



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 54 MARCH 2015



Clockwise from top:

1. Klaus Hattwich, Anne Hattwich (obscured), Gladys Kruger, Viola Harms, Yvonne Mibus and Moira Nagorcka at the Austrian Club (see page 3).
2. Clay Kruger and Yvonne Mibus at the Austrian Club.
3. Mirko Schenk, Lena Rahn and their son Benno (see page 4).
4. Janice Blackburn at the Austrian Club.
5. Richard and Paula Noack at the Burger Cottage (see page 3).

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER, JANICE BLACKBURN AND BETTY HUF.

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Calendar of upcoming events

Portland Tour Cancelled

As advised in our Wendish e-News Update in February, the proposed tour to Portland on the Labour Day weekend in March was cancelled, because of tour leader Betty Huf's other commitments and interests, as well as her workload as a full time teacher. We apologise for any inconvenience.

As well as her other commitments, Betty is working on a booklet about Pastor C.W. Schürmann's ministry in Western Victoria. The 200th birthday of Pastor C.W. Schürmann will be celebrated at Tarrington on 6–7 June. See details below.

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 11 April 2015

Our Society's AGM will be held at 1.30 pm, followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome. The venue is our meeting room at St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria.

Our Interim President (who is also our Computer/ Website Manager), our Treasurer, our Secretary (who is also our Newsletter Editor), and a Committee member (our Librarian) have all indicated that they are unable to continue and will not be standing for re-election. **The future of our Society will be discussed at this meeting.**

Please RSVP to Glenys Wollermann Tel. (03) 9891 6652; email wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au

Explore your Wendish heritage, Thursday 28 May 2015

The Wend / Sorb Society of South Australia is holding a Wendish Heritage Exhibition on Thursday 28 May, from 1.00pm to 4.00 pm at the Burnside Library (in the Burnside Civic Centre, 401 Greenhill Rd, Tasmore).

This is being held in conjunction with the "About Time – S.A.'s History Festival" in May. The Exhibition includes talks on Wendish beliefs and customs, a film on folk dancing, and displays of costumes, books and CDs.

Bookings are essential. In early April the program for the festival will be available. Check the program for booking details. Tel. (08) 8203 9888.

Website: www.abouttime.sa.gov.au

Pastor C.W. Schürmann – 200th Birthday, 6–7 June 2015

Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann (1815–1893) was the pioneer Lutheran missionary and pastor in Western Victoria, from 1854 to 1893. He was based at Hochkirch (later Tarrington), near Hamilton. A number of events are planned to celebrate the 200th Birthday of Pastor Schürmann.

On Saturday 6 June, there will be a tour in the afternoon of some of the places where Pastor Schürmann served, including Tarrington, Tabor and Byaduk, to be led by local historian, Betty Huf. This will be followed by a dinner at Café Catalpa in Tarrington.

Events planned for Sunday 7 June include a commemorative Church service at St Michael's Lutheran Church, followed by a light lunch. In the afternoon two historical plaques commemorating Pastor Schürmann's life and family will be unveiled. The first unveiling will be at Tarrington and will commemorate his life as a pioneer missionary, linguist and pastor. The second unveiling will be at the Schürmann family gravesite in the South Hamilton Lutheran Cemetery.

To mark this event, Betty Huf and Christine Lockwood are preparing a booklet on Pastor Schürmann's life and ministry. The booklet will be launched and copies (signed by the authors) will be available for purchase on the weekend.

All are welcome to attend this event. Please pass this information on to others who may be interested.

Hamilton has a range of accommodation options. Enquiries can be made at the Visitor Centre (Tel. 1800 807 056) or see the website www.visitsouth-erngrampians.com.au. A Facebook page for the anniversary will also be available.

Please note that this event is on the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend.

