On June 4, 2005 at 11.42 a.m. four men and one woman cut the customary ribbon in front of the new Johannes Schilling House in Mittweida, Saxony. The chairman of the Schilling association, Helmuth Baron von Schilling, Frank Schmidt, the Secretary of the Saxon Department of Science, the mayor of Mittweida, Matthias Damm, the director of the museum, Heiko Weber and Johannes Schilling’s great-granddaughter Ina Nickel did the cutting.

The celebration of the opening of the museum in honor to the sculptor Johannes Schilling was the most important event on the occasion of the 15th reunion of the Schilling family between June 3 and 5, 2005. 101 members of the family from ten countries came to the “Kriebstein Hotel” near Mittweida. About thirty persons took the bus from Mainz, the others came by car or train.

Friday night cousin Helmuth, welcoming the guests with a speech, said how happy he was that so many members of the family had come to the reunion. He reminded them of the fact that they were about to celebrate a sort of jubilee as the first family reunion after the war was at Usingen, Taunus, forty years ago. Baron Erich von Schilling, who was the secretary of the association at the time, had organized it in 1964.

40 years ago only 37 Schillings had come, 7 of them were in Kriebstein as well: Helene, Isabelle, Ruth and Ebba von Schilling, Ute Foy from Guadeloupe and Heinz Schilling v. Canstatt. Only three members of the association were at all the reunions: Heinz, Ruth and Ebba.

People of almost every age-group came to lake Kriebstein. The eldest was Christine Wiskow, who had celebrated her 90th birthday in Janu January, the youngest were not even one year old: Paul Schilling v. Canstatt (five months) and Lukas Klockenhoff (eleven months) Helge, and Oscar Schilling, coming from Chile, had the longest way.

Punctually at 10 o’clock the next day the celebration of the opening of the museum started in the assembly hall of the Pestalozzi School, Mittweida. The Secretary of State Schmidt, Mayor Damm, cousin Helmuth and the director of the museum, Heiko Weber, held speeches followed by classical music. They all made clear that Johannes Schilling’s native town was fulfilling a promise given to the sculptor’s heirs in 1913. After his death in 1910, Johannes’ sons had given the greatest part of his estate to the town council, various plaster models, his desk and a harpsichord,
built according to the special wishes of the artist, who was an extremely musical person.
The museum, however, was never opened. World War I, the bad situation between the wars, World War II and the communist regime in Eastern Germany afterwards put an end to these plans. Only after the GDR ceased to exist they were able to start the project. In his speech cousin Helmuth praised the commitment of Heiko Weber, the director of the museum, who was the first to tell him about the project in the year 2000. The chairman thanked the members of the town council of Mittweida for putting the building at our disposal free of charge and the State of Saxony for taking over the costs of the renovation out of their Fund for Protection of Historical Monuments. He also thanked the “Kupferstichkabinett” in Dresden for exhibiting in Mittweida 1087 of Johannes’ drawings, a loan-collection coming from the archive of the family association.
Cousin Helmuth concluded his speech: “Bringing the drawings back to Dresden 1966 my predecessor, our honorary chairman Heinz.” Schilling v. Canstatt said: “1087 children are coming back home. In fact, I think, they are coming home today.” Mayor Damm paid tribute to Johannes Schilling’s work and to the fact that he was one of the most important sculptors of the 19th century. He thanked the family association for their commitment and for contributing to the yearly expenses of the house.
After the ribbon was cut the members of the family and the guests had the opportunity to visit the museum. Plaster models, graphic drawings and paintings as well as the furniture of his study are being exhibited in the beautiful three-storied house.
The visitors marveled at the various rooms; they were especially enthusiastic about the room on the ground floor, painted in the red color of Pompeii. Following the opening of the museum the Schillings walked to the market square of Mittweida, which was only recently finished, and admired the house where Johannes was born and the memorial plaque on its frontage. Afterwards they all went into the local bank in order to look at the bronze replica of a nymph, Johannes designed for a fountain on the market square. The project was never realized, because in 1905 the town council was not able to raise the necessary money. The price should be 30,000 Reichsmarks, the town council could not afford more than 15,000. A family-reunion means stress for the Schillings. At 2 p.m the bus already left Mittweida for the Trinitatis (Trinity) Church in Meissen-Zscheila. The crypt of this church holds the graves of six generations of Schillings, all of them members of the Proschwitz branch of our family, to which Johannes belonged. In 1943 Heinrich Johannes’ son, had seen to it that the mortal remains of his father Johannes, his grandfather and great-grandfather were brought from the Trinitatis Cemetery, Dresden to Zscheila.
The local Reverend Lemke welcomed the members of the family-association, while the organist Sabine Nacke enjoyed all playing the organ. Cousin Ina Nickel had beautifully organized the ceremony; she had even placed candles along the stairs to the crypt. Many Schillings dared to climb down the rather steep stairs in order to visit the crypt. The association decided to thank the congregation for their efforts renovating the old church and made a donation of €1 000.

