



ALTUS FAMILY 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

JOHANN GOTTLIEB ALTUS was a Wend/Sorb born in Rodewitz, Saxony, Germany and died in Nechern on 2nd May 1852. His wife, AGNETA, who was born in Rodewitz in 1799, unfortunately became his widow only five months before leaving Germany for South Australia. She then became the family matriarch who boarded the barque *Alfred* on 31st October 1857 to bring her children and grandchildren here for a new life, and arrived on 13th February 1858 with her eldest son, JOHANN, with his wife ANNA and their five children, plus her daughters MARIA MAGDALENA, ANNA, CHRISTIANE, MARIA and her youngest son AUGUST.

The eldest, Johann, and his wife Anna and family settled at Bethel, north of Kapunda. Their daughters were ANNA, MARIA, MAGDA, CHRISTINE and son ERNST. Agneta's daughter Maria was married before leaving Germany and they settled in the St. Kitts area with her husband JOHANN BIELE. All the rest of Agneta's family married, but Maria and husband ANDREAS LIESCHKE who settled at Ebenezer, later joined the trek to Walla Walla in New South Wales. The youngest son August married ANNA MARIA DOECKE and farmed the Bethel property where the family originally settled.

The above is an example of Christian names which were given to Wend/Sorb children in the 1800s. In 2006 the Altus Family Committee refenced and tidied the Steinthal cemetery where many descendants were laid to rest.

A 150th Anniversary Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service was held on Sunday 10th February 2008 in the Kapunda Trotting Complex,

Kapunda, South Australia. Pastor David Altus and a great-grandson of Christiane Altus, Pastor Wayne Boehm, officiated at the service. August's great-grandson, Eric Altus, farmer of the original property at Bethel, was Chairman of the Reunion Committee and also chaired the 150th Anniversary Service. Barbara Altus, who is a great-granddaughter of Ernst Altus, sang the first verse of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress" in Wendish/Sorbian and the congregation then sang it in English. Here it is in the Wend/Sorb language and then in German.

Jed'n twjerdy hród je naš Bóh sam,
Brón dobra, sylna skała;
Wón ze wšej' nuzy pomha nam,
Kiž je nas zapřijała.
Zły stary njepřečel
By rad nas póžrěc chcył,
Wón jara mócny je
A ma dosć lestnosće,
Tu přez njoh' nichtó njeje.

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen;
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,
Die uns jetzt hat betroffen.
Der alte böse Feind
Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint;
Gross Macht und viel List,
Sein grausam Rüstung ist.
Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.

Congratulations to the Altus family for a wonderful 150th anniversary of their ancestors arrival in South Australia in 1858.

June Jenke

BUS TRIP

Yes, your committee has decided to go ahead with another bus trip on **Saturday, 10th May**. This time it will be partly in the Adelaide Hills, but extending as far as the River Murray. We have planned to leave Adelaide from the usual spot on South Terrace at 8.30am. (See the booking form for details.) Our first stop is Mt. Pleasant, via Houghton, Inglewood and Gumeracha. From there we go to Springton, Eden Valley and on to Angaston for lunch at the Brauhaus Hotel.

After lunch we move on to Keyneton (North Rhine), Sedan, Rheinthal (Rhine Valley), Cambrai (Rhine Villa), Black Hill (Friedensthal), and Mannum. We return to Adelaide via Tungkillo, Woodside and the Onkaparinga Valley scenic drive to the freeway, arriving back between 5.00 and 5.30pm.

Through our research we have found Wendish names at Springton, Eden Valley, Keyneton (North Rhine), Sedan, Rheinthal (Rhine Valley) and Cambrai (Rhine Villa). None have been found in the Mannum records prior to the 1960s. The largest number of Wend names was found in the Sedan, Rheinthal and Cambrai records, however, there is still more research to be done.

There will be various stops during the day to visit locations which are connected to early Wendish families. You will also receive the usual information hand-out to take home, plus informative comments along the way. A number of other pleasant little surprises are tucked into our itinerary. One will be free morning or afternoon tea supplied, so we look forward to seeing you all again for another interesting, successful and pleasant day.

June & Dennis Jenke, Organisers.

