



wendish news

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

NUMBER 66 APRIL 2021



Hay Bale Art Competition

Congratulations to Colin and Betty Huf, who won the Laternenfest / Christmas Season section of the 2020 Hay Bale Art competition, with their “Bush Christmas” display. The Judge, Joshua White (Director of the Hamilton Art Gallery), was impressed by the considerable time and effort that went into this display. He spoke in glowing terms of the 37 decorated hay bale artworks created by members of the Tarrington community.

The Hay Bale Art competition began in 2010, instigated by Colin Huf. The decorated bales that were placed at the entrances to the town in the early days by committee members to promote Laternenfest have now become an exciting community activity involving residents of Tarrington as well as those connected to the church and school who live outside of the village.

Join our May Tour

You are warmly invited, along with family and friends, to attend our tour to South Australia in May.

You do not need to be a member of our Society to join our Tour. You may choose to participate in all or part of the Tour. See itinerary and booking details on page 2.

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Calendar of upcoming events

Given the current situation with coronavirus restrictions and the ongoing uncertainty, it is very difficult for us to plan ahead. Our events remain subject to conditions at the time. We will keep you informed.

Annual General Meeting, Saturday 24 April 2021

Our Society's AGM will be held at 1.00 pm, followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome. The venue is the Large Hall at **Doncaster Lutheran Church, 51 Victoria St, Doncaster, 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. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or any of the Committee members listed in our Directory on page 12. Please post the proxy form to reach us by Friday 23 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 Saturday 24 April 2021. I appoint as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the meeting."

Please note that you **must sign** your message appointing a proxy. Please include an image of your signature.

Please RSVP to *Glenys Wollermann (Secretary)*

Telephone: (03) 9891 6652

Email: wensociety1@optusnet.com.au

Tour to South Australia 17–22 May 2021

This tour, which had to be postponed in 2020, will go ahead this year, subject to conditions at the time. The itinerary is basically the same as we had planned for last year.

It will include the FoLA (Friends of Lutheran Archives) meeting on the evening of Monday 17 May, and Lois Zweck's lecture on Thursday 20 May about German emigration: "Did it really lead to a better life, or was it worse?"

Our Tour Leader is Lyall Kupke, President of the Wend/Sorb Society South Australia. He will be providing detailed maps and information for all those who register to attend. There will be more details provided to those who have registered. The following is the proposed program:

Sunday 16 May – Travel to Adelaide:

Please make your own arrangements for accommodation. When we travel by car to sites, maps will be issued to ensure no one gets left behind or lost.

Monday 17 May – Adelaide Sites:

Port Misery landing place; Port Adelaide wharf; Piltawodli Mission to the Kaurna Aborigines (Schürmann); Klemzig Pioneer Cemetery; Hope Valley Cemetery. Evening: 7.30 pm FoLA presentation "Barossa Farming in the Draught Horse Era" by Don Ross (Bethlehem House, Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Flinders St.).

Suggested accommodation in North Adelaide: Princes Lodge Motel; North Adelaide Lodge (ALC – Seminary) or Royal Coach Hotel, Kent Town.

Tuesday 18 May – Barossa Valley Sites:

(Rosedale, Hoffnungsthal, Langmeil, Bethany, Light Pass, Ebenezer, Neukirch, St Kitts). Stay the night.

Suggested accommodation: Barossa Motor Lodge or Barossa Weintal Hotel.

Wednesday 19 May – Barossa Sites:

Peter's Hill, Riverton, Kapunda, Marrabel. Return to Adelaide or stay an extra night in the Barossa.

Thursday 20 May, 10.30am:

Meet at the Burnside Library to hear a presentation at 11.00 am by Lois Zweck (Topic: "How did migration change the lives of German and Wendish migrants? Did it really lead to a better life or was it worse?"). 2.00 pm Meet at Lutheran Archives, 27 Fourth Street, Bowden. Evening: Dinner with the Wend/Sorb Society of South Australia (venue to be confirmed).

Friday 21 May – Adelaide Hills Sites:

Hahndorf, Lobethal and Birdwood.

Saturday 22 May:

Free to pursue your own interests or wend your way home.



