

Writes About Wends



GENEVA BERNSTEIN

Geneva Bernstein has prepared a paper for publication in the West Texas Historical year book, according to B. O. Grant, member of the association's executive board.

The paper deals with the early history of the Wendish people. It is of much interest because it deals with a little-known nationality. By most people the Wends are considered German, but this isn't true, for the Wendish people were united long before the Germans states came into being, as Miss Bernstein points out.

Miss Bernstein deals primarily with the Wends in West Texas, their hardships and the part played by them in the settling of the frontier.

She includes amusing incidents because of language barriers, and customs strange to the people among whom they settled. These oddities add color and interest to a very informative paper, according to Mr. Grant.

DAR Hears Story of "Forgotten Wend"

Geneva Bernstein spoke on "The Forgotten Wend" at Lee's Legion Chapter, daughters of the American Revolution, meeting Wednesday, Nov. 6, at the G. P. Crutch-

field home.

Miss Bernstein traced the ancestry of the Wends, a people of Slavic descent, beyond the Christian era. She told of their struggle for freedom and a national existence through the centuries. First migration west of the Elbe began in the 6th century.

A continued resistance to the encroachment of the German Empire brought oppression and further migration, Miss Bernstein said. "It was in 1854 that a group of 600 colonists landed at Galveston, Texas. Through hardship and trial they gradually established settlements in many counties of

the state."

Miss Bernstein is a descendant of John Zock, Sr., who came to Texas with the 600 colonists and whose descendants were Shackelford County pioneers.

The program was preceded by the ritual, pledge of allegiance and American's creed and a business session conducted by the regent, Mrs. F. M. Johnson.

The hostess, Mrs. Crutchfield, served a refreshment plate to Mmes. P. K. Clarke, D. C. McCord, F. M. Booker, Clarence Waller, F. M. Johnson, Albert Porter, and Miss Lora Williams, members, and Miss Bernstein, a guest.

Albany, Texas, Thursday, November 14, 1957