

# Schilling-Courier



Descendants of the Burgrave Heinrich Schilling von Lahnstein who died in 1221

News of the Schilling Association and Annual Report 2014

## The Schillings were no King's Murderers

New facts: Friedrich von Lahnstein only participated in the Lahneck conspiracy

During medieval times blood and thunder played an important part in the life of the Schillings. While the Schillings were Burgraves of Lahneck Castle there were many bloody fights in the Roman Empire of the German Nation:

In the summer of 1298 King Adolf of Nassau was slain in the Battle of Göllheim on the Middle Rhine River. This blood-shedding was initiated by Albrecht of Habsburg, son of the predecessor, King Rudolf, who claimed the throne.

In fact Albrecht was elected king after Adolf's death, which was not appreciated by everyone, especially not by his nephew Johann who felt cheated of his heritage. Therefore Duke Johann, later called Parricida (king's assassin), together with some befriended knights killed King Albrecht I on the banks of the river Reuss in the Swiss Canton of Aarau on May 1, 1308. In his book "Stammfolge des



*Lahneck Castle today*

Erikgeschlechts“ our former, rather controversial family genealogist writes:

„Friedrich I Schilling (born about 1240), Burgrave of Lahneck Castle, participated in the blood feud, which started after the assassination of King Albrecht I, and he joined the con-

spiracy of Duke Johann Parricida. Eventually he participated in the assassination of the king, was placed under the imperial ban and tried to prevent Lahneck castle from being placed under the „Reichsexekution“ (imperial execution) by the Prince Electors of Cologne and Trier.

When Lahneck Castle was stormed on 6 July 1310 he was taken prisoner and soon afterwards he was executed in Cologne.” According to Heinar Friedrich’s nephew Bernhard died on the banks of the river Reuss after his participation in the assassination of King Albrecht I.

Investigating the history of the Schillings of Lahneck our board member Reinhard Schilling of the western branch found a quite different version of the story. In fact there were sound reasons for Friedrich Schilling to participate in the conspiracy against Duke Johann. Above all there was his obligation to join the blood feud starting with the death of Adolf of Nassau in the Battle of Göllheim. Historical documents, however, give more than one reason for the Lahneck Schillings to join the conspiracy against King Albrecht I: By various economic actions in favour of the towns the king had tried to weaken the position of the Burgraves, especially those living along the River Rhine.

Eventually not only custom matters were the reason for the “Rheinischen Zollkrieg” (customs war) from 1301 to 1302. Albrecht’s activities and the elimination of their privileges in favour of the towns, made the knights and the Burgraves afraid of losing their economic and political freedom. This caused increasing dissatisfaction culminating in the siege of Lahneck Castle in the spring of 1308.

And yet another reason may have caused Friedrich’s sympathy with the conspirators: The Lahnstein Schillings and the House of Nassau, Adolf’s family were di-



*King Adolf of Nassau*

rectly connected. In the course of his extensive research on the genealogy of the House of Katzenelnbogen Cousin Reinhard found out that the family, who since 1271 was in the possession of the Marxburg in Braubach, neighbouring Lahneck Castle, was connected with the Schillings of Lahnstein by family ties as well as by the grant of a fiefdom. King Adolf’s mother came from the House of Katzenelnbogen.

Referring to the year 1308 the Katzenelnbogen Chronicle reports as follows:

“At Lahneck Castle Burgrave Friedrich of Lahnstein and his men initiated a conspiracy against King Albrecht of Habsburg, in order to avenge King Adolf of Nassau. Eventually the castle is stormed and the conspirators are executed.” The report for the year 1310 reads as follows: “Dieter, Duke of Katzenelnbogen Burgrave of Lahnstein Castle.”

According to the chronicle the castle was stormed before 1 May 1308. Since Burgrave Friedrich Schilling was killed during this



*King Albrecht I of Habsburg*

action, he can definitely not have participated in the assassination of King Albrecht and therefore he was not executed in Cologne. Neither has his nephew Bernhard participated in the assassination, since he died in 1304.

The assassination of King Albrecht on 1 May 1308 is one of those historical events that are thoroughly investigated and recorded. There is no proof of a participation of any member of the Lahnstein Schilling family or of the “von Rheinfelden” family who, according to Heinar, were related to the Schillings.

We know for certain that Walter von Eschenbach, Rudolf von Wart, Rudolf von Balm and probably Konrad von Tegerfeld participated in the assassination. Shortly after the action they met at Frohburg castle and afterwards each went his own way, back into his daily life.

It is remarkable that after the assassination King Heinrich VII, Albrecht’s elected successor, waited 16 months before he placed the assassins and their families under the imperial ban. This seemed to be a rather mild

verdict. Albrecht's sons Leopold and Friedrich, however, took it upon themselves to avenge their father. Rudolf von Wart was cruelly murdered. The others managed to escape, lost their property and spent the rest of their lives in unfamiliar surroundings or in monasteries.

