

# Schilling Courier



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

## News of the Schilling Association and Annual Report 2011

### Viking Shield or Rent Obligations?

Uncertainty over the origin of the name of Schilling / Maybe only a field name

Though common and well known, the origin of the name of Schilling is by no means clear. Unfortunately the Dictionary of Names, which usually gives conclusive answers, is rather vague. There are explanations such as “rent obligation” or “possibly derived from the Gothic word scilingo, the sounding”, sometimes no explanation is given, except “small shield”.

According to our tradition, however, we believe the name to be derived from “Skjölding”, the name that was given to our legendary Viking ancestor Erik.

As we do not only know from the detailed description in the “Song of the King”, written by our controversial ancestor Heinar Schilling (1894-1955), but also from older, historically attested references, the “Skjöldungen” (scylding) or Skjöldinge (shield bearers) were an old Danish Viking dynasty at the time of the Migration Period.

As already mentioned in the Old English epic poem Beowulf, the



*Viking ship: painting by Lloyd K. Townsend*

identification mark of the family was the stag deer. Archeological recoveries have proven that they lived in Lejre (Lethra) on the Island of Zealand in Denmark, as to be seen in the respective exhibition.

Before the year 1000 this family had such a high rank that even long after their disappearance the Danish were called “Skjöldungs/

Skjöldinge”. It is absolutely possible that the name is of Danish origin and it would be perfect, if the family legend was confirmed, since the kings of Haithabu, the Viking trading metropolis in Schleswig-Holstein, were considered as Danes by their contemporaries. Perhaps they were the direct descendants of the old royal dynasty. According to the latest

knowledge, our Eric came from Haithabu.

The alternative, tracing the name back to “rent obligations”, seems so vague and absurd that we would rather reject this possibility. In this case the name would imply that our family was characterised by the fact that they had to pay a rent of one Schilling or that this was part of their feudal allegiance. Eventually such an obligation may have existed but usually a feudal allegiance held various obligations of a different kind and anyway, as to our family history, this sounds hardly convincing.

In Germany there are many families by the name of Schilling, however. And considering such a high number, the name may indeed be connected with an obligation to pay money. But this sounds less convincing since there are not so many surnames comparable to “Schilling”. If the name of Schilling, however, traced back to such origins i.e., if it was common practice to choose the surname from the family’s obligation to pay this or that kind of money, we would find surnames like “Pfenning”, “Taler”, “Mark” or “Gulden” (old coins) much more often. And eventually it seems unlikely that



*Front of the old Austrian 25 Schilling coin*

the origins of the name trace back to the Gothic or any other old Germanic language, meaning “the sounding” or “the ringing (Schellende), since people did not have surnames when these languages were spoken. And yet: It is absolutely possible that the name traces back to “schellen” (ring) or “schillern” (sparkle) and was initially intended as a characterisation of the first name bearer.

In the modern German language, the suffix “-ing” in the word “Schönling” (schön = beautiful, Schön-l-ing = beautiful man, Beau) is a good example of an ending that is intended to describe a person. Even now you can still characterise a person as “schillernd” (sparkling) with a touch of mockery. In the Middle Ages mocking names or characterising names were rather common when surnames were first given.

Since the name “Schiller” is rather common and signifies the same, it is absolutely possible that this word. As to the social status of “Schilling” is a modification of the simple peasants and the commoners in the late Middle Ages, we do not only remember the horror stories about Black Death and starvation but also the situation of a wealthy and confident, socially



*Rear of the British one shilling coin*

aspiring lower class, in vain mocked by Neidhart von Reuenthal in most of his songs.

In vain, because the “sparkling” persons, mentioned in his songs, actually held great economic power which paved their way to local administrative offices or to the wealthy middle class. The de Besenval family, a family of peasants and according to Heinar Schilling related to us, has succeeded in achieving the social status of a Swiss Patrician family and of French nobility. In that case this explanation of our name would agree with our family history.

Though this origin of our name cannot be found in the Gothic or any other long-dead language, such an interpretation is absolutely possible and agrees with the modern German language. The origin of the name of the “Schilling” coin is actually traced back to “schillernd” (sparkling) or “Schild” (shield), the corresponding word would be “Skjölding”.

There is, however, another possibility. “Schilling” might as well derive from a location called “Schilling”. I first considered this possibility when I found the field name “Schilling” in the local chronicle of Warsleben (Warsleben-Ausleben in the Magdebur-



*Viking shield found in a Norwegian barrow*

ger Börde near Oschersleben = eastern Germany).

In the German language area there are at least seven districts called Schilling and innumerable field names, like the one in Warsleben. In case the Eric legend is not true, it is absolutely possible that one of our ancestors came from a place called Schilling or that he was the owner of one of the places called Schilling.

