

Schilling-Courier



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

News of the association of the Schilling family with annual report 2006

Family reunion in a place of historical

Around Easter 2008 the Schilling family is going to meet in Virginia / Origin of the USA

As the Schilling association has about 90 members on the American continent (USA, Canada, Chile and Guadeloupe), married partners included, it is about time for a family reunion there: We decided on next year.

From 20 March to 24 March (Easter time) we are going to meet in Williamsburg/Virginia, a town with 12 000 inhabitants and will be staying in the Colonial Williamsburg Company Hotels (Governor's Inn and Woodland Hotel).

We will follow in the footsteps of Franz Wilhelm Schilling von Canstatt (1832-1895), ancestor of all the Virginian Schillings. In 1861 Franz immigrated to America and fought in the Civil War as Major in the Confederate Army. In 1869 he married Molly Booker and in 1890 he went back to Germany leaving his wife and children in Virginia. Virginia was the first place for English people trying to settle, 33 years before the landing of the "Mayflower" on the coast



Williamsburg Inn, one of the beautiful buildings in town.

of Massachusetts and the foundation of Plymouth. Sir Walter Raleigh, seafarer and discoverer, one of the favourites of Elizabeth I, named the whole area Virginia, in honour to the "Virgin Queen". Because of the difficult living conditions and the continuous fights against the Indians in 1587 his attempt failed to found the settlement of Roanoke on an island 175 km south of Williamsburg.

The English however never gave

up. 20 years later on 13 May 1607, i.e. 400 years ago, 104 colonists landed on three boats in Chesapeake Bay, where they founded the settlement of Jamestown (will be visited) on a peninsula: the origin of the USA. The settlement was named after King James I of England, who had permitted the English merchants to colonize the New World. The colonization was financed by investors of the Virginia Company, willing to take



A reproduction of the "Godspeed" of Jamestown: Sail with God.

from starvation they lived in danger from being eaten by their relatives. One of the chronicles reports that one of the settlers killed his wife in order to eat her.

The Europeans were not prepared to cope with this kind of life. The third part of the population were gentlemen, who were neither willing nor able to do any hard work, the others were craftsmen, soldiers and adventurers, totally ignorant about farming and neither did they care, because they only wanted to find gold and turn the settlement into a trading place.

The peninsula was marshland, full of mosquitoes and without drinking water. Malaria spread very quickly. In the beginning the Indians of the region were rather friendly, helped the new community overcome the initial problems and even taught the settlers how to plant tobacco. So eventually they achieved a rather sound economic base.

the risk and having the stretch of coast between 34° and 41° of latitude at their disposal.

To the English Jamestown seemed suitable for settling since the Indians had already cleared the land of trees and the River James was deep enough to allow big boats to drop anchor. And the mouth of the river was far enough from the settlement (about 55 km) in order to protect it from a Spanish invasion, the Spanish claiming this bit of land on the American east-coast too. 42 years earlier the Spanish had founded the settlement of St. Augustine south of Florida.

The little colony of Jamestown had a rough start. Hunger, diseases and fights dominated the colonists' lives. Only 60 out of 500 survived the first three years of hardship. If they did not die



The tobacco plantation made James wealthy. From the many pipes that were found in the excavations we know that the inhabitants of the town did not only produce them but liked smoking them as well.

But finally there was mounting tension between them and the Indians were driven away. When Jamestown was founded there were about 30 tribes of the Powhatan Indians living along the coast of Chesapeake Bay, a population of about 15 000 people. By the end of the 16th century there were only 2000 left.

In 1608 John Smith, the leader of the settlers, almost became a victim of the Indians, but obviously Pocahontas, the Indian chief's beautiful young daughter successfully begged her father for mercy for the Englishman.

In 1614 she married the tobacco planter John Rolfe. There are many legends about Pocahontas and many movies dealing with them, one of them by Walt Disney. There is a monument quite close to that of John Smith's in Jamestown. A museum and excavations were opened in 2006, where samples of the early life in British America are exhibited. The original part of Jamestown is completely gone.

