

Schilling-Courier



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

News of the Schilling Association e.V. with annual report 2018

Family Reunion on the River Rhine

Next Year's reunion at the foot of Lahneck Castle

Our next family reunion is approaching. From July 24. till July 26, 2020 (not in June as we accidentally wrote in our last Courier) we will meet in Lahnstein at the foot of our alleged ancestral home, Lahneck Castle. An additional programme is planned, ending on July 29. This reunion is special since there is an anniversary to celebrate: Almost 800 years ago, in 1221 our ancestor Heinrich Schilling von Lahnstein died (born about 1166).

We have already set out a supplementary programme (invitations will be sent soon). On Friday July 23 we will all meet at the "Wyndham Garden Hotel" in Lahnstein. Our next day's first visit will be to Lahneck Castle and in the afternoon, there will be a boat tour on the River Rhine with supper on the boat.

Lahneck Castle is a very special building. It was built in the Forties of the 13th century by the Archbishop and Prince Elector of Mainz, Siegfried von Eppenstein. He had the castle built at the mouth of



Boat in front of Ehrenbreitstein fortress and Deutsches Eck with monument of Emperor Wilhelm I.

the river Lahn in order to protect his territory. Heinrich Schilling's son Johann, supposedly born in 1208, became a "Burgmann" (a member of the aristocracy who had to guard the castle and defend it in case of attack). Presumably Johann's son, Burggraf Friedrich (about 1240 to 1310), welcomed the German King Adolf of Nassau who was crowned in 1292, as a guest in the castle.

A couple of years later the Schillings lost the right to live in the castle. In 1298 King Adolf was killed in the battle of Göllheim, situated near the Middle Rhine, against the Austrian King Albrecht I (Albert) of Habsburg who had claimed the throne after the death of his father, King Rudolf of Habsburg in 1291.

In order to revenge Adolf's death, Friedrich Schilling got involved

in the conspiracy against Albrecht who had meanwhile become king. In 1308, Adolf was struck dead by his frustrated nephew Johann (later Parricida, called “murderer of his relative”) and some of his friends somewhere near Brugg on the River Reuß in Switzerland.

A rumour saying that a member of the Schilling family was among those conspirators was not confirmed (see Schilling Courier 15). Nevertheless in 1310 the murder of the king and eventually the “Reichsexekution” resulted in the attack of Lahneck Castle by the electors of Mainz and Trier. Eventually Friedrich Schilling being involved in the conspiracy against Albrecht, was imprisoned and executed. Afterwards the castle changed owners a number of times until the year 1633 when it was considerably destroyed by the Swedes



Lahneck Castle

during the Thirty Years’ War.

But even the ruin was worth a visit. When in July 18, 1774 Johann Wolfgang von Goethe travelled along the River Lahn he was so impressed by the view of the castle that he spontaneously wrote his poem “Geistergruß”.

Another story, however, had a very tragic ending. In 1851 Mr.

and Mrs. Dubb from England visited the Rhine and Lahneck Castle. Their 18-year-old daughter Idilia went to the castle because she wanted to draw the view of the Rhine valley from the top of the tower. Eventually while climbing the dilapidated wooden stairs they collapsed.

