



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

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Clockwise: 1. Some Grovedale Tour participants. Back: Glenys Wollermann, Ed Koch, Lyall Kupke, Robert Wuchatsch, Gilbert Materne, Geoff Matuschka, John Noack. Front: Ene Noack, Mary Cooper, Gladys Koch, Lois Kupke, June Winter, Julie Ballinger. 2. The Bieske house, Grovedale. 3. Winter headstone, Grovedale. 4. Time capsule at St David's, Freshwater Creek. [Photos: Clay Kruger]

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Calendar of upcoming events

Luncheon at the Austrian Club, Saturday 12 October 2013

A special Luncheon will be held at the Austrian Club at 12.30 for 1.00 pm to continue the theme of celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt. Leichhardt is the famous German/Wendish explorer and naturalist who mysteriously disappeared in inland Australia circa 1848.

Join us for some good German food and hospitality at Melbourne's picturesque Austrian Club, 90 Sheehan Road, Heidelberg West, Vic. (Melway 19 F9). All are welcome.

The Luncheon menu offers a choice of main courses, ranging in price from \$17 to \$23. Desserts are available for \$4.00. You can pay as you order. The Club is fully licensed (no BYO).

Please RSVP by 30 September to Glenys Wollermann Tel. (03) 9891 6652; email wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au. Please give the names of all those attending, for their name tags.

Ziebell's Farmhouse Open Garden, 16–17 November 2013

The historic Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden will be open from 10 am to 4.30 pm on both Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 November. The cost is \$7.00 per



person, payable at the gate. This is an opportunity to see one of Melbourne's most historic gardens at its peak. For this event, parking and entrance will be via Westgarthtown Lutheran Reserve, German Lane, Thomastown, Vic. (Melway 8 H5)

Ziebell's Farmhouse (c. 1850–51) is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building. It is located at 100 Gardenia Rd, Thomastown, (Melway 8 H5) and is open on the second Sunday of each month, from 1.00pm–4.00 pm.

Labour Day Weekend Tour to Warrnambool, 8–9 March 2014

Our tour destination will be the Warrnambool area in western Victoria. The tour will be led by historian and researcher Betty Huf. The proposed itinerary for Saturday 8th includes Cheeseworld at Allansford (Uebergang family connection) and Flagstaff Hill Museum.

It is envisaged that Saturday evening dinner will be held at the Warrnambool Lutheran Church at which Betty Huf will be guest speaker on the topic "Germans of Warrnambool and District". A bus will possibly be arranged for the Sunday tour to Hawkesdale Lutheran Church and cemetery, Macarthur Windfarm (the largest in the southern hemisphere), Macarthur Hotel for lunch, Byaduk church and cemetery, volcanic tumuli (Byaduk), then back to Warrnambool via Port Fairy and possibly Tower Hill.

Please book by Monday 24 February with Betty Huf (03)5572 4959; email bettyhuf@westvic.com.au.

Full details of the itinerary will be published in our next edition and will be available on our website www.wendishheritage.org.au under "News and Events". Please note that the tour to Warrnambool will be instead of the tour to Natimuk.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, Sunday 6 April 2014

We will begin with a community lunch at 12.30 pm followed by a brief AGM before hearing our guest speaker at 2.00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Janice Stockigt, an Associate Professor at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, University of Melbourne. She will speak about an historic visit to Bautzen of the Saxon Elector and his musicians in 1733. All are welcome. Further details will be provided in our next issue.



Past events



Clockwise: 1. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Germantown, dedicated in 1859. 2. An old German well. 3. Germantown State School No. 283. 4. Pastor George Heyer and family. [Photos supplied by June Winter]

Labour Day Weekend Tour to Grovedale, 9–10 March 2013

Our very successful tour to Grovedale and Freshwater Creek, near Geelong, Victoria, was organized and led by June Winter. Although the weather was very hot, we enjoyed refreshments, meals and informative talks in the comfort of indoor venues.

