

# Schilling-Courier



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

**News of the Schilling Association e.V. with annual report 2019**

## Family Reunion Next Year? Same program end of June 2021

Unfortunately, this year's family reunion had to be postponed until next year because of Corona. It will be from 25 June until 27 June with an additional programme until 30 June. The reunion seemed to become very successful. 118 members had already registered before mid-March, 28 from foreign countries such as USA, Canada, Russia, England Switzerland, Finland, Czech Republic and Spain.

As the programme seems to have been interesting enough, we will leave it as it is in 2021. Regarding the death anniversary of our ancestor Heinrich Schilling, Burgmann of Lahneck, to whose memory the reunion is dedicated, the year 2021 is even better because he died in the year 1221 and not 1220, i.e. exactly 800 years ago.

Nevertheless, it was hard to postpone the reunion: After the war, the Schilling Association was refounded in 1954, our first first part first



family reunion was in 1965. A postponement had never been necessary until this year. Though at that time the reunions were even held every two years. Next year will be our 20th reunion.

On 25 June we will meet for an informal welcoming dinner at the "Wyndham Garden" Hotel in Lahnstein. On the next day the members will be split into several groups in order to visit our alleged ancestral castle Lahneck. Since we hope there as many

participants as we had expected this year, the guided tour will have to be in several groups. While you are waiting you are welcome to practise archery with the help of our experts Hubertus and Ute von Schilling.

In the afternoon, there will be a boat tour on the river Rhine with coffee and cake and a festival dinner buffet on board. After the general meeting of our association on Sunday morning we will start the

part of our additional programme: a bus tour on the traces of the descendants of the Rhineland branch.

On the next day we will go on a sightseeing tour to Rudesheim where we will visit the Niederwalddenkmal, created by Johannes Schilling. The reunion will end on 30 June.

The final decision on the family reunion will be made in December, when the official invitation and program will be sent out. Following the traces of our Rhineland branch becomes more and more interesting. Some of those Schillings who had stayed in the Rhineland had become rather famous in the area. And these were not only Junker Konrad Schilling in Kottenheim (died 1539) and Ritter Daniel in Andernach who had been the mayor of the town.

Our member Bernd Schilling who has done research and has eventually initiated this trip, has some new information. It seems possible that this Schilling line is related to the advocates of the von Panau family, i.e. to two prince-abbots of Maria Laach Abbey in the Eifel region. Today Panau is a small district in the municipality of Neustadt an der Wied in the Westerwald. The monks of Maria Laach had certain rules for electing the abbot, twice they chose a member of the Panau family.

Richardt Schütz von Holtzhausen, the advocate of Panau, was married to Maria Schilling of Lahnstein. On 15 February 1597



Maria Laach Abbey

at Gernsheim Castle, the estate of Werner Schilling of Lahnstein's father, the former minister of the Cathedral of Worms, was divided between their son Kuno Schütz von Holzhausen and Werner himself. By the way, Maria von Holzhausen was Werner's sister.

Later there was a dispute between Kuno and one of Werner Schilling's daughters, Katharina von der Leyen, about certain rights concerning Arenfeld Castle, situated near Bad Honningen. The castle had been in the posses-

sion of the advocates of Panau for quite a long time already. Eventually we are related by marriage to the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. At that time the Rhineland Schillings played an important role in the region. Though recent numerous documents were discovered which were sealed by both the advocates of Panau and the Schillings of Lahnstein.

Helmuth von Schilling

Bernd Schilling





## A Schilling in Adenauer's Family Home

Painting of Daniel in the former chancellor's home

The Konrad-Adenauer-Haus in Rhöndorf on the River Rhine south of Bonn, the former home of the first chancellor of the Republic of Germany and now a Foundation Museum, offers a surprise: a painting depicting a member of the Schilling family: Daniel Schilling of Günzburg in Bavaria (1566-1625), married to Catharina von Merl (1583-1641), widow of Johann Mack, former secretary (Kammersekretär) in the Electorate of Cologne.