By the way a German was among the first settlers who founded Jamestown on 13 May 1607: John Fleischer, a botanist and medical doctor from Breslau (now Poland), who was about to get his university degree in Basel (Switzerland). He came to Virginia in order to study the exotic flora and

fauna of the country for his thesis. He died in 1608 already.

In the same year, 400 years before our family reunion, three German glaziers came to Jamestown, sent by the Virginia Company, in order to make window panes for buildings in London. They were killed by Indians in 1608.

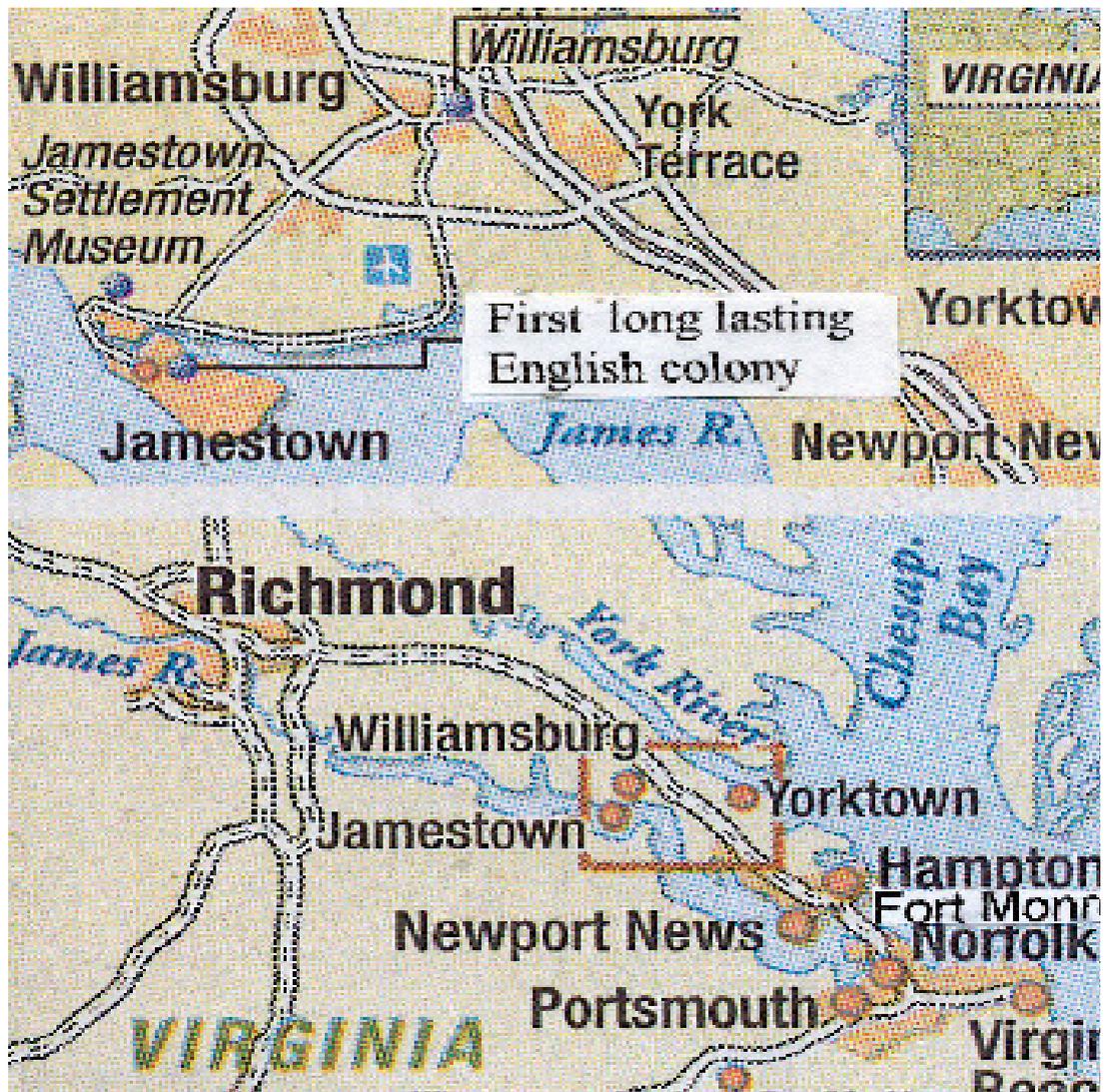
For two reasons the year 1619 became an important year for the USA. In Jamestown the House of Burgesses, the first free elected Representatives of a North American colony, assembled for the first time and the first boat loaded with slaves from Africa landed along the coast: cheap workers for the steadily growing plantations, who were used to the heat.

