

# Schilling Courier



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

News of the Association of the Schilling Family with Annual Report of 2009

## A family Reunion with Many Highlights From 27 to 29 May in Hamburg/Albert in 1464 Mayor/Trip to Berlin

From 27 to 29 May the Schilling association will hold the next family reunion in Hamburg (additional programme in Berlin until 1 June). An extensive programme with many highlights is waiting for the participants (**invitation enclosed**) in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg on the river Elbe.

Hamburg has 1.8 million inhabitants and is Germany's second largest metropolis and most important port with a cosmopolitan character.

We will meet on Friday, 27 May in the "Novotel Arena" in Hamburg-Bahrenfeld. The next day will see us in the City Hall in order to honour Albert Schilling.

In 1464 he was Mayor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and a patron of the nearby St. Peter's Church, where he was buried in 1480.

As already reported in the Schilling-Courier 2008 and according to Heinar's records Albert was one of the descendants of Theoderich, Friedrich Schilling's grandson. After his banishment from Lahnck Castle, Friedrich was executed in Cologne in 1310.

Theoderich lived around 1350, when he moved from Cologne to



*The City Hall of Hamburg*

Hamburg. His son Heinrich stayed in Hamburg. Albert was Heinrich's eldest son. Theoderich's son Friedrich (around 1380) left Hamburg for Braunschweig. In 1490 his great great grandson Kaspar, the ancestor of the eastern branch, supposedly left Braunschweig for his emigration to the Baltic countries.

During Albert's lifetime the Hanseatic League was a strong trading power. In 1450, when still a councillor, Schilling represented the City of Hamburg in foreign affairs more than once,

for instance in Riga (capital city of Latvia) in 1458, in 1461 on the Hanseatic Days in Lübeck and later in Danzig. Unfortunately we know nothing about Albert's descendants. We only know that he died in 1480 and was buried in St. Peter's, Church but there is no tombstone.

Presumably Hamburg's present City Hall is the sixth in the over thousand years of history of the city. Between 1886 and 1897, after the last City Hall was completely destroyed by the great fire in 1842, the magnificent new

building was erected on 4000 poles. It is 111 metres long and 70 metres wide, has 647 rooms and a tower with the total height of 70 metres. In one of the rooms there is a list of all the mayors, Albert Schilling's name among them.

The main building of St. Peter's was destroyed in the fire of 1842. In 1844/49 it was rebuilt in the Gothic style. St. Peter's is the oldest of the five principal churches of Hamburg. It was first mentioned in documents in 1195. The church contains some beautiful old works of art saved from the fire: bronze lion-head door handles made in 1342, a crucifixion group carved from oak wood from 1490/1500 and a sandstone Madonna from 1470.

The large Beckenrath-organ which after fifteen months of construction has been installed again in 2006 is a work of art, too. An important fact concerning the Schillings

The two large bells were poured by Franz Schilling & Sons in



*St. Peter's Church, Hamburg. On the left the tower of the townhall*

Apolda (Saxony) in 1922 and 1924. It is not completely clarified, however, if this family really belongs to the family association.

In Hamburg the visitors will also be reminded of another Schilling. In 1889 our famous sculptor Johannes Schilling got the commission from the Senate and the "Bürgerschaft" (Hamburg Parliament) to design the Townhall Square. Four years later it was reopened in the presence of the Emperor Wilhelm II. The equestrian statue of the Emperor Wilhelm I with four allegoric groups arranged in a semicircle around the statue stood in the middle of the square.

The groups are symbols of the four great laws passed by Wilhelm I during his reign: Justicia with the new Uniform" Reichs"-Code of Law, a Master of the Mint explaining the new uniform coinage and measuring system to a girl, a woman symbolizing

the disability and pension law by collecting the contribution from a young worker and offering nourishment to an old man. Last not least a young man with a globe symbolizes the worldwide communication, the postal telegraph and telephone system. A boy is already phoning.

Nothing of this is left on the Townhall Square, since in 1929 everything was taken to the ramparts on Sieveking Square. There are only two high flag poles standing in front of the City Hall which were designed by Schilling: The German pole is topped with a battleship and the pole of Hamburg with a sailing boat. Their bases are richly ornamented.

Between 1875 and 1877 Schilling has designed a monument in memory of the Hamburg soldiers who were killed in the Franco-Prussian War 1870-1871, which is still standing on the bank of the Alster: A dying



*The flag pole in Hamburg*

soldier on horseback is kissing the forehead of the Angel of Death while a dead infantry soldier is receiving a laurel wreath from the angel.

On Saturday we will go on a sightseeing tour visiting Schilling's works of art. This day's highlight, however, will be the festive dinner in the famous Overseas Club on the bank of the Inner Alster (lake). In 1831 the respectable merchant Gottlieb Jenisch had the magnificent building erected as a residential and office building on "New Jungfernstieg". Since 1922 it accommodates the Overseas Club whose members are representatives of politics, economy and sciences.

The annual "Overseas Day" has been an important event since the reopening of the Club in 1948. It is held in memory of the year 1189 when Frederick "Barbarossa" granted Hamburg the right to operate a harbour.

Every German Chancellor, almost every German President, except Theodor Heuss, and numerous famous foreign guests came to visit.

After our general meeting on the following day in our hotel there will be a three hour tour of the harbour, tea and coffee will be served on the beautiful boat, the



*Lithograph by Peter Suhr (1788-1897) from 1830. The new "Jungfernstieg". Front right the present Overseas Club*

"Hamburger Deern". The tour will be over by 5 pm. This will be the end of the official part of the family reunion 2010. You can either leave for home or stay the night at the hotel in order to join our tour to Berlin starting on the following day. We hope as many of you as possible will join us. There will be a guided bus-tour

of the capital city on Monday afternoon and on Tuesday a visit of the glass dome of the Reichstag building and of the "Bundeskanzleramt" (German Chancellery).

On Wednesday the reunion will come to an end and those who joined the trip to Berlin will have to say farewell.



