

# 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 2010

## The Schillings Gathered in Hamburg

More participants than ever at a family reunion / Highlight: the dinner at the “Übersee-Club”

The family reunion of 2011 in Hamburg, lasting from 27 to 29 May, started with Helmuth's announcement that the number of participants was record-setting: 134 people had come to the city of the Hanseatic League, more than had ever come to any of the 17 previous family reunions since the re-establishment of the “Schilling Association” in 1954. They came from eleven countries: Germany, Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, Spain, Switzerland, Canada, USA, France/Guadeloupe, Chile and South Africa. There were members of each generation present the eldest 96, the youngest 4 years old.

The absolute highlight of the reunion was the festive dinner at the famous “Übersee-Club” on Saturday (28.6.). Helmuth referred to the significance and importance of international relationships especially to this society, which is why he was so happy about the high number of foreign guests. The chairman



*Reception in the wonderful rooms of the “Überseeclub”*

said: “The Schillings have always been ready to leave their homes for a new life in a foreign country – hardly surprising, since we are supposed to be descendants of the Vikings. 500 years ago a Schilling moved to the Baltic countries, the wild east at that time, where he founded the large eastern branch. 150 years ago the first members of the southern branch emigrated to the USA, later to

England and Australia and after World War II many members of the eastern branch emigrated to Canada.”

Albert Schilling, in 1460 the Mayor of Hamburg, has maintained relations with many foreign cities, and the works of art of our ‘famous’ sculptor Johannes Schilling are not only to be seen in Germany, but in France, Austria and Italy as well.



*Gala dinner at the „Überseeclub*



*Many children and adolescents attendet the reunion*

Before enjoying their delicious dinner at the “Überseeclub”, the Schillings had to work their way through a tiring day. Three busses picked the family up at the Novotel in Hamburg-Bahrenfeld and brought them to a rather impressive prayer meeting in St. Peter’s Church. The senior pastor Christoph Störmer commemorated Albert Schilling. From 1464 onwards he had been the patron of St.Peter’s, where he was buried in 1480.



Störmer mentioned that a couple of days earlier workmen had found human bones at a building site in front of the church.

“Maybe your ancestor’s re-

mains were among them.” The service was accompanied by wonderful organ music.

Later the family walked to the nearby city hall. In four groups they were taken on a guided tour of the wonderful rooms in the magnificent historical building.

Naturally the highlight was the mayor’s office with a plaque showing Albert Schilling’s name with his coat of arms. Albert was especially involved in the Hanseatic League, the powerful international economic alliance of trading at that time and the EU’s predecessor.

After a short lunch break three busses took the family on a tour of the city. A fourth bus took the children and some adults to a visit of the famous “Miniatur Wunderland” with the supposedly largest model railway in the world. The exhibition covers 4000 m<sup>2</sup> with 820 electric trains in various miniature landscapes. Not only the children were amazed and delighted.

On their tour of the city the other members of the family admired Johannes Schilling’s monuments: the monument



*Prayer meeting in St. Peters. Top left: Pastor Christoph Störmer*

to Kaiser Wilhelm I with the four allegoric groups in the “Wallanlagen” and the monument to the Hamburgian soldiers who were killed in the Franco-Prussian War 1870/71 at the “Außenalster”.

Until 1929 the Kaiser Wilhelm Monument was on the town hall square, which Johannes Schilling had completely redesigned in 1903. Now the members of the family only saw the two flagpoles made by the sculptor: the Hamburgian pole with a sailing boat and the German pole with a warship on top.

## Board Meeting Starting With Prayer

The members’ meeting, scheduled for the next day, started with an impressive prayer meeting held by the Baltic German Pastor Gunnar v. Schlippe. Chairman Helmuth reported that he had represented the association in numerous events during the past three years. Last year’s special event was the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Johannes Schilling in Mittweida. On the occasion of this day the upper floor of the Schilling Museum was officially inaugurated. The chairman: “Now this magnificent museum, officially inaugurated on the occasion of the family reunion in 2005, is complete at last.”

Chairman and Board elections are not due for the next three years. But eventually a new youth representative had to be elected since Yasemin Foy has resigned“ for reasons of age” and because of her moving to



*The chairman and the family members on their way to the city hall*

representative is 24-year-old Matthias von Schilling of the eastern branch (see p. 6). The financial report, which because of Cousin Hans’ illness was given by the Board member

Christian Schilling v. Canstatt, brought about a rather longish discussion about the projected increase of subscriptions. The annual amount of subscriptions will be altered to 35 Euro for couples instead of 25 Euro and 25 Euro for singles instead of 20 Euro. A majority vote resulted in the following decision: Base currency will be the Euro, the respective deputies will settle the amounts of subscriptions in foreign currency in agreement with the Board.

## Next Family Reunion in Breslau/Wroclaw

The members voted to one abstention in favour of Helmuth’s proposal to hold the next family reunion in Breslau/Wroclaw. Eric Bawor who has already visited the town several

good contacts: “Not only to the western branch, but to the whole family association Breslau is of the greatest importance. After all, the first family association was founded with the conclusion of the contract of inheritance in 1556. In Breslau’s churches and museums many paintings and statues commemorate the long residence of the family in this former capital city of Silesia.

Finally Christian Schilling and Matthias Wiskow gave account of their continuous work on the improvement of the website of the Schilling Association. Christian: “This kind of communication is of the greatest importance to our family whose members are spread all over the world.”

websites:

[www.schilling-verband.de](http://www.schilling-verband.de) and [www.schilling-association.org](http://www.schilling-association.org)

Christian and Matthias spent very much time making the website accessible. The navigation is simple. Each member should add this website to their “favourite” account.