It would be interesting to know

why places are called Schilling. The origin of Schilling in Eastern Friesland is the only one I know for certain. The origin traces back to the word "Schale" (bowl), corresponding to the shape or the characteristic feature of the land. We finally come to the conclusion that we should continue to trust our family legend, since this is what has been verified and passed forward in our family history since the 16th century. Le-

gends were not invented just because they cannot be definitely proven.

An exact scientific explanation of the name "Schilling" is impossible and will always be based upon mere guesswork. If Erik Skjölding has not existed, it probably was a location or characterising name. Perhaps it is of some kind of Danish origin.

Eric Bavor

## News of the Family Branches



Westlicher Stamm

### Sonnenstein Castle Saved

Thanks to Rudolf Schilling the house is in good condition

A few weeks before the turn of the year of 2011/2012 the restoration works of Sonnenstein Castle near Dresden were finished and eventually the question of the future of the castle was finally answered. The restoration secures the preservation of a valuable example of our spiritual heritage.

In fact, the castle standing at the head of the city of Pirna has never been used as a residence but has been a fortification for most of the time. In the Thirty Year's War, i.e. in 1639, it successfully withstood the Swedish troops. Today's architectural design is due to the creativity of Rudolf Schilling (1859-1933), the eldest son of our famous sculptor Johannes Schilling.

After the Seven Year's War (1756-1763) and after its "defortification" the old Sonnenstein Fortress became a retirement

home for military veterans. Later it was turned into a Royal Saxonian mental hospital.

Between 1905 and 1907 the architectural firm of Schilling & Graebner completely altered the

building, integrating the outer walls of the former barracks from older eras.

Rudolph Schilling and his friend and colleague Julius Graebner (1858-1917), lead the office together and were later joined by Graebner's son Erwin.

Together they developed an ar-



*Sonnenstein Castle after the restoration*

chitectural style that is ascribed to the new architectural style established after the year 1900, because it is quite different from the previously historicising styles. Schilling & Graebner are thus regarded as pioneers of modern architecture though their style was not further developed after 1920.

Visitors as well as the residents of Dresden will be very much impressed by the remarkable, two-towered Christus Church in Dresden-Strehlen (built 1902-1905). Well known for its beauty and its interesting shape, it is only one example of the architects' works. Schilling & Graebner also bought the vineyard Altfriedstein with its little castle in Radebeul, once in the possession of the Schilling family, and turned it into an exclusive residential area. Presumably Sonnenstein Fortress was once connected with our family, when in 1639 a soldier by the name of Schilling served as a captain in the successful defence. -

Unfortunately he has not definitely been identified yet, but he may as well have been a member



Rudolph Schilling



*Christus Church in Dresden-Strehlen*

of our family.

In 1811 Sonnenstein was turned into a hospital for people with curable mental diseases. It was considered an exemplary hospital. During the Nazi era, however, the situation was terrible. Between 1940 and 1941 in the course of the Euthanasia Programme Action T 4, 13720 mostly mentally disturbed persons were murdered. Now the Pirna Sonnenstein Memorial remembers the dead. Right after the war the building served as a refugee camp. In GDR times, until 1989, the rooms were used for various administration offices and business companies. The "VEB Entwicklungsbau Pirna", supposed for constructing propellers and steel engines, was first established there, but failed to start working due to problems with the organisation.

A new era begins with the restoration of the castle. The beautiful building, which stood unused since 1994 and was on the brink of collapse, shines in new splendour. Since the year 2012 it is the office of the administration of the

collapse, shines in new splendour.

Since the year 2012 it is the office of the administration of the Sächsische Schweiz-Osterzgebirge district, and the beautiful reception hall, designed by Schilling & Graebner, is used for social events again.

We particularly owe the restoration to the Minister of the Interior of Saxony, Markus Ulbig, until 2009 Mayor of the City of Pirna, who has always had the greatest interest in rescuing the castle and who argued in favour of using it as the office of the administrative district that was created in 2008.

Eric Bavor



*Tombstone of Rudolph Schilling in Dresden*



## Legendary Schilling Cave

Possibly in 1341 a Schilling squire died there



*Entry to the cave with bat gate*

While surfing the internet, I found some interesting tourist information: a reference to a Schilling cave near Neuffen, Baden Württemberg. For quite a long time, the city of Neuffen and Hohenneuffen Castle near Nürtingen have been the residence of the Freiherrn Schilling v. Canstatt. Since Friedrich Schiller is said to have visited the cave, it is called Schiller Cave, too.

According to a legend, in 1341 a squire of the Schilling family accidentally came to death in the cave. It is assumed that one of his comrades carried him to the so-called “Sattelbogen” where he eventually died. His relatives were supposed to have built a chapel which, according to this

information, gradually decayed. Though in the 19<sup>th</sup> century there still seems to have been a cross.

Today nothing is left. On 2 September 1904, however, on the initiative of August Schilling v. Canstatt (1840-1918) – there was a detailed report about his life in the Schilling Courier No 9 – a new cross was put up. It is the copy of a cross standing on the family burial ground in Wettersbach that initially was supposed to have been a copy of the cross that had disappeared from the “Sattelbogen”.

