

# Schilling-Courier



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

News of the Schilling Association and Annual Report 2017

## Baltic Branch Visits Homeland

### 9th reunion of Carl Gebhard's descendants

This year the Baltic branch of our family association was invited to Estonia, it was the 9th reunion of the descendants of Carl Gebhard von Schilling (1719-1779), the ancestor of the Baltic family. Every three years these reunions are held in different places. On 27 July the chairman of the association welcomed 76 guests from seven countries at the Santa Barbara Hotel in Reval/Tallinn. Seven members had come from Canada alone. The oldest was 92, the youngest 5 years old. The chairman was especially happy about the large number of young members: 19 of them were younger than 20 years of age.

The next day started with a guided tour of the old town, unfortunately it was extremely hot. In the afternoon the greatest part of the group went to Sipp Manor, about 80 km south of Reval/Tallinn, where our chairman was born. Now the



*Participants of the Schilling reunion in front of Orgena Manor*

building houses a kindergarten. At night we all met at the foot of Toompea hill, where we had our festive dinner at the very nice restaurant of the Stackelberg Hotel in the former coach house. The menus were decorated with the Schillings' coat of arms. In the mor-

ning we had admired the much larger version in the cathedral.

On Sunday we all went to the former Schilling manor houses. Two busses drove us to Orgena Manor in St. Johannis/Järva Jaani. Now the manor house, which Carl Gebhard had bought in 1756, houses a muse-



*Festive dinner at the Stackelberg Restaurant*



*Coat of arms in the cathedral*

um of local history. A highlight of the reunion was a communion service in St. Johannis' Church, held by Pastor Katrin Melder. The theologian who was happy about the great number of church-goers, welcomed the family, "it's almost like Christmas Eve". Afterwards the group gathered in front of the epitaph in memory of Carl Gebhard on the outer wall of the church. The ancestor of the family died exactly on the same day, on 29 June, 239 years ago.



*In front of Carl Gebhard's epitaph*

The next stop of our busses was the burial place of Jürgensberg Manor. In front of a little chapel there is a memorial stone with the names of five of Georg's and Elisabeth's (Lisi) six sons who were killed in the Second World War. The manor house was destroyed and demolished in 1991. Only a glacial erratic reminds of the former manor house. When we were back home, cousin Helene who is living in a nursing home in Tönisvorst near Krefeld, told an interesting story: One of her male nurses who comes from Catania in Italy has seen the grave



*Stone in memory of George's and Elisabeth's sons*

of Alexander von Schilling, the youngest of Georg's and Lisi's sons, on the local military cemetery and has said a short prayer.

After lunch in the beautiful hall of Kaltenbrunn Manor we went to St. Petri/Peetri Church where two years ago a plaque was put

up in memory of Carl von Schilling, the last owner of Seinigal Manor that was destroyed by the Russians in 1941. From 1923 till 1937 Carl was a member of the Estonian Parliament representing the Baltic German Party. Finally, we went to Serrefer Ma-

nor and to the cemetery next to the church in Turgel/Türi. In 1994 hooligans had destroyed the burial place and the large cross. The last owner of the manor was Walter Schilling. Thanks to the initiative of his grandchildren who live in Canada and Finland, burial place and cross were restored in 2013. Now the beautiful rooms of the manor house can be hired for celebrations such as weddings. There is one room in memory of the former owners.

A trip to Riga was planned for the following day – the additional programme. A bus took 39 family members to the Capital of Latvia. On 1 August the reunion was finished after a detailed city tour and a pleasant evening.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Lunch at Kaltenbrunn*



*Burial place at Turgel*

## Reunion of Fritz's and Gerda's descendants in Canada



In 1929 Friedrich (Fritz) Baron Schilling (1907-1997), the son of Hermann of the House of Origena in Estonia, had emigrated to Canada. After having moved several times, in 1940 he finally settled on a farm on Vancouver

Island. Fritz was married to Gerda nee Vidal (1906-1991). They had six children, four boys and two girls. Meanwhile this Canadian family has considerably grown. They meet every two years, this year from 4 to 5 Au-

gust at Ernst's (Ernie's) place. He is the youngest son of Jürgen and Gerda and he lives on his parents' old farm on Vancouver Island. Fifty people attended the reunion, not all of them are on the picture.



Western Branch

## Celebration of the 190th birthday

Commemoration of Johannes Schilling in Mittweida



*Great-granddaughter Ina with the birthday cake*

On the occasion of the 190th birthday of the sculptor Johannes Schilling his great-granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel had invited guests into the Johannes-Schilling-House for "Coffee at the professor's".