*Visit of the port of Hamburg*



*View of the as yet unfinished „Elbphilharmonie“*

Pictures of the family reunion will be published as well.

Your respective password remains unchanged. In case of lost or if you do not have any yet, Christian is ready to help.

The meeting ended with an interesting lecture on the privateer Klaus Störtebeker, held by the chairman of the fundraising group of the Schilling Museum Mittweida. Finally the family enjoyed a three-hour tour of the harbour. They sailed down the River Elbe to Blankenese, a beautiful suburb of Hamburg, and back to the hyper modern port with huge container ships and dockyards, the new ware-

house district and the as yet unfinished “Elbphilharmonie“. This was the end of the official family reunion.

### Visit to Berlin

On the next day (Monday, 30 May) a small group of approximately twenty people participated in the additional programme in the federal capital starting with a guided tour of the city in the afternoon. The next day saw them in the “Bundestag” building where they visited the Plenary Chamber and were deeply impressed by a walk inside the dome. Since the weather was marvellous, they enjoyed a

magnificent view of Berlin. Their next destination was the “Bundeskanzleramt” (Chancellery). Bad luck, Angela Merkel was just staying in Thailand. It was very impressive, though, to visit all the rooms where German political decisions are made as well as the large lobby, decorated with works of modern art, the portrait gallery of the former Chancellors, the room where they hold their weekly cabinet sessions and the large conference room. The wonderful family reunion 2011 ended with a lovely dinner in the “Berliner Salon” of the original old restaurant “Gerichtslaube”.



*The travellers in the large conference room of the Chancellery*

# Heartfelt Thanks

Additional account of the member meeting

Dear Cousins,

134 out of 321 members of the Schilling Association attended the family reunion in Hamburg, this is equal to 42 percent. Considering the fact that many members living in America, Canada, Hungary and other foreign countries take all the trouble to make the long trip in order to come to the reunion, this number of participants is impressive. One is wondering why they are so loyal towards the family association, the answer is that they are motivated by their wish to keep contact with each other and have the pleasure of each other's company. But they are also interested in information about the family history and about the important persons in order to better understand the historical background.

As to the reunion in Hamburg and the previous reunions, such as Dresden, Freiburg, Estonia and USA, they did not only come up to our expectations but surpassed them considerably and in every way.

But you know, dear cousins, not the Holy Spirit attempting to rebuild solidarity organizes these perfect family reunions. Our small but so very effective family association is living on the historical research of our deceased members Heinz and Mady Schilling von Canstatt, Walter and Anne Helene Schilling as well as Helene Baronesse Schilling and Gretel Bauermann.

The lively presence of the association of today, however, we owe to a couple of very deser-

ving persons contributing their knowledge and volunteering without payment.

Hans Baron Schilling is one of them. Eventually we send him our best regards and hope he will soon recover from his illness. We are grateful for his precise accountancy and his considerate austerity policy.

Christian Schilling von Canstatt and Matthias Wiskow gave a modern face to our association by designing the informative website, making communica-

tion possible and documenting the historical development of our family.

Eventually we are grateful to Frank Schilling for repeatedly printing the Schilling Courier on high gloss paper of the best quality.

But first of all we have to mention our chairman Helmuth Baron von Schilling. Considering the time he spends on his activities he is doing a full-time job.

We are grateful for his and Gretel Bauermann's continuous research on our family history and for keeping the Schilling



*At the reception at the "Übersee Club" Helene Baronesse von Schilling thanked the chairman with a special present. In order to acknowledge the merits of his work in the association she presented him with the Commemorative Medal portraying Georg Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt, German Grand Master of the Order of St. John in the 16th century. 15 years ago Helene was presented with the medal in acknowledgement of her long-standing work as the association executive secretary. There is one condition, however: 15 years from now Helmuth is to give the medal to his four-year-old granddaughter Charlotte (top right, she was already asleep), her goddaughter. Our picture shows Helene after presenting the medal. In the background Charlotte's brother Lukas is watching.*

Archive transparent.

The Schilling Courier is the result of his many years of experience as a journalist. We do not only enjoy his interesting articles providing the latest information but we are also grateful for his liberal and humanitarian interpretation. Now I specially mention his creative way of developing the family meeting schedules and the perfect realisation which we have just experienced.

Dear Helmuth, Helene has presented you with a medal in acknowledgment of your work for the association, equivalent to the Oscar or the Pulitzer Prize. This was an excellent idea and the most appropriate way to express what the members of the association feel and try to tell you: We say thank you, appreciating your work which is to our benefit.

Reinhard Schilling

Unfortunately Cousin Reinhard was not able to hold his speech of thanks when the member meeting in Hamburg came to the topic “any other business”. He asked for publication in this year’s Schilling Courier.

## Experienced Youth Representative

Matthias Baron Schilling elected without a dissenting

On the occasion of the family reunion in Hamburg Matthias Baron von Schilling was elected new Youth Representative without dissenting votes. Matthias, third child of Alexander and Maike née Sievert, was born in Bergdesgaden on April 8, 1988. One year later his parents moved to Augsburg. He finished his education with the “Abitur” (A-Level). Among his many hobbies his favourite is badminton which he played in several teams and is still playing in a team in Hamburg.

Matthias belongs to the eastern branch of our family association. His great grandfather Georg was the last owner of Jürgensberg Manor of in Estonia. After the confiscation of the estate in 1922 Georg continued



*Matthias in Hamburg, introducing himself*

to cultivate a piece of his land, called a “Restgut”, for a couple of years still. In 1927 he died. After finishing school with the “Abitur”, Georg’s eldest son Gneomar, Matthias’ grandfather, left for Germany where he completed a commercial training in Delmenhorst, Lower Saxonia. There he eventually met the family of his future wife Rosmarie Herwig.

