



Mrs Lillie Caldwell – an early Wendish researcher

Lillie Moerbe Caldwell – did you know that she was one of the first researchers of the Wends in Australia? She was an American from Texas and she visited Australia in 1964 to study the immigration of Wends to Australia in the 19th century.

In 1961 she had published a book titled *Texas Wends* which recorded information about Wendish families that settled at Serbin, Texas. A copy of this book can be read at Lutheran Archives, Bowden, SA.

She was the main organiser and instigator of the Texas Wendish Culture Club in 1972, which in 1977 became the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

She came to Australia in 1964 with the intention of writing a book about the Wends in Australia. She visited Brisbane, Canberra, Sydney, Walla Walla in NSW, and the Wimmera in Victoria.

Then she went to Adelaide and managed to get an article about her quest published in the daily newspaper, *The Advertiser*. Perhaps she did the same in the other states too. A number of people contacted her and assisted her with information. Among them was Dr Fred Blaess, the Archivist of the Lutheran Church.

Here is the article:

She's Tracing The History Of Wends

(article in *The Advertiser*, 12 June 1964, page 18)

Who are the Wends? It would be the \$64 question for most people. But ask genial, scholarly Mrs Joe Caldwell from Bridge City, Texas, and you'll get more answers than you bargained for.

Mrs Caldwell, who is in Adelaide with her husband, a former Texas oil man, is an authority on this obscure race of people whose origins have their roots in Saxony and Spreewald, Prussia, known as Upper and Lower Lusatia.

But this sprightly grandmother, who proudly identifies herself as "pure Wend", is making it her business to perpetuate the history of her former race which has become scattered in pocket settlements in America and Australia.

Her enthusiasm for her dedicated task brought her to Australia in April to trace members of the Wend race who migrated here in the early 19th century when religious persecution forced them to flee their country.

And Mrs Caldwell, who has already written a definitive volume of the Wend settlement in Texas under the title "Texas Wends. The First Half Century", has followed the trail of her people in Australia with the unerring scent of a bloodhound.



In Brisbane she tracked down the first Wend church established there at Nundah, and took advantage of early records to collect names of the first Wend settlers.

In Canberra she was quick off the leash to sniff out even the smallest detail from the Australian National Library that would add one more link to the spread of Wends in this country.

Sydney found her at the Mitchell Library where after days of fruitless searching, she finally pounced on photostats of 19th century ships' registers which carried well-known Wendish names.

These took her even further afield in NSW and Victoria to Walla Walla, the Wimmera, Albury and Horsham.

Continued on next page

But SA provided Mrs Caldwell with her richest rewards for her history of the Wends in this country.

The Archives not only revealed to her the names of some of the early Wend immigrants who had made their homes in the Barossa Valley, but sketches, etchings and daguerreotypes of some of the bewhiskered refugees who had come here to find a more secure life.

Perhaps Mrs Caldwell's greatest joy was the discovery that Ebenezer Church nestling in the valley was the Mother Church of her people, and it was from there that the Wends began their first trickle into the SA community.

Much of her research in Australia has depended on her knowledge of German – a language she studied at Lamar State College of Technology, Texas, to help her interpret early Wendish documents.

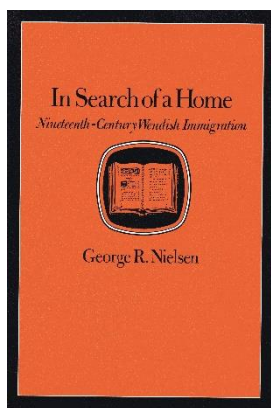
Lillie Caldwell returned to America to prepare her book, but it did not eventuate as she died suddenly in 1974.

But other researchers followed her to Australia.

Other researchers

In August 1967 **Dr Jan L Perkowski**, from the Department of Slavic Languages, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, USA, visited Australia to investigate the fate of Sorbian (Wendish) language here. His report, titled *The Sorbian Languages in Australia*, was published (in English) in the Sorbian magazine *Letopis*.

In 1969-1970 **Dr George R Nielsen**, from Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois, USA, received a Fulbright Research Grant to spend nine months in Australia researching the Australian Wends. His book, *In Search of a Home. Nineteenth-Century Wendish Immigration*, was published in 1977. It has become the authoritative account of Wendish migration.



