

# Schilling-Courier



Descendants of Heinrich Schilling from Lahnstein Castle, dead since 1221

News of the Association of the Schilling family with annual report of 2005

## The Schillings across the world

Over a period of 700 years members of the family have settled in foreign countries

By a modern way of speaking the Schilling Association is going global. 147 out of 296 members (end of 2005) live away from Germany. The US Americans make the biggest branch with 58 members, followed by the Canadians with 34, Great Britain with 15 and Australia with 9 members. Vancouver Island alone holds 30 Schillings, not all of them members of the association though, but all of them descendants of Fritz Baron von Schilling who emigrated in 1929.

Sweden, Hungary and Spain hold five, France with Guadeloupe and Switzerland three, South Africa, Chile, Finland and Denmark two, the Netherlands and New Zealand one member each. 17 countries, including Germany are represented in our association. This sounds rather impressive to me. The Schillings always liked travelling. According to the records Friedrich (1305-1373), ancestor of the western branch, crossed the Alps and settled in



*The descendants of Fritz and Gerda von Schilling, most of them living on Vancouver Island in Canada. This picture was taken in 2002.*

Prague after his family had been driven away from Lahn-eck Castle. A couple of years later he moved to Breslau (now Poland). Due to the uprising of the Hussites his son Daniel left Breslau and went to Weissenburg in Alsace (France). His

grandsons however returned to Krakow (Poland) and to eastern parts of Germany. Eventually some of their descendants settled in the Baltic countries, in Denmark and in Norway.



*Nikolai Baron Schilling.*

According to our genealogist Heinar Schilling, Kaspar Schilling was the first to settle in the Baltic countries. In 1490 approximately he left Braunschweig (Germany) in order to try his luck up north. Kaspar is the first ancestor of the Baltic branch we can trace. Nikolai Baron von Schilling (1828-1910) was one of the most famous descendants of this branch.

He was Admiral and Aide-de-

camp at the court of Tsar Nikolaus II and one of the most famous contemporary explorers of the polar region. By measuring the current of the ocean he worked out the position of Franz-Josef-Country in the polar sea. Though in 1873 two Austrians actually discovered the island and named it after their Emperor, there is a "Kap Schilling" in memory of the original discoverer.

Ludwig Schilling von Canstatt (1753-1797), officer in the army, moved from Thalheim (southern Germany) to Russia in order to start a career at the court of the Tsar. He got married to Katharina Charlotte von Schilling of the western branch, a distant cousin of all people. At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century members of this branch had left Denmark and settled in Estonia (a Russian province at the time) where they had bought the estate of Kallikul.

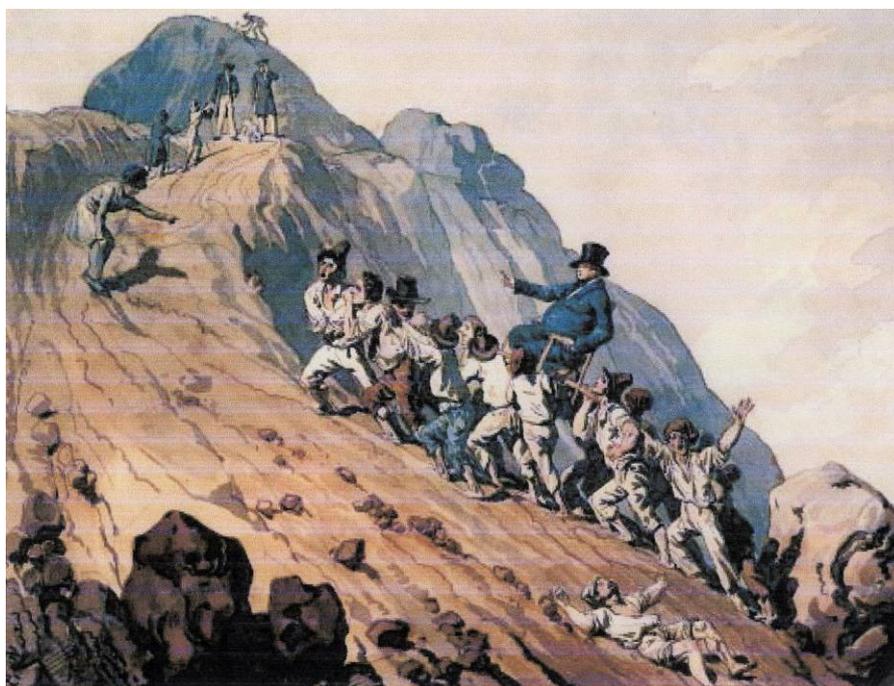
Ludwig and Katharina's son



*Georg Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt on a contemporary medal.*

Paul became Councillor of State at the court of the Tsar. In Russia he is regarded as the country's most important inventor. In 1832 he invented the first electromagnetic needle telegraph, (later Morse Telegraph). His working model, placed in the University of Heidelberg, however, was stolen by a Mr. Cook from England, who eventually obtained a patent on this invention. The US American Samuel Morse stole this clever idea as well and had it registered by his name in America. We ought to realize that we actually use the "Schilling code" and not the "Morse code". Paul also invented the first watertight cable (1812) and successfully presented it in St. Petersburg, Bonn, London and Paris.

