust. Inc. by 16th September.



Farriers Shop, Bundoora Heritage Park



*Top: Enjoying the Dinner Above left: Descendants of the passengers of the MALVINA VIDAL
Above right: Descendants of the passengers of the STEINWARDER*

Past events

2004 Celebration Dinner

At our dinner on 9 October 2004 at the Doncaster Lutheran Hall to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the MALVINA VIDAL and the STEINWARDER in 1854, Robert Wuchatsch talked about the voyage of the MALVINA VIDAL and the problems faced by the passengers. After arrival at Melbourne on 10 October 1854, the passengers took the captain and owners to court and won some compensation. In 1854, Melbourne was still very small, the buildings were mostly of timber, corrugated iron and canvas construction and the streets were not paved.

Robert used material from the Hamburg Archives, including a report prepared by the Hamburg Consul in Melbourne, Mr Jansen. The Consul states that on 9 October 1854, a deputation presented him with a document signed by 230 passengers of the MALVINA VIDAL. The complaint included the neglectful conduct on the part of the Doctor and Cook and the deterioration in the condition of food, including potatoes, rice, beef and water. Captain Jachtmann and the agent of the ship's owners agreed to pay 2 pounds, as well 7 pounds 18 shillings for travelling expenses. The amount of 443 pounds was to be deposited with Rev M Goethe.

Passengers also felt tricked when they headed to Melbourne after being told that Adelaide was only ten English miles from Melbourne. In fact it was about 500 miles away.

Robert notes that the over 50 Lower Lusatian Wends were variously called "Bohemians" and "Prussian Poles" in newspaper reports. Their leader was "a certain Borrack from Werben".

Robert's talk with footnotes is available from the Society for a donation to cover photocopying and postage costs.

German Heritage Festival and Christkindl Market, 20 Nov. 2004

The above Festival was held on Saturday 20 November from 11am-4pm at Westgarthtown Reserve, Gardenia Rd, Thomastown. Visitors inspected the Ziebell Farmhouse with its historical displays, heard a recital of classical music on the Thomastown Lutheran Church harmonium, watched Austrian dancing and visited the Christkindlmarket, a traditional market selling Christmas gifts.

Although there was some rain early in the morning, the weather during the festival was pleasant.



Research

“Windish” Wends from Hungary

An article with the title “Windish Lutherans at Home and Abroad” published in *The Lutheran Quarterly*, the theological Journal of the Lutheran Church of America and the American Lutheran Church in May 1955 has been sent to us by Archivist Lyall Kupke, after being located by Pastor Loffler.

The author, Ernest A. Stiegler, traces the history of the Wends from when they dwelt along the River Vistula and were known as ‘Venedi’ to their move into Western Europe, calling themselves ‘Slovenci’ but being nick-named Wends by their neighbours.

He observes that two groups of Wends still exist today.

The Wends or Sorbs of Lusatia who lived and still live along the upper course of the River Spree around Bautzen and Cottbus have been of great interest to our Wendish Heritage Society. However, this article presents a second surviving group of European Wends who for over 1,500 years lived in a mountainous area above the Muhr (Mura) River at the intersection of three countries, Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia. Their land was occupied by the Magyars in about 900CE (Common Era) and between 1500 and 1700 they faced attacks by the Turks. After the Reformation, some became Lutherans and in 1771 Rev Stephen Kuzmics translated the New Testament into Wendish.

When more land was needed, some of these Wends from Hungary migrated to America between 1900 and 1914, where many settled around Bethlehem in Pennsylvania.

The author knows so much about these Wends because he learned their language when he became their pastor on 4 July 1914 and was installed at St John’s Windish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem Pa. In 1927 he visited their European homeland and in 1955 in this article, he thankfully let the rest of the world know about this other group of ancient Wends who survived into the 21st century.

JOHN NOACK.

Wendish “Kashubs” in Pomerania

On page 37 of his book “*The World of the Ancient Slavs*”, Zdenek Vana has described the tragedy and disappearance of the Slavs who occupied most of north-western Europe during the Middle Ages.

These Slavs formed part of the Lekhitic group of the Slavonic languages, which included the vanished

Polabian Wends and the still surviving Lusatian-Sorbian and Kashubian Wends, as well as the Poles.

Heinz Lingenberg has written an article in German on the Slavic Kashubs, which is now being translated by Rita Shedda for inclusion in a future Newsletter. As background, the story of the Kashubs was presented in “*Polish American Studies*” Vol 23, No 1, 1966, which is in our library.

Between 660-900 AD, Slavs moved into the area between the lower Oder and the lower Vistula Rivers where they were called Pomeranians, meaning “inhabitants of the seacoast”. The eastern-most group of Pomeranians became known as the Kashubs.