In 1975 the Australian **Pastor Rupert Burger** wrote his article, *The Coming of the Wends*, and it was published in the *Yearbook of the Lutheran Church of Australia* 1976. His list of names of Wendish families was news for many of us.



However, she took pains to explain that although today much of the history of the Wends can only be found in German translations, the Wendish language is a unique, separate and compact one. It is now spoken only in Lusatia.

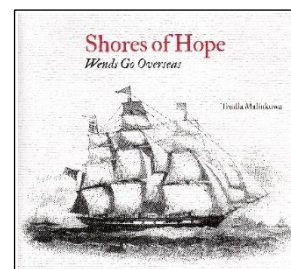
But her study of the Wends in Australia, which will probably be published in the US in the next two years, will be written in English.

And Mrs Wend (sic), feeling that it would be an invaluable asset in Australian archives, will send copies to leading libraries here.

However, before she settles down in her Bridge City study to unravel the intricate notes she has crammed into dozens of exercise books, Mrs Caldwell will finish two other books which are due for publication – a biography of the late American sportswoman Babe Didrickson, and a collection of fairy stories.

The works by Nielsen and Burger are the most detailed and reliable studies of Wendish migration to Australia. They have been the basis of much research into Wendish family histories.

Most recently, Sorb historian **Trudla Malinkowa** published the result of her investigation in Germany. The Sorb (Wendish) and German versions were published in 1995. The English translation, *Shores of Hope*, was published in 2009.



So you can see that research into the Australian Wends progressed greatly in the 30 years since Mrs Caldwell came to Australia in 1964. At that time few Australians knew anything about their Wendish heritage. However, thanks to these researchers we now have a new and detailed understanding of the history and culture of our Wendish ancestors.

Incidentally, did you or any family member have contact with Mrs Caldwell? If so, please let me know.

[Note: the books by Nielsen and Burger can be purchased from our Society – see page 8 of the newsletter for details.

I believe that a reprint of the English edition, *Shores of Hope*, will be made soon in America. Check the website texaswendish.org for details of when it will be available.]

Lyall Kupke

Coming Events

Sat 9th – Mon 11th March Wendish Heritage Society's Weekend Tour

This will be in the South East of South Australia. Places visited will be Millicent, Mount Gambier and Penola. Tour leader is Betty Huf.

It is hoped to unveil a new plaque on the grave of Pastor Kappler, the only Wendish pastor to come to Australia. You need to organise your own accommodation.

Please book by 28 February with Betty Huf (mobile 0439 724 959, or email bettyhuf@outlook.com)

Sat 20th – Sun 21st April Weekend Trip to the North (Appila & Booleroo)

When the Northern Areas became available for purchase by farmers in the 1870s, many German and Wendish families moved to the north and bought land. Large numbers established communities in the Appila and Booleroo districts. We will explore this area.

This will be a 2-day trip. You will need your own vehicle. No bus is provided.

Bookings are necessary. Contact Lyall Kupke (mobile 0431 991 385; or email kupkell@yahoo.com)

For more details about itinerary and accommodation etc, see the article on page 7.

Sun 19th May, 2 pm Talk: A Family Divided: Emigrants to Two Continents

Two brothers in the Biar family of Saxony decide to emigrate in the 1850s. One went to America, the other came to South Australia. Descendant and historian Geoff Saegenschnitter will tell their stories and recount how he reconnected with the American family in Texas.

This is one of the events of the *SA History Festival* in May.

At the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (**22 Avenue Rd, Glynde**). All welcome. No booking needed.

Sun 23rd June, 2 pm Talk: Two Pech soldiers in World War I

Garry Eckermann will tell the story of these Pech brothers.

At the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (**22 Avenue Rd, Glynde**). All welcome.

Sun 18th August, 2 pm Annual General Meeting

Followed by a talk by Heather Watkins on the 'Chaff Mill' Kleinig family.

At the Glynde Lutheran Homes hall (**22 Avenue Rd, Glynde**). All welcome.

Sympathy

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

Neta Noble

Robert Smyth (husband of Colleen)

Kerri Huppatz (wife of Ian in Melbourne)

Pastor Ian Kleinig

President's AGM Report (given on 20 Aug 2023)

We have appreciated the return to normal with a full program of activities this last year.

