

The Duldig family

At our AGM in August last year Leona Coleman gave a talk about her Duldig ancestors in Australia. She acknowledged the work of Dennis Gum who wrote the Schuppan family history book and Max Duldig who prepared the Duldig family website.

Johann and Anna Duldig were Wends that came from Tauer in Lower Lusatia, in the state of Brandenburg, Prussia. Anna was the youngest of six daughters of Georg Borschka and Hanna Schweig, but she was known by the name Nagora when she married. Johann Duldig's grandfather Christian Duldig was also known as Nagora. This is possibly an example of the Wendish custom of some people having two names, one being associated with a particular landholding.

Johann and Anna and their son Friedrich emigrated on the ship *Helene* in 1855. Among the passengers was Elise or Elisabeth Nagora, who could have been one of Anna's sisters. On arrival in South Australia in January 1856, they stayed at Hope Valley for a month, before moving to Peters Hill. When the Peters Hill congregation was formed in July 1856, Johann Duldig was listed among the founding members.

At first they lived in a dugout, until a stone house was built on section 35, Hundred of Gilbert, diagonally opposite the present church block. This Lutheran church was built in 1864 with the school nearby. All the Duldig children attended this school. Johann Duldig served as treasurer of the congregation and was one of the original trustees of the church.



Duldig descendants – Max Duldig, Christine Longmire, & Leona Coleman

A further six children were born at Peters Hill. Wilhelm, their second child and first born at Peters Hill, died early at 3 years of age and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery; so is their fourth child Johann who died as a baby.



Anna and Johann Duldig

Their two daughters, Anna Marie and Anna Caroline, both grew up and married, but both died as young women. Marie Schober had a child Selma, and Caroline Zerna had 4 children, the last of whom, Johann Eduard (known as Jack) was fostered by his uncle and aunt, Gustav and Caroline Duldig.

Johann and Anna's sons Friedrich and Gustav Duldig married Schuppan sisters, Louise and Caroline (the Schuppans were also a Wendish family from Tauer), and both had large families.

Their last child Heinrich did not marry, and when Johann died in 1912, Heinrich was living in the Parkside Mental Hospital, as Johann made provision for a weekly payment for him in his will. Heinrich died in 1926 and is buried in the West Terrace Cemetery.

Over the years Johann purchased further property at Peters Hill which he farmed with his son Gustav. Johann lived for 86 years (died in 1912), and Anna, who died in 1922, was 91 years of age.

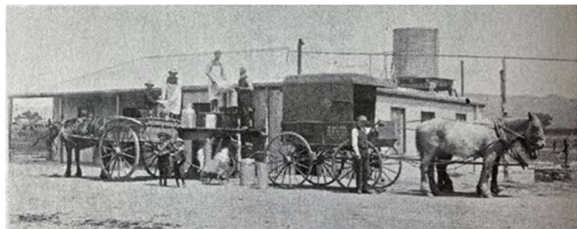
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Eldest child, **Friedrich Duldig**, married Louise Schuppan in 1876 and bought land at Worlds End (on the road between Burra and Robertstown). He established a 500-acre farm with 20 dairy cows, sheep, pigs and grew wheat. He farmed there successfully for 46 years, and then his son Fred took over.



Friedrich's home at Worlds End (2009)

In the 1890s he set up a creamery and butter factory, collecting milk from neighbouring farms and selling butter at Burra.



Worlds End Creamery

In this marginal farming district problems with droughts and rabbit infestation made life difficult. Friedrich served as Councillor on the Burra Council, secretary of the Baldina Annual Races Committee, was active in the Agricultural Bureau, was on the Burra Show Committee, was Secretary of the Worlds End School Sports day (sometimes held on his property), was chairman of the fallen soldiers committee during the war, and he organised for a cricket pitch for Worlds End.

After a block of land was purchased in 1887, Friedrich was one of the people responsible for building the Lutheran church at Upper Bright, 8 miles from his home. The church, which also served as a school, was demolished in the 1950s.

Prior to the formation of this congregation, the Duldig family and others from Worlds End attended the Emu Downs Lutheran church, travelling by horse and cart through the Hallelujah Hills each week

Next to the church was the cemetery. Friedrich's daughter Anna is buried here and there is a memorial to his son Oswald who died in 1917 in World War 1 in the battle of Menin Road in Belgium.



Friedrich and Louise retired in Eudunda, where 6 of their 14 children also came to live later.

The third son of Johann and Anna, **Gustav Duldig**, married Caroline Schuppan in 1883. They lived at Peters Hill and had 12 children. Four children married Wendish families: Hondow, Jenke and Marschall.

In 1914 Gustav was contracted to run the first mail service from Riverton to Peters Hill three times a week. He also served on the District Council of Gilbert for a long period.

Of their children, Edwin and Hedwig were teachers, Laura worked for a time at Koonibba Children's Home, and Freda was a nursing Sister who ran her own hospital in Nuriootpa in the 1930s.

Bertram and his cousins, Oswald Duldig (son of Friedrich) and Alvin Rudolph Zerna (son of Caroline Zerna), fought in World War 1. The other children of Gustav and Friedrich were mostly farmers and the wives of farmers.

Lance Duldig, the son of Louis Duldig, was a first-class cricketer who played for South Australia from 1941 to 1953. He toured New Zealand with the Australian team in 1949-50. He also served in World War 2.

In summing up, Leona thought that Johann and Anna adapted remarkably well to their new homeland. Perhaps their confidence was fostered by living in the close-knit community of Wendish neighbours at Peters Hill.