In his book “Rulaman” the author David Friedrich Wieland describes the cave as a place where a tribe of Stone Age people once lived. But as it happens, no traces

of a Stone Age settlement have ever been found. During the Thirty Years’ War the cave served as a shelter. Later it was a sightseeing place, many years even illuminated. Meanwhile there is no illumination anymore in order to reduce the number of visitors and eventually save the cave from further damage. But it is accessible and you can easily walk inside.

However there are no developed paths inside. You start walking down a horizontal passageway of comfortable width and height. At the end of the passageway there is a bend leading a couple of metres down to a kind of lake that is filled with clayey soil. The visitor should better not step on this clay. Since many years the entry to the cave can be barred by a bat gate. Between mid-November and April the gate actually bars the entry in order to protect the hibernating bats in winter.

Once, in front of the hole in the rock there was a small natural bridge, a slender limestone arch which you had to cross in order to reach the cave. In May 2009 this natural bridge started to collapse. Eventually it was barred, because it was dangerous to get to the cave. In the end the bridge collapsed completely, and unstable rock fragments fell down. In autumn 2009 the largest boulders were removed and the new wall was stabilized. Since spring 2010 it is open for the public again.

When the legendary fatal accident happened in the Schilling Cave, Heinrich (called Heinz) Schilling v.C. (died in 1352) lived in Neuffen. In 1351 “Ritter Heinrich”, as he was also called, donated an altar to the St. Martin’s Church in Neuffen. Presumably the donation was made because he was grateful for having been spared during the Black Death,

which was raging through Swabia at that time.

Heinrich's tombstone is still in the St. Martin's Church. The tombstone shows the family coat-of-arms in the gothic style, with the obliquely standing shield and the jug, and the crest of his wife Agnes von Sperberseck.

Unfortunately it is still unknown which family the squire, who was killed in the Schillings Cave, came from, and if he eventually belonged to the Schilling family, as is stated in some written sources.

Helmuth von Schilling



*The Schilling Cross on the Sattelbogen near Neuffen*



Eastern Branch

## Christening Ceremony of the Bells

New bells in St. Johannis/Helene presented with a medal

As in the 2011 edition of the Schilling Courier already reported, the St. Johannis Church in Estonia has two new bells, thanks to the financial support from the EU. Until the end of 2011 mo-

ney for 29 church bells flew from Brussels to the Baltic country. As written in the report, the Parish had to contribute as much as 10% of the total amount. The Schilling estates Orgena and Jürgensberg

used to belong to this parish.

Eventually the Parish had to raise 5355 Euro (total amount: 53 550 Euro) through donations. Given the fact that the congregation consists of only 437 parishioners, and in 2010 only 175 of them were able to pay their church fees, the number of 160 donors is considerable. The Schilling Association as well as the Baltic German Knights' trust financially supported the church bells project.

And again the Parish of St. Tõnis in Germany, thanks to Cousin Helene twinned with St. Johannis since 1993, which has already financially supported the renovation of the rectory etc., has donated generously. The old bell from the 15th century will be exhibited in the church. One of the new bells bears a relief of three cornflowers and ears, symbolising the Trinity. The cornflower is the national flower of Estonia and the local crest features ears, symbolising the fertile soil of Jerwen.

There are "Madonna Lilies" on the bead line of the bell underneath the words taken from Psalm 148:13 which refer to the time of Christianization, when Estonia was "St. Mary's country". On



*The christening of the bells in St. Johannis. Front middle: Pastor Katrin Melder, back: Provost Salumäe.*

the sound rim of both bells there are the words (Estonian): I was cast for the church of St. John the Baptist in St. Johannis, AD 2011 and in addition to that on the small bell: "...and I am called Johannes". The relief shows St. John the Baptist who is pointing at the lamb in his arms, according to the words taken from the gospel of John, 1:10.

The bells were cast out of the bell foundry of Petit & Edelbrok in Gescher/Westphalia. Katrin Melder, the pastor of St. Johannis, Kuno Agan, Head of the Parochial Church Council, Helene and our chairman Helmuth together watched the casting of the bells on 23 November 2011. They were also present at the christening of the bells in St. Johannis on the First Advent Sunday, 11 December 2011.

Since the archbishop was ill, the ceremonial service was held by Provost Tiit Salumäe from Hapsal/Hapsalu, who also gave the sermon, together with the Deputy Provost of Jerwen, Tiit Linnasmäe and Pastor Melder.

After the Provost had consecra-



*Helene with her medal*

ted and rung the bells for the first time, Helene and several other official participants were allowed to ring the bells, too.

