

Schilling-Courier



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

News of the Schilling Association and Annual Report 2012

Wrocław welcomes the Schillings

Family reunion 2014/60th anniversary of the association/trip to Krakow

The preparations for next year's family reunion in Wrocław, Poland, are in full swing. We decided on a programme and the hotel is booked. Now we can get going **(the invitation is enclosed)**.

In the history of the association 2014 is a special year. 60 years ago the association was founded. The reunion in Wrocław included, 18 family reunions were held since then. Our first meetings were at the beautiful Kupferberg-Terrasse in Mainz, later we chose places that had once been of importance to the family, Wrocław included, we went abroad three times: in 1999 to Estonia, in 2008 to Virginia/USA, and during our reunion in 2002 to France. We are an international association indeed. Our members come from 17 countries, from New Zealand to Canada.

During the 60 years since the founding of the association we had only three chairmen. The first was the grandson of the sculptor Johannes Schilling, Andreas Schilling of the western branch.



The Rynek in Wrocław. In the background, the tower of the Elisabeth Church. Daniel Schilling lived in the third gabled house to the right.

In 1967 he was succeeded by the memorable Heinz Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt of the southern branch and since 1999 our chairman is Helmuth of the eastern branch.

The family association that was founded 60 years ago is totally different from the "Verband des Hauses Schilling" that was founded in Dresden by Heinar Schilling, the younger son of Johannes,

in 1927. At that time it was an association of the western, strictly speaking of the Proschwitz branch. In 1946 the association was dissolved by the Soviet occupation force in Dresden.

As usual the family reunion in Wrocław will be opened on Friday evening, with a welcoming speech at the hotel. We will start the next day, Saturday, with a visit of the old Town Hall.

The building that was constructed between the late 13th and the early 16th century, shows the development of the Gothic architecture of that time very clearly. After the reception in the old Great Hall there will be a tour of the building.

Later we will visit the nearby Elisabeth Church whose structure dates back to the beginning of the 14th century. Over the centuries St. Elisabeth's Church played an important role in the life of the city, reflecting the pride of the citizens of Breslau (Wrocław) who presented the church with the most valuable pieces of art. The numerous epitaphs in honour of notable persons are impressive. One of them was the merchant Daniel Schilling (1506-1663). The epitaph for himself and his two wives is beautifully decorated with ornamentation.

The Town Hall and Elisabeth's Church are part of the Rynek (Market Square, Ring) of the old town. Though most of the Ring has been reconstructed after the war, the citizens and the visitors of Wrocław love it very much. The stylistic richness of the old houses makes the Ring – one of the biggest medieval squares in Europe – so beautiful.

In the afternoon busses will take us to the Municipal Museum in the former royal castle. In the museum there is a brass plate in memory of Councillor Gottfried Schilling (1547-1603). He was one of the donors when the roof of St. Elisabeth's Church needed to be replaced. Passing by the university (established in 1702) we will arrive at the Cathedral Island, the oldest part of Breslau. Sacral buildings and the magnificent Cathedral of John the Baptist, built between the 12th and the 14th century, as well as the Bishop's Palace, characterise the unique atmosphere of this island.



View of the Cathedral Island; right: the Cathedral; left: St. Martin's Church



The beautiful "Aula" of the University of Breslau



The monumental Centennial Hall, built in 1924



The oldest wooden church in Europe, the Church of Peace in Schweidnitz/Świdnica, built from 1656-1657

In the evening there will be a festive dinner at the „Royal Restaurant“ on the Rynek. On the next day we will hold our members meeting and select the members of the board. Later we will visit Schweidnitz/Świdnica with the Church of Peace, the oldest wooden church in Europe, and Kreisau/ Krzyżowa.

After winning the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, Helmuth Graf von Moltke bought the Castle of Kreisau as his place of retirement. His great-nephew Helmuth James Graf von Moltke (executed on 23.1.1945) was one of the founding members of the Kreisau Circle resistance group opposing the NS Regime in Germany. In 1942 and 1943 there were three secret meetings of the group, held at the „Berghaus“, sited on the estate and the home of the family,

In 1989/1990 the “Endowment for German-Polish Understanding” was founded as part of the European citizens’ movement. Krzyżowa became a Memorial Centre as well as an International Youth Meeting Centre. In 2014

will be the 70th anniversary of the assassination attempt on Hitler on July 20, 1944.