Grovedale, formerly “Germantown”

On Saturday, June informed us that Grovedale was formerly called “Germantown”, reflecting the original settlement of this area by Europeans, mainly from Prussia, in the early 1850s. However, World War 1 gave rise to anti-German sentiments. In July 1915, the local Council chose the name “Grovedale”, which was the name of a local homestead built in 1847 by Mr Alexander Pennell. This home was later purchased by August Hartwich in the 1880s.

June explained that the original Prussian settlers had arrived on the ship *Emmy* in December 1849 as “vine-dressers”. They were subsidised by Dr Alexander Thompson. These settlers included both individual immigrants such as G. FINSTER, E.A. HENKE, O HANASHKE, F.W. KOCH, R KOCH, W. SCHEIMEISTER, and the immigrant families of F.G. BOEHM, J.C. FRANCKE, SAMUEL GERLACH, W. JANKE, J.G. KNATSCH, F. J.G. LIMME, JOSEPH NICOLAI, W. WAGNER, W. WENSEL and J.G. WINTER. Some settlers arrived on the “Emmy” without assisted passages, including S. ANDRIESKE, F. BAENSCH, G. EINSPOHN, J.G. HERMANN, J.C.S BIESKE, S. KAEGER, H. PAULKE and S. ROEHR.

These Prussian pioneers occupied one-acre properties near the Chain of Ponds Creek. In 1854, they built their mud-walled and grass-roofed church on the Cemetery land in Church Street donated by Samuel Roehr. The first service on 24 Jun 1854 was



Clockwise: 1. St Paul's Lutheran Church, Grovedale. 2. June Winter with a Hartwich headstone. [Photo: John Noack] 3. A country church relocated to Cobbin Farm. 4. & 5. Then and now: the grain shed at Pine Grove, built by Julius Kosseck. [Photos 1, 3 & 5: Clay Kruger]

conducted by Pastor Matthias Goethe, who served the congregation from Melbourne. The Trinity congregation erected and dedicated a new stone church on 26 Dec 1859. This congregation closed in 1949.

St Paul's Lutheran Church was built in 1870 and dedicated in March 1871 by Pastor George Heyer. St Paul's continues to this day.

The Trinity Church at the Cemetery was also used as a school, with Mr Stanger as the first teacher from 1854 to 1858. Robert Renzow was the next teacher, as well as the organist, treasurer and trustee of St Paul's Lutheran Church. In 1868, a new School No. 283 was erected in Bailey Street on land donated by Robert Renzow.

After the land was cleared, vineyards were established. Unfortunately, the disease phylloxera invaded the area in 1875. The vines had to be destroyed and were replaced by orchards and market gardens.

Some descendants have remained in this area, including members of the BAENSCH, BIESKE, KLEMKE, ROSSACK, GROSSMAN, SCHULTZE, WINTER and other

families. They have been joined by post-World War 2 European immigrants.

The afternoon Tour included a visit to historic Cobbin Farm (earlier a Hartwich property). June Winter gave us an informative talk on the history of the area following our afternoon tea at a local café. Our evening dinner at the Mount Moriac Hotel completed a very enjoyable day.

St David's ("Waldkirch") at Freshwater Creek

On Sunday, our activities included a church service at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Grovedale, followed by morning tea and lunch in the church hall. We then toured the Grovedale (Germantown) cemetery and the heritage-listed church and cemetery at Freshwater Creek. June Winter informed us that further Prussian and Silesian families arrived and in 1858 they selected and purchased land in this area.

Their wattle and daub church called "Waldkirch", meaning "church in the woods", was dedicated in



Above: Wagon loaded with grain at Pine Grove. [Photo supplied by June Winter] Right: Our Society's AGM, 7 April 2013. [Photo: Joel Blackburn]



October 1859 by Pastor C Schurmann of Hochkirch, now Tarrington. The present bluestone church, in the style of "Romanesque Revival", was completed in 1868.

The National Trust has classified St David's Lutheran Church, Freshwater Creek as an important component of our nation's heritage.

The Grovedale Rotary Club organized a memorial for this early settlement and in Nov 2008, a memorial stone and a sealed capsule were dedicated.

