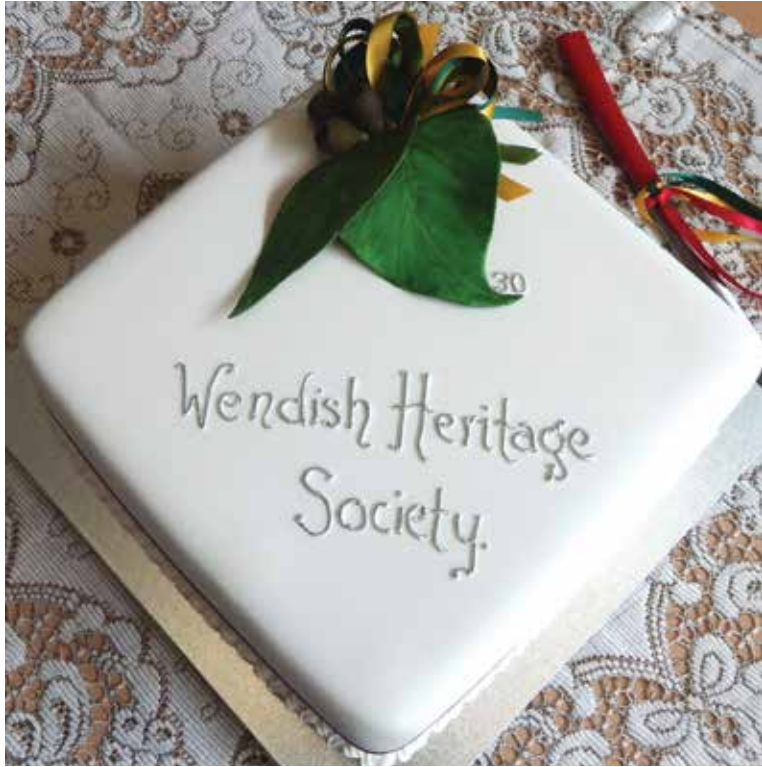




wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 58 APRIL 2017



Clockwise from top:

1. 30th Anniversary cake (see page 3).
 2. Intricate embroidery on June Nagorcka's traditional costume.
 3. Callum Cooper playing the dudelsack (an early German bagpipe).
 4. Joel Blackburn, Robert Wuchatsch, Susan Gravenall and Janice Blackburn at the 30th Anniversary luncheon.
- (photos: Clay Kruger)

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Calendar of upcoming events

Labour Day Weekend Tour to Portland, 11–13 March 2017

At the time of going to print, our tour leader, Betty Huf, reported that there were 23 full time participants and 2 part timers registered to go on the tour to the historic harbour city of Portland, Victoria. A full report of this Tour will be published in our next Newsletter.

Bus Trip: Historic Strathalbyn, South Australia, Saturday 29 April 2017

The Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia's bus trip to historic Strathalbyn will be organised by Malcolm Twartz, a longtime resident of Strathalbyn. The trip will include a visit to historic Bleasdale winery at Langhorne Creek.

*Bookings: Leona Coleman.
Telephone: (08) 8277 6525.*

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 22 April 2017

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.**

Proxies will be accepted. Please appoint a proxy if you are unable to attend, to ensure that we have a quorum for this important meeting. Please see the proxy form enclosed in this Newsletter. We need 26 members, including proxies, for a quorum. Committee members may be appointed as proxies eg. Secretary. Please post the proxy form to reach us by Friday 21 April.

Alternatively, you may email a message appointing a proxy to the address below. To appoint a proxy, please use the following wording:

"I,, being a paid member of the Wendish Heritage Society Aust. Inc., am unable to attend the AGM to be held on 22 April 2017. I appoint as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the meeting."

Please RSVP to:
Glenys Wollermann (Secretary)
Telephone: (03) 9891 6652
email: wendsociety1@optusnet.com.au

South Australia's History Festival, 1–31 May 2017

The History Festival is one of South Australia's largest community events. It will include a number of events for those interested in South Australian German history: a seminar on "German music heritage in South Australia" at Adelaide University and a number of themed, guided walks around Adelaide titled "German Adelaide". On Thursday 4 May, at 11.00 am in the City of Burnside Library in the Burnside Civic Centre, 401 Greenhill Rd, Tasmore, Dr Peter Mickan will be speaking about the fate of the Wendish language in South Australia.