On our way back to Breslau we will stop at Frankenstein. During the 16th century the Frankenstein line of our family lived in this town with its famous “Leaning Tower”. The von Breverns who are related to our family through marriage, originally came from this town, too. This will be the end of the official part of the family reunion.

On the next day our tourism programme will start with a bus trip



The „Lesning Tower“ in Frankenstein, 15th century

to Krakow/Kraków with a stop-over in the NS concentration camp Auschwitz. This part of the family reunion will end on Wednesday, June 18.

In the 11th century Kraków (760 000 inhabitants) was the capital of the Duchy of Poland and after the great fire in 1594 it became a metropolis.

Except the Old Town with the Town Hall, the market hall and St. Mary’s Church with its famous altar, the Royal Castle of Wawel is the heart of the city tour through Krakow.



Kreisau/Krzyżowa Castle



Celebration for Johannes Schilling

Western branch met to celebrate his 185th anniversary



Members of the western branch in front of the Schilling-Museum

On June 13 the small town of Mittweida in Saxony (16 000 inhabitants) had a big celebration on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of their son and first “honorary citizen” Johannes Schilling (1828-1919). From June 19 till June 23 the town had a week-long festival in honour of the sculptor who was born in Mittweida. Naturally the Schilling Association was present, too: The western branch, whose member Johannes Schilling is, held a reunion.

The highlight of the reunion was an invitation of Ina Schilling-Nickel, Johannes’ great-granddaughter, for “coffee at the professor’s place”. In the Johannes-Schilling-Haus the table for 30 people was festively decorated. In his speech our chairman Helmuth thanked Ina, the Town of Mittweida, the Museum “Alte Pfarrhäuser” (old parsonages) and the Association of the Friends of the Museum for preparing these wonderful days. Likewise he re-

minded them of the fact that the Schilling-Haus was first opened on the occasion of the family reunion in 2005, with the financial help of the family association. Subsequently Helmuth and Ina were admitted as honorary members of the Association of the Friends of the Museum. The

chairman of the Association of the Friends of the Museum, Michael Kreskowsky, presented the museum with a bronze lion, 40 cm in size and made by Johannes Schilling, which the association had bought for 500 € at an internet auction.

The festival was started with a Sculptors’ Symposium “Knock three times on Schilling’s door”. For five days five local sculptors with their hammers and thus creating new pieces of art under the old trees. These sculptures, such as an Aquarius and a Still Life with Fruit, will be installed in the town later.

On the preceding day fourteen family members had come to the Trinitatis Church in Meissen-Zscheila on whose beautiful restoration 480 000 € were spent last year. The Schillings admired the frescoes from the 13th century that had only been recovered in 1939. They descended into the family vault where six generations of the family’s Proschwitz line are buried. Among them is Johannes.

The organ from 1713 was playing while the chairman of our association laid a wreath in memory of Johannes Schilling’s anniversary.



In the sanctuary of the refurbished Trinitatis Church in Meissen-

Afterwards Pastor Gerold Heinke held an impressive service. On June 21 some Schillings had already attended the “Musical Reading” by Ina’s husband Walter Nickel. He read from Johannes’ diary that had miraculously been re-discovered. The audience were able to share the happiness of 66-year-old Johannes



Work of art created by the Sculptors' Symposium

about the birth and growing up of his youngest son Heinar whom his second wife Natalie had given birth to in 1894.

Dinner on the terrace of the “Deutsches Haus” Hotel was impressive because of the lovely weather and because we had the opportunity to admire the full moon wandering over the nearby parish church of Mittweida.



Bronze lion made by Johannes

Monuments turned into cannons

Leipzig: Luther-Melanchthon-Monument soon rebuilt?

Many monuments, made in Johannes Schilling’s workshop, are located in German cities and in various other European countries. Unfortunately some of them were destroyed during the war. One of them was the beautiful Luther-Melanchthon-Monument in Leipzig, created by Johannes Schilling. In 1943 it was melted down for war purposes in order to make armaments, i.e. cannons.