Our inspection of the Cemetery next to the church revealed many early pioneering settlers, whose names are displayed in the church's vestry. The congregation's interesting Cemetery Tour Guide includes biographical information on early pioneering families including BAENSCH, DARSOW, GROSSMAN, IMER, KUBEIL, KURZMANN, LEIBHARDT, PLIER, SCHMIDT and SEIFFERT. Copies of this list and guide are now held in our Society's Library.

A hearty afternoon tea in the shade of the church prepared by local members of St David's, as well as the tours of the church building and the adjacent Cemetery, were much appreciated.

Grovedale and Freshwater Creek are an important part of our pioneering heritage. This Tour reminded the participants that later generations, including the descendants, need always to recall and be grateful for the lasting contributions made by these industrious and far-sighted Pioneers.

The tour participants are very grateful to June Winter for making this weekend a very valuable experience. We also thank all others who contributed to the success of this Grovedale / Freshwater Creek tour.

A more detailed report and photos are available on our website, under Past Events.

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT,

BASED ON RESEARCH BY JUNE WINTER.

Pleasant Sunday Afternoon, 7 April 2013

We began with a community lunch followed by a brief AGM before hearing John Noack speak on Ludwig Leichhardt, the famous German/Wendish explorer who mysteriously disappeared in inland Australia circa 1848. This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ludwig Leichhardt and we commemorated this milestone with a birthday cake. John presented Hans Finger's lecture on Leichhardt, which he had given at Göttingen University.

Hans Finger's book about *Leichhardt, Ludwig Leichhardt: lost in the outback*, has recently been translated from German into English.

A summary of John Noack's review of this book is given below. The full review is available on our website under "Publications / Book reviews".

At our AGM a motion was passed to raise membership fees to cover increasing costs, including the costs of newsletter production and mail-out. Membership fees for 2014 will be \$30 for single and \$35 for joint memberships. Our existing office-bearers were re-elected. The office-bearers and committee members are listed in the Directory on the back page of this Newsletter.

Treasurer Clay Kruger graciously agreed to continue for another year, in the absence of any other nominations for Treasurer. He reported that our financial situation is good. As at 31 Dec 2012, the total balance in the bank accounts was \$15,252.61. The number of members of our Society has remained stable, at about 350. >



Review of *Ludwig Leichhardt: Lost in the Outback*, by Hans Wilhelm Finger

(Rosenberg Publishing, NSW, 2013)

This is a newly-published edition in English of a book originally published in German in 1999. The author's subsequent additions to the text and the hard work of a team of translators have resulted in this impressive 225 page biography.

Ludwig Leichhardt was born in the village Trebatsch, in the Prussian province of Brandenburg, on 23 Oct 1813. His father, Christian, was a farmer and royal inspector. His mother, Sophie (nee Strählow), was of Wendish/Sorbian ancestry. Ludwig was well educated, undertaking tertiary studies in many different fields.

The author gives details of Leichhardt's European explorations and his arrival in Sydney, Australia in Feb. 1842. Leichhardt's aim was to explore inland Australia. He was determined to be the first to cross the Australian continent from east to west. Leichhardt soon began his exploration of the area north of Sydney, visiting the German Mission Station at Nundah in 1843. He then embarked on three large expeditions. The first, to Port Essington (near Darwin) in 1844–46 was successful. His attempt to reach the Swan River in Western Australia in 1846–47 failed, and in late 1847 he made another attempt. Sadly, this expedition resulted in his and his party's mysterious disappearance.

Leichhardt's letters, journals, logbooks and personal diaries testify to his encyclopaedic knowledge and his need "to understand things beyond the boundaries of a particular discipline in order to understand the world and one's self".

Leichhardt's interesting observation on the coronation of young Queen Victoria was of a cold, heavy crown being put "on a young, sweet girl... which squashes the rest of her youth out of her".

Leichhardt's desire to pursue his interest in nature and science is presented as his true motivation. The point is also made that Leichhardt's German background and accent led to the feeling that "he remained a stranger".