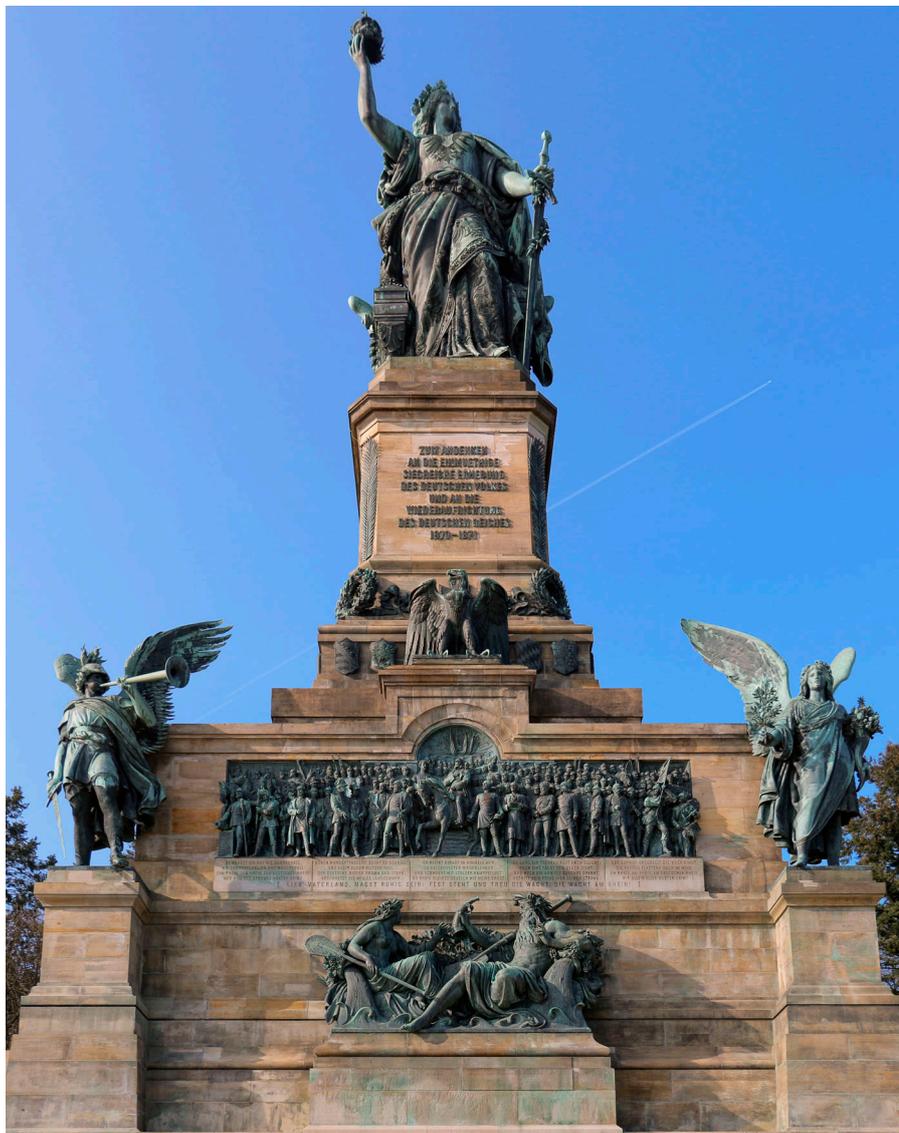
Desperately the parents kept looking for their daughter but they never found her. When eleven years later the reconstruction of the outer walls and the stairs was started the workmen found themselves face-to-face with the skeleton of a girl and some pages of a diary. Obviously Idilia had written her diary until she died a terrible death. Meanwhile the tragedy was published as a book: “The missing girl”.

In 1907 the Imperial Vice Admiral Robert Mischke bought the castle. Later it came into the possession of the von Preuschen family who was related through marriage. Now it belongs to a community of heirs with whose permission we will visit the castle on Saturday morning (July 24).

Since it is likely that more than 100 people will be present there will be several groups. While you are waiting you are welcome to practise archery with the help of our experts Hubertus and Ute von



Epitaph for Junker Konrad Schilling in Kottenheim (extract)



Niederwalddenkmal

Schilling. After the general meeting on Sunday morning and after lunch the we will start our additional programme. We will follow the traces of Heinrich Schilling's descendants who stayed in the Rhineland (Rhineland branch). Eventually some of them became rather famous in the area of Lahnstein. We will take a bus to Kempenich (Elisabeth Schilling's grave) and to Kottenheim (epitaph for Junker Konrad Schilling who died in 1539). In St. Mary's Cathedral (Mariendom) in Andernach we will have a look at the epitaph for Ritter Daniel Schilling (about 1448-1541) who was the town's mayor and "Schöffe" (lay judge). Afterwards we will return to our hotel in Lahnstein.

On the following day, i.e. July 27, we will go to Rüdesheim where the cable car will take us to the famous Niederwalddenkmal. The sculptor of the monument was Johannes Schilling. It was inaugu-

ated in 1883 in the presence of Kaiser Wilhelm I. 113 coaches drove the invited guests to the celebration where the emperor had a narrow escape from an attempt on his life.

The central figure of the imposing monument is the tall Germania. In fact, she was not really supposed to commemorate the victory over France in 1871 but was primarily created to commemorate the founding of the German Empire in the same year. Johannes Schilling did not intend to create a war monument but he wanted the founding of the German Empire to be understood as an act of peace. Therefore, Germania's sword is not aimed towards France but eastwards towards the united German Empire. Thanks to the sculptor Germania was made from domestic iron ore and not from captured French cannons.

