

Schilling-Courier



Descendants of Heinrich Schilling, Lord of Lahnstein Castle, who died in 1221

Schilling Association: News and annual report 2008

Gala dinner with fifes and drums

98 people came to a wonderful family reunion in Virginia/USA

Fifers and drummers in historic costumes led the way of 98 members of the Schilling Family Association to the magnificent dining room of the Woodlands Hotel in Williamsburg. The evening was the highlight of the family reunion in the USA (March 20 until March 24). On Thursday night (March 20, 2008) the reunion started in the hotel lobby. Helmuth, the chairman of the association, welcomed the guests, while our cousin Meredith Stanley Scott and Claud (Lex) Eley presented them with a beautiful folder holding the necessary information.

Helmuth was pleased that so many people had come to the first reunion in the USA. About 40 European and 20 Canadian members had taken all the trouble to go on this long trip, altogether seven countries were represented.

The oldest member was eighty, the youngest three years old. Helmuth said: "It's about time we had a family reunion in the States." After all in 1861 Franz Wilhelm Freiherr Schilling von



Drummers and fifers started the evening off with music

Canstatt (1832-1895) had left his native town Karlsruhe and had taken all the trouble to cross the Atlantic Ocean in order to settle in the New World. Eventually he got married and together with his wife Mollie Booker he founded the large Virginian branch of the family. The chairman mentioned also the Californian branch with their

ancestor James Ernest Schilling v. Canstatt and those members of the Baltic branch, who emigrated to Canada after the Second World War.

In 1773 one of the western Schillings had already gone to the New World. After fighting in the War of Independence, however, he had returned to Germany. On

Friday morning (March 21) the Schillings visited the historic sites of Williamsburg, an outdoor museum with wonderful colonial buildings. In 1699 Williamsburg had become the capital city of the colony of Virginia. In the afternoon Jamestown, the first settlement of the English speaking population of America was on our list, where in 1607 103 Englishmen and a German botanist had settled. On the next day (March 22) the members of the reunion paid a visit to the Hampton History Museum, giving their attention to their ancestors. Hampton is the place where Franz von Schilling's sons grew up and the family made money. Mayor Ross Kearney welcomed the family:

"We appreciate your visiting. The Schillings have a good reputation in this town." On the cemetery of St. John's Church the chairman laid a wreath on Mollie's grave. A couple of years after his wife's death Franz fell seriously ill and returned to Karlsruhe, where he eventually died and was buried. In St. John's Church Jean, the grand lady of the Virginian branch remembered in a speech the hard beginnings of her great grandpa-



Governor's Palace in Williamsburg. Paul, the youngest member of the reunion, is in the centre of the picture

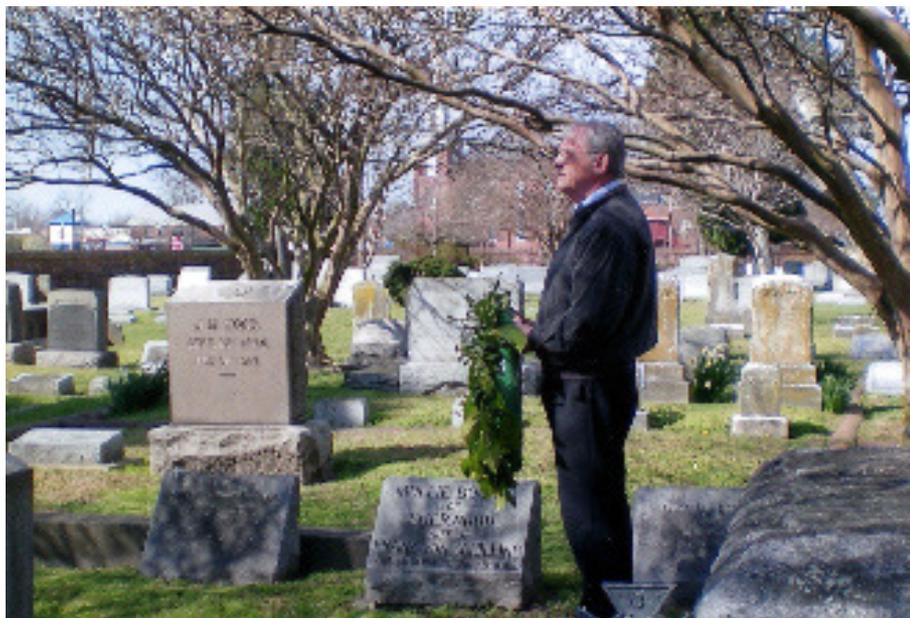
rents Franz and Mollie in America.

Eventually the members of the reunion adjusted to the former military position of the family. The weather was magnificent, when the Schillings went for a wonderful boat trip down the river to Norfolk harbour on the Atlantic coast, admiring the world's largest Naval Station, homeport of the modern aircraft carriers of the Nimitz-class. Later in Fort Mon-

roe, where Franz was stationed during the Civil War, the old and considerably large cannons actually looked much dustier. The tour of the fort that played such an important role in the victories over the rebels in the Civil War was rather impressive.