To assist in the planning and catering, please contact one of the following if you wish to attend:

Allan Schurmann Tel. (03) 9841 8900; mob. 0417 418 900. Email: abschurmann@bigpond.com

Mal Brinkmann Email: malbrink01@gmail.com

Christine Schurmann Email: c.i.schurmann@gmail.com



Past events

Luncheon at the Austrian Club, Saturday 11 October 2014

A successful Luncheon was held at the Austrian Club in Heidelberg West, Victoria. The theme was "Farewell Ivanhoe".

The Ivanhoe Lutheran Church meeting room was our Society's venue for the past 12 years. John Noack spoke about the history of the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church.

The DVD produced by Clay Kruger of the Auction of the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church and of the Final Service in October 2013 was also shown. Some former members of the Ivanhoe Lutheran Church were among those who attended this Luncheon.



Clockwise from top: 1. Klaus Hattwich, Anne Hattwich and Gladys Kruger. 2. Otto Schmidlechner, Leone Schmidlechner and Lin Fraser. 3. Decorative carved wooden door at the Austrian Club. 4. Glenys Wollermann and Beryl Nagorcka. 5. Sign at entrance to Austrian Club Melbourne. PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY CLAY KRUGER AND JANICE BLACKBURN.

Wendish Visitors

Recently we have had a number of visitors from overseas who expressed interest in early Germanic and Wendish settlements in Victoria. Two of the visitors, Stefan Kiessling and Mirko Schenk, made some very surprising discoveries in our Wendish Library!

Stefan Kiessling

Stefan KIESSLING, a world-renowned organist from Cottbus, visited Melbourne in September 2014. John Noack attended an organ recital presented by Stefan. Later, John showed Stefan some of our Wendish posters. Stefan was very surprised to see a photo of his mother, singing in a church choir, on one of our posters of Lusatia.

Dr Richard and Paula Noack

Dr Richard and Paula NOACK from Texas, USA were given a guided tour of early Germanic and Wendish settlements in Melbourne, accompanied by John Noack, on 24th October 2014.

Robert Wuchatsch organized and John Fry conducted a tour of the Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct, including Ziebell's Farmhouse and the Thomastown Lutheran Church and Cemetery.

They then visited the Doncaster Lutheran Church and inspected the Thiele homestead "Friedensruh", from the adjoining park.

Geoff Broome gave the visitors a guided tour of Schramm's Cottage.

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Past events... continued

The tour ended with a visit to our Society's Library, where they were able to browse our Library books and display boards, including posters of Lusatia.

Dr Richard and Paula Noack also visited Betty and Colin Huf, who gave them a guided tour of early settlements near Hamilton in western Victoria.

Mirko Schenk

On 16th January 2015, Mirko SCHENK, his partner Helene (Lena) RAHN and their young son Benno Schenk visited our Wendish Library.

On their way to Melbourne they visited Betty and Colin Huf, who gave them a guided tour of the Burger Cottages and Mt Rouse at Penshurst, near Hamilton.

Mirko grew up in the Bautzen area. When John Noack showed Mirko our Wendish posters, Mirko recognized himself in a 1988 photo of a classroom in a Wendish primary school in Bautzen. Mirko was about nine years of age in the photo.

He was also able to identify the two girls in Wendish costume in another photo, as they were his classmates.

Mirko was astonished to travel to the other side of the world and find a photo of himself, especially as he had never seen that photo before!



From left to right: Betty Huf, Paula Noack, Colin Huf and Richard Noack



Above: Richard and Paula Noack at the Burger Cottage



Above: Mirko Schenk, Lena Rahn and their son Benno

Right: Mirko Schenk discovers a photo of himself as a school boy (see photo inset) on one of the Wendish Heritage Society's posters.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY BETTY HUF AND CLAY KRUGER.





Tours



Rob Wuchatsch and George Nielsen at Mt Rushmore. Inset: George Nielsen wearing an Australian cap!

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY ROB WUCHATSCH.

