

Schilling-Courier



Descendants of the Burgmann Heinrich who died in 1221

News from the Schilling Association e.V. with Annual Report 2022

Reunion 2025 planned in Dresden

Commemoration of Johannes Schilling/with trip to Mittweida

At the virtual board and advisory board meeting of the Schilling Association e.V. on 28 January this year, it was decided that the next family reunion will take place in Dresden in June 2025. The old Saxon residence is not only world-famous because of the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), which was destroyed in the war and rebuilt, the paintings in the Zwinger and the Semper Opera House, but also of its great significance to the Schilling family.

The famous sculptor Johannes Schilling (1828-1910), who was born in Mittweida, lived and worked in Dresden. The family reunion could possibly be complemented by a trip to the nearby Mittweida, where the association opened the Schilling-Haus in 2005, then exactly 20 years ago. In Mittweida, the family archive of the Schilling Association is located in the museum "Alte Pfarrhäuser". In 2001, a commemorative plaque was unveiled in the town centre at Johannes' birthplace in the presence of the then chairman of the association.

An unmissable work by Johannes Schilling stands in Dresden on the theatre square in front of the Sem-



View over the Elbe towards Dresden

per Opera House, the equestrian statue of King Johann of Saxony, erected between 1882 and 1889 from bronze, granite and Lusatian syenite at a height of 13.50 metres. Not far from the monument on the Brühl Terrace, the "Balcony of Europe", stands the magnificent "Four Times of Day": morning, day, evening, night. The figures created by Schilling between 1866 and 1871 in Dresden are, however, only replicas; the originals are in Chemnitz. People feared that the humid air on the banks of the Elbe might damage the sandstone too

much and donated the figures to the city some 50 kilometres away. They were transported by rail to the new location in the city centre in 1906. However, they "moved" to a park 20 years later. A trip to Chemnitz is also possible on our family reunion. The city will be the European Capital of Culture in 2025.

Very close to the "Tageszeiten", behind the castle, something else can be seen in Dresden: The 101-metre-long mural, the "Fürstenzug" (Procession of Princes) made of 24.000 tiles of Meissen

porcelain, commissioned by King Albert in 1889, shows 94 people. In addition to 35 princes, artists are also on display, including Johannes Schilling. In Dresden, you can also visit the house in the district of Klotzsche, where the sculptor spent his last years and where he died. In 2010, a commemorative plaque was placed on this building, also thanks to the financial support of the family association. In addition to Ina Schilling-Nickel, Johannes' great-granddaughter, the chairman of the board at this time was also present at the unveiling of the plaque.

Interesting in Dresden is the „Kurländer Palais“, where we can possibly meet at the family reunion.

Prince Karl of Saxony was Duke of Courland from 1758 to 1763. At that time, the country belonged to the Union of Poland and Lithuania and the Saxon duke who sat on the throne in Warsaw, had the right to send the prince from the Saxon dynasty to Courland. In 1663, however, the army of the Russian Tsarina Catherine the Great marched into Courland and deposed the Saxon.

Karl went to Dresden and lived in a magnificent house, the so-called "Kurländer Palais".

In Courland, during the reign of Prince Karl, two members of the Courland line (House of Pöjühlen) also entered Saxon service [Georg Theodor (1729-1786), Lieutenant Colonel, and Johann Lewin, Major (1732-1798)], who also lived in Dresden for a time.

Details of the family reunion in Dresden will be communicated next year.

Helmuth v. Schilling



Monument to King Johann of Saxony in front of the Semper Opera in Dresden



The Procession of Princes. In the middle Johannes Schilling with beard



Kurländer Palais in Dresden



Western branch

In memory of Maria Schilling

She played a significant role in the Saxon line

If we look at the family history one-sidedly, taking certain parameters into account, the period around 1585 was the zenith for the Saxon lines of our house. The Rochlitzers held three Saupers manors, Adam began to paint his most magnificent works, the Löberitzers and Kleckewitzers managed extensive estates and the Freiberg line, living in two manors, modernised the economy of Elector Saxony together with the sovereigns, investing generously in mining.

The following years brought a decline, partly gradual, partly abrupt. One person who played a significant role during this change of circumstances was Maria Schilling, who died in Dresden on 21.9.1623, i.e. 400 years ago. She was born in 1551 as the daughter of the Dresden councillor and temporary mayor Christoph Reichenbach. Around 1570 she married Gregor Schilling the Younger, who came from Freiberg and finally settled in Dresden in 1570. The connection between the two was an ideal constellation, both came from wealthy families with influence and contact up to the Sovereign Duke and Elector August. Shortly afterwards, Gregor went directly into his service as a chamber clerk. He thus became part of a financial authority that August specifically used for his own investments and economic promotions, staffing it with officials whose private capital, connections and economic flair

were in favour of the prince's will.