This extremely interesting day was crowned with a gala dinner in the Cascades-Hall, close to our hotel. The rooms were magnificently decorated. A table in the hall held the flags of the seven countries represented by the members of the reunion: Germany, USA, Canada, Sweden, England, Finland and France. The front wall of the room into which the fifers and drummers led the guests, was decorated with a flag and the crest of the Schillings von Canstatt.

In his speech Helmuth mentioned the fact that 139 years ago Franz Schilling v. Canstatt had married Mollie Booker. "If this wedding had not happened, we would not be here." On the next day, Easter Sunday, some of the members of the family had a rather early start. They attended



Helmuth lays a wreath on Mollie's grave



Old and modern boats: Replica of the Jamestown-ship "Godspeed" and modern aircraft carriers

the sunrise service at 5.30 h in the Bruton Parish Church. Because of the expected number of visitors tickets had been issued. Late risers were welcome to attend a later service if they wanted to.

At 10 h the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the lobby of the hotel.

Later in the day the members of the family held their meeting confirming the board for the next six years. Everything remains unchanged:

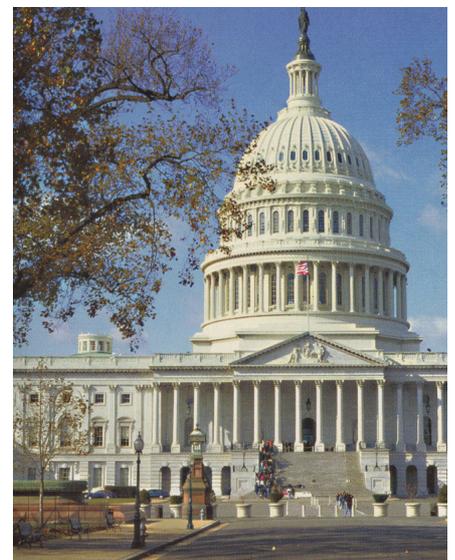


In spite of the early season the trees are in blossom already

Chairman: Helmuth Baron v. Schilling, deputy: Frank Schilling, manager and treasurer: Hans Baron v. Schilling, youth representative: Yasmine Foy. Committee: Elisabeth Reinicke, Christian Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt, Ralph Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt and Reinhard Schilling. Auditors: Hans-Wolfgang Baron v. Schilling and Hans-Joachim Schilling.

In his annual report the chairman stated that he had spent most of his time preparing the family reunion in Virginia. He thanked Lex and Meredith for their help: "This family reunion would never have happened if they had not been so very efficient and supportive." Cousin Helmuth informed the members of the fact that last year he sold some old books and bibles from the family archives, which were in no way connected with the family. The board had decided to give them to Reiss & Sons, Auctioneers in Königstein/Taunus. Surprisingly the auction brought 16664 €. At last the association could afford to spend 1300 € on computer software for the Schilling Courier. The rest will be for the benefit of our young members.

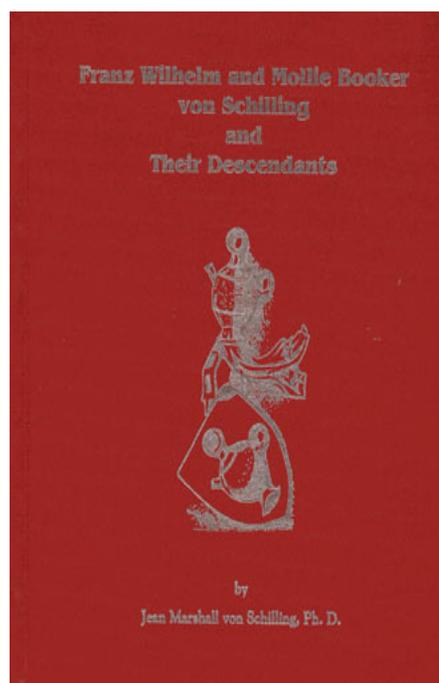
The Schillings spent their last evening at Shields Tavern, one of Williamsburg's restaurants with a historic flair. Enjoying a substantial meal, the members were entertained by a musician in a historic costume. All of them promised to attend the next family reunion in 2011. On Monday (March 24) a small group left for Washington D.C., the capital city of the USA, via Monticello, where they visited the beautiful house of the third US-President Thomas Jefferson. In Washington the travellers were greeted by cherry trees and magnolias in blossom.



The Capitol in Washington

The history of the Virginia-Schillings in German and in English

As already stated in the last Schilling Courier, Jean von Schilling (3001 Stratford Road, VA 23225 Richmond, USA, email: jmvs29@comcast.net) wrote a book about the interesting history of the Virginian Schillings with many pictures of the family. The book can be ordered direct from Jean for 30 \$ US plus postage. Brigitte von Osterhausen translated the book into German. The German version is available from the chairman (Helmuth von Schilling, Otto-Hahn-Str. 4, 40591 Düsseldorf, e-mail: hvschill@yahoo.de) for 25 € plus postage. The English version with 88, the German with 107 pages, both with 71 pictures cover the interesting history of this important branch of our family right from its beginning in Virginia in the 19th century.