Before Adenauer became

chancellor, he was mayor of Cologne. Obviously, he enjoyed collecting paintings of famous citizens of Cologne in his house.

In 1999 the paintings of the married couple were exhibited at the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum in Cologne. The exhibition was dedicated to the painter of portraits and still-lives, Gottfried von Wedig (1583-1641) who in 1624 had created the oil-on-oak-panel paintings. They are extensively described in the yearbook of the museum.

According to the yearbook, as a young man Daniel Schilling of Günzburg became the secretary of Duke Wilhelm V of Bavaria. In 1601 he moved to the Lower Rhine region where he worked as privy councillor and assistant (Koadjunkt) of Ferdinand of Bavaria (1577-1650), later Archbishop of Cologne. In 1609 he was appointed as "Hofkammerrat" (council of the court chamber) and secretary and in 1611 he became "Zollschreiber" (customs clerk) of the Electorate of Cologne in Linz.

The paintings (95 and 96x74 cm) show the couple's coat of arms. Daniel Schilling's coat of arms in the top right depicts a unicorn crowned with a helmet, with a crown above and another unicorn between two white and red striped horns.

Up to now we assumed this coat of arms to belong to our Thuringian Frankenhausen line. This, however, is unproven. It is interesting that the coat of arms of the Kal-



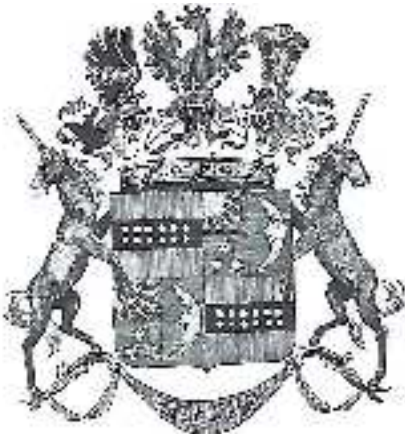
*Daniel Schilling*



*Catharina Schilling, geb. Merl*



*Wappen Schilling Günzburg*



*Wappen Schilling Kallikül*

likül branch, i.e. one of the branches of the Frankenhausen line, is carried by two unicorns. Have the Günzburg Schillings been in contact with this branch and did they copy the unicorn? Moreover, the family of Daniel's wife came from Koblenz which is close to the Schillings' ancestral home. Perhaps this is why Daniel realised that he was **part of a large family**. The painting depicts Daniel's left hand gripping the partly gilded, artistically forged sword, a traditional attribute of nobility. Supposedly Schilling had joined the noble class by marriage. This coat of arms, however, was meant to prove his hereditary nobility.

Helmuth von Schilling

# Obituary

## Blacksmith Schilling died

Gerhard died in Suhl/Thuringia, aged 95. At. Elus, speris c

The family association says farewell to Gerhard Schilling who died in Suhl in Thuringia on 17 December 2019, aged 96 years. Gerhard has been a faithful member of our association for years. Even in old age he was still active in the Schilling forge. In 1992 the city of Suhl declared the forge a technical monument.

On his 85th birthday Gerhard said: "Trust yourself, get things done, don't bury your head in the sand and stay upright though this may not always be the easiest way out." The Schillings have worked in Suhl for 400 years. In 1599 Martin Schilling became partner in an ore mine in Zella near Suhl and in 1603 he moved to Suhl. Since then there is a large branch of the Schilling family in the town. In 1862 Gerhard's great grandfather, master blacksmith Ernst Friedrich Schilling, had started his own drop forging business in Suhl. The forge was very successful and stayed with the family for three generations until 1946.