The author gives a comprehensive account of the triumphs and tragedies of Leichhardt's three large expeditions. This is followed by the attempt to solve the mystery of his complete disappearance. Theories about his fate abound: his party was captured by a gang of convict escapees; all members of his team were killed by Aborigines; some team members mutinied and fled north to the coast. However, most interesting is the brass nameplate with *Ludwig Leichhardt 1848* engraved on it, which was discovered on an old gun by an Aboriginal stockman in about 1900. It is possible that the gun had been carried over long distances, since Aborigines used European items for bartering.

The author sadly concludes that locating the evidence through serious scientific investigations is "like looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack".

JOHN NOACK, PRESIDENT



Leichhardt book and birthday cake. [Photo: John Noack]

Research

A Special Tribute to Translators

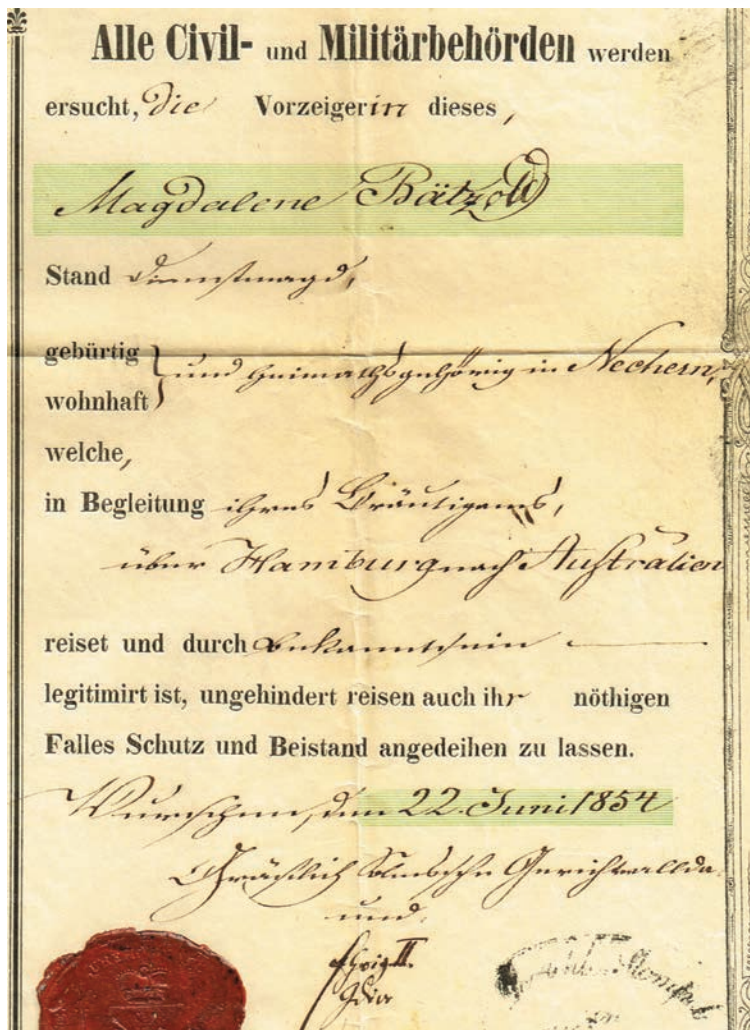
I think we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the translators who make much of our work available to us in words we can understand. They give us a picture of life in the Old Country of our ancestors! I wonder if we might fail to truly understand the former way of life for our ancestors in Europe, just as I wonder if our grandchildren will ever fully understand the way of life for some of us grandparents in the days when we were little children. We had no television or telephone. Some of us went to school on horseback or in a jinker. I can recall neighbours who still worked the land with horses. We had no electricity; we used kerosene lamps and candles! We had no washing

machines, fridges or freezers.

I want to share with you a recent example of how we might fail to grasp the way of life under local 'Lords' when our ancestors left Saxony, or other German kingdoms, to emigrate to Australia.

The Passport

Earlier this year I asked Chris Greenthaner to translate the elaborate passport of Magdalena Petzold, my great grandmother. I had always concentrated on the personal details and description of Magdalena, and had never taken much notice of the important people who signed the passport. Chris translated the



personal details of Magdalena, but then said she had some difficulties with the official section. (See the illustration of this section of the passport).

