

VOLUME I, No. 2 SERBIN, TEXAS JAN.-MARCH, 1980

TON KNES BUDZ S NAMI ! NOWY ROK - 1980

With these Wendish words, "The Lord Be With Us," we greet our readers and wish you a blessed "NOWY ROK" - 1980.

These were exciting days among the Wends of Texas 125 years ago at the beginning of the year 1855. Some of the immigrants stayed in the Houston area where the Rev. Caspar Braun of the Pittsburg Synod helped people find much needed employment. - Some orphaned children were sent to the Lutheran Orphanage in Pennsylvania...Many others made the wearisome trek via foot and ox-cart to the interior of the State. New Ulm, Cat Spring, Industry! These were the gathering places of the earlier German and Wendish immigrants. These were natural places to find at least temporary refuge after the long Atlantic voyage of '54.

The Scouts went on ahead seeking a permanent home! Along the Colorado River they went! Good bottom land! Too expensive! \$1.50 per acre! - Up to Rabbs Creek and Low Pin Oak Creek. How much like home! The A.C. Delaplain Survey! Home at last! Ninety-four acres set aside for the New Israel of God, the Body of Christ among the Wends in the New World. Home at last!

Infant daughter born to the Jan Kilians died. Serbin Cemetery dedicated as the final resting place for the first Wendish soul to die in the new settlement. Parsonage-School-Church cabin built....Rev. Jan Kilian applies for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. Second Synodical president, Rev. John F. Buenger, writes acceptance letter to Rev. Kilian March 9, 1855 from St. Louis City.....

These and many other historic events made life of the Wends of Texas truly unique and signally blessed by God. That was 125 years ago this year, 1980.

John J. Socha

The NEWSLET of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, with headquarters at the Wendish Museum in Serbin, Texas, is published quarterly.

Editor: John J. Socha  
Contributors: Officers and members of the Society and anyone interested in helping to preserve the Wendish (Sorbian, Upper Lusatian) heritage.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is a non-profit organization and in no way discriminates in matters of race, religion, or ethnic background.

Financial contributions to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society are tax-deductible.

Dues are \$5.00 per person per year and may be sent to the Treasurer, T.W.H.S., P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942.

The President is Evelyn Kasper Box 68, Warda, Texas, 78960.

Send articles, news, etc. to the Editor: 3617 Norton Drive, Ft. Worth, Texas, 78118; Phone: 817-284-0388.

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### 1980 DUES ARE NOW DUE!

Mail your check of \$5.00 per person to the Treasurer TWHS, P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Texas, 78942 TODAY! And encourage your friends to do the same! The larger the membership, the more we can do thru the Society in this 125th year of colonization.

### CONCORDIA MARKS 125th

Monday, November 26 at 10 a.m., Chapel Time at Lutheran Concordia College, Austin was devoted to a remembrance of the goodly heritage Concordia has received through the Wends of Texas. Gathered around the Serbin church bell, brought to America from Lusatia by the Immigrants, the student body sang the Common Doxology in praise and thanks to God for His blessings. Your Editor spoke on the goodly heritage handed down by the Wends as the mother church of Missouri in Texas. Amid the roar and noise of the busy double-tiered highway fronting yjr campus, the group sang a favorite Wendish hymn, "Abide, O Dearest Jesus. - Kilian Hall, the Serbin Bell, Birkmann Chapel (Kilian's daughter Hulda, was Birkmann's first wife.), Studtmann, Kramer, and Hirschi Library all seemed to stand tall in bold relief as the heroes of the faith of an earlier day took their bow of humble recognition. And the many students of Wendish descent blushed in cheerful acceptance of the unusual honor bestowed on their ancestors who made all this possible under the generous out-pouring of God's undeserved blessings!

[A possible research study- "The influence of the Wends of Texas on the life and early development of Concordia.