Further information:

Attendees are

- responsible for organizing their own accommodation
- not committed to attend every organized activity
- will need to provide their own transport or organize to car-pool with someone
- may choose to stay 2 nights in the Barossa and drive to Burnside on Thursday morning
- must register in order to receive updates on the meeting places for Monday, and any other information

For enquiries and bookings, contact Betty Huf;

Tel.: (03) 5572 4959; Email: bettyhuf@outlook.com

Rentsch and Hundrack Family History Books

The **Rentsch** family book final proofs have been sent to the Publisher where a soft cover “proof” book was made. The final hard cover book is now being processed. This will take several weeks as the book has about 430 pages. It should be available soon. The cost will be \$70.00, plus \$12.00 for postage. Orders can be placed with:

Ruth Walter: Mobile 0435 211 606

Email ruth.walter43@gmail.com, or

Monica Rentsch: Mobile 0438 735 239

Email rentschdescendants2020@gmail.com

The **Hundrack** Family Booklet is still a work in progress and a date of publication is yet to be finalized.

If you would like to be kept informed on the progress of this project, please contact

Julie Ballinger: Mobile 0448 376 522

Email rj7bal@westvic.com.au, or

June Winter: Mobile 0438 661 313.

Annual Luncheon, Saturday 23 October 2021

Our Annual Luncheon will be held at the Lady Barkly room, Barkly Motorlodge, 43 Main Road, Bakery Hill, Ballarat, Victoria. All are welcome. This year marks our Society’s 35th Anniversary.

Time: 12.00 for a 12.30 start on Saturday 23 October 2021.

Cost: Approx. \$30.00 per person, to be paid on the day by individual attendees.

Please book by Saturday 16 October 2021 with Betty Huf; Tel. (03) 5572 4959; Email bettyhuf@outlook.com

Bookings are essential.

170th Anniversary of the arrival of the *Pribislaw*

This event has been postponed indefinitely.

Hochkirch 800th Anniversary and Oberammergau Passion Play Tour, June–July 2022

Last year descendants of the Mirtschin and Habel families planned to visit their home villages, but the tour was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the easing of restrictions this tour is now proposed for June–July 2022.

A new itinerary, drawn up by Betty and Colin Huf, now includes the festive weekend of celebrations of Hochkirch’s 800th Anniversary on 1–3 July 2022. This will be of particular interest to those who are descendants of the **Albert, Burger, Deutscher, Hundrack, Mirtschin, Petschel** and **Rentsch** families, who emigrated from the Hochkirch Parish in Saxony.

As this tour is being supervised by David Zweck, there will be opportunity to visit the ancestral villages of any tour participants whose ancestors emigrated from Lusatia and the western Poland areas.

German home village reunions for Australian participants in the past have left them with lifelong memories. Any further requested Wendish villages or any other areas can also be visited.

Other highlights include seeing Wartburg where Luther was held in custody, his home and churches, a Rhine cruise, and numerous other European tourist sites.

The tour, which is planned to **depart on 16 June 2022**, will commence in Berlin and from there travel to Nekla, Gruenberg, Lübbenau, Wittenberg, Eisenach, Dresden, Bautzen, Salzburg, Venice, Tuscany, the lakes area of Italy and Oberammergau.

There will also be the possibility of attending the **Oberammergau Passion Play**, which was postponed in 2020 to be held in 2022. Tickets need to be reserved **now** for those interested. Further details will be provided in our next Newsletter.

All are welcome to join this tour.

Expressions of interest can be forwarded to Betty Huf: Tel. (03) 5572 4959; Email bettyhuf@outlook.com



Research

Our Researchers, Betty Huf and Rob Wuchatsch, have been kept busy answering many family history research enquiries, especially during the lockdowns. Below is a summary of queries they have handled in recent months.

Diana Schmidt – re Schmidt family of Hochkirch, Saxony; Deborah de A. R. McDearmon (Brazil) re emigration of Pagels ancestor from Hamburg to South America; John Huf – Is there a Wendish tradition of pear growing in the Western District?

Stephanie Wealands – Pumpa and Hondow families; Phil Domaschenz – Domaschenz and Noack research (answered by John Noack).

Amanda Altamura – question regarding information about Johann Friedrich Wilhelm and Anna (Altus) Thomas; Trevor James – Baensch family of Grovedale; Kneller Lehmann – re genealogy of J. A. Lehmann; Karen Garner – requesting assistance with identification of Deutscher and Tuppack families; Johanna Sheridan – Milich family; Kim McDonald – re omission of Martin Starick from our website List of Wendish emigrants; Lyn Verity – Martin Kalauka and John Kallawk – are they father and son?