*Our boat, the „Hamburger Deern“*



*Monument in memory of the Hamburg soldiers killed in 1870/71*



*The monument to Wilhelm I: An allegoric group with a globe on the right symbolizes the world-wide communication*



## Western Branch

### Schilling Museum Completed

Celebration of the sculptor's 100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary/  
chairman's speech

Five years after the opening of the Johannes-Schilling-Museum in Mittweida on the occasion of the family reunion in 2005, the museum is completed. On March 21, the famous sculptor's 100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary, the top floor of the building in the artist's native town was opened.

In memory of their most famous son the City of Mittweida had invited to a celebration. Almost 200 guests came to visit the new part of the museum. The centre piece is a working model of "Germania" made by Johannes Schilling for the "Niederwalddenkmal", his most famous monument. There are information boards and plaster models of Otto von Bismarck, the founder of the German Empire, of the Emperor Wilhelm I and of Friedrich Schiller.

Before the celebration in Mittweida, Johannes Schilling was remembered in Dresden-Klotzsche. On the initiative of a circle of friends and with the financial support of the family association a memory plaque was mounted on the wall of the house where the sculptor had spent his last years and where he had died. Johannes' great granddaughter Ina Schilling Nickel (the granddaughter of his daughter Clara) unveiled the plaque on the wall of the house which had affectionately been cared for and refurbished in its original style by its owner during GDR times.

In 1990 already, right after the

political reunion of Germany, the Schilling Association wanted to have a plaque mounted on the

### „When Johannes Schilling died“

Today we remember the anniversary of the death of Johannes Schilling. Exactly 100 years ago, on March 21, 1910, aged 81 years, he died of a stroke in Klotzsche-Königswald near Dresden. On March 25 he was buried in St. Trinitatis' Cemetery in Dresden and in 1943 his body was conveyed for interment to the family vault in St. Trinitatis' Church in Meißen-Zscheila.

In 1910 everything seemed to be alright in the world: We had our emperor, unfortunately not Wilhelm I, but Wilhelm II, a German Empire stretching from the Rhine to the Memel, and a

wall of the house. Because of the continuous change of owners we were not able to carry this plan out earlier.

On the occasion of the celebration in the ceremonial hall of Mittweida our chairman Helmuth held a speech: "When Johannes Schilling died". The following will give an extended excerpt:

Chancellor of the Reich whose name was not Otto von Bismarck, but Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg.

Symptomatically in Schilling's opinion the style of Wilhelm II was too bombastic. He had designed monuments to Wilhelm I and Bismarck, but none to the weak successors. And he was right. The incompetence of politicians of this kind was responsible for the beginning of World War I four years after Schilling's death. The world on the whole was shaken and Schilling's personal world was shaken too. In 1910 already there was seething



*Ina Schilling-Nickel (right), great granddaughter of Johannes Schilling, and her cousin Heide Vosberg, unveiling the memorial plaque*

unrest underneath...

In 1910 Johannes' personal circumstances were far from satisfying, though a couple of years previously he had moved into his beautiful house in Klotzsche, where we have mounted the memorial plaque today and where he died 100 ago. What a disaster: Caused by progressing diabetes he gradually went blind. A sculptor losing his eyesight is just as bad as a musician becoming deaf. Ludwig van Beethoven, whom Johannes Schilling had admired so much, had suffered from that fate.

For Schilling losing his eyesight was even worse, because throughout his whole life he had devoted himself to the study of vision. He developed interesting vision instruments and at the age of 78 he published his booklet "Künstlerische Sehstudien" \*), a reprint of which is available here today. In his booklet he distinguishes three different kinds of vision: subjective, naïve sight, scientific sight and last not least poetical sight, which according to Schilling is the only creative way of looking at things.

Schilling thinks the artist's ability to look at things in a poetical way makes him recognize the principle of creation in nature enabling him to express everything he is seeing and feeling in his works of art. He was enthusiastic about music – not only did he enjoy listening, but he made a couple of new musical instruments himself. In the Johannes-Schilling-Museum for instance you can see a beautiful harp.

The fact that in 1906 in his last publication "Symphonie" the artist, so heavily suffering from his eye disease, writes



*After the opening of the Johannes-Schilling-House in Mittweida and the cutting of the ribbon from left: Mayor Matthias Damm, Heiko Weber, Ina, and Helmuth*

about the possibilities of intermingling sculptures and music is symptomatic...

The four parts of his work of art symbolize the movements of a symphony. And at the end i.e. in the fourth part of his frieze Schilling, committed to the German principle of education and culture, engraved Schiller's "Ode To Joy". The ode is a celebration of friendship: "The man who's been so fortunate/To become the friend of a friend,/ The man who has won a fair woman/To the rejoicing let him add his voice!" And: "Brotherhood unites all men."

These words are part of the chorus in the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and I told you before how much Schilling admired Beethoven. Now it is the official anthem of the European Union, an anthem of peace. How can anyone assume that Schilling glorified wars, as many people maliciously did when they saw the "Niederwalddenkmal" (monument) that he had mounted

after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71?...

In 1910 Paul Schumann writes in his obituary in the "Dresdner Anzeiger" (newspaper): 'With Johannes Schilling a restless creative work of great variety has gone forever, has been laid to rest, fame has kissed his forehead. During his lifetime he has obtained all the honours an artist can obtain. For decades good fortune and success, but also misfortune, were his companions, he was granted a richer life than most artists had. His name will always be connected with Dresden.'

To which I add: All over Germany and in many European cities, where you can still see his works of art, his name will always be remembered.

The Schilling association says thank you to Mittweida and especially to the director of the museum for the opening of this wonderful house with the sculptor's works of art and his memorabilia.

After having relentlessly and

almost obsessively struggled for five years Heiko Weber, who unfortunately is going to retire after 16 years of work, has achieved today's opening of the top floor of the museum at last. Thanks to his initiative Johannes Schilling's estate that until then was stored away unheeded in the attic of the museum, was looked at and sorted.