The scientist and practitioner of humanism, Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560), was one of the closest collaborators with the reformer Martin Luther (1483-1546). The monument was six metres in height and was inaugurated in Leipzig on November 11, 1883: Luther is seated with an open Bible on his lap, while Melanchthon is standing in a stooping position, giving advice. The purpose of the monument is to show the reformers’ dialogue about truth and clarity in connection with religious belief. The viewer is to understand that conviction can be mainly achieved through dialogue.

An association named “Verein Luther- und Melanchthon-Denkmal e.V.” was created with the aim to rebuild the monument. They ask for donations: “Sparkasse Leipzig, account number 1100678618, BLZ 860 555 92.

The initiators hope that people can admire the monument again in 2017 on the 500th anniversary of the day when Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Castle and University Church of Wittenberg. The monument was initially established by a People’s Committee that was formed on the occasion of the 300th anniversary of the introduction of the reformation in Leipzig.



Luther-Melanchthon-Monument

However, they had to wait another 44 years before the idea was carried out at last.

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Schilling's fight was in vain

He was to save Durlach from the French

A great number of notable persons came from the southern branch of our association. The most remarkable ones were Georg, (1487-1554), Grand Prior of the Order of St. John in Heitersheim, and Paul Schilling von Canstatt (1786-1837), the virtual inventor of the electromagnetic telegraph (Samuel Morse stole the patent). Franz-Wilhelm (1832-1895) who emigrated to America, where he distinguished himself in the Civil War, and his brother August (1840-1918), a remarkable engineer and winemaker, are likewise noteworthy. In one of the City Magazines of Karlsruhe I eventually found another interesting member of the family: Ludwig Friedrich Schilling von Canstatt, Lord of Thalheim (1654-1729).

After Ludwig Friedrich having distinguished himself during the liberation of Ofen/Hungary from Turkish occupation, he was summoned to Durlach near Karlsruhe, the residence of the Margraves of Baden. At that time the War of the Palatine Succession was raging on (1688-1697). King Louis XIV (Sun King) pressing the claims of his sister-in law, Elizabeth Charlotte of the Palatine, to the land as far as the River Rhine, occupied and devastated the region.

After destroying Heidelberg, the French marched towards Durlach. In 1689 the reigning margrave fled to Basel. In August 1689 there were only four companies of the Swabian region left, consis-

ting of 360 soldiers and commanded by Staff Sergeant Schilling. Eventually Durlach did not have enough fortified defences because of previous looting and billeting. As news spread around of destroyed towns, many citizens fled, leaving their town almost defenceless.

Schilling desperately needed more soldiers. He was promised to get them but they never arrived in Durlach. Instead a land militia of 150 farmers came into the town, which did not help much at all.

The Staff Sergeant had the walls and trenches repaired. But unfortunately, unlike other towns, Durlach had only one defensive ditch instead of two. On August 3, 1689 French troops of almost 9000 soldiers arrived outside the town and ordered them to surrender, threatening to destroy everything and to hang the officers.

Schilling, however, was adamant, told them that they would fight to the last man and had the cannons fired at the enemy all day long. This did not scare the French at all: They had more cannons and fired back.

At this moment a messenger of the Margrave Karl Gustav (brother of the reigning prince) sneaked into town with the margrave's order, Schilling was to retire to Pforzheim, as there were no more troops to come. Schilling summoned the officers and they decided to surrender. Only the Staff Sergeant disagreed. He would have preferred to fight. But finally he accepted the officers' decision.

Eventually the French troops invaded the town. Though the contrary was affirmed, the soldiers had the permission to take as much booty as they wished. The soldiers from Baden were put in irons and locked inside the church. The officers were arrested, too.

The civilian population was allowed to leave the town and to take everything they were able to carry.

On August 5, the streets were



The burning of Durlach in 1689

covered with straw and pitch circles and set on fire. The beautiful castle and the whole town were destroyed by the fire, only five houses survived.