Five of Gneomar’s brothers were killed or listed missing in World War II, the father of our executive secretary Hans was one of them.

Matthias’ father Alexander is the fourth child of Gneomar and Rosmarie. After taking the “Abitur” school-leaving examination Matthias has worked in a restaurant for a short while until he was called up for the basic military service. Enjoying the experience, he decided to start a career as an officer in order to begin a study at the “Bundeswehrhochschule”.

Meanwhile he studies mechanical engineering at the Helmut-Schmidt-University of Hamburg.

On 1 July 2011 he was promoted Lieutenant. In October 2011 he will start writing his Bachelor’s thesis in order to obtain his degree in summer 2013.

Right now Matthias is the Youth Representative of the “Baltischen Ritterschaften”. He successfully organized several leisure activities for young people, parties and meetings. He will probably lay down this office this year.



## Aviation Pioneer Erich Schilling

Courageous operation with large airplane in World War I

In the discussions about World War I aviation seems of minor importance, though aviation pioneers like Erich Schilling have achieved remarkable results in this war: Erich Schilling, a member of the Adelsheim line of the western branch.

No doubt: The German defeat has resulted from the failure of the German Reich in their alliance policy before the war, leading to this disastrous two-front war. During the war, however, it became obvious that especially the use of recently developed weapons, such as flamethrowers, hand grenades and machine guns in combination with aviation, were extremely advantageous for the defenders,

making the German strategy of assault almost impossible. Though the Germans were superior in numbers their advance came to a stop in September 1914. From then on the war became wearily static and due to the introduction of heavy calibre artillery eight million soldiers were killed.

Unlike the Military Department some people working in private industries realised the importance of introducing modern aerial warfare. In opposition to the decisions of the Military Department they started to occupy themselves with the development of aviation, Graf Zeppelin in the first place. Together with Robert Bosch he

founded a “Versuchsbau Gotha-Ost” (construction company), where they tried to construct a large airplane capable to drop 1000 kilo bombs onto British dock areas in order to make the British fleet unfit for battle.

But not before the German advance, executed according to the notoriously famous “Schlieffen Plan” (created by the German Chief of Staff, Count Schlieffen), towards the Marne in France was definitely stopped, these projects were provided with official assistance. One of the reasons for the advance being stopped was the introduction of British reconnaissance aircrafts of the ROYAL Flying Corps. They had found out that while the German army tried to avoid Paris by turning westwards, the Germans had a gap in their front lines. By counter-attacking the French were able to stop their advancing altogether.

By this experience during the war the actions of the air forces have gained more and more



*Erich Schilling (4th from left) and the members of his squadron on Merville Airport (Belgium)*

importance for the artillery reconnaissance and observation of troop movements as well as for the protection of one's own aircrafts and of the attacks directed against hostile aircrafts.

Whereas at the beginning of the war both sides were equipped with about the same amount of airplanes – the Entente (especially France and England) 311 and the middle powers (Germany and Austria) 287 – in 1914 they started the arms race. Finally the Entente gained air superiority by constructing more than 138,000 new airplanes compared to 53,322 new airplanes on the side of the middle powers.

Until 1916, however, the German military pilots still had the air superiority because of their aeronautical skills and because of the agile fighter aircraft designed and developed by Fokker, enabling them to fire a machine gun through the arc of the propeller. Eventually the same situation arose in 1917 when the famous fighter squadron 11 under the command of Manfred von Richthofen (nicknamed the Red Baron) got a new fighter aircraft, a technologically improved version of the Fokker. The situation changed when the United States entered World War I.

In order to appreciate the efficiency of the pilots it is necessary to recall the fact that before 1914 hardly any airworthy aircrafts existed and only few aviation pioneers were trained as pilots. One of them was Erich Schilling. Erich, born on 25 September 1887 in Heilbronn, grew up in the beautiful house of his parents, Hermann Schilling and his wife née Reibel,



*The once famous fighter squadron 11 with Manfred and Lothar von Richthofen. Emil Schaefer (4<sup>th</sup> from left)*

in Uhlandstraße 8, Heilbronn. As he always wanted to begin a military career, he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Upper Alsace Field Artillery Regiment No 51 after finishing his education with the “Abitur” in 1906. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1907. Contemporary witnesses characterise him as a well-liked superior senior officer appreciating the importance of a practical training

When aircraft was introduced for military use, he – before the war had started – volunteered and was trained as a pilot in Johannistal near Berlin.

At the outburst of the war he was a pilot in a Division in Württemberg. Because of his aeronautical skills he was mainly employed as an observer and therefore he was one of the first to be awarded the Iron Cross. In autumn 1914 his Division was redeployed to Russia where he was employed for aerial reconnaissance and observation of troop movement. In 1916 he was transferred to the west front as a flying squadron's commander.

Finally the Ministry of War followed Graf Zeppelin's plans to design and construct a large long distance airplane in order

to make mobile military observation missions and aerial bombing possible. In June 1915 they launched the first bomb attacks in London.

There were two types of airplanes going down in history as “Super-Sized Airplanes” because of their extremely wide span: 1. A development of an airplane by Siemens/Schuckert turning out to be rather prone in the end. Nine of these were stationed on the west front, obviously most of them got lost.

2. Zeppelin Company Staaken, first along with Daimler Motors Corporation, later with Maybach Motors which seemed more suitable for the purpose. 20 aircrafts of this type were constructed and stationed near Gent. This airplane, carrying eight to twelve persons, was able to cover the distance to London though it was always in danger of being shot down by fighters because it was rather immobile. This is why these airplanes were mainly deployed at night.

