

# Schilling-Courier



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

News of the Schilling Association and Annual Report 2016

## Tracing the Schilling von Canstatt Family

Participants from eight countries at the 19<sup>th</sup> family reunion in Köngen near Stuttgart



*The participants of the family reunion in front of the "Schilling Schlössle" which is undergoing renovation*

As usual, this year's family reunion was a great success. The motto of the 19<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Schilling Association after World War II was: "Tracing the Schilling von Canstatt Family". From 15 till 18 June 113 relatives met in Köngen, south of Stuttgart.

The oldest participant was almost 90, the youngest ten

months old. This year the younger generation was strongly represented, 12 participants were under 14 years of age. As usual, the members of our association came from all over the world, i.e. from eight countries. Just like three years ago in Wroclaw, Canada alone was represented by 19 people: Cousin

Stephanie from Waterloo, Canada, the widow of Kurt von Schilling who died in 2015, came over with her four children and seven grandchildren.

The weather was wonderful on Thursday evening. In his welcome speech on the Hotel terrace Helmuth, the chairman of the association, mentioned



Verband des Hauses Schilling e.V.



19. Familientag 2017 in Köngen



*The Deputy mayor of Neuffen welcoming the visitors of St. Martin's Church*



20.02.17/JUN



*Left: When is dinner ready?  
Right: In St. Bernard's Chapel*



*The youngest, 10 months old*



*Stephanie with her children and 7 grandchildren*



*Hohenneuffen Castle-*



*In front of "Zu Unserer Lieben Frau im Hürnholz" Chapel*



*Christian with his children*



*Schilling House in Neuffen-*



*Visitors looking at maps at Hohenneuffen Castle*



*Lunch break at the Schützenhof restaurant*



*The organ of St. Martin's*



*Tired ladies having a break*



*Reinhard offers flowers to the lady*

that 65, i.e. most of the participants belonged to the eastern branch. 24 belonged to the western western and 24 to the southern branch. He thanked Christian and Ralph Schilling von Canstatt for their excellent assistance with the organisation of this family reunion.

Once the Schilling von Canstatt family played an important role in this German region south of Stuttgart. The participants of the family reunion became aware of this fact when they started their visiting tour in two large buses on their first day. The Schillings were greeted by the sound of wonderful organ music when they entered St. Martin's Church. The deputy mayor, Jörg Dopfer, emphasised in his speech that it was a great honour for the city to welcome the international family association. For several centuries, the Schillings had been linked with the history of Neuffen.



*Epitaph for Heinrich SvC (+ 1352) and his wife Agnes nee v. Sperberseck (+1350)*

Heinrich Seewöster, the chairman of the local heritage society, mentioned that the famous Georg II Schilling von Canstatt, Grand Prior of the German Order of the Knights of St. John and the first Imperial Prince of Heitersheim, was born in Neuffen in 1487.

The importance of the family is documented by the tombstones in St. Martin's as well as in the "Zu unserer lieben Frau im Hürnholz" Chapel in Wendlingen-Unterboihingen, which was the first stop on the visiting tour. The historically most interesting building in Neuffen is the Schilling house in Schilling Street. Built in 1369, it used to be the family's principal residence in former times.

The building houses the local history museum and a collection of numerous genealogical documents of the family. The visitors admired an item associated with the era of the knights: the reproduction of a knight's armour from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, a donation by Kiklòs and Polyxenia Schilling v C. For ten years it had been in their hotel in Banz Castle. After a lunch break in a restaurant at the foot of Hohenneuffen Castle, the bus took us to the ruined castle which is very well restored. Here the Schillings had held several offices, especially the office of castellan. As the weather was brilliant, the visitors enjoyed the wonderful view of the Schwäbische Alp.

Unfortunately, only few of our members were able to visit the "Schilling cross" in the forest near the castle. Large buses are not allowed to go there and the terrain is difficult for walking.

On the next day, we went to Owen where settlement remains from the New Stone Age were found. Particularly worth visiting was St. Bernhard's Chapel with beautiful wall paintings from the 15<sup>th</sup> century: a cycle with 21 scenes from the life of St. Bernard of Clerveaux (1090-1153).

The next stop was Oberlenningen where three employees of the municipa-



*Wall painting in the "Schlössle"*

lity gave their guests a hearty welcome in front of the "Schilling Schlössle". The Schlössle, whose façade is under restoration, was built in 1596. For many years it had been the residence of the Schillings. Now it houses a very interesting Paper and Book Art Museum. 400-year-old wall and ceiling paintings gave us an idea of the former owners' prosperous way of living.

In the evening, the family had their festive dinner. The chair-

man recalled the tradition of his festive evening which had started in 1965 in Usingen in the Taunus region and has been the highlight of the family reunion since: “At that time, there were only 37 participants, today there are more than one hundred.”

Traditionally the last day of the reunion started with a pray-



*Sigrid Kinnunen from Finland with the butter-*

er meeting, thankfully held by our cousin Bernd Schilling from Bonn and musically accompanied on the clarinet and the bagpipes by his children Reinhold and Hildegard.