But there were not only well known Schillings in the eastern parts of Europe: Georg Schilling v. Canstatt (1487-1554) was "going global" too. As already mentioned in one of the earlier editions of the Schilling Courier, Georg joined the Knights of Saint John at the age of fourteen. In 1528 he was



*Paul Schilling von Canstatt liked travelling. This painting depicts him being carried up the Vesuvius in Italy.*

appointed Governor General of the fortress of Tripoli on the North African coast, south of Malta. Later he was appointed General of the galleys of the Order in the Mediterranean.

In 1546 he was appointed Grand Prior of the German Langue and was rewarded by the Emperor Karl V with the elevation of the Order's bailiwick at Heitersheim near Freiburg (southern Germany).

By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Schillings "discovered" America. In 1787 Freiherr Georg Friedrich Schilling von Canstatt (1762-1843) was the first of our family to emigrate to the New World (see Schilling Courier 2005). Several years later he returned to Europe and lived in London. He is the ancestor of the English and the Australian branch of our family. In 1849 his son James Ernest (1803-1876) returned to America and started the Californian branch. In 1861 one of James Ernest's distant cousins, Franz Wilhelm emigrated to America as well. Due to a serious illness he returned to Germany leaving his wife and children behind. His children started the Virginian branch. In 1929, after the First World War Gebhard von Schilling (aged 26), his wife Edith nee von Schroeder and his brother Fritz (aged 22) from the eastern branch (Orgena) had the courage to emigrate to Canada. Leaving the Baltic States the family had lost their property and was very poor when coming to Germany. Though emigrating to Canada seemed rather risky, they settled near St. Wahlburg (north of Saskatoon) in Saskatchewan.

The first months must have been extremely hard. Edith kept



*Gebhard von Schilling is roofing his cabin. At the bottom of the picture his wife Edith is working.*

a diary for her children Inge, Karin and Bero and wrote: "We worked on a farm. Dad was a farmhand and I was a kitchen help. We really had a rough time. For weeks we had to get up at six in the morning and work till ten at night, only on Sundays we had some hours off." The settlers received a piece of land - 800 square meters in the forest - from the government, on condition that they built a house and dug a well.

Edith notes: "Just imagine, each trunk had to be felled and smoothed out with the axe. It took a lot of stems to build a house! Our house was a cabin by the size of four to six meters." The government had already staked out the land. Edith's brother-in-law wrote: "At the distance of every mile a marked iron pole was inserted into the ground. In order to find the right pole you had to cut lanes into the forest, measure them and discover the irons."

Though Gebhard and Edith got more or less used to their life in the wilderness in 1937 they

decided to return to Germany.

Brother Fritz remained in Canada. In 1933 he had married Gerda Vidal in Saskatchewan. She was the daughter of a German farmer in the neighbourhood, who had come to Canada on the same boat. Fritz writes: "We were twelve people at the wedding with one bottle of wine between us."

In 1937 Fritz moved to Vancouver Island in British Columbia, where he worked hard to put up a farm for himself, his wife and six children. In 1991 he died aged 90. He left a great number of children and grandchildren, most of them living on Vancouver Island.

In 1953 the first members of the Baltic Serrefer branch emigrated to Ontario in Canada. As a fugitive from the eastern part of Germany Wolter Baron von Schilling (aged 22) the son of Bodo and Ingeborg, did not see any future in post-war Germany. After some years of hardship he succeeded in working his way up into the position of Engineering Technician. In

1955 he was followed by his sister Karin, who later took a Masters in Nursing, and his brother Heinz (Henry), who became a maths teacher. Their youngest brother Kurt followed in 1957 and became an actuary later. With their children and grandchildren Wolter and Kurt started the Ontario branch. After her marriage to a Finn Sigrid, the eldest sister stayed in Finland, where she is living still.

Since he did not see any future for himself in post-war Germany either, in 1953 George von Schilling (eastern branch) also emigrated to Canada. He succeeded in setting up a flourishing horticultural business. He and his wife Margot have two daughters and seven grandchildren.

Georg's cousin Dagmar and her husband Tomas Edel are living in Montreal.

Gebhard's (brother of Fritz) daughter Karin lives in South Africa, whereas Ute, his daughter from a second marriage, got married to a shipbuilder in Guadeloupe.