Gregor met these requirements exactly. He was innovative, conscientious and loyal, with administrative skills, connections, capital and he was ambitious. Gregor acquired various properties, mining shares in Marienberg among others, and together with the Freiberg chief smelter Michael Schönlebe and chief smelter Joachim Trost invented a new process for copper smelting, which was, privileged by Elector August, introduced in the Albatine hereditary lands in the smelting works. In 1581, he succeeded his previous superior Hans Harrer, who had committed suicide because of bad investments with the princely assets.

In 1585, he finally acquired the Schönfeld manor near Dresden, with August generously adding a money grant of 5000 Guilders. This loan was also granted as an entitlement to Gregory's brothers and their descendants, certainly not without reason. For example, Gregor's brother Hans was in Schneeberg as a senior mining official in the Electoral Network, which actively shaped Saxony's economy.

Maria has supported Gregor as a wife all these years. The coming years, however, were to become more difficult. In 1556, the monarch who had been popular as "Father August" died and his successor chose other personalities. Michael Schönlebe, a close confidant of the deceased and himself grown old,



Stone epitaph of Maria Schilling in the Kreuzkirche Dresden

then resigned from his post and Gregor, who in turn stepped down as chamberlain, became his successor as chief smelter manager.

Shortly afterwards, however, he also died and it was Maria's task to preserve her husband's considerable idealistic and material heritage. Her surviving eldest son Hans eventually took over his father's business and the manor, but too died young at the beginning of 1611 without any descendants. Gregor's surviving brother Friedrich and two of Gregor's nephews travelled to Dresden shortly afterwards and wound up the manor, applying for the feudal succession for the money fief over the 5000 guilders.

Maria protested, because there was another brother, Peter, living in Schemnitz, now Slovakia, who

was to be bypassed. Maria managed to delay the enfeoffment. However, after many months of nothing further happening, Friedrich and his nephews Hans and Daniel simply sold the right to the manor together with the money loan to the Reichspfennigmeister (Imperial Penny Master) Joachim von Loß for 29,000 guilders in November 1611 although a sale of the money loan was expressly excluded in the feudal charter.

Maria was not happy with this injustice and continued to support her brother-in-law Peter, who finally arrived in Dresden in 1613 and formulated the fief for the money loan. Unfortunately, he died of the plague during this stay and so the disputed question remained unsolved. Maria withdrew in bitterness. She had her will, formulated in 1515/1516, reconfirmed, since „mischievous people were often in the habit of disputing wills and she did not like to have her last will and testament (...) cast into the slightest doubt“.

Maria bequeathed her house in Landhausstraße, which Gregor had bought in 1573, to a relative who had looked after the old lady with a real sense of family in those years. Furthermore, she donated 1200 guilders, a considerable amount of money at that time, for charitable purposes, namely for pupils and teachers of the Kreuzschule Dresden as well as for institutions committed to the elderly, the sick and those in need of care. As annual disbursement dates, she wished to have Candlemas for her own memory, St. Gregory's Day and St. John's Day, in memory of her husband. She thus established a foundation in true family memory

and, as a good Christian, wanted to leave her legacy in charity beyond her death, having never lacked for anything herself. It is by all means a fair coincidence of history that her stone epitaph with her portrait has been preserved in Dresden, almost as one of the few testimonies of that time in this city. Maria was

a self-confident and self-determined woman for her time, whose sense of justice and family makes her more than worthy of an honourable memory. Thus, she still greets visitors of the Kreuzkirche and reminds them of the Schillings in Dresden and humbly of Maria herself. Eric Bawor

Celebration in the "Altes Erbgericht"

Special exhibition on the 195th birthday of Johannes Schilling

On 23 June, Johannes Schilling's birthday was again celebrated in Mittweida, the town of his birth. The reception for his 195th birthday was not held in the „Johannes Schilling Haus“ as usual, but in the more spacious „Altes Erbgericht“, where celebrations can be held on a larger scale. In the recently restored old building, a special exhibition had also been organised by the museum „Alte Pfarrhäuser“ (old parsonages), where, among other things, the artist's restored beautiful harp, already mentioned in the Courier, could be seen. The instrument played a major role for Johannes, who had a close bond with music. This time, the reception was not organised by Johannes' great-

granddaughter Ina Schilling-Nickel from Dresden as usual, but also very well by her daughter Ricarda Firkert. Ina can no longer travel due to health problems. Mittweida's mayor Ralf Schreiber also attended the birthday celebration, welcoming the town's first honorary citizen and Helmut, the long-time chairman of the Schilling Association. Schreiber also emphasised that Johannes' 200th birthday will be celebrated in a particularly grand way.