In the course of the following celebration with addresses of thanks and greetings, the Provost Salumäe presented Helene with the Medal of Merit of the EELK (Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church) honour of her longstan-

ding support of the church in Estonia. This medal was instituted after the reu and the Schilling family deserved this honour, as well as the Estonian married couple Kakko in St. Johannis because of their nification, 20 years ago. In her acceptance speech, Helene said that especially the church in St. Tõnis In the course of the following celebration with addresses of thanks and greetings, the Provost Salumäe presented Helene with the Medal of Merit of the EELK (Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church) in hospitality. She ended her speech by asking for "God's blessing for our common homeland Estonia". When thanking for the invitation, Helmuth said: "May these bells always ring in a free Estonia."

On the next day the bells were hoisted into the bell tower, where they were first rung the day after. Operated electronically, the large bell is tuned to "A" and strikes the half hours day and night, whereas the small bell is tuned to "C" and strikes the hours. The "kellamees" (bellringer) is not needed anymore.

## What Else Happened:

### **At Eye-Level with Germania**

Restoration of Johannes Schilling's Niederwalddenkmal

"I looked Germania straight in the eye." This year the Niederwalddenkmal near Rudesheim on the River Rhine, that was designed by the sculptor Johannes Schilling and inaugurated in 1883, with the impressive lady on top, is being repaired for the first time.

On 3 June the mayor of the city of Rudesheim, Volker Mosler, had invited the chairman and five members of the Schilling Association and the former director of the Schilling Museum Mittweida,

Heiko Weber, to visit the monument under construction and to stand at eye level with Germania. The monument stands 38 m in height and on this day it was still shrouded in scaffolding and wrapped in safety mesh. However, on the side facing the River Rhine there was a large photo of Germania on the mesh, so that the tourists got a glimpse of the monument. After all, about 1.8 million people come to visit the monument every year. A couple of days



Germania covered: Only a large photo welcomed the visitors.

after the visit of the Schilling delegation, the tourists were able to see the original, 12.35 m tall lady again. As the repairs of the statue were completed, it came out of hiding.

The repairs of the pedestal of the monument, however, will take longer. The scaffolding will be completely removed by the end of the year. Wearing white hard hats, we had to climb quite a number of ladders to the tenth floor, the top of the scaffolding. In the airy height we were not only able to look Germania straight in the eye but we could also stroke her curly hair which after 129 years had not turned grey but milky green. Bernhard Kröning who together with his wife is responsible for the restoration of the metal, said: "the restoration does not aim at creating a new monument. The patina will not be removed from Germania. She may as well look her age."

They will only remove dirt and corrosion products from the surface threatening the substance. The experts are worried about the iron rings by which the components of the bronze statue were attached to each other. Over the course of so many years they were damaged by corrosion and had expanded so much that several of the bronze components would have come off sooner or later.

Standing on the work planks, we noticed several bullet holes. After World War II especially French soldiers had aimed their guns from the opposite bank of the River Rhine at the monument that in 1871, after the Franco-Prussian War, was not only supposed to remember the foundation of the German Empire but also the victory against the French. Germania, however, is not looking fiercely and with her sword drawn



*At eye level with Germania: members of the family association, the restorers and the mayor of Rüdeshcim.*

towards France, as people always assume, but towards the recently founded German Empire, with her sword pointing downwards.

Even Germania's chin and nose were hit by bullets. A big hole in her head, however, seems to come from a bomb that luckily did not explode. According to Kröning only those bullet holes will be sealed that will cause further damage, for instance by intruding rainwater. "Otherwise they will be considered as part of contemporary history."

"Everything is done by hand, using either a scalpel or a metal brush", the curator Anja Dötsch said, "you can't use a grinder." Lasers are also used. And the gaps between the sandstone blocks are manually filled with lead.

The visitors on the work planks were surprised to see Johannes Schilling's meticulous work. The individual links of Germania's mail armour are as meticulously carved in detail as her fingernails and the claws and feathers of the Imperial Eagle. We also learned that the individual components of Germania were not soldered but

screwed together from the inside. The last mechanic was an extremely slight built 14-year-old apprentice who had to climb out of the right forearm, before his fellow workmen joined the forearm and the hand with the Imperial Crown.

The works on the pedestal are rather complicated. Eventually on the pedestal alone, 700 markers show where repair is needed, as for instance on the smaller statues, the War Angel and the Angel of Peace, flanking the main statue. After a special crane had hoisted them from the pedestal, they were transported across Germany to the restoration workshop of Fuchs & Girke in Saxony. When some time ago they had used aggressive chemicals in order to remove graffiti that had been sprayed on the monument years ago, severe damage was done to the pedestal. The steam locomotives that used to cross the Rhine valley as well as the steamboats on the river left black residue as well. The curator told us that the air in the Rhine-Main area is much cleaner now.

Germania's beauty treatment is



not exactly cheap. It costs about 2.2 million Euros. In addition to that the car park was modernised, hopefully the adornment of the park around the monument will be completed in 2014, and a visitor centre will be built. The total sum of 7.5 million Euros will be paid by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Federal State of Hessen.