After visiting the death we were granted a little rest at our next destination with sparkling wine, coffee or tea and delicious cake. Proschwitz Castle was in the possession of the Proschwitz-branch between 1704 and 1780. The present owner, Georg Prinz zur Lippe, took the visitors on a tour round the house and the beautiful garden. Nowadays the castle serves as a center of administration and communication of a large wine-growing estate.

The members of the family returned to the hotel just in time for the banquet. Some untiring talkers sat together till the early morning hours. Nevertheless at 10.15 h the next morning the family assembled for morning prayers with cousin Detlef Rüther, while cousin Anna v. Korff beautifully played the flute. The official part was finished after the board meeting. But still a group of 70 members of the family went to see Kriebstein Castle, one of the most beautiful castles of Saxony.

On Monday 42 stalwarts left for Prague, which was very impressive in spite of the very cold weather. Filled with new impressions those, who took the bus back to Mainz arrived safely Wednesday night.
A tiny compensation for our house in Dresden-Klotzsche
Chairman’s report at the general meeting

Cousin Helmuth told us about the greatest problem the board had been busy with for the last four years: The compensation for the house in Dresden Klotzsche. The beautiful villa was Johannes’ home. After his death his children inherited the building. In 1927 his son Heinar donated it to the Schilling association that had recently been founded in Dresden.
In 1946 the association was disbanded by the Soviet Occupying Power, who expropriated the whole estate including the house.

Immediately after the wall was opened, the association tried to get the building back. The Unification Treaty however dealt only with property expropriated by the GDR and excluded the return of any property expropriated by the Soviets. The former owners received only a very small compensation. In our case they fixed a sum of € 35,790.43.
But now we had a real problem: According to the statues from 1927 in case of disbanding the last chairman was to hold the property of the association in trust. After his death he was supposed to be succeeded by his male descendants. The department in charge of solving the question of property in case of expropriation made Heinar’s son Heinar jun. trustee. The association tried to make the best of this decision. The chairman arranged a meeting with Heinar who then lived near Hamburg. Result: Heinar let the association half the refunded sum (€ 17,895).
The board decided to spend the sum as follows:
4,000 € went to the Johannes Schilling house in Mittweida, € 3,000 went to Estonia for the urgent renovation of Orgena (see p. 10), the ancestral home of the Baltic Schillings, and our treasurer invested € 11,000 in fixed-income funds in order to use the interest payments for supporting the future family reunions.

To cousin Helmuth’s regret the meeting of the young members of our family that cousin Frank and cousin Reinhard in 2003 tried to organize in Weinheim and which they were ready to finance, had to be cancelled, since hardly anyone was interested. Helmuth asked all parents to persuade their children to join the association when they are over 18 years of age. While they have not finished their education or no own income, they do not have to pay any fees.

Treasurer’s report

Our treasurer Hans v. Schilling gave his report to the participants of the general meeting. (see p. 20).
The auditor Hans-Wolfgang v. Schilling had already examined the financial records in April and confirmed that the books and the bank accounts were in order. Cousin Hans informed us of the closing of the bank account in Great Britain, since Rachael v. Schilling-Payne moved to Canada in August 2004. The money was transferred to the Canadian bank account.
The German branch will look after the British members of the family now.
The treasurer is annoyed that he has to send so many reminders in order to collect the annual fees. Regarding to this the participants of the meeting suggested that late payers might get three reminders in total. If they do not pay after the first two their membership is to be suspended for one year. If there is still no payment after the following third reminder, the person will be excluded. After the treasurers report cousin Henry from Canada proposed to exonerate the board and approve of their work. The motion was passed by unanimously with the abstention of the board.
The members present were also told that the board for a while had discussed the initiation of a foundation. With that, financial contributions would become tax-deductible for the members, which might encourage them to pay higher fees, make donations or leave some money or valuables to the association after their death. Hans, however, found out, that it is impossible for a family association to get a charitable status; so it is pointless to pursue this idea.