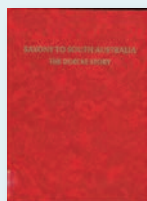
Bill Poulos – looking for the ship Heinrich and Hannah Schmidt emigrated to Australia on, with their young son Henry in 1857 (a daughter Ann Elizabeth was born during the voyage), and any other information.

Weldon Mersiofsky (Texas) – requesting information about the Australian Mirtschin ancestors, as he is also descended from the Mirtschins of Döhlen.

Madison from Qld – enquiring about the Lehrack family; Karen Fox – Muller and Chirong ancestors; Jessica Casey – re Newsletter article concerning Georg and Anna Proposch; Di Sprague – questioning relationship between Gertrude Pumpa, Murtoa and Leonard Pumpa, Eden Valley SA.

Thea Stainsby – re lost link with the Nieder-Weisel website and offering to assist with re-establishment (hosting) of website if necessary; Margaret Fisher – Sapiatzer family.

Seeking the following books:



The Doecke family history book

Monty Thomas would like to purchase a copy of *Saxony to South Australia: the Doecke story: the history and family tree of Michael Doecke and his wife Maria, nee Pilak, and their descendants, 1778–1979*.

If you know of the availability of a copy of this book, please contact Monty Thomas by email: monty.thomas@tcm.co.za

The Kohn family history book

Susan Woodbury would like to purchase a copy of the *Kohn family history: Germany to Australia, 1700–1999* by Lila Prero. If you know of the availability of a copy of this book, please contact Susan Woodbury by email: gallery2you@bigpond.com or by mobile: 0409 881 770

The Mickan family history books

An enquiry has come via our website from a person wishing to purchase copies of two publications: *From Cortnitz to South Australia: the Mickan story* and *From Cortnitz to South Australia: the Mickan story supplement*. If you know of the availability of these books, please contact Glenys Wollermann (Secretary). See contact details in the Directory on p. 12.



Do you recognise any of these old family photos?

Karen Garner (nee **Tuppack**) would be very grateful for assistance in identifying the people in these old family photos.

Karen believes the photos may be of her ancestors who lived in the Western District of Victoria.

Karen's family tree includes Magdalena Maria **Deutscher** who married Johann Gottfried **Herrmann** in 1840; their daughter Johanna Christiana **Herrmann** who married David **Pipkorn** in 1856, and their daughter Johanna Augusta **Pipkorn** who married Ernst August **Tuppack** in 1881.

The Tuppack family moved to Queensland from the Western District of Victoria.

If you are able to assist in identifying any of these photos, please contact Karen Garner:

Email kgarner@bigpond.net.au





Library news



We thank our Librarian, Janice Blackburn, for the following list of new acquisitions. In her Library report in our Sep. 2020 issue of *Wendish News*, Janice listed funeral orders of service, including obituaries, which she has organized into folders. We sincerely thank the people who have donated copies of funeral orders of service to add to our records. Further contributions are very welcome. Please send them to our Society's postal address.

Funeral orders of service, including obituaries

The following are new additions to the list published in our last Newsletter.

Funeral orders of service, Vol. 1, A–K:

Beatrice Louise Chambers (nee Wuchatsch) (1923–2020); Muriel Phyllis Down (nee Porter / Burger) (1924–2016); Elsie Ida Herrmann (nee Burger) (1919–2013); Vera Maria Hoffmann (nee Kotzur) (1927–2020); Stephen Barry Kruger (1962–2020) [funeral service on DVD]

Funeral orders of service, Vol. 2, L–M:

Laurence (Peter) Mirtschin (1931–2015); Verna Victoria Mirtschin (nee Habel) (1921–2004)

Funeral orders of service, Vol. 3, N–Q:

Stella May Noske (nee Burger) (1928–2020)

Funeral orders of service, Vol. 4, R–Z:

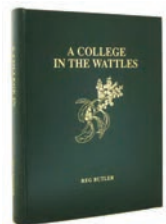
John Albert Rentsch (1938–2020); Marilyn Joyce Rentsch (nee Linke) (1940–2020); David Martin Ruwoldt (1934–2020); Dennis Raymond Schneider (1938–2020); Beverley Cynthia Vesikov (nee Huf) (1939–2020).