The mild verdict was probably due to the fact that in Göllheim Albrecht, a subordinate duke

who intended to take the crown for himself, was responsible for the assassination of Adolf, an appointed king. The conspirators, though, thought themselves justified because apart from purely selfish reasons their bloody action was meant as the lawful correction of an injustice and was therefore morally regarded as a „tyrannicide.“

Eventually we need not be

ashamed of the fact that Friedrich Schilling von Lahnstein did not particularly like King Albrecht I and that he initiated the conspiracy against him. But neither he nor his nephew Bernhard, were involved in the assassination in Brugg on 1 May 1308.

**(You can ask Cousin Reinhard for a copy of the detailed research report.)**

## News of the the Family Branches



Western Branch



## The Schilling House: 10th Anniversary

The HSG sports club honoured the sculptor in Mittweida

On 23 June this year's celebration of the 187th birthday of the sculptor Johannes Schilling, "Coffee at the Professor's Place", organised by his great granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel in Mittweida, was special: It was the 10th anniversary of the "Johannes Schilling House".

Almost 10 years ago, on 4 June 2005 at 11:42 h, the ribbon was cut in front of the building in Mittweida, Johannes Schilling's native town. On the occasion of the opening the family association held a great family reunion with 101 participants from ten countries. In his

short speech the chairman of the association mentioned this day. He thanked the city for letting the museum use the property without charging rent and the former director of the museum for his commitment. "We owe the architecture as well as the content of the museum to him and to his team."

The family association contributes financially to the maintenance of the museum. On the occasion of this years celebration many exhibits were restored and nine information boards were replaced. The president of the HSG Mitt-



*Guests in front of the Schilling House: Cousin Helmuth (3rd from the right), the sculptor's great granddaughters Heide Vosberg (7th from the left) and Ina Schilling-Nickel (to her right). First from the left: Ralf Schreiber, since August 2015 mayor of Mittweida*

weida (University Sports Club), Christian Andreis, had good news: At Cousin Ina's suggestion sports events will be held in Mittweida in order to commemorate Johannes Schilling.

Andreis said: "We are looking for a suitable way to honour the first honorary citizen of Mittweida. We want to bring his creative work to a wider public."

Eventually the plan has already been realised. This year the first Johannes-Schilling table tennis tournament was held, a judo tournament and the annual beach-ball tournament will be held in memory of Johannes Schilling, too. Many of the artist's plaster models are exhibited in the "Schilling House" as well as his desk and the harp that was built according to the sculptor's wishes.

Helmuth von Schilling



*The model of Johannes Schilling's "Quellennympe" is under restoration. For financial reasons the fountain that was to be erected on Mittweida's market square was not built after all.*

## The Children's Frieze:

### An Example of Restoration



*The children's frieze was restored*

At the beginning of the year the Association of the Friends of the Museum "Alte Pfarrhäuser" (Old Parsonages) Mittweida had one of Johannes Schilling's plaster models from the collection of the Schilling House restored: the children's frieze "Die Malerei" (painting).

He created the frieze while working as a student in the workshop of his professor, Julius Hähnel, in 1853. In 1851 Hähnel and Ernst Rietschel, another professor at the Academy of Art in Dresden, had got the commission to create the sculptures for Semper's new Gallery in Dresden. Schilling's drafts of two reliefs ("Die Malerei" and "Architektur und Plastik") were slightly modified, one-to-one plaster models and eventually the sandstone sculptures were made. Since 1890 the original plaster models, part of Hähnels estate, belong to the sculpture collection of the museum "Staatliche Kunstsammlung (State Art Collections) Dresden". The sandstone sculptures are still situated on the backside of the Semperoper (opera) overlooking the Zwinger. The plaster model of the frieze, an excellent work of art, is kept in Mittweida. It is 80 cm in width by 30 cm in height.

As it was kept in damp locations, the relief was severely damaged. The iron reinforcement had corro-

ded, three horizontal cracks were visible and an older vertical fracture; numerous pieces were broken and some parts of the surface were slightly damaged.

Temporarily, when the iron reinforcement was removed during the restoration, the relief consisted of three separate pieces. As little as possible was removed of the original material. Before any of the pieces were glued together again, they were freed from the old glue on the front as well as on the rear. The iron reinforcements were replaced by three stainless steel bars of the same length. Eventually the pieces were glued together with two-component adhesive. Cracks in the breaking edges were filled with plaster, missing pieces were replaced and two larger missing pieces that had to be replaced were treated in a way that they finally matched the structure and shape of the original.

Wherever the damaged area was refilled with plaster, it was carefully smoothed out in order to match the original surface. Finally the surface was cleaned and dots of grey colour were applied to the restored parts (Trattegio technique).

On the upper edge two original iron hooks for hanging the frieze were merely freed from rust.

Grit Stramm-Lange  
Dipl. Restauratorin



Southern Branch

## Diplomat under Surveillance

Donald Bush, Military Attaché in Moscow, 1975-1977



*Donald and Barbara Bush in Odessa. A KGB-Agent in appropriate distance to their left!*

Between 1975 and 1977 Donald Bush, a member of our association until his death in 2007, was a Military Attaché in the Soviet Union. While the brigadier general and his wife Barbara lived in Moscow Barbara wrote many letters to England, to her mother Elsie née Schilling von Canstatt, the wife of Jack Frankland. Later Barbara decided to publish these letters in a booklet and sent it to the family association. Since in the preface she explains that after the end of the Soviet Union these letters read as an historical diary, she agreed to publish some of them in the Schilling Courier.