After our general meeting, the official part of the family reunion was over. 32 members of the family started their tour to Überlingen on the Lake Constance via the world-famous Primeval Museum Hauff in Holzmaden. They visited the island of Mainau, the Stilt House Museum in Unteruhldingen and the monkey rock in Salem.

Helmuth von Schilling

## Reunion 2020 at the foot of Lahneck Castle

General meeting: Cornelius joins the board

As the board elections are only held every six years, i.e. the next will be in 2020, there were no board elections this year. Since our board member Reinhard Schilling decided to resign for reasons of age and health, we were in need of a replacement.

Fortunately, 31-year-old Cornelius, our deputy chairman's son, agreed to accept the position. Cornelius is living in Hamburg and Leipzig where he works in business management. He was elected unanimously with only one abstention. The chairman expressed his gratitude for Reinhard's excellent work. In spite of his advanced age he was the most active member of the board, his particular interest lay in the genealogical research.

As for the archive: Our chairman reported that at the end of 2015 the archive, which used to live in 60 boxes, was moved from Düsseldorf to the “Museum Alte Pfarrhäuser” in Mittweida, where it was already very well organised and preserved. For the first time in 70 years all documents were listed and sorted.

Naturally all our members have access to it. The museum is open from April till October (Tuesday to Sunday) from 10 am till 5 pm and from November till March from 10 am till 4 pm. Our secretary Hans suggested



*Cornelius Schilling and his father Frank*

to hold the reunion of 2020 in Lahnstein and the participants of the meeting agreed. Close to Lahnstein there is Lahneck Castle which is supposed to have been the ancestral residence of the whole Schilling family. Presumably our ancestor Burgmann (castellan) Heinrich Schilling died in 1221, i.e. exactly 800 years before we will have our next reunion.

The members of the general meeting decided that this is an opportunity to hold the next reunion at the foot of the castle. One of the highlights of the family reunion will be a boat trip on the River Rhine. Bernd Schilling from Bonn suggested to hold a family reunion in Malta. Many of the members were interested as the old buildings of the Order of St. John are full of memories of Georg Schilling v. Canstatt. The proposal was rejected for 2020 but will be discussed later.

Helmuth von Schilling



*“Coffee at the professor’s”*: rear fr. l. the special guests: V. Mosler, Mayor of Rüdeshheim, District Councillor M. Damm, Ina Schilling-Nickel, Ralf Schreiber, Mayor of Mittweida and Helmuth.

## A Schilling Grammar School?

The sculptor’s native town wants to honour him

The tradition is kept alive. On the occasion of Johannes Schilling’s 189<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23 June 2017 his great granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel organised “coffee at the professor’s” in his native town of Mittweida. As usual, many celebrity guests came to the Johannes-Schilling-House:

Among them the Mayor of Mittweida, Ralf Schreiber,

the District Councillor of the district of Central Saxony, Matthias Damm and Volker Mosler, the Mayor of Rüdeshheim, where the Niederwald Monument is overlooking the valley of the Rhine.

The chairman of the Schilling Association, Helmuth, was also present. In a short speech, our chairman mentioned a written proposal which he and the

former director of the “Museum Alte Pfarrhäuser”, Heiko Weber, had presented to the Mayor. They had suggested to give the grammar school the name of “Johannes-Schilling-Gymnasium”. Three schools in Mittweida have already been named after famous personalities, now the “Städtisches Gymnasium” needs a suitable name as well. Next year’s 190<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mittweida’s honorary citizen would be a suitable occasion.

Mayor Schreiber explained that it is not within the competence of the City Council to give a name to a school. The council can only make suggestions. Eventually the students’ and parents’ representatives and the teachers have to decide. As the present head of the school has already rejected our proposal we have to wait until after his retirement which will be in the near future. The Mayor, however, would appreciate the change of name into “Johannes-Schilling-Gymnasium”.

On the same day, there was a discussion about Susan Gramm’s publication pro-



*Johannes Schilling is present everywhere in Mittweida: At the Judo Championship*

ject “Das Schilling Quartett”. She is a member of the friends’ association of the “Museum Alte Pfarrhäuser”.



*Never missing: the Schillingtaler*

Between 2018 and 2028, the year of Johannes Schilling’s 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, four books about the sculptor shall be published. On the occasion of his 190<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2018 “Lebenserinnerungen” (memoirs); already published were: in 2010 “Handzeichnungen” (drawings), in 2013 “Skulpturen” (sculptures) and finally “Dokumente zu Leben und Werk” (documentation of his life and work). But first of all, they have to find a way to finance this ambitious project with many illustrations. In 2016 the friends’ association has already financed the digitisation of 1087 drawings which the Schilling Association has given to the museum in Mittweida on permanent loan.

Dr. Sebastian Storz, chairman of the “Forum für Baukultur e. V.” in Dresden, who is very much interested in the drawings, is looking for a PhD student who is willing to write his thesis about Johannes Schilling.