Eventually the Soviet military dismantled the forge taking away 96% of the whole business. With great energy Gerhard's father Ernst repaired the hammers that were actually designed for scrap, and operated the forge together with his son, until in 1972 it was expropriated by the GDR. 60 people had worked in the forge until it was finally closed. After the German reunification the family

struggled and succeeded in getting their property back from the Treuhand (trust agency). In 1992 the forge was turned into a museum and the era of the Schilling forge – at least the active period – ended.

With the help of the city of Suhl they succeeded in supplying the building with a new roof, according to the regulations for historical monuments. Eventually the forge was rescued from decay. Gerhard committed himself to look after the technical monument and develop it further, a commitment he happily fulfilled.

Since 1994 Gerhard organised the traditional blacksmiths' festival in Suhl. On one of these occasions a couple of years ago he enthusiastically said: "This makes me feel appreciated. It was the right decision to preserve the forge." In 2012 the 150th anniversary of the forge was celebrated.

On the occasion of a family reunion in Thuringia in 1996, we eventually visited Suhl. We were about 100 people and Gerhard gave us a hearty welcome. We were able to admire the interesting exhibits. Specially for his visitors he operated the still functioning steam hammer weighing 4000 kg, an experience, none of us will ever forget. Especially our young members enthusiastically helped to make "Schilling coins".

Gerhard's wife Brigitte nee Lange had already died on 17 September 2017. The couple had two daughters, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren. The old brick building from 1912, Gerhard's so dearly loved forge, will remain a museum.

Helmuth von Schilling



*Gerhard Schilling in front of his forge*





Southern Branch

## Mourning Roselind

She died in the USA/ Interesting family documents

Our family association mourns Roselind Schilling-Killeen who died in Long Beach, USA, on 30 January 2020, aged 80 years. At the same time, we are deeply grateful because Roselind's brother Thomas von Schilling gave us a whole lot of historically extremely interesting documents relating to the Californian family which had been had been in her possession, such as legal documents, old letters and pictures.



*Roselind Schilling-Killeen*

Roselind's and Thomas' father was Thomas Worthington (1899-1961), her grandfather Charles Robert (1860-1925), great grandfather William (1835-1914) and great great grandfather James Ernest Schilling v. Canstatt (1803-1876) who in 1849 had emigrated from London to North America and was married to Louisa Morgan. He is the ancestor of the Californian branch. Like one of the other Schilling Canstatt branches he first lived in Virginia. During the American Civil War (1861-1865) the members of the family found themselves caught between the frontlines,

since their sons refused to join the Confederate army. Eventually they fled to West Virginia, where James Ernest died in 1876. His widow Louisa moved to Los Angeles. One of her four sons, William, the great grandfather of Thomas and Roselind, stayed in California where he was an extremely successful merchant. He even bought the isle of San Miguel. From his two marriages he had 16 children. One of Thomas Worthington Schilling's sisters was Marion (1896-1984), in her first marriage married to Edward Lutz and mother of Bill who died in 2013. He called himself Schilling v. Canstatt-Lutz and was very much involved in the activities of the family association. In memory of his mother Bill and his wife Evelyn established the Marion-Memorial-Foundation for the benefit of the young members of our association. Bill who had inherited the historically valuable documents from his mother and her cousin Alberta Schilling, had given them to Thomas and Roselind. Among the papers there are photos of portraits of James Ernest and his wife Louisa. The original portraits (76x90 cm) were painted in 1840 and are currently hanging in the house of Sally Schilling-Wurth, a younger sister of Thomas and Roselind. She emphasises that the portraits are the property of the association and agrees to hand them over.



*James Ernest SvC*



*Louisa SvC née Morgan*

James Ernest is the son of Georg Friedrich Freiherr Schilling v. Canstatt (1762-1843) who was born in Karlsruhe, Germany. Initially he emigrated to America in 1787, but later he moved to London. There was an article about him in our last edition. Roselind has left behind her husband Philipp Killeen, three of her four children and seven grandchildren. One daughter died in 2015 already. When she was young, Roselind was a great sportswoman, who has successfully completed the New York Marathon once and the Long-Beach-Marathon twice. We have handed the documents over to our Schilling archive which is now stored in the "Alte Pfarr-

# Castle School After All

Heitersheim signed contract with investors

Finally, the die has been cast. The Maltese castle in Heitersheim in the Markgräfler Land region in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, was sold. There was an article in last year's edition of our Schilling Courier.