According to Barbara the Mi-

litary Attachés used to be “the ears and the eyes” of the western world. In order to notice and hear as much as possible it was advisable not to travel the big country in a car but to walk selected towns. While doing this he and his wife, who was allowed to accompany him, were continuously surveilled by KGB-agents.

Eventually many agents were engaged in this task, since the Bushs used to cruise the Soviet Union a lot during these two years.

On 2 August 1975 Barbara wrote an interesting letter when their first working trip in the Soviet Union led them to the Ukraine, the country that became independent

after the collapse of the Soviet Union and is now heavily involved in the armed conflict with Russia

**2nd August 1975:**

“On Tuesday Donald and I, together with his assistant attaché and wife, drove down to Kiev”, the capital city of the Ukraine, “in one of the Volgas. It took us two days” to cover the distance of about 800 km “and we stopped overnight at Orel”/Orjol (320 000 inhabitants). “The hotel toilet lived up to expectations – a wooden seat at an angle and the cistern running all the time. I tried to rectify this by removing the cistern lid to fix the ballcock, stopped the leak but dropped the lid which made a terrible noise on the tiles and broke in half. I carefully replaced the pieces but Donald says he hopes I will not leave a trail of broken loo-tops throughout the Soviet Union!”

Barbara continues: “The roads are bad and most of the vehicles are lorries painted a dark green which gives them a military look. Petrol stations are few and far between, usually grubby little places with vehicles parked haphazardly. Because most of the engines run on cheap petrol with a low octane content we have no difficulty obtaining high octane immediately, but the poor quality causes a lot of unpleasant smoke and fumes.

Twice already we have met with friendliness when looking for a petrol station. One was closed, and a Russian got into his van and led us to the next one about a kilometre away down some very dusty roads; another time we were ushered by the next man in line to fill up before him. The side streets in quite large towns are still earthen tracks with large holes – definitely not for tourists! Every few kilometres there are posts manned



*Donald welcomes a Chinese delegation*

by militia men who keep a constant eye on traffic. It is amusing to watch them when they see our diplomatic white number plate, for they pause, then rush inside to telephone the next chap down the road that the foreigners are on their way! ... There is no chance of leaving the main road, for not only do we have KGB surveillance cars on our trail, but also these policemen would soon be after us."

To Barbara Kiev (2.7 million inhabitants) was a pleasant change from Moscow.

"Quite hilly and altogether less drab. The assistant attaché's wife and I visited the open market and did some pricing. It was clean and well-stocked at this time of year but the hunks of meat and fat looked nauseating. I had hoped to buy a souvenir of the Ukraine but there was very little to choose. One large china shop had hardly anything but shelves and shelves of the same thick, brown-glazed patterned pottery.

We left the car" in Kiev "for the next attaché to pick up for a journey further south and flew back by Aeroflot. Cramped seating space for Donald, and the usual unpleasant smell, which I can only describe as a combination

of cabbage and unwashed bodies and which prevails in all the shops, stations, airports and any other public place."

### **30th August 1975**

"Just returned from Odessa! We flew to Kiev, picked up the car and then drove through the Ukraine to Moldavia, close to the Rumanian border. What a wonderful expanse of country! It was refreshing to see the small, well-kept houses, ... trees gave much-needed shade and there were chickens, geese, turkeys and white ducks pecking at the dust, and tethered cows and calves. No tap water in these dwellings, but several communal wells at the roadside. Donald accompanied me to one village market to purchase fruit but we also came away with a grey Astrakhan lambskin, one of several, a peasant had on a pole, for a hat to match my fur coat! 'That was pretty expensive fruit' said Donald, 'you had better do your market purchasing alone next time!'"

### **11th October 1975**

"A busy hotel with the usual patient queue of Russians waiting for a room at reception. We were us-

hered past the queue – the usual form, for they try to reduce our contact with the populace and we pay treble the price for accommodation that a Soviet citizen has to pay. ... Donald asked in which room our friends were. 'Oh, they are next door', said ... the maid for that floor. A few minutes later Donald knocked on that door, which opened a few inches to reveal some very shocked KGB faces when they saw who was knocking, and was quickly closed again! Donald was also somewhat surprised. ... Certainly they [KGB] employ a lot of people and it must be all a great waste of time so far as Donald and I are concerned for they can expect to hear nothing of value, in fact, we have developed quite an art in silent conversation combined with the deaf and dumb language. I doubt whether a private conversation is private even in the street ... and it certainly is not private at home or in the car. However, all this adds to the challenge of life in this strange country ..."

And she continues: "Although I enjoy visiting all these places, they are all unfortunately geared to uniformity, not worth photographing ... wide main streets – usually called 'Lenin Prospekt' or 'Marx Street' and even such plums as 'Electrical Engineer Streets..."

