



Murder Mystery Tour

On 16th April members of the Wend/Sorb Society once again enjoyed an informative and friendly bus trip to places of interest to the descendants of early European settlers. The tour bus drove through the countryside, with the tour guides speaking about highlights, history, socio-economic matters, schooling tradition and religious sites.

Concordia (4 km east of Gawler). This old Lutheran cemetery contains the grave of early Wendish settler Louise Matuschka, who married a Prussian, Jonathan Eime. Other Wends buried there are Gniel and Konzag. The original village and blacksmith forge have disappeared, but the little village serviced the bullock train bringing copper from Kapunda. In the 1800s a small school, teacher's residence and religious services were available for the small community. The pastor travelled from nearby Rosenthal (Rosedale).



At Concordia cemetery

Bethany is fascinating, because the original German layout of farming strips and the village common can be observed. The Bethany Lutheran Church and the Pioneer Cemetery can be viewed. We saw a building with traditional vertical timber slabs and straw roof. Cottages were built with traditional steep roofs to cope with snow falls.

The bus stopped on Light Pass Road for members to investigate the Habermann family private cemetery on the side of Mengler's Hill.

Tanunda provided an opportunity to lunch and enjoy fellowship. The tour group dined at the Tanunda Club after a blessing was given on the meal.

Travelling through Angaston and Moculta (Aboriginal for Parrot Hill) gave the tour group opportunities to view farms and churches such as the Gruenberg church and school building, and small businesses, such as a bootmaker's cottage. As we drove through the area, Elliott Woitd gave interesting historical comments from

his personal knowledge – farms, old houses, sheds, geography and social history. The old dry stone walls are always fascinating and add character to the area.

At **Keyneton** Glen Graetz spoke about the town, cemetery, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, school and hall. The bus passed Paschke's cottage, the site of Graetz Town (where many Graetz families lived) and long-standing dry stone walls.



At the Habermann cemetery

Near **Towitta** we learned about the Schippan murder story. Bertha Schippan was brutally murdered and the inquest accused her elder sister Mary. A highly publicised trial was held and Mary was found not guilty, but she lived a lonely and sad life, and never married. The whole family suffered and the murder was never solved. Recently 2 books and many newspaper articles have been published about this matter.

Cambrai (originally Rhine Villa). Cambrai's old and modern houses, Institute and St. John's Lutheran Church are an interesting blend. We also sighted an emu mob and some kangaroos.

As the bus travelled the final stretch, the compere spoke, "The Lord has provided an autumn display and, on the way home, the clouds prevented the sun shining in the driver's eyes."

A big thanks to Eric and Ruth who have organised the Wendish Tours for the last 8 years. Well done! Thank you also for the comprehensive history notes. The tours help members to appreciate the courage and hard work of the early settlers as they established farms, trades and businesses in the 1800s and early 1900s. Descendants gain a fuller understanding of our Wendish ancestors' journey and heritage in South Australia and feel great pride in the quality characters of their forebears.

Barbara Day

News from Victoria

Wendish Heritage Society Australia

The following new committee was elected at its AGM on 30th April:

President: Betty Huf

Vice-President: John L Modra

Secretary: Glenys Wollermann

Treasurer: Robert Wuchatsch

Extra members: Mary Cooper, Beryl Nagorcka, Moira Nagorcka.

New website

The old site has been upgraded. Check it out at:

<http://www.wendishheritage.org.au>

Westgarthtown & World War I

The Friends of Westgarthtown have produced an interesting documentary about the experiences of the settlers of German descent at Westgarthtown during World War One. You can view it at:

<http://www.westgarthtown.org.au/ww1/>

WERCHON Family Reunion

October 1-3, Millicent.

Friedrich Werchon and Anna (Kossatz) came to Australia in 1859 with sons Friedrich Wilhelm, 11, and Friedrich, 9. They settled in Blumberg (now Birdwood), and later moved to the South-East. Both boys married Aberle sisters and had children.

We would like to hear from anyone who has a connection with our family. Also seeking contact with anyone who can add to our family records, as we hope to have a display of records, memorabilia and photos.

Contact Dawn - tel: 8733 3945, or 0417 875 481, or email: singum1@bigpond.com

WANTED - Bus Trip organiser for 2017

Do you have an interest in local and Wendish history? Do you enjoy mixing with other people? Would you be happy to work with others in an organising group?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, contact the President – details on the back page of the newsletter.

