

Modern Language Association and the Arkansas Chapter of AATG. The session will convene at the Arlington Hotel in Hot Springs on 28 October 1977.

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1 Dona Reeves and Glen E. Lich, "Germans Along the Guadalupe: An Approach to the Study of Cultural Diversity," *Die Unterrichtspraxis*, 10 (Spring 1977).

### THE WENDS OF TEXAS

The Institute of Texan Cultures is preparing a new monograph in its series, *The Texians and the Texans*, which will give an account of the Wendish element in the state of Texas. Al Lowman, a research associate at the institute, is tasked with the project which will draw on several published accounts, as well as a forthcoming book, but for the most part, sources for the monograph will be provided by individuals of Wendish extraction, like Robert Robinson-Zwahr, from across the state whose interest has led them to collect primary research materials.

When the Institute of Texan Cultures opened in 1968, the Wends were one of the 26 ethnic groups recognized during the Hemisfair. This Slavic nationality settled initially in Lee County in 1853-1854. Like the Germans, Alsacians, Swiss, Austrians, Tyrolese, Bohemians, and Poles -- the Wends originated within the political and cultural confines of German-speaking Europe, but unlike all these other nationalities, the Wends did not leave Europe in response to the prevailing mood of economic depression. It was not poverty but dissatisfaction with the union of Old Saxon Lutherans with the Prussian Reformed Church in 1830, which prompted Pastor Johann Kilian of Dahlen (Saxony) to organize the migration to Texas of over 500 Wendish Lutherans.

Although the majority of the Wends and their descendants remained around the mother church at Serbin and in the nearby town of Giddings, a number of filial churches were established in other parts of the state. The diffusion by now has been extensive, yet, while assimilation is complete, the Wends have retained not only their ethnic identity, but also their unique heritage of trilingualism. Significant historical and cultural examinations of the Wends have been George Charles Marius Engerrand's *The So-Called Wends of Germany and Their Colonies in Texas and in Australia* (1934) and Anne Blasig's *The Wends of Texas* (1954).

The monograph of the Wends continues *The Texians and the Texans* series published by the Institute of Texan Cultures at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Other titles in the collection include *The Afro-American Texans* (1975), *The Anglo American Texans* (1975), *The Belgian Texans* (1975), *The Czech Texans* (1972), *The French Texans* (1973), *The German Texans* (1970), *The Greek Texans* (1974), *The Indian Texans* (1970), *The Italian Texans* (1973), *The Jewish Texans* (1974), *The Mexican Texans* (1975), *The Norwegian Texans* (1970), *The Polish Texans* (1972), *The Spanish Texans* (1972), and *The Syrian and Lebanese Texans* (1974).

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1 "Berricht über Leben and Wirken des sel. Joh. Kilian, weiland Pastors in Serbin, Texas," *Der Lutheraner*, 15 November 1884, pp. 171-172.