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Family news letter 2010

Of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

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News from the genealogical research

The genealogist of the Courland Knighthood Klas Lackschewitz has found remarkable news about the branches of the Tiesenhausen family living in Lithuania and Poland.

In the course of his research about members of the Courland Knighthood, having property in Lithuania and Poland, he and his Polish research partners found in the Polish public record office a high number of documents pertaining to the Tiesenhausen family – Polish: Tyzenhauz -. In total 15 shelf meters of documents and supporting material, starting from the late medieval age until the modern age were analyzed and documented.

The documents are from a collection by Aleksander Narczyk Przezdzieki (1814 – 1876). He was married to Maria Anna Tyzenhauz (1817 -1890), and being a historian from profession he was also interested in the history of his wife's family. Later he donated his collection to the Polish public record office in Warsaw. Most likely the records were transferred to a storage location outside of Warsaw during the second world war and thus saved from destruction. Anna Maria and her husband donated the so called Tiesenhausen windows in the Dome of Riga. Her brother Reinhold (1825 -1880) built the church in Rokiskis in Lithuania which houses the life-size statues of the donor and of Engelbrecht the first Tiesenhausen in the Baltic Provinces.



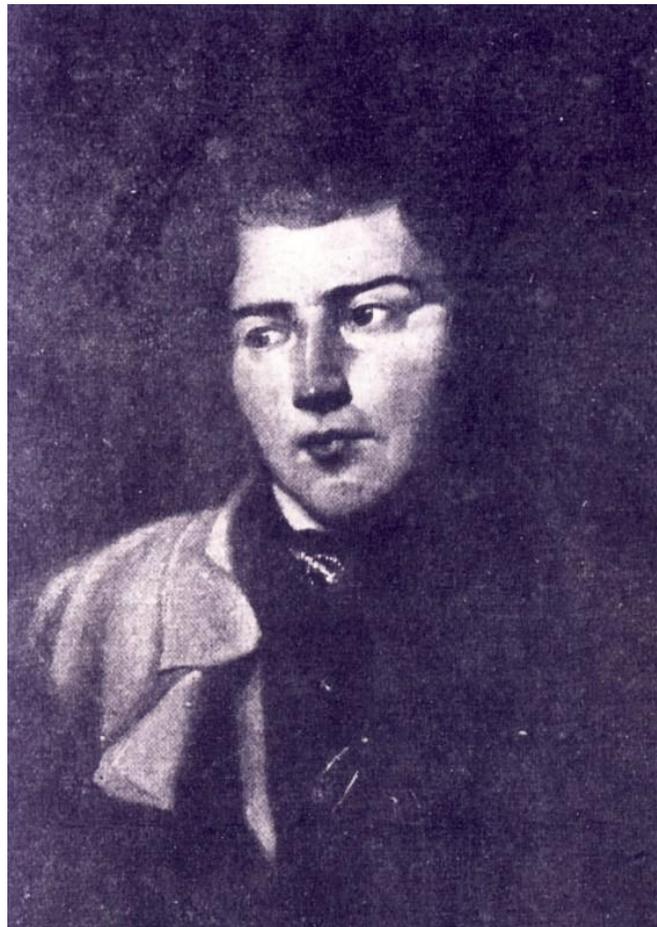
Maria Anna Gräfin Przezdzieki, born Tyzenhauz (1827 - 1890)

Part of the collection is the Latin will of Bartholomäus Tiesenhausen dated May 6, 1379; a memorandum of understanding in German language between the bishops Heinrich and Theodoricus and the Tiesenhausen family about the grant of the castles Kokenhusen and Berson; a document in Latin from 1254 in which Bishop Johan of Riga acknowledges the grant to Sophie of Kokenhusen with property of the counts of Holstein in Germany. Sophie was the wife to Johannes Tiesenhausen the son of Engelbrecht.

Also in Latin language is a document in which Fromhold the prior of the Riga chapter confirms the reinstatement of the clemency for Engelbert Tiesenhausen and his brothers. Their father Johan, in the course of a disagreement with the archbishopric Riga about the ownership of the castle Kokenhusen, had been hit with the anathema by the pope.

Most prominently the collection contains files and documents about the properties of the different branches of the family living in Lithuania and Poland, about distribution of estates, internal agreements, political activities, public offices, court files, and correspondences.

The research by Klas Lackschewitz not only closed a genealogical gap, it also collected a large number of details about economic, military, and political activities of the Tiesenhausen family in Lithuania and Poland. The best known amongst them was most likely Anthony Tyzenhauz (1733 – 1783) who became steward and judge in Grodno, deputy in the Polish Sejm, and later finance minister under the king Stanislaus August Poniatowski. Our family letter has reported about him and his efforts to reform the Polish finances in a prior year.