Hildegard von Schilling got married to a Swede and Heddi (both eastern branch) to a Dane, both before the First World War. After the First World War



*Kurt and Stephanie von Schilling from Waterloo, Canada on their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, together with their children (from the left) Alexander, Peter, Erik and Michelle.*

Ernst von Schilling (Kook) settled in Denmark. Before the Russian Revolution he had been an Imperial Russian Councillor of State and later a consul. After her marriage to an American in 1937 his daughter Caecilia lived in the USA. She had many children and grandchildren. Peter, the son of her brother Ernst lives in Spain, Peter's sister and his daughter both live in Denmark.

Friedrich Wilhelm (southern branch) came to Hungary after his wedding. Due to the revolution in 1965 the family fled to Germany. Meanwhile one of his descendants returned to Budapest, where he is living with his family still.

Between 1850 and 1925 twelve members of the Schilling family emigrated to Chile. We suppose them to belong to the western branch, though unfortunately we have not yet been able to verify this. In Chile 175 families have the name of Schilling.

Oskar, a member of our association, is the great grandson of Carl Philipp Schilling, who in 1850 left Oedesheim on the River Weser and sailed to Chile on the "Susanne". Oskar has two children and six grandchildren.



*Georg Baron Schilling 1953 on his way to Canada..*

## News from the Various Branches



Western Branch

### Schillings working as Blacksmiths in Suhl.

The Schillings are a very old family. Many of them live in Suhl in Thuringia. In this place in eastern Germany old traditions are being kept up as nowhere else in the country.

Over a period of 400 years the Schillings have worked in a hammer mill. In 1599 Martin Schilling obtained the partnership of an ore mine in Zella, near Suhl and in 1603 he moved to Suhl. In 1570 already six forge hammers, 22 blacksmiths and 10 gun smiths were working in the town which was called "Waffenschmiede Europas" (production of arms in Europe).

Gerhard Schilling belongs to the 13<sup>th</sup> generation of Schillings in Suhl. In the presence of Mayor Dr. Martin Kummer his name was entered in the golden book of the city of Suhl on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2003. In 1862 Gerhard's great grandfather, the foreman of the forge Ernst Friedrich Schilling bought a suitable property in the town to set up his own business.

At that time the arms trade was booming and a gun needed quite a number of different parts. When Ernst Friedrich Schilling's neighbours complained about the noise of the hammers during the night, his son Hermann purchased a suitable property outside the town near the River "Lauter", which eventually was the beginning of a

blooming business, successfully working until 1920.

Three large buildings with offices and a couple of spare-rooms were erected and tools were made. The first electric power was delivered by a steam engine with a capacity of 150 HP. They built one building at a time, so that producing could continue. In this way they increased their number of buildings continuously. Eventually the owner obtained the permission to use the water power of the river Lauter and set up his own hydroelectric power station, driven by turbines. The water power produced the equivalent of 500 HP. The construction of the reservoir, 1300 meters away from the factory with a drop of 42 meters, was a remarkable feat of engineering.

But they did not only produce parts of weapons in Suhl. When the bicycle-industry started they forged the necessary pieces, especially various kinds of cranks that were sold to foreign countries like Czechoslovakia. In addition to that all kinds of wrenches were big sellers.

Expansion before and after the First World War made the production of pieces weighing between 0.050 and 12 kilos possible: Over a period of 140 years they made more than 4000 products, more than 100000 times each: since 1947 more than 400 different kinds of iron pieces especially for bicycles, boats, sewing machines, shoe producing machines, parts of agricultural machines, medical and measuring instruments, tools and all kinds of guns for hunting.

They used either plain steel or an alloy of various kinds of steel from 10 to 80 mm in diameter. The large furnace for warming up the steel was heated with various kinds of coal. In the fifties it was converted to oil. The heating of the steel was much easier when the company had its own



*Gerhard Schilling at the 12<sup>th</sup> "Annual Blacksmiths' Day" in Suhl on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2002"*

gasometer. They never sold the complete product but unfinished pieces only.

For three generations, i.e. until 1946 the company that Ernst Friedrich Schilling had once started remained in the family. During the military occupation 94% of the drop forge was dismantled by the Soviets. Instead of dumping the old hammers the then owner Ernst Schilling had them built in again so that he was able to restart the production and run the business as a private company.

The GDR authorities did not stop him until in 1972 the Socialists increased the central control of their economic system and he was dispossessed. His company and the drop forge "Vorwaerts" were joined together, going by the name of "VEB (people's enterprise) Drop Forge Schmalkalden (section 2 Suhl)". In 1980 it was incorporated in the VEB Tools Factory Schmalkalden, company 8/2 Suhl.