Because of Jamestown's bad climate in 1699 people decided to

Williamsburg (our meeting place) the capital of the country. In 1780 Richmond (200 000 inhabitants) became the capital.

Virginia also played an important part in the War of Independence (1776-1783) against England. George Washington, a rich landowner from Virginia, was appointed commander-in-chief of the rebel troops. He was to become the first President of the new country (1789-1793). The third President was Thomas Jefferson (1801-1805), also a Virginian. In 1881 the "rebels" won the decisive victory over the English in the battle of Yorktown (we will visit) south of Williamsburg. The way to their independence was clear.

Among the soldiers of the English army there were 30000 German



mercenaries, only 17 000 however went back home, 8000 died, 5000 deserted and stayed in America.

Virginia also played its part in the Civil War (1861-1865). People more and more disapproved of the slave trade that was specially done for the plantations in the south. When eventually in 1860 Abraham Lincoln, a Northerner, who strictly opposed to slavery, became President, seven angry southern States joined up in a "Confederacy". Virginia was one of them with Richmond as their capital.

Though the northern armies were greater in number they lost one battle after the other in Virginia, since the south had better generals. But in the end the northern armies won the war because of their economic strength and because they successfully cut the south off the international trade. On 9 April 1865 General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate Army, was forced to surrender and the war came to an end. 600000 soldiers had lost their lives. In 1863 West Virginia, loyal to the Union, had seceded from Virginia.

As you all know the Schillings were involved in this war too. Not only Franz, who was a major and in services in the famous Fort Monroe (will be visited), but also James Earnest, who had emigrated from England to Virginia. When his sons refused to reenlist in the Confederate Army their father was arrested and kept a prisoner.

After his release from prison he left the country and moved to West Virginia.



The immigrant Franz, his wife Molly, the children Ilma, Marshall and Franz and their nanny.

From the Various Branches



Southern Branch

A Trip to the USA 42 Years Ago

In 1965 Cousin Mady visited the relatives in Virginia

Our cousin Mady Freifrau Schilling von Canstatt from Cologne/Germany, who celebrated her 90th birthday last year, always wanted to contact the American relatives, because she was very interested in making this branch of our family join the family association. So eventually 42 years ago, on 29 July 1965, she went over to Virginia and California. The flight in a propeller-driven plane took 29 hours with two stops on Iceland and in Newfoundland.

Back home Mady gave a report to the family association parts of which read as follows:

"At 5.30 pm on 2 August I arrived at Newport, Virginia. Franz Schilling v. Canstatt (1900-1975), his wife Elizabeth (1901-1973) and Franz's cousin Lucien (1907-1981) with his daughter Ruth Moore came to pick me up."

(Note: Franz is the grandson of Franz-Wilhelm, who in 1861 immigrated to Virginia. Franz's father (also called Franz) and Lu-

Lucien's father Leopold Marshall were brothers).

"We drove a couple of miles to Lucien's house, where he had moved to quite recently: a bungalow, a pine wood with oaks in between, sand and a creek. Very much like home, somewhere in Brandenburg, where I have lived for such a long time. Only everything is much bigger over there, the pine needles are longer and the leaves of the oaks larger. The house is made from wood on the inside as well as on the outside. I was to come across this beautiful and rather vivid redwood, which is absolutely resistant to rot, more often later. Even the ceilings are wooden. Everything seems nice and cosy.