Cover of Jean's book

Family reunion in Hamburg in 2011

In 1464 Albert Schilling was the Mayor of the Hanseatic city



In Hamburg the nights last longer...: View of the second largest German city with city hall and Nikolai Church (1.8 million inhabitants)

The members of the family reunion accepted the chairman's suggestion to have the next reunion in Hamburg in three years. Helmuth gave the following reasons: The family reunion will be in memory of our ancestor Albert Schilling, who in 1464 was the Mayor of the Hanseatic city. His name and crest are still to be seen in the City Hall. Albert's father was Theoderich Schilling, grandson of Friedrich, who supposedly was executed in Cologne in 1310. Theoderich lived around 1350. He had eventually moved from Cologne to Hamburg, where one of his sons, Albert, was the Mayor. Friedrich, the other son (around 1389) moved to Braunschweig. In 1490 his great-great-grandson Kaspar left the country in order to start a new life in the Baltic countries.

A rather impressing memorial to the soldiers killed in the German-French War (1870/71) on the banks of the River Alster and two beautiful tombstones on the cemetery of Hamburg-Ohlsdorf, one in

memory of Mr. Lippert, son of a merchant and founder of an orphanage, and the other in memory of the engineer and city planner Andreas Meyer, were designed by the famous sculptor Johannes Schilling.

Between 1897 and 1903 Johannes put up a monument to Kaiser Wilhelm I on the "Rathausplatz" (town hall square). In 1929, however, the Emperor was "banished" to Sieveking Square, where Johannes had installed four allegorical groups earlier. Two flagpoles on the town hall square were put up by the same artist as well. Being located on the banks of the River Elbe and close to the North Sea, Hamburg developed into a very important port and became a member of the medieval union of trading cities known as the Hanseatic League in the 12th century. And it is a cosmopolitan city still.

A visit to Berlin and a tour of the Reichstag (German Parliament) might as well round up the reunion.



Southern branch

Glory and misery in the Puszta

Reflections on the Hungarian branch of our family

Friedrich (Fritz) Schilling, born in 1865 in Hohenwettersbach close to Karlsruhe, was the ancestor of the Schilling von Canstatt. He was the second son to Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Schilling von Canstatt, who by primogeniture was the lord of the estate of Hohenwettersbach. Eventually the eldest son, Victor, was his father's heir. After completing his military service in the regiment of the "Black Dragoons" Fritz followed his father to Hungary. At the age of 20 he took over the management of his mother's estates. His mother Amalie (born 1846) née Gräfin Waldeck was related to the Prince of Waldeck from Arolsen. This (Roman Catholic) branch of the Waldeck family had lived in Hungary since Fritz's grandfather on his mother's side, Friedrich Graf von Waldeck (born 1822), had gone to Vienna in order to pursue a military career as a young officer and had eventually married the rich Hungarian girl Cornelia Gräfin Bethlen. Living in Puszta Sorhàt, the family seat east of the River Theiss, Fritz very successfully managed his estates. Unless they stayed in Hohenwettersbach, his mother and father had their home in Tiszaroff, the castle of the Waldeck family. Fritz and his parents lived the comfortable life of the wealthy landed gentry: elegant balls in Klausenburg, invitations to the neighbouring castles, hunts, duels with well-known persons, celebrations, a wonderful life even continuing during

World War I.

In 1899 Fritz married his cousin, Baronin Valerie Jòsika de Nagysarlò (born 1875). They had three children: Wilhelm, born in Puszta Sorhàt in 1899, his sister Mària and his brother Pàcs.



Friedrich (Fritz) Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt

The eldest son grew up in Sorhàt and attended the "Gymnasium" (grammar school/high school) of the "Piaristen" (catholic monks) in Budapest. In the First World War he volunteered for military service in the "Jászberényi 4. Husarenbataillon".

In 1926 Wilhelm married Clara Beliczey de Bajca. He took over the management of his father's estates and was very successful. He was one of the first Hungarian landowners, who successfully grew rice. His greatest pleasure however was his stud farm with more than 100 excellently pedigreed horses. One of his horses (Aran-yos or Goldchen) even won first

class races. Unfortunately neither Fritz nor Wilhelm were able to enjoy their successes for long, because in 1944 the Soviet regime took over.

Clara and Wilhelm had two sons: Georg (1929) and Nikolaus (Miklòs, 1930). They stayed on their father's estate until they left for the Premonstratensian (religious community) boarding school in Gödöllò close to Budapest.