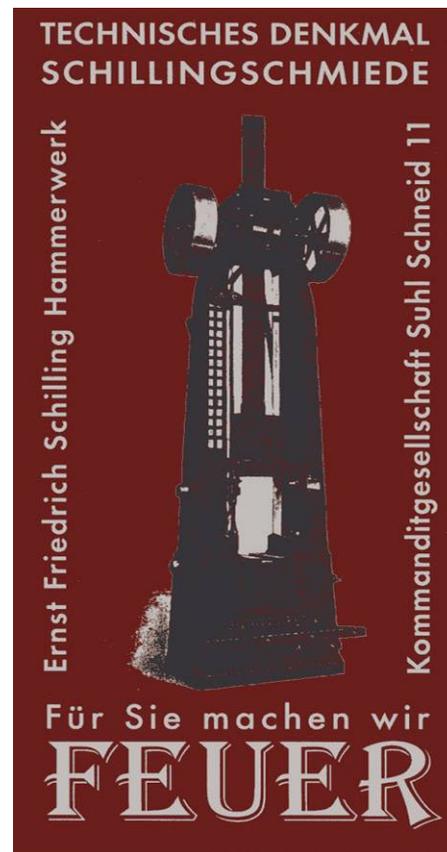
In 1991, a year after the collapse of the GDR, the company joined the Drop Forge Schmalkalden Ltd. Gerhard Schilling, who had been the managing director of the private "E. F. Schilling KG" as well as of the nationalized company, applied to the regional authorities, who were responsible for settling the questions of restitution, to get his company back.

But the Schillings hoped in vain. The negotiations with the fiduciary, responsible for privatizing the nationalized, companies lasted four years. The Schillings were partially successful, but had to pay a certain amount of money for compensation. According to Gerhard Schilling the sum was based on utopian calculations. On 9<sup>th</sup> June 1994 Gerhard Schilling

was treated even worse. The Regional Authorities informed him that a great part of his property had been given to a car company without any reimbursement. Gerhard Schilling was devastated: "This was another part dispossession." On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1990 the town of Suhl classified the drop forge as a listed technical monument and had it renovated with the aid of municipal financial means. The year before Gerhard had established a limited company excluding the forging business.

On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002 the technical monument was awarded the "Prize for Protected Historical Monuments" in the "Thomas-kirche" (church) in Erfurth. Since 1994 the Technical Engineering Club keeps celebrating their traditional "Annual Blacksmith Day" in Thuringia.

The Schillings' forge is one of the oldest of its kind and the old machines are still fit for work. In spite of a major setback, the



*With this flyer Gerhard Schilling advertises his museum.*

Schillings will always keep up the tradition of their forge.



*The old forge of the Schillings in Suhl, Thuringia. It was built in the year 1897.*



## Southern Branch

# Their Ancestor: Karl Wilhelm Markgraf von Baden

We all know that Karl Friedrich Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt (1726-1772), Lord of Hohenwetttersbach, Wangen, Schlathoff and Thalheim is the ancestor of the members of the Southern Branch. Perhaps not all of you know that Karl Friedrich's mother, Carolina Louise von Wangen was the illegitimate child of the Markgraf Karl Wilhelm von Baden-Durlach, who was the founder of the city of Karlsruhe.

Karl Wilhelm was not only a reckless officer but a lady-killer as well. Though already married since 1697, he was so much attracted by the beauty of Freiin Eberhardine von und zu Massenbach that he wished for a left-handed marriage. His court chaplain Johann Lorenz Hoelzle performed the ceremony and Eberhardine eventually

became Freifrau von Wangen. He borrowed the name from one of his own castles near Freiburg.

He was still very fond of her when in 1715 he generously gave her the permission to get married to his chamberlain Major Christoph von Boeckh. Karl Wilhelm was not only an affectionate lover but a devoted father as well. In 1710 he had a daughter from his morganatic marriage, Carolina Louise, to whom he gave the estate and the castle of Hohenwetttersbach as a fiefdom, "Kunkellehen", i.e. in case there was no male heir it could be inherited by a female.

In addition to that he gave her the estate of Wangen and the title going with it. In spite of her being the sovereign's illegitimate child Carolina Louise

was a "good catch". Therefore in 1725 Friedrich Wilhelm Schilling von Canstatt felt honoured to get the sovereign's permission to marry the 15-year-old Carolina. At that time Friedrich Wilhelm (1694-1743) was a privy councillor, one of the first knights who joined the Order of Allegiance and a close confidant of the sovereign.