On 14 February 2020 the contract between the owner of the castle, the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul in Freiburg and the Castle Society was signed. The Castle Society represents private investors who want to turn the castle into an exclusive private boarding school.

Heitersheim Castle played an important role in the history of our southern branch. After all this was where the Imperial Prince Georg Schilling v. Canstatt (born 1487) resided. In 1546 he had been appointed Grand Prior of the Langue

of Germany of the Order of St. John by Emperor Karl V. When in 1291 the Order was driven out of the Holy Land and later out of Rhodes by the Arabs, the Order moved to Malta in 1524. Since then they call themselves Order of Malta. Nowadays there is a Protestant order of St. John as well.

On 2 February 55% of the citizens of Heitersheim opted for the privatisation of the castle, though in October 2019 the county council had voted against it. The citizens' initiative of Heitersheim including our family association who had joined them last year, is disappointed, because we all fought against the privatisation.

But the contract still gives the city of Heitersheim, also called Maltese town, numerous rights: Public access to the castle cour-

tyard and the open space areas, the museum will stay open and the castle can still be used for events such as public concerts. For quite a long time the Order has tried to sell the castle and it will stay in their possession until the construction works will start, i.e. presumably next year. The remaining 49 Sisters of Charity, aged over 80 years each, continue to live in the historical building until the year 2023.

One of the members of the southern branch, seeing the positive aspect of the development, wrote: "The Imperial Prince Georg, a fighter, was a cosmopolitan and very well-educated man. An international school can focus on these qualities: courage, foresight and the determination to reach decisions".

Helmuth von Schilling and  
Badische Zeitung



Hopefully the group of trumpeters of the Maltese town of Heitersheim will further exist. This picture was taken in the castle courtyard on the occasion of our family reunion in 2002.



## New Edition of „Yellow Lisi“

Captivating memories of Elsbeth Baronin v. Schilling

The so-called “yellow Lisi”, the memoirs of Elsbeth (called Lisi) Baronin von Schilling nee v. Gruenewald (1884-1987), bound in yellow, have been reissued and appear again under the title “Vom Zarenreich zur Bundesrepublik 1884-1982. Erinnerungen und Lebensweg einer Siebenundneunzigjährigen.”

Iska, the wife of Lisi’s grandson Hans-Wolfgang Baron v. Schilling worked together with her husband on the new edition of the book, which was first published in 1982/83 and is now out of print. The new book has 260 pages, format A 5, and costs 10 Euro plus postage. It can be purchased from Hans-Wolfgang and Iska: Denglerstr. 76, 53173 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, phone:0049228-36036588, email iskavonschilling@gmail

Especially Lisi’s numerous great grandchildren are looking forward to the new edition but I am certain that all Schillings are interested in her memoirs. After all they enable us to become part of a period of almost 100 years with many political and social changes. It is impressing and fascinating to learn how much Lisi’s life was influenced by the significant historical events of the last century.

Lisi was born in Beresovka in Russia, close to the river Volga where her father was the owner of a small estate. In 1887 he sold the estate and moved with his family to Reval (now Tallinn) where he worked as a lawyer. This was where Lisi spent her childhood. In 1901 she began her studies of education sciences at the university of Hannover. In

husband died of pneumonia. In 1904 Lisi had been invited to the magnificent reception of the last Russian Tsar Nikolaus II with the tsarina and his successor, an ailing baby suffering from haemophilia. At that time Estonia was a governate of the Russian empire.