Visit to George Nielsen's home

Robert Wuchatsch recently visited George Nielsen at his home in South Dakota, USA. George Nielsen is the author of "In Search of a Home", an important work on nineteenth-century Wendish migration to Australia and the United States. It was first published in 1977. Below is Robert's report on his visit.

In November 2014, I had the great pleasure of spending four days with George Nielsen at his home in Rapid City, South Dakota. George and his late wife Lois moved to Rapid City, on the edge of the Black Hills, following his retirement in 1997. George, who was raised at Thorndale in Texas, had previously been Professor of History at Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois where he taught American History.

George and Lois, who was born and raised in South Dakota, built a home in Rapid City and were active in the local community. Their three children – Laura, Erik and Christy – now live in three different states – Texas, Illinois and South Dakota. Sadly Lois, also a teacher, passed away in January 2014.

Australian Wends recall with gratitude George Nielsen's important work on the subject of Wendish migration to and settlement in Australia and the US. George visited Australia with Lois in 1969/70 on a Fulbright Scholarship while he was researching his book *In Search of a Home: The Wends (Sorbs) on the Australian and Texas Frontier*, published in 1977. This classic migration study was revised and republished in 1989 as *In Search of a Home: Nineteenth Century Wendish Immigration*.

George's youngest daughter Christy was born in Adelaide in 1969 during his research visit to Australia. *In Search of a Home* provided Australians with their first real understanding of the Wends, their life in Germany, their reasons for emigration and their travels to and settlement in the new world. Before George's visit to Australia in 1969/70, I had no idea my family were Wendish rather than German, although I had sometimes wondered about the strange language in my old family Bibles.

George revisited Australia in 2003, the same year his book *Johann Kilian, Pastor: A Wendish Lutheran In Germany and Texas* was published. George's Wendish ancestors, the Mörbe family, had emigrated from Lusatia to Texas with Kilian and over 500 other Wends in 1854/55. Kilian was the spiritual leader of the Wends in Texas and had also been pastor at Kotitz to my Wuchatsch ancestors from 1837–48.

George is the author of four other books: *The Kickapoo People* (1975); *The Danish Americans* (1981); *Walking George: The Life of George John Beto and the Rise of the Modern Texas Prison System* (2005); and *Vengeance in a Small Town: The Thorndale Lynching of 1911* (2011).

While in South Dakota, George took me to see the famed Black Hills, home of Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane and the incredible stone carvings of four US Presidents at Mt Rushmore. The day before I left Rapid City, the polar vortex arrived and we had six inches of snow, a highlight for an Australian visitor who sees snow so rarely.

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Tours... continued

Our Visit to Werben (Spreewald) in 2013

by Janet & Andrew Kollosché

We met our guide, Uwe Porten, in Berlin to begin our three day Spreewald personal family history tour.

Fritz Kollosche

Uwe took us to the Charlottenburg memorial, where the names are listed of those who were shot or imprisoned and beaten for protesting against Nazi Fascism in the early 1930's. On the plaque is the name of Fritz Kollosche, a pre-World War II casualty. Fritz was arrested and brutally beaten. He died as a result. It took some searching to find the memorial which is attached to the front of a building now used as a local youth club.



In the afternoon we met 86 year old Mrs Eva Gumpel and her husband Gunter (pictured left). Eva's mother was Luci Margaret Auguste Kollosche, sister of Fritz and a very distant relative of mine. I gave Mrs Gumpel the latest copy of the family tree chart

and a toy kangaroo as a token of our friendship. The Gumpels have been married for 65 years and have lived in East Berlin in the same unit for 49 years. They have many great grandchildren. Mrs Gumpel gave me a very good copy of a photo of Fritz with the other members of the Red Support group.

Village of Burg

After leaving Eva and Gunter we travelled to the quaint township of Burg, making it our base for travel around the Spreewald area. Burg is only 2 kms from Werben and 20 kms from Cottbus, the cultural centre of Lower Lusatia. Burg is 160km from Bautzen, which is regarded as the capital of Upper Lusatia. The Hotel we stayed in displayed many museum quality artefacts of the Sorb culture and was immaculately maintained. We enjoyed the local food and wines each evening, and let's not forget the beer!

