



## Bus Trip – Carlsruhe & Peters Hill

Although Friday's bountiful rain was welcome, it was still good to be blessed by sunshine as members and friends boarded the brand new Woodside coach for our 2014 Saturday bus tour (3 May). Eric and Ruth Fiebig again greeted everyone with 6 pages of information including the itinerary, map of the route to be covered and illustrated notes on history of the districts to be visited and places of interest including churches and cemeteries. With 51 on the 57-seater coach and six more meeting us in Gawler to follow in their cars, we again set off as an enthusiastic group. The new coach, while very comfortable, presented a few challenges with adjusting the microphone for commentary as we travelled.

A brief stop at Gawler for morning tea was welcome, particularly as our driver John Kleemann produced delicious *streusel kuchen* to go with tea or coffee, all provided by Woodside Coaches. On from Freeling we reached Kapunda with its large "Matt the Miner" statue, then travelled on to **Allendale North**. We noted the Wheatsheaf Pub, established 1855, and the white painted fence in a paddock to the left marking "Scotty's Grave". David Laubsch spoke of his father's creativity as a mechanic rather than farmer, making machinery for sale and also signs at the high school and Kapunda hospital.

We proceeded on through greening paddocks and recently direct drill sown wheat fields to **Allens Creek**. Marcia Lohe (nee Laubsch), who grew up on a local farm, pointed out the contour ploughed hills. After her father found clearing the scrub a lengthy process, he bought an old bulldozer and modified it to push over trees, also helping out a neighbour to clear his land.



Barry Laubsch in the Allens Creek Lutheran Church

Current member Barry Laubsch introduced us to the history of the church. Services were first held in German in the Frost and Laubsch family homes. A Methodist chapel was used next from 1894, becoming a Lutheran day school from 1901 to 1917, but was demolished in 1925. The current attractive honey-coloured sandstone Bethlehem Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1908, with choir gallery added in 1918 followed by a porch in 1925. Wendish members included Duldig, Freund, Marschall and Niemz. In early times the church was lit by candles. From a sizeable congregation with numerous children in the 1960s, it has dwindled down to 16 current members. Tess Beneke, who grew up on a farm nearby and worshipped here as a child, was delighted to find the graves of her great-grandparents in the small, well-kept cemetery and enjoyed the chance to revisit the church and the sights of Allens Creek.

Continuing on northward, we learnt of the interesting history of **Steelton**, named after English settler Andrew Steele (but misspelt). German families settled here in 1861, but after poor wheat harvests and families moving elsewhere from 1870, the township eventually closed down. Although used for District Council of Waterloo meetings until 1890, the school building was demolished in 1907 followed by the Post Office in 1966. Only cropped fields and a few scattered trees remain in the area today.



Carlsruhe church

Next stop was at **Carlsruhe** where German settlers from Mecklenburg first arrived in 1856. It is named after Carl Ahrns who owned land in this area, and the settlers rapidly set up both worship and education facilities. It had a thriving school in the 1870s, first with

teacher Hugo Becker, followed in 1875 by Rudolph Miethke. During WWI the name Carlsruhe was changed for a period to Kunden (German for “witness”!), before eventually being changed back.

We first went into St John’s church hall for lunch. Members of the congregation, organized by Jenny Schwartz, provided soup followed by a splendid array of delicious casseroles. Country folk really know how to cook! Wine was also available. The meal ended with fruit salad and ice cream, tea and coffee. The only shower of rain for the day fell as we were enjoying our repast in the comfortable hall. Sunshine was back again as we moved into St John’s Church, built in 1864, for a talk on its history by Kelvin Schwartz. This was enhanced by a power point presentation including numerous photographs. Hat pegs on the left remained from the days when the men sat on the left side of the church. Women sat on the right side, but kept their hats on. Schooldays were also mentioned, from setting rabbit traps at lunchtime to the boys having to agree to playing games with the girls as long as they reciprocated by playing football and cricket with the boys. Footy jumpers were created by sewing sashes on regular tops.

Across the road from the church stands the original manse, which has been converted into accommodation for retreats or other groups. Many of us found it interesting to see the high pressed metal ceilings and spacious rooms. Although most outside walls of the house are of local blue dolomite and dressed with smooth edges, the back wall had an interesting and very different treatment being roughly dressed with concave markings. Pastor Otto Thiele and family lived here from 1954 to 1970. Two Thiele daughters, Dorothy Zweck and Janet Blackie, especially enjoyed seeing their former home and the magnificent views of the surrounding hills and valleys. Over on the crest of the Tothill Range we could see turbines of the Waterloo wind farm.

There was a quick rush back to the church side to look around its cemetery, before re-boarding the bus. One interesting grave was noted – that of Tom Kruse, the famous outback mailman who delivered mail along the Birdsville Track to scattered communities and station owners. Born at Carlsruhe, he is now buried here with his wife.