Thanks to their parents' wealth the two boys lived very comfortably. They were not spoiled though – on the contrary: In 1943 their father made them become ordinary workers cultivating 10 Hektar (0.25 acres) of his tobacco plantation. He wanted them to experience the life of the poor people. The knowledge they gained from doing this kind of work helped the two boys considerably through the hard times of the communist regime. Up to this moment the young lords had everything they wanted: There were no obstacles or fences for miles and they had their own horses. They rode their motorcycles or visited the Bàrczays at Tiszaroff, where they went duck-hunting with their father.

Wilhelm's sister Mària owned a large estate with a coachman, a gardener, a cook and a butler.

During the winter months the boys accepted invitations from the neighbouring noble families for pheasant and hare-hunting. Since Nikolaus (Miklòs) was an excellent hunter owning a Winchester repeater calibre 20, everyone liked to invite him.

On October 15, 1944, however, the family had to leave their estate and go west, because late in the summer of 1944 the Red Army had crossed the Carpathian Mountains. Wilhelm's family left for Budapest with only two coaches, two wagons and

Miklòs's horse. Everything inside the manor house had to stay behind: furniture, carpets, paintings and many other valuable things. The wagons were loaded with honey, beans, rice, flour, oil, pig fat and blankets.

On December 23, 1944 the Red Army encircled the capital city and started shooting. Wilhelm's family found an apartment in Ofen (Buda) close to the Royal Castle. Heavy gunfire however damaged their house considerably. On February 9, 1945 a glider, loaded with food supplies and ammunition for the German troops crashed into the roof and the pilot was decapitated.

On February 14, 1945 this last bastion of the Waffen SS infantry fell to the Soviets. Fritz and his wife had eventually gone to Budapest. Together with their relatives: Graf Bethlen, Baron Bornemisza and Baron Aczèl they had left their estate on a trek on October 1, 1944. They had found themselves a villa in Buda, quite close to their son's. In January 1945 a unit of the Waffen SS came upon the old couple unawares while they were in their living room. Sitting on the sofa Valerie offered coffee substitute to the soldiers. After politely saying thank you they told the couple to go into the basement. They refused to obey, because they found they were too old, and sitting on their sofa eventually watched the soldiers' actions: The Germans fired a volley of ear-splitting shots from their MG through the open window.

After using up all their ammunition the beleaguered soldiers blew up the toilet in the bathroom, and lowering themselves down the hole on a rope escaped through the garden.

In the spring of 1945 Wilhelm's and Fritz's families managed to



Valerie Freifrau Schilling v. Canstatt née Baronesse de Nagysarlò

go back to one of their estates near Puszta Sorhàt in spite of the fact that a battalion of the Soviet infantry was still there.

Before his escape to Budapest, Wilhelm had managed five estates: Puszta Sorhàt, Görbehàz, Felsörèt, Akolhàt and Tòlapos. After the retreat of the Soviet army the family lived in Puszta Sorhàt. They had to provide food for seven people. Hard work, discipline and incredible energy made them achieve the impossible: They had enough to eat and the necessary clothes. The boys had to leave the boarding school in Gödöllò and went to the "Gymnasium" (Grammar/High School) in Eger (Erlau) instead.

Miklòs played the tenor saxophone and the clarinet in a junior jazz band. In 1948 the jazz band even passed the Budapest Academy of Music entrance exam. In 1950 there was no way to escape from the communist terror. They endured years of suffering and hardships in constant fear of their lives or their health. Fritz and Valerie and Wilhelm and Clara moved into a totally run-down house

in the gypsy area of the village of Tiszaderzs.

In 1949 their sons Georg and Miklòs had found jobs as unskilled workers in Budapest. In 1950 both were condemned to a labour camp because of their noble birth. After Stalin's death in 1953 Prime Minister Imre Nagy granted a general amnesty and eventually the two brothers were released. Miklòs started working in the slaughter house of Budapest and later he found a job in a bar.

In the fall of 1956 he joined the rebellion against the Soviet regime, serving in an armed unit fighting against the communist secret police in the western part of the country. Since the tanks of the Red Army forced his military unit to leave the country, they crossed the Austrian border somewhere close to Nickelsdorf.

In 1956 Miklòs got engaged to Baroness Polyxena von Thierry, nicknamed Pólíka, in Budapest. On October 29, 1956 Georg and his fiancé Hildegard de Marchis and Miklòs's fiancé Pólíka left the country. They all went to their cousin Mady Schilling in Düsseldorf.

In 1957 Miklòs and Pólíka got married. In 1965 his brother Georg got married in Bad Godesberg. The older generation, Fritz, Wilhelm and Clara did not leave Hungary at the time staying in Piliscsaba close to Budapest since 1957. They were very poor but always in good spirits and never desperate. Fritz died at the age of 95. He had never stopped working, always hoping for a better future.