Ancestral home of the Kollosche family

On the following day Uwe took us to Werben, my great-great grandfather's home town, and to the townships of Cottbus, Zahsow, Dahlitze, Kunersdorf, Papitz, Müschen and Brahmow, all local villages



Top: Werben Lutheran Church

Above: Bilingual (German and Wendish) town sign

where Kollosches once lived. The last Kollosche died in Werben back in 1933. He and his wife only had surviving daughters, so the Kollosche surname has not been passed on.

There may be relatives still living in Werben, descendants of Christian's daughters, but German privacy laws for obtaining birth records are not available before 100 years of the current date, making it very hard to trace female family members.

We visited Werben Cemetery and noticed that all the headstones were very modern. As the grave sites are leased for a 20 year period, there was no sign of any old headstones dating back to the 1800's, except for the von Schönfeldt family plot.

The home of George Kollosche

Uwe had previously attempted to locate property records for George's cottage, but unfortunately these records do not exist. Many new houses have been built in the township over the last 40 years. Most now incorporate the older red brick buildings as



part of their homes, as garages or sheds, producing a rich blend of styles. Werben is a charming, very well maintained village.

Even the home of the von Schönfeldt family, the German landlords of Werben, was demolished. All property and land was seized by the Communist East German government in 1945. It would appear that after reunification of East and West Germany they were not able to show what land and buildings they owned, and they have lost much of their property. They had very strong feelings about this matter. While visiting the Werben Cemetery we came across a recent (2001) von Schönfeldt headstone stating “1945 Werben enteignet”, meaning “expropriated” (seized).

Werben Lutheran Church

While waiting for the church warden to arrive so we could view the inside of the Werben Lutheran Church, I wandered around a few blocks of the village taking photos. The church construction started in 1346. It is quite large, with a two tiered balcony on each side and pipe organ opposite the altar. On the right side of the altar is a special room with a glass window for the von Schönfeldt family. Hanging from the decorated ceiling to one side of the altar is a brightly painted wooden angel holding a halo above the baptismal font. I was surprised to see that the church bells are now controlled by electronic timer to chime on the hour, between 6am and 10pm. The

church also services the villages of Müschen, Ruben and Brahmow.

Sorbian Life

The next day we drove to Bautzen and visited the Sorbian Museum. We spent three hours there, perhaps more than we should have and missed out on visiting the Sorb open-air museum in Lehde. There were many examples of early Sorbian life, farm implements, displays of period costume and decoration, living areas and construction techniques. Sadly, the Museum has not produced a book about its history or contents.

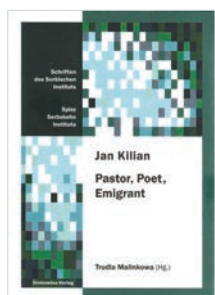
The Burg hotel had many photos along its corridor walls of the Spreewald area dating back 100 years or more, which were of great interest. Just before leaving, I purchased a book about the Spreewald. It is written in German of course, but the photos are very good and they make a wonderful memento of our visit.

REPORT AND PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY JANET AND ANDREW KOLLOSCHÉ.



Doll in Wendish dress

What's new at the library?



Jan Kilian (1811 – 1884) Pastor, Poet, Emigrant, *edited by Trudla Malinkowa.*

Jan Kilian, a farmer's son, was born in Doehlen in Upper Lusatia. When he was orphaned at the age of ten, he used the small farm he inherited to put himself through school. He became an assistant pastor of his home congregation in Hochkirch, Saxony and then succeeded his uncle, Michael Kilian, as pastor of the nearby congregation of Kotitz.

In 1854 Pastor Jan Kilian left Lusatia for Texas, USA, where he founded the colony Serbin with almost 600 Wends.