Please help keep our bus trips going!

Report from the 11th Unlock the Past cruise.

by Andrew M. Kollosche.

Royal Caribbean's *Legend of the Seas* departed for a 7-day cruise through the Barrier Reef in March 2016. On board were a number of presenters, who spoke on a wide range of genealogical subjects to some 80 attendees.

Rosemary Kopittke held a number of interesting talks on Electoral Rolls, Government Gazettes, Church records and being the Family Historian. Her husband Eric also presented a number of very informative sessions specialising in German history, interpreting German records, Germans in Queensland and locating the origin of your German ancestors.

Well known author, Carol Baxter, was the special guest speaker. Her first talk on becoming a skilled History detective set the theme which guided her audience through an number of aspects from Determining historical truth to Solving the unsolvable, Crafting and writing a gripping book and Bookshop writing classes, culminating in Publishing options. All her talks packed the room and kept the audience thinking while entertained.

Helen Smith dealt with finding Probate and Wills in England, Workhouses, and using Google as the genealogist friend.

Chris Wright dealt with web-based genealogy sites such as Evernote and Picasa for basic family history management.

Judy Webster gave talks about Black sheep of the family, Vanishing relatives, and Searching for Illegitimate children.

An impromptu talk about DNA by Helen Smith gave the audience more insight into this relatively new genealogy research tool.

There were books on offer, both in printed form and ebooks. For a full list of publications visit www.gen-ebooks.com

Overall it was an enjoyable week away on the high seas with plenty of things to do while on ship as well as off board adventures at Airlie Beach and Cairns. If you have not done an Unlock the Past Cruise, consider one for your next adventure and visit <http://www.unlockthepastcruises.com>

Coming Events

Sun 26th 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 9th July, 12 noon Lunch at the German Club

Join members of the committee. Make a booking by ringing the German Club (8223 2539) and telling them you wish to join the Wendish table. Check out the menu at www.thegermanclub.com.au
At 223 Flinders St, Adelaide.

Sun 28th August, 2pm Annual General Meeting

Followed by Wendish films and afternoon tea.
At St Andrew's Lutheran Church Hall (22 Avenue Rd, Glynde). All welcome.

Fri-Sat 7th-8th October Australian History & Genealogy Expo

At Immanuel College, Novar Gardens. (see enclosed brochure for details)

Sun 6th November Friends of Peters Hill Church

11am Church service
12 noon Community lunch (bring lunch to share)
1.30 pm Annual General Meeting

From the President

Our bus trip in April was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to Ruth and Eric Fiebig for their good work in arranging the day's itinerary. Ruth and Eric have now organised these for 8 years, but this was their last tour. So now we are looking for someone to volunteer to arrange next year's tour. Our bus trips have always been popular. But they cannot take place unless someone makes an effort to arrange them. We are appealing for volunteers to carry on.

On Saturday 9th July we are having a different type of activity – lunch at the German Club. If you would like to join in the fun and enjoy the German food, make sure you book a seat (see details above).

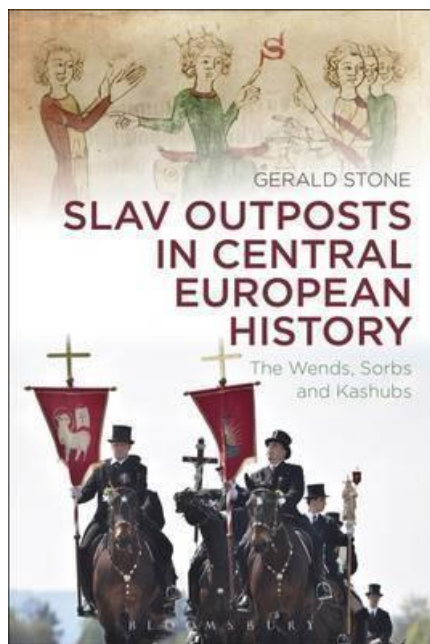
The Australian History & Genealogy Expo on 7-8 October promises to be an exciting experience. Our society will be exhibiting along with 70 other organisations. We are looking forward to informing visitors about our Wendish heritage and we may help others find out that they have Wendish roots also. A brochure has been included with your newsletter. Have a good read of it and mark the dates on your calendar. If you have any interest in family history, then don't miss it!