In 1917 these airplanes, classified as R IV, were deployed in two squadrons on the west front, one under Colonel Schöller, the other under Colonel Erich



Schilling. The airplanes had a technical problem with coordinating their six motors. Often when starting or up in the air a technical problem arose because the running engines lacked synchronisation. When they finally combined the electric control of starter and fuel supply, all engines stopped working when one of them failed.

The Zeppelin-Staaken type, classified as R VI, had an additional problem, because under certain weather conditions the fuel pipes froze, making the aircraft unmanoeuvrable.

In case of these technical problems the high weight, partially due to the eight to twelve crew members with heavy machine guns, made a crash inevitable. Naturally the Air Fleet suffered heavy losses. Under certain wind conditions some of the aviators succeeded in bringing down their aircrafts gliding, when the engine failed. But a range of only one or two kilometres was not sufficient for a gentle landing.

Given the circumstances of the time Erich Schilling was highly decorated for his courageous military operations and his aeronautical skills and rather quickly promoted. As a pilot he was always fully aware of the technical risks, deploying the long-distance aircrafts for the benefit of the ground forces. On their way back from one of these military operations it happened that the two main engines failed. Erich Schilling tried an emergency landing. But the large aircraft R 33 was so heavy that gliding was impossible. He eventually succeeded in bringing the aircraft down and saving

three of eight crew members. He himself was killed in action..

## Marriage Three Months before His Death

On 15 May 1918 – only three months before his death – Erich Schilling married Anita née Moichewitz. She was the daughter of a commanding officer and he had met her while he was living in Strasbourg. According to the conventions of the time it was impossible for a recently promoted lieutenant to get engaged.

This is why the marriage with the love from his youth only lasted little more than three months. After his death his body was transferred to Heilbronn where he was buried with many people expressing their sympathy.

After the war his wife Anita married the former bank manager v. Kramer, living in Nægelsförst Manor near Yburg, close to Baden-Baden. After his death she opened a chicken farm in Freiburg-Günterstal. While I was in Birklehof Boarding School in 1943/44, I often visited her on the weekends.

In 1922 Erich Schilling's brother Hermann married Margarete Schaefer, the sister of Emil Schaefer, a member of the famous Richthofen-Jasta 11 who in 1917 was awarded the Pour le Mérite. After being wounded at "Chemin des Dames" he completed a pilot training course. Being one of Manfred von Richthofen's trainee pilots, he succeeded in causing 30 hostile aircrafts to crash within five months during the big fights of the large squadrons. He died on

5 June 1917, when the fastener for the structural support of the Albatros' wings broke.

More and more the fights of this new aircraft squadron became a symbol of "lonesome knighthood". The reports in the official communiqués continuously gave the impression of victory, proof of the absurdity of this awful war. The myth of their being heroes was kept alive. The efficacy of military actions and their impact, however, affected the civilian population of all participating nations during World War II.

Reinhard Schilling

The author is Erich's nephew.

\*The following references were used for writing this report:

- Familienbericht Hermann Schilling, Heilbronn
- Marton Stigeti, Motor-Presse Stuttgart
- Flugrevue "Klassiker der Luftfahrt 4/07"
- Luftkrieg, Wikipedia
- Erster Weltkrieg, Wikipedia

## Zeppelin Pilots

By the way: During World War I Colonel Alfred Horn, the grandfather on the mother's side of the members of our eastern branch, Ebba v. Schilling, Karin Cölle and Brigitte von Osterhausen, was a commander of the "Marine Luftschiifferbataillon No 4" (airship battalion). When on 21 February 1916 the LZ (Luftzeppelin) 77 was downed near Revigny, Lorraine, France, he was burnt to death.



## Baron Worshipped As Deity

Paul Schilling v. C.'s expedition to the Mongols  
in Southeast Siberia on the border of China

We are familiar with the Imperial Russian State Counsellor Paul-Lawowitsch Baron Schilling v. Canstatt (1786-1837) because he invented the Morse telegraph, and we are still angry that this ingenious idea was “stolen” and given its name by the American Samuel Morse.

After all Paul was a famous natural historian as well. In May 1830 he was commissioned by the Russian government to travel to Kiachta in southeast Siberia on the Russian-Chinese border in order to acquire a collection of manuscripts containing the religious history of the Mongols of this area. The acquisition was meant for the Academy of St. Petersburg.

During his 18 months of research he had amazing results: With surprising finesse he brought more than 6000 Tibetan-Mongol manuscripts and books about Buddhism in this area back to Petersburg. Among them 100 volumes of Gandjur, the most important work of Mongolian literature, which in Europe was only known by its name until then. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century Buddhism had come from Tibet to Mongolia. For 200 years it had been the leading religion, called Lamaism. The Buddhist priest held the honorific title of Lama.

Paul writes in his travel report: “When I first visited the

Temple of Tschiko, the Sanctuary of the Buryat Mongols, I realized what treasures they had, an exemplar of the famous Gandjur collection as well as a considerable number of works about religion, medicine, astronomy, astrology, grammar and lexicography. The books were standing on both sides of the altar, carefully wrapped in red and yellow silk cloth.” Skilfully negotiating Paul gained the Lamas' confidence.

He notes: “At that time a Russian clerical mission was supposed to travel to Beijing. I did not want to miss the chance to ac-

quire Chinese books, offering to supply the Lamas with Tibetan works. They accepted my proposal, providing me with a list of the books they wanted.

Apart from the books, the Lamas wanted a Lo, a copper cymbal. Since it would have taken the Russian mission too much time to find it, I asked our merchants to find a Lo in the Chinese town of Maimatschin, opposite the town of Kiachta.”