In spite of his loosing his eyesight Johannes Schilling restlessly continued working until he died 100 years ago. I suppose he sat at the desk you can see in the Johannes-Schilling-Museum thinking about the development of the art of sculpting. I wonder if he would appreciate modern art.\*

\*) The reprint of "Künstlerische Sehstudien" by Johannes Schilling, was edited by Schilling&Kappelar on the occasion of the 100th death anniversary of the master of Saxon architecture with a preface by Dr. Erwin Papperitz and Ina Schilling-Nickel's thoughts "To my great grandfather on his 100th death anniversary".  
**Editors: Erik Bawor and Verband des Hauses Schilling e.V.**



## Southern Branch

### Active in the Resistance Movement

In memory of Mady Freifrau Schilling von Canstatt



*Mady Freifrau Schilling von Canstatt †*

On January 16, 2010 our cousin Mady Freifrau Schilling von Canstatt died at the age of 93. For the Schilling association her death meant the end of an era. Mady, one of the most important founders of the family association after the war, has influenced the association considerably.

Mady was born on November 22, 1916 in Potsdam near Berlin. Her father was a colonel of the I. Guard Regiment in World War I. When because of his injuries he was unable to fight in the war the Grand Duke of Baden made him return to Baden, the native country of the Schilling Canstatt family, holding the rank of aide-de-camp. The family lived in Karlsruhe, later in Freiburg im Breisgau.

When she was six years old, meanwhile she had a brother and a sister, she had to move again; this time they returned to the Province of Brandenburg, where they lived

in Neuhardenberg, the estate of the brother of Mady's mother, Carl-Hans Graf von Hardenberg, where her father was responsible for agriculture and forestry. Unfortunately in 1926 Mady's blissful life in the country was over. Her father got a job in Potsdam.

In 1936 Mady passed her "Abitur" (general qualification for university entrance) at the Oberlyzeum of the Kaiserin-August-Stiftung in Brandenburg. She started working as a secretary in the "Luftkreiskommando" II in Berlin and later as a private secretary to Prinz Oskar von Preußen, the fifth son of the last German Emperor Wilhelm II. After the beginning of World War II she worked at the Arado Aircraft Industries in Babelsberg, from 1940 to 1943 in the Reserve Infantry Battalions 178 and 9 in Potsdam and later until the end of

the war as director's secretary to the head of the Deputy General Command III, Major Alfred Graf Waldersee.

For quite a while Waldersee had already belonged to the secret resistance movement against Hitler. While still in service in Paris he and another officer had planned the assassination of Hitler on one of his visits. But unfortunately the visit in question was cancelled.

At school already Mady had not hidden the fact that she did not approve of the Nazi movement. While working in the Reserve Battalion she more or less secretly enabled the relatives of soldiers fighting in Russia, like in Stalingrad, to send parcels to their people in an unbureaucratic way. Mady after the war: "Even now, after leading such a good life, I must admit that this was the most satisfying and rewarding task."

After the defeat of the 6<sup>th</sup> Army in Stalingrad the regiment Mady had looked after did not exist any longer. Therefore she started working in the Deputy General Command, where they established 'Arbeitsstäbe Stalingrad' (working teams). As far as possible they had to find out about the soldiers who had been surrounded by the Russians and had not been able to leave. While working for Graf Waldersee Mady met several members of the resistance. After the war she wrote in her memoirs:

"The Prince and later Freiherr Ferdinand v. Lüninck (Head of the Reserve Battalion) often asked me to deliver letters personally that were not supposed to go by mail. But there were other jobs to do. Somehow I had learned to eye people I met suspiciously in order to tell my friends: Look at him, I think he is of our opinion. Being a



*Mady and her parents about 1935*

girl I sometimes had the means to do so without attracting attention.

Eventually my sister and I – our brother was a soldier and our parents mostly stayed at my uncle Hardenberg's in the country - had started to make a big pot of pea soup every Saturday. Our friends came, many of them belonging to the Regiments 9 and 178. There was no regiment in Germany holding more members of the resistance, ready to sacrifice themselves.

These friends brought others, sisters, cousins and female friends and, if they had, something to drink. Most of them were just happy, there was dancing, too. It was a harmless pleasure actually, to meet and retire into the air-raid shelter in the basement in order to have an excellent bottle of something. Very often one or the other was invited in order to introduce him into the inner circle. Thank God neither my sister nor my father were aware of the true reason of these meetings.

Apart from the necessity of total secrecy we did not want to burden our next of kin. This turned out to be particularly helpful later."

And then everything happened at once: the unsuccessful attempted assassination of Hitler on July 20, 1944 and the following wave of arrests and executions. Not only Mady's uncle, Graf Hardenberg (more than once the conspirators around Graf Stauffenberg had met at his manor house) was arrested after an unsuccessful attempt of suicide, but also her cousin Wonte, the fiancée of Werner Haefter, one of the conspirators, and Mady's 71-year-old father.

After an extensive search Mady found her father in jail in Moabit, in a very bad shape. She brought him a box with the most necessary things. Her father, being not really well-informed and therefore not able to testify, was eventually dismissed after six weeks.

## **Life under Soviet Occupation**

On April 27, 1945 the Soviets occupied Potsdam. Russian officers quartered in the Schillings' house. The family, however, survived. On 30 October Mady, her sister and her parents started

their adventurous escape heading west, while her brother was in a military hospital in Lübeck. Her parents went to live with friends in the Sauerland.

Sneaking across the “Green Border” Mady, however, returned to Potsdam, where she stayed with friends. She was still concerned about her work in the Stalingrad group. She wanted to get information about the POWs of the division she had been looking after. But she did not succeed.

Sneaking across the “Green Border” again in March 1946 she visited her parents in the Sauerland. She notes: “Little by little I got into a certain routine, but I was always scared a couple of days before going, when I had reached the border, however, it was over. I felt like a horse trained to start running at the sound of the battle trumpet.”

## **New Job in Braunschweig**

Four weeks later she returned to Potsdam. By then she was constantly interrogated by the NKWD (Soviet Secret Service). Naturally she felt uncomfortable. A friend told her she was held for a British spy, because she spoke English and had visited the British Sector more than once. When someone she knew in Berlin offered her a job in Braunschweig she agreed.

The British had charged this man with providing medications for the Soviet Sector. They were transported via Braunschweig. With one of these transports from Potsdam to western Germany Mady had eventually succeeded in bringing her furniture. Until 1955 she stayed in various jobs in Braunschweig. By then she moved

to Düsseldorf and Cologne, where she was Chief of Protocol at the Landschaftsverband Rheinland Köln.