A new life for the grandchildren in Germany

In 1975 Wilhelm and Clara were naturalized in Germany, where they lived until 1993, when they both died somewhere near Bad Godesberg. Of one thing I am certain: God protected the whole family by holding his hands over all of them. There is no other way to explain the family's successful escape from this inferno, unhurt from body and soul and with nothing but their possessions lost. It took a long time before a member of the Schilling family settled in Hungary again:

In 1989 Miklòs's son Felix moved to Hungary. He made it his business to look after the family's affairs claiming compensation from the Hungarian State. The family got a small equivalent to their estates in the eastern part of Hungary back. After several years of hard work a co-operative sold a small part of the estate Sorhát to Felix. The chapel and the steward's house, which Felix and his family use for themselves now, are still there, the 32 workers' houses and the other buildings are all gone. The big old barn from the 18th century was pulled down last year.

Miklòs Freiherr SvC



Western branch

125th anniversary of a monument

On September 28, 1883 the Niederwald Monument was unveiled

This year there will be a great birthday celebration in honour to one of the most important works of art designed by our famous sculptor Johannes Schilling: 125 years ago, on September 28, 1883 the Niederwald Monument in the area of Rüdesheim on the River Rhine was unveiled in the presence of the former German Emperor Wilhelm I. In memory of this day there will be an appropriate celebration in Rüdesheim.

For quite a long time the Niederwald Monument was mistaken as a war memorial. It was installed by Johannes Schilling after the German-French War (1870/71) was over and the German Reich was established. He never wanted to raise feelings of hatred or fear. He had only peace in mind when he refused to make Germania's sword point towards France. In 1876 Johannes wrote to the committee, who was responsible for planning the monument: "There is absolutely no reason for Germania to look towards France since the River Rhine does not divide the two countries any longer. The war is over and Germania looks over our German 'fatherland'."

The day when the monument was unveiled 125 years ago, however, was most exciting. Short before noon the Emperor and his entourage arrived at the monument. War societies, choirs and sports clubs were already waiting for the monarch, together with the deputies of various military units, generals, members of various committees



The Niederwald Monument

and the men who had worked on the monument. Maids of honour welcomed the guests, people held speeches and sang songs while a battery-salute was fired.

After Schilling had given the Emperor information about his monument, the monarch went back to Rüdesheim, where he received a special welcome at the "Triumphal Emperor's" gate, which had specially been erected for this occasion. In front of the Rhine Hall Wilhelm took the boat parade. His visit to Rüdesheim ended with a festive dinner.

The Emperor took the train to Wiesbaden, where he and many invited guests, with Johannes Schilling among them, attended a gala dinner.



Not belligerent at all: The relief "Farewell" on the Niederwald Monument

Everything seemed to run well. But behind the scenes some very wicked plans were being made: The typesetter August Reinsdorf from Elbersfeld and a group of anarchists planned to take advantage of the celebration in order to make an attempt on the Emperor's life. Reichskanzler Otto von Bismarck (Chancellor of the Reich) had tried to put an end to the tensions between the government and the industrial workers by prohibiting the Socialist Party (Anti-Socialist Laws, 1878).

The political radicals had gone underground in order to wait for such a spectacular opportunity. The unveiling of a national monument with all the leading lights of the kind of state they hated so much present, seemed just the opportunity they had been waiting for.

Reinsdorf, who was born in Pegau in 1849, had been expelled from several cities including Leipzig. Under an assumed name, however, he returned to the German Reich, where he found a job at a printer's in Elberfeld. The anarchist suggested dynamite. Unfor-

tunately he fell ill, so eventually his friends K uchler and Rupsch had to go to R udesheim instead. In the night before the great day they hid the dynamite somewhere on the road, which the invited guests were supposed to take.

Attempt to murder the Emperor failed

The attempt to murder the Emperor failed, because the bomb never went off. Perhaps the fuse got wet. Anyway, Rupsch and K uchler collected the dynamite and threw the bomb at a corner of the Rhine Hall in R udesheim. Fortunately there was only little damage done. The would-be assassins were caught and in 1884 sued in the "Reichsgericht" (court) of Leipzig. The anarchists were condemned to death. Rupsch was eventually pardoned by the Emperor and had to spend the rest of his life in prison, whereas Reinsdorf and K uchler were executed in Halle on February 7, 1885.

The 125th anniversary in R udesheim (Hesse) will by no means be so spectacular and hopefully

without an attempt on anyone's life, but nevertheless there will be an appropriate celebration. After all Roland Koch, the leader of Hesse will be present. The event was already started in August with the opening of an exhibition in the City Hall of R udesheim. The exhibition shows a collection of contemporary historical documents, paintings and a couple of sketches borrowed from the "Old Parsonages Museum" of Mittweida, Johannes Schilling's native town.

On September 26th and 27th, 5000 visitors are expected, who can watch the highlights of the celebration ceremony from the lower viewing platform of the monument. Actors in historic dresses will guide them through history with Johannes Schilling being impersonated by the director of the Mittweida Museum, Heiko Weber. After the official opening by the leader of Hesse, the visitors will be entertained by excellent music such as Romantic songs about the River Rhine for instance. The day will eventually be crowned with fireworks and music.

Another celebration: Johannes Schilling's 180th birthday

On June 23 Mittweida had a celebration in honour of Johannes Schilling's anniversary: 180 years ago the sculptor was born. His native town had invited many guests to the "Kreissparkasse" (bank of the district) for the opening of a special exhibition showing documents of Schilling's life.