Definitely: Family reunion 2008 will be in Virginia

Resolution after animated debate at the general meeting

After a detailed discussion the participants of the meeting decided to have the next family reunion in Virginia, USA, in 2008 (p. 9). Since in 2002 most of those who voted in favour of the USA had chosen Virginia already they followed a recommendation of the board.

Cousin Helmuth was asked to contact Claude (Lex) Eley and Meredith Scott for help with the organisation. Now we shall have to fix a suitable date and will have to decide which time of the year would be best. Someone pointed out that spring or fall would be preferable to the hot Virginian summers. The chairman proposed the Easter-time when definitely all the German schools are on vacation. Especially German members with children would perhaps like to be able to prolong their visit in the States.

Please let the chairman know your wishes.

e-mail: hvschill@yahoo.de
New junior representative: Yasmine Foy

Having passed the age limit and for health reasons Hubertus v. Schilling, our youth representative of many years retired in 2004. The chairman thanked him for his work and proposed Yasmine Foy for the job. When asked, she accepted with pleasure. All the members of the meeting voted in her favour.

Yasmine was born on December 4, 1979, on Guadeloupe. She is the daughter of Ute v. Schilling and Alain Foy. After her school-education in Frankfurt, Germany, she became a hotel manager. She is living in Paris at the moment and working in a hotel.

New deputy in the USA

Our deputy in the USA, Mei Ling St. Leger, had to give up her duties because of her husband being seriously ill. Some time ago the board asked Claude (Lex) Eley from Hot Springs, Virginia, to take over. He agreed right away. The members at the general meeting, appreciating this decision, accepted it unanimously.

From the family branches

Western branch

Coat of arms detected in Thuringia

In his genealogical works Heinar Schilling, who died in 1955 kept mentioning a certain date, which was highly doubted, but very interesting: August 15, 1556. On this day in Breslau six branches of the family supposedly signed a contract settling the inheritance. They were the branches from Anhalt, Poland, the Baltic countries and the Rhineland. The southern branch (Canstatt) was missing, according to Heinar because of some old quarrel. The original document was supposedly lost when Dresden was bombed in 1945, but Heinar left a copy of a transcription made in the year 1774, which was officially witnessed.

What was the contract about?

After the death of Friedrich III from the Posen branch of the family his descendants had an argument about his estate. At that time the family owned a couple of ore mines and several estates. The agreement seems to have helped solve the problems. Much later the contract is still mentioned in the genealogical tables of five branches. Even the head of the of the family was chosen in accordance with this paper.

In the 18th century again there was an argument about the inheritance. Before his death Heimard Schilling (died in 1716) had made a will: In accordance with the contract he passed the position of the head of the family over to the Meissen branch (Jacob IV), which later became the Proschwitz branch. Heimard Schilling seems to have been a very interesting person. He served in the Dragoon Regiment of Bayreuth that fought the Turks and helped liberate Vienna from them in 1683. Heimard was also involved in the conquests of Hungary and Belgrade. On June 7, 1710 he was ennobled by the Emperor Joseph I, and he was promoted to major general.

In 1700 approximately Heimard had bought the estates of Lindenberg and Hassenburg near Coburg. After his death he left them to his daughters Magdalena Barbara and Dorothea Magdalena, but only the proceeds of the estates were at their disposal. Eventually Heimard had left considerable debts from the maintenance of the Regiment of Bayreuth. The sum given varies from 10000 to 20000 Reichstaler. His daughters neither had the funds nor did they want to pay and refused to discharge his debts. They brought the matter to court instead. The sisters probably wanted to get access...
to the whole estate that their father had left to Jacob from Meissen.

Gretel Bauer mann, our genealogist, found out that the case files are still being kept in the state archives of Gotha. She got copies right away. The legal action was not only taken by his daughters, but also by his sister Anna Sophia, who was married to Friedrich von Sydow. The case went on from 1716 to 1720 and again from 1723 to 1772. In the end they agreed to an out-of-court settlement of 4,500 Reichstaler.