We are proud to have been invited to Germania while she is being restored. When Johannes Schilling created her, his youngest daughter Clara has acted as his model. On a big picture postcard the Hessian Administration of State-Owned Palaces and Gardens has meanwhile officially confirmed the fact that we looked the old lady in the eye.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Inscription in the pedestal of the Niederwalddenkmal.*

The monument was constructed between 1877 and 1883.

Sculptor: Johannes Schilling,

Architect: Karl Weißbach,

Construction Company: Philip Holzmann.

Total weight of the monument: 75 t, Germania alone: 32 t.

Total costs: 175750 Reichsmark.

## “A Hidden Treasure”

Project presented at Johannes' birthday celebration

This year Ina Schilling-Nickel, great granddaughter of Johannes Schilling, the sculptor of the Niederwalddenkmal, has invited us to Mittweida again, in order to celebrate her great grandfather's birthday in his native town. It was his 184th anniversary.

An illustrious circle of guests gathered in the Schilling Museum. Chief Burgomaster Matthias Damm, the director of the museum, Sibylle Karsch, the art historian Dr. Gerd Helge Vogel from Zurich as well as the director of the Sparkasse Mittelsachsen (savings bank), Schramm. As the chairman of our association was not able to go, Reinhard Schilling from Augsburg, a member of the Board, went instead.

Dr. Vogel has committed himself to directing a most interesting project: 1087 hand drawings by Johannes Schilling which in 1996 the family association had given to the Kupferstichkabinett (Collection of Prints, Drawings and Photographs), Dresden, and in 2005 on the occasion of the opening to the Schilling Museum, Mittweida, on permanent loan. They will be sorted according to subject and published. Dr. Vogel promised financial support from the Kreissparkasse. New sponsors are welcome. Sibylle Karsch hopes that the project will be realised in three years.

This project is wholeheartedly encouraged by our association. When in 1996 our former chairman, Heinz Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt, gave the drawings which had been in our family archives, to the museum in Dresden, he said: “1087 children came home.” Now they are sleeping unnoticed in

the Mittweida Museum Archives. There are pen and ink drawings, drafts of sculptures and child motifs. Dr. Vogel spoke of a “hidden treasure”.

On the occasion of the meeting in Mittweida, several plans were discussed: Travelling and temporary exhibitions of varying subjects and above all an excellent Power Point presentation which the visitors can watch whenever they want and which Dr. Vogel was already able to show to the guests in Mittweida.

In the course of the celebration Ina Schilling-Nickel thanked Heiko Weber, longstanding director of the museum, for his commitment, and on behalf of the Schilling Association she presented him with a bunch of flowers. After all we owe him the opening of the Schilling Museum. Heiko Weber retired in 2010.



*Drawing made by Johannes: A knight.*



*Benjamin Schilling with children in Guatemala*

## Presentation of a young member

# Benjamin Everywhere at Home

The 31-year-old is a free lance international journalist

Benjamin Schilling (31) is a free lance photo journalist working with regional as well as international organisations in the field of communication, and he works as a photographer for newspapers and magazines. His photos and reports are published in German periodicals such as GEO, Die Zeit, Der Spiegel and in foreign media.

Benjamin belongs to the Frankenhäuser line of the Martinides, the western branch of the family association. The Martinides are the descendants of Hanß (1395-1469), the ancestor of the white sub-branch. Since the Counter-Reformation (16th century) and after the escape of Martin I (Hanß' grandson), a pastor in Mulda, Bohemia, Benjamin's ancestors have lived from agriculture and forestry near Frankenhäuser, Thuringia, for 300 years.

Martin's third son Georg I was the ancestor of the Frankenhäuser line. At the end of the 19th century, Benjamin's great great grandfather Edmund Schilling moved to Potsdam-Babelsberg. Later his son Otto Schilling, born in 1890,

became mayor of Dahme, Brandenburg. After World War II Otto's son, Benjamin's grandfather Günther Schilling, moved to Iphofen, Lower Frankonia, the home town of his wife Anny. They had three children.

Benjamin was born in Dortmund on 12 September 1991. He is the second child of Thilo and Silvia Schilling née Werner. Thanks to the genealogical research by the family association as well as to the intensive research by his grandparents, the family history has been well documented for years.

During this time, Benjamin came in contact with the genealogical research and became interested in the history. Last not least, his grandmother Anny, a free lance painter and artist in Iphofen, influenced his love for art and design. Unfortunately in 1997 his grandfather Günther died aged 77, in Iphofen. In 2012 his grandmother Anny celebrated her 90th anniversary in a state of good health.

Benjamin has always been fascinated by travelling and by foreign traditions and cultures, and

therefore he went to many foreign countries while he was still at school and as a university student. In 2006, after working as a trainee under several photographers in Germany and after getting a university degree in visual communication, he went to Latin America for a couple of years, where he mainly stayed in Guatemala.