Joan Hochwald took the opportunity to voice the thanks of all on the bus to the Fiebigs for planning the day’s outing and to our very competent driver John. She also handed out eucalyptus and honey drops to keep our sinuses clear. Lyall Kupke offered copies of the newly printed brochures for the Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail which identify all locations for the six interpretive signs. Now heading back southward, we passed through

Saddleworth which has a museum worth visiting and on to Peters Hill.

**Peters Hill** district was possibly named after an early settler, either Peter Inkster or Martin Petatz. Many Wendish families from Cottbus in Germany, who had first settled at Hoffnungsthal, arrived here early in 1856. Some of them initially lived in dugouts along the hillside. Mid-year their former minister Pastor Meyer arrived and took the first service in the home of Johann Noack. Mr Lehmann was appointed as schoolteacher and a plastered room served as school, church and teacher’s residence. A second house of worship was erected a year later. More Wendish families continued to arrive during following years. Christian Marschall with his wife and ten children lived in a home now known as Marschall’s Hut, used now for overnight shelter on the Heysen walking Trail. In 1856 he had donated land for a church and cemetery. Finally in 1864 the current church, St Peters (St Petri), and a school were built. The school closed at the end of 1955 and was later destroyed by fire in the mid-60s.

During these early years some of the reading services in the church were conducted in the Wendish language as many of the parishioners understood this better than German. This was possibly the only congregation in Australia which ever used Wendish for services.



*Norm Schmidtke in the Peters Hill church*

In 1966 the congregation amalgamated with Riverton, 5km west, and closed the church. However the local community and descendants have formed a support group, the Friends of Peters Hill Church. They maintain the church and surrounds, open the church for meetings and weddings, and hold an annual church service and Annual General Meeting. The church’s pulpit is in an unusual location, placed above the altar, in the style of most 19<sup>th</sup> century Lutheran churches. An interesting feature of the church is the ventilators in the upper section of each window. They are of metal with cutouts in the shape of 8 pointed stars with central roundels. Is this based on a Wendish star? *Continued on next page →*

Outside, the ventilators have slanted louvres to keep the rain out. In front of the church is the Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail's interpretive sign.



*Descendants of the Peters Hill Wends*

fine weather because of the unsealed road and a creek to cross. Although our bus was not able to take us to these two cemeteries, we know that Wendish names like Bartsch, Duldig, Hondow, Huppatz, Lehmann, Noack, Schuppan and Zerna are recorded here.

Our tour continued homeward with a brief glimpse of the Riverton pioneer cemetery and its attractive garden and from there we returned to Adelaide. After another enjoyable and highly successful outing, we reached the end of our journey back at South Terrace in good time. Eric and Ruth Fiebig are to be highly commended for their meticulous planning, research and wise use of Ruth's numerous relatives in entertaining and informing us during the day. We look forward to the next adventure.

*Pauline Burger, Ruth Walter*  
(Wend/Sorb Society Committee Members)

The Pioneer Cemetery is over one km to the south, as is the Huppatz family cemetery, and are best visited in

## *From the President*

We enjoyed another interesting bus trip. You can read the report above by Pauline and Ruth. Eric and Ruth are already working on next year's trip. We will probably go to a completely different district. So make sure you book early next year.

Our Wendish Heritage Exhibition at Burnside was also well-received. Read the article in the newsletter. Thanks to Marie Brazier for arranging the day with the Burnside Library.

Once again the Wendish Heritage Society in Melbourne held an enjoyable event on the March long weekend. This year they visited the Warrnambool district on the south coast. My wife and I, as well as Gilbert Materne, represented the South Australian Wends. We were shown the historic sites of Warrnambool, Hawkesdale and Byaduk. If you want an interesting historical weekend, then join them next year. It will be in the Portland district, just over the border from Mt Gambier. That's not far for us South Aussies. Get away from Adelaide during mad March and enjoy the serenity of country Victoria. Mark it in your calendar now: 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

Our next meeting (20 July) will be very interesting, I assure you. Ingrid Glastonbury (nee Dallwitz) spoke at the Burnside day about her investigations into Wendish recipes in Australia. For many years Ingrid ran a restaurant in the Barossa and she specialised in traditional German recipes. Those who heard her said she must repeat her story to our members. So come along for a good afternoon.

Lyall Kupke

## **Sympathy**

We express our sympathy to

The family of Clair Noack, who died in May soon after her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Clair was the mother of John Noack, the President of the Wendish Heritage Society in Victoria. Clair had been a member of our Society and attended some of our activities in the past.