*See the website for booking details:
Website: www.historyfestival.sa.gov.au
Email: historyfestival@history.sa.gov.au
Telephone: (08) 8203 9888*

Family History Expo in Deniliquin NSW, 13–14 October, 2017

Deniliquin Genealogy Society is holding a Family History Expo on Friday 13 October (9.30am–5.00pm) and Saturday 14 October (9.00am–4.0 pm). The event will be held at the RSL Club, 72 End St, Deniliquin, NSW. Deniliquin is just north of the Victorian border. Stall holders will include Ancestry, Vic GUM, Gould Genealogy, Unlock the Past, Mostly Unsung, and State Library of Victoria. Stall holders will present information and provide help with family history research. All are welcome.

*Expo Coordinator: Val Hardman,
P.O. Box 144, Deniliquin, NSW, 2710
Telephone: (03) 5881 3980
Email: valhard@bigpond.com or
denifhg@bordnet.com.au*



Past events



1. Clay Kruger (long-standing Committee member) and Kevin Zwar (first President) cutting the 30th Anniversary cake. 2. Traditional costume made for June Nagorcka by a seamstress in Lusatia. (photos: Clay Kruger)

30th Anniversary Luncheon, Saturday 15 October 2016

This event was a resounding success. We have received very good feedback from those who attended. Special thanks to the members of the Anniversary Committee (Beryl Nagorcka, Moira Nagorcka and Mary Cooper) for making this occasion such a memorable one. The following is a report by Beryl Nagorcka, Convenor of the Anniversary Committee.

On 15th October a significant milestone was celebrated at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill: the 30th Anniversary of the formation of our Society.

A large gathering of 60 members and friends enjoyed the celebratory luncheon in the community room at St Paul's. President Betty Huf welcomed everyone, especially first time attendees. Memorabilia displayed included homeland scenes, dolls in costume, a headdress worn by women of Lusatia and a traditional wedding dress (in dark brown, not white) loaned by Marlene Krelle. Tables were adorned with floral centrepieces in green, yellow and white featuring miniature Australian and Wendish flags.

Finger food and sherries were served during a "get-to-know-you" time, while listening to Callum Cooper (grandson of Mary Cooper) playing a *dudelsack*, an early German bagpipe, kindly loaned by our President, Betty Huf.



Top row, left to right: 1. Alan and Kaye Wiebusch. 2. Ted and Anne Miller. 3. Glenice Shaw, Barbara Moller and Marian Moller.
Bottom row, left to right: 1. Dolls in traditional costumes. 2. Table decorations featuring miniature Australian and Wendish flags. 3. Beryl and Moira Nagorcka re-enacting "Gift giving in Janschwalde". (photos: Clay Kruger and Moira Nagorcka)

Robert Wuchatsch, one of our researchers, gave an overview of the development of the Society from its inception, including our Committee members, Newsletters, re-location of our library, website, March tours, and other significant events.

Prior to the meal, Moira Nagorcka read *My Sorbian Creed* by the Sorbian poet Jakub Bart-Cišinski, as a tribute to our forefathers. Its content reinforces a passionate sense of identity.

*My friend, the Sorbian land is small
And small the Sorbian nation
Like a tiny island amid a huge sea.
Yet I believe, resolutely,
That its great waves will never swallow
Our fields, villages and farms.
Oh, may every Sorbian heart be
A rock against those alien waves.
And every hand a defence.
And every breath
Be drawn in love for the Sorbian land.
Then forever the Sorbian land will remain Sorbian.*

Wendish folk music was played during the two course German meal, which included Koenigsberg meatballs, sauerkraut etc. served with mulled wine, apple strudel and other choices. A slideshow presentation, compiled by Clay Kruger, provided a snapshot of our tours and other events over the years.