She wrote, "...Beautiful hand writing, but I don't know what it says! It looks like *Gräfllich Solnesesche Gerichtwallda*. If it is *gräfllich* that would mean the document has been certified by the authority of the *Graf* [count or earl]. Could *Solnesesche Gerichtwallda* be a manor? Village? *Gericht* as a word would normally mean "court". After the "und" [and] is the signature of someone important. The king was Frederick August II at the time, which would fit with the II. But the big letter looks like an "E" and might be an abbreviated form of "*Erzherzog*" [Grand Duke]."

I then forwarded the problem on to Herbert Mees whom I consider a talented translator who has been a great help to me in the past. I was surprised when there was not the usual quick reply. It was weeks before I heard from him:

"...had a bit of difficulty deciphering some of the writing. In the first instance, I got Renate Haehnsen, the Old German Script wizard at Trinity Archives, to look at the lines in question. She had some

answers but not all. In the end I looked up the State Archives of Saxony on the internet and found a branch archive in Bautzen."

From: Anja Moschke of State Branch Archive Bautzen/Saxony: "The last line reads: '*Gräfllich Solmssche Gerichte allda und Ehrig II Gdir*'".

She explains: "Back in 1854, the jurisdiction and certain police matters, including emigration, were still in the hands of each manorial lord, i.e. in private hands. The jurisdiction was tied to the estate, the patrimony; this is why these courts would also be called 'Patrimonial Court of Justice'. In Saxony, the jurisdiction in private hands was ceded to the state after 1856.

Until then, it was customary to name the courts after the lords of the manor. For Wurschen in 1854 it was the family of the Count of *Solms-Sonnenwalde*."

My Conclusion

It was the Lord of the Manor who owned the District who gave permission to emigrate to Australia from Saxony before 1856! Not really a government official at all! I see it as an example of life under the nobles in the old feudal systems in Europe. The nobles owned everything, paid no taxes and governed the people in the area, including my great grandmother.

I was astounded to visit old Lutheran Churches in Germany which had a separate room where the Lords or nobles used to sit with their families, with a window through so they could see the front of the church and the service, but the ordinary folk couldn't see the nobility. The nobles or lords also owned the church and the land!

There would be a huge change in church ownership when the Wends arrived in Australia. For example, there could be three different Lutheran Churches owned by three different local groups in a local town.

It is also no wonder that the Wends who were tradesmen, like carpenters and smithies, often bought up land and became farmers when they arrived in Australia. They could live like Lords!

I think we need the Wendish Heritage Society to help us understand what life was really like for our ancestors in Europe. The translators have a unique role here, and I would like to pay special tribute to them for their invaluable work.

The Society can also pass on to our grandchildren and later generations pictures of the way we experienced life in Australia when we were children. It was a very different way of life!

KEVIN P. ZWAR, RESEARCHER

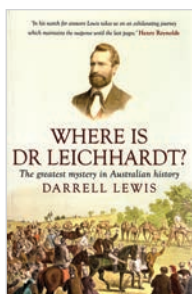


What's new at the library?



1. Lusatia

A collection of coloured photographs depicting daily life, customs, traditions, landscapes and scenery in the Lusatia region of Germany.



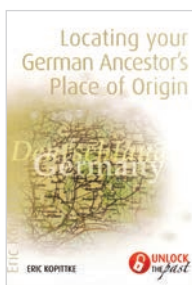
2. Where is Dr. Leichhardt?: the greatest mystery in Australian history, by Darrell Lewis.

One of the greatest mysteries in Australian history is the mystery of the lost Leichhardt expedition. In April 1848, Ludwig Leichhardt and six other men set out westward from the Queensland frontier, heading for the Swan River settlement in Western Australia, but somewhere in the outback the whole expedition disappeared. Over the last 160 years supposed clues to the fate of the expedition have been discovered: human skeletons, old guns, rock paintings, etc. Official and private expeditions have followed up leads, but nothing conclusive has been found. This book draws together and summarises all the search expeditions, assesses the validity of the Leichhardt relics and the various theories proposed, and attempts to answer the perplexing question of what happened to Dr. Leichhardt. (Donated by Monash University.)