30 people enjoyed the celebration and especially the wonderful birthday cake made by Cousin Ina.

Part of the celebration was the invitation of the "Museum Alte Pfarrhäuser" to a sculpture symposium "Knock four times on Schilling's door" on 19 June. In the garden of the museum four artists made sandstone sculptures which were handed over to the city on 23 June. The celebration was followed by a special guided tour of the Johannes-Schilling-House.

On 17 June, people could see the sculptor alive in Rochlitz,

in the district of middle Saxony. For the third time since 2006 the city organised the living "Procession of Princes". The magnificent spectacle with 94 actors on foot and on horseback is based on the mural in the "Stallhof" (Stall courtyard) in Dresden representing princes and artists like Johannes Schilling. In Rochlitz it was Heiko Weber, the former director of the Mittweida Museum, who once again played the role of the sculptor – magnificently.

Helmuth von Schilling



## Dissertation about Johannes Schilling's drawings

For quite a long time the family association and the City of Mittweida have been looking around, but now they have found someone at last: The student of art history, Josephine Nordheim from Dresden, is willing to write a dissertation about Johannes Schilling.

On 3 March the student and Professor Dr. Henrik Kage, Professor of Art History at the Dresden University of Technology, with Dr. Sebastian Storz, chairman of the board of the architecture association "Forum für Baukultur in Dresden" (urban development) visited the "Alte Pfarrhäuser Museum" in Mittweida in order to get a first impression of Johannes Schilling's work.

The scholars were especially interested in the sculptor's portfolio with 1087 drawings: pen drawings, drafts and studies. On 3 March 1996 we had handed over the portfolio to the "Dresdner Kupferstichkabinett" (museum of prints and drawings) and on the occasion of the opening of the Johannes-Schilling-House in 2005 we brought it to the museum in Mittweida. Six years ago, Dr. Vogel, an art historian from Zurich, who is very much interested in the drawings, called them "a buried treasure".

When he handed the drawings over, the former chairman of the family association, Heinz Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt, said: "1087 children came home." Now the treasure is being retrieved and the children have obtained the qualification for university entrance. Eventually the museum will publish the dissertation as a book. When this happens you can say the children have grown up.

Helmuth von Schilling

# Relocation of the Schilling House?

Mittweida plans new exhibition place for the sculptor



Is the Schilling House in Mittweida which we have opened with great pomp on 4 June 2005, i.e. 13 years ago, threatened with closure? 101 members from ten countries had joined the 15th family reunion in order to attend the opening celebration and witness the moment when the ribbon was cut in front of the new museum (Schilling Courier No 5). Now just in the year of Johannes Schilling's 190th anniversary, Mayor Rolf Schreiber has new plans for the museum that is dedicated to the sculptor who was born in Mittweida. According to these plans the exhibits are supposed to move into a listed building from the 16th century, the former "Erbgericht" (hereditary law court), which is standing empty and is being refurbished at great effort and expense.

In this house the Schilling exhibition and the exhibits of the author Erich Loest who was also born in Mittweida and to whom another house was dedicated until now, are to be combined. The new museum will be used for literary readings, lectures and

temporary exhibitions as well.

Mayor Schreiber hopes that more people will visit the museum when both exhibitions are in the same building. One of the problems at the moment is that visitors of the Schilling House have to call at the main building of the municipal museum "Alte Pfarrhäuser" (Old Parsonages) in order to be admitted because the two museums are separate. This situation, however, will most likely not change because the new house is even further away from the main building.

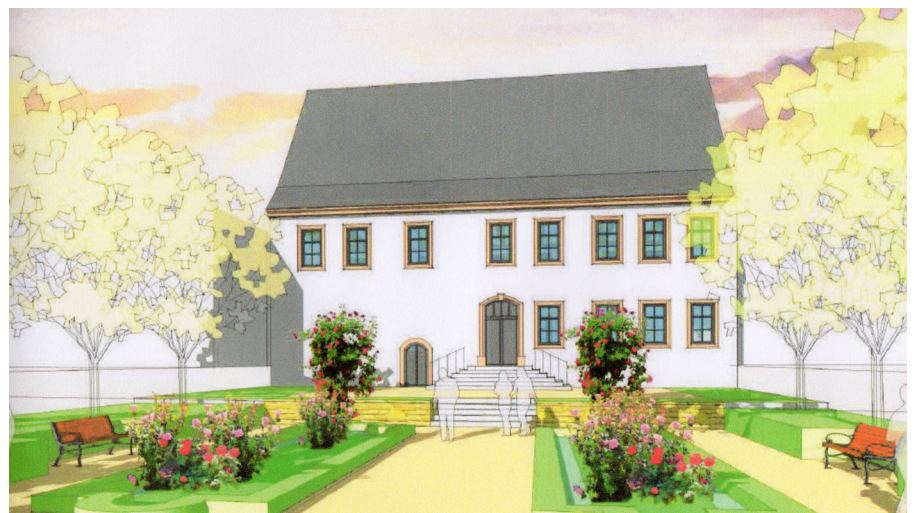
Last year the Johannes Schilling House had only 85 visitors

altogether. For the above-mentioned reasons, the new building will make no difference. It would certainly be more effective to increase advertising the exhibition in memory of Schilling, the first honorary citizen of the town.