On the following day we will wander around the winemaking town Rüdesheim where we will visit the famous "Drosselgasse" and many other interesting sights. A farewell evening in the historic part of the town will end our reunion. The following day (July 29) will be the day of departure.

Helmuth von Schilling



Historic part of Ruedesheim

The Various Branches



Western Branch

No Relocation of the Schilling House

No move planned / initiative “On the sculptor’s trail”

The Johannes Schilling House in Mittweida which was opened 14 years ago, will stay where it is. This news was confirmed by the mayor of Mittweida, Rolf Schreiber at the New Year’s reception held by the town of Mittweida in January and on 23 June on the occasion of the sculptor’s 191st birthday. The Schilling exhibition will definitely not move to a 16th century building which is under restoration at the moment. The protest of the Schilling association was successful.

Every year on the occasion of Johannes’ birthday his great granddaughter Ina Nickel invites guests to have “Coffee at the professor’s”. The Schilling Courier 2018 reported on last year’s celebration and the plans for a relocation.

The mayor agreed to the argument of the association that the historic building is too small and therefore not suitable for housing the large collection of the Schilling House when at the same time there will be special exhibitions and other events planned by the “Alte Pfarrhäuser” Museum.

Unfortunately, the Schilling House does not attract enough visitors. In order to change this situation, the former board member of the ‘Friends of the Museum in Mittweida’, Michael Brix, plans a special project which he has al-

ready presented seven years ago and wants to revive now: “Follow Johannes Schilling’s trail”.

The idea is a cooperation between Rüdeshcim where Johannes Schilling built the Niederwalddenkmal, and the sculptor’s birth place Mittweida. In both towns, brochures shall be on display in the hotels in order to offer information on both regions to the tourists. At the same time the tourists will get information about Johannes Schilling’s extensive work in Dresden. Brix

emphasises that the two mayors had already very promising discussions. Especially Mittweida hopes to benefit from the large numbers of visitors in Rüdeshcim (about half a million per year).

Susann Gramm, another board member of the Museum Society, is also trying to attract more visitors. She initiated a programme specially for schools in Saxony: “The Schillings – Story (stories) about a sculptor from Mittweida. The making of clay figurines”. At the end of the school year each student gets a “Kulturpass” (certificate). On the occasion of the birthday celebration Gramm told us that during the school year 2018/19 47 schools have participated and 1500 certificates were issued.

Helmuth von Schilling



Students in the Schilling House in front of the „Quellnymphe“

In Memory of Rudolf Schilling

Johannes' son has built cemetery chapel in Mittweida



Cemetery chapel on the New Cemetery in Mittweida

Another anniversary: This year the New Cemetery in Mittweida was 100 years old. Eventually the burial ground is of importance to our family: The highly respected royal architects Rudolf Schilling (1859-1933) and Julius Graebner (1858-1917) who in 1889 had established an architectural company named Schilling & Graebner, were entrusted with planning and building the cemetery chapel. Rudolf was Johannes Schilling's eldest son.

On the occasion of the celebration on 31 August the mayor of Mittweida, Ralf Schreiber, and the director of the "Alte Pfarrhäuser" museum, acknowledged the work of Rudolf Schilling and his business partner. Their church buildings with the tendency towards using Art Nouveau styles, had influenced the innovation of church architecture in the early 20th century. One of their most famous build-

ings is the Christus Church in Dresden-Strehlen. It is regarded as the first modern church building in Germany at all.

Construction work of the cemetery in Mittweida was started in 1915, i.e. at the beginning of the Great War. Though time and again the authorities had to stop the work because of the war, the cemetery was officially opened on 21 December 1919.



Rudolf Schilling

Clarification

Last year we published an article about the fact that a member of the southern branch was given the position of cup-bearer. Now a clarification seems necessary. On the occasion of the family reunion 2017 in Köngen near Stuttgart one of our members expressed his doubts: first of all, about the statement that the position was for the first time conferred in 1260 and secondly that this was done by one of the dukes of Swabia. He did not deny the fact, however, that one of the Canstatt Schillings had actually held this office. After all, there is no written proof of the conferment at all.