At a conference to commemorate Kilian's 200th birthday in September 2011, papers were presented on his family origins, the circumstances of his emigration, and his work as a theologian, hymn writer and poet.

These papers have now been published in a bilingual volume (German and English), edited by Trudla Malinkowa (Gertrud Mahling) and published by the Domowina Publishing House in Bautzen. The authors of papers include George Nielsen, David Zersen, Jan Mahling and others.

We thank Robert Wuchatsch who arranged the purchase of a copy of this book for our Library when he visited Bautzen in 2014. Jan Kilian was pastor to Robert's Wuchatsch ancestors from 1836-1848.

PHOTO OF BOOK COVER: CLAY KRUGER

JANICE BLACKBURN, LIBRARIAN

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



Research

Wendish family history research by Kevin Zwar

Kevin Zwar continues to receive and answer email queries virtually every week from folk overseas and within Australia.

It would help Kevin if enquirers let him know which country they live in, and for Australians to inform him where they live. For example, it can make a difference in advising people where they might find more information if he knows they live in Perth or Adelaide! The latter can visit the Lutheran Archives at 27 Fourth St, Bowden. Interstate folk can email lutheran.archives@lca.org.au. People in the US can contact the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, and in Europe they can contact one of the Sorb organisations, or Hamburg for shipping information.

Kevin had one shipping list query from a person in Hamburg which he was able to answer, but also advised the happy enquirer he could find it up the street in Hamburg!

Contact Kevin at email: wendsonline@optusnet.com.au

Victorian Government Gazettes – a valuable resource

Phillip A. Richardson is one of the editors of “The Wellersdorf migration: a history of the Schultz, Sandmann, Topp families 1849–2011”. In this article he writes about the usefulness of the Victorian Government Gazettes as a source of information for family history research.

If you have hit a roadblock in your family history research, you may well find valuable information in a Government Gazette. You may ask why this is so. One has to remember that the colonies established in Australia were intended as penal settlements to ease the overcrowded English prison system. Thus each colony, later to become a State of Australia, was governed on the English system.

It was a highly regimented system requiring official approval for most activities. As a result records were regarded as a necessity to control the activities of the population.

The Gazette is one such record; another is the record of births, deaths and marriages held by the churches of the various religious denominations. It will help if you have some idea of your ancestor's occupation.

If your ancestors were farmers, tradesmen, business owners, professionals such as druggists, medical doctors, military, prospectors and many more, then their name/s will appear in a Gazette.

What is a Government Gazette?

An official record of state government decisions, activities and notifications, as well as some private/commercial business items – initially issued monthly, and then as time progressed they became almost daily issues. The number of pages varies.

Some issues are complete documents such as Land Tax Registers, Schools & Teacher appointments, Leasehold lists, Public Service staff & Railway staff appointments, to mention a few.

The Gazette is published by the Victorian Government Printer.

Where can I find the Gazettes?

The State Library of Victoria has established a web-site at: <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au>

On this site are:

- NSW Government Gazettes (1836–1851) – for the Colony of Port Phillip.
- Port Phillip Government Notices (Jan – 12 July 1843)



Peter Zwar's passport, from 1850, giving permission to leave the Kingdom of Saxony. He left for Australia in 1854.



- Port Phillip Government Gazettes (1844–July 1851)
- Victorian Government Gazettes – (July 1851–1997)

What will I find at the Gazette website?

There will be an Index and a single or series of proclamations in chronological order.

What can you find?

This list is a small sample of what is available: Advisory boards (members appointed); Awards (Agricultural Shows); Bank appointments; Bankruptcies, Cemetery trustees; Civil service (lists of members); Company notices of shareholders; Government contracts for goods and services (suppliers and goods); Electoral officers; Emigration notices; Estates of deceased persons; Government appointments (eg. public service, education); Intestate estates; Land transactions (town & rural, leases of crown lands); Legal appointments; Licences issued (eg. brewers, druggists, prospectors, publicans, timber cutters); Medical practitioners; Members of Parliament; Military appointments; Patent applications; Police appointments; Railways employees; Schools and school boards; Shipping notices; Shipwrecks; Trustees for land reserved for common use or for religious use; and Unclaimed letters and monies.