Lucien was a very talented and enthusiastic aircraft constructor. Unfortunately he had to give up this profession, in order to take over the bank that had been in the possession of the family for such a long time. It was not at all an easy decision for Lucien, but he felt he owed it to the family.

After we had a drink we drove on to Williamsburg, the old Virginian capital that nowadays looks like an open-air museum. We had



Franz, the grandson of the immigrant, with his family.

dinner in the Palace, an excellent restaurant. After dinner we left Lucien and Ruth and crossed the James River by ferry. The river reminds me of the Havel (German river), though the James River is much wider. While we were in the wood I kept hearing funny noises. I thought it might be birds, but Franz told me it was bullfrogs. And I heard lots of cicadas.

My hosts lived in Spring Grove, where I had a cottage all by myself: It was white from the outside, with a living room, three bedrooms, a bathroom and a kitchen. The furnishings had been chosen with loving care. Fortunately there was a ventilator, because it is oppressively hot at this time of year. Even at night it hardly cools

down.

The next day I was able to see the main house. It was beautifully furnished with marvellous silver, most of it from England. Franz and Elizabeth had carefully collected everything on their various trips to foreign countries. While Franz had been a member of the board of Texas Oil he had to do a quite a lot of travelling: to Holland, England, the Middle East and Australia.

A garden, almost a park slopes away towards the river, with crêpes myrtles in blossom (bushes, similar to lilac, red and purple, visible in all the woods of Virginia at this time of year), oleander and sweet peas (incredibly big, but like many flowers in this country



Lucien



Leopold Marshall („Winks“)

they do not smell). There are paddocks with white fences behind a wall, cattle and two horses in front of the house. Corn, soya, peanuts and tobacco are growing in the fields. The view into the dis-



Sara, sister of Franz.

stance is absolutely marvellous. When Franz bought the farm in the twentieth, the house was in a state of great disrepair.

Franz and Elizabeth’s daughter, Virginia Eley, came to stay with her parents, bringing her three children, because they all wanted to meet me, too. We left for Richmond at 11 o’clock in order to visit Franz’s sister Sara Stanley. She lives in a pretty white house in the forest.

On 4 August Franz’s cousin, Leopold Marshall, whose nickname is “Winks” (1905-1081), invited us to a cocktail party and a family dinner at an officers’ club in Hampton. Franz and I crossed the James River by a bridge that is seven miles long. It was built in 1910 and has been the longest bridge in the world for quite a time. Hampton is a port with a fort and fortifications, quite close to Fort Monroe. In this fort the immigrant Franz did his military service (on the wrong side however; at least his descendants say so, for he fought in the North Army).

One time he was quartered at Sherwood, in the house of the landowner George Booker. Eventually he fell in love with his younger daughter. Since her father wanted to marry off his eldest daughter Molly first, Franz married her instead. Booker’s five sons, fighting for the Confederate Army, had to stay hidden all the while. His descendants, the Bookers and the Schillings are highly respected citizens of Hampton still. Five generations, that means a lot in the USA.” As „Winks“ was a retired colonel he was allowed to invite us to the elegant officers’ club. In the beginning people watched me care-

fully but in the end everyone was very, very kind and I was properly accepted.

In between Lucien made a welcoming speech on traditions and the tasks and duties that one has to fulfil in order to keep them up. My father as well as my cousin Erich might have said the same. I felt like saying thank you and so I did. I told them about the family association and that the German branch sent their regards hoping that the Virginian branch would join the association and come to the next reunion in 1967. They agreed with the greatest pleasure and promised to come.

On 7 August I left Virginia in order to visit the second American branch of the family in California staying with Marion and her son Bill in San Francisco for a fortnight. They are descendants of James Ernest who had immigrated to Virginia from London in 1849. His descendants had moved to California later.”



In 1965 cousin Mady Schilling von Canstatt visited the relatives in the USA for the first time.



The procession of the princes in Dresden, 101 metres in length, applied to 24 000 porcelain tiles.