# Wendish Heritage Exhibition

After the success of last year's event during History SA month, the Burnside Library again asked us to organise another event this year in the Burnside Library. So our Wendish Heritage Exhibition was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

Over 70 people attended and they were keen to learn more about their Wendish heritage.

Lyall Kupke began with a Wendish welcome (*Dobry dzen!*) and proceeded to answer the questions: Who were the Wends? Where did they come from? Why did they come to Australia? Where did they settle? What happened to them?

A film displaying Wendish customs in Lusatia was then shown. It showed some of the Christmas activities that have continued to be followed in some villages. It also showed the celebration of the Birds Wedding Festival and the making of biscuits in the shape of birds.

Ingrid Glastonbury then talked about Wendish food and her search for Wendish recipes. For many years Ingrid ran a restaurant in the Barossa Valley and she specialised in traditional German recipes. She even had some delicious items for us to sample.

Ingrid and her husband also provided some of their wines from Kabminye Winery for tasting and many took that opportunity.

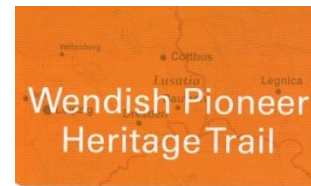
A large number of books from our Wendish library were on display and some people were pleased to buy our publications.

After the talks were over, people were pleased to mingle and chat for some time.

## Life Membership

The Society has bestowed Life Membership on:

Paul Noack – for his involvement in the founding the Society and for his dedication to promoting an awareness of Sorbian/Wendish culture.



Wends in traditional dress - punting on the River Spree, near Cottbus, Germany.



## Heritage Trail brochure

The Wendish Pioneer Heritage Trail signs have been standing for over a year and we have heard that many people have seen them. But we have been keen to publicise their presence so that even more people can find them.

We have now printed a brochure which explains who the Wends are and what the Trail is. Because the six sites (Hope Valley, Rosedale, Ebenezer, Neukirch, St Kitts and Peters Hill) are not on the usual tourist tracks, we have included directions and maps to show how to find them.

These brochures will be distributed to various tourist information centres in the Barossa and other districts.

We have included a brochure for you with this newsletter. If you would like some more brochures to distribute to people interested in their Wendish heritage, please contact me at the address at the end of this newsletter.

*Lyall Kupke*

## Coming Events

### **Sun 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm Talk: Wendish food in Australia**

Ingrid Glastonbury will tell us about her search for Wendish recipes.  
At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde).

### **Sun 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2pm Annual General Meeting**

Followed by a selection of Wendish films (in English).  
At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde).

### **Sun 19<sup>th</sup> October 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peters Hill church and 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Peters Hill school**

10.30 am Thanksgiving service in the church

12 noon Lunch (bring food to share)

2 pm Unveiling of plaque at school site



*Peters Hill Lutheran Church*



*Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peters Hill congregation in 2006*

## Changes in Melbourne

In recent years the Research Library of the Wendish Heritage Society, based in Melbourne, has been located in the Lutheran Church building at Ivanhoe. This building has recently been sold and so the Society has had to find a new location.

They have now moved to the St Aidan's Community Centre, 12 Surrey St, Box Hill South. The Library is up and running again. It is open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (Feb-Nov), 1.30pm – 5pm.

The Society also has a new postal address:

Wendish Heritage Society, PO Box 4050, Box Hill South V 3128

# Saxon recipes

The following recipes are taken from the book, *Saxon Cooking*, published by Buch Verlag für die Frau in 2011. The region of Upper Lusatia is located in Saxony, so these recipes may have been familiar to the Wends from this region.

## Borna Onion Soup

500g peeled potato pieces, 1.5L meat broth, 1tsp caraway, 1 tsp salt, 30g bacon, 400g onions, 50g margarine, 10g flour, 250mL sour cream, 2 apples, 2 tablespoons horseradish.

Cooked diced potatoes in the meat broth including caraway and salt for 15 minutes. Fry diced bacon and slices of onions in fat for 10 minutes. Sprinkle them with flour, add them to the soup and stir it. Simmer it for 5-10 minutes. Pit the apples, grate, add horseradish and salt into the cream and stir it. Add spice to taste.

## Lusatia Pumpkin Schnitzel

8 slices of pumpkin (100g each), salt & pepper, 3 tablespoons flour, 1 cracked egg, 5 tablespoons breadcrumbs, 75g lard.

Cut washed pumpkin into 8 finger-thick slices and season with salt and pepper. Let it rest for a few minutes. Turn each side of pumpkin slices in flour and whisked egg and coat it with breadcrumbs. Fry it golden yellow in heated lard.

## Quarkkeulchen (Potato Curd Cheese Fritters)

1kg boiled potatoes in the skin, 100g raisins, 500g curd cheese (*quark*), 150g flour, 90g sugar, 2 eggs, 1tsp salt, 1 tsp baking powder, ½ tablespoon grated lemon peel.