Helmuth von Schilling

## The Schlitz Line is Growing

Recently discovered relationship to Oscar from Chile

The Schlitz line of our family, to which Oscar from Chile belongs, is getting more and more interesting. Last year Ralph Schilling, who was looking for Oscar, contacted us and eventually joined the Schilling Association together with four members of his family. This year we have another application of membership from a descendant of this line: Our chairman had an email written by Ingrid Petzold from Wienhausen in Lower Saxony: “Since I found his email address on the internet, I have been in contact with my cousin Oscar Schilling from Chile. We found out that Oscar and I have the same great great grandfather, Georg Philipp Schilling, born in Hausen in Hesse in 1797.

Since the year 1459 all ancestors of this line were born in Schlitz, just like Georg’s father Johann Philipp. In his first marriage Johann Philipp was married to Johanna Auguste Rhode. She is Oscar’s great grandmother. This is why we have different great grandmothers but the same great grandfather.” Georg Philipp’s brother Johannes was the ancestor of the descendants of the Schlitz line who joined the family association last year.

Ingrid Petzold’s mother is Clara Hedwig Mathilde Schilling, Georg Philipp’s great granddaughter. She is married to Wilhelm Schmidt and her daughter Ingrid is

married to Rainer Petzold. As Ingrid’s maiden name was Schilling, she is entitled to become a voting member of our association. Ingrid’s uncle Jochen Schilling, her mother’s brother, has portraits of Georg Philipp and his third wife Christiane Vilmar. Ingrid has eventually taken photos which she has sent to us and to Oscar in Chile.



*Georg Philipp Schilling (1797-1876)*



*Christiane Schilling née Vilmar, Georg’s 3<sup>rd</sup> wife (2<sup>nd</sup> wife’s sister?)*



## Descendants of Paul SvC?

Nicholas from Russia: I am his great-great grandson

Even in far off Russia our home page attracts visitors. In February, I had an email from Rostov-on-Don, one thousand kilometres south of Moscow. Nicholas Ilyinsky wrote: "I have been reading everything I can find about the famous Imperial Russian Private Counsellor Paul-Ivanovich Baron Schilling von Canstatt (1786-1837) for years,

especially in the Schilling Courier. After all, Paul von Schilling is my great-great grandfather. My mother Irina Rolandovna née Schilling, Paul's great granddaughter, has told me a lot about him." Paul von Schilling was an outstanding person, indeed. He was a well-known natural historian (see Schilling Courier No.



*Postage stamp in honour of Paul Schilling von Canstatt*

11) as well as the true inventor of telegraphy. Unfortunately, this ingenious invention was "pinched" by the American Samuel Morse and named after him. The Russian Tsar had forbidden any patent applications in order to keep the inventions secret.

Paul's father was Ludwig Josef Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt. He was born in 1753 in Talheim Manor in Württemberg where his family had lived since 1744. They were entrusted with high offices in the Duke of Württemberg's household. Like many sons of noble German families Ludwig and his younger brother started their careers abroad. Ludwig Josef went to Russia, his brother Wilhelm Siegfried to Holland. He died in Batavia (now Jakarta), the capital city of East India at the time.

At first Ludwig Josef held a court appointment in St. Petersburg, later he was promoted to colonel. In 1785, far from home, he married a girl nee Schilling of all people, Katharina Charlotte von Schilling from Kalliküll Manor in Estonia, which was a Russian province at the time. According to our genealogist Heinar Schilling she was definitely related to our family. Ludwig Josef SvC died in 1797, aged 44. His son Paul was born in Reval (Tallinn), Estonia, in 1786.

At the age of nine he joined his father's regiment and was promoted sub-lieutenant in the Russian



*Old family picture: (l. to r.) Nicholas' mother, his grandfather Roland Ivanovic and his grandmother Eugene Neofitovna Schilling*



General Staff.

Later he held the office of State Councillor of the Russian tsar. He was mainly interested in solving problems in physics and since 1832 he was very successfully engaged in telegraphy. In 1812 Paul invented the first underwater cable.

In the Soviet Union Paul was regarded as one of the most important Russian inventors. In 1987, on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his invention of telegraphy, a postage stamp with his portrait was issued. In St. Petersburg, a marble tablet in his memory is attached to the wall of the house where he has lived and worked.



Tablet in St. Petersburg

Nicholas: "During the Soviet times neither the fact that he came from an aristocratic family nor that he was of German origin was ever mentioned."

In 1837 Freiherr Paul Schilling died of an infection, he was only 51 years old. He is buried on the Lutheran-Belarusian cemetery in St. Petersburg. In 2002 Nicholas visited the cemetery which is out of use and overgrown with weeds. He removed the weeds but he writes: "I suppose no-one is going to take care of the grave now. As we are living two thousand kilometres away from the cemetery we won't be able to go there that often."

As far as we know there is no genealogical proof that Paul Schilling vS was married and had children. Nicholas writes that his great grandfather Ivan Pavlovich, born in 1820, was Paul's son. As far as he knows Ivan was a military medical doctor. However, he has no information about Ivan's mother, i.e. Paul's wife. There is a photo of Ivan's wife, i.e. Paul's daughter-in-law who was born in 1852. Paul's son, i.e. Nicholas' grandfather, was Roland Ivanovich Schilling. He was a teacher of mathematics at the Military Academy of St. Petersburg. He and his wife Eugene Neofitovna died from



Nicholas' great grandmother

starvation during the Leningrad (St. Petersburg) Blockade undertaken by the German troops in 1942.