### **26th May 1977**

"We did not get away this week as we had hoped. Permission was refused, so Donald will try for Smolensk" located about 300 km west of Moscow, "as a test case and see what happens. The Soviets have never refused a trip to Smolensk – to date! They are probably becoming a bit fed up with all Donald's travelling, and the KGB made themselves look foolish in

Khmelnitskiy when they ‘jumped’ him, snatched his little notebook and found only three street names in it.”

### 30th May 1977

“We were refused permission for Smolensk. Donald has thrashed it out in a stormy session with the Foreign Liaison Section of the Defence Ministry and it is clear that the KGB has demanded that Donald be restricted to Moscow for a few weeks. UK can do little about it except to ensure that the Soviet General in London is similarly restricted.

The temperature continues to warm up so I am sitting, wearing a sweater, on the small patio.

... Although the air feels pleasant it cannot be very clean for, as I write, minute black particles fall onto the notepaper. Imagine breathing in that every day of our life – no wonder” our assistant “is still away after a month, recovering from pneumonia.” In Moscow “all buildings are heated centrally by district boiler-houses. The central heating is constantly breaking down in the apartment blocks and two that we know of, where Embassy families reside, have had neither hot water nor explanation for a month.”

### 30th August 1977

“At last, at last – we have been allowed off the leash! A pleasant and successful trip” to Ukraine, “to Kiev and Chernigov (300 000 inhabitants) – the latter not visited for twenty years by a military attaché!

Discreet surveillance, which was as well because we were ‘initiating’ a new Canadian Military Attaché, Lt.-Col. Bert Severence and his wife Lois. This was the

third time we have stayed at the Dnieper Hotel in Kiev and both the service – we waited one hour for our evening meal to be served – and the food were awful. ...

The following evening in Chernigov we sat next to a table of jolly Ukrainians. A particularly large and vociferous one”, a bus-driver, “commenced a conversation with Donald ...

Toasts and talk went on intermittently and both were enjoying the exchange. Even the arrival at the bus-driver’s table of a KGB type, who proceeded to inform him that Donald was a General, did not deter him.” Eventually the bus-driver asked: ““Do you in England have such scum as we have to put up with?” indicating his uninvited table guest!

Clearly that was too much for the KGB and” the bus-driver “was escorted out.” Later in the foyer of the hotel we “found six or seven militia men interrogating our friend and associate at a table ... Donald went over to the group and asked what was the trouble. There was some embarrassment, then apologies that we had been ‘pestered’ by this man.

Donald was very strong in his defence of the fellow – an interesting talk, a good Soviet patriot, had said nothing against the State, and so on. The chief militia man responded and said ... that no, the bus-driver would not be in trouble. ... We noticed later, however, that the bus-driver and his friend were taken off in a militia car!”

### 9th September 1977

“... we did not have our trip to Mongolia authorised” but went to Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) and Tallinn the capital city of Estonia. Tallinn was delightful. An old and interesting town with



*The Bush's house in Moscow*

many fascinating red-tiled roofs that reminded me of Rothenburg in Germany. There were several flowersellers with their stalls on the grey, wet stones of a small square... The hotel was the most modern we have stayed in” in the Soviet Union, “and the toilet and showers were superb. We later learned that it had been designed and built by the Finns who are probably their most regular foreign visitors.”

### 27th September 1977

Good-bye Russia, Barbara and Donald take the train from Moscow to Helsinki. “The ‘Freds’ even accompanied us as far as the border! ... At the last station in the Soviet Union ... a man said (in Russian): ‘You travelled a lot.’ At this Donald asked how he knew, to which the fellow gave an expressive shrug of his shoulders. ...

I must say that as we crossed that border a little while ago it was with something of regret, relief and a feeling that an unforgettable period of our lives has just ended.”

# Photos of Heinrich After All

Interesting family documents of the southern branch



*Leopold Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt with his sons*

In last year's edition of the Schilling Courier there was a report of Heinrich Schilling von Canstatt (1885-1916) who, for a short time, was a student at a Grammar School in Esslingen. We thought that there were no photos of Heinrich, but after the publication of the Schilling Courier Ralph Schilling, a grandson of Heinrich's brother Leopold and one of our board members, told us that he had inherited a couple of photos from his father Heinz, the long-standing chairman of our association. These photos are interesting family documents.

The large photo shows Leopold Schilling von Canstatt (third on the left; 1838-1897) with his five sons. Unfortunately none of the women is on the photos: Marie, the mother (1868-1891), and her daughter Marie (1848-1936).

Starting from the left you see Friedrich (1869-1962), the father of Eitel Friedrich SvC, who has been the editor of the daily newspaper "Mannhei-

mer Morgen" from 1946 until his death in 1997. Next to him is Leopold (1870-1941), Heinz' father and Ralph's grandfather. He is followed by little Heinrich (called Heiner) to whom last year's article was dedicated.

