



## Our Wendish costumes

The Wend/Sorb Society of SA holds a number of costumes that were donated to our society in 1989. This came about after an exhibition at the Migration Museum in Adelaide in that year. In preparing for the exhibition Paul Noack and Bev Hall, enthusiastic office bearers of the forerunner to the Wend/Sorb Society in SA, contacted the GDR Embassy for any materials, posters, books etc. for the exhibition.

Bev Hall explained in a recent email that “we were pleasantly surprised when they said they could also offer two costumes which had been sitting in the basement for several years. They thought they were Sorb, but weren’t completely sure. When they arrived we found that they were Sorb and this really made our exhibition so much better.”

The costumes our Society proudly holds are a wedding costume, a dance costume and a number of heavy woollen underskirts. They come from the Hoyerswerda district of Middle Lusatia. Several years ago we purchased a model (called Anna) to enable us to display them at selected functions.



*Our Wendish dancing costume, worn by Marlen Glaschker in 2001*

There is a lot to learn about assembling the costumes as traditionally many pins are used to hold all the ribbons and laces in place. Our president Lyall Kupke can confirm this: on a recent visit to Lusatia he was informed this is still the practice.

The costumes are referred to in this book in our Wendish library, which is held at the Lutheran Archives, Adelaide - Lotar Balke & Albrecht Lange, *Sorbisches Trachtenbuch*, Domowina Verlag, 1985.

The book is written in German and contains many photographs of various Wendish costumes from different districts, including the wedding dress costume and the folk dancing costume that our Society holds.

A German friend of mine, Helga Linnert, recently read the book and gave me a translation of the relevant information about our costumes from Hoyerswerda.

“There are many varied **wedding costumes**; these have a pleated green woollen skirt with a richly embroidered apron, a frilled top with green sleeves decorated on the bodice with the ‘bride net’ of green silk threads and silver glass pearls. The head covering consists of a black cone-shaped velvet hat open at the top. Braided plaits are put up into a so-called “little wheel” and decorated with green ribbons whose ends hang down the back. Green, black and white ribbons complete the costume.



“There are many varied **dance costumes** – small details like hats, scarves, aprons, shoes, stockings, ribbons, colours etc. change according to festivities such as religious ceremonies, carnivals, dances, engagements and weddings.

“**Colours** have meanings: Red is the symbol of youth and joy; Green is the symbol of seriousness of life; Black is the symbol of special celebrations.”

It is a privilege to have these costumes in our care and to learn more about them.

*Ruth Walter*

# *President's AGM Report* (30 Aug 2015)

Our Bus Trip to Condowie, Brinkworth and Balaklava on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April was another very enjoyable day. Thanks go again to the organisers, Ruth and Eric Fiebig. Our bus was almost fully booked once again, so this is a reminder to book seats early next year.

The Wendish Heritage Exhibition at Burnside Library on 28<sup>th</sup> May was also well-received once again. This has become a very popular annual event, as people enjoy learning about the Wendish settlers in South Australia and their culture. Thanks go to Marie Brazier for arranging this event with the Burnside Library staff, who are so welcoming and helpful.

At our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July Lois Denham told us of her experiences travelling through Upper Lusatia last year. She spent a number of days visiting the museum at Bautzen and touring the countryside with its beautiful villages, from which many of our ancestors came. Her photos gave us a taste of what she had seen.

This year Australians, along with people from around the world, have been reflecting on the centenary of World War One. It is important that we do reflect on the service and sacrifice of all who were affected by this terrible conflict.

Our Wend/Sorb Society would also like to remember the contribution of our Wendish ancestors in this conflict. We are setting up an Honour Roll in our next newsletter with the names of those of Wendish ancestry who fought and possibly died for this country. We invite members to submit names which will be published in the following newsletters. At the end of the next three years we may consider publishing a booklet with the details of these servicemen and women. We hope that the stories told today will be a good beginning.

The work on the booklet about the Wends in South Australia unfortunately has not progressed this year. A huge effort is needed next year to complete this.