After he had learned Spanish, he worked as a photographer for several social organisations that deal with the historical analysis of the armed conflict in Guatemala, 36 years ago. Since then he has been working as a free lance correspondent for European media and organisations. Since 2010 Benjamin writes reports about the socio-cultural development in several parts of South-East Africa. Now he is living somewhere between Nairobi, Mexico City and Dortmund. His reports deal with the coexistence of people from different countries with different cultures as well as with their natural environment. They deal with everyday life as well as with conflict and crisis situations.

Benjamin's website:

[www.benjaminSchilling.com](http://www.benjaminSchilling.com)

## The next family reunion

# Breslau: 13 to 15 June 2014

Preparations started/reception in the City Hall confirmed

From 7 to 8 May Heiko Weber, the former director of the museum in Mittweida, Eric Bawor, a member of our association, and I went to Breslau/Wroclaw/ Poland in order to prepare the family reunion in 2014. Eric Bawor, who has devoted himself to the history of the Schillings in Breslau, employed the interpreter, Julia Kamens. The exploration trip was very successful.

We stayed in the Park Plaza Hotel, on the bank of one of the branches of the Oder River, close to the city centre. A beautiful hotel that is absolutely suitable for the family reunion. The official part is planned for 13 till 15 June 2014. But an additional programme will be offered as well.

On the trail of the Schillings in Breslau, we will visit the old St. Elisabeth's Church, where there is a beautiful sandstone epitaph for the merchant Daniel Schilling (1506-1563) and his two wives. Daniel is the great great great grandson of Friedrich Schilling (1305-1373), who presumably was the first member of our family to come to Breslau.

A brochure says: "This epitaph was created around 1565 by the Dutch sculptor Hans Fleiser, called Gruyter. In the middle there is a relief showing the baptism of Jesus. On a sarcophagus underneath the relief, is the naked statue of the deceased, Schilling. This kind of epitaph is absolutely exceptional. The church offices agreed to our request to have a prayer meeting on the occasion of our family reunion.

We had a successful meeting with the deputy mayor of the city

as well. After looking up Daniel Schilling in an encyclopedia, he agreed to make a reception of the family in the City Hall possible. We made him aware of the fact that there is a brass tablet in the Stadtmuseum (museum of local history), remembering the donation to the church roof fund for St. Elisabeth's Church. This tablet contains the name Alderman Gottfried Schilling (1547-1603).

We also found a restaurant where our festive dinner will be held. The Royal Restaurant is right on the Market Square, one of the oldest market squares in Europe. Pope John Paul II and the former Chancellor Kohl have dined there, too. Next to the restaurant is the beautiful gabled house where Daniel lived.

Like almost everything in Wroclaw, the beautiful "Ring" was completely destroyed during World War II. It is worth admiring how the Poles have rebuilt the ruined city. Breslau/Wroclaw had been the capital city of Silesia. In 1945 this region became part of



*Daniel Schilling lived in the house on the right. We will dine in the restaurant (left).*

Poland and the German population was forcibly expelled.

Wroclaw, the city with 360000 inhabitants, is definitely worth visiting. Being situated along the branches of the Oder River, the city reminds you of Venice. Wroclaw is called the city of the bridges, because there are more than ninety of them. But it is also the city of the churches, because on the green islands in the city centre there is an exceptional quantity of Gothic churches. Nowhere in Central Europe can you find so many churches standing close together.

Helmuth von Schilling



The historical City Hall of Wroclaw



*William Henry Schilling v. Canstatt (second from left) in about 1890 with friends or employees in front of his shop in Long Beach/California, USA*

### Lost Property

## Old Photos from the Wide World

William Henry came from California and James Ernest from Australia

It is nice when our members send us old family pictures. Some time ago Barbara May from Sun City/California/USA sent me a photo of her grandfather, William Henry Schilling v. Canstatt (1869-1949), taken around 1890. It shows William Henry with his friends or employees in front of his shop in Long Beach (California/USA).

The shop belonged to his father William (1835-1914) and his twin brother Sidney. It was the first big grocery in the town. William was a very successful merchant. He even bought San Miguel Island in California. William is the son of James Ernest (1803-1876) who emigrated from London to

Virginia/USA in 1849. Barbara's husband Hoyt L. May found the picture in the Long Beach Historical Museum. Actually, William Schilling had 16 children from two marriages. They are the ancestors of a large family branch in California.

A little earlier, I got a picture sent from Australia. It shows James Ernest Schilling v. Canstatt (1888-1958) with his wife Olive Meiklejon and his four daughters. James Ernest is the son of Edwin William (1839-1894) from London, a nephew of James Ernest who had emigrated to America. The grandchildren of his brother Sidney, Charles, Brian and Mi-



*James Ernest Schilling v. Canstatt with Olive and his daughters Olive Patricia, Muriel Jean, Ruby*

chael, set out to seek their fortune in “Down Under”, too. In 1958 Brian, who was employed by Air India, got free tickets for himself and his mother to Australia. They liked the country so much that they decided to stay forever.