In her 18 years of matrimony Carolina had 12 children, five of whom died in early childhood. When in 1743 Friedrich Wilhelm died, fate was very unkind to her and her life resembled a story from a tragic novel. It all started in Wangen, which actually does not exist anymore. When Friedrich Wilhelm was still alive, Carolina Louise had met the Pastor Christoph Wenkebach from Feldkirch, who for two years had been tutor to her two eldest sons. It is highly unlikely that they had an intimate relationship, since both, the sovereign's daughter as well as the parson, were extremely religious and devout Christians. Ernst Schilling v. C. writes in his report on the family, published in 1906: "Consider what life was like at Carolina Louise's time. Presumably after her husband's death gossip and envy arose about the circumstances of her illegitimate birth and made life in Karlsruhe unbearable

Howsoever, when the Markgraf Karl Wilhelm's son and successor Karl Friedrich heard the rumour of Schilling's widow and the parson having an affair, he reacted in an irreconcilable and not very noble way. By his changing the conditions of the marriage contract Hohenwetttersbach and Wangen went to the Schilling family. Carolina was shunned by society and



*The Markgraf Karl Wilhelm of Baden-Durlach.*

saw no reason to stay in Karlsruhe. In 1747 she left the town together with her seven children and on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1747 she got married to the Pastor Wenkebach in Feldkirch.

With her second husband she had several sons, who later held high positions as officers and civil servants in Baden. Since she had hardly any income and her steward very often withheld the little pension she got from renting out Wangen Manor, the family had to live on the meagre income of a parish priest. We can read in the parish register of Feldkirch that Carolina Louise very often did not have enough to eat. She writes: "To buy our daily supply becomes more and more a burden to my husband and me, because the costs are exceeding our income."

But obviously Carolina Louise never regretted having left her former social background: She was content to live in modest circumstances, gave up sealing her letters with the Wangen crest and used her monogram instead. In 1965 Leopold Zollner writes in the "Badische Neueste Nachrichten" (newspaper): "Fortune seems to have smiled on her by giving her ten years of happiness before she died on her 48<sup>th</sup> birthday on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1758." And: "Perhaps her father's restlessness made this woman fit for a quiet live and gave her the peace of mind she needed to live away from the society world and from the glamour of the founder of the city of Karlsruhe.



Östlicher Stamm

## 1917/18, a Winter of Hunger in Riga

My father's uncle, Hermann Baron Schilling was the heir of Orgena, the original seat of the Schilling family. With his brothers' consent – my grandfather Julius was one of them - he sold the estate to his cousin Moritz Gustav.

Hermann eventually moved to Reval (Tallinn) and later to Berlin. Together with his wife Elisabeth Maydell and four children (Gebhard, Elisabeth, Fritz and Juergen) he spent the First World War in Riga, the capital of Latvia. The Germans held the Baltic

countries occupied until by the end of the war the German troops were forced to withdraw. In 1918 the Communists, having political control since the Russian Revolution in October 1917, captured the country and for five months ruled the country and especially Riga in an extremely brutal way until the city was freed by German volunteer army corps. Fritz (1907-1997), Hermann's eldest son wrote a report on the events of the time, a shortened version of which reads as follows:

"In 1915 the war came to Riga and we boys kept following the soldiers in the hope of finding something to eat. Once in 1917 we watched German soldiers leading injured horses out of a wagon and shooting them. The meat was supposed to be shared between the people. I (aged 9) took a little axe and started to

cut out some meat from the cadaver right away. I held the piece very tightly when carrying it home and I guess it weighed about 20 pounds. Everyone at home was very happy, since we had not seen any meat for a whole year.

For a long time we did not even have bread. The six of us were living on a little bit of thick sauerkraut soup. Every day at noon the soup was given out in a four-storey house. We already went there in the afternoon of the day before in order to get into a good position. The stairs were full of pots from top to bottom, because your pot marked your place in the queue. Since the building was heated in winter and many old people did not have any heating at home they sat and slept on the steps and looked after our pots. On the next day at noon, when people were already queuing up in front of the house, we took our position in the marked place.

Once, when my brother Juergen (aged 7) and I browsed an old chest in the attic we found a pair of riding boots. They belonged to our father but he had hardly worn them. Without telling our parents we set off in order to swap the boots for something to eat. We eventually followed the railway track until about 15 km away from home we came to a station. It was rather dark already, when

we climbed an empty railway carriage and found some dried and salted fish. In the station-master's house we were allowed to sleep in front of the fireplace.

On the next morning we swapped the boots for seven pounds of bread and went home. Luckily it started snowing otherwise we would probably have died from cold. We reached home around midday. They had got worried, we were rather young after all, but the bread impressed everyone.

We boys were always hungry and always busy looking for something to eat. Once we found a dead crow, which unfortunately had died from exhaustion. Though it was in the middle of summer, only skin and bones were left after we had finished pulling the feathers off! Always on the look out for something to eat we decided to go fishing to the nearby lake. We found a butterfly net and instead of a proper hook – which we did not have – we tied a worm to it. And would you believe it, we actually caught a couple of sticklebacks. In the end we had quite a lot of them, since there were many of them in the lake. At home the fish was cooked and minced in an old meat grinder and finally we had the most delicious fish pie. In those days very often you saw people die from starvation in the streets.