He was born in 1885 and was killed in 1916 in the Carpathian Mountains in World War I. The fourth from the left is Alexander (1874-1964) and last not least there is Eugen (1872-1942).

The five boys' father Leopold was a Prussian Major who was only 59 years when he died of cancer in Berlin. His wife Marie came from a famous family. Her father Friedrich Engelhorn (1821-1902) was one of the founders of the chemical producer "Badische Anilin- und Soda Fabriken (BASF)" in Ludwigshafen. There was a detailed article in the 14th edition of the Schilling Courier.

It is interesting that the father and all his sons, except little Heinrich who must have been about eight years old when the photo

was taken (presumably in 1893), were army officers. Friedrich was a Prussian First Lieutenant in the 7th Hussar Regiment, Leopold was a Major in the Dragoon Regiment of the King of Württemberg, Alexander was a Prussian Major in the 7th Hussar Regiment and Eugen was First Lieutenant in a Prussian Hussar Guard regiment.

In former days the military has played an important role in the Schilling von Canstatt family. To begin with, almost all male members of this branch of the family, the lords of Hohenwettersbach Castle near Karlsruhe, served in the regiment of the Grand Duke of Baden. Even Franz (1832-1895) became a Major in the North-American army fighting the rebellious Southern states in the Civil War (1861-1865) after he had emigrated to America in 1861.

Many of his descendants were very successful in the US Army, such as Leopold Marshall (Winks), 1905-1981, who had the rank of colonel in the US Army, whereas no members of the German branch have chosen a military career.



*Heinrich Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt (called Heiner) shortly before his death in 1916*



Eastern Branch

## Baltic Meeting with Bow and Arrow

Successful “little reunion” in Höhnscheid Castle



As usual the reunion of the eastern branch of our family was very successful. For the second time 86 descendents of our Baltic German ancestor Karl Gebhard (1719-1779) met at Höhnscheid Castle near Kassel, the centre of the Baltic German Knights, from September 4 till September 6. They came from five countries. The eldest participant was 91 years old, the youngest two years young. The reunion started on Friday with the welcome of a special guest: Pastor Katrin Melder from St. Johannis/Järva Jaani in Estonia. Our ancestral estate Orgena belongs to this parish.

On Saturday morning a bus took all the cousins to the magnificent baroque residence castle of Arolsen, the “Versailles of the Waldecker Land”. It was built by the imperial prince of Waldeck between 1713 and 1728. The Schillings are related with the Waldecks through the southern branch. In 1863 Freiherr Karl Friedrich Schilling v. Canstatt

had first married Augusta Gräfin v. Waldeck and after her death her sister Amalie. His son from his first marriage settled in Hungary.

The afternoon brought a special highlight: archery organised by our cousin Hubertus and his wife Ute. Hubertus is a competitive archery A coach (DSB) and the owner of a shop providing archery equipment. Ute is a paediatrician and an excellent archer. On 21 August 2015 she has won the German Field Archery Championship in Celle/Lower Saxony for the fourth time in succession. For more than ten years Ute has been a member of the national Field Archery team of the German Archery Federation participating in international competitions, such as World and European Championships.

Afterwards our chairman showed some photos of the 7th reunion of the descendents of Karl Gebhard in Stockholm three years ago and Cousin Mattias v. Schilling, Senior Lieutenant in the Bundeswehr,

reported about his participation in the Nato operation “Persistent Presence II/15” in Lithuania from April 4 till July 6. About 200 soldiers of the light infantry battalion 292 of the German Bundeswehr participated in this Nato Assurance (safeguarding the Baltic States against eventual Russian attacks). At the same time there were 180 US soldiers and 80 Portuguese soldiers stationed in Lithuania.

In the evening a festive dinner was served. Sunday started with an impressive prayer meeting conducted by Cousin Detlef Rüter and Katrin Melder. Anna Korff played the classical flute.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the report of Katrin Melder with photos. She has been the pastor of St. Johannis for twelve years now. She started with a little sensation: Last year a lady from a neighbouring district found the



*Pastor Katrin Melder*

contract concerning the building of the bell tower in an old farm house. The contract was unknown so far. At last we know the name of the builder: Jakob Tamm.

The contract was signed by the patrons Georg Baron Schilling and E. Baron Rosen on 28 Febru-



*Hubertus and Ute von Schilling*

ary 1881. The erection of the bell tower cost 3827 Roubles at the time. The tower is slightly leaning to one side. According to a legend the tower is leaning in gratitude towards the manor house whose owner paid most for its construction. Cousin Helene told us that the former owner of Orgena, Julius Schilling, was convinced that the tower was leaning towards his house since he had contributed more generously than his brother Georg whose estate, Jürgensberg, lay in the opposite direction. Katrin Melder told us about her activities towards the church. As already reported in last year's Schilling Courier, the spire was restored between 2013 and 2014.

We watched a Video taken on June 24, 2014 with the building worker Harry Jõemes pulling the rope with the cross and the ball up and placing both on the spire. And the pastor showed impressive pictures of the casting and the consecration of the new bells (see Schilling Courier No 12).