Also Dr. phil. Eduard Wätjen had come from Dresden, who is very interested in working on Johannes' bequeathed drawings.

Helmuth von Schilling



The "Altes Erbgericht" in Mittweida



Southern Branch



Maltese with sick people in Lourdes

Order in a modern guise

Development of the Maltese from the 11th century until today

In past issues of the Courier, the so-called Order of Malta was mentioned in connection with reports about Georg vSC and Heitersheim, the former Grand Duchy and seat of the German priory. Now let us take a closer look at the Order.

Originally this chivalric brotherhood was founded around the middle of the 11th century, even before the First Crusade, in a Christian pilgrims' hospice in Muslim-occupied Jerusalem. Brother Gerhard dedicated the hospital to John the Baptist and subordinated the fraternal community to the religious promise „Witness the faith and serve the poor and sick“. At that time, the community called itself „Johanniter“. After its chequered history, the official name of the Order today is *the Sovereign Knights and Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta*.

After the First Crusade and the reconquest of Jerusalem around 1099, quite a few knights joined this community. Instead of using fire and sword to defend Christianity in the Holy Land, the members serve as brothers to the Knights of St John to do the opposite, namely to nurse and care for the poor and sick, Christians as well as Jews and Muslims. The Pope declares the Knights of St John an ecclesiastical order in 1154. The brothers wear an eight-pointed cross on their vestments, symbolising the beatitude from the Gospel and thus the suffering that the order wants to alleviate in the world. In order to be inwardly free for the task, the brothers promise poverty, chastity and obedience and, beyond that a life as „servants and slaves of the sick“. Both the eight-pointed cross and the promise to serve

the sick are still part of the order today. The radicalism and dedication with which the brothers in Jerusalem lived their mission is revolutionary at the time. With increasing donations and gifts from Europe, the House of St John soon becomes one of the most important institutions in the Holy Land.

But as early as the first half of the 12th century, the Order takes up the sword again, initially as a protective force for pilgrims' caravans in the Holy Land, but soon also as a fighting army with military bases throughout the country. But less than two hundred years after the start of the Crusades, the Christians are driven out of the Holy Land in 1291, along with the Order of Knights. The ensuing crisis of meaning of the Order does not last long. In 1310, the knights take over the island of Rhodes with papal permission. At the same time, the Pope dissolves the Order of the Temple. The assets of the dramatically destroyed order are transferred to the Knights of St John, whose property more than doubles in size.

As a wealthy, sovereign power with its own dominion, the Order builds Rhodes into a veritable fortress. The Order's rule over Rhodes also established its status under international law, which is still valid today.

But in 1522, the Ottomans under Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, who had gained strength after the fall of Constantinople, attacks the Rhodian bastion. The Knights of St John defend their island for five months against an army of 140,000 men.

This is where the story of our uncle Georg SvC begins, which has already been mentioned before. On New Year's Day 1523, the knights capitulate and leave

Rhodes, carrying all their treasures, relics and the archives of the Order. "Nothing in the world was lost as glamorously as Rhodes" declares Emperor Charles V, and in 1530 gives the island Malta to the Knights of St. John as a sovereignty. The Knights from then on call themselves the Maltese.

Pressed by the considerable military presence in the Mediterranean, Sultan Suleyman decides to conquer the bastion of Malta in 1565 with a fleet of over 200 ships. The ensuing battle will become a myth in the years and centuries to come. „An image of hell“, notes an eyewitness. After three months, 25,000 people have died, the Turks give up, leave and never try to attack Europe via the Mediterranean again. A world empire has failed because of a small bunch of knights.

But climax and decline are close together. The Order loses its military and political influence over the coming centuries and its religious promise also threatens to fade into the background. In the course of the Reformation, the Order also lost the important Balley of Brandenburg to a protestant branch, which today continues to exist as a separate ecclesiastical "Order of St. John" in the form of an association.

Thus, the Order could not counter the brutality of the French Revolution. In France, and later in parts of Germany and Italy, the Order's properties and possessions were confiscated. And in 1798 Napoleon decides to take Malta. When he shows up on the coast with 600 ships, it takes less than 24 hours for the exhausted knights of the order to hand over their island, which has been walled several times, to the French commander in a resignation without a fight. After thirty years of diplomatic

odyssey, the Maltese finally move into the palace on Via Condotti in Rome, until then their embassy to the Holy See, as their new headquarters in 1834 until today. In the course of the turmoil over secularisation, the Protestant branch of the Order was founded.