After the AGM last August Leona Coleman gave us a good overview of the Duldig family in Australia. They settled at Peters Hill; later one son moved to Worlds End. They made significant contributions to their communities.

In April our trip to Bethel and Kapunda was well-supported, despite the threat of rain. We were assisted by the local historians, Gary Schmidt and Neil Weichert, who are descendants of the original settlers. They gave us a good account of the Bethel settlement and church and led us to the Steinthal site. Lunch in Kapunda and a visit to the large and varied Kapunda Museum rounded off a great day.

Our History month talk in May was also well attended. John Zwar, OAM, presented an interesting account of his life in horticulture, and especially his involvement in the construction of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden at Port Augusta. This was John's vision, and a dedicated group of supporters have helped turn it into reality. John's love of trees and gardens is related to his upbringing in a Wendish family.

In June John Lowke told us about the Lowke family and their lives at Ebenezer and Light Pass. We were even introduced to some of John's own work as a distinguished physicist at the CSIRO and overseas.

We have arranged Saturday lunches at various hotels to provide opportunities for members to meet socially. In November we met at the Kensington Hotel, in February at the Goodwood Hotel, and in July at the Earl of Leicester Hotel. Small groups of around 25 people have been coming to enjoy being together, so we will continue to organise these.

Our newsletter continues to advertise our meetings and provide information about Wendish history and culture. We always welcome any contributions. Andrew Kolloosche continues to maintain our website which contains many interesting items. We thank him for this.

We are still working on our booklet about the Wends in South Australia, but the end is nigh. Can we publish this next year?

Finally, I wish to thank the members of our committee for the time and effort they willingly give. We must especially thank our efficient Secretary, Pauline Burger, and our reliable Treasurer, Leona Coleman, for their extra work. Ruth Walter has taken on the task of looking after our collections of Wendish dolls, which she is bringing to display at our meetings. And we are always looking for new members to come onto the committee.

Lyall Kupke

ELECTIONS:

The following office-bearers were elected at the AGM (20 Aug 2023):

President: Lyall Kupke	Vice-President: Brian Hennig
Secretary: Pauline Burger	Assistant Secretary: Ruth Walter
Treasurer: Leona Coleman	
Extra members: Marie Brazier, Lorraine Kempf, Heather Watkins, John Zwar.	

Update re KLEINIGs of CORTNITZ area to BAROSSA region 1851-1854 and onward

For several years we have been gathering information in our endeavour to compile a family history of the Kleinigs of Cortnitz, from their births, and sometimes marriages, in Cortnitz area, their journey/s to Australia and as early settlers at Ebenezer & St Kitts areas for the first 3, 4 generations.

From the records there were 7 Kleinig families who came to Australia.

From Cortnitz to Australia on *Helene* 1851, and settled in Ebenezer area:

JOHANN KLEINIG m.1/? m.2/2 1846 Hochkirch, MAGDALENA WENKE (to Aust with 3? Children)

ANDREAS KLEINIG m. in Aust. 1/2 1855 AGNES STEPHAN 2/2 1872 DOROTHEA JAEHNE

AGNETTA/AGNES KLEINIG m. 1854 Bethany, MATTHIAS SCHAUTSCHUIK – no known family

(no record of either Agnetta or Matthias voyage/s to Australia)

We have yet to confirm these 3 were siblings or a definite relationship between these 3 Kleinigs and the four listed below.

From Cortnitz to Australia on *Steinwarder* 1854, and settled St Kitts area, after relatively short stay at Ebenezer:

GEORG KLEINIG m. 1855 in Aust, Magdalena HUBNER

JOHANNA/ANNA KLEINIG m. Johann NIEMZ, in Germany.

Johanna & son Johann, embarked for Australia; Johanna died on voyage

MARIA KLEINIG m.?1/2 Miersch...daughter Johanna/ANNA MIERSCH m. Freund(t)

m. 2/2 Germany JOHANN JENKE, son Johann, born on voyage

JOHANN KLEINIG m. in Aust? MAGDALENA FALLAND – no known family

We have been able to confirm these 4 were siblings

We initially sought:

- To uncover the “back story” - the emigrants' ancestors, and their lives in Upper Lusatia, Germany
- The stories of the emigrants' journeys to Australia, and particularly their early settler days (gen. 1)
- Stories of their children (gen. 2), grandchildren (gen. 3), and possibly great-grandchildren (gen. 4)
- A listing of those and all subsequent descendants, to compile up-to-date family trees
Due to the complexity and numbers involved we will not be undertaking a detailed history of current families, but hopefully, with input from each family, an up-to-date listing.
- To gather copies of photos and documents, especially pertaining to the above-mentioned generations 1-4, with a view to using them to illustrate a Kleinig Family History book.
- To explore the possibility of holding an “all of Kleinig family” reunion
- We know other Family History Books contain snippets of information on the above families, and would appreciate you scanning or photographing the relevant page/s, & details of source, and forwarding to us.