The Schilling Association has strongly protested against the relocation of the exhibition. At a meeting in Mittweida on 2 March, the chairman and Johannes' great-granddaughter Ina Nickel made this quite clear to the mayor. The association is afraid that the extensive exhibition which is spread over three floors at the moment, will have to be reduced in size. Among the 84 exhibits there are numerous of the sculptor's plaster models, graphics and paintings as well as the furniture of his study with his writing desk. And our chairman explained that the Schilling exhibition will lose its special character after the relocation. Even though the mayor considers the possibility of calling the new building Johannes Schilling House.

But nothing has been decided as yet. And we still have time. The new building will not be finished before 2021.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Garden view of the planned museum*

# Shot in the Vicarage

Karl Schilling, victim of the Revolution in the Baltic countries 1905

This year will be a year of great celebrations in the Baltic countries. In 1918 they had gained their independence from Russia.

In 1905/06 the native people, influenced by the communists, had already started to rise against the foreign rule but the rebellion was brutally repressed. Revolutionary violence, caused by accumulated national and social tensions, had spread from Russia to the former Baltic German provinces.

The revolution in today's Estonia and Latvia was not only directed against the Tsarist autocracy but mainly against the Baltic German landowners and the country pastors whom the communist rebels thought to be supporters of the feudal system. Almost 200 German manor houses and vicarages were looted and burned. Numerous pastors were among the almost 80 murdered Germans. One of these pastors was Karl Schilling (1865-1905).

In 1795 Karl's great grandfather

Johann Friedrich Schilling (1766-1834), a theologian in Udersleben (Thuringia), had immigrated to the Baltic countries. He was one of the Martinides from the western branch, the so-called pastor's family. Karl grew up in Riga, today's capital city of Latvia, and studied theology in Dorpat/Tartu. In 1891 he became pastor of the Latvian parish of Nitau. His Baltic German origin gave rise to heavy protest by some of the Latvian parishioners. As the position of pastor in Nitau had been vacant for quite a while, many parishioners had converted to the Russian Orthodox State Church.

During his reign, Tsar Alexander III (1881-1894) started the strict Russification of the Baltic provinces which until then had been self-governed by the Baltic German Knights. St. Petersburg took advantage of the social discontent of the country people and drove them to convert to the



*Carl Schilling (1865 - 1905)*

Russian State Church by misleading promises. Since until 1905 the Russian law prohibited a resignation from the orthodox church, there was no way back. Nevertheless, Schilling tried to win the parishioners back and criticised the behaviour of the converts. Finally, the local Russian Orthodox priest accused Schilling of anti-orthodox propaganda. On 6 September 1899 the pastor was sentenced to four months of house arrest. During the revolution of 1905 the tensions increased. Many of those whose hostility Schilling had incurred took the opportunity to take revenge.

In March 1905 Karl Schilling received a threatening letter written in the Latvian language. It read as follows: "This is the first bell!" Furthermore, it contained the announcement of the sender's intention to shoot the Pastor on 31 March, unless he would promptly fulfil the resolutions of the Latvian Social Democratic Committee. This meant he was to waive his right to lease payments, maturities and any other payments.



*One of the destroyed manors*

And then everything happened extremely quickly. On Whitsun, 5 June, young rebels broke into the sacristy where Schilling was on his own. After locking him up they stormed the church. One of them delivered a fervent revolutionary speech from the pulpit. The others walked around the church carrying their red flags and threatening to shoot whoever dared to resist.

In July Karl received the second threatening letter: "This is the second bell. Be careful, the third will sound soon." On 21 August Schilling was away from home when the rebels tried to burn the vicarage. The wooden stairs were soaked with petroleum and set on fire. Fortunately, only three steps were caught by the fire before it extinguished and the lives of Schilling's wife and his two daughters, aged 5 years and 7 months were saved.