But the European wars in the 19th and 20th centuries made the knights rediscover their original charism (the Order's promise) and their mission to "the sick". After the Second World War, German branches of the Order in Germany founded the Malteser Hilfsdienst together with the Caritas Association.



The emerging pilgrimages to Lourdes, a place of pilgrimage in the French Pyrenees, were followed by Maltese trains from all over Germany, until they were joined by religious associations from Ireland, England, Spain and Austria. In the 1990s, the then Grand Master declared the national pilgrimages to be the official work of the Order. In the meantime, more than 7,000 Maltese from all over the world travel to Lourdes every year with around 1,400 sick people to care for the sick there, to accompany them to the springs, to pray with them and to celebrate Holy Masses.

The Order's works in the areas of emergency preparedness, social services, youth, international

service and education represent one of the largest aid organisations in Germany today, with 51,000 volunteers, 35,000 full-time staff and one million members.

Today, the Order presents itself not only as a religious order (and as a cultural refuge for the Catholic European nobility), but also as a sovereign body of international law with its own national territory, its own passports, its own currency and a permanent seat at the United Nations. It has an annual budget of around 1.5 billion euros, is active with aid projects in over 120 countries and maintains diplomatic relations with more than a hundred states. With a history of almost a thousand years, the Order of Malta is, after the Catholic Church, the oldest still existing sovereign institution in Western Christendom headed by a „Grand Master“, a constitutional monarch hitherto elected for life, a head of state with the ecclesiastical rank of a cardinal and the secular status of a prince of the extinct Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation.

With this historical background, it is inevitable that traditional views, competences and administrative processes determine the life of the order. These courtly structures of the Order, which are still practised in parts of the world, led to an internal crisis and a confrontation with the Holy See from around 2016 onwards, which subjected the Order to a difficult and painful reform process which continues to this day. Looking forward, it should be remembered that the Order was founded on the idea of serving those in need regardless of ethnicity, religion or origin. Hopefully, all Maltese will find their way back to this ideal.

Christian SvC



Eastern Branch

Three brothers stick together

They fought in different armies of different counties



Carl Gebhard (1719-1779)



Johann Christoph (1722-1788)



Gotthard Raphael (1729-1797)

Three framed photos of the portraits of three men hang in Höhnscheid Castle, the centre of the Baltic Knightships. They are the Schilling brothers: Carl Gebhard, Johann Christoph and Gotthard Raphael.

It is said in the family those two, who were fighting under the Russian flag during the Seven Years' War (1756-63) in Silesia, met secretly one night in a wooded area with their brother Johann Christoph, who was serving with the then hostile Prussians.

The information about the first Schilling in the dominion of the Teutonic Order in Old Livonia is extremely meagre. Kaspar (*1470) from Braunschweig is said to have been the first representative of the family to move into the Order's territory. His marriage to Anna v.d.Osten produced 7 children.

There is documentary evidence of the enfeoffment of Kaspar's 3rd son, Nikolaus (Claus) in 1548 by the Master of the Order Hermann v. Brüggenny called Hasenkamp with

the three Haken large Meshgail manor, which later became Schillingshof in the district of Riga, parish of Allasch.

Nikolaus had 8 children from his first marriage to Elisabeth von Adam. His eldest son Kaspar II (died before 8.2.1627) became the progenitor of the Kurland branch. His second youngest son Valten (Valentin), 1533-1575, founded the Livonian branch. His son Georg from the II. marriage of Kaspar II with Margarete Urauder (died after 1640) founded the older line of the Kurland branch. Georg's grandson Matthias Georg (*13.4.1654, † before 21.5.1777) had 3 sons with Elisabeth v. Kloppmann (died 21.5.1717).

And now we come to the protagonists, sons of Matthias Georg's 2nd son Friedrich Wilhelm (*17.8.1664, †1756), who had 10 children with Elisabeth Maria v. Schulte. All their children were born at the time of the end of the Northern War (1700-1721)

in a country that was largely destroyed and depopulated by the war and the plague.

Carl Gebhard was born on 31.3.1719 as the third child on the small Jothain estate in Livonia, which was run by his father. We know nothing about his youth, as his personal records were lost in the turmoil after 1919 in Estonia. He and his siblings were probably taught by a tutor, because they were by no means uneducated.