In about 1,000 AD, these Wendish Kashubs came under the influence of the Poles when an East Pomeranian prince in Danzig married a Polish princess and Polish missionaries were sent to convert the Kashubs.

From 1309 to 1466, the Teutonic Knights colonised this area but Polish influence returned from 1466 to 1772.

As a result of the first partition of Poland in 1773, the Kashubs came under Prussian (German) control. The use of the Kashubian language was encouraged by the King of Prussia in a decree in 1842 but by 1865, Bismarck reversed this with a policy of rigid Germanisation or “Kulturkampf”. Some Kashubian families migrated to North America, including to the state of Wisconsin and a few family names included Burant, Ostrowski, Koziczkowski, Zelewska and Zynda.

After the 1919-1920 Treaty of Versailles, Kashubs found themselves in the “Polish Corridor” but in 1939, when Hitler seized this corridor, the Kashubs were again under German control. In 1950, after the establishment of the Oder-Niese border between East Germany and Poland, they were again in Poland.

At present, their main centre is Kosciierzyna in Pomerania and a town well populated by Kashubs is Gdynia. Over 300,000 people in Poland regard themselves as Kashubs and over 200,000 still speak the Kashubian language. A movement set up in 1846 for promoting the Kashubs was called “Florjan Ceynowa” and a present group “Odroda” is aiming at national renewal of the Kashubs.

It is clear from the above that the story of the Wendish Kashubs in Pomerania is very similar to the story of their Slavic cousins, the Lusatian Wends or Sorbs who have lived continuously along the River Spree south-east of Berlin since about 500 C.E.

JOHN NOACK



General News

From your President

I extend a warm welcome to our new members and readers, and hope you'll find membership in our Society enjoyable and rewarding.

Thousands of people find genealogy an absorbing hobby. In this issue some of you will find an invoice for membership. A few of you may be reading our Newsletter for the first time, others have enjoyed it for a year or two but haven't got around to forwarding their membership fee. Through our Society and our Newsletter we forge links that encourage and help many people find out about their ancestors and thereby come to a better understanding of who they are and in the process learn a lot about themselves.

Membership does much more than brings you our newsletter. It enables our Heritage Society to collect and preserve materials that are important for family research, like family history books of which we have hundreds, journals, newspaper clippings, certificates of many kinds, letters our immigrant ancestors wrote, photographs, shipping lists, registers of deaths, obituaries, research articles, as well as assisting enquirers with their research and much more. I do hope you will give us your support by paying your membership fee.

In this issue you'll find out about functions planned for the coming year. There's our March weekend, our Pleasant Sunday Afternoon in April and our Celebration Dinner in October. You will also gain glimpses of family history and reunions, books in our shelves and news from other heritage societies.

Individuals and groups are invited to visit our Research Centre at the advertised times or by special appointment. As I write we are planning to set up our own Website. Look for information on these and other things in this issue of our Newsletter. The Wendish people have a great, interesting and proud heritage.

GLADYS KOCH



Volunteers work hard to post out your copy of the newsletter.

News from Germany

Australian Newspapers have recently included some interesting items from Germany, including Lusatia.

The Age (24 June 2004) featured Dresden's Frauenkirche (Church of our Lady) which had been built in 1743 but was destroyed during the raid in 1945. An estimated 35,000 people were killed and 80% of the city was destroyed.

This church underwent a 10-year long, \$A238 million restoration, as part of a reconciliation project involving Britain and Germany. This article shows both the original pile of rubble and the installation of the cupola on the domed roof.

The Age (26 August 2004) reveals a Trabant car-yard in Derbyshire, England. The two-stroke Trabant was produced in former DDR or East Germany before 1989 and Graham Goodall, who visited Berlin in 1987, has since collected 49 Trabants. Clearly the locals do not share his enthusiasm and want 40 of them removed from his land.

The Age (21 December 2004) features "Tropical Islands", a beach resort set up at Brand near the Lower Spreewald, about 50 kms north-east of Cottbus, in a former airship hangar. A photo of a snowstorm at Munich is contrasted with a photo of the inside of this resort, where the temperature is maintained at a balmy 25 degrees. The resort is 5 million cubic metres in size.

JOHN NOACK

"A genealogist must have the patience of Job; the curiosity of a cat; the stubbornness of a mule; the eyesight of an eagle; be blessed with the luck of the Irish and have the ability and stamina of a camel to go long hours without food or drink!"

(from *Links 'n' chains: Journal of the Liverpool Genealogical Society Inc.*, May 2004, p.10.)