Adolf Rudolf Tyzenhauz, Artillery Colonel in service to Napoleons

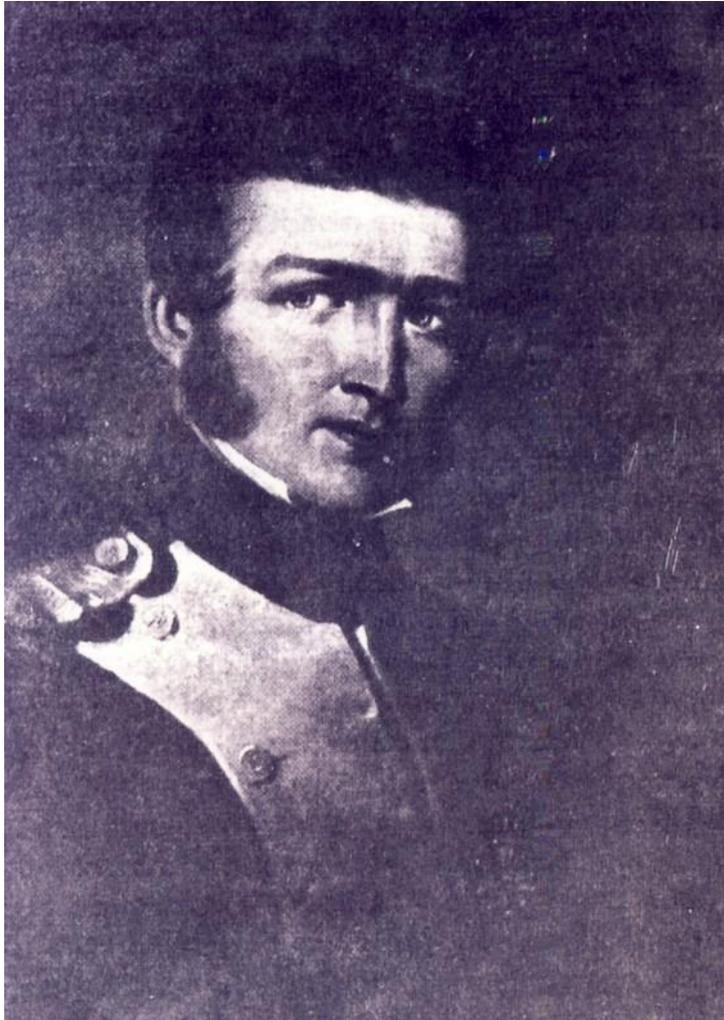
One of his nephews, the son of his oldest brother Michal Ludwig, was Igancy Tyzenhauz who was born in mid of the eighteenth century and died 1822 in Wilna. He was commander in the Lithuanian guard and received high decorations such as the St. Stanilaus Cross, the White-Eagle-Medal, and the Golden Cross of the French Legion of Honor. His oldest son Adolf Rudolf was an artillery colonel in Napoleon's French army and died 1830. His younger sister Zofia, of whom we unfortunately do not have the dates of birth and death, was married to the French diplomat Oktawiusz Antoine de Choiseul-Guffier. However, she became famous as one of many friends of the Russian Czar Alexander the first.



Zofia de Choiseul-Gouffier, born Tyzenhauz, Friend of Alexander I

Another brother was Konstanty Tyzenhauz who owned substantial properties in Courland and Lithuania with almost 4000 bondsmen. He was a Polish colonel of the great principality of Warsaw, received the cross of the French Legion of

Honor, and participated 1813 in the battle of the nations in Leipzig. Later he occupied himself with ornithology and published multiple books on birds. Our family letter has reported about him in earlier years.



Konstanty Tyzenhauz (1786 – 1853) Colonel and Ornithologist

Less honorable is the story about Michal Jan Tyzenhauz. He was successful economically and politically as deputy at the Lithuanian grand duke court, the highest court of the country, as well as judge and treasurer at the crown domain in Wilna; however, he seemed to have had a disturbed relationship with women. His third wife Cecylia Zophia Sapieha requested separation from table and bed and with that the divorce. She justified this request by claiming Michal Jan had continuously mistreated her. The court procedure at a parochial court serves until today as an example for the rights of women with noble decent in Lithuania. It might have been a satisfaction for the beaten wife that the husband was killed during a feud in 1734.