Finally, on 10 September two well dressed gentlemen entered the pastor's study. One of the strangers gave Schilling a letter. The theologian turned his back towards the man in order to open the letter near the window. It was written in the Latvian language, reading as follows: "You are a spy, you will have to die." Schilling asked whether they expected a reply. Instead of answering the stranger drew a revolver and fired five shots. Hit by the bullets he staggered and collapsed into his wife's arms. Ten minutes later Schilling died. His last words: "A stranger did this to me. It was beautiful to live, but it is also beautiful to die."

Both assassins escaped through the park behind the vicarage. In 1906 the Baltic German Knights called soldiers who were faithful to the tsar in order to re-establish peace and order. Brutal-

## Hand of a Schilling Statue cut off

"The Four Times of Day" group in an unsuitable place in Chemnitz

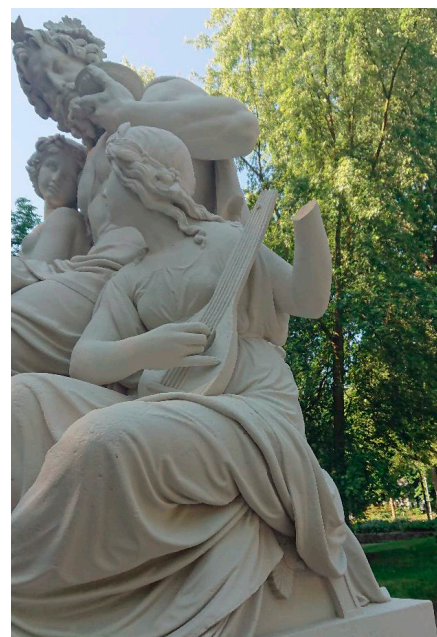
Right now, the inhabitants of Chemnitz are deeply concerned about the originals of one of the most important works of our sculptor Johannes Schilling, "The Four Times of Day" group, which can be seen in the "Schlossteichpark" (castellake park). Where to put the sculpture? An incident that happened this past spring has proved that the position in the park is unsuitable. Unknown persons have cut the left hand, which had held a lute, off one of the two girls of the statue "Evening". And again, graffiti sprayers were at work.

Originally the sandstone statues (see Schilling Courier No 11) which Schilling had made between 1866 and 1871 were supposed to stand on the "Brühlsche Terrasse" in Dresden. But in 1906 the City of Dresden decided to give the sculpture to the City of Chemnitz. The reason: People were afraid that the humid air near the river Elbe might damage the sandstone. And Chemnitz promised to put up the figures at a central place, the "Neustädter Markt". In 1928 however, the square was transformed into the "Theaterplatz" (theatre square) and eventually in 1936 the sculpture was put up in the "Schlossteichpark". The sculpture in Dresden is a bronze copy.

ly and bloodily the rebellion was suppressed by punitive expeditions and summary executions.

Helmuth von Schilling

after Wikipedia



*Middle, right:  
The remaining stump*

But not only because of the hooligans the park is an unsuitable place for the sandstone figures. The leaves of the trees and moss damage the work of art considerably. What can be done? The city council is at a loss. At the beginning of the year a referendum was suggested. There are three options, first: The sculpture is put up on the "Theaterplatz" again? This would cost millions of Euro. Second: Leave the sculpture in the park? Third: The sculpture goes into a museum. This would be the cheaper but worse alternative because the city would lose a considerable attraction. Some citizens of Chemnitz make it quite clear: "Schilling would turn in his grave". The referendum is still under discussion. But there is no fixed date yet.



## The Cup-Bearers' Joys and Sorrows

Written proof of fiefdom to the Freiherrn Schilling v. Canstatt

With good reason the Freiherrn Schilling v. Canstatt are proud of the fact that their ancestors were given the position of cup-bearer by the Duke of Swabia. Last year, however, they expressed doubts over the existence of this position in general.

In our archives I found the copy of the Imperial document confirming that a fiefdom had been granted. The original document is kept in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna. A slightly altered version reads as follows: "With this letter We, the Emperor Karl V, state publicly that Sebastian Schilling von Canstatt (1478-1531), beloved and loyal towards the Holy Empire brought us a letter from our beloved ancestor, the Emperor Maximilian, confirming the fact that his father Heinrich Schilling von Canstatt was given and held the position of cup-bearer."

Again, the emperor mentions the loyalty and the useful service Sebastian's parents used to render to the Roman Emperor and to the Duchy of Swabia. The position was given to Sebastian's brothers and their legitimate male heirs as well. Signed on 7 August 1514. Originally the position of cup-bearer was an important German office, among others including the

supervision of the wine cellars of the court and the vineyards. During the Middle Ages this position was very often given to court officials who thus became members of the nobility. Since the end of the Middle Ages this hereditary position was no longer connected with any duties. As a rule, the cup-bearer used to live in a small castle including a certain amount of land.