Western Branch

The Procession of the Princes

The director of the museum plays the role of Johannes

Dresden, the capital of Saxony, has been restored to its former splendour with the most beautiful sights. Turning into Au-
strasse (Au Street) right behind the castle you come upon something very special however: a picture on the east facade of the former stables, 101 metres in length. This decorative painting is most impressive by its size and by its beauty.

On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the Royal House of Wettin in 1889, the painter Wilhelm Walter was commissioned by King Albert to paint all of the 35 margraves, princes and kings of the Wettin lineage in a procession.

This marvellous painting, being very much damaged after a couple of years already, eventually was applied to 24000 porcelain tiles in the porcelain manufacture of Meissen/Saxony. The city

of Dresden was lucky that this had happened, because like this most of the painting survived the



Schilling in the procession.

the firestorm following the bombardment in 1945.

The huge painting is a portrayal of 94 persons, among them 45 on horseback. In addition to the 35 princes you can see various flag-bearers, trumpeters and heralds. The procession ends with men from various professional groups like scientists and artists as well as craftsmen, miners and farmers.



Heiko Weber as Schilling.

One of the artists on the painting is Johannes Schilling, the famous member of our family.

On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the city of Dresden some courageous people from Dresden had a rather unusual idea: They wanted to let the procession come back to life, an enormous task. But eventually they did not only find a sufficient number of actors but sponsors as well, who made the precise fabrication of the costumes plus the accessories for 94 people, 45 horses and a dog possible. The whole thing cost 1,5 million Euro, the material for the costumes alone cost 200 000 Euro.

The least problem was to find the right actor for the role of Johannes Schilling: the historian Heiko Weber, the director of the "Alte Pfarrhaeuser Museum" (old parsonages) in Mittweida, where Johannes Schilling was born. The Schilling association contributed to the costume of Schilling, which was an exact copy of the original.

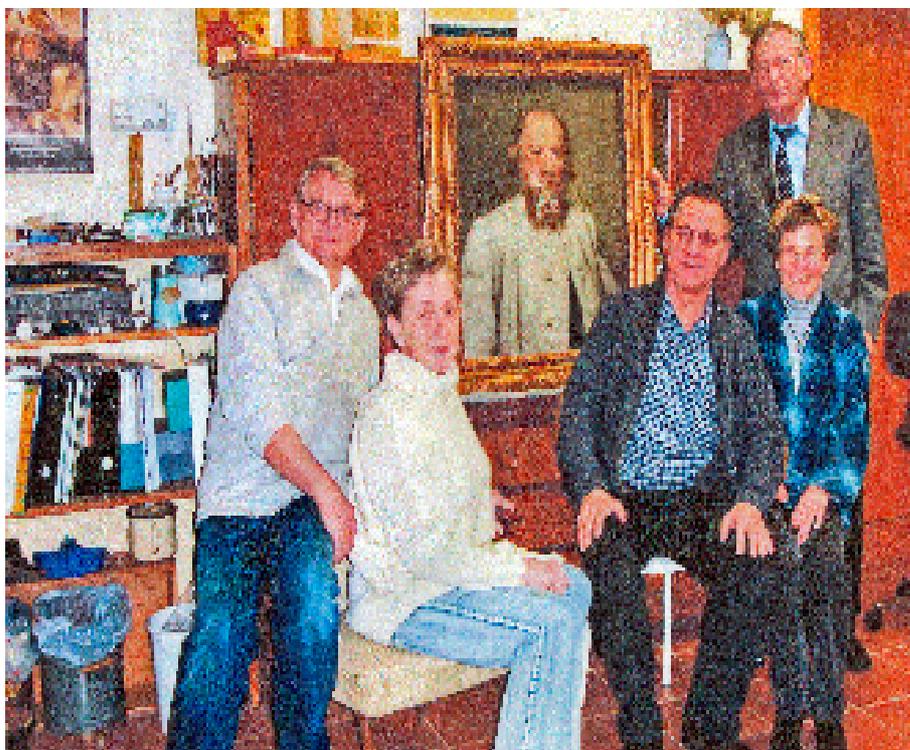
Heiko Weber: "I agreed right away. It was obvious that I was the right person to represent the museum and the town." Eventually Weber had some problems with the beard. "With the kind of beard that was originally planned I would have looked like Karl Marx." Fortunately the organizers agreed to let the director of the museum have a beard that was slightly longer. In order to have his head as bald as the sculptor's Weber had to have part of his head shaved. The actor portraying Schilling wore a black frock coat and a pair of light grey trousers. In his hand he held a brush, a chisel and a spatula – all of them originals from the muse-