Guest speakers were James and June Nagorcka. James gave a video-accompanied talk about their visit to a Wendish festival in Lower Lusatia. Some of the outdoor activities shown were: folk dancing with girls in traditional costume; a wheelbarrow race (with a female passenger) and men on horseback attempting to "Beat the Cock" (to hit a dead rooster tied to poles).

It all looked like a lot of fun!

June Nagorcka displayed and described the traditional costume made for her by a local seamstress, who took two years to make an intricately embroidered skirt with concertina pleating, a blue satin apron and shawl. It will become their family heirloom.



Top row, left to right: 1. Kira and Lance Kotzur. 2. Richard Moller, Gary Moller and Ian Moller. 3. Barbara and Völkhard Wöhner. Middle Row: 1. Wendish headdress. 2. Guests at the Anniversary luncheon. Bottom row: 1. June and James Nagorcka. 2. Kaye Wiebusch and Ruby Groves. 3. Yvonne Mibus and Erica Hayden. (photos: Clay Kruger)

The lucky door prize recipients of wine and chocolates were none other than our guest speakers, James and June Nagorcka! (Could it have been rigged?)

The anniversary cake, decorated with a gum leaf and linden leaf (the Society's logo) was cut by Kevin Zwar (first President) and Clay Kruger (oldest, long-standing committee member).

Finally, the members of the organizing committee, Beryl Nagorcka, Moira Nagorcka and Mary Cooper, re-enacted "Gift Giving in Jänschwalde". This pre-Christmas custom, dating from the 14th century, is still practised in this village. On the Wednesday before Christmas the oldest girl in the village is dressed in the most beautiful parts of the Lower Lusatian national costume, including the headdress adorned with the wedding garlands of three bridesmaids. The face is covered with a white material and

colourful ribbons, making it impossible to recognize the girl. This figure, called "bog", rings a bell and taps on the window with a birch branch before entering the house. Female companions accompany the disguised person, who silently gives sweets to each child. She then touches parents and grandparents with the birch rod to pass on strength, luck and health for the following year. The covered face and the silence retain the pre-Christmas atmosphere and secrecy of this figure.

On this occasion, the "bog", after announcing her presence (as above), went around the tables, touching each guest on the shoulders, and giving them a small sachet of sugared almonds.

This was our way of saying "thank you for coming and good health for the year ahead!"

BERYL NAGORCKA



Past events... *continued*

St David's Lutheran Church, Freshwater Creek: 150th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone, Sunday 23 October, 2016

The special service held at 2.00 pm on 23 October 2016 was very successful, with well over 100 people in attendance. The church was filled to capacity, with a few sitting outside. Pastor Colin Simpkin conducted the service.

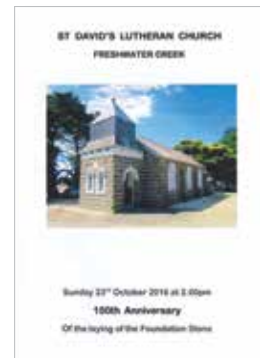
Lois Perrett welcomed everyone and expressed thanks to all those involved. Samantha Bothe read out messages from past Pastors who were unable to

be present and June Winter gave a short history. The service was followed by afternoon tea under the pine trees on the north side of the church. The afternoon tea included a special cake for the occasion.

The commemorative booklet includes a brief history of Waldkirch / Freshwater Creek; an outline of the ministry of Pastor Clamor Wilhelm Schürmann; the history St David's Church and Cemetery and a report on the Pioneer Memorial Dedication Ceremony which was held in November 2008. The booklet is well illustrated with photos.

A few booklets are still available for sale for \$5.00, plus postage. Contact June Winter, 595 Reservoir Road, Mt Moriac, Vic. 3240. Telephone (03) 5266 1383.

JUNE WINTER



L. to R.: Afternoon tea at Freshwater Creek; the church interior; commemorative booklet. (photos: June Winter)

Research

Message from the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen

Our September 2016 newsletter included Geoff Saegenschnitter's report on his tour to Upper Lusatia. On 15 September 2016, we received the following response from Martin Brützke of the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen:

Dear Members of the Wendish Heritage Society

Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the recent "Wendish news" (No. 57 / September 2016). As soon as I have read the magazine, it will be archived in our Museum library. The first article I read was from Mr. Geoff Saegenschnitter, who visited Drehsa. I was really excited; I live only 2-3 Kms away in Kubschütz! (As my father is a local doctor, he still knows some of the older people, who can speak Wendish in our former evangelic-Wendish-Bautzen-region.)