My elder brother Gebhard (13) was allowed to make a trip in order to organize food. They walked the 200 km distance to Lithuania swapping unnecessary things like embroidered mats and tablecloths for beans, peas, flour and pearl barley. I would have loved to go too, but



*The children of Hermann and Elisabeth. From the left: Juergen, Gebhard, Elisabeth and Fritz. The identity of the child in the middle is unknown.*

Did not let me. My brother stayed away for about a month and brought home about 30 pounds of food.

Naturally we also needed heating material for the winter. Therefore Gebhard and I once set off with our sledge to a railway depot. We lifted a board from the fence, carried some of the ties through the gap and put them on our sledge. We disappeared in the darkness as quickly as possible because we had been spotted by the guards who started shooting. Luckily they missed their target. Safely home we went into the basement and started sawing right away.

When Riga was still occupied by the Germans we children picked up everything the soldiers had either lost or thrown away, especially cartridges and hand grenades. Gebhard had found eight hand grenades, taken off the fuses, put the dyna-

mite into a box and had hidden the whole lot on top of a high cupboard in the bedroom

None of us knew of course.

One day we found the box and tried to clean the knives with the grey powder. In those days people used to clean their knives with some kind of powdery detergent. But we found it unsuitable.

We thought perhaps it might burn and so eventually we tried. There seemed to be enough room for the box in front of the window and the matches were found and lit. At first they just dropped into the powder and went out, after several failures however one of them successfully burnt at last. We were thrilled, but our happiness did not last long, because there was a loud explosion. The window burst and our hair burnt. Our mother, who was busy in the next room, came running and dipped our burning heads into



*Riga, the capital of Latvia today*

water. The caretaker extinguished the fire in the curtains with a shovel of snow.

For a whole month we had to stay in a children's hospital wondering if we would keep our eyesight. Every morning the bandages around our heads were changed which we thought extremely cruel. But we definitely had deserved this kind of treatment. While we were in hospital the German Emperor came to visit Riga and passed by our hospital. We heard the music but did not see Wilhelm II. What a shame. Fortunately our eyesight had not suffered from the explosion.

In those days people liked to take the valuable copper wires off the grenades in order to sell

them. Unfortunately many of the grenades were duds and very often children who had handled them were never found after the explosion. That is why we stopped handling them after all, at least the hand grenades. We still collected cartridges though.

We kept all our cartridges in a garden shed. Once I tried to take off a detonator with the aid of a pair of wire-cutters. The cartridge broke, exploded and got stuck in a wooden wall. One night we set off fireworks. We broke off the heads of the cartridges and made a trail of about three meters of powder in order to have a proper detonator. Eventually we had a pile of about 100 cartridges. Soon after

we lit the detonator the pile started to burn and a tongue of flame shot 20 meters up the sky.

Once we wanted to get a proper suntan. We collected tar from the roof and rubbed it over our bodies. After staying in the sun for a couple of hours we tried to get the tar off, which of course was not easy. This problem was only to be solved by means of paraffin, which we needed for our lamps. It helped indeed, burning like hell. After a couple of days we looked our normal selves again."

This was Fritz's report on his time in Riga during the First World War. After the war the family moved to Germany. In 1929 Fritz and his brother Gebhard emigrated to Canada. In one of our next editions we will give you a report on his adventures there.