Eventually the situation in the country changed radically: in 1905/1906 due to the violent riots and finally in 1917 by the Bolshevic Revolution in Russia, which both caused a terrible civil war in Estonia.

Eventually other tragic events followed: the confiscation of their estate after Estonia had become independent in 1918 which left them with only a small piece of land called “Restgut”. Due to the resettlement in 1939 they had to move to the province of Posen in Poland which was annexed by Nazi Germany at the time. And then World War II raged in Europe taking the lives of five of her six sons. In January 1945



*Lisi on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with her grandchildren and their spouses (3 grandchildren and 7 inlaws are missing)*



she had to flee to the west. Her trek she had to flee to the west. Her trek, however, was overtaken,



Lisi in 1917

by the Russians which naturally caused feelings of fear and horror.

Finally, Lisi succeeded in crossing the “green border” to the western zones of Germany. With her remaining children, her daughters Gretlies and Rose-Marie, she lived at various places and finally in a retirement home in Bad Godesberg. This is where in 1979 she celebrated her 95th birthday together with two daughters, three daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, 18 grandchildren with 14 spouses and 28 great grandchildren. Gneomar, her last son, had died in 1977.

In her memoirs Lisi writes: “When I saw the festive dinner table, my thoughts went back to my six sons. Though I missed them I felt deep gratitude. I had so wonderfully been guided and in spite of all sufferings I had the opportunity to be in the middle of a large family.” Meanwhile the family consists of 134 members, all partners included. Lisi was even able to celebrate her 100th birthday. She died a few weeks before her 103rd birthday.

Many documents about Estonia, maps and pictures of her family accompany her impressing memoirs. A drafted plan of Jürgensberg manor is of special interest, after all this house has considerably influenced an important part of her life. After World War II Jürgensberg rapidly fell into decay and in 1991 it was finally demolished by the responsible collective farm. Only one granite

block has remained. It was found when the house was demolished and had obviously supported its foundation. The very well-kept burial ground is still existing, there is a stone in memory of her sons who were killed in the war.

In the new edition the pictures were integrated according to the text. Furthermore, pictures of all of Lisi’s eight children in adulthood were found and included in the bookbook.cluded in the book.

## “Winter Church” In New Splendour

### Renovation of the vestry in Järva-Jaani is completed

Last year the renovation of the winter church in St. Johannis (Järva Jaani) in Estonia was completed, right at the beginning of the winter season (see picture). As we wrote in last year’s Schilling Courier, the family association has financially supported the renovation of the vestry. St. Johannis once belonged to Jürgensberg Manor, the home of “Lisi” Baronin v. Schilling (see report about “Gelbe Lisi”).

The winter church is necessary because the central nave of the parish church cannot be heated. Therefore, it can hardly be used during the extremely cold Estonian winter season. Nevertheless, a well-attended Christmas service where even the Estonian Archbishop Urmas Viilma was present, was broadcast from the church in 2019.

Helmuth von Schilling



*View of the winter church*



## Masterpiece: The Church Ceiling

Last year I promised to continue to tell the story of the painter's life. During the last months I discovered some very interesting details which presumably need further research. Since I have meanwhile increased my knowledge of the history of art, I would like to correct two things I wrote in last year's edition: Adam was not influenced by Italian but almost exclusively by Dutch-Flemish art and there was a mistake in the inscription below the painting in Skäßchen: Adam is the third (adult) man from the left, his wife Sara is the third from the right.

We have left the painter in the year 1594, he had just got married and had bought a house in Freiberg. According to the accounts of the town council Adam had risen to the level of mastery in his guild on 12 July 1594, eventually he was at the height of his career. In the same year he got the best offer he ever had: He was commissioned to paint the ceiling of St. Nikolai's Church in Geithain. He was generously paid. His salary actually equalled the price of a single-family house.