## **Mady and the Schilling Association**

After the refounding in 1954 Mady devoted herself to the Schilling association. She became our treasurer and for 27 years our deputy chairwoman. Until 1999 she was a member of the board.

Her greatest project in the family association was the integration of the US-American branch. In 1965 she flew over to the States in a propeller-driven plane. She crossed the big country from Virginia to California in order to visit the Schillings, who were scattered all over the country, and ask them to join the family association. Due to Mady’s initiative more than 57 members of the American Canstatt line meanwhile belong to the family association.

## **Early Interest in International Contacts**

Mady was always interested in international contacts. In 1938 she made her first trip abroad in order to visit her relatives in Hungary. “I spent six wonderful weeks there” she said later. But she did not want to stay in Hungary forever. When people tried to bring her, who stayed unmarried all her life, and a widower together, she wrote to her parents: “Don’t worry a) he is Roman Catholic, b) I’m definitely not looking for a Hungarian, they are not the right men to marry.

And I appreciate the Prussian way of life.” “They tumbled on my table like presents”, she said.

In 1964 Mady was awarded the “Order of the British Empire” for bringing about four twinning relationships between German and British municipal administrations.

On January 23, 2010 a mourning ceremony was held for Mady in Cologne. Our chairman Helmut said: “You have devoted yourself to the family association. You were a leading example. We will always remember you.” Her urn was interred at the “Rheinhöhen” Cemetery Wachtberg near Cologne.



## Eastern Branch

### New Life on Paddas Manor

Belgian purchases former Schilling-property in Estonia

The Internet always opens up to numerous opportunities for new contacts. Last year Professor Michel Poulain from the Roman Catholic University of Louvain (Löwen) in Belgium wrote that he had purchased part of /Paddas/ Padda Manor, asking me could I give information about the last German owner.

I could indeed: Until it was confiscated in 1920 Paddas was in the possession of Alfred Baron von Schilling (1861-1922), who in 1906 had inherited it from his wife Julie (Lilia) Freiin von Rosen (1866-1930). Alfred von Schilling was an outstanding personality. He served as chamberlain to the Russian Tsar Nikolaus II. He was a member of the Russian Imperial Council and a District Administrator in Estonia.

The noble manor house was built to the drawings of the famous French architect Baptiste de la Motte by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the Revolution of 1917 it was completely burnt down and has been a ruin since. But even the ruin still shows the

beauty of the building.

Padda is situated in the north of Estonia in the valley of the River Padda, close to the coast. The remains of an old Estonian peasants' fortification (Bauernburg) are near by.

It is impossible to rebuild the ruined house. Professor Poulain wants to have the old barn reconstructed instead. The roof has already been seen to as well as windows and doors. The private part is 85 m<sup>2</sup>. The original stone floor in the largest room, which is 200 m<sup>2</sup> in size, will remain unchanged. The ceiling, however, will be taken off in order to let the room go up to the roof, which makes it suitable for being used as an art gallery. There will be a conference room in the living quarters.

The remaining 85 m<sup>2</sup> will contain the service quarters. Michel Poulain bought the estate because he married an Estonian lady coming from the area around Paddas.

On our visit in Estonia in March Ebba and I wanted to see Paddas.

### Futile Trip to Padda in Heavy Snows

Being invited by the Poulains we rented a car and drove to the building site in the blowing snow, looking forward to a welcome in front of the fireplace.

Unfortunately Professor Poulain had mixed up the dates and we found the doors locked. After looking at the snow-covered building we had to leave. Eventually we wanted to visit the burial place of Ebba's great grandfather Otto von Schilling in Maholm, which is very close. But this proved to be a failure as well. There was so much snow that we could only see the top of the cross. It was impossible to go anywhere near.

Cousin Helene was luckier, when she visited Paddas a couple of years ago. The sun was shining and she had a nice walk in the park which used to be in the style of an English landscape garden. When Helene was there, however, there were cows grazing on the lawn. A young Estonian led Helene to a stone in one of the corners of the park: the burial place of the dog of Lilia, Alfred von Schilling's wife. After the dispossession she lived in Reval until she died in 1930.



*Paddas/Padda Manor before the destruction...*



*.....and in the winter now*

She was a known dog's lover. Alfred died in 1922. The young Estonian remembered that in former times people had reared trout in the River Padda.

Helmuth von Schilling

## Alfred Schilling's Speech in the Imperial Council in St. Petersburg

In 1916, i.e. during World War I, courageously spoke to the Imperial Council in St. Petersburg. Alfred was a member of the Council in the Capital City of the Russian Empire, called Petrograd at that time. In his capacity as the elected deputy of the Baltic provinces Alfred was worried about the relationship between the Russians and the Germans living in the provinces he represented. After all the German



*Alfred Baron Schilling*

Reich was at war with Russia and there were demonstrations against the Baltic Germans.

The member of the Council said: "We prove our patriotic attitude by the way our sons and brothers fight on the front line, the commitment of the young men who were called up at the beginning of the war while they



*Restoration of an old granary building in Padda*

were abroad and who came back home in spite of the difficulties and hardships in order to become soldiers, and the commitment of the young men who were not called up and who joined the Russian Volunteer Army."

And Alfred von Schilling went on: "I just gave you an account of the atmosphere in the Baltic provinces and yet, as you all know, by the beginning of the war systematic agitation against the German nobility started. Especially aristocrats and parsons were arrested and deported."

Eventually the Chamberlain asked the Tsar: "Nobody can explain this appalling relationship with the provinces that have been united with Russia for over 200 years and whose inhabitants have in all these years done their duty towards the tsars as well as any other Russian subject?"

When Baron Schilling tried to explain the state of affairs with the fact that the civil administration did not do their duty towards the peaceful population by passing on their responsibility to the military government, he was heavily rebuked by the President of the Council, who threatened to stop him from speaking.

Schilling, however, refused

to be intimidated. The reason for the criticised development, he explained, were the government policies towards the non-Russian population. Last not least the member of the Council criticised the fact that in this war Russia was more interested in fighting for Slavism than for their fatherland: This was why the Baltic Germans had the idea that "only those of our comrades are fully accepted as Russian citizens, who are lying mutilated in the trenches having lost their lives in service for the tsar. And may God grant – that the government will sometime be able to make up for the moral damage they have caused by denying the truth."