After Mayor Matthias Damm had welcomed the guests, Dr. Bärbel Stephan Freifrau von Finck made a speech. The art historian considered Schilling a great European artist. 264 of his works of art are still spread all over Europe.

The sculptor's democratic political views were not always well liked by his contemporaries, he was a witty man, however.

Cousin Helmuth thanked the representatives of the town for their intention of extending the upper floor of the Johannes-Schilling-House that was opened three years ago.

He eventually pointed out that Schilling had obviously loved his family very much, considering the fact that the statue of Germania on the Niederwald Monument is a copy of his daughter Clara. The new part of the Schilling Museum that will be dedicated to the Niederwald Monument will be opened this year.

The ceremony ended with a reading from the Schilling family chronicle: "What can I do for you, Professor?" One of the readers was Walter Nickel, a German actor and the husband of Ina Schilling-Nickel, one of Johannes Schilling's great granddaughters.



Eastern Branch

New gateway to the cemetery in the sand dunes

The climax of Jürgen von Schilling's work



Ceremonial opening of the cemetery gateway. Centre: J. v. Schilling

This gate is an excellent example of how two nations come to an understanding and literally work on it", the Mayor of the island of Langeoog, Hans Jansen, said on March 7 on the occasion of the first opening of the new gate to the cemetery in the dunes on the island in the North Sea. The gateway was installed owing to the initiative of our cousin Jürgen Baron von Schilling. After the opening fifty visitors went to the cemetery chapel while the church bells were ringing.

The gate is a copy of the gateway to the Cathedral of Libau/Liepāja in Latvia. On his visit seven years ago Baron Schilling was so much impressed by this gateway that he decided: "This is just the gate I want for the cemetery in the dunes on the island of Langeoog." This gateway has crowned the life work of the honorary citizen of the island and holder of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The cemetery was old

and neglected and in past times it had only held drowned bodies found washed ashore or suicides. For almost 50 years Jürgen has made the greatest efforts to turn this almost abandoned cemetery in the dunes into a wonderful park and into a place of international understanding.

After the Second World War 326 Baltic Germans had to leave a retirement home in Schwetz on the River Weichsel (Poland) in order to escape from the Russian soldiers and had come to live in the Baltic retirement home on the island. They were eventually buried on this cemetery next to 113 Russians, who during the Second World War had to live on the island as prisoners. They had died from starvation or from various diseases. Baron Schilling committed all his time and effort to having these burial places taken care off.

Mayor Jansen emphasized in his speech that on this day the ceme-

tery, usually a place of mourning, had become a place of joy with a completely different appearance. "This gateway to the burial place of their fellow countrymen could only be realized with the financial help of the Russian Federation and the organisations of the Baltic Germans. The district of Langeoog and many citizens of the island gave financial and practical support as well, in order to carry out the plan for this wonderful wrought-iron gate that was made in Holland, an international project indeed."

Cousin Helmuth, great-nephew to the 98-year-old and representative of the family association praised the hard work of his uncle, who is surprisingly active.

"In spite of his age he still works on the cemetery." They do not only call him a cemetery gardener but a gardener of peace as well. At the ceremony in the chapel Helmuth stressed that Jürgen had found a way of building bridges between the Baltic Germans and the Russians. After all Jürgen's great-uncle Nicolai, who was an admiral in the Tsarist Navy, had been at the naval port of Libau. Jürgen von Schilling himself associates Libau with his gratitude to the Russian Navy. In his speech he remembered the fact that after the German surrender in 1945 he was the ship's doctor on board the "Nürnberg", when the cruiser was brought to Libau. "Though there was nothing but hatred everywhere, our crew was treated like old army comrades."

Jürgen had asked our chairman to find donors and in the end he had collected 16500 € for the wrought-iron gate, made from stainless steel. Most of the money came from the Baltic organisations and the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Berlin.

Sensitive, intelligent and committed

In memory of Heinz Hermann Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt

On September 30, 2007 Heinz Hermann Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt died aged 89. After the Second World War he has considerably influenced the development of our family association. He has been our chairman for 34 years, being honorary chairman in the end. When he took office in 1965 the association had only 50 members, when I took over in 1995 their number had increased to 232. Heinz successfully joined the three branches together. If he had not been so insistent, the family association would probably no longer exist.