Like many of his contemporaries, Carl Gebhard left his parental home at the age of 14 to join the Pleskau infantry regiment as a common soldier. In 1735 he entered the service of Tsarina Anna Ivanova (1693-1740) and quickly made a career for himself. In 1739 he was wing adjutant to General Ascheff Biron and a year later was transferred to Rostof's regiment as captain.

Over the years, Carl Gebhard served under five different tsars and tsarinas: Tsarina Anna Ivanova (1730-40), Tsar Ivan VI

Antonovich (1740-41), Tsarina Elizabeth Petrovna (1741-1761), Tsar Peter III Fedorovich (1761-1762) and Tsarina Katherina II Alexievna, the Great (1762-1796). In the War of the Polish Succession (1733-1735) after the death of August der Starke, Carl Gebhard marched against France. In the War of the Austrian Succession (1741-1748) following Maria Theresia's accession to the Austrian throne, Russian forces fought with France against Prussia. In the Third Silesian or Seven Years' War (1756-1763), Russia was first allied with the French against the Prussians. After the death of Tsarina Elizabeth, however, her husband and successor Peter III made an alliance with Frederick the Great, whom he admired, and the Russians now fought with the Prussians. Suddenly, the „enemy“ brother Johann Christoph became a comrade-in-arms.

Carl Gebhard was wounded several times in the various battles, in many cases very seriously, and was discharged from active service in 1760 with the rank of Major General. Tsarina Elisabeth II entrusted him with the supervision of the construction work for a new harbour in Rogerwiek (Baltischport) in Estonia and Carl Gebhard moved into a house near the old harbour with his wife and son.

In 1760 he had married the widowed Helena Charlotte v. Römer née v. Tiesenhausen, and in 1761 his only son Fabian Wilhelm (1761-1831) was born. His wife brought the Seinigal (Müüsleri) estate inherited from her first husband into the marriage, which Carl Gebhard renovated and later passed on to his son.

The prisoners who were forced to build the piers in Roderwieck had to work under inhumane conditions, between 1752 and 1753 the death

rate was almost 99%. Beyond that, Carl Gebhard had a very strained relationship with his superior and sought to be reassigned to field service in reports to the Tsarina. After an audience with the Tsarina, Carl Gebhard was finally discharged from military service in 1765 with a settlement of 5000 roubles. Katharina later completely stopped the construction work at the harbour because the costs were too high.

From the compensation, Carl Gebhard bought the Orgena (Orina) estate in the Jerven district of Estonia and settled there with his family. He thus became the progenitor of the Estonian line of the Schilling Barons, whose relatives now live scattered all over the world.

Carl Gebhard had the acquired land and the farmers working for him carefully registered by an expert and became a prudent landowner. The main income of the estate came from the serving of beer and brandy in two inns near the Seinigal estate. From the ‚Kassa Buch‘ (cash book) he carefully kept, it can be seen that he mainly sold rye to Reval and in the spring, fattened oxen from a small livestock.

Carl Gebhard died on 29.7.1779 in Orgena. He was buried in front of the church wall in Järva Jaani under the middle window. His epitaph can still be found on the church wall today.

Johann Christoph was born as Friedrich Wilhelm's 6th child on 13.5.1722, also in Jothain. Hardly any details of his life are known to us. Like his brothers, he joined the military at an early age. He also fought in the Seven Years' War. While his brothers fought under the Russian flag, Johann Christoph fought as a cavalry captain in the Driesen Cuirassier Regiment in Prussian service.

After his brother left the military service, Carl Gebhard tried to place

him on the Russian staff, but to no avail. Christoph then lived in Orgena at the invitation of his brother and after Carl Gebhard's death administered the estate for his nephew, who was still underage. He died unmarried in Orgena on 13.7.1788.

Gotthard Raphael was born as the 8th child of his parents on 26.6.1729 in Jothain. In 1745, at the age of 16, he began his military service in the Imperial Russian Infantry Cadet Corps (place unknown). In 1757 he fought in the Seven Years' War as a captain. At the time, the Russian troops were fighting alongside the Austrians, whose commander-in-chief was General Ernst Gideon von Loudon, a close friend of Carl Gebhard.

Together with Carl Gebhard, Loudon, who was two years older and also from Livonia, had been accepted into the Pleskau Regiment. He and Carl Gebhard became friends for life. However, Loudon resigned from Russian service after the Russo-Swedish War (1741-1743) and, after an unsuccessful attempt to enter Prussian service, joined the Austrian forces. Loudon became one of Maria Theresia's most able commanders.