The documents of Gotha prove that some sort of contract really had existed and that the Schillings did own estates near Coburg. Especially the estate of Lindenber g (now in the state of Thuringia) is mentioned in the documents.

And it is just unbelievable: our busy cousin found out that right on top of the rectangular entrance of the house there was a family crest, showing the branch with the three leaves, just the crest of the western Schilling family. And we were lucky: Though the building has been renovated several times, the crest is still there.

Bell with Schiling-name
She also read that on the ridge of a gate house there was a turret with a bell from 1754 with the names of Freiin v. Wuerzburg (Magdalene Barbara Schilling had married Johann Ludwig v. Wuerzburg) and of G. Freiin v. Schilling. Unfortunately this house has been pulled down in the beginning of the 20th century. Nobody knows where the bell has gone.

The v. Wuerzburg family sold Lindenber g to the v. Kessel family and later it was owned by the Spessart family.

Today the present owners, the Spiegel family, have made the house their home. It was Mr. Spiegel who gave the old photos to the community who sent us a copy.

Search for Waltraud, née Schilling and her daughter Gesa
Where are the missing descendants of the Kleckewitz-branch?

And cousin Gretel Bauer mann who keeps on searching for genealogical news of our family got further informations about another branch of the Schilling family.

In the 19th century descendants of the Kleckewitz branch (see Schilling Courier 2004) came to the Baltic countries. They were ennobled by the Russian tsar and called themselves Barone von Schilling, just like the members of the eastern branch.

One of this family (Karl, who died in 1934) was as a professor and taught at the university of Dorpat (now Tartu). He had three children, a son and two daughters. When his only son Karl was killed in Russia in 1941 the male line was extinct.

But none of us ever heard what had happened to his two daughters: Susanna (born in 1917) and Waltraud (born in 1919).

Last year eventually we received an e-mail by a Frank Martinoff, who had come to know that there might be a connection between his family and the Schillings.

By doing some research we finally found another Martinoff family in London who told us, that on March 23, 1940 Waltraud had married Ralf Martinoff, who was killed in Stalin grad in 1941. Obviously Waltraud got remarried to a high-ranking SS officer and emigrated to Canada or the USA after the war.

Waltraud and Ralf Martinoff had a daughter called Gesa (Gisela), who was born on March 6, 1941 in Posen (today Poznań, Poland). She is said to have married a Mr. Smith in the USA.

Unfortunately her whereabouts are unknown even to the Martinoff-family. And we were not able to find out anything about Waltraud’s sister Susanna.

We keep looking for them.
The fotos show Lindenberg about the year 1900. The third foto, ‘Altes Rittergut’ shows the old gate-house where the bell with the name of G- Frein v. Schilling was hanging. The ’Schilling’s Gasthaus (Pub)’ existed till ten years ago, whether there is a link to our family cannot be traced.
Before organizing our family reunion in Virginia some of us need information about the Schilling roots in the USA. Freiherr (Baron) Georg Friedrich Schilling v. Canstatt was the first, who had the courage to make the trip to the new world. In 1787 he had a stormy passage across the Atlantic; a year later he got married to Magdalene Falkenhahn in New York. Since business in New York was rather low, in 1792 he and his family left the city going back to Europe to settle in London. Georges’ son James Ernst (1803 – 1876) was a successful tobacco merchant in London. In 1829 he married Louisa Morgan (1808 – 1896). Since he had always wanted to own land and as he had thought the chances would be better overseas, he had seen to it that several acres of land in Texas and 3000 acres in Virginia were held in reservation for him to buy. But before he was able to leave London a friend of his unfortunately destroyed all his plans. He swindled him out of £ 1000, equivalent to $ 50,000 at that time. Nevertheless in 1849 the family arrived in America, after a passage of six weeks. They were forced to live in an abandoned cabin in Virginia near the land they had intended to buy, until later on they were able to build a suitable shelter. They raised sheep and grew vegetables and grains for their own use. They had to many hardships in comparison to their life of ease in London.