Paul soon got their large Lo and proudly told the Lamas that it had been sent express from Beijing. He did not feel guilty of lying, writing in his report: “This present proved to be effective and from that point on the Lamas were much more trusting and communicative.”

Paul writes: “Encouraged by this success, I decided to visit most of the Buyat temples, one after the other. From the books



*To the Lamas Paul Schilling v. Canstatt had to place himself in the best positive light by his physical appearance. He was handsome and corpulent, with attractive facial features, intelligent and sympathetic.*

I had received, I had intimate knowledge of the Buddhist bibliography and the Buryat tribes were very excited to hear I was coming. They wanted to meet the European traveller with such intimate knowledge of the character of their country, who was able to read even the most difficult letters of the Landsa alphabet. Such a man made those simple people curious.”

But the Russian State Counsellor was lucky and he writes: “One year previously an old Lama had prophecied the arrival of a foreigner who had converted to the Buddhist faith and who wanted to introduce the religious doctrines into the Occident, eventually I benefited from this prophecy. The Buryat Priests actually regarded me as the incarnation of an important entity manifesting a Chubilgan, the Buddhist Pantheon.”

From now on everything went nice and easy. At the baron’s arrival at the monastery a prayer wheel containing a certain mantra 100 millions of times, was just being set up. Schilling reports: “The priest showed me the plaque where this mantra was engraved only 250 times. Eventually they had to provide 400 000 copies in order to obtain the required number of 100 millions.”

Since at that time valuable paper was extremely expensive in Mongolia, Schilling offered to have 4000 sheets printed by typography in St. Petersburg, each of them containing the holy mantra 2500 times. The State Counsellor: “They appreciated my promise to accomplish their hesitate to present me with the wish so much that they did not

hesitate to present me with the only exemplar of Gandjur in their possession. This exemplar was solemnly handed over by a deputation of priests. Eventually I was in the possession of the most important work of Tibetan literature at last.”

When he returned to St. Petersburg with his valuable load, Paul Schilling had the satisfaction to see the Russian mission who was to acquire the Gandjur with public funds in Beijing, return empty-handed.

*This report is based on an Internet document coming from the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, 2007*



## Eastern Branch

# Myth of the Cruel Knight

Report of the tombstone of a knight in Estonia was wrong

On the occasion of the 690<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church of Turgel/Türi last year we heard a terrible story about a supposed member of the Schilling family in Estonia. Serrefer Manor, between 1811 and 1918 in the possession of one of our branches, is situated in this parish.

On the occasion of the anniversary Andreas Tsumakov wrote a paper on the graves and the tombstones. The author specially mentioned a tombstone in the church. For a long time it had been in front of the altar, next to the walled up entrance to the burial vault. Tsumakov’s description based on an article in the journal “Järva-Teataja”, dated 1 July 1936:

“By the standards of this time the tombstone, showing the body



*Gandan Monastery, central Sanctuary of Mongolia*

of a knight almost of natural size, in full armour, bareheaded and with his helmet at his feet, is a tidy piece of work.” According to “Järva-Teataja” it is the tombstone of a Baron Schilling of Serrefer Manor who was headman of the estate-owning families of the parish. Their names and coat of arms were displayed on both sides of the knight. According to this journal this Schilling was the cruellest man ever to have lived in the parish. Eventually he loved to amuse his guests by kicking them in their backs or ordering young mothers to breastfeed his puppies. When he died he desired to have his tombstone placed where people would tread on. This is what happened

The tombstone, however,



*Tombstone of the cruel knight*

was removed and fixed on the wall when the inscription was much abraded.

In 1925 the tombstone was brought to the museum of the Theological Faculty of Dorpat/Tartu. Since St. Nikolai Church in Reval/Tallinn, very much damaged by bombs in the war but restored, is used as a museum for clerical art, the tombstone is fixed on the left wall of the entrance to the church.

On your visit you will find it titled “Tombstone of Hermann Nieroth”. Why did this error happen? In his description of the tombstone, dated 1928, Sild already mentions that the name of Hermann Nieroth, hereditary lord of Serrefer, was written at the knight’s feet. His date of death (24 November 1641) and his wife’s are given and the names and coats of arms of their ancestors.

Tsumakov (2010), however, only refers to the description in the journal “Järva-Teataja”, dated 1 July 1936, as the “voice of the people”.

Rommel (2004), also mentioning this article, brings the error to our attention, saying that the year of death, 1641, definitely indicates that the person in question is Nieroth, the former owner of Serrefer.

According to our family history it is impossible that this cruel knight was a member of our family. When the tombstone was made (presumably 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century) there were no Schillings in Estonia yet and Serrefer Manor was not in their possession. In 1811 Fabian Wilhelm von Schil-

ling bought the estate for his eldest son Karl Raphael. He was buried in the burial ground of the church of Turgel. On 14 April 1614 the Swedish king presented Hermann Nieroth with Serrefer as a pledge to settle a debt of the Crown. On 16 January 1627 they confirmed his and his wife’s pledge for their lifetime. Helene Baronesse v. Schilling

#### *References:*

*Genealogisches Handbuch der Baltischen Ritterschaften. Teil Estonia, Nachtrag 1935, p. 29*

*Rommel, Mara Ann, 2004: Arad veed ja salateed, p. 230*

*Schilling, Erich Baron, 1970: Die Rittergüter des Kreises Jerwen, p. 153*

*Sild, Olaf, 1928: Mõningaid vanu*

## **Reunion of a Branch in Sweden**

14 to 16 September 2012 Baltic Schillings in Stockholm

Next year, from 14 to 16 September, the eastern branch of our association will have a family reunion in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. There are many members of our association living in Sweden, all of them descendants of Hildegard von Schilling (Jürgensberg line) who in 1914 married the Swede Dr. Johannes Bager-Sjögren.