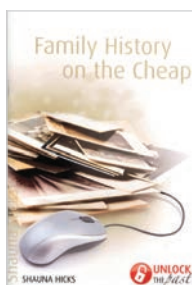
3. Death certificates and archaic medical terms, by Helen V. Smith.

Death certificates are an important document in family research in, for example, determining cause of death, especially so for people who are interested in establishing their medical genealogy. However, at times, it seems as though the cause of death is in a foreign language. This book gives meanings to a number of archaic terms found on death certificates such as byssinosis (exposure to cotton dust), coeliac passion (diarrhoea), Potter's Rot (lead poisoning), Mad Hatter Syndrome (mercury poisoning affecting central nervous system). It also examines the history and evolution of death certificates.



4. Locating your German ancestor's place of origin, by Eric Kopittke.

When researching ancestors from Germany it is essential to locate the places of origin. Specific locations are needed in order to obtain civil or church records of births or baptisms, marriages and deaths or burials. Unlike the Australian, New Zealand or British situation where births, deaths, and marriages were recorded centrally, in Germany they were recorded and stored at the local Standesamt (Civil registry office), while the church records of baptisms, marriages and burials were recorded and stored at the local parish church.



5. Family history on the cheap, by Shauna Hicks.

This looks at various ways of finding births, deaths and marriages in a wide variety of sources such as wills, probate records, cemetery records, newspapers and so on, without spending money. It examines a broad range of topics including family sources, whether someone has already researched the family, when to use professional researchers, how to obtain discounts, what sites are free, how to plan and organise your research and how to maximise research results from your trips to archives and libraries, family history and local historical societies, visits to relatives, social networking sites, commercial websites and Google.



6. It's not all online: a guide to genealogy sources offline, by Shauna Hicks.

These days most researchers use the internet extensively in their search for their ancestors, but it must be remembered that not everything is, as yet, indexed, digitised and online, so, in the meantime, it is important to explore the various places where there may be additional and more detailed information: libraries, archives, genealogical and family history societies, museums and local historical societies, etc.



7. Your family history archives: a brief introduction, by Shauna Hicks.

Family archives are important as they provide a slice of a family's history within their community. This book is a brief introduction to the basics of recording, organising and caring for family archives and what to do to ensure that the collection is not lost to future generations.



8. Romantische flugbilder aus Deutschland, by Roland Gööck.

A collection of coloured aerial photographs of Germany. [Text in German]



9. Germany: Euro road atlas (1:300 000); route planning map of Europe, urban town plans at a scale of 1:100 000.

This gives details of countries and regions, including all major roads and points of interest.



10. Under friendly flags: Australians who served in the land, sea, and air forces of Allied nations in World War One, by Lieutenant Colonel Neil C. Smith.

An analysis and detailed alphabetical listing of over 12,000 Australians who served with Allied nations in World War One. Over 400,000 men and women donned Australian uniforms in WW1 but what is seldom recognised is the great number of Australians who served in various capacities with Allied nations during the period 1914–1919.

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

Visit the Wendish Library

All are welcome to visit our Wendish Library at 27 Livingstone St, Ivanhoe.

It is open on the first Sunday of each month February–November, from 1.30–5.30 pm.

For a complete list of our library holdings, visit our website: www.wendishheritage.org.au/publications/library/



Items from other Societies' journals

Caesar Godeffroy passengers, 1856

Ances-tree (March 2013) from Burwood, NSW features Part 3 of 'German Immigrants to Eastern Australia who weren't assisted,' by Jenny Paterson. The ship featured is the *Caesar Godeffroy* which left Hamburg, arriving in Feb. 1856 in Moreton Bay, where 98 passengers disembarked. The ship then sailed on to Sydney, where a further 139 immigrants landed. The majority of these were from Württemberg and they settled in the Grafton area.