Unfortunately Alfred's warnings went unheard as we know from the course of history.

By the way: In 1919 Alfred's second son, Alfred, was killed in the fight of the Estonians and Baltic Germans against the Russian Bolsheviks. In the Schilling-Courier 2008 there was an extensive report about his life and his grave in Finland.

## Family History

# Bloodaxe is not our Ancestor

Is the legend of Erik true after all?/Viking from Haitabu?

According to Heinar Schilling, who in 1927 founded the Schilling association in Dresden, the Schillings are descendants of Erik. What does that mean?

Heinar refers to a chronicle which was written about 1320 by Bernhard von Schilling of Lindeck-Forst, while he was living as an Augustinian monk in Zürich. According to the legend Erik Skjölding “Bloodaxe” (885-954), son of Harald I “Fairhair”, Viking king of Norway (852-933), presumably was our ancestor. According to the chronicle Erik, after qua-



*Our relative? Tombstone of Rudolf of Rheinfelden in Merseburg Cathedral. It is the oldest bronze tombstone in Europe*

relling with his father, went on a “long trip” and eventually settled in Rheinfelden near Basel.

Bernard Schilling reports that Erik supposedly had been granted an estate, which was no fiefdom, by Herzog Burcart von Schwaben (884-926). Erik’s descendants stayed on in Rheinfelden, some of them were counts and some dukes. One of them was King Rudolf von Rheinfelden (1025-1080), oppo-

nent of Heinrich IV (well-known for his begging “forgiveness” at Canossa). Some of their branches had estates in Lindeck, Lindeck-Forst and Sparneck. One of their ancestors is supposed to have come to Lahneck as a “kurmainzischer Burgmann” (member of the low aristocracy in the Middle Ages that defended and guarded castles): our common ancestor Heinrich Schilling von Lahnestein.

Back to the Erik legend: We know for certain that Erik Bloodaxe is not the ancestor of the Schillings. King Harald I of Norway had a son Erik, but he died in England. Since according to a legend this Erik is supposed to have executed 18 of his brothers, he was called “Bloodaxe”. He only spared his eldest brother Haakon I in England, who was the heir to the throne. His incompetence led Erik to being removed as king. Haakon returned to Norway and Erik went to England instead. Finally he became King of Jorvil (York). Actually King Harald was called “Fairhair”, because he never cut his red-blond curls until he had run down the last of his rebels.

Our member Eric Bawor, who devoted himself to this subject, believes that the monk Bernhard Schilling “Bonifazius” probably mistook one Erik for the other.

In Haitabu, an important trading settlement in the Danish-northern German borderland during the Viking Age, close to the Baltic Sea and to the city of Schleswig, this name is mentioned very often. Presumably the rulers of Haitabu were descendants of an ancient Danish lineage descending – ac-



*Seal and monogram of Rudolf of Rheinfelden on a document of the king from 1079 and an attached register of decrees.*

ording to the Norwegian legends – from the Danish royal dynasty of the “Schildleute” (shield bearer). We know that the Danish Skjöldings are related to the Norwegian Ynglinge, where King Harald came from. And Skjölding was the name of the numerous Eriks.

Erik III was the last King of Haitabu and his aunt was supposedly married to King Harald I of Norway. Eventually they were very close relations. After his abdication in 891 Erik left Haitabu. This Erik lived too early to be our ancestor. But there is another Erik mentioned in the chronicle, who was born in 894 and who had to leave his native country as well. Perhaps this is our Erik at last, who according to Heinar’s genealogy was born in 894 and who had to leave his native country, too? Since Eric III’s ancestor was presumably married to a Franconian princess he may well have been related to Herzog Burcart von Schwaben.

During the years of prosperity

Haitabu, the most important trading settlement of the western area of the Baltic Sea, with at least 1500 inhabitants. The settlement was founded by the Danes around 770. In 934 the East-Franconian and Saxon King Heinrich I defeated the Danes conquering the town. The next generation of the ancient Scandinavian dynasty, however, still ruled the city.



*The Erikstone in Heitabu*

Erik's name seems to have been very important to the inhabitants of Haitabu. Eventually the so-called "Erikstone" was found: a large stone with an inscription in runic writing, written by Thoralf, a liegeman of the Danish King Sven Gabelbart, in memory of his dead brother of the sword (helmsman) Erik. Erik was probably killed in 983, when Haitabu was conquered and totally destroyed by the soldiers of the Danish King Harald "Bluetooth". Surprisingly "Bluetooth" respected the sovereignty of the Holy Roman Nation of the German Empire.

One thing is clear: Our origin is still in the dark, the exciting Erik legend included. We definitely know, however, that bloodthirsty "Bloodaxe" is not our ancestor. And I think this is for the best.

## Schillings international

# Germany is my Home, but Estonia is my Homeland

Cousin Helene about the resettlement in Estonian TV show

On November 19, 2009 on the Estonian TV our cousin Helene had a forty minutes interview in the night show of the Estonian TV journalist Indrek Treufeldt about the resettlement and her life in Estonia before the war. Though some of us may have read her report in the Newsletter of the Baltic Knights we publish it here:

"When on October 8, 1939 the order to leave the country was published, it came as a shock and hit me like a stroke, confusing me considerably. Being only 15 years old at the time I cannot tell you much about it."

When asked why 70 years ago the resettlement was decided, 85-year-old Helene, now living in Tönisforst near Krefeld, answered: "The Hitler-Stalin Pact, signed on August 23, 1939, the beginning of the war on September 1, 1939 and Soviet claims for military bases in Estonia on September 18 scared my parents and they started to worry about our future.

Many of them still remembered the time of the Russian Revoluti-

on in 1917 when people had been arrested and deported to Siberia. Would it be possible to leave Estonia in order to avoid this?"

And then: "A single person might have decided to stay in his homeland Estonia which he loved so much. I am certain that my parents' decision to leave the country and go to Germany after all was due to their considering their children's future. Until then only few of us had been to Germany and we did not know much about the living circumstances in this country. Therefore we had the choice between an uncertain future in Germany and deportation to Siberia which would happen sooner or later."