Lyall Kupke

Sympathy

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

Stanley Groves
Rae Lehmann



Book Review:

Gerald Stone, *Slav Outposts in Central European History*

It is rare that books about the Wends/Sorbs are published in English, but late last year two appeared in quick succession. In November Bloomsbury Press reprinted Gerald Stone's *The Smallest Slavonic Nation*, which was first published in 1972. Then in December they also published a new book by Gerald Stone, titled *Slav Outposts in Central European History*.

Gerald Stone is Emeritus Fellow of Hertford College, Oxford, UK. He is the foremost authority on the history and culture of the Wends/Sorbs and has dedicated a lifetime of research into them.

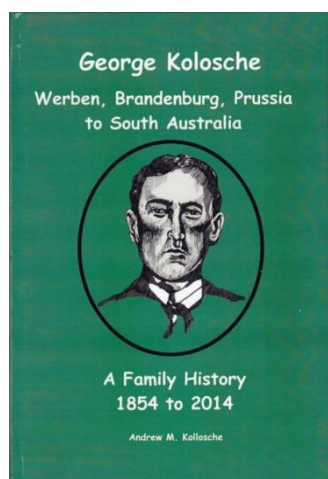
Slav Outposts is the result of this research. It is a comprehensive account of the history of this smallest and least known of Slavonic peoples. It tells the story of their settlement in central Europe in the 8th century and their gradual conquest by the Germans. Over the next 12 centuries they struggled to survive, and only the Wends/Sorbs of Lusatia have succeeded to now.

He discusses the adoption of Christianity, the conversion to Lutheranism during the Reformation, the development of the written language, the revival of interest in Sorb culture in the 19th century, the establishment of the *Domowina*, and the problems of survival in the 20th century during the Nazi and Communist periods. The Wends of Pomerania and Mecklenburg are examined, and even the interest of the Hanoverian King George I of England.

The Old Lutherans and the migration of Wends to Australia and Texas are referred to. However, I am disappointed that George Nielsen's *In Search of a Home* and Rupert Burger's *The Coming of the Wends* do not appear in the extensive bibliography. However, Trudla Malinkowa's *Shores of Hope* is listed there in the German version (*Ufer der Hoffnung*).

On the other hand I am pleased to find a detailed account of the attempts to gain self-determination after the First World War. Other Slavonic nations, like Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, had succeeded. Why not the Wends/Sorbs of Lusatia?

This book is now the authority on the history of the Wends/Sorbs in Europe and must be read by those who are interested in this history. It is most readily purchased over the internet, but you need to compare prices with different booksellers. They can vary enormously. Check this site to compare prices: (<https://booko.com.au>) I found prices varied from \$39 to \$110 for the paperback. The hardcover version is much more expensive of course.



Advert:

"I received the Kollosche family history book and it is fantastic. My dad and I have read it through twice and are very excited. You and everyone involved did a wonderful job. We love all the info and photos, some of which we haven't seen before. Sue, Jeff and Bruce."

Interested in a copy?

Hardback price \$65, Softback price \$40, free postage.

email: andrew@kolloschefamilytree.com.

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 continue (from last newsletter) the record of the Wends who served:

DALITZ, Alwin Clarence, from Dimboola, V; 14th Battalion, Prisoner-of-War; Returned to Australia March-May 1919.

DALITZ, Carl Walter, from Dimboola, V; 6th Machine Gun Co; Killed in action, Bullecourt, France, 3 May 1917, aged 20, no known grave.

DALITZ, Ernest Oswald, from Dimboola, V; 7th Battalion, served in England; Returned to Australia Sept-Oct 1919.

DALITZ, Frederick William, from Dimboola, V; 14th Battalion, awarded Military Medal; Returned to Australia April-May 1919.

DALITZ, Henry Charles, from Dimboola, V; 5th Machine Gun Battalion; Returned to Australia Oct –Dec 1918.

DALITZ, Oswald Paul, from Williamstown, SA; 13th Machine Gun Co; Returned to Australia March-April 1917.

DULDIG, Bertram Arthur Joseph, from Peter's Hill, SA; 10th & 27th Battalion; Returned to Australia Aug-Oct 1917.