This year the roof of the choir was repaired at last. The largest piece of work, however, has still to be done: The main roof of the church needs to be replaced and the vestry as well as the church

windows are in need of repair. The State Monument Preservation bear 90% of the costs (the bells alone cost 53 000 Euro). The rest has to be financed through donations. Naturally the Schilling Association donated money, too. The parish is rather poor because only 180 members out of 420 are willing to pay their church fees and in Estonia there is no church tax. The municipality has a population of 1660 inhabitants.

Finally Hubertus and Ute gave a report on their trip to Latvia and Estonia in June. Hubertus was especially interested in his grandparents' estate Poperwahlen in former Kurland. Unfortunately he found only ruins.

The "little reunion" ended with the decision to meet in Estonia in three years.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Attentive listeners*

## Cousin Helene Asking a Favour

Cousin Helene, the eldest participant at our family reunion who occupies herself intensively with the Baltic history of the family, asks everyone who wants to contact her to send no handwritten letters. Since her eyesight is very bad she can only read either typed or computer written letters. After all it would be best to phone her, her phone number: 02151790101.

## A Plaque for Carl von Schilling?

William Girard, Peter Girard's brother (s. p. 11), suggested to take money from Peter's inheritance in order to have a plaque fixed to the wall of St. Petri's Church commemorating their grandfather Carl Baron von Schilling (1872-1941). The Schilling estate of Seinigal belonged to the parish of St. Petri, many of Peter's and William's ancestors are buried in the Church Cemetery. Carl was the last owner of Seinigal before the dispossession in 1919/20.

In 1910 Carl retired from the Imperial Russian Navy in the rank of Captain, First Class. Between 1923 and 1937 he was elected deputy of the Baltic German Party in the Estonian Parliament and councillor in the German Cultural Administration, and from 1937 till 1939 he was the last chairman of the family's "Hülfsverein" (benefit society). In 1939 he refused to leave when his fellow countrymen were resettled to Germany but stayed in Estonia until the Russian annexation in 1941. Eventually he moved to Schweinfurt in Bavaria where he became seriously ill and had to go to the hospital. He died in October 1941 and was buried in Posen (Warthegau at that time, now Poland) where his second wife Lucie née Baronesse Rosen had moved to with their children.

## Obituary

# Peter Girard Died in Australia

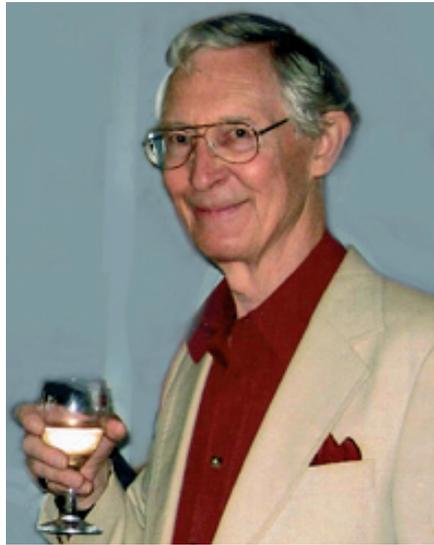
Member of the Eastern Branch served in the Royal Navy

On 19 November 2014 our member Peter Girard, born on 27 February 1940, died in Australia. He was a member of the eastern branch. His mother Nina Benita von Schilling was the daughter of Carl Wilhelm von Schilling of the House of Kook and later of Seinigal, who was already mentioned on page 10.

Carl's uncle (Peter's great-great-uncle) was Admiral Nicolai von Schilling, who wrote elaborate memoirs of his life as a naval officer of the tsar. Carl's grandfather (Peter's great-great-grandfather) was Admiral Ferdinand von Wrangell, the second to last governor of Russian Alaska. Peter's father was Etienne John Girard, son of the Estonian Carl August Lauri, born in 1864, and in 1865 adopted by the wealthy businessman John Carl Etienne Girard and re-named William Girard.

There was a considerable British expatriate population in Russia, among them John Carr who had been head-hunted from Preston, England, to be on the technical board of the Kreenholm Cotton Works at Narva and it was to Beatrice, John's daughter, that William Girard was married in 1904.

During the First World War, William Girard in his capacity as British Vice-Consul in Reval (as had been his adoptive father) provided services and hospitality to the British Submarine Flotilla stationed at Reval from 1914 to 1917. The Girard family left Estonia at the end of 1918 but, on William's death in 1919, they re-



*Peter Girard †*

turned to Estonia where in 1932 Etienne Girard and Nina von Schilling were married. During the 1930s they moved to England and after the Second World War the family emigrated to Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

In 1959 Peter Girard entered the Royal Navy and served 22 years as a Submariner, retiring in the rank of Commander in 1981, thereafter employed in Defence Industries in England and in Australia to where he moved in 1991. He had had no intention of joining the Royal Navy but when his parents were unable to afford to continue his University Engineering studies (begun at Capetown) it so happened, the British Government and Royal Navy could, and did much to mutual advantage.