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Photos: p. 1 : Personenschiffahrt Merkelbach. p. 2 : archive (top), Guido Walter (bottom). p. 3: archive (top), internet (bottom). p. 4 : Sibylle Karsch. p. 5: Helmuth von Schilling (top), Stadtmuseum Mittweida (bottom). p. 6 and 7: Eric Bavor. p. 8: Björn Martinoff (2). p.: 9 Stephan Schilling v. Canstatt. p. 10: internet (top), archive (bottom). p. 11 : Katrin Melder. p.12: Kai Weber. (2). p.13: Nicola Schilling. p.14: Luther Village (top), Hans von Schilling (bottom).

Who was the Painter Adam Schilling?

Research part one / Pastor Caspar's son

One of the most important lines of the western branch is the "Rochlitzer Hauptstamm" (main line) whose history has been investigated since 2016 and whose descendants are the houses of Aitzendorf, Pegau and Norwegen. One of the descendants is Pastor Caspar Schilling (see Schilling Courier 2017 p. 15) a painting of whom is still to be seen in the parish church of Finsterwalde.

In the background the attentive observer will notice a young man with a paintbrush and a palette, obviously the painter. In response to my question I learned that he was the pastor's son, Adam Schilling, in some documents mistakenly called Andreas. This is definitely a family portrait, and the painter tells us more: Except the coat of arms of his family he reveals his age, written in very small numbers and almost hidden on the step on which he is standing. Eventually he was 26 years old when he made this painting in October 1592.

Contrary to what I assumed in 2017, the portrait of his father was painted posthumously; he had died in the second half of the year 1591, maybe in October. In this respect the painting gives you a lot to think about. Who was the painter and what was his message? Was it

meant as a farewell to his father?

I tried to find out more. And I found proof of a family who stood together in good as well as in bad times. It was important to Caspar Schilling that his children were allowed to lead a life according to their abilities. His son Johann for instance became a craftsman and Balthasar, too, belonged to the bourgeoisie.

His sons Adam and Christoph, on the other hand, were artistically inclined and while Christoph became cantor and our Adam was a painter. We do not know where he was trained, perhaps by a painter called Heber who lived in his native town. Heber, however, seems to have been a better skilled craftsman than a painter.

Very few of Adam's works are well-known. They are obviously influenced by Cranach's workshop and by Italian Mannerism. Presumably he acquired his skills at various places. His father's influence, however, is visible in all his works; Adam had profound theological knowledge.

After Caspar's death the family moved to Freiberg, the native town of his mother Margaretha. Adam's sister Sabina was involved in a scandal, since she had an illegitimate child with the deacon of Finsterwalde. Margaretha bought



Adam Schilling

a little house in Freiberg for herself and her daughter which she gave to her daughter as a present.

The two still living brothers Christoph and Adam helped and Adam bought himself a house nearby. It is still existent, now a boarding house in Freiberg, Pfarrgasse 1. Very soon Adam felt at home in Freiberg and received the title of Master of his profession. Undoubtedly the most important event of these years, however, was his marriage in the year 1593. Obviously, his father's social network proved useful still, because his bride Sara was the daughter of Pastor Clemens Koswig of Skäßchen who originally came from Finsterwalde.

In this small parish village, I made a sensational discovery. There is a painting in the parsonage whose painter was unknown up to now. It shows the pastor's family including his sons-in-law.



This painting shows Pastor Clemens Koswig's family. Adam Schilling is the fourth from the left, his wife Sara the fourth from the right.

The time of its origin, the kind of painting and the well-known face of one of the men on the picture leave no room for doubt: the painting was made by Adam Schilling. I would never have expected that my genealogical activity would get me involved in the history of art. The art department of the Protestant Church has actually confirmed my judgement.

But how did his life proceed? The following years were glorious and also difficult for Adam but in the end, he created his masterwork.

You may look forward to my next report in 2020!

Eric Bavor

A Painting Needs Help

In recent years, the Oppurg branch has repeatedly been the subject of research and very often full of surprise. Eventually the family association was able to acquire an original document of the ancestor of this collateral line, Erhard Schilling, dating from the 16th century. Strictly speaking the Oppurg branch comes from Neustadt/Orla. Many of their members were clergymen, some of them with interesting biographies. We will certainly deal with them sometime. Since in the year

1600 one of Erhard's grandsons, Jacob(us), a clergyman too, was pastor in the small heath village of Falkenberg, now a suburb of Trossin near Torgau. The pastorate was rather poorly paid, it was as poor as the sandy soil of this remote place of the world. Nevertheless, or maybe therefore he, who had studied in Wittenberg, faithfully stayed in his parish until he died in December 1629. His children grew up here and his son, of the same name, got a master's degree. In the end, he became a clergyman and his life took a quite different, rather adventurous turn.