Best regards

Martin Brützke

Sorbian Museum

Five centuries: the Sorbs and the Reformation, 26 March – 27 August 2017

Martin Brützke has also sent us this message:

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to draw your attention to the exhibition in the Sorbian Museum in Bautzen about Luther's and the entire reformational movement's influence on Sorbian / Wendish culture. Many of the Wendish emigrants (I suggest the majority) came from the Lutheran parts of Upper Lusatia (and from Lower Lusatia which had no Catholic enclaves, as far as I know) so this might interest anyone planning to visit the "old home".

This exhibition will be held within the context of the sponsorship project, "Faces of Reformation in Upper Lusatia, Bohemia and Silesia" and shows the influence that the Reformation had on the indigenous Slavic people in Germany – the Sorbs / Lusatian Wends.

The development of the written culture as well as many other cultural achievements, can be attributed to



the Reformation. Domowina Publishing has produced a catalogue for the exhibition which will be held in the Sorbian museum in the Ortenburg castle and partly in the Church of St Michael nearby. Central to this exhibition is Luther's translation and publication of the Bible in the native language of the German people.

As the representative of the Sorbian reformation, the pastor Wenzel Warich from Göda will be portrayed. He was the first to translate the Luther's catechism into the Upper Sorbian language. Lusatia is known for its various religious movements, in which the Sorbs had a special role. The Moravian church, for example, sent out missionaries worldwide.

Sincerely yours,
Martin Brützke
Sorbian Museum

Seeking Hundrack relatives

June Winter has made the following request:

Help wanted! I am on a committee which is working on the Rentsch family history. I am researching the Hundrack branch of this family. My great grandmother, nee Anna Hundrack, was one of eight girls. I don't know much about the families of the other seven sisters, so if there is anyone belonging to any of these families I would really appreciate hearing from them.

The Rentsch and Hundrack families arrived on the ship Helene at the end of 1851 and were two of the families on the Wendish Wagon Trek from South Australia to Victoria in 1852. We were fortunate to go on the re-enactment of this Wagon Trek in May 2012.

My great grandmother married a Hartwich. One sister did not marry. Two others married into the Lindner family. The others married into the Zerbst, Koenig, Peucker and Schulze families.

If you are able to assist with family history information on any of these families, please contact June Winter, 595 Reservoir Road, Mt Moriac, Vic. 3240. Telephone: (03) 5266 1383.

Rupert Lockwood manuscripts

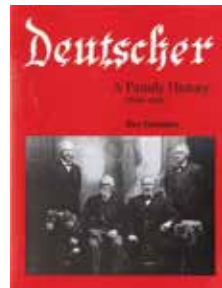
We are very pleased to announce that excerpts from Rupert Lockwood's manuscripts are now published on our website.

The journalist Rupert Lockwood (1908-1997) lived in Victoria, Australia and wrote a number of (unpublished) articles on the history of the Wends in Europe and Australia, particularly those who settled in Victoria. We are very grateful for the donation of Lockwood's manuscripts to our Society.

You can find the manuscripts at <http://www.wendishheritage.org.au/research/scholars-articles/rupert-lockwood/>

**Seeking copies of the books:
*Deutscher – a family history
1848–1986*, by Ray Deutscher,**

***Huf 150 years in Australia 1847–1997*,
by Elizabeth Huf**



Both of these publications are now out of print. There are requests from descendants of these families who wish to purchase a copy. If you know of the availability of a copy of either book, please contact Betty Huf via email: bettyhuf@westvic.com.au or via her postal address: P.O. Box 26, Tarrington, Victoria, 3301.

(photos of book covers: Clay Kruger)

Western District Families

If you are interested in stories of pioneering families in the Western District of Victoria, see the website <https://westerndistrictfamilies.com>

The Western District Families Pioneer Obituary Index now has over 700 pioneer obituaries listed. This website also includes information on "Hamilton's World War I". There are three parts: Hamilton's WWI Enlistments, Hamilton's WWI Nurses and Hamilton's WWI Memorials.