We continue to use our newsletter to advertise our meetings and inform about Wendish history and culture. Please send us any interesting articles you write or find so that we can publish them.

Finally, my thanks go to the hard-working committee. I especially wish to mention Rona and Michael McDonnell who have indicated they will be retiring from the committee today. They have been dedicated members for many years and their contributions have been much appreciated. Michael held the responsible position of Treasurer for ten years, and Rona has been our afternoon tea and supper organiser. Michael was the originator of the Heritage Trail project which was successfully completed a few years ago. Thank you Michael and Rona.

On behalf of all our members I thank all committee members for the time and effort you give to our society.

*Lyall Kupke*

## **ELECTIONS:**

The following office-bearers were elected at the AGM (30 Aug 2015):

President: Lyall Kupke

Vice-President: Eric Fiebig

Secretary: Pauline Burger

Assistant Secretary: Ruth Walter

Treasurer: Leona Coleman

Extra committee members: Gina Bannerman, Marie Brazier, Ruth Fiebig, Brian Hennig, Louine Tay.

## Coming Events

### **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> – Mon 14<sup>th</sup> March Wendish Heritage Society's Weekend Tour**

In the Dimboola district of western Victoria. Tour leader is Betty Huf.

Check the Wendish Heritage Society website for the program: [www.wendishheritage.org.au](http://www.wendishheritage.org.au)

Please make your own accommodation arrangements (try motels at Dimboola, Nhill or Jeparit).

Please book ASAP with Betty Huf (03) 5572 4959; or email [bettyhuf@westvic.com.au](mailto:bettyhuf@westvic.com.au)

### **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> April Bus trip: Murder Mystery Tour**

Details on the booking form with this newsletter. \*\*\*BOOK EARLY\*\*\*

### **Sun 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm Talk: Our visit to Lusatia**

Speaker: Lyall Kupke. Lyall visited the Wendish lands last year and will share his experiences with us.

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

### **Sat 9<sup>th</sup> July, 12 noon Lunch at the German Club**

Details in the next newsletter.

### **Sun 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm Annual General Meeting**

Location and further details in next newsletter.

## *From the President*

The Victorian Wendish long weekend in March is on again this year. As Dimboola is just over the border, it will be easy for us South Aussies to get to and they invite us to join them. Note that you need to book with Betty Huf (details above). Attractions in the towns of Dimboola, Nhill and Jeparit will be visited. You need to find your own accommodation – try motels at Dimboola, Nhill or Jeparit. And watch your speed along the highway – 100kph in Victoria! They have hidden speed cameras and they like catching careless SA drivers.

Our Bus Trip on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April will be the last one that Ruth and Eric Fiebig will be organising. They promise to make this one very memorable. With the title, *Murder Mystery Tour*, it's already intriguing. It's guaranteed to be popular, so make sure you book your seats early. Check the booking form enclosed. Note that our starting point is at the usual spot in South Tce.

At our meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June I will be sharing my experiences from my visit to both Upper and Lower Lusatia last year.

We welcome Louine Tay as a new committee member. There are still some vacant positions on the committee. Do you know of anyone who would be willing to join?

*Lyall Kupke*

## Sympathy

We express our sympathy to the family and friends of these members who died recently:

Joyce Weiss

Alfons Frenzel (see further details on page 6)

# Australian Wends in the Great War



As Australia commemorates the sacrifices made during World War I, our Wend/Sorb Society is interested in identifying those Australians of Wendish descent who fought and/or died for this country. When the Wendish ancestry comes from the mother, we record her maiden name. Unless otherwise stated they served on the Western Front.

We record the following Wends who served:

ALBERT, Percy Henry, from Currawarna, NSW; 6th & 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Brigades, served in Egypt and Western Front; Returned to Australia April-June 1919.

BECKER, Walter Oswald, (mother's maiden name was HONDOW), from Saddleworth, SA; 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Killed in action, France, 5 Nov 1916, aged 20, no known grave.

DULDIG, Oswald Rudolph, from Worlds End, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Killed in action, Belgium, 20 September 1917, aged 23, no known grave.