After all, the congregation was grateful to their pastor and eventually his father's painting of Jacob the Elder remained in Falkenberg until today. Unfortunately, this painting has considerably been damaged through age, insufficient care and humidity in the church. The small parish which is without a pastor now has neither the financial means nor the necessary knowledge to do anything about it. A painting of another clergyman is equally damaged and in need of restoration.

At the moment we try to store the paintings at the Church Archives or some similar place in order to keep them from further damage. We and the congregation will welcome any kind of practical assistance or financial support.

Eric Bavor

Schilling Grave discovered in Riga

Ancestor of the western branch/cemetery will be abandoned



We received an interesting email from the American Frank Martinoff. Frank is related to Gesa (Christine) Smith from USA. In 1940 her mother Waltraud von Schilling was married in Reval, now Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia, to Rolf Martinoff.

On his visit to Riga, the capital city of Latvia, one of Frank's relatives had made a surprising discovery on the municipal cemetery: He found the burial place of Carl Reinhold Baron Schilling (1786-1855), presumably one of the ancestors of the Schilling-Thomsdorff line of the western branch. It is supposed that sometime during the 18th century his ancestors had emigrated from eastern Germany via Poland to the Baltic countries. Like his great grandfather Johann Reinhold before him, Carl Reinhold was the tenant of Thomsdorff Manor. Meanwhile,

however, we know that the family was only accidentally listed in the register of the Barone Schilling.

Like Carl Reinhold, Schilling's granddaughter Gesa Smith, however, does not descend from the Thomsdorff line of the western branch of our family, but from the Kleckewitz line, one of whose members emigrated from

eastern Germany to the Baltic countries during the 19th century.

According to our genealogist Heinar Schilling both lines (Thomsdorff and Kleckewitz) descended from Friedrich Schilling (1305-1373) from Breslau, presumably the ancestor of the western branch.

They definitely do not belong to the eastern branch of the Barone Schilling who came to live in the Baltic countries some time during the 15th century.

Unfortunately, Frank Martinoff's cousin brought bad news as well: The cemetery will be abandoned in order to have a tram depot built. Numerous citizens of Riga strongly protested against this decision. We will try to join them.

In 1773 the Empress of Russia, Catherine II, ruler of the Baltic countries at the time, had given permission to establish this cemetery. Since 1969 the cemetery is no longer used for burials.

Helmuth von Schilling



Carl Reinhold Baron Schilling's (1786-1855) burial place



Southern Branch

Schillings in England

Schilling-Canstatt in London since 1792

This year the whole political life focused on Brexit and even our family is involved. After all, several members of our association live in England, eleven belong to the southern branch.

Georg Friedrich Freiherr Schilling vC (1762-1843), the ancestor of the British Canstatt line, led a rather eventful life.

He was born in Karlsruhe. He served as lieutenant in the royal regiment of Sardinia, but in 1787 he left the service. Being fond of travelling he boarded the "Sarah" leaving on 8 September 1787 for America.

Unfortunately, on 24 October the ship grounded. Leaking heavily, considerable repairs were necessary. Even our emigrant had to lend a hand. Eventually on 9 November the "Sarah" landed in Philadelphia. Georg Friedrich worked as a merchant in New York. One year later he married Magdalena Falkenhahn.

Though in New York he suffered substantial financial losses he did not give up but moved to Paramus in New Jersey instead. Unfortunately, he was not lucky there either because he was more than once swindled out of his money. In 1790, finally, he left the country on board a French ship. One year later his brother Karl Friedrich who had also lived in America for a short while, asked him to travel to America again. After settling his business affairs, however, he preferred to return to Europe, where he stayed in

France. The French revolution-made him leave the country soon. In 1792 he found a permanent employment at the German Academy in London and he started a family.

The couple had eight children, some of them died young of scarlet fever. In the course of time the family abandoned their aristocratic title. We are happy that some of their descendants have joined the Schilling Association.

Several members of the southern branch are living in Great Britain still: In 1975 Ulrich Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt and his wife Edeltraud nee Röderer moved to London. Sadly, Ulrich died in 1992. His children Stephan and Andrea have also joined the family association. Ulrich's father was Wolf SvC of the II. branch of the Canstatt, i.e. he is not one of

Georg Friedrich's descendants.