The following historical event gives interesting information about the elections in those times: In 1531 Ferdinand, the brother of Emperor Karl V, was to be elected Roman-German King and supposedly in accordance with his position of cup-bearer Sebastian Schilling v. Canstatt had the delicate mission to sign a guarantee of 40 000 Gulden given by the government of Württemberg to the Count Palatine Ludwig V in order to ensure his voting for Ferdinand. Sebastian was sent to Cologne in order to deliver the respective document. Frankfurt where the election usually took place suffered from the plague.

But the Count Palatine was angry. He wanted to see the money cash on his table right on the day of the election. Desperately Sebastian wrote to the Chamber and the National Committee of Württemberg



*The Habsburg Emperor and King Ferdinand I (1505-1564) after a painting by Hans Bocksberger the Elder, 1550*

asking them to send the money within ten days, otherwise he would be taken hostage until the money arrived.

On 5 January 1531 the new king was elected with five out of the seven electors' votes and despite the protest of the king of Saxony. Sebastian was held hostage until 17 January 1531, when he could deliver the residual 20 000 Gulden. He died in the same year.

Helmuth von Schilling





*Ekaterina Schilling and daughter at Alexander Schilling v. C's grave*

## Schilling Graves in St. Petersburg

Cousin Ekaterina's visit at the neglected cemetery

In the 2017 edition of the Schilling Courier we reported about Nikolai Ilinskiy, the alleged descendant of Paul Schilling v. Canstatt. In this article we mentioned Paul's grave in the Lutheran cemetery of St. Petersburg. Last year our cousin Ekaterina, her daughter Diana and Diana's boyfriend visited the cemetery of St. Petersburg. Right at the entrance they noticed an information board with directions to the graves of Paul, his brother Alexander and Alexander's wife Pauline at field no 2 on the south west side of

the cemetery. Ekaterina told us that the cemetery is badly kept and most of the graves are rather neglected. Her husband Klaus who has worked as a restorer for 37 years, recommends to treat the tomb stones with anti-moss spray in order to keep them free of lichen and moss for at least one year.

The inscription is hardly readable. Someone tried to improve the letters by overpainting them but made a mess on the north side. Fortunately, only half of the south side was finished.

Paul's brother Alexander was

born in 1787 and died in 1836. In the same year his wife Pauline nee v. Benckendorff died as well. His brother Paul died in the following year. Alexander was an Imperial Russian General.

The Lutheran burial ground, also known as the Decembrist Cemetery, is situated on Vasilievsky Island and is separated from the large Russian Orthodox Smolensky Cemetery by the Smolenska River. This cemetery contained the burials of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saint Katarina. Except Paul Schilling v. Canstatt, the famous ethnologist and true inventor of wireless telegraphy, many well-known Germans are buried her, such as Friedrich Maximilian Klinger, whose play "Sturm und Drang" gave the name to the whole literary period.

In 1919 the cemetery was nationalized and later it was closed. Some of the graves were moved to different locations. The place was desecrated and a fire station and a petrol station were built. The remaining gravesites have been declared historical monuments. The family association considers the possibility of finding a way to tend the Schilling graves.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Paul SvC's tombstone*



*The Lutheran Cemetery in St. Petersburg*



*Numerous spectators at the kettlebell lifting championship in Mainz*

## Kettlebell Lifting in the Main and Rhine Region

Bär Schilling v. Canstatt realised his idea

Our cousin Bär Schilling v. Canstatt from Nieder-Olm near Mainz, who in 2016 has won a World Championship in kettlebell lifting, is still active. As reported in the Schilling Courier No 16, the “lord of the kettlebell” has successfully participated in the Amateur World Championship in Dublin (Ireland) in the 95 kg class. Bär, who is a professional personal trainer, says that although there is a Federal Kettlebell Association in Germany (Bundesverband deutscher Kettlebell Sportler e.V.) there are hardly any regional competitions. This is why this year he planned such a championship in Mainz, the Rhine/Main Cup.

A great advertising campaign was started. Bär gave an interview on the regional television where he took the opportunity to emphasize the fact that his sport builds up strength, endurance and coordination. It keeps all muscles active and can still be practised in very old age because it

maintains physical fitness and health. Meanwhile even women started to practise kettlebell lifting albeit with lighter weights. Saturday 3 February 2018 was the big day. A fitness studio in the city of Mainz was the ideal place for the competition with the surprisingly high number of 61 sportswomen and sportsmen from Austria, Switzerland and numerous German federations participating. The oldest was 71 years of age.