GRAFF, Arnold Heinrich, from Thomastown, V; Because he was working as a miner in New Zealand, he enlisted in New Zealand Army; Returned to New Zealand March-April 1919, and later to Australia.

GRAFF, Carl Frederick (Fred), from Thomastown, V; 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Killed in action at Pozieres, France, 22-27 July 1916, aged 22, no known grave.

HENNIG, Benno Oscar, (mother's maiden name was FLADRICH), from Cambrai, SA; 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia October 1918.

HILDEBRAND(T), John Henry, (mother's maiden name was ZERNER), from Marrabel, SA; 9<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment; Killed in action, 28 June 1915, aged 24, buried Ari Burnu Cemetery, Gallipoli.

HONDOW, Charles August, from Paruna, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion & 1<sup>st</sup> Machine Gun Battalion; Returned to Australia August-September 1919.

HUPPATZ, Adolph Otto, from Emu Downs, SA; 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia July-Aug 1919.

HUPPATZ, Albert Alfred, from Robertstown, SA; 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia June-Aug 1919.

HUPPATZ, Frank Ernest, from Saddleworth, SA; 43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion; Died of illness 16 December 1916, aged 23. Buried in Tidworth Cemetery, England.

HUPPATZ, John Edward, from Saddleworth, SA; 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia July-August 1919.

HUPPATZ, Joseph Thomas, from Saddleworth, SA; 27<sup>th</sup> & 48<sup>th</sup> Battalions; Returned to Australia Aug-Oct 1919.

HUPPATZ, Theodore Adolph, from Emu Downs, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia April-June 1918.

HUSELIUS, Ernest Ferdinand, (mother's maiden name was ZERNER), from Renmark, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> Battalions, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Returned to Australia Dec 1918-Jan 1919.

KOLLOSCH (later DUNSTAN), Gustav, from Malvern, SA; 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance; Returned to Australia Nov 1918-Jan 1919.

KOLLOSCH (later DUNSTAN), Harold Frank, from Croydon Park, SA; 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance; Returned to Australia Jan 1918.

## Australian Wends in the Great War (cont.)

- KOLLOSCH (later DUNSTAN), Oscar Reginald, from Croydon, SA; 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Ambulance; Returned to Australia Nov 1919.
- MICKAN, William Alfred, from Kingaroy, Qld; 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Killed in action 10 Aug 1918, aged 21, buried Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, France.
- PUMPA, Ewald, from Mildura, V; 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served in Gallipoli & Western Front; Returned to Australia Oct-Dec 1918.
- PUMPA, Heinrich Alfred, from Eden Valley, SA; 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion; Killed in action 3 Oct 1918, aged 23, buried Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery Extension, France.
- PUMPA, John Ern Rieney, from Eden Valley, SA; 32<sup>nd</sup> Battalion; served in Egypt & Western Front; Returned to Australia May-June 1919.
- RENTSCH, Wilfred, from Byaduk, V; 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia April-May 1919.
- TUCKER, Horace Stewart, (mother's maiden name was KOLOSCH), from Mannum, SA; 27<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Battalions & 3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Company; Died of wounds 5 May 1917, aged 20, buried Grevillers Cemetery, France.
- TUCKER, Norman Samuel, (mother's maiden name was KOLOSCH), from Mannum, SA; 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Returned to Australia Oct-Dec 1918.
- TUCKER, Rupert George, (mother's maiden name was KOLOSCH), from Mannum, SA; 3<sup>rd</sup> Machine Gun Company; awarded Military Medal; Died of wounds 12 Oct 1917, aged 24, buried Lijssenthoek Cemetery, Belgium.
- TWARTZ, Charles August, from Petersham, NSW; 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia Oct 1919.
- TWARTZ, Ernest William, from St Kilda, V; 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade; awarded Military Medal; Returned to Australia April-June 1919.
- WENKE, David, from Walla Walla, NSW; 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion; Returned to Australia Jan-March 1918.
- WUCHATSCH, Joseph David George Samuel (Jim), from Epping, V; 15<sup>th</sup> Field Company Engineers; Returned to Australia June-Aug 1919.