Last year Stephan, his wife Magdalena and his children Amelia (12 years old at the time) and Leo (4) travelled to Germany in order to trace their ancestors. They visited Hohenneuffen Castle and the Schilling cross in the forest close to the castle, where in 1341 one of the Canstatt Schillings is said to have been killed while hunting. Not only the children were very much impressed when they saw the Schilling monument with the large coat of arms.

One member of the western branch is living in London: Sigrid Schilling-Mannack (married to Dr. Thomas Mannack) daughter of Anna-Helené Schilling who continuously investigated our family history. Last not least a member of the eastern branch is living in London, too: Amata Hornbruch.

Our British deputy is Nicholas Schilling, one of Georg Friedrich's descendants. Nicholas looks after our British members very well.

Helmuth von Schilling



Amelia and Leo SvC at the Schilling Cross

Will Chinese Buy Heitersheim?

Georg Schilling SvC's residence a boarding school?



Maltese Castle complex

The Maltese Castle of Heitersheim, situated in the district of Breisgau-Hochschwarzwald in Baden-Württemberg, is of particular importance to our family. It was the home of one of the most famous members of our family:

Georg Schilling von Canstatt, was born in Neuffen in 1487. At the age of 15 he had already joined the Order of Saint John whose headquarters were located on the island of Rhodes at the time. After he had successfully fought against the Arabs on the north African coast, in 1546 the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V elected Georg Grand Prior of the German Langue, i.e. he became the head of a national commandery within the international Order. Two years later the emperor bestowed the title of Imperial Prince of Heitersheim on Georg. Back then

Heitersheim was the residence of the German Order with seat and vote in the Imperial council, the noblest German council representing almost all social classes.

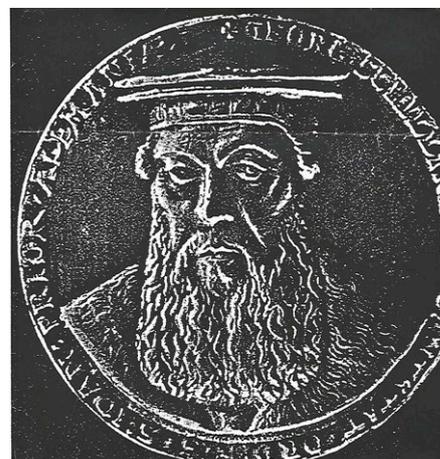
Eventually we were considerably shocked by a newspaper article in the “Markgräfler Bürgerblatt”, written on 16 May 2019. The long-time owner of the castle, the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Vinzenz von Paul, want to abandon their old people's home in order to sell the castle to a consortium. Various newspapers report that Chinese investors are involved. In this case the castle would not be accessible for the public any longer. The investors plan to convert the castle into a boarding school, based on the concept of the United World Colleges (UWC). In western Europe the fees for schools of this

educational movement are up to 55 000 US dollars per student.

The recently founded citizens' initiative “Maltese Castle” wants the public authorities to buy the historic castle. The castle should remain accessible to the citizens of Heitersheim and the surrounding regions offering different activities and events. The building is part of a redevelopment area and the City of Heitersheim has the right of first refusal. If the castle was sold to private investors, a unique opportunity would be missed. Meanwhile the family association has joined the citizens' initiative. Individuals are welcome to join the initiative as well.

On the occasion of our reunion in 2002 in Freiburg, the Schilling association had organised a trip to Heitersheim where we were magnificently received with a fanfare by the mayor (see Schilling Courier 2003). Back then the family association gave a financial contribution to the society for the preservation of historic buildings and the support of the “Johanniter and Malteser Museum”.