Reunions, Celebrations, Family histories

J.C.W. Keller Family Reunion

A commemorative celebration of the 150th anniversary of the arrival in Australia of Johann Carl Wilhelm Keller and his wife Maria Rosine nee Reimann will be held at the Faith Centre, Faith Lutheran Secondary School, Magnolia Rd, Tanunda, S.A. on Sunday 4 September 2005.

Contact: Chairman: Ian Keller Tel. (08) 8663 5064 or Secretary: Lyn McKenzie Tel. (08) 8565 6219, P.O. Box 670, Nuriootpa, S.A. 5355

Noacks from Schoenhoehe Reunion, 14-15 October, 2005.

Elisabeth Noack, who in 1853 married Johann Gottfried Purmann and Gottlieb Noack, who in 1853 married Anna Noack, arrived in Adelaide on the SAN FRANCISCO in 1850. Details of the first several generations were presented in the Society's Newsletter No 32 March 2004, Item 17. This included the recently discovered Hennig and Schwartz descendants.

The Noack Family History Book *Noacks from Schoenhoehe* is being compiled and the Book and Reunion Committee is busy contacting all known

descendants for their personal details, photos and profiles. The Reunion and Book Launch is planned for 14-15 October 2005 in the Sports Pavilion at Riverton. A tour to Peters Hill will be included.

Information can be sent to the Noacks from Schoenhoehe Research Coordinator, PO Box 387, Willaston, SA, 5118. Tel: (08) 8562 8465; Email: bitmor@ozemail.com.au

Pumpa Reunion

A celebration of the 150th anniversary of Pumpa families in Australia will be held at the Show Hall, Tanunda, S.A., on 25th and 26th March 2006.

Researcher: Quentin Nuske, P.O. Box 228, Tanunda, S.A. 5352. Telephone (08) 8563 0674.

Secretary: Catherine Pumpa, P.O. Box 416, Edwardstown, S.A. 5039. Telephone (08) 8371 0254

Zilm Reunion

A celebration will be held on 16th October 2005 at Greenock Oval at 11.00 am.

Accommodation and Saturday dinner information from Mrs K.B. Zilm, 38 Lagonda Drive, Windsor Gardens, S.A. 5087.

Other societies

Interesting articles from Exchange Journals

Our Society receives journals from over 50 other societies. Most of the journals are obtained on an exchange basis. The following are summaries of items of interest from other societies' journals.

“German Immigrant Ships to Eastern Australia – Resources and Problems. Part 6: PETER GODEFFROY 1852”.

In the November 2004 edition of *Ancestree: journal of the Burwood & District Family History Group*, pp. 1-22, Jenny Paterson continues the series with a detailed account of the PETER GODEFFROY which arrived in Sydney from Hamburg in October 1852 with 108 assisted German immigrants (34 families) and almost twice as many who were unassisted. Paterson summarises the two passenger lists available and gives other sources of information. The assisted immigrants were mostly vinedressers who were a flow-on from the 1849-1850 immigrants who had

written encouraging letters home, urging their relatives to follow them out. Some of these families went to the Hunter River area, some to southern NSW, but the vast majority went to Moreton Bay, which later became the state of Queensland. Paterson lists the names of the immigrants, accompanying family (including those who died and were born on board), employers and employers' addresses.

Enquiries: Burwood & District Family History Group, c/- Burwood Library, 4 Marmaduke St, Burwood, NSW 2134.

Die Zeitung

The September 2004 edition of *Die Zeitung*: the newsletter of the German Research Group of the Genealogical Society of Qld., features a review of the book *The Bethania Germans* by Dr Ray Holtzheimer. This is a recently written history of the German families who settled at Bethania, on the Logan River near Brisbane, from 1864.

This authoritative reference, with an index of German surnames and 800 footnotes, is available for \$27.50, plus postage, from Mrs R. Fels Tel. (07) 3287 3068.



Books, articles, library

Recent Library Acquisitions

A German church in the garden of God: Melbourne's Trinity Lutheran Church 1853-2003 is a comprehensive history of the congregation over 150 years. The book also covers the early Lutheran churches at rural settlements such as Waldau (now Doncaster), Neu Mecklenburg (now Thomastown), Harkaway (Berwick) and Scoresby. It also tells of the churches beyond Geelong, at Germantown (Grovedale) and Waldkirch (Freshwater Creek). The German Ambassador describes the book as "informative and pleasurable reading, covering not only the different historical periods in time but also a variety of cultural and social aspects of the congregation."

Robert Wuchatsch has recently donated a copy of *Westgarthtown: a history and guide*, which is a revised and enlarged edition of the booklet *Westgarthtown*, published in 1998.