We will add to this list in the next newsletters as new names come in. If you have other names to submit, please contact the Editor (see contact details on back page).

### Australian honours for our Wends

We congratulate two Wendish descendants who have recently received Australian Honours.

**Olga Radke, OAM** – Olga received her award in June 2015 for service to the community of Alice Springs: for her work with Indigenous communities, work with prisoner aid, involvement in the archives of the Lutheran Church at Alice Springs and the Strehlow Research Centre, and as co-founder of the Friends of the Strehlow Research Centre. Olga is a member of our Wend/Sorb Society and is a Gersch descendant.

**Kieran Modra, AM** – Kieran received his award in 2014 for significant service to sport as an athlete representing Australia at Paralympic Games, and to people who are blind or have low vision. He had received an OAM in 1997.

Kieran is the son of our members, Theo and Sylvia Modra. They told me that he is training for the next Paralympic Games at Rio de Janeiro in September this year. This will be his 8<sup>th</sup> Paralympic Games! Keep a look out for him in Australian team. You can even find him in Wikipedia.



*Alfons in Australia in 1990*

## Alfons Frenzel

It is with much sadness that we announce the death of Alfons Frenzel (Frencl) in Dresden, Germany, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the age of 68 years. Alfons had been fighting a long battle with cancer in recent years.

When I (Lyall Kupke) visited his hometown of Rosenthal in early October he was not at home, but he was having treatment in Dresden. But I spoke to him on the phone the next day and he recalled with much fondness his trip to Australia in August-September 1990 and the many Wendish descendants he had met. While here in Australia he made many dear friends. He sent his best wishes to all members of the Wendish societies in Australia.

In 1990 Alfons visited the historic Wendish sites in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. He gave talks about the Wends/Sorbs of Lusatia at numerous places. On his return to Germany he included his travel experiences in a book about the migration of Wends worldwide. It is called *Am Horizont der Welt*, and it contains a section about Australia. We have a copy in our library.

He was a teacher and a respected writer. In the report of his death the *Sächsische Zeitung* wrote: "His thick, black notebooks accompanied him everywhere. On his travels throughout the world he kept these exercise books in his search for traces of Sorbian history. In his beloved Lusatian homeland he always had them on hand to write down any new discoveries." "Alfons Frenzel was a wordy and clever storyteller, but above all an author who repeatedly declared with his books his love for his Sorbian homeland."

## A Wendish Custom of Multiple Surnames

*by Andrew M. Kollosche*

When I was a young boy I followed my parents and pronounced my surname as "Kollo-shay", but that's not the way the bank teller pronounced it when calling out my name, or teachers at school for that matter. Everyone considered it to be German. It was not until my uncle Ron travelled to East Germany in the 1970s researching the family history that we became aware of its Sorbian origins.

Nothing more was done on understanding how the Kollosche surname came to be, until I started researching the family history for a book on the subject. One of the first things I wanted to establish was the origins of the Kollosche surname.

Luckily I found a German researcher, Uwe Porten, and I put this question to him. His research revealed that Sorbs in the Lower Lusatia could have more than one surname. These surnames in sequence would be the Sorbian surname, a German translation and lastly the name taken from his trade, farm or cottage. And that's how George Nechilla-Nezasock-Kollosche became assigned the name.

I was happy with his answer and did not take it any further.

However one name popped up in Ron's research and I also came across it, that of Anna Hondow (formerly Kollosche, nee Miatke). I just assumed Anna was married to a Kollosche at some point and became widowed, but could never find a connection. So as part of the next research into the Kollosches of Spreewald I asked Uwe to look into Anna.

Uwe reported that Anna Miatke bore the alias Kollosche; he also found her brother, father and grandfather Martin Miatke had been using the alias Kollosche since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, which was well before



Kollosche was assigned to my family. But more importantly to me, Uwe could find no bloodline connection between the two aliased Kollosche families.