In 1858 James Ernst took charge of a large estate belonging to a planter, he also kept the books. During the Civil War (1861-1865) the family was between the two lines. When the sons refused to enlist in the Confederate Army, the authorities took their spite out on the father. They arrested him and kept him a prisoner. His wife finally obtained his release, but not until he was ill. Feeling very miserable after his release from prison, he gathered together his belongings and his family and moved to Parkersburg, West-Virginia, where he worked as a bookkeeper for several years. He later moved to Volcano, West-Virginia, where he lived until his death in 1876. A couple of years after his death his wife and their daughter Philippina Harriet moved to Los Angeles.

From his four sons, William (1835 – 1914) was most successful. He moved to Oregon and bought the island of San Miguel in California. His sixteen children from two marriages started the large Californian branch of our family. James Ernest’s seven brothers and sisters had stayed on with their parents in London.

His brother George Frederick (1809 – 1888) is the ancestor of the English branch.

Fort Monroe was built in 1863 under the command of Franz Schilling v. Canstatt: The bullets of this huge canon were so large that they had to be loaded by a blocks and tackle. The enormous fortification helped the US-troops to win the Civil War.
US-Major Franz Wilhelm

Another member of the southern branch of the family distinguished himself in Virginia: Franz Wilhelm (1832 – 1895). As you could read in the Schilling Courier 2001, in 1855 Franz was promoted second lieutenant in the 3rd Infantry Regiment in Mannheim (Germany).

In 1861 he quit the service with the permission to enlist in a foreign army. He and his brother Ludwig emigrated to America. When they arrived the Civil War had just started and Franz enlisted in the Confederate Army in the rank of an officer. On March 22, 1862 he was ordered to build a fort on one of the islands in the Delaware. In September 1863 he was given the task to build Fort Monroe in Virginia. Franz was promoted to major and fought in several battles, one of them under General Grand near Wilsonwarft on the River James.

In 1869 Franz married Molly Booker, a farmer’s daughter from an old Virginian family. After his father-in-law’s death he and Molly inherited the farm. Unfortunately, however, it soon became clear that the farm had suffered a lot from the war so that they had to sell. Franz took various jobs until he fell ill. In 1890 he returned to Germany which his brother had already done before. Five years later he died in Karlsruhe.

His wife and their two sons, Franz and Marshall, stayed on in the USA; they are the ancestors of the large Virginian branch of our family.

The estate of Orgena is of the greatest importance to the eastern branch, since it was the place, where their ancestor Carl Gebhard made his permanent home. When last year they were told that the roof was in danger of collapsing the news came as a shock. The members of the local council of Jaerva (St. Johannis) told us that replacing the roof would cost € 32000 and asked the family for help. Fortunately last year cousin Juergen had already sent € 25000 for the maintenance of the building. Now the association had a problem. If we were not able to raise the missing € 7000, the building would fall to pieces and the local government would use Juergen’s donation for other purposes. The chairman asked the members of the Orgena branch to contribute to the roof and eventually collected € 2000. We provided an additional € 3000 taken from the money we received in compensation for the house in Klotzsche and € 2000 from the savings of the association, because because the association had spent much less money on the eastern branch than on the other branches before. Meanwhile Orgena has a new roof. The director of the local government wrote to cousin Helene: “With a certain feeling of happiness I can tell you that our agreement was successful, the roof of Orgena is finished. Thanks to your help we were able to pay the building contractor’s bill. Many thanks to Dr. Juergen von Schilling, Helmuth von Schilling, to you, Mrs. Helene von Schilling and to all those, I do not know.”

Right now some of the rooms of the manor house of Orgena are being used by a neighboring school. On the upper floor they started to put up a museum with one room in honor to the Schilling family and the family of the Reverend von Gebhardt. His son Eduard was a famous painter who also painted portraits of the Schillings at Orgena.
Winner in a TV quiz show

Last September numerous members of the family and some friends phoned the chairman: They had watched a family by the name of von Schilling in a TV quiz show. Now they were curious to know, who this family was. Though cousin Helmuth had not watched the show he found out the details rather quickly: They were Hans-Wolfgang and Iska v. Schilling with their children Valerie (20) and Cornelius (18) from the Eastern branch (Juergensberg).

The show was named “The great IQ-test”. It was moderated by the show-master Günther Jauch who is working for the television transmitter RTL and is very popular in Germany. Ten groups, each of 20 people were tested, any of them had to fulfil certain requirements: The groups contained of members of the nobility, farmers, people from the east part of Frisia (a part of Germany were people are said to be stupid) carrier women, judges, university students, door keepers, town dwellers and soccer players. The members of nobility were the winners, shortly ahead of the students. And of course thanks to the Schillings. We congratulate.