You start in groups of four athletes (in Mainz there were 31 of

these groups). Each group is controlled by one referee who counts how many times the kettlebell was successfully lifted. Bär: “There was real competition atmosphere, accompanied by the enthusiastic shouts of the many spectators, present.” He goes on: “The two kettlebells weigh 24 kg each. During the ten minutes while you have to lift them overhead and, after a short stop, swing them between your knees and lift them overhead again, you are drenched in sweat.”

Lifting them according to the rules requires a lot of concentration and great mental toughness in order to get over the moment of complete exhaustion. You can compare this effort to a marathon, because it is absolutely necessary to stop thinking in order to be able to concentrate on yourself instead. The actual effort starts when you are just over halfway. Finally, Bär says: “Once you have managed to survive the first eight minutes the remaining two minutes do not seem that strenuous anymore. At this point you need the encouragement from your team and from the spectators. Then you can make a final effort.” As the spectators were absolutely enthusiastic, the event was a complete success.



*Bär SvC is giving an interview. The interviewer is trying to hold a kettlebell with beads of sweat on his forehead.*

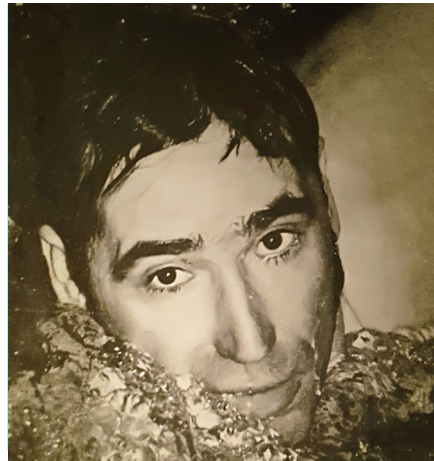
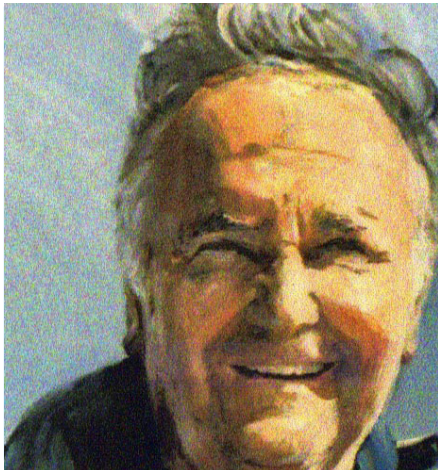


Eastern branch

## Obituaries

# Mourning for Cousin Olaf

Once a famous swimmer: World and European champion



The family association mourns the loss of Olaf Baron Schilling who died on 18 May 2018, aged 74. In his holiday home in Florida/USA Olaf suffered from sudden heart failure. He was transported home by plane, but never recovered.

When he was young, Olaf was a very successful swimmer, particularly in the 200 m freestyle discipline. The biggest successes of his career were the world records with the national swimming team over 4x100 m and 4x200 m freestyle relay in England in 1965. And in 1970 he won the gold medal at the European Championship in Barcelona in a team with his team mate Folkert Meeuw. Due to his success he was awarded the Silver Laurel Leaf by the Federal Minister of the Interior. Olaf's career, however, was affected by several setbacks. When in 1972 for instance he contracted malaria at an altitude training at a height of 2200 m in Addis Abeba, the capital city of Ethiopia, he was unable to attend the Olympics in Munich. And in 1968, a short time

before the Olympics in Mexico, he had a serious car accident. A pelvic fracture and a thoracic pressure forced him to have a three months' break. And yet the 200 m freestyle specialist reached the sixth place in the national relay team. Olaf lived with his parents in Wuppertal and trained with the "Wuppertaler Wasserfreunde", at that time one of the best German swimming clubs under the management of his father Georg.

Due to Olaf's successes several US universities were interested in the German swimmer. Eventually in 1966 he accepted a scholarship from Villanova University (Pennsylvania) where he studied economics and swam together with the legendary Mark Spitz. Olaf worked in Dinslaken, Germany, in the management of a steel trading company. After the restoration of Estonia's independence in 1992 he often visited the land of his ancestors. He took particular care of Seydell/Seidla Manor that had been in the possession of his grandfather Hans Baron

Schilling until the expropriation in 1919/1920. He had the roof renewed. Unfortunately the manor house is empty and decaying. We will miss Olaf very much.

Helmuth von Schilling and Michael Frisch (former swimmer in the "Wasserfreunde Wuppertal" swimming club)

## William Girard died in England

After a long illness, on 14 February 2018 our cousin "Billy" Girard died in England, aged 82. After his retirement the parson worked for several social organisations. And for 10 years he has stepped in for a good friend who was also a parson, held church service and looked after his house during his vacation.