Still during the Seven Years' War, Loudon made the brothers Carl Gebhard and Gotthard Raphael an offer to join the Austrian service, which Carl Gebhard declined. Gotthard Raphael, however, presented a certificate and declared before the Imperial War College in February 1760, that he did not intend to stay in Russia forever. He wanted to return to Courland (where the brothers' father had moved with the family in 1731 as the manager of two domain estates) after two of his brothers had been killed in the war there, his parents had died and he had to look after a small estate. But still in 1760 he entered the Imperial and

Royal (k. u. k.) service as adjutant to Loudon. 1763, when he was released after two years' imprisonment in a Prussian fortress, Carl Gebhard wrote to his friend Loudon asking him to take care of his brother and the brother's spiritual well-being.

In 1764, Gotthard Raphael took over the formation of a garrison regiment in the Banat as a captain and at the same time rendered outstanding services to the founding of German schools for "the poor" soldiers' children and the children of the settlers whom Maria Theresia had brought into the country.

As commander of the Royal-Slavonian Gradiscan Regiment in

Slavonia, in addition to his merits for the training of the troops, he rendered outstanding services to the establishment of silkworm breeding by planting mulberry trees, took care of the maintenance of Catholic churches (although he himself was Protestant) and also founded schools.

In recognition of his work, he was elevated to the rank of Imperial Count on 17 August 1781. As a descendant of the first feudal lord at Schillingshof, he received the title „Count Schilling von Schillingshof“.

In 1785 Gotthard Raphael took his leave from the military as

MajorGeneral" with the title "Hoch und Wohlgeboren".

Despite these honours, 3 ducats were deducted of his pension of 800 guilders because he did not subscribe to the Catholic religion.

Gotthard Raphael died unmarried in Vienna on 2 December 1797.

It is not known whether the brothers met again after their military service. Certain however, is that they remained in contact with each other and with their other siblings until their deaths.

Ebba v. Schilling (according to Helene v. Schilling: *Der Weg eines Geschlechts durch fünf Jahrhunderte*, 1999

Schilling and the Crimea

Father of our ex-chairman born on the peninsula

Russian President Vladimir Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine in 2022 and the annexation of the Black Sea peninsula Crimea in 2014 concern the Baltic branch of the Schilling Association, too. After the Nordic War in 1721, the Russian Tsars ruled the Baltic States and many members of the Baltic Knighthoods served in the Russian military. This was also the case with Julius Baron von Schilling (1876-1931) from Orgena, the grandfather of our chairman of many years, Helmuth.

Julius joined the navy and was appointed company commander in the Black Sea Fleet at Sevastopol in the Crimea at the end of the 19th century. It was there that Helmuth's father Nikolai, called Nino, was born in 1900.

Crimea was an important naval base at the time. The fleet stationed there was supposed to defend the entrance to the Mediterranean. Since the Crimean War in 1854,

which Russia lost against England and France, the Russians continuously expanded the Sevastopol base. Helmuth's grandfather Julius benefited from this, both professionally and privately. On his numerous trips to the Mediterranean, he met his wife Jeanne from Dubrovnik (now Croatia), Helmuth's grandmother. She was born in Constantinople (now Istanbul) and, after her father's death, lived with her mother at her sister's in Port Said, Egypt, where the latter's husband was an engineer with the Suez Canal Company. Julius and Jeanne probably met at a reception of the canal company for the Russian ship. In any case, they were married in 1899 in Port Said at the sister's house. Due to a beginning deafness, Julius had to give up his job in Sevastopol soon afterwards and then worked at the Ministry of Trade in Mariupol on the Sea of Azov, which is now so badly destroyed by the Russians. There the

two younger sons Georg (Georgik) and Alexander (Alek) were born.

After the Russian Revolution in 1917 and the takeover of power by the Bolsheviks, Julius fled to Estonia with his family. The eldest son, Nikolai, was a student at the cadet school in Saint Petersburg at the time and fled from there.

Nikolai then trained as a farmer on the estate of his relatives Stackelberg in Kaltenbrunn in Estonia. When the landowner Ernst von Wetter-Rosenthal was looking for a manager for his Sipp estate because his only son had been killed in action against the Bolsheviks in the Baltic regiment, Nino applied for the job despite his still limited experience. He later married the eldest daughter, Benita. One of his 4 sons is Helmuth, born in Sipp in 1938. A year later, after the Hitler-Stalin Pact, the family was resettled in Poland, which was occupied by the Germans at the time (Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreußen).