Note: *Passenger shipping lists are not published in the Gazette.*

How is it available?

You can view images of individual pages or download and print pdf files of entire Gazettes at no charge. By downloading and storing each file you can search at your leisure.

File sizes vary between 1MB to 8MB. You can search the indexes by keyword, phrase or Gazette number. An advanced search function allows searches for words that appear in the indexes of each Gazette, but not in the full text on each page.

How can it be of use in your family research?

If you know the year of arrival, settlement and a name, it is highly likely you will find the family name that you are seeking. Be prepared to spend time on the task as you will find it to be interesting reading. My advice is to always start with the Index. You will ultimately be rewarded.

Ref: State Library of Victoria – <http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au/about/>

Prepared by Phillip A. Richardson

Email: philar@netspace.net.au

Westgarthtown Lutheran Cemetery mini-site

After many years of research by Robert Wuchatsch in various sources including death certificates, headstones and published death notices, the Friends of Westgarthtown are proud to announce that the reconstructed burial list for the Westgarthtown Lutheran Cemetery has been published online. The new Cemetery mini-site features a map, details of all known burials, photographs of headstones and stories about many of the key figures and families of Westgarthtown.

See the Cemetery mini-site under “News and Events” on the website www.westgarthtown.org.au

Bendigo Cemetery Project

The Bendigo Area AIGS Inc. has announced in their newsletter *Bendigo Genealogist* (Sept. 2014) the good news that the long-awaited Bendigo Cemetery Project has been completed. “A Digital Record of Monumental Headstone Photographs & Burial List 2014” was launched in Bendigo in October 2014. This digital record, available on DVD or USB flash drive, is produced by Tom & Libby Luke and Ian & Pat Belmont, who spent five and a half years on this project.

This digital record adds to the records already completed (Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat, White Hills, Marong and Axedale cemeteries) but Bendigo Cemetery is by far the largest with over 55,000 interments. There is a full burial list. The names are listed alphabetically and are linked to headstone photos. Cemetery maps and other feature photos are included.

The first person on the Cemetery register is Ellen Mowbray Murphy, who was buried in 1858, aged three and a half years. Her headstone is now badly weathered, which emphasizes the importance of a digital record. The headstone transcription work done in the past by Norma Cowling and others helped to identify unreadable, broken and missing headstones. Rita Hull of the Bendigo Family History Group and the staff and volunteers of the Remembrance Parks of Central Victoria also provided helpful information about the Cemetery.

The Cemetery was gazetted in 1875 and was originally known as Back Creek Cemetery, and later Sandhurst Public Cemetery. In 1891, the City of Sandhurst reverted to its original name of Bendigo and so the cemetery became the Bendigo Public Cemetery.

Further information can be obtained from the Bendigo Family History Group’s website www.bendigofamilyhistory.org or the compilers via email at info.graves@gmail.com



Items from other Societies' journals

Anniversaries at Peters Hill, South Australia

The Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Inc. Newsletter (March 2015) reports that on Sunday 19 October 2014, the Friends of Peters Hill Church celebrated two anniversaries. It was 150 years since the building of the present church (St Peters Lutheran Church) in 1864, and 130 years since the building of the last school in 1884.

Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail

The March 2015 issue of the *Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia Inc. Newsletter* also informs us that the Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail signs that were erected in 2012 have been well received. The Society has produced a brochure which explains who the Wends were and gives directions and maps to the six sites on the Trail (Hope Valley, Rosedale, Ebenezer, Neukirch, St Kitts and Peters Hill.) Brochures are available at tourist information centres in the Barossa and other districts.