In 1967 Brian’s brother Michael went to Australia, too. He worked for a Cruise Line that moved its offices to the fifth continent. Thanks to the two brothers the association has members in Australia and New Zealand, where Michael’s daughter Andrae is living. Except Michael, his Australian children Barry, Brian and Brenda are members of the family association, too.

Georg Friedrich (1762-1843) is the ancestor of all these Schillings, since he was the first to emigrate to America. Later he settled in London. Only his son James Ernest returned to America. Another of his sons, George Fredrick (1809-1888), was the ancestor of our English and Australian branch.

For some time now, two members of the eastern branch have also been living in “Down Under”. During the two years in which he was deployed to Australia, Peter Girard (Kook line), an officer of a British Submarine Base in Sydney, met his Australian wife. When he retired in 1992, the 52-year-old settled in his wife’s native country, first in Sydney, later in Smiths Lake, 300 km further north.

Anne von Osterhausen (Seinigal line) first came to Australia with a Working Holiday Visa. Eventually Anne liked the country so much that she did not only apply for a second Working Holiday Visa but succeeded in getting a lifetime visa. Meanwhile she works in a travel agency in Melbourne.



*Juliet Schilling, a yachtswoman, took over the Learn to Sail Class at her Australian Club.*

## **Just 18 and Already Teaching Sailing**

Juliet Schilling has been sailing since she was five

We did not only get old pictures sent from Australia. Only recently a short newspaper article arrived, with a picture of 18-year-old Juliet Schilling, daughter of our Australian deputy Barry (son of Brian, see above) and his wife Deborah, in front of a sailing boat.

Juliet is a dedicated yachtswoman. In the spring, after working as a voluntary coaching assistant at her club for five years, she took over organising and teaching the Learn to Sail Class at the Yarra Bay Sailing Club south east of Sydney. Every Sunday, she teaches up to 30 children between the ages of six and 14, without being paid.

The 18-year-old, who has been sailing since she was five, told

the local newspaper: “I love teaching. I get to go out every week and organise training and get the kids under control. I’m also the first aider and cleaner – it’s all fun. It’s even competing, so you can compete against guys and win against guys and age doesn’t matter. I hope to keep coaching and will try to get the kids progressing and get a big senior fleet at the club soon.”

Through the winter season Juliet has been playing soccer for the club of her native town since she was four. The dedicated sportswoman is now a full-time student of Petroleum-Engineering at the University of New South Wales and will get her bachelor degree in the near future.

# Family Reunion in Canada

The descendants of Fritz and Gerda celebrated on the shores of Upper Arrow Lake



A great number of members of our eastern branch live in British Columbia, and they like celebrating together: Fritz (1907-1997) and Gerda (1906-1991) von Schilling had many children. In 1929 Fritz and his brother Gebhard emigrated to Canada, in 1933 he married Gerda Vidal and in 1937 they moved to Vancouver Island where he worked as a farmer. The married couple had six children, 15 grandchildren and a great number of great grandchildren.

From 10 – 12 August 2012, 40 members of their family met at a private campsite on the shores of Upper Arrow Lake in British Columbia. Heinrich (Heini), the eldest living son of Fritz and Gerda, opened the reunion with a short welcoming speech. Great grandson Heath Caswell showed a collection of old family photos on video. The Schillings spent the three days at the lake swimming

and boating, and naturally they had a festive dinner. On 10 August they celebrated the first birthday of the youngest member

of the family, Sophia.

In 2014 they want to meet in Port Neill on Vancouver Island., British Columbia.

## Working on a Cemetery

Our Youth Representative at his great grandmother's estate in Estonia



*Working on the cemetery. Matthias on the right.*

The cemetery is about one kilometre distant from the Manor House. Three adolescents and two adults have accompanied me on this trip.

Our main work was to clear the cemetery of weeds. It had not been looked after for several years. Afterwards we cleaned all of the tombstones and repainted the inscriptions. We also stuck some smaller stones together and sealed others in order to protect them against frost. Today 25 out of 85 graves still exist with intact tombstones.

This trip was of special interest to me. My great grandmother was born in this Manor House. Elsbeth (Lisi) Baronin Schilling (1884-1987) née Gruenewaldt who grew up in Orrisaar Manor, later married Georg Baron Schilling of Jürgensberg.



*Orrisar*

One day I visited the old burial place and the chapel of the Jürgensberg Estate. I also visited St. Johannis/Järva Jaani, Orgena, the Manor House of the Schillings, and the church. The Director of the neighbouring school, my guide at the museum, showed me the Schilling Room. Pastor Katrin Melder kindly opened the church so that I was able to have a look inside.

The hospitality I received was amazing. I had many wonderful memories of my working holidays in Estonia to take home, especially since it was my first visit to this country.

Matthias v. Schilling

## Schilling Coins from the Forge

Reunion of the western branch next year in Suhl?