After being arrested Schilling remained in captivity in Strasbourg for three years. Afterwards he was court-marshalled in Wilberg (the central office was Nagold) for handing over Durlach. In 1692, however, he was acquitted of all charges and continued pursuing his career.

Eventually he was promoted Major General and Quatermaster General of the Swabian district by the Margrave. He received numerous honours, such as the “Baden-Durlachischen Orden der Treue”.

Ludwig Friedrich was married to Maria von Tegernau (1670-1733). Part of her dowry was the village of Thalheim. The Tegernau family was extinguished on her death. The couple had eleven living and two still-born children. All members of the southern branch are descendents of this couple.

After the French had left Durlach, the Margrave Friedrich Magnus ordered the inhabitants to return in order to rebuild the destroyed town. Durlach never became the residence of the rulers again. The castle was never rebuilt. In 1715 the margrave laid the foundation stone of the city of Karlsruhe, the future capital, where he took up residence three years later. In 1938 Durlach (now about 30000 inhabitants) was suburbanized by the city of Karlsruhe and is now its biggest suburb.



Eastern Branch

Seinigal Manor and the Stone Age

Excavations to preserve the history of Seinigal in Estonia

At her death in 1771, Helena Charlotte née von Tiesenhausen, bequeathed Seinigal/Müüsleri Manor in the parish of St. Petri/Järva-Peetri to her husband Carl Gebhard von Schilling. He is the ancestor of the Baltic German branch. Since then the estate remained continuously in the possession of the family until the family was dispossessed in 1919/20. The oldest information about Seinigal goes back to the 17th century, when the estate, consisting of several villages, came into existence and was recorded in the registry of deeds. There was no information related to prehistoric times until the year 2005, when Vaike Kotkas published a couple of articles by various authors in: “Peetri muinasnihilkond” (the prehistoric parish of Petri).

One of these articles is the thesis of Edgar Liigant written in the summer of 1926: “Peetri kivikalmed” (stone circles of the Stone Age in St. Petri). He describes 65 archaeological sites and finds, often referring to details

given by the amateur archaeologist Jaan Jung. In another article Dr. Marl Laar indicates that during the Soviet occupation (1944-1991) many stone circles were destroyed because of the “agrarian reform”. Therefore we are not talking about the actual state of things but about that of the year 1926. The same applies to the mentioned administrative divisions (borough, village etc.).

Naturally the Schilling family is particularly interested in the finds described by Liigant which are located in the villages from which Seinigal Manor arose in the 17th century. These are the villages of Kahal/Kahala, Essensberg/Väike-Kareda and Karefer/Kaarevere which is situated beyond the bounds of the estate.

The oldest find, a simple stone axe from the Stone Age (8000 – 1800 BC), came from Kahal Village. The numerous stone settings (barrows composed out of stones of different size) are testimonies of the Bronze Age (1800 – 500 BC). During the



Seinigal Manor, ca. 1900. The manor house was destroyed by Soviet soldiers before the German invasion in 1941. Today there are only ruins left.

Stone Age people started to bury their dead in barrows. In Kahal the archaeologists found jewellery, a flint of a longish shape and an iron axe within the stone settings. The most peculiar find was a stone with the footprint of a child.

Interesting finds have been made in the area of the former borough of Seinigal/Müüsleri vald: ashes within a stone circle of large stones, and two soldiers' graves. People say that once there was a cross with an inscription standing on one of the graves. During excavations in 1880 weapons and rests of a skeleton have been found in the other grave.

According to older people, when there was a battle fought somewhere near the estate the "Baron" had obviously mentioned a refuge castle which the Russians had called "Kapka". Three limestone crosses are mentioned as well, one presumably for a soldier of a higher rank.

The following finds were made in the village of Karefere: five stone circles; within two of them pots-herds and ashes were found. In 1926 a stone cross, presumably from a battlefield, was already missing. In the village of Essensberg a limestone cross was found which is split lengthwise so that it looks like two crosses.

Liigant describes altar stones which were found in the area of the neighbouring manors of Orrisaar/Esna and Wieso/Viisu. None of these, however, are mentioned in connection with Seinigal.