His first encounter with submariners left no favourable impression but after a tour on a Nuclear Submarine he changed his mind and managed to arrange an exchange into the Submarine Service. There followed his appointment to HMS Trump on a training mission to

riners and it was then that he met Frances O'Hanlon whom he subsequently married in 1969 and with whom in 1991 he returned to Australia for the latter part of his life. It was a great disappointment for them that they were unable to have children.

His major Submarine posting was to the responsible position of Royal Navy Liaison Officer at Barrow-in-Furness where HMS Swiftsure, the first all-British design nuclear submarine, was to be constructed and which not only did he see through from start to launch but also on which he served as an Engineer Officer when the vessel was commissioned.

With an accelerated promotion to Commander he was then moved to the Submarine training establishment at Gosport followed by his final appointment to Fleet Headquarters. It was at this stage that he decided to leave Royal Naval Service. He was involved in a number of projects, paradoxically his last project in Australia was concerned with Flight Simulators.

Peter had always been aware of the Baltic background on both his maternal and paternal sides but it was only during his latter years that he turned to detailed research that included a visit to Estonia and the State Archives at Tartu/Dorpat.

In his last will Peter von Schilling left a considerable sum to the Family Association. His legacy marks his deep appreciation of membership and awareness of his ancestry. We are deeply grateful.

William Girard

# The Man Who Works In the Pyramid

Mathias Schilling, successful manager in San Francisco



“The man who works in the Pyramid: Mathias Schilling is a rather exotic specimen in California. For more than 15 years the German has successfully been investing in startups. He does not wait for the startups to approach him but is always on the look-out for them – initially only in California, now all over the world.” Mathias Schilling who was thus described in the “Süddeutsche Zeitung”, is the son of Reinhard Schilling of the western branch, of the House of Adelsheim, and a member of our association.

Mathias’ firm “e.ventures” is located on the 43rd floor of the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco. In an interview he said: “It’s crazy how much money is coming in right now. More and more big investors, businessmen and insurances want to invest their money in venture capital funds, because for one thing they believe in the future of digital media companies and on the other hand right now, due to the low interest rates, there is hardly any profit possible elsewhere.”

In 1997 already, Mathias, now 43 years old, moved to San Francisco along with his partner Jan Henric Büttner, in order to realize his dreams of big money. Two Germans who had previous-

ly worked for the media conglomerate Bertelsmann in Gütersloh, Germany. They decided not to go to Silicon Valley because they had no intention to establish the hundredth venture capital firm in this area. So they moved to Santa Barbara instead, 400 kilometres away from the Valley. In the beginning Schilling and his partner acted as general partners for Bertelsmann whose online service Büttner had previously built up.

In 2001 Mathias moved to San Francisco. The investor Bertelsmann backed out. Meanwhile many others had taken notice of the successful Germans, like the Otto group from Hamburg. The investors, who trust the two venture capitalists with their money, do not only come from Germany. International Corporations like the U.S. technology company Cisco and investors from Russia, Asia and Latin America approach them as well.

*The Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco*



But how do Mathias and his colleagues find the startup companies? “We have developed a software to identify fast growing companies or companies with a promising future.” And eventually “e.ventures” is growing fast, too. Three years ago Schilling and his partners had 350 million dollars under management. Meanwhile it is more than one billion dollars. And constantly new investors keep turning up.

# Our Archives Stored in Mittweida

The extensive archives of the family association are now stored in the house of Heiko Weber, the former director of the “Alte Pfarrhäuser” Museum and “Johannes Schilling House” in Mittweida. By the end of the year 2015 Cousin Helmuth and his wife Ebba will leave their house in Düsseldorf in order to move into an apartment in Falkensee near Berlin. Eventually there will be no room for the archives consisting of 52 rather big boxes. In 2001 the archive was handed over to our chairman by his predecessor Heinz Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt. Heinar Schilling had saved the archive when Dresden was destroyed in 1945. Via Suhl in Thuringia the documents went to the Isle of Sylt and later to Glücksburg Castle in Schleswig Holstein. Later they were taken to Cousin Ernst in Munster where they were stored for quite a long time and after his death they were handed over to Heinz. Mittweida is only an interim arrangement until a member of the family will take care of the archives. The archive consists of documents of the three branches and Heinar’s research on the origins of the family. There are various interesting eulogies, old books and a roll of deeds. There are researches on the family by Walter Schilling (Trier, †1969), Ernst Schilling († 1981), Helene Schilling (Hamburg, † 2008) from the western branch. Mady Freifrau Schilling v. C. (southern branch, † 2010), Erich Baron Schilling († 1971) and Helene Baronesse Schilling (eastern branch).



*The eagle arch after restoration*

## **The Eagle Arch Restored to New Splendour**

August Schilling v. C.'s monument in need of restoration

The Eagle Arch, erected by August Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt in 1860, has grown old and is in urgent need of restoration.

As reported in the 9th edition of the Schilling Courier, the large monument between two rock peaks in memory of the victory of the Franco-Prussian War (1870/71), erected near the district of Dannenfels between Kirchheimbolanden and Kaiserslautern in Rhineland-Palatinate, was commissioned by the "Verschönerungsverein" (Improvement Society).