Wanda Tyzenhauz (1879 – 1917) Sister to Roman Stanislaw and
Aunt of Nadina Helena

On May 18, 2004 in Krakow, Nadina Helena Petruska died. She was born in 1929 to Roman Stanislaw Tyzenhauz and his wife Maria. Her father had studied agriculture and was a public servant in the Polish ministry of agriculture. When the Soviet Union occupied Poland as a consequence of the Hitler-Stalin treaty, he had to hide for almost two year from the NKWD. He died in 1943. When his daughter was buried in the Rakowice cemetery in Krakow, it was said in the obituaries that she was the last living Tyzenhauz in Poland. Whether this was accurate needs to be investigated. According to the research by Klas Lack-schewitz, in 1990 there were 29 individuals with this name in Poland, among them until today the painter Maria Tyzenhauz in Lemberg.



Maria Tyzenhauz, Painter in Lemberg

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2011 Family assembly in Estonia

The statutes of our family require that every two years we assemble to celebrate our family day. In the past years we have met in the Untermuehle in Koengernheim in Rhinehessen south of Mainz. Prior to that the family assembled in the center of the Baltic Knighthood in Hoehenscheid close to Kassel, and before that we met in Frankfurt or Essen. All family days took place in Germany. We are going to change this. The family day 2011 will take place, given there is sufficient participation, in the second half of July in Estonia.

During the family trip thru Latvia in 2009, the request was raised, to do a similar trip thru Estonia. We are planning to realize this now by having a one week round trip thru Estonia following the traces of our ancestors. During the tour we plan to visit Reval/Tallin, Wesenberg/Rakvere, Narva, Dorpat/Tartu, Odenpäh, Otepää, Pernau/Pernu, on the island of Oesel/Saarema and Weissenstein/Paide.

The trip will be organized again by the Ebden travel agency in Linden close to Giessen. We expect the cost for the trip including the flight, the hotel accommodation, breakfast, dinner, and bus to be around 600 Euro per participant. Those who would like to join the trip should provide feedback as soon as possible to Wolter Tiesenhausen, Buchenhof 4, D-53340 Meckenheim, Tel: 49(0)222513095, e-mail: wolter@tiesenhausen.de

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New Edition of the genealogical handbook

The new edition of the genealogical handbook at the C.A. Starke Verlag, Limburg, decided during the last family assembly in 2009, is proceeding well. The family genealogist Sabine Röder, born Freiin von Tiesenhausen (Falltorweg 12, D-63303 Dreieich, e-mail: familie-roeder@arcor.de) is coordinating the input and has already gathered a wealth of information.

The last edition about Freiherrn and Barons Tiesenhausen from 1990 has to be amended and improved in many cases. Those of you who want to be certain that the information pertaining to your sub-family is correct, should contact Sabine immediately. The expected cost for the new edition will be around 2000 Euro without pictures. We will apportion the cost to the sub-families.

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We commemorate our deceased

Dagmar Harriet Margarethe Koehler, born Freiin von Tiesenhausen died August 9, 2010 in Saarbrücken. She was born 1923 in Reval and later she lived in Crailsheim in Baden Württemberg. Together with her daughter Birgit Gräff the family mourns the deceased cousin.

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News from the family

On February 8, 2010 in Berlin Samiha, Lilly, Erna von Tiesenhausen was born as second daughter to Dr. Cyrill Freiherr von Tiesenhausen and his wife Gila, born Haake. The family congratulates the proud parents and welcomes the new born cousin.

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Peter Freiherr von Tiesenhausen, artist from Dermitt in the Candian State of Alberta has a new remarkable project. In his home city he constructs together with many volunteers a new town hall. What makes this building special is that it is constructed in the traditional style entirely from local timber. Please find more under WWW.HQGrandPrairie.com.

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Hans Heinrich Freiherr von Tiesenhausen, from Vancouver in the Canadian State of Britisch Columbia has drawn a family tree capturing all male Tiesenhausen from the Thirteenth century until present. Even the recently discovered Lithuanian Polish line is already reflected. The oeuvre contains 32 sheets covering a space of 82 by 217 cm. He plans to transfer the family tree to canvas and to make it available to interested members of the family.

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This year in Estonia and Latvia there has been commemoration of the 300 anniversary of the start of the Russian regime. In 1709 the Swedish king lost the battle of Poltawa against the Russian Czar Peter the first, who was later called Peter the great. For the Livonian knighthood Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen, owner of Nachtigall, signed in 1710 the surrender and the reversal of the oath which was the acknowledgement of the oath of allegiance to the new sovereign.