ECKERT, Alfred Oswald, from Cleve, SA; 9th Training Battalion, served in England; Returned to Australia July-Sept 1919.

ECKERT, Wilhelm Berthold, from Quorn, SA; 3rd Light Horse Regiment, served in Palestine & Egypt; Returned to Australia July-Aug 1919.

HERRMANN, Bernard (Ben), (mother's maiden name was RENTSCH), from Hochkirch (Tarrington), V; 4th & 2nd Anzac Light Horse Regiments, served at Gallipoli and Western Front; Killed in action at Fleurbaix, France, 26 Aug 1916, aged 24, buried Estaires Communal Cemetery, France.

HERRMANN, Edward Oswald (Kelly), (mother's maiden name was RENTSCH), from Hochkirch (Tarrington), V; 39th Battalion; Returned to Australia Dec 1917 - Jan 1918.

HERRMANN, Albert John (Jock), (mother's maiden name was RENTSCH), from Hochkirch (Tarrington), V; 39th Battalion; Returned to Australia Dec 1917 – Jan 1918.

ZWAR, Bernhard Traugott, from Melbourne, V; medical officer, 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital, served Gallipoli, Lemnos, Egypt; Returned to Australia Jan 1916.

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).

Researching the Huppatz family

My great great grandfather Johann Huppatz emigrated from near Cottbus in 1850 to South Australia. He eventually settled at Peters Hill with his wife Maria nee Sonke and four sons.

This is the story of his younger brother Matthes, who also intended to migrate to South Australia, but died before he could do so.

MATTHES HUPPATZ
(28 October 1820 – 6 August 1853)

married 7 November 1846

LOUISE SONKE
(4 September 1824 – 24 September 1858)

Children:

1. Friedrich Wilhelm (10 Sept 1847 – 15 Nov 1935)
2. Martin (1850 -)
3. Maria (1854 -)

Matthes, brother to Johann Huppatz, was born in Turnow, Brandenburg, Prussia. He married Louise Sonke who was born in Preilack (youngest sister of his sister-in-law Maria Sonke), daughter of George Sonke, a large farmer. Louise's name in birth records was Elisabeth and was also known as Lisa-Luise.

Matthes and Louise's three children were born in Preilack, Prussia.

Monika Sonke, a Berlin historian, carried out further research regarding the Huppatz ancestors. No record for the emigration of Johann Huppatz and his family was to be found in the archives at Potsdam. This raises the question as to whether Johann somehow managed to evade the government bureaucracy as many did in those times.

In the course of her research, Monika found information relating to a younger brother of Johann. Matthes Huppatz lived at Preilack, not far from Peitz, Tauer and Turnow. The information concerned a series of correspondence between Matthes Huppatz, the Royal Government head office in Frankfurt/Oder and the government administration in Cottbus.

The correspondence was translated from the old German Script by Monika and the letters revealed the following:

January 31, 1853. Matthes Huppatz advised the government authorities that he wanted to sell his farm and emigrate to Adelaide, South Australia. The letter revealed that he lived at Preilack and was a 32 year old farmer. His wife Louise (nee Sonke) was 28. He had two sons, Friedrich aged five (born 1847) and Martin aged two (born 1850). It appears that he did not know the birthdates for his wife and sons as he was unable to provide them for the authorities.

February 25, 1853. Cottbus administration requested the Royal Government to grant the farmer, Matthes Huppatz of Preilack, a permit for emigration as the necessary clearance from the military had been approved (military service was compulsory in Prussia).