We have gathered much of the above, but are hopeful there may be some hidden details you have yet to send. All information, certificates, records, photos of our ancestors and family homes, properties, etc., no matter how seemingly insignificant, will be gratefully received and copied, with the originals being returned.

We look forward to hearing from any who may be able to contribute to the Kleinig Family Search.

Thank you, in anticipation.

Heather Watkins (nee Kleinig)

Descendant of Johann Kleinig & Magdalena (Wenke)

Mob: 0428 621 384

email: k_hwatkins@bigpond.com

18 Investigator Crescent, Encounter Bay 5211

Naomi Eckermann (nee Kleinig)

Descendant of Andreas Kleinig & Agnes Stephan

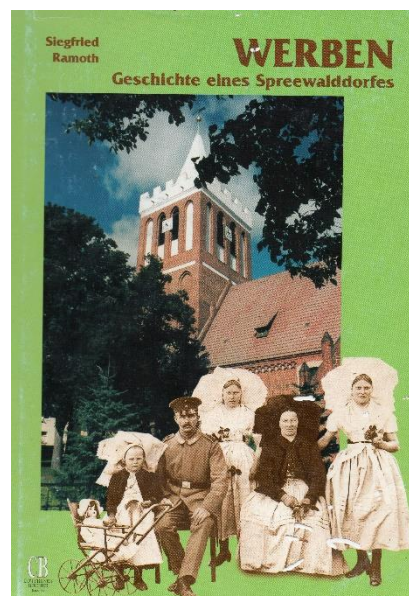
Garry Eckermann Mob: 0405 364 524

email: geckermann@internode.on.net

Emigrants from Werben to Australia

In the book, *Werben. Geschichte eines Spreewalddorfes*, by Siegfried Ramoth, there is a section about the migration to Australia in the 19th century (pages 88-95). At the end he lists the names of the emigrants from the Werben parish and the year of emigration, as compiled by a former pastor from the records. However, he states that some names are missing and some years cannot be established.

Nevertheless, it is a useful list, particularly as the village of Werben had the largest number of emigrants to Australia, according to Dr Nielsen. Only the heads of each family are listed. The names in brackets are alternate surnames.



Here is the list:

Baikow, Christian – 1882
 Baschzisch, Christian – ?
 Borrack, Matthes – 1854
 Böttcher, Christian – ?
 Bramke, Christian (from Ruben) - 1854
 Brischa, Matthes – ?
 Dahlitz, Christian – 1854
 Dahlitz, Matthes (Hansko) – 1858
 Dalitz, Matthes – 1859
 Dietrich, ... – ?
 Domaschenz, Christian – 1853
 Domaschenz, Georg – 1858
 Duschka, Christian – 1853
 Duschka, Martin – 1882
 Gardy, Matthes – ?
 Gniel, Christian (Muschwitz) – 1858
 Grabia, Matthes – 1865
 Gulbin, Christian – 1854
 Habner, Christian – 1858
 Habner, Matthes – 1858
 Handreck, Matthes – 1858
 Hanuschka, Friedrich – 1882
 Hussock, Christian – 1854
 Jaitz, Anna (from Brahmow) – 1854
 Jaitz, Christian (Roschk) – 1854
 Jarick, Christian – ?
 Knöfel, Matthes – 1858