## THE SERBIN COLONY AS SEEN BY CLOSE 1854 NEIGHBOR

The 1R78 Volume IV of the Texas Pioneer Magazine, THE AMERICAN SKETCH BOOK, (An Historical and Home monthly), edited and published by Mrs. Bella French, Miss Kate Efnor, Assistant Editor, printed at Austin, Texas by the Texas Capital Print, Austin. Terms: \$3.00 per Annum, Six months, \$1.50. Article: "Sketch of Lee County, Texas," pages 147-152. We quote this excerpt from page 148: "During the same year (1854) that gave an existence to Evergreen, a colony under the leadership of John Dubee and Carl Lehman, settled and founded the town of Serbin, about eight miles south of Giddings. The colony was composed of about forty persons (actually it was about 50 families), and being joined by others soon built quite a village, and opened many farms, where, by thrift and industry, they have made themselves comfortable homes, characteristic of the foreign elements in this section. Several leagues of land adjacent now contribute their productions to the purses of this colony," Editor's note: James Shaw wrote those words. The words in the ( ) are ours. JJS.

### BILL PRATHO REPORTS ON MUSEUM PROGRESS

The old Serbin School buildings have been moved to the area set aside for the TWHS Museum. A committee is now working with a Federal Group who are studying the feasibility of a grant for renovation to the originale state...Ted and Ron Lammert are the Society Committee...We have received a nice gift of \$500 from Mrs. Evelyn Kasper...We are hoping for many more gifts, which are tax deductible...A PORCH, which was in the original building may be added...A local Group, the Green Thumb, are doing a lot of gratis work for which the Society is deeply grateful. THANKS!  
)Keep up the good work!

### WENDISH TEXANS TO BE PUBLISHED IN 1980 by CULTURES INSTITUTE

Dr. Sylvia Grider of the Texas A. & M. University English Department has compiled a new book in the Texan Series of Institue for Texas Cultures, entitled, Wendish Texans, and will be published in 1980. The book will give a good overview answer to the ever recurring question, "Who are the Wends?"

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### WENDISH BOOKS AND ARTIFACTS NEEDED FOR MUSEUM RESEARCH

If you have a Wendish book or artifact, consider giving it to the Wendish Museum for display and/or research. The gift is tax-deductible. Thanks!JJS

## "FRAKTUR SCHRIFT"

At the 1979 Conference of the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, your editor was fascinated by a presentation by Hans Mueller entitled, "Fraktur Schrift." This is another name for Wendish Script, the German Script, Deutsche Schrift or Gothic Script!

Many of the obituaries, letters, congregational records, and other vital documents of the Wends of Texas were written in "Fraktur." Some were in Wendish, some in German, and some even a combination of both Wendish and German.

There is much work to be done by those who are interested in the archival and geneological information about the Wends of Texas. To this end we encourage those of our readers who know how to write and/or read "Fraktur" to "keep in practice." Let it be known to us that you can read and translate script writing if you have this ability. And volunteer your services to do some translating. This might be a good project for some of our retired members. Write to the editor if you are interested in this project.

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## ORIGINAL WENDISH REED ORGAN A BEAUTIFUL INSTRUMENT.

The reed organ brought over by the Wendish immigrants was handed down by the Rev. Jan Kilian to one of his sons, Bernhard. Bernhard, a dedicated farmer, and his wife, Anna, nee Schulze, left the organ to their son, Ernest Kilian and his wife, Hattie, nee Buchhorn. Now the organ is owned and carefully preserved by my good friends, Leon and Ruth Lindner of Giddings. Mrs. Lindner, Ruth Kilian, is a daughter of Ernest and Hattie Kilian...We'll tell you more about the organ in a future Newsletter.

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NOTE: We want to feature interesting persons in future "Profile of a Wend" Column. To do this we need vital statistics and information about the subjects. It may be a Wend from the 1854 immigration, a descendent active in the TWHS, a scholar, a writer, geneologist, etc. related to the Wendish Heritage. Please supply articles. We will re-write them to serve the purposes of the Newsletter.

Deadline for materials for Vol. I, No. 3 is March 1, 1980.