Helene Baronesse von Schilling

Angela and the silver treasure

A new family member discovered in a TV show



The silver tea set

On the first weekend in February 2013 our telephone never stopped ringing. In the TV program "Kunst & Krempel" (art & junk) that was aired on Bavarian Television on February 2, there was a report on a Russian silver tea set that someone had successfully kept safe on the flight from the Baltic countries. The lady who presented this family treasure gave her grandmother's name as von Schilling. The callers first thought the grandmother's Christian name was Martha, which was the name of Ebba's grandmother.



Young Amata

Though there are many persons by the name of Martha in the Baltic branch of our family, none seemed right.

The silver items are engraved with a coat of arms, which the studio guest thought was the coat of arms of the v.d. Recke family. This, however, was wrong. The coat of arms with the three roses was used by the Rosen family.

The name 'von Schilling' made the television watching members of our family prick-up their ears and prompted them to phone the chairman of our association and his wife Ebba. After some investigation we found more information:

The person in question must be Amata, the daughter of Werner von Schilling (1859-1922) of the Serrefter line, and his wife Alice Baronesse v.d. Recke. Until now we did not know anything about the existence of a granddaughter.

Amata (1899-1961) led an unsteady life. She married three times and her second husband was Georg Alexandrou. The above mentioned granddaughter is the daughter of Amata's son Constantin (1929-1959; from

her second marriage) and his wife Jutta Gräfin Pocci (1925-1959). Meanwhile we know that she is called Angela.

In 1892 Amata's Uncle Alfred (1861-1922), the brother of her father Werner, had married Julie (Lilia) Freiin v. Rosen. The Rosen's coat of arms as well as the year 1891 and the image of St. George on

horseback, hall-mark of a Moscovian goldsmith, are engraved on the teapot.

Now we know for sure: Presumably the items were either given to Alfred and Julie as an engagement present in 1891 or at their wedding in 1892. Perhaps Egon (1894-1952) the son of Alfred and Julie had inherited them from his parents. As

Egon died in Munich, he possibly gave them to his cousin Amata who also lived in Munich at that time.

Meanwhile Angela has contacted us by sending an ancestry chart and photos of her grandmother. She is very interested in our family. We are pleased to have discovered a hitherto unknown member of our family.

Helmuth and Ebba von Schilling

Wrangell returned home

Epitaph is back on the wall/Governor of Russian Alaska

"After more than 50 years Ferdinand Baron Wrangell returned to his original place in the Cathedral of Reval/Tallinn." On the occasion of the 143th death anniversary on June 7, the (Diplom-) restorer Alexander Eckert proudly announced the return of the epitaph for Wrangell (1797-1870). He and the restorer Regina Klee have spent three years of painstaking work in order to reconstruct the epitaph and return it to its original place in the church.

Wrangell has rendered great services to Russia. He has circumnavigated the world two times, explored the northern polar seas, was promoted admiral, from 1830 to 1835 he was the penultimate governor of Russian Alaska and in 1855 he became the Minister of the Russian Navy in St. Petersburg. His youngest daughter Ebba (1850-1937) was married to Otto von Schilling (1839-1902, Kook line, eastern branch).

Wrangell vehemently opposed the sale of Alaska which in 1867 the Russians sold to the United States for 7.2 million dollars. There are many geographical names in his memory such as the city of Wrangell and the Wrangell Mountains in Alaska as well as Wrangel-Island in the Polar Sea.

The epitaph, 120 x 100 cm in size, was made right after his death. Un-

like the other crests in the cathedral which were made of wood, it was made from papier-mâché (probably a temporary fashion). When in the 1960s the nave was refurbished and all crests were removed, it was in such bad condition that it was never re-hung.

After the country had regained independence, it was not included when between 1992 and 2008 the "Estländische Ritterschaft", the City of Tallinn and the Federal Republic of Germany started a joint project with the objective of the "Restoration of the crest-shaped epitaphs in the Cathedral of Tallinn".

There are 75 large and 28 small crests in the church altogether. One of them is that of Jacob Baron Schilling (175 x 140 cm). Jacob was honoured for his participation in the campaigns against Napoleon.