I will not give you a detailed description of the ceiling though it is one of the most important examples of Mannerism in Saxony. It is a unique combination of blue basic colour, coloured borders, biblical scenes and the circular dance of the apostles – still an impressive symbol of Christian culture -, based on the work of the painter Karel van Mander. He found it hard to produce a bet-

ter painting than this masterpiece, therefore the following years were less profitable. Around the year 1600 there were lots of artists working in Freiberg, some of them in the second or third generation and simply more popular. Eventually it is hardly surprising that many paintings that were recently attributed to Adam, are outside Freiberg and only less important.

Obviously, his marriage was more productive than his work. We definitely know of five children, born between 1593 and 1607. They were called Adam, Sara, Johannes, Eva and Alexander.

Two of his paintings are connected to a special story. In 1599 the plague struck the area, including Finsterwalde. 400 people died, one of them was Ursula Koßwig, his wife's grandmother. At this time his family lived in Skäßchen near Großenhain; perhaps they thought they might be spared from the dreaded disease in the fresh country air. While they were in the country, he made the panel painting that I told you about in last year's edition, which is still in the parsonage of the little village.

Presumably when the disease was over in the winter of the year 1599/1600, Adam travelled to Finsterwalde where he made the epitaph for Ursula Koßwig and her husband Bartholomäus, the former mayor of the town who had died in 1576.

Adam painted the married couple beside their children and his father-in-law. Above this he painted an excellent copy of a Dutch



*Sounding board above the pulpit in Nicolai's Church in Geithain*

engraving. The chosen motif is remarkable. The engraving shows the Annunciation to Mary with Prophets and Psalmist of the Old Testament in the foreground, the reference to Mary's pregnancy.

The painting tells us that the happy announcement, that is Jesus himself, will lead to the Garden of Eden. Mary is carrying it in her womb as was prophesied in the Old Testament. This personification represents the sinful earthly life of mankind. There are stairs leading upwards from the Prophets to Mary who is seated against a wall, behind her is the Garden of Eden. The wall symbolises the transition from life to death. Above her are the Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit and the angels symbolising the divine will. And Mary? Necessarily she symbolises the church. Naturally the theme seems appropriate for an epitaph. The divine promise leads sinful human beings to true faith which means they hear the redemptive message and find a new life in the Garden of Eden. In fact, the Theme is more than catholic,

this didactic approach is rather Counter-Reformist and Marianic. And underneath a strictly Lutheran parson painted by a parson's son.

Additionally you can read the following sentence in the book "Beschreibende Darstellung der älteren Baudenkmäler des Kreises Liebenwerda" (1910, p. 210): „It is surprising that there is no workshop painting by Cranach from the time of the Reformation, not even a small one, though Wittenberg was so close.”

Meanwhile it is generally known that very few 17th century artists created their own motifs. In fact, it was common to copy paintings or engravings. In that way, the artists were able to fulfil their commissions successfully but more quickly and consequently they could accept more of them. Or in other words: Economically personal creativity was unreasonable, because the employers paid poorly. This applied to Adam Schilling as well.

Thus, he met the taste of the period that was not concerned about any particular denomination. The fact that he was more influenced by Flemish and Dutch painters than by the local painter Cranach was probably due to the broader variety of painting contents compared to the paintings produced in Wittenberg. Following such considerations Adam did probably not travel to Lower Lusatia in the year 1600 for one commission only.

Following his traces in various churches in order to find more of his paintings, I discovered the magnificently painted pulpit in Stolzenhain/Röder where I did not

only find Adam's style of painting but his signature "A.S.F." and the date, the year "1600" as well. I made this successful discovery on 23 March 2020, in the middle of the Corona crisis, which was more than a glimmer of hope. His signature is rather well known but due to the fact that our painter was completely forgotten no-one knew whose it was. Meanwhile my realization was confirmed by the historian of church art Bönnisch from Burg and by the historian Dr. Ernst. What makes the pulpit interesting is the painting

of the Trinity on the inside of the sounding board. Its interpretation was copied from the same engraving as the painting of the Trinity on the ceiling of the church in Geithain and the sketch of a painting on the exterior side of the church in Finsterwalde which is to be seen on the painting of his father. It gives a deep insight into our ancestor's way of working.