Markgräfler Bürgerblatt
and Helmuth von Schilling



Portrait of Georg Schilling vC on a contemporary medal



St. Johann's in Estonia in Estonia with adjoining vestry



Eastern Branch

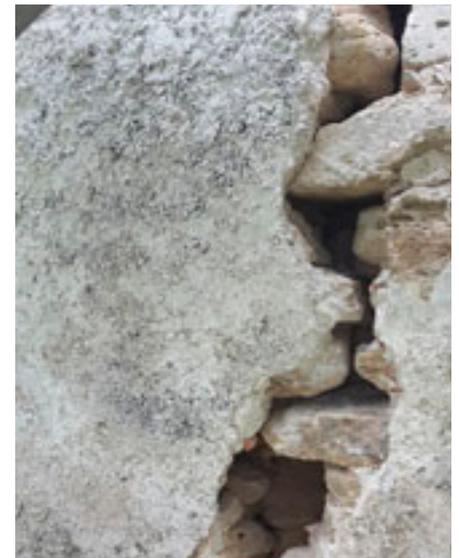
Winterchurch is Taking Shape

Renovation of the vestry of St. Johann's Church in Estonia

The eastern branch of our family feels rather strongly about St. Johann's Church in St. Johann (Järva Jaani), the village of the same name in Estonia. After all, it was the patronal church of our ancestral homes, Orgena and Jürgensberg. This is why the association donated money for various restorations.

Six years ago, the old spire had to be replaced. Now the vestry

is being renovated and a heating will be installed in order to make the church usable in winter. The greatest part of our contributions comes from Peter Girard's, our Australian member's legacy. He bequeathed money to the family association under the condition that it is specially used for the renovation of the churches and manor houses in his old homeland. In fact the vestry had fallen in



Vestry before the renovation



New roof beams in the vestry



Much work is necessary in the interior

such disrepair that last year the roof and the ceiling had to be replaced. The total costs of the extensive works amounts to 30,000 Euro. 22,500 Euro came from the German Foundation of Monument Protection, the rest was financed by donations like ours. This year they started the refurbishment of the interior and Pastor Katrin Melder hopes that it will be possible to use the vestry as their church during the next winter season. As the spacious nave has no heating the church cannot be used during the long and cold Estonian winter season at all.

Helmuth von Schilling

Obituaries

Mourning for Christine Wiskow

Death of 103-year-old in Freudenstadt/Burial at the Baltic Sea

The family association mourns the loss of its oldest member: Christine (Christel) Wiskow nee Baronesse v. Schilling died on 24 November 2018 in Freudenstadt in the Black Forest, she was 103 years old.

On 10 January 1915 Christine Wiskow was born in Ligat, formerly Courland, now Latvia, where her father Woldemar had found work as a chemist in a paper mill. In 1919, due to the riots, the family had to leave the country and eventually went to Germany. Via Stettin and Greifswald the family, i.e. the parents, two sons and a daughter, reached Anklam in Pomerania, close to the Baltic sea, where Woldemar found work in a sugar factory. After leaving school in Anklam, Christel was trained as a domestic helper and continued to work close to her beloved Baltic Sea.

When she was old, living in Freudenstadt, far away from the sea, Christine always dreamed of visiting the sea again, if not

within her lifetime, at least when after her death. According to her wish she was buried at sea on 6 May. The sea was calm when the boat left Stralsund harbour heading for Rügen Island. The urn was adorned with flowers. After a short ceremony near the island of Hiddensee the captain set the urn to sea, where it dissolved 24 hours later. The sea was slightly agitated though illuminated by the sun when the mourners threw rose petals into the water. When she was young Christine had often visited Hiddensee with her parents.

On 30 December 1944 Christine had married Gerhard Wiskow from Stettin who worked for the German National Railway. Shortly after the marriage he had to return to the eastern front, to the Baltic States of all places, Christine's homeland. Curiously enough the marriage licence was sent from one of the former Schilling estates in Estonia. At the end of the war Christine, her parents and her brother's family had to



Christine Wiskow nee Baronesse von Schilling †

flee Anklam and were brought to a refugee camp in Denmark. In May 1947 they were allowed to leave the refugee camp in Oxbøl in Jutland where Christine had very often gone swimming in the Baltic sea even when the water was extremely cold. They moved in with relatives, refugees as well, who lived in Esebeck, a village near Göttingen.

In 1948 Gerhard, who towards the end of the war had fought in Italy and had been held captive in a British prisoner-of-war-camp in Egypt, returned to Germany. Three years later he found a job in the rail freight transport and the family moved to Duisburg. They had a son and two daughters. Christine's husband died in 1993. Eventually in 2003 she moved to Freudenstadt in order to live close to her daughter Monika.

Christine Wiskow was closely connected with the family association and has hardly missed a reunion until she was really old. Very often she brought her children and grandchildren. We will miss her very much.