So This was Katyl 1876-1982: This 130-page book by R.T. Schuller is about the settlement of Katyl in Victoria's Wimmera region. It includes chapters on Katyl's selectors and settlers, churches and cemeteries, schools and social life, wheat farming, and some amusing anecdotes.

By 1874 the parish of Katyl was thrown open to selection. The name Katyl means water or water-hole.

Settlers of Germanic and Wendish origin include Bretag, F; Burger, J; Drabsch, D; Gaulke, F & O; Harders, J & H; Hermann, J; Hoffmann, C. & G; Johns, T. & J; Janetzki, J & P; Koop, Peter; Krause, M; Krieg, C; Kruger, M. & O; Lange, J & C; Lehmann, F; Mibus, E, C. & M; Muller, F; Nuske, C, J. & F; Petschel, Gustav; Pietsch, H; Polack, Adolph & H; Pumpa, C. & M; Reichan, G; Ronning, C; Sallmann, F; Schilling, A; Schmidt, C; Schorbach, M; Schwarz, F. & T; Tepper, W; Tischler, F; Wagenknecht, J; Zanker, C.

Early settlers erected slab huts and bake ovens, cleared and fenced the land, dug dams, and planted wheat. They grew fruit and vegetables and kept cows and poultry. Common problems included severe droughts in 1890, 1892, 1902 and 1914, and plagues of rabbits, mice and sparrows.

In regard to church life, from 1875 members held services in their homes, attended communion services at Kornheim and sometimes used the Ebenezer Mission church for baptisms. In 1882, two Lutheran congregations were established, Trinity and St Martins (E.L.S.A.) The ladies sat on the right hand side and the men on the left. Most services lasted for two hours, with sermons almost an hour long.

Katyl North State School 2793 was set up in about 1887. Its 50th anniversary was celebrated in the mid 1930s when Mr J. B. White was the teacher. Elsa Aumann nee Petschel attended this school and remembered an amusing incident when Mr White asked the students to close their eyes as they prayed. After the prayer, he reprimanded a student for having his or her eyes open. His son who was in his class then cheekily told him that he must have had his own eyes open if he could see the student with eyes open.

In 1891, St Martins school was opened. Games such as hop-scotch, hide and seek and marbles were popular and annual picnics provided running and bicycle races. Very naughty pupils were "put into a large dark cupboard under the pulpit" (p.74) and wagging school was rather common in the 1920s. (p.76)

Marriages usually involved many guests, including most of the congregation plus relatives. The wedding ceremony in the church at about 2.30pm was followed by photos, the wedding feast in a large Marquee and finally the Tin Kettling and departure of the couple on their honeymoon. On their return, house warming and gift evenings were arranged. (p.93)

Some amusing fox stories end this useful book about Katyl.

JOHN NOACK.

Books for Sale

Eric Heinrich's family has made available to our Society a number of Koenig family histories and a number of Ruediger family history supplements. *Koenig 1848-1990: Christian and Karl Koenig and their descendants in Australia* is available for \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage.

Ruediger: an update on the family tree from 1975 to 1990 is also available for \$10.00 plus \$5.00 for postage.

Please make cheques payable to Wendish Heritage Society Aust. Inc. and send to P.O. Box 297, Heidelberg, Vic 3084.

A lawyer's epitaph in England:

SIR JOHN STRANGE
HERE LIES AN HONEST LAWYER
AND THAT IS STRANGE

(from The Ancestral Searcher Vol. 26, No. 4, p.172)



Directory

Aims

The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc researches and promotes the Wendish/Sorbian and Germanic heritage and family history in Australia.

Postal Address: PO Box 297, Heidelberg, Vic, 3084.

Meeting Room and Research Centre

Ivanhoe Lutheran Church Meeting Room, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, Victoria. (*Melways 31 E7*)

Hours: Open on the first Sunday of each month from February to November, 1.00pm-5.30pm for research, working bees and for socialising.

Our Society Logo

The logo, an Australian gum leaf and a Lusatian linden leaf, represent the connection between the Wendish descendants in Australia and the Sorbs in Lusatia.

Membership & Newsletter Subscription

Membership for 2005 is \$18 and due at the start of each year. Membership forms are included in this issue of the Newsletter. Additional donations can also be made for the expanding work of the Society and we thank most sincerely those of you who have made such generous donations.

Publicity

We welcome any publicity which you can give about our Society and its planned events.

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Robyn Zwar Design

Website: <http://www.robynzwardesign.com>

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(N.B. not "claykrug")

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The Wendish Heritage Society Australia Inc. does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the accuracy of the statements made by authors of articles published in this newsletter.