In 1945 the family fled to West Germany. But the war caught up with them there: After his military service at the end of the war and his successful escape, Nicolai who was born in today's embattled Ukraine, was fatally injured when he was hit by a British occupation truck while crossing a road in June 1945.

Helmuth's grandfather had inherited his love of the navy from his uncle Nikolai (1828-1910). He was an admiral in the Tsar's navy and Julius often visited him in St Petersburg as a student. Nikolai who was in the favour of the tsar and his family was the tutor of one of Nicholas II's sons, and was later even a friend of Tsar Nicholas II, who appointed him his adjutant-general. He received many honours and finally lived near the imperial residence in Saint Petersburg. Nikolai fought in the Russian-Turkish War, was also active as a polar explorer and went on an adventurous voyage with the frigate „Dana“.

Crimea has always played an important role in the eventful history between Russia and Ukraine. Since 1709, when the Russian Tsar Peter the Great defeated Ukraine with his ally Sweden, Ukraine belonged to Russia, but Crimea was not part of it. In 1783, under Tsarina Catherine II, Crimea was officially annexed by the Russian Empire. When Ukraine became a Soviet republic in 1919, it remained Russian. It was not until 1954 that the then Kremlin leader Khrushchev returned Crimea to Ukraine. Now Russia has regained its grip on the peninsula, even though it historically belongs to Ukraine.

The country and Crimea have experienced a very changeful history.



Julius v.S. with Jeanne, her sister Vivi (standing) and the sons Nikolai (Nino, standing), in front right Alexander (Alek) and Georg (Georgik)

Parts were independent for a long time and were inhabited among others by Cossacks and Crimean Tatars, parts belonged to other countries, such as Poland, Lithuania, the Habsburgs or the Ottoman Empire. Thus, the country was able

to breathe a sigh of relief when Ukraine, with Crimea, finally became independent in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Is this all over again now?

Helmuth von Schilling

Family visit to Canada

The North American Country is home to many Baltic Schillings

Many members of the eastern branch of the Schilling Association now live in Canada. Already in 1929, two sons of Hermann, the brother of Julius (see report above) had emigrated to Canada in the province of Saskatchewan. Hermann's younger son Friedrich, called Fritz (1907-1997), married Gerda Vidal in 1933. The couple had seven children. Contact with this part of

the family is maintained. So this year I travelled to Canada with my wife Ebba and our grand-daughter Charlotte Klockenhoff and we met Hans-Heinrich (Heini), Fritz's second oldest son, on Vancouver Island. The eldest son, Jürgen, died in 1991 at the age of 57, the daughter Margarethe (Gretel, 84) this year and son Ernst (Ernie, 78) last year. Daughter Marie-Luise and son

Siegfried also live on the island.

Fritz had moved to the Vancouver Island in 1937 and had built up a farm. Heini and his wife Joan now live nearby. Dalia, Ernie's widow, lives on the old farm with her son from her first marriage. She had also come to our little family reunion in Courtenay. We then visited the old farm, which is now run by Dalia's son.

But the real reason for the trip to Canada was the 90th birthday of our sister-in-law Margot née Wiggers.

My brother Georg (Jürgen, born 1929) had emigrated to Canada in 1953 and successfully built up a landscaping business in the beautiful city of Vancouver. He married Margot in 1959, they had two daughters and have 7 now grown-up grandchildren. Georg, who is called George in Canada, will turn 94 this year and now lives with his wife in a residential home for the elderly near Vancouver.

Of course, Margot's birthday party with numerous guests in a restaurant became a highlight of our trip. Also present were the two daughters Marina Baxter, who lives near her parents, and Petra Finch from faraway Houston in Texas with their husbands, as well as all the grandchildren, some with partners.

It's wonderful to be able to meet up with relatives in faraway countries. There are also many Schillings living in eastern Canada, whom we have also visited several times, the granddaughter was there a year ago.

There is something about the Schilling families in the east written in the next article.

Helmuth v. Schilling



On the farm; f.l.: Delia, her son, Joan, Ebba, Heini and Helmuth



Heini, Charlotte, Helmuth and Dalia



Helmuth, George, Margot and Ebba at the birthday party

Meeting of the Eastern Branch

At Höhnscheid Castle/Lecture: Flight and displacement



Participants of the meeting at Höhnscheid Castle

This year, from 25 to 27 August, the reunion of the Eastern Branch took place for the third time at Höhnscheid Castle, the conference centre of the Baltic Knighthood. The meeting, well organised by cousin Hans, was attended by 57 cousins ranging in age from one to over 90. It was especially wonderful that there were also guests from abroad, from France, England, Switzerland and even Canada: Stephanie from Waterloo (Ontario), the widow of Kurt (Baltic House Serrefer), who died in 2016. She came with her son Peter. Kurt had emigrated to Canada in 1957, following his brothers Wolter and Heinz (Henry) and sister Karin, who died last year.