Heinz organized eleven family reunions, many of them in the building of the "Kupferberg" winery in Mainz, one in Lahnstein in 1972 and one in Wendlingen on the River Neckar. The family reunion in Suhl and Dresden in 1996, in the former East German states after the reunification of Germany, was one the highlights of his career as a chairman. At last we were able to welcome the Thuringian and Saxonian members of our family, who had been separated from us for such a long time. Heinz would have enjoyed this year's reunion in Virginia, for he persuaded us to take the risk in the first place. Last summer he gave me a book about the life of Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, who considerably contributed to George Washington's winning the American War of Independence. When Heinz gave me the book he seemed to be looking quite alright to me still. He obviously thought reading it might be useful for preparing the reunion. He gave it to me as an early present for my birthday which is on October 23



Cousin Heinz the way we remember him

as if he had known that he would not live to see this day. His widow Brigitta, four of his children and two grandchildren represented his family at the reunion. The "Mainzer Allgemeine Zeitung" (newspaper) wrote in their obituary: "This sensitive, intelligent and committed man loved Mainz from the bottom of his heart. The grandson of the founder of the champagne house "Kupferberg", who was born on June 28, 1918, did not only commit himself to his native town, but also to the "Kupferberg" winery, where he has actually worked in the management for forty years. He eventually set new trends for the development of the business, at first as the manager and later as one of the main partners. He was engaged in various societies. Being devoted to France the German-French Society was extremely important to him. When he retired from work Heinz Schilling v. Canstatt started painting, attending Prof. Dr. Her-

mann Schmidt's painting class. We will always remember him as the ambassador for sparkling wine and everything that goes with it and think with respect of this very well educated and charming person."

The family association, too, will always gratefully remember Cousin Heinz. And I will follow his example and never forget him either.

Helmuth Baron Schilling

A celebration in honour of Heinz

Unveiling of a restored plaque at the castle of Heitersheim

On June 27 a small family circle met in Heitersheim in order to remember Heinz's 90th birthday, to which his widow Brigitta had invited. Why Heitersheim? It was the residence of Georg Schilling von Canstatt (1487-1554), Grand Prior of the German Langue of the Order of St. John's. Heinz had asked the family association to donate a memorial plaque, which was unveiled at the Maltese Castle on the occasion of the family reunion in 1990. Last year one of Heinz's friends mentioned that the plaque looked rather rot-

ten and the inscription was hardly readable. He suggested having it restored, as a birthday present so to speak. Brigitta eventually carried out this plan. A day after the birthday celebration the plaque was ceremoniously unveiled a second time. Mayor Ehret said in his speech that the citizens of Heitersheim still feel committed to the social ideas of Georg Schilling v. Canstatt and the Order of St. John's. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a guided tour of the castle and a nice walk around the Roman excavations.



After unveiling the plaque; from left: The Mayor of Heitersheim, Ehret, Brigitta Freifrau SvC, the chairman of the Historical Society of Heitersheim, Dr. Rupp and Helmuth

A fighter for freedom of press

We mourn Rainer SvC

"Mannheim lost a remarkable and great citizen," Dean Horst Schroff said on the occasion of the memorial service in honour of Rainer Schilling v. Canstatt. The editor of the "Mannheimer Morgen" (daily newspaper) died on December 6 aged 72 after suffering from a short but serious disease. The clergyman emphasized that inside as well as outside his family Schilling had a set of values he thought worth living for. He was a remarkable editor, liberal and with high principles, a businessman with a social conscience. "He used to take the worries of ordinary people seriously."

Born in Witten on the River Ruhr in 1935 he started working for the "Mannheimer Morgen" in 1965, when his adoptive father and co-founder of the newspaper, Eitel Friedrich Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt, first took him on. In 1976 he became the editor, keeping this position until 2004. He made quite a name for himself internationally for being an unflinching advocate for freedom of press and opinion. In his capacity as expert on media the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) assigned him various jobs. He specially committed himself to the German-American friendship. The United Service Organization (USO) decorated him for his work.

The family association lost a loyal member belonging to the association from its beginnings after the war.

In commemoration of the wrong cousin

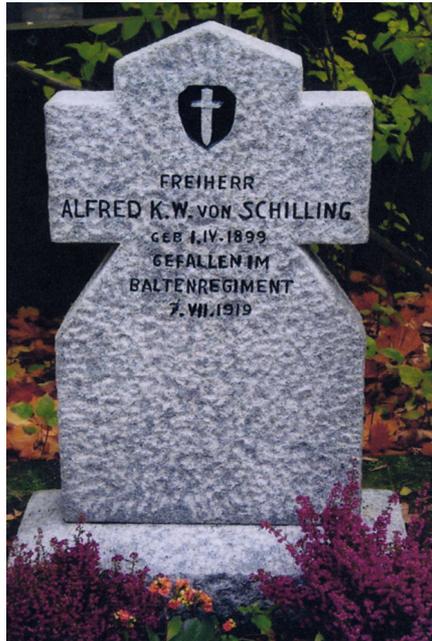
Alfred instead of Rudolf engraved on the tombstone in Helsinki

In 2002 we had a touching story in our Schilling Courier: Harro G. Thiel from Piispaneiste near Helsinki, Finland, was asked by his grandmother to look after the grave of Rudolf von Schilling, who was killed in the “Baltenregiment” (Baltic German regiment of volunteers) in 1919 and was buried in Helsinki. Eventually he wanted to learn more about Rudolf von Schilling and wanted to find out if there were any relatives.