Mistaken identity

Some years ago, *Australian Family Tree Connections* published John Noack's article on his Wendish ancestor, Anna Hondow. The photo accompanying the article was believed to be that of Anna Noack nee Hondow and her husband, Johann Noack. John Noack has written a correction regarding the photo. Lyall Kupke, of the Lutheran Archives, has correctly identified the male in this photo as Johann Friedrich Semlin, a teacher at Peters Hill, S.A.

Nieder Weisel Memorial on Victorian Goldfields

Ballarat Link (Feb. 2013) features an article on the dedication of a plaque in Smythesdale, near Ballarat, in Jan. 2013. The plaque honours the families from Nieder Weisel in Germany who came to this area during the 1850s Gold Rush. See www.nieder-weiselmemorial.com

Details of the reunion at Ballarat can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Nieder-Wiesel/107531072649782>

German pioneers of Kangaroo Island, S.A.

FoLA News (Nov. 2012) includes an article on "The Christian family and others on Kangaroo Island". A reunion was held in Oct. 2012 for descendants of German pioneers who arrived at Kangaroo Island, S.A. aboard the *Solway* in 1837.

Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail

The Friends of Peters Hill Church Newsletter (Sept. 2012) reports on the unveiling of a 'Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail' plaque on 28 Oct. 2012 at Peters Hill Church. The plaque includes a map and photos relating to the Wends of the area. Other such signage is located at the Lutheran Churches of Rosedale, Ebenezer, Neukirch, St Kitts (Nuriootpa) and at Hope Valley Cemetery. *The Wend/Sorb Society of S.A. Inc. Newsletter* (March 2013) features the text of the speech given by the President, Lyall Kupke, at each of the launches of the signs, as well as photos.

Holsworthy Internment Camp, NSW

Links'n'Chains (Feb. 2013) features an article "The Way It Was," an historical sketch of Liverpool, NSW, about the Holsworthy Internment Camp and its German occupants during World War One.

Friedrich Feuerheerdt

Queensland Family Historian (Feb. 2013) includes an article by Robert Adamson on his great-grandfather, Friedrich Feuerheerdt, who migrated from Saxony to South Australia in 1859 on the ship *Helene*.

Nebel family

The Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter (April 2013) features an article by Robert Wuchatsch on the Nebel family, who arrived in Australia in 1855 and farmed at Westgarthtown for over 100 years.

Umlauf family of Epping

The above newsletter also features Robert Wuchatsch's research on Hugo and Bertha Umlauf, who arrived in Epping in 1912. Recent immigrants from Germany, the Umlaufs experienced considerable persecution during the First World War.

Dimboola's Pioneers

The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (Dec. 2012 / Jan. 2013) gives brief details, taken from the *Weekly Times* of Oct. 1929, about some of the pioneers, including Wilhelm MEINCKE, Heinrich HARDERS, GUSTAV HARDERS, P. KOOP, Carl August MENZEL, Johann MENZEL, ERNST FECHNER, Peter MOELLER, Traugott NOSKE, Friedrich LANGE and Johann August JANETZKI. The list of pioneers is continued in the Feb. 2013 edition, which includes Friedrich Wilhelm SALLMANN and GUSTAV STEPHAN.

Dimboola's Obituaries from the Past

The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (Feb. 2013) includes the Obituary of Ludwig MENZEL (c.1848–1913). The April 2013 issue gives the Obituaries of Emil V. ROHDE (1880–1951), his wife Clara Emily Rohde (nee POLACK), 1882–1958, and Godfrey Rudolph MENZEL (c. 1876–1913).

Texas Wends

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (March 2013) reports on the success of the Wendish History and Knowledge Extravaganza held in Serbin, Texas, on 16 March 2013.

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER



Useful Websites

Mallee Roots (May 2013) informs us that Archival Access Victoria is a small family research organisation specialising in records held by the Victorian Archives. Located only minutes from the PRO, they can access the records you're after and provide you with a high resolution digital image of documents, for a very reasonable fee. Their free newsletter is worth getting. The site has limited free downloads. <http://www.archivalaccessvictoria.com/>

(Another site worth looking at is Victorian Heritage <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage>)

Western Australian Births, Deaths and Marriages historical index searches have been expanded. Births 1841–1932. Deaths 1841–1971. Marriages 1841–1936. Go to <http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au> and select 'Family History.'