ked with and which are guarded um that Schilling had really worked by Weber like the crown jewels. 27 August 2006 was the day. The procession marched along the streets of Dresden, being greeted by the cheering of one and half a million people. Some of them even recognized the sculptor. Weber: "They shouted 'hello Mr. Schilling'. But I myself kept yelling 'Schilling says hello to Dresden!'" You cannot suppose everyone to recognize the historical figures after all. "Maybe numbers on the backs of the actors might have helped", Heiko Weber said. It would not have looked too well but it might have helped the crowd to recognize the figures. It was decided to let this procession – 250 metres in length – come back to life again. It is supposed to march along the streets of Dresden or somewhere

else in the region two or three times a year. This year's procession will be on 19 August in the capital of Saxony

Restoration of a Schilling-Portrait

And something else about Johannes Schilling: The portrait of Schilling that in 2005 our chairman and Heiko Weber had collected from the estate of the artist's deceased grandson Heinar Schilling and brought from Schleswig-Holstein to Mittweida, was sadly damaged. The actor Walter Nickel, married to the artist's great granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel, contributed to the restoration. The restorer Monika Neugebauer, a great admirer of the sculptor's work, who was commissioned to do the job suggested to restore the sadly damaged golden frame as well



In the restorer's workshop in Dresden, in front of Johannes Schilling's portrait. From left: the donor Walter Nickel, Ina Schilling-Nickel (Johannes Schilling's great granddaughter), the director of the museum Heiko Weber (without his beard), the restorer Monika Neugebauer, in the background our chairman.

free of charge.

The oil painting was back in Mittweida just in time for this year's "Day of the Museum" on 20 May. It was proudly exhibited on the occasion of Johannes Schilling's 179th anniversary on 23 June. On the day of his 49th birthday, 130 years ago, he was

given the freedom of the city. He was the first citizen of Mittweida who was honoured in this way. The Schilling portrait – oil on wood – has found an appropriate place in the museum. Until then it used to hang in the staircase of the artist's house in Dresden-Klotzsche.

turning to Germany, but we heard that no boats were to leave the harbours, since the war had started. In 1940 I started to work in a coal mine. I had to slave away two days a week for four dollars a day. I worked in a pit, where I had to push the empty wagons together again. Eventually one of the wagons went backwards and got stuck in the mud. In order to get it out I had to go into another pit. Unfortunately I was hit by the descending lift and got caught right underneath. When the man on the other side realized that the lift had not gone down the whole way he pushed it up and saw me lying underneath. They got me out and brought me into the hospital. I had to stay there for three months without having an operation. My back was broken or cricked, my foot and three ribs were dislocated. The white in my eyes was crimson from struggling against the weight of the lift (one and a half tonnes) in order to get out.



Eastern Branch

Buried Alive, but Survived

A difficult start for Fritz v. Schilling in Canada

In the last edition of the Schilling Courier I published the first part of my uncle Fritz von Schilling's diary. Last year it was his report on the winter of hunger in Riga/Latvia 1917/1918 describing how he and his family managed to survive. Fritz' parents left their native country in 1919 in order to try their luck in Germany. In 1929 Fritz (20 years old) and his brother Gebhard (already married) immigrated to Canada. Fritz writes:

"We left Bremerhaven on the "Dresden" arriving in Halifax in April. All settlers on board the ship felt like a big family. This was where I met Gerda Vidal, whom I got married to later. It took us six days to get from Halifax to Saskatchewan by train."

Note: Since I have already given you a report on his brother Gebhard and their settling in Saskatchewan in last year's edition, I will skip this part and continue with their settling in British Columbia (B.C.).