Neues Oberlausitzer Hausbuch 2021 (*New Upper Lusatian House Book 2021*)

Of special interest in this book is a six page article including black and white and coloured photos. The article, “Hochkirch/Bukey in Ubersee (Overseas)” was written by Trudla Malinkowa.

Hochkirch/ Bukey is the name of a well-known church village north of the Czorneboh (a mountain between Hochkirch and Cunewalde in Upper Lusatia) in the eastern Bautzen district in Saxony in Germany. In the 19th century Sorbian migrants took the name of their church village with them overseas and thus preserved a souvenir of their old homeland in the New World. A settlement in Australia and a settlement in Texas were once called Hochkirch. Eventually Hochkirch in Victoria, Australia became Tarrington and Hochkirch in Texas became Noack.



A College in the Wattles by Reg Butler

In 1857 the Hahndorf Academy in Hahndorf, South Australia, started as a college among the wattles but quickly prospered to be one of the leading schools in the colony. For fifty-five years it provided high class tuition. Students went there before the establishment of Concordia College in Murtoa, Victoria. A number of them became Lutheran Pastors and Teachers.

The book is compiled in two parts - the story of the Academy, and a biographical record of some 700 old scholars. It is well illustrated with early photographs of the period and many photos of people associated with the Academy. This book is a good research source as it includes the early history of the Lutheran settlement in S.A. and the settlement of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, as well as the history of the Academy itself.



Zbozo album by Jankahanka [CD] 2014

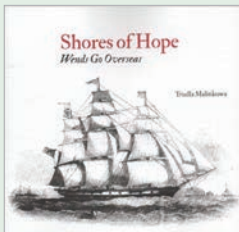
Jankahanka is a Sorbian rock band, based in Dresden. The members are Max Schneider, Syman Pawlik, Boséij Pawlik, Jan Bresan and Josef Bresan, who are originally from Crostwitz in Upper Lusatia.

The name “Jankahanka” is Sorbian for “Hansel and Gretel”. The band’s lyrics are based on adapted Sorbian folk songs. We thank Jan Bresan, who visited Melbourne in April 2017, for donating this CD to our Society.

JANICE BLACKBURN
PHOTOS OF COVERS: MICK AMPT

Our Library is open by appointment. Please contact the Secretary. See page 12 for contact details.

Books for sale



Shores of hope: Wends go overseas by Trudla Malinkowa

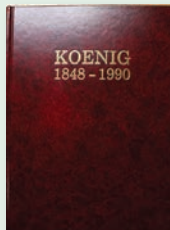
This is the English translation of the book *Ufer der Hoffnung* about Wendish/Sorbian migration to Australia and to Texas. It won the 2010 Concordia Historical Institute’s Award.

Our Society has copies available for purchase, for \$40.00 plus postage.

Contact Clay Kruger – Telephone: (03) 8838 8737 or

Email: wensociety1@optusnet.com.au or krugercly35@gmail.com.

Please make cheques or money orders payable to “Wendish Heritage Soc. Aust. Inc.” or contact Clay for EFT payment details.



Ruediger and Koenig books for sale

Koenig 1848–1990: Christian & Karl Koenig and their descendants in Australia.

Copies are available for \$2.00 plus postage.

Related surnames: Lemm, Schmidt, Gladigau, Kroschel, Noske, Kroeker, Hundrack, Hartwich.



Ruediger: 140 years in Australia 1850–1990, Christian and Anna Elisabeth Ruediger: an update on the family tree from 1975 to 1990.

Copies are available for \$2.00 plus postage.

Related surnames: Elix, Schenke, Reiss.

To purchase copies, contact Glenys Wollermann (Secretary): Tel. (03) 9891 6652; or email: g.wollermann@y7mail.com.

PHOTOS OF BOOK COVERS: MICK AMPT

Rethus family history

History of Martin & Elisabeth Rethus: Martin and Elisabeth Rethus (nee Kielow), Johann (John) and Maria Rethus (nee Hondow), and families, compiled by Pastor Peter and Helen Kriewaldt and John and Ann Keller. Copies are available on USB stick.

For enquiries about this family history, contact John Keller (03) 5382 7660; mobile 0428 918 221 or Ann Keller: ann.keller@bigpond.com



Hochkirch / Bukeycy Overseas

by Gertrud Mahling (*Trudla Malinkowa in Wendish*)

We thank Wendish historian Gertrud Mahling for the following article, which gives an interesting perspective of our settlement of Hochkirch here in Australia, as well as the Hochkirch established in Texas by Peter Zieschang who first lived in our Hochkirch in Victoria, Australia. This article was published in the Neues Oberlausitzer Hausbuch 2021 (New Upper Lusatian House Book 2021). We thank Jeremy Clifton, Editor of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Newsletter, for translating the article from the original German.