The arch-shaped iron construction (triumphal arch) was built in honour of the Prussian General Field Marshall Helmuth von Moltke who led the Prussian armies to victory over the French. Eventually two cast iron statues, one of Moltke, the other of the Chancellor of the Reich, Fürst Otto von Bismarck, were standing at the foot of the monument which is crowned by a cast iron eagle.

For quite a long time the arch had lost its splendour. Where the

colour coating had come off the iron had corroded. The foundation had come loose and the plumage of the eagle had fissures. All these damages were repaired in the summer. Since everything had to be done by climbers who were not afraid of heights the work was rather difficult. After all, the arch is situated 540 m above sea level and 30 m above the ground.

Now they are planning to re-erect the iron monuments which were destroyed after World War II when trigger-happy US soldiers used them as targets. Bismarck is completely perforated and has lost his head, Moltke is missing. Eventually new statues, 1.20 m in height, have to be made. The soldiers had also shot off the eagle's head. In 1981 the restored eagle was re-attached to its old position by means of a helicopter.

The restoration costs a lot of money which the spa city of Dannenfels cannot afford as they are rather cash strapped, the repairs alone cost 27,000 Euro. So they

are in need of donations especially for the statues of Bismarck and Moltke. The Schilling Association has already donated money for the repair of the eagle.

The architect and engineer August Freiherr SvC (1840-1918) was a remarkable person. After emigrating to America his elder brother Franz, the ancestor of the Virginian branch of the family, had called his attention to the railway construction works in America. In 1881 August took the fast steamer "Elbe" from Bremen to New York and eventually became an important staff member of the railroad company which constructed the rail track to the Pacific Ocean. Later he bought a winery near San Francisco. His wines were of such an excellent quality that Californian people still enthusiastically talk about it. In 1896 August Schilling v. Canstatt returned to Germany.

Helmuth von Schilling



*The volunteer Wilfried Gabelmann raised himself into the air onto the eagle arch in order to repair a hole in the eagle. Formerly he was responsible for the maintenance of high voltage transmission poles.*



*Anne von Osterhausen in the Himalayas*

## Shortly Before the Earthquakes in Nepal Natural Catastrophe in Breathtaking Landscape

Only days before the devastating earthquakes in Nepal on 25 April and 12 May, which caused thousands of deaths and many more injured, and put the country into a state of emergency, our cousin Anne von Osterhausen went trekking in the Himalaya region of Nepal. She works for the tour company 'The Intrepid Group (Intrepid, Peregrine and Geckos Adventures)' and was part of a group of 8 travellers from Switzerland, the UK, Australia and New Zealand on a trekking tour to Everest Base Camp and Gokyo Lakes. They were accompanied by a guide and two Sherpas, as well as four Porters. They entered the breathtaking Himalaya region, where they would stay for 2 weeks, on a tiny 16-seater airplane, manoeuvring itself through the impressive mountains.

Anne told us euphorically: "We hiked through breathtaking landscapes, stayed overnight in small villages and visited beautiful old monasteries, always surrounded by these gigantic mountains. We then clearly reached my 'Top of the World'. The top of Kala Patar at 5545m. We could see Mount Everest just opposite us, Base Camp below, the Khumbu glacier and the most beautiful valley to our feet. We descended again through knee-high snow and continued our

journey to our final destination: Everest Base Camp. The weather changed drastically throughout the day, starting with sunny blue skies turning to light snow, we had to walk back to our lodge through thick snowflakes."

More than anything our cousin was overwhelmed by the people she met and their hospitality, friendliness and big hearts, that made her journey so special. Just after she left Nepal, she learned of the devastating earthquake. Anne: "The company I work for is the biggest tour operator in Nepal. After I returned back to work, I was involved in assisting our passengers on their return home and heard many heartbreaking stories about their experiences during the earthquake. I started to raise money through organising different events at work. Our company has also announced that they will donate all of the season's profits from travel to Nepal to different projects our Responsible Travel company 'The Intrepid Foundation' ([www.theintrepidfoundation.org](http://www.theintrepidfoundation.org)) support, such as WWF or Plan International. The aim is to raise 1 million Australian Dollars. Any help and support is very much appreciated, and for more information you can contact me via Facebook or [avosterhausen@hotmail.com](mailto:avosterhausen@hotmail.com).

## 2017: Reunion at the Canstatts' Ancestral Homes

Please make a note: Our next reunion will be from June 15 till June 18, 2017 in Stuttgart. We will visit the ancestral homes of the southern branch, the Schilling von Canstatt, in Wendlingen, Neuffen and Owen: This time we will start on Thursday, since in many German states June 15, 2017 is the Feast of Corpus Christi, i.e. a public holiday. The official reunion will end after the general meeting on Sunday 18 June. The unofficial part will start with a trip to Lake Constance. We will probably book hotel rooms in Constance.

The reunion will end on Wednesday morning (21 June). The exact schedule will be published in our next Schilling Courier.



*Ancestral Castle, Hohenneuffen*

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