## News of the Schillings

# Family Reunion in Virginia 26<sup>th</sup> till 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008

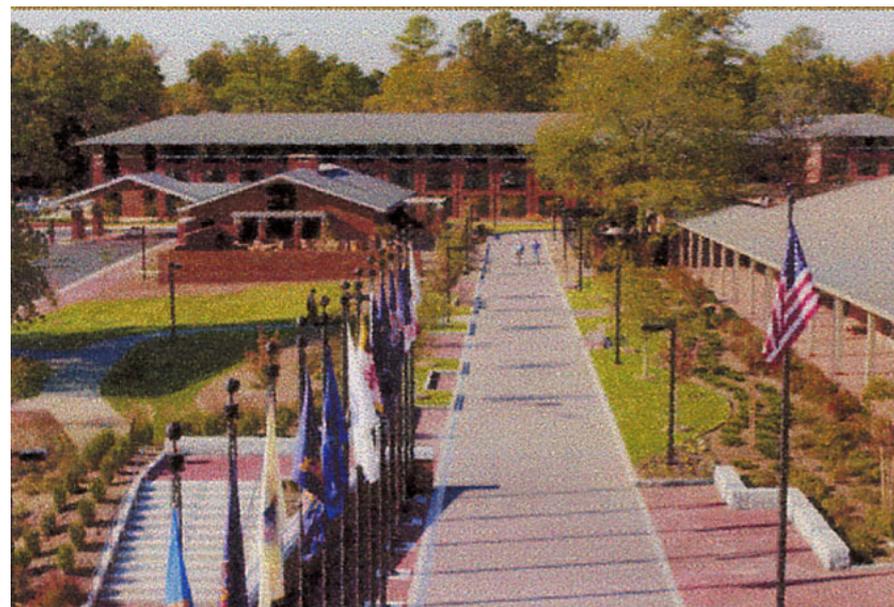
Official Programme in Williamsburg

Our next family reunion in Virginia in 2008 is in preparation. The official programme will start on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September and end on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September. We will be staying at the Colonial Williamsburg Hotels in Williamsburg near Hampton. A room (single or double) in the Governor's Inn costs 85 US Dollar. In case you want more luxury you can stay in the Woodlands Hotel & Suites (129 \$)

Friday evening we will all meet for supper. On Saturday we will visit the historic part of Williamsburg. The town on the River James was the capital of Virginia from 1699 till 1780.

Williamsburg, part of the "Colonial National History Park", is the image of an English colo-

nial town of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with 88 original and hundreds of reconstructed buildings. By protesting against the high English customs duties Williamsburg played a decisive role in the War of Independence (1775-1783). George Washington came from Virginia. In the Civil War (1861-1865) most of the fighting took place in Virginia. Franz Wilhelm Schilling von Canstatt fought many a battle as a soldier in the Confederate Army. Saturday night we will have a festive dinner. Our general meeting will be held on Sunday morning and in the afternoon we will go on a trip. Since most of the European members of the family will probably combine the reunion with a vacation in the States



*The Colonial Williamsburg Hotels are situated in the historic area.*

we would appreciate their booking their flights themselves. Remember to start looking for bargains rather early.

## A book about Franz-Wilhelm and Mollie



*Mollie Booker aged 38 years.*

Jean Marshall von Schilling Ph.D. from Richmond/Virginia has recently written a book about the life of her ancestor Franz-Wilhelm Schilling v. Canstatt, who emigrated to America and about his wife Mollie Booker and their descendants.

The book has 88 pages containing 73 very nice pictures of the family. It is an excellent record of the history of this family, mainly basing on Franz's letters, which are kept in the collection of manuscripts of the Historical Society of Virginia. It is a report on the family's start in Virginia showing their development until today. Heinz Schilling v. C. is considering a translation into German.

You can look at the book and possibly order it on our next meeting in 2008.

# News of the Schillings

## Knocking at Schilling's Door

New project in Mittweida/annoyance about Opening Hours

Heiko Weber, the director of the museum in Mittweida is always busy organizing a variety of activities inside and outside the Schilling Museum that was opened on the occasion of the last family reunion in honour to the famous sculptor Johannes Schilling. Five artists from Chemnitz stayed in the museum garden for four days, working with sandstone and porphyry. Their motto: "Knocking at Schilling's door". On the "International Museum Day" (21<sup>st</sup> May) the artists introduced their work to the public and were highly praised. Instead of being hidden in the museum the sculptures will be exhibited on one of Mittweida's town squares.

Unfortunately there was some trouble with the Opening Hours of the Schilling Museum. Only a short time after the official opening the Opening Hours were changed from Tuesday till Friday from 10h to 12h and 13h to 17h, Sat. and Sun. from 10h to 12h and 13h to 16h to: Tuesday till Friday from 12h to 17h. Since the family sponsors the overheads and the chairman of the association protested against this decision, Mayor Damm promised to have the museum opened from 11h to 17h.

### A Treasure for the Schilling Museum

Last year in August, after the death of Johannes Schilling's grandson Heinar Schilling our

chairman and the director of the museum, Mr. Weber, went to see Heinar's partner in northern Germany in order to pick up some very valuable documents plus a portrait of the sculptor and letters. The museum is considering a special exhibition.

### Anniversary of the Bismarck Monument

The colossal Bismarck Monument in Hamburg is 100 years old this year. The sculptor Hugo Lederer was one of Johannes Schilling's students. A couple of years earlier, at the age of 70, Johannes Schilling had erected a monument of the Emperor Wilhelm I on the Rathausmarkt (market square) in Hamburg. It brought him the considerable sum of 750000 Mark. The monument changed the whole appearance of the market square. The younger competitors like Ernst Barlach for instance, who had lost the competition, spitefully pronounced Johannes' art "stone-dead". After the Second World War Wilhelm I was banished to the ramparts of Hamburg.



*The artist Volker Beier and his sculpture "Little Boy with Paper Hat". Beier: "I intended to draw a line to Schilling, since he has very often made sculptures of his grandchildren."*

## Genealogy of the Eastern Branch, "Red Helmuth"

The "Red Helmuth", history and genealogy of the eastern branch, is still available, A set of leaves costs 6 \$ (3 £) **plus postage** and the red cover costs 4 \$ (2 £) plus postage.