He turned to the people of the “Volksbund Deutscher Kriegsgräberfürsorge” (War Graves Commission), who forwarded his letter to our association. After searching the three branches, cousin Mady eventually suggested the grave to be Rudolf Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt’s, because he was actually killed in Finland in 1919.

Mady, knowing this branch of the family well and pleased to learn something about Rudolf’s grave, gratefully sent Mr. Thiele a set of silver cutlery, engraved with Rudolf’s initials and the family crest, as a reward for his having looked after the grave for years.

Now we have to rewrite the story. After our having received Harro Thiel’s letter, cousin Sigrid Kinnunen from the Baltic branch, who lives near Helsinki, Finland, went to have a look at the grave and complained about its being in a bad condition. The inscription on the tombstone had faded and was hardly readable. Last summer she suggested having it restored. Eventually she was surprised to find out that the name on the tombstone was not Rudolf but Alfred von Schilling. Thiel apologized in a letter: “I do not know how this error came about. I



Not to be mistaken: The name on the tombstone is Alfred

guess I had the wrong name in mind when writing to the “Kriegsgräberfürsorge” and having made the mistake once, it was never corrected.”

But who was Alfred von Schilling? Alfred Baron von Schilling, who was born on April 1, 1899, belonged to the Baltic branch. He was a volunteer in the Baltic German Regiment, a Baltic German army of volunteers, who after World War I joined the Estonians in their fight against the Bolsheviks.

On July 23, 1919 he died in Narva, Estonia, as a result of his serious injuries. His father Alfred, who lived in Finland at the time, eventually bought a burial place, had his son transferred to Finland and buried him there. Maybe Alfred Sr. knew the German General von der Goltz, who fought against the Bolsheviks in the Baltic States as well as in Finland, and therefore asked Thiele’s grandmother to look after the grave.

Harro G. Thiel may keep set of cutlery

Alfred Baron von Schilling is a first cousin of Sigrid Kinnunen’s mother Ingeborg, who died in 1972. Now that she knows, Sigrid looks after the grave regularly. With the financial support of the family association the tombstone was restored. Mady agreed to let Harro G. Thiel keep the set of Rudolf’s cutlery.

He, too, knows the true story about the grave on the cemetery in Helsinki now. We still do not know the whereabouts of Rudolf v. Schilling’s burial place. Rudolf’s close relatives are all gone. When he was killed at the age of 20 he had no children and neither had his brother and sister. Perhaps he was buried anonymously in a mass grave somewhere in Finland.

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The Eiffeltower in Paris

Young members' reunion in Paris

October 2 till October 5, 08 interesting programme in Paris

Our Youth Representative Yasmine Foy intends to organize a young members' reunion in Paris from October 2 till October 5. Unfortunately last year's reunion did not come about because of low attendance. Schedule: At 5 pm on October 2 arrival at either the Ibis Hotel in Suresnes or the youth hostel in Paris (not settled yet). Next day's motto is going to be: "Discover Paris": A City Quiz. On October 4 it is going to be "fun and sports": paintball, go-cart or indoor climbing and a Turkish bath. The day will end up with a surprise dinner.

On October 5 departure after a day of "pure culture": a visit to Versailles. The family association will contribute 150 € to each person (dinner and programme). The price for bed and breakfast will be 100 or 150 € each, travelling expenses not included. All young members up to 35 years of age are invited to come, spouses included of course. Last booking: September 1.

Please contact: Yasmine Foy:
5 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt,
92150 Suresnes, France.
Phone: 0626487148.
email: yasfoy@gmail.com

Spontaneous application for membership

Mother pays her sons' subscription out of her first annuity

The family reunion in Virginia was a great success indeed. It did not seem so in the first place, for a couple of members had to cancel on short notice, because they had fallen ill. But in the end others just turned up without being registered.

One of them was Siegfried von Schilling from the Baltic branch who lives in Port McNeill on Vancouver Island, Canada. He and his wife did not spare the trouble to go on this long trip with their caravan through the American continent right down to Williamsburg, where they suddenly showed up. Cousin Siegfried never regretted

having made this long trip. He kept saying how much he loved being with us. Marilynne was so thrilled that she spontaneously applied for her three sons' membership. And even better: She invested her first annuity cheque in paying the subscription for three years in advance.

The family association is deeply impressed by this enthusiasm! By the way Siegfried's brothers and one of his nephews from Vancouver Island had come too. However they had preferred to fly over in order to travel faster and more comfortably.

The Baltic branch in Höhnscheid

The Baltic branch will have its own **Baltic Reunion** next year. We will meet at Höhnscheid Castle close to Kassel, the centre of the "Baltische Ritterschaften" (Baltic German Knights). The reunion will be from:

September 4 until September 6, 2009.

On September 5 we will go on a boat trip on the artificial Lake Eder and do a tour of Waldeck Castle, the home of Graf Waldeck's ancestors up to the 17th century. The castle is located 200 metres above the lake (which is 27 km in length). Invitations will be issued by the beginning of 2009.