Helmuth von Schilling



The captain sets the urn to sea

Work Gave Him Energy

Reinhard died in Augsburg – almost 90 years old

One of the most committed members and genealogists of our family association is dead. On 2 June Reinhard Schilling died in Augsburg after a long illness, shortly before his 90th birthday. Reinhard has been a board member of our association for almost 20 years and has achieved great recognition. We will remember and miss him very much. We did not only work closely together but he was a very good and true friend.

“Work gave him energy”, his son told us on the occasion of the impressive funeral service in the Evangelical Lutheran Saint Ulrich Church in Augsburg.

Up to the last moment his mind was busy with the open questions concerning our family history. Continuously involved in research, he spared no expense. Even while he was already in the hospital, he phoned me in order to discuss the latest research results. There were lots of unsolved problems. He asked: “How did it happen that the family came to Lahneck Castle, or to Wissembourg/Alsace and to Breslau? And in what way are they related to the von Rheinfeld family, and last not least, what kind of connection is there between their ancestral home and Adelsheim? The results of his neverending research fill several of my file folders.

Indeed, Reinhard was used to maintaining his efficiency even



Reinhard Schilling †

after several setbacks. At the end of the war he was only 15 years old when he had to participate in the last fights with a bazooka in his hand. On his 14th birthday he had witnessed British bombers completely destroying his native town Krefeld including his grandfather's silk factory and his father's tie factory. The traditional strawberry cake on the patio was covered with layers of ash as thick as 5 cm.

He realised the importance of the solidarity and strength in a family. “This does not protect you”, he liked saying, “from tragedy and loss but it helps overcome misfortune and sadness.” In 1948 Reinhard took the “Abitur” exam (leaving certificate). After attending Cologne University as a visiting student he was trained at the “Vereinigte Seidenwebereien” (silk weaving factory) in Krefeld.

According to Mathias the skills that his father had acquired during the war brought him so much success, acknowledgement and prosperity that in 1971 a newspaper wrote: “A manager from Augsburg became the head of the European branch of the world's largest textile manufacturing company. He has already worked in the top management of a company as a young man in his twenties while his peers were happy to be head of a department. And he had achieved all that without any help from either his father or any other person.”

Except in Augsburg he temporarily worked in Berlin and St. Gallen. Since 1986 Reinhard had his own consulting firm in Augsburg with focus on research and international cooperation between the textile and fashion industries. Among other things he provided advice on mergers and acquisitions. After the reunification of Germany in 1989 Reinhard successfully worked with the “Treuhand” (trust agency) ensuring that the restructuring and selling out of eastern German textile factories was not completed in a hurry.

Reinhard was married a second time in 1971 to Agnes Maria née von Buchwaldt. He has three children, one son and two daughters and eight grandchildren. They live in Paris, Amsterdam, and San Francisco. One of the last things he said was: “I tried to give my best.”

Helmuth von Schilling

Worldwide the Schillings Know How to Celebrate

Big birthday party in Waterloo/Canada and grandchildren's reunion in Potsdam



This year Canadian and German members of our eastern branch were in the mood to celebrate. In Waterloo near Toronto in eastern Canada, the descendants of Bodo Baron von Schilling and his wife Ingeborg (Serrefer) held a reunion and the grandchildren of Georg and Elisabeth (Lisi) nee v. Gruenwaldt (Jürgensberg) gathered in Potsdam in Germany. After World War II four of Bodo's and Ingeborg's children emigrated to Canada. First Wolter in 1953, followed by Karin and Heinrich (Henry) in

1955 and Kurt in 1957, he died in 2015. Ingeborg's daughter Sigrid had gone to live in Finland. The four Canadian siblings have seven children and 16 grandchildren altogether. In April Karin's 90th, Henry's 85th, Stephanie's (Kurt's widow), Edith's (Wolter's second wife) and Gisela's (Henry's second wife) 80th birthdays were celebrated. Kurt's and Stephanie's son Eric had his 50th anniversary whereas their grandsons William and Gregory and Wolter's granddaughter Annabelle had their 20th

birthday. The picture above shows Wolter (3rd row, 3rd from the left), next to him are Henry, Karin and Stephanie. Edith is standing behind Sigrid. Peter, Erik and Gisela are standing in the last row.

The reunion in Potsdam was fantastic, too. Georg and Elisabeth (Lisi) had eight children (unfortunately five sons were killed in the war) and 18 grandchildren. Every two years they all meet at different places. This year there were 25 people including their spouses. The picture below shows some of them in front of an old bus..