Their daughter, Nicholas' mother, was saved, but one of their sons was killed. As the eldest son is dead, too, Nicholas, who was born in 1961, probably is Paul's last descendant.

Nicholas is very proud of his great-great grandfather because of everything his mother has told him and of everything he read about him in his physics textbooks. Eventually this awakened his interest in electrical engineering. When he had to write an essay at school about what he was going to do for his living, he wrote: "I want to become a television engineer because I am very much interested in communication like my famous ancestor."

Nicholas is very much impressed by the fact that the Schilling Courier writes about so many members of the family from all over the five continents. We are all invited to visit him in Rostov. There is a very good international airport, he says, and the beautiful Sea of Azov is just a one hour drive away.



Nicholas and his wife Tatiana

Helmuth von Schilling



Eastern Branch

## Plaque for Carl Baron Schilling

Ceremonial unveiling in St. Petri's Church, Estonia

On 6 November, 2016, our chairman Helmuth unveiled a memorial tablet in memory of Carl Baron von Schilling (1872-1941) in St. Petri's Church in Peetri, Estonia. He thus complied with the wishes of Carl's grandson Peter Girard. He had died in Australia, aged 74, and had bequeathed a considerable sum to the association in order to finance such projects.

From 1911 until its dispossession in 1919, Carl von Schilling who was born in the Schilling Manor of Kook, was the last owner of Seinigal Manor in the parish of St. Petri, which was destroyed by the Russians after the German invasion of the country in 1941. Carl's wife Anna nee von Schilling had inherited the estate from her father and had given it to her husband. Anna was the great-great-great granddaughter of Carl Gebhard von Schilling, who was the first Schilling to have taken possession of Seinigal in 1761.

Carl was Captain 1<sup>st</sup> rank when

he left the Imperial Russian Navy in 1910. After the dispossession of Seinigal in 1919 he moved to Reval. From 1923 to 1937 he was deputy of the Baltic German Party in the Estonian Parliament and Councillor of the German Cultural Administration.

Pastor Katrin Melder from the neighbouring parish of St. Johannes (Järva Jaani) to which the Schilling estates Orgena and Jürgensberg belonged, has blessed the memorial tablet. Pastor Jaanus Tammiste of St. Petri's emphasized in his speech that Carl Schilling was held in high esteem. He stressed the fact that the position of the tablet in the sanctuary was chosen on purpose because the Schilling's burial ground is right on the outside of the outer wall.

Unfortunately, most of the Schilling's graves have disappeared, only the grave of Gustav (1839-1909), Carl's father-in-law, is still visible. A couple of years



*Carl Baron von Schilling, officer in the Imperial Russian Navy*

ago our cousin Helene von Schilling has seen to it that a stone was erected in memory of the living members of the Schilling family who are scattered all over the world.

Gustav von Schilling is of special importance to the congregation of St. Petri's. His father, Alexander Napoleon (1803-1866) had donated a brass parament for the pulpit into which he had sawed a verse from the bible (James 1:22): "But be doers of the word, and not only hearers...". When this parament was destroyed by a lightning strike, Gustav, in memory of his father, donated a new one to the congregation with the same bible verse. As after World War II this parament had eventually faded, the congregation took the letters off and attached them to a new green parament. The old red parament was used for lining. In honour of the day, the new parament was hanging from the pulpit during the unveiling ceremony of the tablet in memory of Carl.

Carl Schilling's love for Estonia is highly appreciated by the congregation of St. Petri's. When as a result of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, most of the Baltic Germans were



*Pastor Katrin Melder and Helmuth von Schilling after unveiling the memorial tablet*



*Pulpit and parament in St. Petri's*

resettled to Germany in 1939, he refused to leave the country. In 1941, however, Estonia was annexed by the Soviets and the Nazi government arranged another resettlement for all those who had refused to leave the country earlier. This action was called the "Nachumsiedlung". Reluctantly he left his beloved old homeland for Schweinfurt/Bavaria, where he eventually settled with his family. He had hardly arrived when he fell seriously ill and was taken to a hospital. He died in October 1941. His friend Axel Baron Maydell wrote: "He was so deeply ingrained in his native soil that a life somewhere else was unimaginable..."

As a naval officer, Carl had already led an adventurous life. Several times he had travelled to the Far East. During the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) he served on the ironclad warship "Pobedja" until she was sunk. Subsequently he fought ashore in Port Arthur. When Port Arthur had surrendered, he was taken into Japanese captivity. In 1905, he returned to Europe on board a British steamer. In St. Petersburg Carl was awarded various medals and was promoted to the rank of commander of Michael Alexandrovich's (bro-

ther of the Russian Tsar) private yacht "Sarnitza". Together they visited several European harbours, until he resigned in 1910.

Carl and Anna von Schilling had four children. The second daughter, Nina Benita (1908-1989) is Peter Girard's mother. In 1932, she had married the engineer John Girard (first marriage), the couple had two sons, Peter and William (Billy) who is living in England. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the celebration of the unveiling of the memorial tablet because he was ill.