Alexander Eckert mentioned that the crest is a reconstruction containing the remaining parts of the original. Again they used papier-mâché but they strengthened it with new materials such as plastic (multiplex) and a steel brace.

Originally the epitaph was framed by three large flags, four metres in length, which had disappeared to St. Petersburg (at that time called Leningrad) and returned in 1960. Since then they are stored in the restoration workshop "Kanut" in Tallinn,



Underneath the epitaph: great- and great-great-grandchildren. Left: Ebba, middle: the two restorers.

in very bad condition. The Wrangell family got the money for the epitaph together and is planning to have the flags remade as well. The flags show the St. Andrew's Cross and the stripes of the rear-, the vice- and the admiral.

Except the representatives of the City of Tallinn and the German Ambassador Christian Schlage, four of Ferdinand's great-great-grandchildren (one of them is our member Ebba von Schilling) and three great-great-great-grandchildren attended the memorial service and the following ceremony in order to celebrate the return of the epitaph.

On the next morning the visitors drove to Ruil/Roela, Ferdinand von Wrangell's Manor House in the north-east region of Estonia, and to his grave on the cemetery of St. Jacobi/Viru Jaagupi.



Michel and Anne Poulain



The restored granary on the opening day

Europe grows together

Opening ceremony of a Communication Centre

On July 20, 2013 it was difficult to reach Pada/Paddas Manor in Estonia. As the road was blocked because they built a new bridge, we had to ask the way and finally had to drive along a stony farm track. But in the end we enjoyed the celebration, to which we were invited, very much.

In the 10th edition of the Schilling Courier we have already reported that a couple of years ago the Belgian Professor of Communication, Michel Poulain, who is married to an Estonian, bought part of the former Schilling estate. Now he celebrated the opening of a communication centre which can be used for local events, too.

About 100 invited guests had come, first and foremost Marc Thunus, the Belgian Ambassador residing in Tallinn/Reval, the mayor of Viru Nigula/Maholm County and the chairman of our association with his wife. Many Estonians were dressed in their traditional costumes.

Poulain had the granary completely restored: windows and doors were installed in the roof and in the walls. He put a particular emphasis on working with original material. The stone floor was preserved and the doors, the tables and the benches were made of old planks.

The roof is visible from the ground level. The former ceiling is to be re-

placed by a balcony which is scheduled to be completed by 2014. One of the walls, the so-called Schilling corner, is decorated with pictures of the former Paddas Manor: photos of its last German owner, Alfred Baron von Schilling (1861-1922), who was a committed politician and a member of the State Council of St. Petersburg, photos of his family and photos taken of the inside and the outside of the former manor house.

In 1917 Paddas Manor was already destroyed during the Russian Revolution. Since then it has been ruined to such an extent that it is irreparably destroyed. After the Estonian independence in 1920 the manor was dispossessed. Alfred moved to Tallinn/Reval where he died in 1922. His wife Julie (Lilia née Freiin von Rosen) who had brought the manor to their marriage, died in 1930.

In appreciation for fighting against the Soviets in the Estonian Liberation War (1918-1920) part of the estate was granted to an Estonian by the government. After the Soviet occupation in 1940 he was expelled, too. When Estonia had regained independence in 1991, however, the family of his granddaughter was given the estate back. The granddaughter attended the celebration,



The restored granary on the opening day



The ruined manor house of Paddas with its new owner

dressed in her traditional costume. She was pleased to meet relatives of the last German owner. When we walked around together she showed us the plot in the park where one of Julie's dogs is buried.

After raising the Estonian and the Belgian flag and after playing the national anthems, we heard many speeches. The mayor praised this private initiative. He said he was

happy to see the decayed historic buildings being brought to life again. The chairman of our association said, the whole venture proves that Europe is growing together: A Belgian professor, married to an Estonian who used to play in the ruins of the building when she was a child, bought part of the manor that had once belonged to a German. When the speeches were finished



Alfred und Julie von Schilling

a drama group re-enacted a historic court scene, one female artist sang folk songs while another told us what life was like in the old manor. Michel Poulain, meanwhile retired, and his wife Anne spend the summer months in one of the restored buildings now. Right now the old plant nursery is being converted into a little guest house.