Mash or grate well the peeled potatoes. Drop raisins into boiling water and let them soak for about 5 minutes. Use a strainer to dust the potato mash with flour. After that, add all the other ingredients and knead the dough until it is smooth. At the end, add the raisins. Form the dough into 2 big rolls. Cut them into finger-thick slices and bake them golden-yellow in hot oil. Dust them with some cinnamon and sugar or serve with apple sauce or jam.

## Meissen Cheesecake without a Flan Case

250g butter, 6 eggs, 300g sugar, 1 tsp grated lemon peel, 3 tablespoons lemon juice, 1kg dry curd cheese (*quark*), 100g semolina, 1 tablespoon flour, 1 package baking powder, 1 generous pinch of salt, 125g icing sugar.

Whisk 200g butter until it is fluffy and separate the eggs. Add egg yolk, sugar, grated lemon peel and lemon juice and mix it with the butter. Stir curd cheese, semolina, flour and baking powder and add it to the butter-egg mixture. Add a pinch of salt to the egg whites, whip it until stiff and fold it into the dough. Place dough in a greased spring form pan. Bake it in a preheated oven at 180°C (356°F) for 50-60 minutes. When it is still hot, brush it with remaining butter and sprinkle it with icing sugar.

## Zittau Sunday Biscuits

300g flour, 2 tsp baking powder, 250g dry curd cheese (*quark*), 50g sugar, 2 eggs, ½ tsp grated lemon peel, 1 pinch salt, 100g currants.

Sift flour and baking powder into a bowl, mix it and make a well in the middle. Add curd cheese, sugar, 1 egg, grated lemon peel and salt. Knead everything well until dough is smooth. At the end, add currants. Form biscuits and place them on a greased baking sheet. Brush biscuits with whisked egg and bake them in a pre-heated oven at 200°C (392°F) for about 30 minutes.

# Stars and Finials

Brian Hennig has recently brought two items to our attention.

Inside the Peters Hill church he noticed something unusual about the windows. They are of casement style consisting of eight panels, with the glass panel in the top corner of each window being substituted with a timber panel. This panel had holes in it and was thus being used as a ventilation system to allow the building to breathe when not in use and locked up. On the outside a louvered panel was used to prevent rain from entering.

The holes on the inside panel were arranged as a series of concentric circles of decreasing size as they moved outwards. The final design represented an eight-pointed star (see photo below).



Some early Lutheran churches in South Australia had blue ceilings with stars painted on them. In the book, *Barossa Folk*, by Noris Ioannou, there is a photo of the ceiling of the Pilgrim Lutheran Church at Sandleton, which closed in 1961 (see page 305). It shows two eight-pointed stars on the blue ceiling. Ioannou stated that the eight-pointed stars symbolized divine guidance and the circles represented eternity and the everlasting God.

Reg Munchenberg also refers to these features in the Pilgrim church at Sandleton in his book, *Truro* (see pages 263-264). He says that the building's former owner, John Ward-Lohmeyer, had researched the church's history and John had claimed that the large star and the blue ceiling

were Wendish features because of the number of Wendish settlers in that church.

Did the Peters Hill people have this in mind when they installed these window panels with the eight-pointed star design in their church? Unfortunately no-one can tell us today.

The other item relates to houses of Wendish settlers at St Kitts. Brian has noticed that at the top of the walls at the corners of the house (level with the roof gutters) there are small brick or stone cairns. I have called them finials. Why are they there? Is this some form of decoration? Did it have any significance for the Wends?

The old school building at Ebenezer, which was an early Wendish settlement, also has this feature (see photo below).



Has anyone else noticed these features? Can they be found elsewhere? Can you shed any light on them?

I hesitate to claim these as Wendish features when they may also be symbols found in other churches and cultures. I am looking for reliable evidence. Can they be found in Lusatia? Can anyone help?

Please contact the Editor (see address at the end of newsletter) if you have any further information on either of these items.

# For Sale

## A new book from Germany!

- Korall & Schwikart, *Journey through the Spree Forest* (in English with lovely pictures) - \$35, plus \$10 postage

## Booklets from Germany - in English:

- *The Winter Season among the Sorbs* - \$1, plus postage
- *Easter with the Sorbs* - \$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 \$10 postage
- Malinkowa, *Shores of Hope* - \$30, plus \$10 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

## Calendars:

I will take orders for Calendars for 2015 – with scenes from Lusatia

These are really beautiful, and they make great Christmas presents. You must order *straight away*, so that we can get them from Germany before the end of the year.

Cost = \$25, plus \$10 postage

**Contact** Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168),  
email: [ruthwalter@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ruthwalter@optusnet.com.au)

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

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

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