The presence of Ruta Furmonaviciene from England, who came with her husband, her mother from Lithuania and a daughter with her husband and three grandchildren, also caused great joy. Ruta belongs

to the Livonian branch (House Pöjulen) of the Eastern branch, which is extinct in the male lineage. She contacted the association two years ago and became a member.

The guests could enjoy a beautiful programme. On 26 August there was a choice of three tours in glo-

rious weather: a boat trip on Lake Eder, a visit to the Old Masters Museum in Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe and, especially for children, a trip to the tree-top-walk in nearby Waldeck.

In the afternoon, over coffee and cake, there was lots of fun with a Schilling quiz. Participants, divided into five groups, had to answer tricky questions about the family. The day ended with a champagne reception and a festive dinner.

The next morning, cousin Hans gave a lecture that he had given a few days earlier at a symposium at the invitation of the University in Dorpat/Tartu. The subject was the flight and displacement of the German-Baltic families. Hans spoke in detail about five terrible events: Russian Revolution in 1905, riots after the declaration of independence of the Baltic provinces from Russia in 1918/19, resettlement of the Baltic Germans af-



Ruta and family in Fritzlar

ter the Hitler-Stalin Pact in 1939, flight in 1945 and for Hans in 1957 from the then GDR to the West. All of these events were dreadful, with many deaths, but „many families survived flight and displacement quite well and helped to rebuild destroyed Germany“.

For Hans, escape means leaving your home under forced circumstances and time pressure. However, the possibility of a return is given and probable. Displacement, on the other hand, is the intensification of flight, because a return is impossible. Flight can therefore be cured, whereas displacement is final.

The life of the Germans in the Baltic States was based on a close feeling of belonging together with mutual support in all circumstances, which also helped them survive the blows of fate and rebuild their lives in destroyed Germany or after emigration after the Second World War. Hans would like to see this attitude towards life maintained towards those who find themselves in similar situations today. At present, this life principle is also evident in the family associations and on family reunions.

At the end, Johann von Krusenstiern read out a report that he had found in Helene v.S.'s estate. It recalls the family reunion in Estonia in May 1999 and the reception by the then Estonian President Lennart Meri at Katharimental Castle. Meri talked in a speech about how much the Estonians owe to the West and especially to the Germans: „Our trees in the park mainly point west.“

Helmuth v. Schilling

Survey on a reform of the statutes

Members vote in favour with a clear majority

Traditions live through adaptations to changed circumstances. As announced at the last general meeting, a small project team led by Ralph and Eric is preparing a proposal for a change in the statutes. The intention is to adapt voting rights and full membership to the changing membership structures. So far, full membership is very much dependent on the bearing of the name. Our current constitution states: „All descendants of the three branches who are descendants of a name bearer up to the second generation may become voting members.“ This is to be expanded. The liberalised and internationally very different legal customs in the law on names as well as genealogical facts shall be considered in the future for membership and voting rights. A member survey was held for this purpose. Around 30% of the ordinary members (83 out of 271) participated in the survey. 87.5% of the German-speaking and 100% of the English-speaking survey participants voted in favour of a change in the statutes.

As a result, the approval rate is 90%. Despite the high approval ratings, we are particularly grateful for critical voices whose concerns or objections have proved helpful in drafting a proposal for the amendment of the statutes that can be voted on at the next general meeting. The very constructive spirit in our family association is a good foundation for our common future.

Eric Bawor

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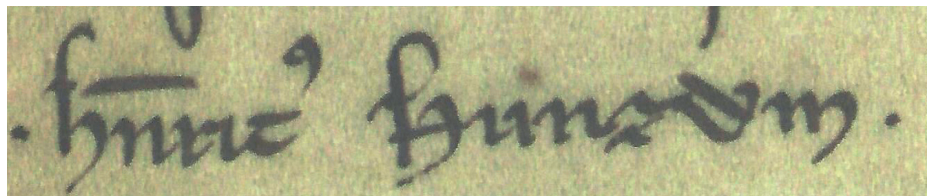
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Excerpt from a document from 1216 (Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz, inventory 128, Laach, Benedictine Monastery 707). Heinrich, called Huneswin, who was considered an ancestor by our family researcher Heinar, did not in fact carry the name “Schilling” any more than the agnatic by-line Huneswin. Would he have been denied the right to vote?

Eric Bawor