*Rush of visitors at festival in the Schilling Smithy*

What a great success: The 19th Blacksmith and Summer Festival in Suhl on July 29. About 600 guests had come in order to remember and enjoy former traditions. There was a special reason for this celebration: 150 years of existence of the Schilling Smithy, one of the oldest places of iron working in Suhl. 13 generations of Schillings have worked as blacksmiths. The festival was organised by the Association of Engineers and Technicians of Thuringia and the Academy of Creative Technique Suhl, in cooperation with the last owner of the smithy, our member Gerhard Schilling.

The noise of the “bear” of the Lasco drop-board hammer, weighing 400 kg, hitting the heated metal with striking blows or to listen to the hammer striking the anvil, was impressive. Many visitors especially the children, who had never seen this kind of work before, liked to take the hammer themselves. And another highlight: The visitors had

the possibility to put the finishing touches to old Schilling coins, stroke upon stroke.

Cousin Gerhard said: “I always feel appreciated. Preserving the smithy as a museum was the right thing to do.” Before it was closed in 1992, about 60 people have worked in the smithy. Today it is an industrial monument awarded with the Thuringian Prize for Monument Protection.

As part of the programme, various craftsmen showed their work: wood carving, wicker working, sheep’s wool felting and bee keeping. The students of engraving attending the Gunsmithing School have also presented their work. And there was an exhibition of classic cars and motorbikes.

We consider whether to hold a reunion of the western branch on the occasion of next year’s 20th Blacksmith Festival in Suhl. No concrete plans were yet made, but interested parties may as well note the scheduled date:

**26 to 28 June 2013.**

# A Lovely Festive Evening at the House of Nobility

Successful reunion of the eastern Schillings in Stockholm



*The Schillings in the Great Hall with coat of arms in the House of Nobility, Stockholm*

The reunion of the eastern branch in Stockholm was a great success. 63 participants from six countries met for the 7th reunion of the descendants of Carl Gebhard von Schilling (1717-1779) in the Swedish Capital. The eldest was 85, the youngest nearly one year old.

On Friday 14 September the reunion started with an informal meeting in the Attaché Hotel. Eva Bager-Sjögren told the story of the life of her grandmother Hildegard Bager-Sjögren (1878-1971) née von Schilling and showed us old photos. On her trip around the world Hildegard of Jürgensberg, Estonia, had met Dr. Johan Bager-Sjögren in New York. In 1914 they got married in Estonia. After the wedding the coming of the World

War prompted the couple to move to Sweden, where her husband worked as a district inspector of schools. The couple had two sons. The second son, Örjan (1918-2000), was married to Ulla Berle who aroused their four children's interest in the family association. Together with her children and grandchildren she has attended many family reunions, this year she was present, too. Her son Lars has organised this wonderful reunion in Stockholm.

The weather was lovely when we went on our tour of the city on the following day. Afterwards we visited the Vasa, a beautiful ship that sank in the harbour during its maiden voyage in 1628 and which was salvaged in 1961. The highlight of the day was the gala

dinner at night. It was held at the House of Nobility where we were able to visit the beautiful Great Hall with the coat of arms. Helmut, the chairman of the association, told us that in spite of the long Swedish reign in Estonia the Schillings had no connection with Sweden before Hildegard's marriage. Therefore it was extremely difficult to obtain the permission for the gala dinner at the House of Nobility.

Thanks to the Lilienfeld family, descendants of a Swede and in many ways related to the Schillings, we were successful.

Helmuth also mentioned the fact that Hildegard has supported many members of the Schilling family during and after the World Wars. There was a special



## New Edition of “Blue Helene”

The new edition of “Blue Helene” is finished and ready for delivery. With many documents and pictures Helene Baronesse Schilling describes five centuries of the history of the Baltic German family. From initially 328 the book grew to 362 pages because many new details were added. The book costs 25 € plus postage.

**Please send orders to Cousin Helene before the end of November (the price will go up later):**

**Rue de Sées 19, 47918 Tönisvorst, phone: 00492151/790101.**

## Our Website is Noteworthy

We want to call your attention to our redesigned website:

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

The website contains the Schilling Couriers from 2011 onwards, many pictures of various family reunions, a diary and the latest news of the association. If you need a password, please contact Christian SvC.

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*The gala dinner at the House of Nobility*

relationship between her and a member of the Schilling family, Gebhard Carsten, who has lived in Sweden during the war, together with his parents and siblings. Actually Gebhard was the initiator of this reunion but unfortunately he died on 15 March this year. The dinner guests honoured him with a minute of silence.

On Sunday morning we attended the particularly festive service in the German Church of



*Ulf and Tjalda von Lilienfeld-Toal. They made the evening at the House of Nobility possible*

Stockholm where the confirmands were introduced. Finally we went on a boat tour in order to see the panorama of Stockholm from the water.

Some members of the family stayed on in Sweden for one or two days, some even for the whole week.

Helmuth v. Schilling



*The organising team: Lars Bagger-Sjögren, Helmuth and Hans*