Koalick, Matthes – 1854
 Konzack, ... – 1854
 Kolloosche, Christian – 1858
 Kschamer, Christian – 1858
 Lewitzka, Matthes (Baschzisch) – 1858
 Lukas, Matthes – 1858
 Markulla, Christian – ?
 Materna, Martin – 1858
 Mudra, Matthes – ?
 Noack, Liese (from Ruben) – 1866
 Noatna, Martin (from Brahmow) – 1854
 Paulenz, Matthes – 1858
 Rapko, Christian – 1858
 Riemer, Wilhelm – 1854
 Roschk, Matthes – 1854
 Sallmann, Anna (widow) – 1854
 Schiemenz, Friedrich – 1858
 Schöschki, Matthes – 1858
 Schippan, Martin – 1858
 Schlodder, Marie – 1864
 Schilka, Liese (unmarried) – 1858
 Starick, Albin – 1864
 Starick, Christian – 1858
 Twarz, Christian – 1858
 Voigt, Christian – 1854
 Voigt, Martin – 1858
 Zeug, Martin – 1865

We have a copy of this book in our collection. Written in 1995, it traces the history of the village from the 1300s. The book is written in the German language. However, there is an English translation of the section dealing with the migration to Australia. Contact me (Lyall Kupke) if you wish to read either of them.

Trip to the North (Appila & Booleroo) - 20-21 April

We are planning this trip for the weekend of 20-21 April. This district is about 3 hours drive from Adelaide, so in order to cover the whole district we need to stop there overnight.

When the Northern Areas became available for purchase by farmers in the 1870s, many German and Wendish families moved to the north and bought land. Large numbers established communities in the Appila and Booleroo districts. They built a number of Lutheran churches. We will explore this area.

Outline of program:

Saturday 20 April

12 noon – Meet at Laura

Afternoon – Visit Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Pine Creek, Appila, & cemetery

Visit Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Appila

Visit Appila township (site of the Great Northern Athletic & Cycling Carnivals on New Year's Day for 90 years)

Evening meal at North Laura Hotel

Sunday 21 April

9am – Church service at Laura Lutheran Church

Morning – Drive to the Bluff (top of Flinders Range) – scenic view

Lunch at Wirrabara or Melrose

Afternoon – Visit Booleroo district (4 Lutheran churches – Booleroo Centre, Fullerville, Pekina, Willowie)

Evening – Return home.

Accommodation:

There is limited accommodation available. However, the North Laura Hotel has a number of 2- or 3-bedroom apartments. We will make a group booking of these. We will need to know how many people will want to share these. Please notify Lyall Kupke of your interest by 1st March so that we can book the required number of apartments.

If you wish to find your own accommodation, here are some options:

- Laura Caravan Park (tel: 0448 118 348) – 4 cabins (with en suite)
- Stone Hut Cottages (tel: 0455 577 111; website: stonehutcottages.com.au)
- Gladstone Caravan Park – 3 cabins (with en suite)

It will also be in the middle of the school holidays. So it is important to book early.

Registration:

It is essential that you register your interest in this trip. You may come on one day only, if you like.

Register with Lyall Kupke (mobile: 0431 991 385; or email kupkell@yahoo.com)

If you wish us to organise your accommodation, please register by 1st March.

Would you like to get your newsletter by email?

There are some advantages in getting it by email.

- 1) You will get it sooner – as soon as it is ready for printing, well before it is posted.
- 2) You will also get it in colour. Colour printing costs too much, so it will only be printed in black and white. But by email you will get the pictures in colour.
- 3) The Society saves money if it doesn't print and post so many copies and that means we don't need to increase subscriptions, even though printing and postage rates have increased greatly.

If you wish to receive it by email in future, please indicate on the subscription renewal form that is with this newsletter.

However, if you have already paid up for the year, email me your request now.

For Sale

Books from Germany - in English:

- *The Sorbs of Germany* - \$10, plus \$3 postage
- *Upper Lusatia* - \$15, plus \$3 postage
- *Bautzen* - \$12, plus \$3 postage
- Korall & Schwikart, *Journey through the Spree Forest* (in English with lovely pictures) - \$35, plus \$10 postage
- *Five Centuries: The Wends and the Reformation* - \$40, 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

NEW book: Trudla Malinkowa, *Wendish Keepers* - \$30, plus \$10 postage
[The story of the four Wendish societies in Australia and America]

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 in 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, *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]

Wendish/Sorbian Flags (small, on a stick) \$5, plus \$3 postage

Contact Ruth Walter, 43 Clifton St, Prospect SA 5082, (tel. 08 8269 7168, mobile 0435 211 606),
email: ruth.walter43@gmail.com

Please make cheques or money orders to Wend Sorb Society of South Australia,
or email Ruth for Direct Debit (EFT) details.

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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