Order from:

**Helmuth v. Schilling, Otto-Hahn-Straße 4, 40591 Düsseldorf**

**Tel: Germany 211 750106**

**e-mail: hvschill@yahoo.de**

Gretel Bauermann burnt the genealogy of the whole family onto a CD which is also available. The CD, containing all the information about the family we have, costs 4 \$ (2 £) **plus postage**.

Order from:

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## Schilling Courier

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## Reunion of the Eastern Branch

### The Schillings received a Hearty Welcome in Estonia

**61 people toured the country on the occasion of the family reunion in July 2006**



*Flowers decorating the epitaph of Karl Gebhard.*

The epitaph in honour to the ancestor of the Schillings in Estonia, Karl Gebhard, was decorated with flowers, when on 15<sup>th</sup> July many of his descendants gathered together in front of the St. Johannis Church in Estonia. 61 members of the family and a couple of guests had come to the reunion of the Baltic branch of the Schilling Association in Estonia in memory of Karl Gebhard's only son Fabian Wilhelm, who was born in St. Johannis/Jaerva Jaani 245 years ago. On 13<sup>th</sup> July the family met in the "Bayerischer Keller" (restaurant) in the basement of the Scandic Hotel "St. Barbara" in Reval/Tallinn. In his welcoming speech the chairman of the association, cousin Helmuth appreciated so many people joining the reunion of the Baltic branch

He mentioned that people between four to 90 years of age had come, representing six different countries.

The next morning started with a sight seeing tour of Tallinn, guided by the inimitable Juri Kuuskemaa, the afternoon was spent in Tallinn's new museum "KUMU" (modern Estonian art) in Katharinental. Of special interest for the Schilling family was the painting "Sermon of the Mount" by Eduard von Gebhardt. Since the painter's father was the parish priest of St. Johannis and a close friend of the Schillings, his son also knew the family quite well. Eventually some of the persons on the painting are supposed to represent the Schillings he knew. A guessing game. Actually the descendants of that family were not very successful



*Members of the Baltic branch in front of the manor house of Orgena, the original seat of this branch.*

in finding any resemblance. The first highlight of the reunion was a dinner in the “Olai Hall”, one of the big rooms of the “Schwarzenhaeupter” guildhall. The tables were nicely decorated with flowers and candles, the food was delicious and we all drank a lot. Afterwards most of the family eventually met on the market square, where they continued celebrating until late into the night.

In the morning a double-decker bus brought us into the country. The bus first stopped at the church of Turgel/Tueri, where we visited the burial place of Serrefer. Afterwards we all sat down for lunch in the manor house, nowadays a school for housekeeping and farming. A group of musicians played folk music and some of the Schillings started dancing.

Our next stop was the manor house of Seidel/Seidla. In the hall that was lit by candles, the present owner Tina Raal welcomed us with sparkling wine and strawberries. Afterwards he let us walk around the house. Unfortunately the building still is in a rather bad condition

.Raal wants to turn the house into an antique shop plus exhibition hall.

Our next destinations were the church of St. Johannis and the manor house of Orgena, the original seat of Baltic Schillings. The Pastor Katrin Melder welcomed the guests in front of the church. Inside the church we attended a memorial service, where Kitty Korff played the flute and her sister Marie the organ. We visited the manor house of Orgena that unfortunately is in a poor condition though a new roof was sponsored by the family. On the upper floor there is a local history museum with a room in honour to the Schilling family and Pastor Gebhardt.

We all had supper in the vicarage. Mayor Rein Koester presented the chairman of the association and cousin Helene, who takes an active part in the parish, with letters of thanks. Unfortunately Helene was not present, since she had a torn sinew and eventually had to stay in the hospital.

After visiting the Juergensbergs’ burial place and the manor house of Orissar we

drove on to Dorpat/Tartu.

The sight seeing tour of the old university town was still more charming since the town was celebrating the “Hanseatic League Day”. In the afternoon the party drove on, via Lake Peipus, to the “Aunts’ House”, a building once belonging to the estate of Ruil/Roela (Wrangell).

Our host, Peter Krienitz, welcomed his guests playing a tune on the horn and serving vodka and Baltic mince pies. After a tour of the house and the garden he invited us to a delicious supper.

The next day brought us to Wessenberg/Rakvere, to the Tolsburg (castle) and to the manor house of Palms/ Palmse.

After a nice swim in the Baltic Sea we all went back to Reval/Tallinn.

The official programme of our reunion ended with a dinner in the “Carl Friedrich” Restaurant on the market square of Reval/Tallinn.

In the morning of the next day part of the group went on a four-day trip to the island of Oesel/Saaremaa in lovely weather.