Helmuth von Schilling



The text in English:

**Carl Baron Schilling**  
(1872-1941)

Owner of Seinigal  
Well-known member of the  
Baltic German Party  
in the Estonian  
Parliament 1923-1937

## Cigarette Case in Lüneburg

Carl's grandson donated a precious item to the museum

In 1911 the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich presented Carl Baron Schilling with a golden cigarette case (Fabergé) with his signature in gratitude for his faithful service. This case came into the possession of Carl's grandsons, the Girard brothers. William (Billy) decided to give it to the German Baltic department of the "Ostpreußisches Landesmuseum" in Lüneburg.

In May of this year, Ebba and Helmuth picked it up in London. At the beginning of August, they handed it over to the "Deutsch Baltische Kulturstiftung" (German Baltic Cultural Foundation) where it is temporarily exhibited in a showcase. In addition to the permanent exhibition every item of the Cultural Foundation may be shown in temporary exhibitions as well.

After long preparations and the setting-up of the exhibits the German Baltic the opening of the department of the "Landesmuseum" is scheduled for August 2018. As soon as possible the cigarette case will have an appropriate place in

this department along with a documentation of the history of this special exhibit and its former owner.

Very probably the documentation will mention that in March 1918 by his great effort Carl Baron Schilling succeeded in achie-



*Handing over the cigarette case in London: William Girard and Helmuth*

# 2018 Reunion in Estonia

Trip to the former estates

ving something fantastic concerning the Baltic Germans during the peace negotiations between Russia and Germany at Brest-Litovsk: All those members of the German Baltic nobility who had been arrested and deported to Siberia during the communist revolution of 1917 were allowed to return home.

On June 13, 1918, the Grand Duke Michael was shot by the Bolsheviks in Perm near the Ural Mountains. His brother, Tsar Nikolaus II, was murdered one month later in Yekatarinburg.

Helmuth von Schilling



*View of Tallinn/Reval from the Cathedral Hill*



*The Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, the last tsar's brother, after a painting by Ilia Rapin, 1901. He gave the case to Carl.*

Once again, we want to organise next year's reunion of the eastern branch in our former homeland Estonia. We will meet from Friday 27 July till Monday 30 July, 2018, optionally the reunion will end in Riga/Latvia on 1 August.

In Tallinn/Reval we will stay at the Santa Barbara Hotel as we did 11 years ago. On the day after our welcome night (27.7.), anyone who is interested or who has never been in Tallinn/Reval before is welcome to join a guided tour of the city (28.7.). In the afternoon, you have free time (a trip to the beach?) or you are welcome to join a trip to our chairman Helmuth's birthplace, Sipa/Sipp Manor. In the evening, we will all meet for a festive dinner in one of the restaurants in the old town.

On Sunday, a bus will take us to the family's former estates: Türi/Turgel and Serrefer Manor, Peetri/Petri and the ruins of Seinigal as well as Järva Jaani/St. Johannis.

We will visit Orgena Manor, the church that is nearby and the burial ground. The cemetery of Jürgensberg Manor is in the neighbourhood. And we will visit St. Petri's Church with the tablet in memory of Carl Baron Schilling (see p. 9/10).

Pastor Katrin Melder will welcome us in the parsonage of Järva Jaani. Later we will return to Tallinn/Reval via Löwenwolde/Roosna Aliku Manor. In the grand staircase, there is a painting of the last heiress, Anna Marie Amata von Benckendorff (1878-1972) who had been married to Nikolai Baron Schilling of Jürgensberg for a couple of years. On Monday, you can either leave for home or join the bus tour to Riga, the capital city of Latvia, via Haapsalu/Hapsal and Pärnu/Pernau. The tour will end on Wednesday (1 August).

Helmuth von Schilling

# Jüri Kakko died in Estonia

20 years of friendship ended



On 11 March, 2017 Jüri Kakko died in St. Johannis/Järva Jaani, Estonia. In gratitude for 20 years of friendship, the family association had a wreath laid on his grave. Pastor Katrin Melder offered condolences of the Schilling family to Jüri's daughter Riita and her son Kristof.

In 1989, we received Jüri Kakko's first letter, when his wife Helve (she died a couple of years ago) heard that members of the Schilling family were going to visit St. Johannis. She remembered our family from her mother's tales. She had been in service at Schilling's Jürgensberg Manor. She and her husband offered to tidy up the graveyard near the former manor house. or the time being we were reluctant to accept their offer as we did not know for certain who owned the land.

On the occasion of a visit in 1991, however, we realised how much Jüri and Helve had already done. They had found three gravestones which they had erected again. During the following years Jüri and our cousin Rose-Marie Wallbaum, daughter of Lisi Schilling from

Jürgensberg, found more grave-stones and they restored the decaying chapel on the graveyard where they attached a tablet in memory of Georg and Margarete née Wartensleben and their children and of Georg and Elsbeth (Lisi) née Gruenewaldt and their children. Finally, Jüri presented Rose-Marie with a stone in memory of her five brothers who were killed during World War II.