The Queensland Family Historian (Feb. 2013) states that there is a Central European Group that meets monthly at the QFHS Library. Contact Eric Kopittke on email kopittke@tpg.com.au

PAUL KRUGER, JOURNAL REVIEWER

General News

Former President's 80th Birthday



Our Wendish Heritage Society offers sincere congratulations to Gladys Koch, former long standing Committee member and President. Gladys was born in the Western District of Victoria in 1933, the daughter of Wendish father, Fred Burger, who could still speak some of his native

Wendish language. For years she thought the family was of German heritage. However, in 1976 her cousin, Rupert Burger, published an article titled "The Coming of the Wends", revealing that the Burger family was in fact Wendish. John Noack, the founder of our Society, had been giving talks for years, wherever he could get a hearing, promoting Wendish and Germanic heritage and family history. He soon enlisted our Glad to help establish and organise our regular annual dinners, and to provide sauerkraut, potato salad and Deutsche Streusel Kuchen in the early years, when we did our own catering. She was quickly drawn into our Committee.

In 2003 she became President and used her skills, learnt in years of teaching and raising a family of five children, to steer our Committee. She served

as President until 2007. It was during her term as President that the most important change of the decade took place: the introduction in 2004 of our website www.wendishheritage.org.au

It's no accident that our Society profited and became larger and stronger under her orderly, imaginative leadership. Although she stood down from both Committee and leadership a few years ago, she is still an active and supportive member of our Society. She is never slow to take advantage of opportunities to promote consciousness of Wendish heritage in her family and wherever else she can get an opportunity to tell "The story of the Wends". Congratulations Gladys and thank you!

Dr Graham Lieschke and 100 Different Bach Cantatas

On Sunday 23 June 2013, the congregation of St John's Lutheran Church, Southgate in Melbourne, Victoria, celebrated the presentation of the 100th Different Cantata by J. S. Bach. This was a milestone for the congregation's Musical Director and Organist, Dr Graham Lieschke, who conducted the Bach Orchestra and Choir. Dr Lieschke, who has Wendish ancestry, has made an immense contribution to the Cantata Program from 1997 to the present.

See John Noack's full report and photos on our website under "Past Events".

General News continued >



Daniel Huf's Road to Recovery

On 7 July 2013, Melbourne's *Sunday Herald Sun* published a two-page illustrated article on the amazing progress being made by Daniel Huf in his recovery after his serious car accident on 1 April 2012. Daniel revisited the crash scene at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria with the undertaker who came to collect the "body". Paramedics and rescue workers found no traces of life when the body was removed from the car. However, some thirty minutes later, the body showed small signs of life. A miracle had happened. Daniel was alive.

Daniel is the son of Pastor Colin and Betty Huf of Tarrington, Victoria. Betty is a renowned Western District historian and researcher. She also serves on our committee as tour organizer and leader. We share his parents' joy at the progress Daniel

has made. Fifteen months after the accident, Daniel is not only back at his former job but he is also able to live independently.

Overlooking the crash site is a Cross on top of a high hill. The Cross is at the Ta Pinu Marian Centre. To Daniel's parents the presence of the Cross is a reminder that God had embraced Daniel and sustained his life.

This is an edited version of John Noack's summary of the Sunday Herald Sun article. The full summary, with photos, is on our website under "Publications / Articles".



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 307, Heidelberg, Vic, 3084.

Meeting Room and Research Centre: Ivanhoe Lutheran Church Meeting Room, 27 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe, Victoria. (Melways 31 E7)

Hours: Open the first Sunday of each month from February – November, 1.30pm–5.30pm for research, working bees and 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: \$30 for single membership and \$35 for joint membership for one calendar year due at the start of each year. The form is included in our August Newsletter for the following year. 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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