And which opinion did the Estonians have about the resettlement of the Germans? "After the decision of the resettlement was published some of them said: 'We are glad you are leaving at last, after such a long time! Others however: 'At least you know what will happen to you – but what is going to happen to us?'"

For 15-year-old Helene, too, the days before the departure of the



*Baroness Helene von Schilling and the Estonian journalist Indrek Treufeldt*

ship on November 4 were chaotic. Her report: “The result of negotiations with the Estonian government was that we were allowed to take all our clothing, furniture and household supply, anything of value (gold/silver) as well as food was limited.

In this mess Estonian people often came in order to buy things. When my parents were not at home my sister, who was three years my senior, and I had to deal with the prospective buyers. We were not able to lead an orderly life any more! By the way our big luggage (furniture and household supply) actually did not arrive until 1940.”

Sometimes people were allowed to take their cattle, so Helene v. Schilling eventually knew a story one of her relatives had told her:

“By way of compensation they were assigned an estate in the part of Poland annexed by Nazi Germany. When their cow, filthy after the long transport, arrived at the estate, they discovered a letter woven into her tail. It was written by one of their former servants who regretted their having left their ‘Restgut’ (part of the estate). When in 1992 their sons visited the estate that once had belonged to their parents (note by the editor: one of them is our chairman), one of the maidservants, who was still alive, eventually asked if they had received the letter. In some ways this was a historic cow.”

“How many ‘Restgüter’ existed after the large land holdings had been confiscated?” “I do not know the precise number, but I know that all those who had fought in the Estonian War of Independence were allowed to retain a piece of their land, not to exceed 50 hectares.

It was also possible for siblings to consolidate their land. Thus



*Helene, left, and her sister Daisy in Estonia in 1930. Helene’s scarf belongs to her youngest god-daughter Charlotte Klockenhoff. She still has the knitting pattern*

eventually one of them was able to manage the ‘Restgut’, which was a most difficult task in itself, while the others found themselves jobs in the city. Many others left the country hoping for a new start in Germany. The expropriation had taken their economic basis.” “And how did you reach Germany after crossing the Baltic Sea?” “After a stormy passage the ship entered the harbour of Stettin. From there a special train brought us to Posen, a town in the ‘Warthegau’, where we had to stay in a camp.

Later we were given an apartment. This was a tricky situation, since the Polish owners had left only a couple of hours earlier. We felt like burglars finding unmade beds and dirty dishes because they had no time to do their washing-up after supper.”

Indrek Treufeldt was surprised that Helene spoke the Estonian language so fluently: “Where did you learn the Estonian language?” “In the 30s Estonian was the first

foreign language we had to learn in the German primary school. There were five German schools altogether. The primary school and the German Boys’ “Realgymnasium” (Grammar School) were financially supported by the city council. The School-Support of the German Cultural Self-Governance (thanks to the minority legislation of 1925) supported the German nursery school, the Cathedral school, the Commercial Hansa College as well as the German “Progymnasium”, a mixture of the very old Elisen School and the former municipal German Girls’ Grammar School.”

After discussing schools the question arose in what way the Germans had influenced the Estonian history. The Baltic German lady went far back: “Since in 1343 the Order of the Teutonic Knights had defeated the Estonians, Estonia became part of their State, acquiring the western and middle-European culture. The Order did not only protect the country against attacks from the East but also protected the Estonian language and culture saving them from disappearing in the large Russian territory like so many other small nations had done before. Eventually in 1248 the merchants of the Hanseatic League had introduced the Lübeck law which still serves as a foundation for their law now.”

And the Reformation in 1524 was influential, too. “The sermons had to be delivered in the native language. Consequently translations of the catechism and the bible followed, which together with the edition of an Estonian Grammar by German pastors were very important for the development of the Estonian language and culture.” Question: “Were you able to speak the Estonian language in the 50s when you could not come

over?” Answer: “No. I was worried whether I would be able to communicate when I came for my first visit of Estonia in 1989. But it worked.”

And she said: “Helvi, whose mother had worked as maidservant in one of the “Restgüter”, where I had very often spent my holidays, came to meet me at the harbour with a bunch of cornflowers and helped me. I was impressed to find that her 80-year-old mother Armiida, after a couple of letters I had written to her, was waiting for me counting the days until my arrival. After 50 years, imagine!”

Treufeldt asks: “Communication and understanding is very important indeed, how did the Estonians and the Germans get along?” Helene v. Schilling: “In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were differences between the Estonians and the Germans especially in the cities. But in the country, where very often several generations had worked on the same estate, there was not so much difference. Far too often people in Germany mention these differences. They are of no consequence now, because both sides had to suffer too much from the war and the time after the war. Let us all hope that this will not change.”

“And what does Estonia mean to you today?” “Very much. My home is in Tönisvorst, but Estonia will always be my homeland. During my visits to Estonia I met many Estonians with whom I made friends. And by giving me such a warm welcome you made me believe that Estonia is our common homeland.”

The interview received quite a positive feedback in Estonia. Jaak Salumäe, pastor of the Domkirche (Lutheran Cathedral) of Reval/Tallinn writes: “Your interview was an unforgettable experience

for the TV viewers. The Estonian TV has broadcasted the interview three times. I watched it every time and was still very much interested.

I admire your excellent knowledge of the Estonian language,

## **Positive Feedback in Estonia**

especially since you left when you were 15. And I was extremely moved when you finally said that Estonia is your homeland.”

And Andres Joessare, chairman of the National Board of Directors of the Broadcasting Company: “The interview dealing with the fate of the Baltic Germans was really necessary. This is a chapter in the Estonian history that has never before been discussed publicly.”

Paul Vesiloo writes to Indrek Treufeldt: “The relationship between the Estonians and the Germans has always been described in the wrong way. Everything the pro-Russian statesmen told us in their speeches about the Germans having oppressed the Estonian population was wrong.

## **“We are alright”**

Oscar Schilling’s report of the earthquake in Chile

After the disastrous earthquake in Chile on 27 February, where 852 people died and about 200 were reported missing, we were worried about the Schillings in this South American country we had so extensively written about in our last Schilling Courier. On 3 March, however, our member Oscar Schilling wrote a short note in telegraphic style: “We are alright, children and grandchildren, too, house on the coast slightly damaged, no damage in Santiago. No phone, no Internet, no Internet, no TV.