Wind forward three years and by chance while corresponding with Lyall Kupke I became aware of his connection to Anna Hondow. He was of the understanding that Anna had Kollosche either as her maiden name or as a former married name. He was not sure about it, because in the baptism records of her children, sometimes the mother's name is recorded as Anna nee Kollosche and sometimes as Anna nee Miatke.

I immediately dispatched Uwe's research on Anna to Lyall, and in his reply he related being told about surname changing before. "When a landowner only had daughters, and when the daughter married, the husband would take his wife's surname so that he could inherit the land. Thus the land remained in the name of the original family."

Lyall went on to explain this suggested that Anna's father, Martin Miatke alias Kollosche, may have married a Kollosche and taken that name. His children would have been known by the name Kollosche, although they really were Miatke. It would explain the use of both names in the records in South Australia.

With both Lyall and me intrigued, I emailed Uwe asking if he was aware of this spouse name changing!

Uwe's indicated this was correct and gave further insight into the reasons for the spouse name changing. He stated that men who married a female farm heir (daughter) or farm owner (widow) and moved to her farm adopted the wife's last name. Actually, they adopted the farm name. The farm was the solid element in society and stood above individuals. The farm was not divided, but always given to one sole heir. All of this often led to situations in which both man and woman end up with a last name that is actually not their original one.

An example of this: *George Miller inherits his father's farm, the Miller Farm. He marries Anna Smith, whose maiden name now changes to Miller. George dies after a few years, his widow remarries John Meyer. John Meyer moves to his wife's farm; his name changes to Miller. Now both John and Anna go by the name of Miller, although this is neither his nor her original last name. Their children, by the way, are called Miller as well.*

This used to be the tradition in northwest Germany, far away from where the Kollosches in Lower Lusatia lived. Wends/Sorbs do not have this tradition, but a slightly different version, that of adding an alias to their surname.

Uwe went on to explain in the case of Anna Miatke alias Kollosche, "not only Anna's father, but already her grandfather was a Miatke alias Kollosche. Most likely they got this by-name because they once had lived in a house that was named Kollosche. In many areas houses had names, often the name of the person who built it. The house name was added by the people of the town to the home's inhabitants' surname as an alias to distinguish them from others in the village by the same last name."

By chance I was rereading my uncle Ron's booklet, *Kollosche's of Werben Spreewald*, published in 1976, and there on page 2, paragraph 5, was the sentence: "Another Wendish custom was the adoption by sons-in-law of the father-in-law's family name if they lived and worked on his property".

Both these traditions need to be taken into account when tracing Wendish family names and bloodlines. While it appears conclusive that Lyall and I are not blood related, how can we be sure with so many records destroyed during the 30 Years War (1618-1648)? Perhaps the only way to be certain is a DNA test!

[Ed. *Does anyone have further information about this intriguing practice. Please share it with us if you do.*]

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# For Sale

## Books from Germany - in English:

- *Easter with the Sorbs* - \$1, plus \$1 postage
- *The Winter Season among the Sorbs* - \$1, plus \$1 postage
- *Sorbian Customs & Traditions in the course of the year* - \$1, plus \$1 postage
- *A Slav Nation in Germany* - 50c, plus \$1 postage
- *The Sorbs of Germany* - \$5, plus \$3 postage
- *Upper Lusatia* - \$15, plus \$3 postage
- *Bautzen* - \$15, plus \$3 postage
- Korall & Schwikart, *Journey through the Spree Forest* (in English with lovely pictures) - \$35, plus \$10 postage

## 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

## 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

## New CDs:

Cost \$10 each, plus \$3 postage

- Kocor, *Serbski kwas* (The Sorbian wedding). [Operatic in style, joyful, recurring folk themes.]
- Kocor, *Naleco* (Spring). [Majestic oratorio, with memorable, joyful and folk-like themes]
- Zahraj nam rejiku (*Sorbische Folklore mit Sprjewjan*) [Lively folk music, instrumental and vocal work]
- Krawc-Schneider, *Missa Solemnis* [Solemn impassioned classical work, organ and choir, sung in Latin]

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