Coming Events

Saturday 10th May Bus trip to Rheinthal & Cambrai

8.30 am – 5.30 pm Visit Mt Pleasant, Springton, Keyneton, Rheinthal, Cambrai, Black Hill, Mannum.

Lunch at Angaston (2 course meal)

See June's article for more details.

*****See the Booking Form at the end of this newsletter.

*****BOOK EARLY, as these trips are very popular.

*****Pay NOW to secure your seat. Preference given to those who pay first.

Saturday 23rd August, 12 noon German Lunch

More details in the next newsletter.

Sunday 28th September, 2pm

Annual General Meeting, and **video** of Western Poland.

At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall, (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde).

President's Report

It was a pleasant Annual General Meeting in September last year. I thank the 22 members who attended for their preparedness to make the recommended changes to the constitution. I can now report that the revised constitution has been submitted to the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

Once that had been completed we applied for an ABN (Australian Business Number) so that we will be ready to make applications for grants in the future. My thanks go to committee member, John Longmire, for working out how to fill out the application form of many pages. It was quite a complicated matter. However, the end result is that we have been given an ABN (and a tax file number, which we didn't even ask for).

The committee has been working out the **program for 2008**. We are planning three events, which I am sure you will enjoy. The first is the **bus trip**, which many people eagerly wait for each year. We have already had people booking seats without even knowing where we are going. So you will need to act fast to ensure you get a seat this year. You can read all about the proposed trip in another article in this newsletter. With Dennis and June in charge you know it will be interesting and well organised.

Later in the year we will be organising a German Lunch at a restaurant in the Barossa. Finally at the AGM Eric and Ruth Fiebig will share some video of their recent trip to Eastern Europe. Put the dates on your calendar so that you don't miss out.

I am pleased to tell you that we have a new person to handle the sales of books etc. Ruth Walter has volunteered to take on this task. So please contact Ruth in future for any purchases. Her details are given with the list of books for sale.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meetings.

Lyall Kupke

Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the families of three of our members, who died recently.

Benno Gotzky was the husband of Bev Gotzky in Melbourne. Benno and Bev have also been interested members of our society in SA and have occasionally been able to attend some of our meetings. On one of their trips to Germany they assisted us in gaining associate membership of the Domowina.

Irmgard Kobelt was a regular attender at meetings and bus trips. She has written articles for the newsletter.

Maureen Smith was a former committee member and served as vice-president and editor for a number of years in the early 1990s.

For Sale

Booklets from Germany - in English:

Customs and Traditions of the Sorbs in Lower Lusatia - \$1, plus postage

The Winter Season among the Sorbs - \$1, plus postage

Easter with the Sorbs - \$1, plus postage

Sorbian Customs and Traditions in the course of the year - \$1, plus postage

(Postage: \$1 for one book, \$3 for 2-6 books)

Also the best books about the Wends in Australia:

Burger, *The Coming of the Wends* - \$12, plus \$3 postage

Nielsen, *In Search of a Home* (second edition, hard cover) - \$40, plus \$8 postage

CDs:

From Wendish to German to English (A Journey into Wendish Culture, History & Language)

This marvellous CD has been produced by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. It contains English narration, German and Wendish singing by a German choir performing at Texas in 2002, talks by noted Wendish (Sorbian) historians Dr George Nielsen and Gertrud Mahling (Trudla Malinkowa). George Nielsen talks about Wendish migration to Australia. *A real treat!*

Cost = \$30, plus \$3 postage

Contact Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168),

e-mail: rwalter@senet.com.au

**** Note NEW contact person!

Please make cheques or money orders to Wend Sorb Society of South Australia.

News from the Wendish Heritage Society:

Our sister society in **Melbourne**.

Website: www.wendishheritage.org.au

Saturday 4th October Annual Dinner

150th Anniversary Dinner to celebrate the arrival in Melbourne of ten ships from Hamburg carrying Wendish immigrants.

Venue: Ringwood Lutheran Church Hall, cnr Wantirna & City Roads, Ringwood, Vic. (Melway 49 G10)

For more details see website or next newsletter.

We welcome any contributions to this newsletter. Please send them to the Editor at the address below.

This newsletter was published by the **Wend Sorb Society of South Australia Inc.**

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