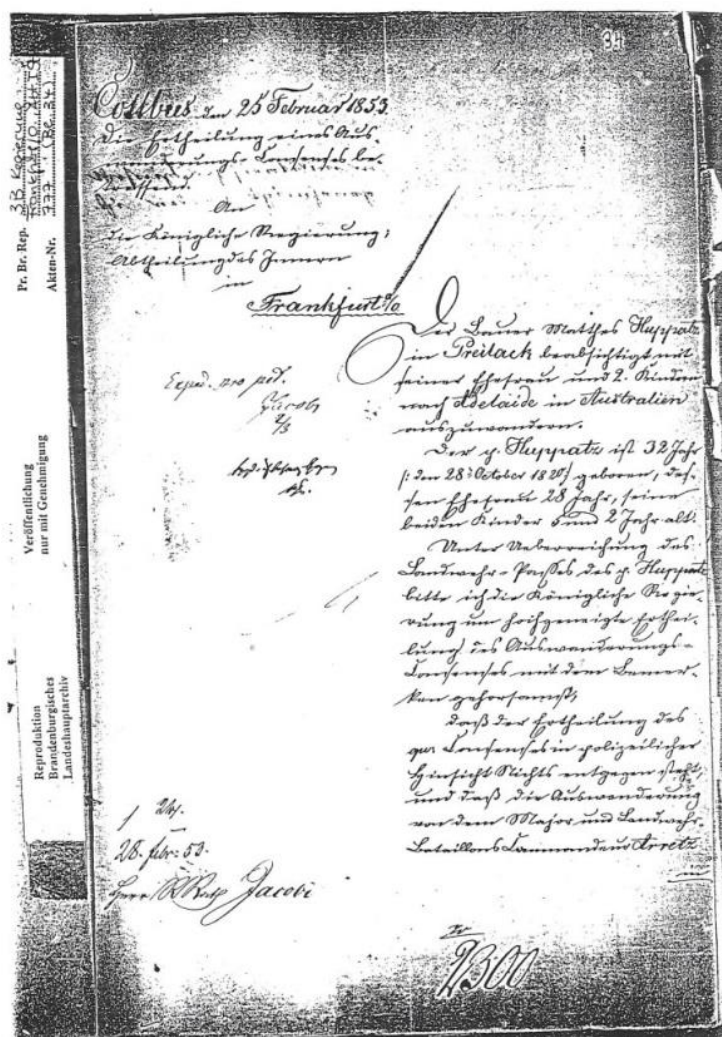
March 2, 1853. The Royal Government forwarded to the Cottbus administration the certificate of release from Prussian citizenship for Matthes Huppatz, a farmer of Preilack. It reiterated that the certificate was valid only for the named Matthes Huppatz, his wife and two children. The release was to take effect upon handing over the certificate. There was a charge of 15 silver pennies for the certificate. The Royal Government requested details concerning the valuation of any assets that he was to take with him to Australia.

March 24, 1853. A letter was sent by the Cottbus administration to the Royal Government. It detailed reasons for a postponement of the farmer Matthes Huppatz's emigration to South Australia. His farm had not sold; he had interested buyers, but a price was yet to be agreed upon. With a sale price of 3,000 thaler, he would have assets worth 1,500 thaler after payment of all debts.

There were no restrictions on people who wanted to leave the country at that time. However, certain regulations were required before departure took place. The letters give some indication of the necessary procedures and documentation that was required before an intending emigrant was able to leave Prussia in the nineteenth century. It was a frequent occurrence that many people left the country without relinquishing their Prussian citizenship as required by law.

In the records at Potsdam, Monika Sonke found a so called "cancellation" note or an annulment of the files concerning the planned emigration of Matthes Huppatz. He died in August that year before he had the opportunity to emigrate. His wife, Louise, was left a widow with two young sons. An entry was found in the Peitz church books for Matthes Huppatz, recording his death on August 6, 1853.

It seems feasible that Matthes had corresponded with his brother Johann, even though it would have taken several months for a letter to reach Adelaide by ship. It would have taken even longer before a reply was received. The fact that Johann and his family, as well as nearby neighbours, had already emigrated probably influenced Matthes to make the decision to take his wife and sons to start a new life in South Australia.



25 Feb 1853 document

Postscript:

Johann's nephew, Friedrich, the elder son of Matthes and Louise, came to Adelaide by 1875. Australian records show that the Huppatz who emigrated was named Friedrich and was about the same age as Matthes' son and was born in Brandenburg, Prussia. His full name was Friedrich Wilhelm Huppatz who became a hotel publican, and later a police constable in Adelaide.

The above extract, compiled by Rona McDonnell, is taken from the family book entitled *The story of Johann and Maria Huppatz and their descendants*.

Rona McDonnell (nee Huppatz)

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

Calendars:

I will take orders for Calendars for 2017 – 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 \$7 postage

Contact Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168),
email: ruth.walter43@gmail.com

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.

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

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