Hochkirch (Bukeycy in Upper Sorbian/Wendish) is the name of a well-known church village north of Czarneboh (translator's note: a mountain in Upper Lusatia) southeast of Bautzen (Budyšin in Upper Sorbian/Wendish). Hochkirch / Bukeycy was also the name of two settlements in Australia and Texas.

Wendish emigrants in the 19th century took the name of their Lusatian church village overseas, and thus the New World preserves a souvenir of their old homeland.

Hochkirch in Australia

The Australian Hochkirch was founded in the mid-1850s in the state of Victoria. Many of its founders were Wendish families from the villages of the Hochkirch parish who immigrated to the fifth continent. For bread and the freedom of religion they left Lusatia to venture to a new beginning far away.

The founding families did not, however, come directly from Lusatia to their destination in Victoria, but took a detour via the neighbouring state of South Australia. They came in two separate emigration groups. The first, consisting of 46 people, left Lusatia in August 1848 under the leadership of Michael **Deutscher**, a miller from Zschorna. This group travelled first from Bautzen to Hamburg by train and then finally that December arrived in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, after almost four months on the sailing ship *Alfred*. From here, they travelled about sixty kilometres to the north to the interior where they founded a settlement in the Barossa Valley called Rosenthal. Three years later, in 1851, another ninety-two Wendish emigrants arrived, led by Johann **Zwahr**, a wheelwright from Drehsa. They wished to settle, farm, and establish a Wendish Lutheran parish. The surprise was great, however, when the newcomers learned that several Rosenthalers had already sold their land and were preparing to journey to the neighbouring state of Victoria where, so it was said, they would find more fertile soil and a better climate.

So in April 1852, eight Wendish families and a German family set out together on a journey of about 600 kilometres to Victoria: the families



Top: The first St Michael's Lutheran Church, built in 1858 in Hochkirch, Australia. The church also served as a school.

PHOTO CIRCA 1884 (ST MICHAEL'S ARCHIVES).

Bottom: Peter and Magdalena Zieschang (left) with their family in 1885 at their home in Hochkirch, Texas. (PHOTO FROM AMOS ZIESCHANG.)

of Andreas **Albert** from Rachlau, Peter **Bürger** from Meschwitz, Johann **Hundrack** from Baschütz, Johann **Mirtschin** from Döhlen, Johann **Rentsch** from Kuppritz, Wilhelm **Petschel** from Neukirch, and Andreas and Michael **Deutscher** from Zschorna. Four of the families had already lived in Rosenthal for three years, and the other four had only recently arrived with the second group. In a letter to relatives in Lusatia, Andreas Albert from Rachlau wrote of the adventurous ride through the vastness of Australia:



Clockwise from top left: 1. Grave of Johann and Maria (nee Neretich) Rentsch in Hamilton, Vic. The original German headstone is behind the English headstone. 2. St Michael's Lutheran Church in Tarrington, formerly Hochkirch. 3. Today's sign at the town's entrance. 4. Advertising sign, Tarrington. 5. Headstone for Michael Deutscher, who led a group of 46 Wends to Australia in 1848. (PHOTOS: TRUDLA MALINKOWA)



On April 26 we started our journey to Portland Bay, cross country with wagon and all the livestock. Our journey went very well. Towards evening we stopped and let the animals out on the pasture. We lit a big fire with everyone sitting as he wished, mostly families together, two by two, and then we cooked and also baked bread. Coming out of Rosenthal the land was very mountainous, but along the Murray River there was a lot of level ground. We crossed the Murray on a ferry, everyone with his own wagon and draught animals. The cattle, however, were herded over in two groups. We all arrived safely on the other side. I travelled overland with one wagon and four oxen. The rest of the cattle I left to be driven by Carl Petschel and August Deutscher on horseback. In the evening everyone lay down with his family in the covered wagons, but when there was a large family a tent was put up. Everyone could sleep in quiet and peace because there are no wild animals except for kangaroos and wild dogs.