Now that we have reached the 17th century, we leave our painter for the moment. Next year we will find out more about his life and work. Erik Bawor



Epitaph for Enka Koßwig in Finsterwalde



## What else happened



### Commemorating the end of war

Langeoog honours the gardener of peace Jürgen von Schilling

When this year on May 8 the end of World War II, 75 years ago, was remembered, our thoughts immediately went to the North Sea Island of Langeoog. Our longtime member Dr. med. Jürgen Baron von Schilling has been so committed to the friendship with the former war opponent Soviet Union/Russia that he became the island's gardener of peace. For this reason, he is still a highly respected person on Langeoog. Jürgen is honorary citizen of the community and bearer of the Federal Cross of Merit. And on the island's dune cemetery, which he has transformed from a deserted place into a park landscape, the main path bears his name. The "Island Baron" as he was affectionally called, died 12 years ago. He was born 112 years ago in Riga, then Russia, now the capital of Latvia. Next to the memorial which

commemorates the 326 German-Baltics who died in a retirement home on the island, including his father, his great work was the dignified design of the memorial for 113 dead members of the red army. The Russians had been taken to Langeoog during World War II to work at the former air base of the Luftwaffe and died there miserably.

The care of this burial place, the friendship with Russia and the preservation of peace were always particularly close to his heart. On his gravestone the "peace gardener" had the words written: "The Russian dead are also our dead." More than 25 million inhabitants of the former Soviet Union lost their lives in World War II.

Jürgen provided for an enclosure and demarcation of the gravesites, which were moved to the edge of the dune ceme-

tery after the war by the Bund Deutscher Kriegsgräberfürsorge and which finally received sandstone steles with the names of the dead in 1953. The demarcation of the place was very close to Jürgen's heart. In his memoirs he writes: "About 1973 I saw people in swimming trunks and bikini standing at the gravestones in the remote Russian cemetery. Fortunately, a phone call to the community resulted in the fencing of the ground. I myself was allowed to push up the wall around the Russian cemetery ment to display a few



Jürgen Baron von Schilling

with a huge bulldozer and could then start a large planting. Plus, the domain wardens sent me ten tons of harbour silt from the dike breach. The North American Colorado firs grew magnificently behind these wind protection walls." By the enclosure the memorial for the dead Russians became a part of the dune cemetery.

At the cemetery there is also a war memorial. Jürgen arranged for a plaque in front of the monument to display a few sentences



from the now famous speech of the then Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker, which he held in 1985 at the 40th anniversary of the end of the war. He had said: “The 8 May 1945 was a day of liberation. It has freed us all from the inhuman system of National Socialist tyranny.” And: “We cannot commemorate the 8th May without being aware what



The inscription on the memorial stone, which also commemorates the battle of Stalingrad, reads: “The Russian dead are also our dead.”

overcoming the willingness to reconcile demands of the former enemies.“ At the instigation of the association’s chairman, a delegation from the Russian embassy in Berlin visited the island to find out about the condition of the graves. This year a wreath was to be placed on the memorial site on 8 May by the embassy. Unfortunately, because of the

Corona-crisis no one could come to the island at this time. The laying of the wreath will be at some other time.  
Helmuth von Schilling

## Rebecca Tennis Champion in Hesse

Three years ago, we had already reported about Rebecca, daughter of Sven Roger von Schilling and Stefanie nee Müller. She had become Hessen champion in tennis with the youth team of her club. This tennis championship has been repeated three times. Now Rebecca has succeeded in winning the individual championship in Hessen tennis in the group of the 16-year-olds. The way there was difficult and stony, because as unseeded she not only had to beat the players placed 2nd and 4th, but had to leave the field in the final game against the number 1 as winner. In the Hessian Tennis Association this performance was described as the sensation of this