For many years, the Kakkos have taken care and maintained the burial ground in St. Johannis as well. They have erected the crosses or made new ones. We were always cordially invited into their house no matter how many we were or when we came. Whenever we planned our tours, Jüri always said: "Why do you ask, you know you are always welcome to our home." Kakkos always gave us the feeling that we belonged and that even after 50 years of absence Estonia is still our common homeland.

Helene von Schilling



## More cemeteries with Schilling graves

The burial ground in Turgel/Türi which belonged to Serrefer Manor is being looked after as well. A big stone with a cross on top is carrying an ancestral tablet. When in 2013 the cross was damaged the descendants of this branch had it erected again. There was a new tablet attached to the stone (see Schilling Courier No. 14). The burial ground in Maholm which belonged to Kook Manor is also still existent.

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**Photos:** p. 1: Frank Schilling.

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Frank Schilling, Hayo Cölle, Kai Weber. p. 4: Frank Schilling

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(left), Gudrun Schilling (right). p. 6: Sibylle Karsch

(top), Christian Andreis (bottom). p. 7: Heiko Weber (left), Petzhold (2).

p. 8: Nicholas Ilyinsky (bottom), archive (top). p. 9: archive (centre). Nicholas Ilyinsky

(2). p. 10: archive (top), St. Petri (bottom). p. 11: Katrin Melder

(2), Ebba von Schilling (bottom). p. 12: internet (2), Helmuth von Schilling

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(top), Sven-Roger von Schilling (bottom) p. 15: Eric Bawor. p. 16:

Katrin Melder, internet (2). p. 17: Heiko Weber. p. 18: internet

# Olympic Dreams

Lilo Firkert from Dresden, a record holding swimmer

We have often reported about great athletes in our family association. Most recently about the successful archer Ute von Schilling and the world champion kettlebell lifter Bär Schilling v. Canstatt.

Now 16-year-old Lilo Firkert is hitting the headlines: As a competitive swimmer, she is dreaming of becoming a member of the Olympic team. "She is a highly talented girl with an excellent feel for the water", her coach Peter Bräunlich from the Dresden swimming club (DSC 1898) praises Lilo who has been a member of the junior team of Saxony since 2015. When she started at her first international competition in March 2016, the 18th Euro-Meet-Swimming-Competition in Luxembourg, Lilo demonstrated what she is capable of. "She has won one gold and one silver medal and two bronze medals."

Lilo's favourite is backstroke. "I've always been rather good at it and I like it best" she says self-confidently. It is not surprising that she did not only win several club championships but also last year's short course junior championship over 50 m in Berlin.

"Since I became her coach in 2015 she is steadily progressing," her coach tells us. "She is a funny, outgoing girl, but eventually she clearly says what she does not like." She is excellent at competitions, as for her swim training, however, it is not always world champion-like. Lilo admits: "I love the sprint training but the long-distance training can be very boring."

Her coach says: "She is aware of the fact that she has to do



*Lilo Firkert*

it, though, if she ever wants to realise her Olympic dream." Last year's training (2016/17) was rather successful. Not only did she set new club records but she finished second nationwide in the 50 metres and fourth in the 100 metres backstroke competition in her age group. And this is how she is planning to continue in future. The next Olympic Games will be in Tokyo in 2020, i.e. in less than three years.

At the swim competition in Luxembourg Lilo has already got a taste of the Olympic atmosphere. She met her biggest idol, the Hungarian Olympic medallist Katinka Hosszú. "I'm absolutely enthusiastic about her" the girl from Dresden says.

Helmuth von Schilling

According to an article written by Astrid Hofmann, „Dresdner Neueste Nachrichten“, Dresden.

# Rebecca: Excellent on the Tennis Court

At the age of five our secretary Hans' granddaughter Rebecca (born 2004) accompanied her elder siblings to the tennis court. Shortly afterwards she started to play tennis in the TC Kriftel. In the winter of 2012/2013 she participated in her first district championship, reached the finals (lost against a player from the TC Schwalbach) and was "lured away" by the TC Schwalbach.

In 2014 Rebecca and her team won the Hessian Championship (U 10) and in 2016 the U 12 Championship. This year the four girls have won the Hessian Championships (U14) again.

She is a very successful single player as well, who has won several regional championships and has achieved excellent placements at the Championship of the district of Wiesbaden. Last year she has reached the quarter-finals and this year the semi-finals at the Hessian Championship.

Sven-Roger von Schilling



*Rebecca von Schilling*

# The Schillings and the Reformation

Matthias and Jakob met with Martin Luther

Though the author of this article is a faithful son of the Roman Catholic Church, he expresses his fascination and recognition for the role of the Schilling family during the time of the Reformation. This is why now, in the anniversary year 1517–2017, the family's role during the Reformation should be given attention. Especially the southern and the western branch are both rather interesting.

Presumably Hannß IV Schilling, the ancestor of various lines of the western branch, who died about 1542, was the first to become familiar with the ideas of the Reformation. He was born in Allstedt and studied in Leipzig. Working in mining, he lived in Allstedt, Sangerhausen and Eisleben.