After a month, they reached the settlement of Portland on the coast of Victoria, now a city, to collect information on the purchase of land. They had to wait patiently for over a year until all obstacles were overcome. In the middle of 1853, it was finally possible to buy land about 100 kilometres north of Portland. Soon after they settled, more Wendish and German families joined them. Several villages

emerged: Hamilton, Gnadenthal, Tabor, Neukirch, and Hochkirch. Due to the hard work of the settlers, they flourished in a short time.

Hochkirch soon developed into the regional centre. There they founded a Lutheran congregation that was named after the Archangel Michael and built a church building that also served as a school, and called a pastor who also served as a teacher. Since it was not possible to find a Wendish pastor in Australia, the German language was used for church services and classes. Additionally, the Wendish families gathered in their homes for self-led devotions in their mother tongue.

As was so often the case in newly founded congregations with free church conditions, religious disputes arose here, which finally led to the split of the congregation in 1857. In addition to the St. Michael's parish in Hochkirch, the St. Luke's parish was founded in nearby Hamilton with its own church building and pastor. The two Lutheran congregations coexisted for more than a century, and were not reunited until 1966.

Hochkirch experienced its heyday in the 1870s. At that time, the community had grown to 400 people. There were pubs, hostels, stores, craftsmen, a post office and even a print shop in the village. Soon, however, many residents migrated north to newly developed areas, and Hochkirch lost its importance.

The community of Hochkirch still exists today, however not using its original name. During the First World War, when Australia was allied with the enemies of Germany, there were repressive measures including a prohibition on the use of the German language in churches and schools. Due to these measures, Hochkirch was renamed **Tarrington** in 1918 — and today it still bears this name.



Hochkirch in Texas

The Hochkirch in Texas has its roots in the Lusatian as well as in the Australian Hochkirch. In 1855 Peter **Zieschang** of Drehsa, born in Kreckwitz in 1827, had emigrated to Australia along with his wife Magdalena, née **Rentsch**, from Hochkirch and their one-year-old daughter. Together with other Wendish families they had settled in the area of the Australian Hochkirch where their daughter died at the age of three, and two sons, Johann and Carl, were born to the couple. In 1859 all of the family members became Australian citizens.

After farming for twelve years in Hochkirch, Australia, the couple returned to Lusatia in the summer of 1868 with their sons, now ten and seven years old. They stayed in Bautzen for some time, but apparently could not quite really settle in their old homeland. So in 1870 the Zieschangs set off again with other Wendish families — not back to Australia, however, but to Texas to the Wendish colony there. They arrived in New Orleans on board the steamer *Frankfurt*, and from there they travelled first by rail and finally by ox team to Serbin, the central Wendish church village founded in 1855.

Peter Zieschang had become somewhat wealthy in Australia, which enabled him to acquire land in Texas. About 70 kilometres from Serbin, he became the owner of an extensive amount of land, some of which he farmed himself and some of which he leased, which led to the influx of other, mainly Wendish, farmers to the local area. The new settlement was called Hochkirch.

In 1891, the residents founded a Lutheran congregation. Peter Zieschang donated two hectares of land on which a church was built. A few years later, in 1897, the wooden building was destroyed by a storm. The congregation quickly began to rebuild and was able to consecrate the new church just six months later. At the turn of the century, the congregation numbered more than 200 souls. In the first half of the 20th century three descendants of Wendish emigrants served here as clergymen: the pastors **Dube**, **Miertschin** and **Zoch**. In the first years the church and school in Hochkirch used German exclusively for services and classes; later English was added. In 1918 the school began to use English exclusively, and the church followed in the 1940s.

The Texan Hochkirch never became as important as the villages of the same name in Lusatia and Australia. It remained a small farming settlement with a small population. Craftsmen and merchants did not settle here, as they were more likely to find their livelihood in surrounding larger towns.

Like the Australian village, the Texan village of Hochkirch still exists today – and under a different



Top: Christ Lutheran Church in Noack (formerly Hochkirch), Texas. (PHOTO: COLIN HUF)

Below: Advertisement for Zieschang Bar & Café in Noack, Texas. (PHOTO: TRUDLA MALINKOWA).

name. Even during the lifetime of its founder, Peter Zieschang, who died in 1910, the settlement became officially known as **Noack** in 1902. It received its name from its postal clerk, whose name was **Johann Ernst Noack**, who also farmed here. To this day, however, Zieschang is the most common family name in the town. In November 2016, the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church in Noack, Texas, celebrated its 125th anniversary.