Rumpff family

The International Settlers Group Newsletter (Oct. 2014) includes a summary of a talk by Michael Rumpff titled "Researching my German family history".

The Rumpffs were originally from Butzbach, a town near Nieder-Weisel in Hessen, Germany. Michael Rumpff's great-grandfather, Georg Anton "Carl" Rumpff (1833 – 1920) arrived in Australia in 1855. Michael recommends travelling to the place of origin of our ancestors. In 2010 he travelled to Germany with the Nieder-Weisel group organized by Alan Haintz and Don Hauser.

The group placed a plaque in the churchyard at Nieder-Weisel to commemorate the families who emigrated to Australia during the Gold Rush. In 2013, a commemorative plaque was also placed by the group in Smythesdale, near Ballarat, Victoria.

Kreitling family

The Friends of Westgarthtown News (Oct. 2014) features an article by Robert Wuchatsch on the Kreitling family of Westgarthtown. Johann Andreas Kreitling (c. 1837–1915) arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg in 1859. In 1863 he married Alwina Maria Sophia Karsten (1845–1916). Andreas was a dairy farmer.

Christian Grosse

The Friends of Westgarthtown News (Oct. 2014) also features a research update on Christian Grosse, by Robert Wuchatsch. The April 2008 edition of this Newsletter had included an article about Friedrich and Christian Grosse, who tried to establish a vineyard at Westgarthtown in 1858. Finding the soil unsuitable, they sold the farm in 1860. In the 2008 article, Robert Wuchatsch wrote that nothing was known of Christian Grosse after he left Westgarthtown.

Through the wonders of digitized newspapers, it is now known that Christian lived an impoverished, difficult and eccentric life in the Castlemaine area for the next 45 years.

It pays to advertise – and to read ads

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (Jan. 2015) features an article by George Nielsen titled "It pays to advertise – and to read ads." Nielsen states that Robert Wuchatsch found about a dozen "for sale" notices placed in the 1854 *Budissiner Nachrichten*. These notices were placed by Wends several months before their departure to the United States aboard the *Ben Nevis*.

The advertisements provide useful details for family histories and also for the story of the Texas Wends. The descriptions give details about the size of landholdings as well as the goods and equipment owned by some of the emigrants.

Wendish Festival in Texas

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter (Jan. 2015) also publicizes the 27th Annual Wendish Festival to be held in Serbin, Texas on Sunday 27 September 2015. This popular event promises good music, food and family fun.

Dimboola's Obituaries from the Past

The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (Nov. 2014) includes the Obituary of pioneer Johann August ROHDE, who died in 1917.

Johann August Rohde was born at Steinau, Schlesien. He was educated at Light Pass, South Australia and was head teacher at the following schools in that State: Eden Valley, Blight, Carlsruhe, Friedrichswalde and Peter's Hill.

In later years he moved to Victoria and bought land at Ni Ni East, which he farmed for 23 years.



The Nov. 2014 issue of *The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter* also includes the Obituary of Oswald MENZEL, who died in 1914 at the age of 32, after several years of ill health. Oswald, known as Walter, was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Carl Menzel of Dimboola. Oswald was survived by his wife and two young children.

Arthur Alfred Moller

The Dimboola & Dist. Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (February 2015) includes an article by Sophie Moller on Arthur Alfred Moller, known as Alfred Moller.

Alfred was born in Dimboola, Victoria in 1880, the fourth son of Peter Moller who emigrated from Holstein in 1864. Alfred probably attended the Kornheim Lutheran School which was established by his father and other settlers who were keen to preserve the religion and traditions of their homeland.

The settlement at Kornheim also included a Church and Post Office. Alfred farmed with his father and brothers on land just east of the Dimboola township. An impressive Federation-style house, "Stratheden" was built for Alfred in 1909-10, just prior to his marriage. The family did not stay in Dimboola and in 1922 "Stratheden" was sold.