**Seeking copies of the book:
So this was Katyil, 1876–1982
by R.T. Schuller**

This 130 page book is about the settlement of Katyil in Victoria's Wimmera region. I have received requests from people who wish to obtain this book.

Unfortunately the book is out of print. If you have a copy that you are willing to donate or sell, please contact me via our Society's postal address or via email wendsonline@optusnet.com.au.

KEVIN ZWAR, RESEARCHER

**For research queries, contact
Kevin Zwar by email:
wendsonline@optusnet.com.au**



Tours

In Search of our Ancestor's home in Döhlen, Saxony

The following is a report by Betty and Colin Huf on the search for their Mirtschin ancestral home in Döhlen.

On our first visit to Döhlen in 2005, we looked with interest at all of the old homes in the village, wondering which of them might have been the home occupied by Johann and Maria Mirtschin before they emigrated to Australia in 1851. On that visit we were unsuccessful, but we did meet the family of Beate and Rico Siemens, members of the Hochkirch congregation, who kindly hosted us for a traditional Sorbian meal. Beate's ancestors had also lived in Döhlen, as she now does, and she used recipes handed down through the generations of village women. When we visited again in 2012, the Siemens family once more invited us to their home where we spent some happy hours conversing via their English-literate children. As we were leaving, Beate put something into my hand which I discovered to be a piece of jewellery – an embossed cross with a blue stone in the centre. She insisted that I take it as a symbol of the connection between our ancestors as residents of the village of Döhlen. The

cross had belonged to her great-aunt, who would have known our Mirtschin ancestors before they left.

We had hardly arrived in Hochkirch in September 2016 when we were greeted by the excited exclamation, 'We have found the property that belonged to your Mirtschin ancestors!' As it happened, 2016 marked the 600th Anniversary of the village, and one of the activities undertaken was research of all the allotments to determine their ownership as far back as possible. Beate Siemens collated all of the information as well as many historical photos which were then published in a book to mark this significant anniversary in the village history. This project resulted in the discovery of the Mirtschin property, which was originally No. 8, but according to today's numbering of the village homes, is No. 1. Upon our arrival at the Siemen's home, we were quickly ushered up the street to No. 1, where we were confronted by a modern home in a neat garden. This was a disappointment, as there are a number of old homes nearby, some with dates, the oldest that we saw being 1734.

The original home had been demolished and replaced by the current home, but Beate had found a photo of the earlier residence, which she included in the 600th Anniversary book. So, we were able to get an idea of the home that our ancestors left. According to the records in the book, the home was built around 1767 by Peter Lehmann. The Mirtschin family bought the home from descendants of Peter Lehmann on 19 May 1828. Johann Mirtschin emigrated from there in 1851, and it seems that his parents, Peter and Anna Mirtschin lived in the home until their deaths in 1852. The home was sold to Johann Pursche in 1854, then Carl Krenz, and came into the Zimmermann family around 1900. Johann Mirstchin's sister, Agnes, married a Zimmermann,



Top: Döhlen town sign; Bottom Left: View of the Village; Bottom Right: A village home built in 1734 (photos: Colin Huf)



so it is possible that the property still belongs to Mirtschin descendants. Interestingly, the famed Sorbian Pastor, Jan Kilian, was born in the village and lived a few hundred metres along the road from the Mirtschin home.

At some time before 1821, a Johann Mirtschin also owned a cottage at No. 4, Döhlen (the old number 15). It is uncertain who this Johann was, as the Johann who emigrated to Australia would have only been 12 years old at that time. The property was passed on to Andreas Mirtschin on 5 October 1829. He was a brother of the Australian Johann and stayed in Saxony. In about 1843 the property was again owned by a Johann Mirtschin, who could have been our ancestor. In 1863 this home passed into the ownership of the Herrmann family.

