

Remembering John Buerfeind

John Buerfeind, one of the most prolific translators for the Wendish Research Exchange, passed away on 7 June at the age of 93. For the last 10 years John has translated from German into English handwritten and printed books, dissertations, articles, letters, and obituaries for the benefit of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and its members. His solid and accurate renderings number in the high hundreds and he did all of this willingly and freely. John was born in San Francisco and was sent to Germany with his sister at an early age when his mother died. When his father came to bring him back to America he could not leave Germany due to the war and was conscripted to serve in the Luftwaffe, as a teeneager, in an antiaircraft battery. After the war he served as a translator for the US Army, came back to America, joined the US Marines, received an education, and distinguished himself in church and industry as a capable and visionary leader. When he retired at 65 he picked up a brush and easel and became an artist. When he and his wife moved to Texas in 2010 and joined Zion Lutheran church in Walburg, where I met him, I asked him if he would like to do some translating. When he finished one he said he was willing to do another and he was not even Wendish.

We will miss his gentle spirit and willingness to serve. May he rest in peace until the glorious resurrection!

Weldon Mersiovsky