A visit to Müntenhof

On the occasion of his 40th wedding anniversary Cousin Kurt v. Schilling from Canada (Eastern branch, House Serrefer) had invited his four children with their partners for a trip to Estonia. One of the destinations was

Müntenhof estate, situated about 3 km southeast of Paide (Weissenstein), which Kurt’s grandfather Walter bought in 1896. After the dispossesssion the house was used in different ways. In 2004 the art teacher Mrs Parmasto spontaneously bought the very rotten house and is dreaming to establish a local art school in it.

Theme: Heinar Schilling

Last year we received an e-mail by Nadia Kittel from Dresden, a university student, studying German literature. She is writing a ‘Magisterarbeit’ on Heinar Schilling and asked for further information. Besides being an interested genealogist, Heinar was a writer, one of his books is a famous world history (see Schilling Courier 2004). We were able to help. There are some of Heinar’s books in our archive, his diaries and letters among them. Eventually Nadia stayed with our chairman in Düsseldorf for three days, looking through all the books while her university professor kept thinking that there was no information left about Heinar Schilling at all.

We invited Nadia to the family reunion in Mittweida, where she was able to attend the ceremony in honor to Heinar’s father Johannes.

The aunt’s historic estate

Kurt Huebner from Berlin had watched a TV program about the opening of the Johannes Schilling Museum in Mittweida. The name reminded him of his aunt Sylvia Brueckner née Schilling v. Canstatt, who after her death in 1987 had left him a couple of historical documents. Looking for the Schillings he found our chairman. Helmuth was surprised to learn about the documents in Berlin, which Kurt Huebner had originally planned.
Class reunion can take place

Sometimes the chairman receives the most peculiar calls. Some time ago a man phoned him, who was organizing a class reunion. He was desperately looking for the address of Hans von Schilling (Eastern branch, House Juergensberg) in Blankenheim, Harz, GDR, and whose family in 1957 had fled the country in order to go to western Germany. The chairman was able to help, because the person he was looking for is our secretary. Two classmates had found each other after 48 years; now the class

Reprint of the ‘Red Helmuth’

After cousin Helmuth has retired from work he and his wife Ebba spent much time preparing a revised edition of the “Red Helmuth”, which was first published 18 years ago. The book is about the history of the Eastern branch, including a family tree. Many mistakes had to be corrected and the particulars had to be brought up to date.
The book is a ring binder with a red cover. On the occasion of the family reunion 50 sets were sold. You can easily replace the old set of leaves in your ring binder. I now offer the new set to all those members of the eastern branch, who did not attend the family reunion. The set of leaves is € 5 plus postage, the cover is an extra € 3.

Please order from:
Helmuth von Schilling, Otto-Hahn-Str. 4, 40591 Düsseldorf.
Tel.: 0211/750106,
e-mail: hvschill@yahoo.de

DNA-screening for surnames

There was an information coming from the USA that “Family-Tree“, a computer programme for genealogy started a project to compare the DNA (genealogical code) of male persons with the same family name in order to prove their affiliation to a certain family group. There are fees for the tests but would it not be interesting to have such tests made within our family association?

Schilling-Courier

Publication dates: yearly:
Editor: Verband des Hauses Schilling
Responsible: Helmuth v. Schilling
Arrangements: Dr. Ebba v. Schilling
Photos: Andreas Funke (p.1), Matthias Hofer (p 2,3,4,5), Ebba v. Schilling (p 3,4,,6), Hayo Colle (p3,4), Hans-Wolfgang v. Schilling (p. 11).
Many thanks to Ulrich Kohlschmidt and the community of Neuhaus-Schlierschnitt for the old and the actual photos of the manor and the place Lindenber
Schillings worldwide

There are members of the „Verband des Hauses Schilling“ in 17 states of the world, on four continents except of Asia. Most of the more than 300 members are living in Germany. But 57 are residents of USA and 32 of Canada. 8 family members made their home in Australia, one member is living in New Zealand, one couple in Chile. Above and on the following pages you can see the places where more members are to be found.
Europe
World