William's grandfather, Carl von Schilling, was the last owner of Seinigal Manor in Estonia. As reported in our Schilling Courier No 17, William's brother Peter who died in 2014, left the association a considerable sum on the condition that we put up a plaque in Carl's honour. According to his wish we unveiled the plaque in St. Petri's church in Estonia. Last year the chairman of our association met William somewhere near London in order to receive his grandfather's golden cigarette case carrying the engraved signature of the Russian Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich. We handed the case over to the Baltic Museum in Lüneburg.

Helmuth von Schilling

# A stone has plenty to tell

Caspar (V.) Schilling had to face hard times



*The exposed porphyry stone, incised lines overwritten with chalk for clarity*

In front of the church in Seelitz lies half-sunken into the soil the tombstone of my ancestor Caspar (V) Schilling who died on 28 March 1648, aged 70. The red porphyry stone from Rochlitz is in considerably good shape and even after hundreds of years the inscription is clearly legible. We get much information about him from the court records and the annual accounts of the town of Rochlitz in Saxony, south of Leipzig. Born in 1579, he was the son of Caspar (IV) Schilling, district court alderman (in German Saube/Landschöppe) from Stöbning, and his second wife Ursula

Albrecht, daughter of a citizen of Rochlitz. He had several siblings, presumably he was the youngest. The office of district court alderman, though in 1579 a traditional office, was already in the process of decline. In his position as district court judge his great grandfather Caspar (II) had represented the sovereign in all legal matters. Since 1577, however, the office could only be held by a legally trained judge instead of a lay judge, as the lay judge was not considered suitable any longer. Towards the end of the 16th century the number of reprimands and punishments of members of the

families of aldermen increased. Eventually Caspar's father was twice reprimanded, the first time for fighting with his brother and the second time for the attempt of tax evasion in the year 1582. After this incident he seems to have died; in any case, in 1584 his mother Ursula, a remarried widow, died. The stepfather did not inherit he alderman's farm but received a rather small inheritance only. The farm was henceforth managed by a farmer who presumably became the children's guardian as well. For the first time in 1599 Caspar's name appeared in an official document when he tried to hide a small box with 80 Gulden, which had belonged to his mother, from his siblings. He failed, though. Presumably the manor was in a bad condition. In 1599 he was obliged to pay his siblings their share of the estate. As it was Caspar who bought the farm he obviously thought he was - if not legally but at least morally - entitled to keep part of the inheritance. Despite all this he was able to take over his property in the year 1600. He received the more or less symbolic fief from the hands of the alderman and after taking the oath he was admitted to their community. There is hardly any information about the following decades. In 1618 the foundations of Europe were shaken by something terrible: The Thirty Years' War: At first it seemed to pass by Stöbning and the Schillings but in the end the family was hit particularly hard. In 1632 Wallenstein's soldiers raging in the district brought the plague that killed many members of Caspar's family. In 1638 Caspar's farm was hit several times.

There is a rather prosaic entry in the court record book: “Due to the ongoing war the farm suffered from two fire damages and the loss of grain, cattle and other food supplies... but apart from all this they had already enough problems by the warlords, compulsory levies and other contributions.” These words hardly describe the unimaginable and extreme hardship and suffering. At that time his son was already in charge. In the year 1638, when the war was still raging, Caspar, whose wife had died in 1636, decided to settle his estate in favour of his descendants. Eventually he handed the farm over to his children. His son Caspar was to pay off his siblings, each had to get the same amount. Thus, the farm remained undivided and each member of the family was able to build up a new existence. Caspar (VII), his son, however, was not able to make the annual payments since he was financially ruined by the war. But the family settled the matter amicably, presumably influenced by their father who had not forgotten his own financial problems when he had taken over the farm in 1599/1600. In these circumstances of extreme hardship, the siblings decided to waive the greater part of their share. The inscription on his tombstone, clumsily but evenly written, runs as follows: “honourable judge and district county alderman”. His message to posterity is taken from the Bible, Psalm 90:10: “The days of our years are threesome years and ten; and if by reason of strength they fourscore years...” If you continue reading in the Bible you will understand the meaning: “...yet it

is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (King James Version).  
Eric Bawor

## “About the “Saupen” (lay judges)

Saupen” (from the Sorbian-Slavic language – Zupan) i.e. lay judges in Saxony. Usually they were the owners of one of the 16 farms in the villages in the area around Rochlitz Castle who had no financial obligations towards the sovereign. They formed their own community. The office is more or less comparable to that of today’s lay judges or justice of peace. Apart from these duties they had to be present at executions, fulfil police duties and perform some kind of autopsy in case of homicide. They were messengers of the sovereign, had to pass on commands or messages for the landed gentry. While the sovereign’s wife was staying in Rochlitz they had to protect her. This traditional position was not abandoned before 1847.