"In 1937 we moved to B.C. hoping to earn more money. When my wife saw a chestnut tree in blossom, she said: 'Wild horses would not drag me away from here.' So for the next three years we li-

ved quite close to the sea, where we could play with the children (three), swim and go fishing. We practically lived on fish these days. In 1938 I bought my first car, a Chevrolet 28 that cost me 30 dollars. Naturally the car needed a lot of repair, but it was necessary to cover the distances in Canada.

After three years we moved to another district, where there were more Germans. We thought about



Fritz von Schilling, aged 65, in front of his farm house in Canada.

In the beginning they thought the veins in my head had burst, but fortunately they were alright. At home I hobbled on crutches and played a lot with the children. By the end of 1940 we moved to Vancouver Island, where we lived in an old farm house. We wanted to stay there until the end of the war.

We lived on 20 dollars per month, the compensation I received for my accident. Since I could hardly bear sitting at home the children carried an axe into the forest which belonged to our estate. I started to fell trees for our wood-burning stove. The first blows nearly made me faint, but after a few weeks I had successfully cut down a couple of trees, providing us with wood for the stove. Because of this work the muscles of my back got so strong that I was able to walk upright again.

Three years later I was asked to come to Vancouver in order to have my bones operated. I told the doctors how my children had laughed at the thought that my bones were supposed to knit correctly after such a long time. It was my own doing that bewared me from being crippled. I was always in pain, but I tried to forget about it.

During the war all Germans were treated as Nazis. I was not willing to accept this kind of treatment and continued to speak German. Once a month we had to present ourselves at the police station, the policemen's behaviour towards us was quite correct.

Later we had to present ourselves at the post office. During the war all German-Canadians had to hand in their guns, which eventually disappeared al

together and were never returned after the war. The Germans were being treated like the Japanese. They had to leave the coast.

Many of them were sent to concentration camps, where they had to stay until the end of the war in spite of their being Canadian citizens.

After the war we started to send parcels to my brother Juergen in Wilhelmshaven in Germany via Norway, four boxes by the size of one and a half square metres. He distributed the contents among people in need. All of them must have been thinking we were millionaires.

After 1945 I started to work as a carpenter, which was well paid. It took me all the money I had, to send those parcels. When a couple of years later people started to ask for things my own children (six by then) did not even have, we stopped sending parcels altogether."

So far Fritz' report. Before long he extended his farm. The trees on his estate proved to be very valuable, especially since someone had discovered that a laxative could be produced from the bark. Fritz always said that he was able to afford his trip to the family reunion in Europe from selling one tree.

His six children (four sons, two daughters) helped him running the farm. Meanwhile Fritz and Gerda have more than 30 descendants. Gerda died in 1991, aged 85, Fritz died six years later, aged almost 90. In 1993 he had got married again.

News of the Family: **Reunion of our Young Members in Paris**

It was already announced in February: Yasmine Foy, our elected representative of the young members is planning a special reunion in Paris from 31 October (Thursday, day of arrival) till 4 November (Monday (day of departure) 2007. There will be a sightseeing tour on 1 November (All Saints' Day), a visit to Euro Disney on 2 November and some sports activities on 3 November. The meeting will cost 200 Euro, travelling expenses for the journey to Paris not included. The association contributes 100 Euro. If you are interested please contact Yasmine as soon as possible:

5 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt,
97137 Suresnes, France. Phone:
0626487184,

email: yasfoy@gmail.com

By the way: Invited are all members up to 35 years, husbands or wives included.

Schilling-Courier

Publication: yearly

Publisher: Verband des Hauses Schilling e.V.

Editor: Helmuth v. Schilling

Arrangement: Ebba v. Schilling

Photos: Colonel Williamsburg Hotels (1), FAZ (2), National Geographic (1), Jean v. Schilling (4), Ziehen-Panorame Verlag (1), Heiko Weber (1), Der Fuerstenzug zu Dresden e.V. (1), Ebba v. Schilling (1), Christian Schilling v.Canstatt (1).

Translation: Brigitte v. Osterhausen