## The website will be renewed

On 31 August 2019 the genealogy committee of the family association met again in Frankfurt. This meeting, the first was on 13 September 2014 in Dresden, took place in memory of the initiator of these meetings, Reinhard Schilling, who died on 2 June 2019, who has earned so much merit in genealogical research. An important point of the meeting in Frankfurt was the update of the website of the association. Eric Bawor researches for the western branch of the family taking over the function from Gretel Bauermann, who gave up the genealogical research for private reasons. Gretel has put a lot of effort into genealogical research. Christian Schilling v. Canstatt is responsible for the southern and Helmuth von Schilling for the eastern branch. A new Wikipedia article will also appear on the website

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# Johannes-Schilling's Birthday and the Corona Crisis

The birthday of the sculptor Johannes Schilling is celebrated since several years on 23 June with many guests in his native town Mittweida in Saxony. But in this year for the 192th birthday there was no coffee table set in the Johannes-Schilling-House because of the Corona crisis. But: Sibylle Karsch (director of the Museum "Alte Pfarrhäuser" in Mittweida) and Michael Kreskowsky (chairman of the support association of the museum) drove to Dresden by car to visit Ina Schilling-Nickel, the great granddaughter of Johannes. The celebration "coffee at the Professor's" is usually organized in Mittweida by Ina and the museum.

Ina was thrilled and writes the following report: "The sun meant well and in a shady place in the garden we sipped coffee and ate cake from Mittweida. Eventually around noon the Mayor of Mittweida called and found the meeting in Dresden a good solution. Thus, the honorary citizen of Mittweida was remembered despite all adversities. During the cosy coffee party, I was also able to discuss the interesting letters of my 'other' great grandfather, Consul Eugen Biehn, who lived in Brazil for some time, on behalf of the Krupp company, supposedly a branch office was to be established. My grandmother Trude Biehn (first wife of Ina's grandfather, the fami-

ly genealogist Heinar Schilling) was born in 1891 in Petropolis, Brazil. But it turned out that my great grandmother did not tolerate the climate and so they had to decide to return to Germany. Mrs. Karsch gladly received

my grandfather's letter from Brazil for the museum (which also houses the Schilling association's archive), as a present of course. And I am relieved because the letters have found a worthy place and will not end up in the blue paper bin later.

Ina Schilling-Nickel  
great granddaughter of Johannes  
Schilling

## Rieschel Exhibition with Schilling Models



From 30 May to 27 September 2020 the important German sculptor Ernst Rieschel (1804-1861) was commemorated in the Saxon town of Pirna, south of Dresden, as part of the annual sculpture summer. The exhibition "The Dresden School of Sculpture, from Rieschel to today", is extended due to the Corona Pandemic and will be reopened in May 2021. Rieschel was born in the city of Pulsnitz, east of Dresden. This year they celebrated the 20th anniversary of Rieschel's birthplace as a place of art and culture.

The sculpture summer takes place impressively in Pirna within the massive walls of the former fortress at the foot of the mighty Sonnenstein Castle. In 1832 Rieschel had opened the Dresden school of sculpture. From summer

1846 to 1850 Johannes Schilling studied there as a master student. Works of Johannes Schilling are now on loan from Mittweida in Pirna, such as the plaster models "Cupid, teaching Psyche to play the strings" (middle) and the "Quellnymph" (freshwater nymph, left) from the Johannes-Schilling-House. Furthermore, the plaster model "Kinderfries, architecture and sculpture", whose sandstone transfer he realized in 1851 together with Rieschel on an outer wall of the famous Sempgalerie in Dresden, Zwinger courtyard side. The former director of the museum in Mittweida, Heiko Weber has lent this model from his private collection. The lending of the other works of art from Mittweida is also thanks to his commitment.