Ebba and Helmuth von Schilling

Meeting in Canada

In August several members of the Schilling family met on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of Margot, the wife of Georg Baron von Schilling from Vancouver, Canada, the brother of Helmuth. Our chairman, his wife Ebba and Georg's twin brother Nicolai, had come to Vancouver for the celebration. They also went on a trip to Vancouver Island, where in 1937 Fritz von Schilling (1907-1997), a cousin of Helmuth's father, had settled. Together with his wife Gerda he had six children. On one day they met Heinrich (Heini), Siegfried (Baldy), Ernst (Erni) and their wives, and on the next day Margarethe (Gretel), one of their two sisters.



From left: Siegfried (Baldy) and his wife Marilyn. Ernst (Erni) and his wife Delia, George and Margot with their dog Felix, Ebba, Helmuth, Nicolai and Heinrich (Heini) and his wife Joan. (Picture taken by a neighbour)

What Else Happened?

Almost overwhelming hospitality

Bill Schilling v. Canstatt died at 92 years old



Bill at the family reunion in Mainz in 1993

On January 3, 2013 William (Bill) Schilling von Canstatt-Lutz, aged 92, died in a military residential home in Yountville/California. He bore the name of his mother Marion (1896-1984), daughter of Charles Robert SvC, whose first husband was Charles E. Lutz. Bill's grandfather Charles Robert (1850-1925) SvC had served as the mayor of Herington, Kansas, and as a city councilman in Long Beach/California.

Bill, who was born on July 21, 1920 in Berkeley/California, was a great man. He came to many family reunions.

Thanks to him and to his mother, who died in 1984, we got the documents of the Californian line of the southern branch.

It was the idea of Bill and his wife Evelyn née Kroll, who died aged 100 in 2006, to found the Marion-Memorial Fund in honour of his mother, in order to support the young members of the association. On the occasion of one of the family reunions in Mainz, Bill presented the association with an old family register of the year 1777, titled "Wahres Christentum" (True Christianity).

In honour to his ancestor on his

grandmother's side, Captain Jonathan Rathbone (1764-1838), Bill was a member of the patriotic national society "Sons of the American Revolution" (SAR). In 1776, during the American War of Independence, Rathbone served in the Marine, later he was a civilian crewmember on several ships.

In 1991 Bill was elected vice president of the Oakland/Thomas Jefferson Chapter, later he became president and between 1993 and 1999 director. He was a wonderful tenor, but he only sang privately unless he impressively sang the national anthem on the occasion of the SAR meetings.

Our unforgettable cousin Mady Schilling von Canstatt, who in 1965 went to the United States in order to meet the American relatives, enthusiastically described her visit to Bill and his mother in California. Bill and Evelyn got married in 1970:

"I stayed with these kind relatives for almost a fortnight. Their hospitality and naturalness were almost overwhelming. They have shown me so many beautiful things. There is so much to tell about this trip to the United States, especially about the things I learned from Bill. I got a lot of information and some things tur-



The cemetery in Oakland. From left: Paul Shattruck (Bill's cousin) and his wife and Catherine Merys (cousin) and her husband



The bouquet of flowers given by the family association

ferently from what I used to think. Most of all I was very much impressed – probably because it was least expected – by their appreciation of tradition and history.”

On February 16, many members of the family attended Bill’s funeral in Oakland. Bill was buried in the family grave, next to his wife Evelyn. In memory of his great

merits the “Verband des Hauses Schilling“ sent a bouquet of flowers bound together by a ribbon with the inscription “We will never forget him”. H. v. Schilling

Tribute to Agnes Maria Schilling

Bavarian Order of Merit Awarded by Minister-President

Last summer Agnes Maria Schilling, the wife of our board member Reinhard, had an unusual letter from the Bavarian State Chancellery. At first she was very much surprised but finally she was delighted. The State Chancellery informed the chairwoman of the Leopold-Mozart-Kuratorium in Augsburg of the fact that the highest award of the Free State, the Bavarian Order of Merit, was to be presented to her by Horst Seehofer, the Minister-President.