BETTY AND COLIN HUF



Clockwise from top left: The original home at No. 1 (photo: Beate Siemens); No. 1 Döhlen with current owners, Mr and Mrs Zimmermann and their hunting dog 'Betty' (photo: Beate Siemens); Daniel, Betty, Colin and Steven Huf in the garden with 'Betty' (photo: Betty Huf).

Visitors from Australia at Hochkirch / Bukey

Ammerose Schaffrath of Hochkirch, Germany wrote an article (pictured right) about Betty and Colin Huf's visit to Hochkirch in October 2016. Her article was published in the Sorbian newspaper Pomhaj Bóh, in November 2016. Below is a translation of that article by Arnd Sobe.

Betty and Colin Huf, with their two sons, had the longest journey to the parish evening held on Saturday 17th September – 16,000 kilometres! Their home is in Australia, at a village called Hochkirch/Bukey too. This village, now known as Tarrington, is located in the southwest of the Australian state of Victoria. It was founded by emigrants from the Hochkirch parish in 1853 and they established St. Michael's congregation and built a church, where their descendants celebrate services together until the present day.



Betty and Colin travelled to find traces of their ancestors. Their sons, Daniel and

Steven, accompanied them on their way through Germany. They too wanted to get to know the country where their ancestors came from.

The Huf family first visited Poland. A part of Colin's family emigrated from Nekla Hauland in 1847, and the Hufs were able to walk on the farm that their ancestor, Johann Huf, sold before leaving for Australia. Betty and Colin then visited Lusatia in Saxony, where Hochkirch is located, for the fourth time. They established their first contact with Hochkirch in the year 2000. Cordial relations with the Huf family arose in the meantime, with a num-



Tours... continued

ber of members of the Hochkirch parish visiting the small village in southern Australia. They found that the Huf family home has open doors for all visitors.

Betty worked as a teacher at a school for disabled children and became a retiree recently. She has been interested in the history of Sorbian emigrants for a long time and has written a book about this concern as well. She was elected as the President of the Australian Wendish Heritage Society recently, the Society which intends to preserve Wendish traditions in Australia.

Colin is a pastor, working in Parishes that are temporarily without a pastor. The service of a pastor is not so easy in Australia. He sometimes had four services on a Sunday, the first at 9.00 am, the next at 11.00 am. He celebrated the next service after travelling 150 kilometres by car and last but not least a further 100 kilometres by car to visit the last congregation at 5.00 pm. Colin has travelled by plane to the island of Tasmania to take services there in the past too. These are quite normal distances in Downunder.

The Huf family took part in the school service at Hochkirch on Friday, the 16th of September. Colin read a part of the sermon in English. They met the Hochkirch Brass band the same day, in the evening, and performed during the rehearsal together with them. On Saturday, they looked for their family roots at the village of Döhlen near the Hromadnik mountain. There are ancestors with the surname Měrcín (in German Mirtschin) in the Huf family. Therefore, they visited the former homestead of the Měrcín family as well as the memorial plaque of the Sorbian pastor and emigrant, Jan Kilian, too at a neighbouring house. Friends of the Huf family and other persons interested took part in a social gathering at the Parish hall on Saturday evening. An active discussion developed and later in the evening lots of reminiscing took place over the viewing of photographs of various visits.

The Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday in the decorated church was celebrated in three languages. Reading of the scriptures from the Bible was



Top: Steven, Daniel, Colin and Betty Huf taking part in the service at Hochkirch, 18 September 2016.

Bottom: Colin Huf reading the Gospel at Hochkirch, 18 September 2016. (photos: Maria Schaffrath)

carried out in the Sorbian and English languages. Colin did the reading and Steven supported the Brass band by playing the trumpet. A unique highlight of the service was the blessing song, performed by the Huf family: Daniel at the keyboard, Steven with the trumpet, and singing by Betty and Colin. All listeners were deeply moved by this performance. Lastly, we wish the Huf family the blessings of our Lord, and thank them for providing us with such a cordial contact to the southern hemisphere.