Allstedt is of special importance for the Reformation, as Thomas Müntzer, a Reformer who raised much controversy, used to live there with the approval of the "Stadtbürgerschaft" (town-council) whose member Hannß IV was. Eventually Müntzer became the leader of the German Peasants' War.

Müntzer's doctrine about the independence of the church and the Christian life were diverging to Luther's idea to place the church under the protection of the reigning princes. From today's perspective, the "marriage" between altar and throne was dubious but secured the survival of the Protestant Church. Müntzer, however, was way ahead of his time with his ideas and we can be proud that the Schillings shared them.

After Müntzer's death the descendants of Hannß IV followed

Luther's ideas. Until its sale in 2007 the family was in possession of one of the first Lutheran bibles, a relic from this time. However, there was no entry of the former owner in the bible.

One of the first editions of Luther's bibles was withdrawn shortly after the publication because it contained numerous substantive errors. Presumably the few remaining copies were distributed among Luther's circle of acquaintances.

It is a fact that Matthias, the son of Hannß IV, and Matthias' son Jakob met with Luther while they were living in Eisleben and Wittenberg. This would explain how the bible had come into the possession of the family.

Jacob Schilling's funeral sermon reads as follows: "When he was a child, the deceased Dr. Luther's sister who worked in Matthias' house at the time, educated him in the Christian faith and taught him politeness, very often she brought him to the deceased Dr. Luther who held him in high esteem. As a young boy and student, he and some of his fellow students followed Luther's coffin to his funeral at Eisleben."

The western branch was also involved in pastoral care. Since 1557 Caspar Schilling was a Protestant deacon in Freiberg, since 1570 Superintendent and pastor in Kirchheim and until his death in 1594 pastor in Fürstenwalde where during his time the church was built.

The painting in this church shows a proud man with Luther and Melancton in the background.



*Caspar Schilling with Luther and Melancton in the background*

Furthermore, Caspar's cousin Simon donated the "Heilig-Geist-Church" in Rochlitz where the Reformation started in Central Saxony. Many Protestant Rectors, Church Fathers and others came from this line, who have devoted themselves to the new ideas.

The latest genealogical research results prove that the House of Pegau, where the Protestant tradition was continued in the 17th century, belonged to this line, too. Naturally in 1573 their ancestor Paul studied in Wittenberg, this was his way of showing his commitment.

As recorded in the well-known register, Hans Ulrich Schilling is one of the outstanding members of the southern branch. The register is in Halle, on the occasion of the family reunion we saw a depiction in Neuffen. This is one of the most beautiful paintings of the family coat of arms of the southern branch, framed with the most important reformers.

Hans Ulrich had a special relationship with Melancton.

He lectured at the University of Wittenberg, the rector of which he has temporarily been. And

he was the godfather of one of Melanchton's sons.

Presumably, though not proven, Hannß' son Matthias of the western branch and the famous Rector Hans Ulrich of the southern branch have eventually met via their mutual contact with the Reformers. Anyway, this is a remarkable common tradition of the Schilling family. Georg Schilling, the Knight of the Order of St. John and later the first Imperial Prince of Heitersheim, the seat of the German Grand Priorate, was "very angry" with the Protestants without turning against his brother Ulrich. These two brothers serve as examples for the fact that the family always was and still is non-denominational.

Eric Bawor

# Apple Tree in Estonia

Early Reformation in the Baltic Countries



*Pastor Melder and Bishop Einar Soone are planting an apple tree in St. Johannis/Järva Jaani*



*Martin Luther*



*Philipp Melanchton (both painted by Lukas Cranach)*

Rather early the Baltic countries were exposed to the ideas of the Reformation and consequently the eastern branch of our family, too.

The Christianisation of Old-Livonia (now the Republics of Estonia and Livonia), which monks from Westphalia and Lower Saxony started at the turn of the 12th to the 13th century, was not always very peaceful. The State of the Teutonic Order became part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. The members of the Teutonic Order were obliged to defend their country and were consequently rewarded with fiefdoms. Many Estonian churches were built in that period, many of them were fortified. One of them is the church of St. Johannis/Järva Jaani near Orgena Manor, the ancestral home of the eastern branch.

The members of the Order also protected the language and the culture of the native Estonians. As there were strong economic (Hanseatic League) and clerical

ties with the German homeland, the new ideas spread rather quickly in the State of the Order.

At the Diet of Worms (1521) representatives of the estates of the realm of Old-Livonia stood by Luther's side. In 1523 the Reformer sent his first letter to all Christians in "Righe, Revell and Tarbthe in Liefland" (Riga, Reval and Dorpat), many others followed. One of the estates were the Baltic German Knights. Since 1620 the members of the Schilling family belonged to this class. In 1524 the assembly of the representatives of the estates of the realm in Reval/Tallinn decided to introduce the Reformation in the whole country.

Following Luther's wish to proclaim the Gospel in the respective native language, his Small Catechism was translated and published. It was the first book available in the Estonian language. Later an Estonian grammar and an Estonian hymn book were issued. A complete translation



of the bible was not published before the 18<sup>th</sup> century though. When in 1917 Estonia achieved its independence (most of the Schillings of the eastern branch lived there) the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church (EELK) was constituted. This is why this year the Estonians do not only celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation but also the 100th anniversary of the constitution of the EELK.