Agnes Maria Schilling is one of the founders and most important initiators of one of the highest-level competitions worldwide, the International Violin Competition Leopold Mozart. The competition was first started and organised by the Leopold-Mozart-Kuratorium 25 years ago. Since the year 2000 Agnes Maria Schilling is the chairwoman of the Kuratorium (Board). Leopold Mozart (1719-1787), the father of

Salzburg’s “Genius” Wolfgang, was born in Augsburg.

The board’s aim is the promotion of young talents on the highest level. Agnes Maria Schilling succeeded in establishing this good reputation by assembling a top-class jury. Consequently many famous conductors came to work with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, who is a partner for the competition.

Moreover many world-famous violinists, such as Yehudi Menuhin, Igor Oistrakh, Tibor Varga and Gidon Kremer, were elected honorary presidents. Many of the former award winners went on to an international career, such as Isabelle Faust, Benjamin Schmid, Joji Hattori and Lena Neudauer.

Thanks to the activity of the honouree, a partnership between the University of Augsburg and the Leopold-Mozart-Kuratorium was formed in 2008. The university is the supporter of the Leo-



Agnes Maria Schilling is awarded the highest award of the Free State, the Bavarian Order of Merit, by the Minister-President Horst Seehofer.

pold Mozart Center.

For years Agnes Maria has been making efforts to stay in contact with the Jewish community and to help them integrate into Augsburg. She is famous for her guided tours of the synagogue. She looks after the Jewish cemeteries, gives advice to the parishioners and helps with language problems, as most of them come from the former Soviet Union.

Many members of her family came from abroad to Munich to the festive awards presentation ceremony on October 10, 2012, such as her three children from Paris, San Francisco and Amsterdam.



Accompanied by her family, on her way to receiving the award: from left, her daughter Nicola, her son Matthias, Agnes Maria, her husband Reinhard, her daughter Julia



View of the field “Unter dem Schilling” in the Magdeburg Börde with the Brocken, the highest mountain in the Harz, in the background.

“Unter dem Schilling” purchased

A field in the Magdeburg Börde in the possession of the family

In his article about the origin of the name of Schilling in last year’s edition of the Schilling Courier, Eric Bawor had a particular field in the Magdeburg Börde in mind when he considered the possibility that the name might derive from the name of a field.

After reading the article on our website the Agricultural and Real Estate Advisor Bernd R. Schilling wrote: “Since the beginning of the second millennium the area is in the possession of our family and is used for agriculture. I tried to find out where its name came from – as a historian and specialist in German studies this is more or less part of my job – but unfortunately rather unsuccessfully. As the correct name of the field is ‘Unter dem Schilling’ (Under the Sch.), it was supposedly meant to indicate the owner, i.e. a man called Schilling ploughed the field.”

Bernd Schilling continues: “Soon after the German Reunification my wife and I went to this area of the former GDR. When the fields were

advertised for sale in a special Magazine by a farmer and I found their name ‘Unter dem Schilling’ in the Registry of Deeds, I decided to go ahead with the purchase. This was one of the better business deals of my life, and we have formed real friendships with the local families which I would not like to miss.”

We have already contacted Bernd Schilling in 2004 and published his report in the Schilling Courier. The former history and German language teacher at the Kardinal-Frings-Gymnasium in Bonn told us that one of his students had given him a web address with the information: “There are pictures of you on this website.” When he saw the picture of Paul Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt on our website, he realised: “There is a certain resemblance between Paul and me. A whim of nature.”

Meanwhile Bernd Schilling has joined the family association. We do not really know to which branch of the family he belongs. Presumably he is a member of the western rather than of the southern branch.

Eventually it is interesting to know that Paul’s father, Ludwig Joseph Schilling v. Canstatt (1753-1797), who was an officer in the Russian army, married Katharina Charlotte Schilling of the western branch (Kalliküll line), in what was then Livonia (now Estonia). Neither he nor his only brother Alexander had any children. The siblings of Paul’s mother, however, had children whose whereabouts are unknown.

As Bernd Schilling’s ancestors came from Eastern Europe, a genetic relationship between him and Paul SvC may as well exist. Is this the reason for their resemblance?



Paul Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt (1786 - 1837)



Bernd Schilling born in 1947