The English translation of the excerpt from the Albert letter quoted in this article was previously published in "Shores of Hope: Wends Go Overseas" by Trudla Malinkowa.



Items from Other Societies' Journals

Pribislaw Exhibition

The January 2021 issue of *Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum News* announces the completion of the *Pribislaw* Exhibition.

Due to COVID-19, the completion of this exhibition has taken longer than the actual *Pribislaw's* 1849–50 voyage from Hamburg to Melbourne! However, it is now complete and looks spectacular. It includes a 1:40 scale replica of the ship, with the rudder fashioned from a piece of original *Pribislaw* timber.

The text focuses on the emigrants' harrowing journey, the *Pribislaw's* fate and the replica's creation. It is an engaging story, not only for its importance to early German and Wendish emigration, but its contemporary relevance to migration and the journeys people undertake.

Robert Wuchatsch has written many articles about the *Pribislaw* in the Friends of Westgarthtown *Elements* newsletter which can be accessed from the website: www.westgarthtown.org.au
Ziebell's Farmhouse (c.1850–51) is at 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown, Vic. It is Victoria's oldest German immigrant building. With restrictions easing, the museum and garden has reopened with pre-booked entry each Sunday from 11.30am to 3.00pm and on the new Tuesday hours of 11.30am to 2.00pm. Bookings can be made at EventBrite via the link on the website:
<http://westgarthtown.org.au/visit/index.htm>

Carl August Mibus (1865–1945)

The Dimboola & District Historical Society Inc. Newsletter (June/July 2020) includes this obituary that was published in the local newspaper, the *Dimboola Banner*, in June/July 1945:

The death has occurred of Mr Carl August Mibus, one of the successful pioneers of the farming industry of the Katyil district. Born at Hochkirch (Tarrington), near Hamilton, in 1865, Mr Mibus came to the Wimmera about 60 years ago where he and his brother Edward took up farming, eventually after years of hard work they experienced a time of prosperity. In 1889 Mr Mibus married Mathilde Nuske, at Katyil, and from this union five daughters and four sons were born. Unfortunately, in 1926 Mathilde died leaving all to mourn her loss.

Two years later Carl married Pauline Lange from Western Australia. They later resided in Dimboola where Mr Mibus had an active connection with St Martin's Lutheran church [Katyil], and from 1939 was a member of the board of Elders of St Peter's Lutheran church at Dimboola. For several years he was a member of the Dimboola Shire Council. He enjoyed good health until age caught up, where he passed away aged 80 years. His death is mourned by his wife and children, Alfred, Ernest, Clarence of Katyil, Wilfred M.L.A. of Green Lake, Mrs Grafton, Adelaide, Mrs George Mibus, Warrayure, Sister Sophie Mibus, Dimboola, Mrs H.P. Matuschke, Green Lake, and Mrs H. D. Koehne, wife of Pastor Koehne, Adelaide.

Vale

Joan Dever (nee Hughes) died peacefully on 23 June 2020, at 93 years of age. She was a granddaughter of Henry P. Zwar.

Sonia Phee (nee Hoffmann) of Cooma, NSW passed away on 14 May 2020, aged 88 years.

Alfred Proposch of Wondai, Qld passed away on 6 November 2020, at 90 years of age.

Robert (Bob) Proposch of Yarrowonga, Vic. died peacefully at home on 31 January 2021, at 82 years of age.

John Rentsch of "Batesworth", Penshurst, Vic. passed away suddenly on 12 November 2020, aged 82 years.

We are very grateful for the loyal support these members gave our Society over many years. We extend our condolences to their families and friends.

Stephen Kruger, son of Clay and Gladys Kruger, passed away on 10 December 2020, aged 58, after a short illness. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private funeral was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ringwood, Victoria on 22 December 2020.

Our thoughts go out to the Kruger family and to all who are grieving for Stephen.





General News

Community Recognition Award for Colin Huf

Congratulations to Colin Huf on receiving a Southern Grampians Shire Community Recognition Award on Australia Day, 26 January 2021. Colin has led the Tarrington Hochkirch Progress Association and Laternenfest Committee for many years. He is a stalwart of the community. The Laternenfest includes the extremely popular Hay Bale Art competition, which is a drawcard for visitors. Colin is also a long serving member of the Tarrington Brass Band and the Tabor Men's Choir.



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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