His son Örjan married Ulla Berle. She has been an active member of our association for years, regularly attending our reunions with her children and grandchildren.

Her son Lars will be the organizer. Planned schedule: 14 September meeting at the hotel, 15 September: tour of the city in the morning, leisure time in the afternoon, gala dinner in the famous House of Nobility at night. 16 September: church service at the German church in the old town, followed by a boat trip “Under the bridges of Stockholm”.

Information on details will follow. In case you are interested in coming it is advisable to start looking for reasonable flights soon.



*The House of Nobility in Stockholm*

## What Else Happened?

# Plate Showing Schilling Coat of Arms

Heirloom turning up from the Baltic region

We always receive interesting emails. In January a man named Peter Feierlein wrote: "I was bequeathed a Sterling silver plate which has the coat of arms of the eastern Schilling branch engraved. Not knowing anyone of this family and trying to find someone who might be interested in this plate I write to you. The plate comes from my ancestor Mrs. Erdberg-Krzenciewski."

We were able to help: In 1931 Xaver v. Erdberg-Krzenciewski (1900-1963) married Ursula Baronesse v. Schilling of the Serrefer line, Estonia. After the Russian invasion in March 1945 Ursula, born in 1901, committed suicide in Stolp/Pomerania. We knew that Ursula had a bro-



*Plate with coat of arms*



*Coat of arms*

ther Bodo (1893-1942) with five children. Four of them are living in Canada. Kurt, one of them, has meanwhile bought the plate.

## No News of the Signet Ring

Kurt supposed that the signet ring bearing the coat of arms of the Baltic Schillings, we found in Malachin, Mecklenburg (see Schilling Courier 2009), might have belonged to his father Bodo. He died in a field hospital in Rshew near Moscow on 17 March 1942. One of his comrades had promised to return his valuables to Bodo's widow Inge v. Schilling. The delivery never arrived. Kurt supposed this comrade might have taken the ring in order to return it to the widow.

But the "Deutsche Dienststelle für die Benachrichtigung der nächsten Angehörigen von Gefallenen der ehemaligen deutschen Wehrmacht" (German information centre for relatives of soldiers of the Deutsche Wehrmacht killed in action) let us know that no member of Bodo's unit was among the four dead bodies of Malachin.

Eventually nothing happened since our chairman visited the owner of the chicken farm in Malachin two years ago. We keep searching and perhaps we will find out to which Schilling the ring once belonged. After all during World War II ten male members of the eastern branch were killed in action or reported missing.

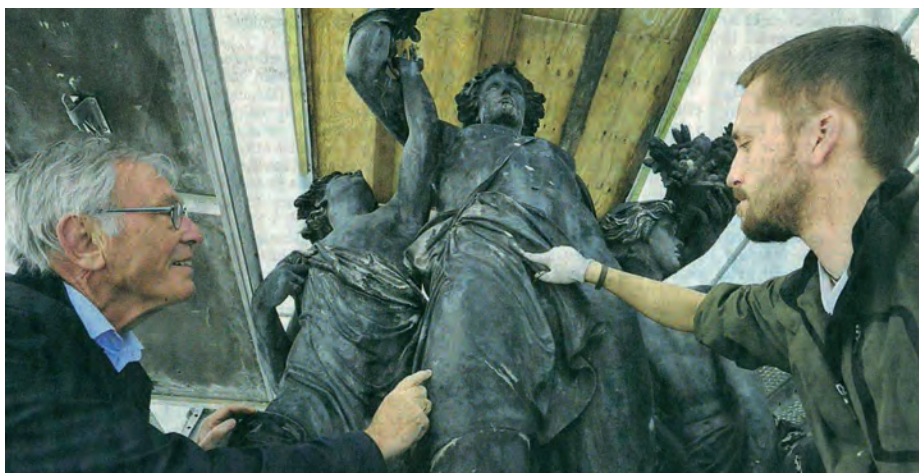
## Two New Bells for St. Johannis in Estonia

In the course of centuries three bells were rung in St. Johannis Church in Estonia (eastern branch). Meanwhile the last bell from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, one of the oldest of Estonia, is damaged. The belfry was originally planned for housing two bells. Eventually two bells of 96 and 72 cm in diameter will be installed. In the autumn of 2011 they will be moulded in Gescher/Westphalia, Germany. The total costs will amount to 53550 Euro, the financial contribution of the EU to the parish will be 48135 Euro and the rest (5415 Euro) will have to be sponsored.

Since the Schilling family held the manors of Orgena and Jürgensberg in the parish of St. Johannis, the family association and some members will contribute to the costs. After the refurbishment the names of the sponsors will be perpetuated in the belfry. The installation of an electric bell is planned as well. Actually: On the occasion of his visit in the summer our chairman was able to view Orgena from the inside and make sure that the renovation works in the manor are in good progress.



*These bells will be replaced. The smaller bell at the back comes from one of the neighbouring manor houses.*



*Our chairman (left) viewing the restoration of Schilling's sculpture "Noon" in Chemnitz*

## Schilling's Sculptures Causing Annoyance

*"The Four Times of the Day" group in the wrong place in Chemnitz*

The "The Four Times of the Day" group is one of the most important works of the sculptor Johannes Schilling. It is standing in a prominent place on Brühl's Terrace in Dresden, the capital city of the state of Saxony. Only few people however know that these works of art are only bronze copies.