On the occasion of these anniversaries apple trees were planted in all the Evangelical Lutheran parishes of the country in memory of Luther's words: "Even if I knew that the world ended tomorrow I would still plant an apple tree."

On 20 August, a celebratory service was held in St. Johannes/Järva Jaani in the presence of Einar Soone, bishop of Northern Estonia. Afterwards the apple tree was planted in the garden of the parsonage near the Schillings' ancestral home Orgena Manor. The same happened in Turgel/Türi (Serrefer Manor) and in St. Petri/Petri (Seiniga Manor). Furthermore, in May a Church Congress was held in Dorpat/Tartu in order to celebrate the anniversary. Because of the eventful history of the Church of Estonia the motto of the celebration was taken from the letter to the Galatians: "Christ has called us to freedom" as well as from the certainty of the faithful that "A mighty fortress is our God"

Helene von Schilling

## Appeal for Maintaining the Archive

Please hand over records and documents

According to the articles of our association the archive is one of our priorities. As paper does not blush the reality is worth being questioned. The archive has been on an interim basis since 1945. It has passed through many hands, had to suffer a lot and was slightly reduced. However, the archive is the memory of the family and of the association and extremely important especially for events like the family reunions or the opening of the Johannes-Schilling-House in Mittweida. Eventually it is more than an expensive and extensive shelf of boxes.

Maybe some people are not familiar with the archive or they are not interested, maybe they think of large trunks full of ancient documents. Naturally the archive was initially founded for documentation and not as an accumulation of waste paper. This makes it valuable and everyone who wants to trace their own history or that of their ancestors will become familiar with the archive in the end.

The records, however, do not find their way into the archive by themselves. Therefore, I ask everybody to send copies of documents (only paper size) or the originals to the archive. Everything is important, nothing is irrelevant, since genealogy is a network of individual stories.

Please send records, documents, photos and other testimonies of your own or your family's history. Bring the archive to life! I am willing to advise you and steer everything in the right direction so that everything will be filed correctly.



*Heinar Schilling (1894-1955) is the founder of the family association (1927) and of the archive. On 20 February 1945, one week after Dresden was destroyed by the Allied bombers, he saved the archive. In 1922 Heinar was painted by Otto Dix, an important painter of the 20th century. The painting is hanging in the "Städtische Kunstsammlungen" in Freital/Saxony*

Donations for necessary restorations are also welcome. Every year the family donates to the "Deutsches Adelsarchiv" (German Association of Nobility) why not to our own archive? Therefore, I ask all of you: Let the archive come out into the open.

Ed Eric Bawor

# Baltic Documents in Marburg

Cousin Helene's collection in the "Herder Institut"



*The „Herder Institut“ in Marburg*

The family archive that is housed in the museum of Mittweida mainly holds Heinar Schilling's collection of documents of the western branch. It was only enlarged by a small number of records of the other two branches. Most of the archival documents of the Baltic branch are stored in the Baltic department of the "Herder Institut" in Marburg which is maintained by the German Baltic organisations such as the "Baltische Ritterschaft".

With the help of the "Baltischen Ritterschaften" in 2014 our cousin Helene (from Tönisvorst) from the eastern branch handed over to the "Herder Institut" five boxes with lots of documents of the family. The collection is subject to the reservation of ownership. Together with her father Erich Baron Schilling she has collected the records which have never been part of the family archive. Among the documents there are three albums with photos of members of the eastern branch and a couple of books.

Members of our family association who are also members of the "Baltische Ritterschaften" have direct access to the documents. Non-members of the "Ritterschaften" have to submit an application to the genealogist of the "Estländische Ritterschaften". The current accession number is 10/2014.

An inventory is under way and should be completed in a couple of months.

In 1954 Cousin Erich (1885-1971) was one of the founders of our family association and he was an eager genealogist. His books about the ancestral background of the eastern branch of the Schilling family and about the properties of the Barone Schilling in Estonia are now stored in Marburg.

Ernst Baron von Schilling from Kook (1874-1961), who has spent most of his life in Denmark, has done a lot of genealogical research, too. He has written a book about the heraldic history of the ancestors of the eastern branch.

**The address of the  
"Herder Institut":**

Gisonenweg 5-7

35037 Marburg

Phone: 0049-6421-184-140

or -145

[www.herderinstitut.de](http://www.herderinstitut.de)

**For the address of the  
current genealogist of  
the „Estländische Ritterschaften“ please ask at the  
„Herder Institut“ in Marburg**

## **Our Website Functioning as an Archive**

Our website is also functioning as an archive. Here you find the detailed history of the three branches, descriptions of the most important persons, a representation of the coats of arms and all Schilling Couriers since 2001. There is a protected member area the password for which will be given to you by Christian Schilling von Canstatt via his email address : [webmaster@schilling-association.org](mailto:webmaster@schilling-association.org)

All members can look at the photos of the latest family reunion or have access to the list of members.

The web address:

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

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