It was the Germans who actually led us into Europe. I am part of the generation who still knows that the servants as well as their farmers have respected the landlord.”

And finally one of the viewers wrote: “The last TV show with the Baltic German lady was enjoyable, nice and interesting. The show host did not have to do very much his guest did all the talking...”

## **Helene’s Memoirs**

**Cousin Helene has written her memoirs “Erinnerungen an Estland” about her childhood, the resettlement in 1939 and her various visits since 1989 in leaflet form. A considerable piece of work about a long-lost world, with many pictures. The book can be ordered from Helene Baronesse von Schilling until the end of January 2011. The booklet costs 20 € postage included.**

report later.”

Three months later, on 23 May, Oscar wrote: “Many people had to suffer from the earthquake, either directly or indirectly. Many descendants of German immigrants are among them. But none of them has lost his house, and yet many buildings were damaged in different ways and are being repaired now.”

Oscar wrote his long report on 23 March. He says: “I am not trying to trivialise your awful memories of the war, but I think in a war you are in some ways



*The buildings collapsed like a house of cards*

prepared for anything that could happen. An earthquake arrives without warning, while you are asleep in your bed at night or by day when you are driving your car on a highway at 120 km/h towards a bridge that is on the brink of collapsing or you are just at the dentist's. There is no way out, it just happens like in Schiller's Song of the Bell: 'Because the elements hate/ The structure created by human hand.' The elements arrive announced.

The subduction of the Nazca Plate caused a quake that was 178 times more forceful than the awful earthquake in Haiti not long ago (editor's note: many more deaths though). The economic losses amount to 30 billions US Dollars, the equivalent of 18 % of our gross domestic product. The insurances cover only eight billions of this enormous sum. The major part of the repair works will have to be paid for by the private owners, the government and national and international investors. In his letter from the end of May he also wrote: "The new middle-right-wing government kept its word so far: By a system of temporary military bridges 100 per-

cent of the highways are passable again, after three weeks TV and Internet were operating normally, 98 percent of the cities have electricity and running water. Emergency shelters have been set up. In a big hurry 51000 were prefabricated and set up. And so on."

Finally Oscar writes: "Indeed there is still a long way to go, we are only starting to recover, there are still aftershocks. But after February 27, 2010 people in our country showed solidarity like they did after the disastrous earthquakes of 1906 in Valparaiso, 1936 in the area of Concepcion/Chillán, 1960 in Valdivia and 1985 in the area of Santiago/Melipilla. People of all social classes joined in the rebuilding."

## Coat of Arms Leading to Confusion

When Jürgen von Schilling from Liebstadt in Saxony applied for membership in the association he sent a family tree documenting his belonging to the western branch, the Suhl line Zella-Mehlis. The coat of arms, however, leads to confusion. It does not display the expected lime leaf of the western branch, but the three roses displayed in the coat of arms of the Mayor of Hamburg, Albert Schilling. According to Jürgen it comes from his ancestor Caspar (\*1622) from Mehliis.

Does the coat of arms with the roses in fact belong to the Suhl line and are these Schillings Albert's descendants or was the coat of arms adopted by one of Jürgen's ancestors? This coat of arms was supposedly used by Ernst Schilling (1897-1974) from Suhl until Heinar Schilling told him that it was the wrong one. Who is right and who is wrong?



*Presumably the coat of arms of Caspar Schilling (\*1622) from Zella-Mehlis*

## Personalities

### **The Cheerfulness of Success**

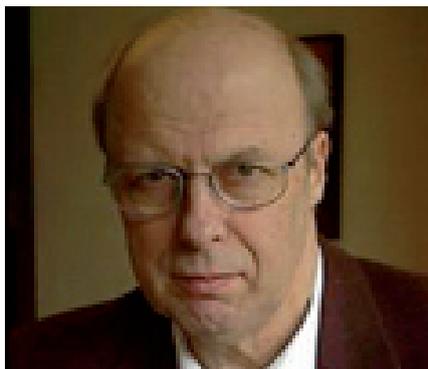
University teacher Klaus von Schilling was honoured

In 2008 they bade farewell to Klaus Baron von Schilling, university teacher of Applied Linguistics and Cultural Sciences at the Germersheim department of the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, taking his well-deserved retirement after 41 years of work. This year he was honoured with the publication of a wonderful booklet titled: “The Cheerfulness of Success”. Cousin Klaus – our treasurer’s brother – has given his last lecture on this subject. This book does not only contain this lecture but also texts written by his colleagues and his students giving us a glimpse into his character and into the university.

Klaus took a degree in German literature, Political Science and Philosophy in Frankfurt/Main and Berlin. In Germersheim he contributed considerably to set up a degree course in German for foreign students who wanted to get a translator’s and interpreter’s degree. In the German literature department he was responsible for Cultural and Literary Science, especially for the regional political geography.

When around 1990 in Germersheim German as an independent subject was to be given up and split among the departments of English, French, Italian, Spanish and Arabic, Klaus fervently opposed. This is why Prof. Andreas F. Kelletat, dean of the university, said in his laudatory speech: “We have to thank him, who is leaving, for saving the subject from being abolished and for gently and carefully steering the school ship through the storm while there was no captain.”

Now Germersheim is one of the



*Klaus Baron von Schilling*

best known Schools of Translation worldwide.

In his Farewell Lecture about “The cheerfulness of success” Schilling quotes Goethe, Schiller, Nietzsche and Thomas Mann, declaring that cheerfulness is accompanied by heavy activity. According to Schiller cheerfulness characterizes the art itself and not just the work of art. This was Klaus von Schilling’s motto, too.

He was born in Berlin in 1941. He had specialised in: German Politics and History of Culture; interpretations of texts of cultural studies, analyses of political discourses and interpretations of post-war literature. His most important publication is a three-volume book about the “sociopolitical system in the Federal Republic of Germany”.

He held various guest lectureships in various countries such as Finland (Vaasa and Tampere), Denmark (Copenhagen), Latvia (Riga) and Russia Moscow.

das auch für Klaus von Schilling gilt.