In 1906 the City of Dresden gave these sculptures, which between 1866 and 1871 Schilling had made from sandstone, to the City of Chemnitz. The heavy load was transported to the new location by train. The reason for this "transfer": People were afraid the damp air coming off the River Elbe might cause damage to the sandstone. There was one condition in the donation contract, however: "The contract binds the City of Chemnitz to place the group and a newly built fountain on Neustädter Markt (market square) and to leave it there forever."

It stayed there for 22 years. While in 1928 the Neustädter Markt was changed to Theatre Square the group had to make way for a hotel. For eight years

the work of art was hidden behind board partition walls in the "Tiefbauamt", until in 1936 it was placed under the trees near the castle ponds, a location somewhat disadvantageous for sandstone.

Since the weather, graffiti sprayers and vandalism have heavily damaged the work of art, the city government had the sculptures restored this summer, total cost: 75000 Euro.

In Dresden sculptors made plaster casts from the original sculpture, which they finally cast in sandstone, in order to replace the missing pieces in Chemnitz. Eventually they were thoroughly cleaned.

Irretrievably destroyed, however: the original gilding of the figures. There are no traces of the precious metal left, and it would definitely be too expensive to renew the gilding.

Along with the people of the Cultural Heritage Administration many citizens of Chemnitz try to have the figures placed in Theatre Square again. The restorer Matthias Mann says: "The sun can never penetrate the trees

in the park. Therefore it is damp and moss and lichen grow."

In this summer a delegation from Mittweida, Johannes Schilling's native town, went to Chemnitz in order to get an idea of the restoration in progress and to convince the people in charge to bring the figures back to their old place. On behalf of our association our chairman Helmuth was present, sharing the view of the Cultural Heritage Administration people. He drew the attention to a particular disadvantage of the actual place:

"Unfortunately it is too difficult to show this precious object to visitors. The statues are too far from the centre."

However there is no successful issue within our sights as yet. The City Administration fears the costs of transfer being too high.

## Celebration of Johannes Schilling's Anniversary

Before going to Chemnitz, our chairman took part in the celebration of Johannes Schilling's 183<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in the Schilling Museum, Mittweida.

Every year Johannes' great granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel invites to this celebration.

The new director of the museum of Mittweida, Sibylle Karsch, her predecessor Heiko Weber, now chairman of the fund-raising group of the museum, and the mayor Matthias Damm (among others) were present. Like her predecessor Mrs Karsch commits herself to the memory of Schilling. She considers museum education extremely necessary. Some classes have already taken lessons at the Schilling Museum.



*The chapel, provisionally repaired*



*...and on the day of the consecration of the church*

## The Chapel Restored to Its Original Splendour

In Hungary: Fritz Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt came home

It happened in 1944, when the Red Army advanced and the Hungarian line of our family had to leave their estate in Pusztasorhát, split into two groups and flee to Budapest (see Schilling Courier 2008). Friedrich (Fritz) Freiherr Schilling von Canstatt had to abandon his lifetime work, started as a young man when in 1886 he moved from Hohenwettersbach near Karlsruhe to Hungary, in order to take over the estates inherited from his mother's family, the Princes of Waldeck.

After the war they tried to return to Pusztasorhát, but the buildings were destroyed, machines stolen, the labourers

gone. They did not have the financial means to carry on and the farm did not produce enough to feed the family.

Eventually they had to suffer several setbacks. Though they hardly had the money they bought goslings, fed and raised them in order to sell them on the market for their financial benefit. Unfortunately the whole bunch was poisoned by the lead-containing ammunition of rifles and shotguns fleeing people had thrown into the neighbouring pond.

In 1947 Fritz's wife Valerie died. They could not bury her in the family vault. Chapel and vault were looted and desecra-

ted by the Soviet Army and the crucifix on the gable destroyed by a volley of shots. Eventually Valerie was buried behind the chapel.

Fritz had the small chapel built around the turn of the century. Valerie herself designed and painted the altar painting.

Until 1944 four members of the family were buried there. For quite a long time their damaged coffins were standing in front of the chapel; 17-year-old Miklós SvC saw the mummified remains of his great grandmother scattered in the corner of the vault. Later the former gardener reverently buried the remains behind the building. During the Communist Regime the



*Miklós SvC viewing the damaged chapel*



*The chapel before consecration*

chapel was used to store poison and insecticides.

In the autumn of 1949 the economic situation and the communist terror (the family was supposed to “rent” their own house) forced the family to leave Pusztá Sorhát for good. They found new homes in various empty ramshackle houses in the neighbouring Tiszaderzs. Pusztá Sorhát was finally abandoned.

Life became more difficult still until Fritz’s daughter-in-law Clára and her husband Gyula Geist emigrated to Canada, vacating their apartment in Piliscsaba, a village northwest of Budapest. Turning their back to the housing shortage in east Hungary their unfavourable living conditions changed.

Their new home being 200 km away, they had to organize a railway carriage in order to bring their remaining belongings over though they did not really have the necessary money. But they finally managed, and in 1957 the family, consisting of Fritz, his son Walter and his daughter-in-law Clára née Beliczey de Bajcza, moved house. The



*Ceremonial procession to the chapel*

apartment consisted of three basement rooms with one window, because the house was situated on a slope. On 23 April 1960 Fritz died after a short illness, he was buried in the local cemetery.

When in the 1990s, after the fall of the Communist Regime, Fritz’s great grandson Felix SvC signed many separate contracts in order to buy the estate from a cooperative (successor of the kolkhoz that had illegally taken possession of the

estates), the chapel, the only remaining empty brick building, was still miserably standing in the middle of a group of exuberantly growing trees of heaven.

Restoration seemed impossible at that time, especially since they did not really know whom the chapel belonged to. Nevertheless Felix provisionally repaired the roof in order to stop further damage. In 2010 finally the great grandchildren Stephanie, her husband Edgar Michahelles, Felix and Christian decided to have the chapel returned to its original function in the summer of 2011. The decision to have the chapel consecrated was agreed upon.