HANARÓŽA ŠAFRATOWA (ANNEROSE SCHAFFRATH)

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH BY ARND SOBE



Vale

Viola Harms (nee Burger) died on 21 December 2016, at 92 years of age. She was the fourth of eight children of Friedrich (Fred) and Meta Burger of Penshurst, Victoria. Viola's funeral was held at North Geelong on 28 December 2016. She was a long-standing member of our Society. We are grateful for her support over many years. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

(photo: Clay Kruger)



What's new at the library?

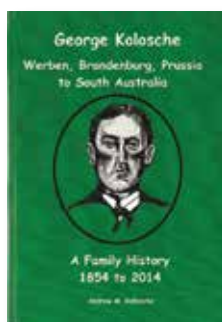


Framed posters of Sorbian culture

We are grateful for the donation by Mrs Lorna C. Uebergang of Queensland of three items which she obtained during her trip to Lusatia in 1989. Two of the items are framed posters featuring Sorbian folk art. The third item is a mounted board featuring

nine colour photos of a Sorbian cultural festival in 1989, with written information in the Sorb language. These items will be used for display at our events, such as our annual luncheon.

(photos: Clay Kruger)



George Kolosche, Werben, Brandenburg, Prussia to South Australia, A Family History 1854 to 2014, by Andrew M. Kolloosche. (Published in hardcover and paperback in 2015)

This book gives the life stories of George Kolosche and his descendants in Australia. It consists of 288 pages, with photographs. George Kolosche (1830-1891) emigrated from Lower Lusatia, Prussia to South Australia in 1854, aged 24. Here he met and married Auguste Henel (1839-1918). The descendants of their ten children have now reached the sixth generation, spreading themselves across Australia.

The family history includes information on the origins of Sorb/ Wend peoples and George's known ancestry in Prussia, with details and stories of his known descendants in Australia.

Family names include: Alexander, Anderson, Brown, Burns, Caddy, Cates, Charlton, Chittock, Clyde, Cottier, Cox, Devitt, Drabsch, Easther, Eckert, Gartner, Gillespie, Gordon, Hamood, Heanes, Hennessey, Hentschke, Hodgson, Hoffmann, Houston, Howson, Kolosche/Kolloosche, Lange,

Mallet, May, Murphy, Ness, Nicholls, Phillips, Pinno, Pope, Smart, Swanbury, Tonkin, Tremellen, Tucker, Watson, Winckel ... and more.

The following feedback has been received, via email:

"I have just finished your splendid book. You have done a great job with it and I can see how much work you have put in, particularly with each person's entry. There will be hundreds of descendants who will be able to use this as their "bible" for their history over the next 80 plus years since many entries are for very young children. So you have done a great service for this particular Kolloosche clan and for the wider families too. A few things struck me. The quality of the paper, printing and book binding are all superb. The adoption by some subsequent generations of the change in spelling and pronunciation, from Kolosche to Kolloosche, is interesting. You did a great job getting all the photos and sketches for inclusion. Thanks and congratulations for a magnificent job in documenting the first authoritative work on the Kolosche/Kolloosche family in Australia. John."

Andrew M. Kolloosche

For enquiries, please email andrew@kollooschefamilytree.com. We thank the author for kindly donating a copy of this book to our Society's Library.

Photo of book cover: Clay Kruger

For a complete list of our library holdings, visit our website:

www.wendishheritage.org.au/research/library-resources/our-complete-library-catalogue/



General News

Wendish Visitors

On Wednesday 22 February 2017, several Committee members had the pleasure of meeting with Mirko Schenk, his partner Helene (Lena) Rahn and their young sons, 4 year old Benno and baby Tadej. The family was in Melbourne for a brief visit before travelling up the east coast of Australia in their motorhome. Eventually the family will make their way to Western Australia. They will stay in Perth from July to December, where Lena will continue her research project at the University of Western Australia.

We first met Mirko, Lena and Benno two years ago, in January 2015, when they visited our Wendish Library. Mirko grew up in the Bautzen area. In our



(photo: Beryl Nagorcka)

April 2015 edition of Wendish news, we included an article about a surprising discovery made by Mirko in our Library. On one of our Wendish posters, Mirko recognised 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 two girls in Wendish costume in another photo, as they were his classmates.

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: By appointment. Please contact the Secretary.

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: \$35 for single membership and \$40 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.

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