**“Die Heiterkeit des Gelingens”, Klaus von Schilling in Germersheim, SAX Berlin, 126 pages, price: 18.90 €, ISBN: 978-3-939060-18-5**

## **New Plans for our Website**

*In our 2008 edition we already mentioned that we want to modernize our website. Our webmaster SvC and our cousin Matthias Wiskow, software engineer by profession, are planning to have our website managed by a content management system (CMS). CMS is a collection of procedures used to manage work flow in a collaborative environment.*

*In this way almost everyone (with access code and password to login) can easily contribute to shared data. The somewhat complicated installation will take some time. Christian promised to have a working website ready until the family reunion in Hamburg.*

### **Please note our website:**

**For non-members’ use:**

<http://www.schilling-verband.de>

or

<http://www.schilling-association.org>

**or members’ use:**

<http://www.schilling-association.org/mitglieder/indexframes/frameseite.htm>

## Events that Happened Elsewhere

### Three Schillings in the Castle

Paintings hanging/an unusual story

In Höhnscheid Castle near Kassel, centre of the Baltic Noble Corporations, numerous portraits of important members of large Baltic German families are hanging on the walls, the Schillings, however, were missing. After the reunion of the eastern branch of the family in Höhnscheid we wanted to change this situation. Since February 26, 2010 you can see three Schillings there. Carl Gebhard (1719-1779) and his brothers Gotthard Raphael (1729-1797) and Johann Christoph (1724-1788).

Though the brothers came from Estonia, part of the Russian Empire at that time, they served in the armies of three different nations (Russia, Austria and Prussia). Eventually in the Seven-Years'-War (1756-1763) they had to fight on three different fronts. First Russia was allied with Austria against Prussia, but changed sides in the later stages of the war.

One night when fighting paused, they secretly met in the forest in

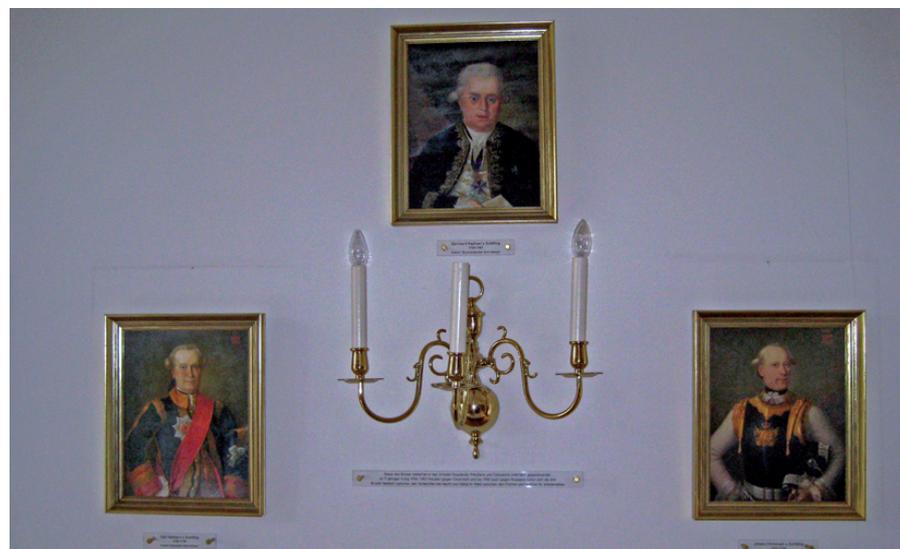
order to celebrate their meeting in spite of the circumstances.

Because of this incredible story we decided to bring their portraits to Höhnscheid. A collection among the members of the eastern part covered the costs (800 €) of copying and framing and of the name plates. The chairman is pleased with his members' generosity.

The brothers' secret meeting, however, never affected their careers in any way: Carl Gebhard was promoted Russian major-general during the war. Gotthard Raphael was also promoted major-general in Austria and was granted the title of "Reichsgraf", which is not heritable. Johann Christoph returned to Estonia holding the rank of a Prussian cavalry captain.

Carl Gebhard is the ancestor of all Schillings of the eastern branch of our association. His brothers were unmarried and had no children.

Two other brothers were killed in Russian wars.



*The three Schilling brothers: middle: Gotthard Raphael, front left: Carl Gebhard, right: Johann Christoph*

## Municipality Cares for Burial Ground

Eastern branch accepts  
new ownership

Until now the ownership of the burial ground, the chapel and the park of the former estate of the Jürgensberg line of the eastern branch was unresolved. Therefore the association agreed to the suggestion of the Municipality of Järva-Jaani/St. Johannis in Estonia, who wanted to take over and care for it.

The director of the Municipality, Arva Saar, wrote: "We want to keep the park. The chapel has become a place of great interest for the local tourism."

The chapel was presumably built in the first half of the 19th century. Eleven Schillings and a foster son (Nolde) are buried on the site of the chapel. Moreover there are memorial stones in memory of Lisi's and Georg's five sons who were killed in World War II or died as POWs: Ben (1915-1941), Hans-Otto (1918-1941), Alexander (1919-1942), Klaus (1912-1942) and Georg (1913-1946).

In the chapel there are two memorial plates with the names of all the dead persons of this line. Up to now the descendants of the Schillings and the Estonian Kakko family have cared for and maintained the burial ground.

## Orgena Manor is under Repair

Over the course of the next two or three years essential repair works will be carried out in Orgena, the ancestral home of the



*Chapel on the burial ground of the Jürgensbergs in Estonia*

eastern branch.

The municipality of Järva-Jaani/ St. Johannis has been provided with about one million Estonian Krooni (62000 €). They will start with installing water and sewer pipes and power lines.

Later the rooms and the heating will be converted. The tractor class will not be closed. There are plans for a great hall in the north-east part of the ground-floor, in the southern part rooms.

will be made that can be converted into classrooms for a school that is nearby.

Orgena will be called “Manor School”. This name is the basis for the Government Support Programme. The museum is supposed to represent the ideas of the various eras, starting with the clay chimney from the time when the country had passed to Swedish rule. The Schilling Room will be enlarged.



*Orgena Manor*

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