Surprisingly some years earlier the original altar painting had turned up again. It was found in the rectory of a neighbouring village, “kept for us”. Valerie’s painting, exactly matching the semidome of the apse, could have no better location.

Now they had to restore the



*SvC-members of the Order of Malta. Ch. with the cross in the middle*



roof, replace the crucifix on the gable, have the chapel and vault restored, secure the doors and windows, install electricity and a burglar alarm and clear the ground. Finally they had to provide the complete interior equipment such as the tabernacle, the Stations of the Cross, the liturgical device, sedilia, icons and incense and ask the Archbishop of the Diocese of Eger to convert the chapel into a proper church on 11 August 2011, St. Clara's Day.

Two weeks earlier Felix had succeeded in having Fritz's remains exhumed from Piliscsaba and re-interred in the vault. Fritz came home on time and his remains were solemnly buried in consecrated ground.

The weather was fine, when we celebrated the day of the consecration, and the whole Hungarian family was present, grandson Miklós (Nikolaus) and Polyxena, great grandson Christian and Beatrice with the great great grandchildren Stephan, Franziska and the foster twins Alicia and Selina, great grandson Felix and Ilona with the great great grandchildren Paul, Moritz, Clara and August, the great granddaughter Stephanie and Edgar Michahelles as well as many relatives, friends and neighbours, the Vicar General of the diocese and the parish priest of the neighbouring parish of Tiszaszentimre.

By a joint effort especially of Edgar and Stephanie Michahelles, Felix and other relatives the Schilling chapel has returned to the family.

Christian Schilling v. Canstatt  
September 2011

## Meeting at the Ancestor's Epitaph in Estonia



*An international reunion in front of the epitaph of Carl Gebhard von Schilling, the ancestor of the Baltic Schillings, in St. Johannis (Järva-Jaani), Estonia. From left: our chairman Helmuth with his wife Ebba and his brother George with his wife Margot. From right: George's daughter Marina and her husband Dan Baxter with two of their children, Mitchel and Jacob (front) from Canada. Rear: George's second daughter Petra from Houston/Texas (USA) with her eldest son Jordan.*

### Oscar and Helge Full Members of the Association

Oscar and Helge from Chile, whose line of descent was not definitely clarified yet, are full members of the association at last. According to the latest results, the Chile line, descendants of Henne Schilling (mentioned in 1459) from Schlitz, Hesse, belong to our association. Eventually this Friedrich Schilling (1305-1373) is not their ancestor, but Friedrich, another grandson of our mutual ancestor Heinrich of the younger Rhineland line, instead.

Whereas one of Friedrich's descendants went to the Baltic countries via Braunschweig,

the other settled in Lahnstein. His son Rudolf (\* after 1320), running into debt, had to sell his estate. Perhaps he tenanted Rympach Manor near Schlitz, together with his son Henne. The name of Henne Schilling is not very common, at least not in the Rhineland.

Rympach Manor was in the possession of the Count of Görtz, possibly a fellow soldier of Rudolf in the battle of Baesweiler (1371), a conflict between Charles IV and William, Duke of Jülich. Many Hessian knights fought in this battle. Possibly Rudolf was indebted because of this war. In 1850 and 1852 some of Henner's descendants emigrated to Chile, Oscar's ancestor among them.

## “Seeoffizier des Zaren” Translated into English

The family is grateful to our cousin Peter Girard from Australia: He translated the interesting book “Seeoffizier des Zaren”, written by Nikolai Baron Schilling, into English. In 1971 Erich Baron Schilling had translated it from Russian into German. You can read the text on our website.

Nikolai (1828-1910) of the eastern branch served as a lieutenant at sea on the sailing frigate “Diana”, when it had started the circumnavigation of the world in 1854. He was promoted Admiral and Admiral General of Tsar Nikolai II later. The boat was on its way during the Crimean War, fought between Russia, the British Empire and the French Empire (1854-1856).

In addition to the dangers of the unknown waters of the mouth of the River Amur they were constantly in danger of being attacked by British and French warships. In November 1854 the “Diana” sank heavily damaged in a seaquake off the



*Nikolai Baron Schilling, officer of the Tsar's Navy*



*After his mother died, Peter's brother William Girard from England found this watercolour painting of Seinigal Manor in Estonia, one of the estates of the eastern branch. It was probably painted by Mathilde (Mussi 1873-1945), granddaughter of our ancestor Alexander Napoleon*

coast of Japan. Trying to reach the Siberian coast Nikolai was taken prisoner by the English. When the war finished a British boat took him back to Russia via London.

Nikolai's description of the seaquake reminds us of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in March 2011. He writes:

“On returning to the quarterdeck there was a scene of destruction. The town of Shimoda, originally consisting of a thousand houses, was gone, washed away in one moment. The valleys and fields were flooded. The whole bay area was littered with damaged Japanese houses and junks, thatched roofs, household goods and trees that had been washed ashore. The ground was so much covered in debris that you could not see any water at all.

### New Edition of the “Blue Helene”

The Family Chronicle, nicknamed “Blue Helene”, first published in 1999, will be re-published in a new edition: Schilling. Der Weg eines Geschlechts

durch fünf Jahrhunderte (328 pages, many pictures). Helene is working on this new edition because of the constant changes in the personal status of our members and because of new information about the history and the estates of the family (eastern branch). If there is anything you want or think necessary to add to the new edition or if there are any alterations, please let her and our chairman know – best before December 2011.

Helene will gladly accept orders – best before December 2011 - (price: about 30,00 €).

## Schilling Courier

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