Sophie Moller is writing a history of the Moller family of Dimboola, and would be interested in hearing from anyone who has information about them. She is also interested in the story of the people who lived in "Stratheden" after the Moller family left.

Sophie can be contacted via email: sophiemoller@hotmail.com

Herbert Edward Gerlach

Australian Family Tree Connections (Aug. 2014) features an article by Eddie Beulke titled, "1924 letter to Herbert Edward Gerlach". It is a letter written by a mother to her son who had moved away with his family to find work.

The letter was written to Herbert Edward Gerlach by his mother, Louisa Bertha (nee Mihan) Gerlach of Ferntree Gully, Victoria.

The article includes a photo and transcription of the letter. It also includes family photos of Eddie Beulke's mother (Louise Gerlach), his grandparents (Herbert Edward Gerlach and Jane (nee Gowland) Gerlach), his great-grandparents (Johann Julius Gerlach and Louisa Bertha (nee Mihan) Gerlach) as well as other family members mentioned in the letter.

Claus Ottens

The Ancestral Searcher (June 2014) features an article by Lois Grosse on her great-grandfather Claus Ottens.

Claus Ottens was born at Horstheide in Holstein in 1842. He arrived in Port Adelaide in 1862. Lois Grosse found Claus Ottens listed in the *South Australia Ship Deserters Register 1852-1876*. Claus soon found his way to a German-speaking community, initially Klemzig, then Lobethal, Rosenthal (Rosedale), and then Stockwell and Freeling. Claus married Anna Elisabeth Falting in 1868.

In 1876 he moved to the Condowie Plains when that area was opened up for farming. By 1890 Claus and Anna had eleven children.

The Ottens family history was updated to mark the 150th anniversary of Claus Ottens' arrival in Australia. The update is titled *The Claus Ottens odyssey: Germany - South Australia 1862-2012*, by Tom Bowden, Erica Bowden and Lois Grosse.

Lois Grosse contributed details of research undertaken in Germany on Claus Ottens' ancestry. Much information was found at the Stadt Archiv in Horst.

German immigrant ship *Wilhelm Kirchner* 1858

Ancestry: Journal of the Burwood & District Family History Group (March 2015) features an article by Jenny Paterson: "Update on the *Wilhelm Kirchner* 1858, one of the German 'ships with no ship lists'."

Jenny Paterson's previous article on the *Wilhelm Kirchner* (which sailed from Bremen to Sydney in 1858) was published in *Ancestry* in 2006. Since that article, further evidence of names of passengers has been found, along with other information, necessitating an update.

Jutrowna Woda – Osterwasser – Easter Water

Easter Water is an old Wendish folk custom with its origins in pre-Christian times when water was considered the symbol of life and fertility. In the very early hours of Easter morning, the young unmarried women would walk in silence to the nearest stream and fill earthenware jugs with water. If the women spoke the water would lose its healing power. At daybreak, the water was sprinkled on the sleeping members of the household so that all would be ensured of beauty, health and good luck for the rest of the year.

Ref: *Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter* (Jan. 2015)



General News



Get Well Soon, Joel

Our Interim President and Computer / Website Manager, Joel Blackburn (pictured), is battling illness. Joel spent eight weeks in hospital recently. We send Joel our best wishes for a return to good health. Our

thoughts are also with Joel's wife Janice and their family.

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Gladys and Ed Koch, who recently celebrated 60 happy years of marriage. Gladys Koch (nee Burger) is a former long-term Committee member and former President of our Society. Gladys and Ed celebrated this milestone with their family.

Directory

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

Postal Address: P.O. Box 4050, Box Hill South, Victoria 3128

Meeting Room and Research Centre: St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South, Victoria. (Melway 61 C1)

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 September 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.

Newsletter Design: Robyn Zwar Design,
www.robynzwardesign.com

Newsletter Editor: Glenys Wollermann.

Office bearers:

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