## Our website

Again, we would like to draw your attention to our website. Our web address is:

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

or

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

Here you find every edition of the Schilling Courier since 2001, many pictures of the family reunions, the latest news of the association and detailed information about the history of the three branches. We would also like to remind you that you need a password in order to have access to the private members’ area. Members without a password can contact our web-master Christian Schilling von Canstatt: [webmaster@schilling-association.org](mailto:webmaster@schilling-association.org)

## Schilling-Courier

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**p.3:** Kai Weber (two top), Crystal MacKenzie (bottom). **p. 4:** Sibylle Karsch (top), Heiko Weber (bottom). **p. 5:** Heiko Weber (top), City of Mittweida (bottom). **p. 6:** Wikipedia (top), archive (bottom).

(top), Christian Andreis (bottom). **p. 7:** Michael Brix. **p. 8:** Internet. **p. 9:** Ekaterina Schilling.

**p. 10:** Südwestfunk. **p. 11:** Carl-Schirren-Gesellschaft **p. 12:** Eric Bawor. **p.14:** Hans-Peter Koll.

# Junker Schilling: noble and strict

Epitaph for important knights of the Rhineland line

Our member Bernd Schilling has intensively occupied himself with the Rhineland line of our family. It is proven that its members are descendants of Burgmann Heinrich von Lahnstein (1166-1221). Bernd found out that once these Schillings had substantial property in Andernach, Nickenich and Kottenheim in the Rhineland as well as in Bad Hönningen on the other side of the river (where they owned Arenfels Castle). After 1850, at least three graves of the Schillings were destroyed due to restoration or alteration, such as the grave of Elisabeth Schilling in Kempenich. In the parish church of Kottenheim you can see the epitaph for Junker Konrad Schilling of Lahnstein. It is 2.10 metres high and 0.96 metres wide. Konrad was an important man who is still respected today. The inscription on his tombstone: “noble and strict Junker” characterises him as a law-abiding and incorruptible man. He died on 8 March 1539. His date of birth is not mentioned. His parents’ names are not mentioned on the tombstone, only their coat of arms is engraved. Presumably Konrad died rather early, possibly his widow Otta von Liebenstein remarried. On the left side of the Junker’s head you can see the coat of arms of the family: three red heads of lions with golden crowns. In his book about funerary art in the area of Mayen-Koblenz (Das Epitaph des Junkers Konrad Schilling von Lahnstein in Kottenheim) Wolfgang Schmidt considers the tombstones of the Schillings in Kottenheim, Andernach and Kempenich as of less



*Junker Konrad Schilling*

importance. In his opinion “Junker” means that the Schillings were only members of the lower nobility. Bernd, however, points out that the tombstones in Kottenheim and Andernach show the deceased persons in magnificent armours, masterpieces of forging at that time and definitely very expensive. When the tombstone was made, the deceased person was only shown in armour in order to demonstrate that he had been of high nobility. At that time people used firearms already. In addition to that, several other engravings on the tombstone can be interpreted as proof of the deceased persons’ great importance. The praying hands holding a rosary indicate clearly that they were

Roman Catholic as at that time the Reformation had already begun. Eventually the rosary is an indication of wealth since usually a rosary was made from genuine gems and therefore very expensive. The epitaph for Ritter Daniel Schilling in the “Liebfraendom” in Andernach is very similar to that for Konrad. Daniel (about 1448 to 1541) was mayor and alderman in Andernach. In association with the other noble families he wanted to increase the power of the Schillings and consolidate his dominion between Kottenheim and Koblenz. He was not successful, though, as all his children died before him. Daniel was over 90 years old when he died. Most of the male descendants of the Rhineland line were either priests or knights of a religious order and therefore without children. Eventually the inheritance fell to the von der Leyen family through marriage. Under their name the archive of the Ehrenbreitstein Fortress (once in the possession of the Schillings) holds many of the Schilling records.

Bernd Schilling  
and Helmuth von Schilling

## Family Reunion 2020 in Lahnstein

Our next family reunion will be held from 24 June to 26 June 2020 in Lahnstein. We will visit Lahneck Castle, presumably our ancestral home, and go on a boat trip along the river Rhine. After the general meeting on Sunday 26 June, we will go to Andernach and Kottenheim in order to visit all the places that remind us of the members of the Rhineland line.

