

Wolter v.Tiesenhausen
Buchenhof 4
D-53340 Meckenheim-Merl



Family news letter 2009

Of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

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Listen

An installation by Peter v.Tiesenhausen in Vancouver's Stanley Park

Three years ago a heavy storm raged across the Canadian west coast. With wind speed over 120 km/h, it caused devastating damages to Vancouver's Stanley Park. There, where in the old days the Royal British Navy got the masts for their mighty sailing ships, many of the old Cedars crashed under the impact of the storm. For days the park, one Vancouver's most popular recreation areas had to be closed for the public. However, the destruction made room for something new. So, the park officials came up with the idea of an environment art project. Among the six artists selected to put this project into action, was Peter v.Tiesenhausen from Demmitt in the Canadian State of Alberta.



Peter v.Tiesenhausen working on his installation „Listen“ in Vancouver’s Stanley Park



The completed installation „Listen“ in Vancouver’s Stanley Park

Together with the architect and designer John Hemsworth from Vancouver, Peter created from the remains of an 800 year old cedar an impressive installation. The mighty tree is today in exactly the same position as it fell three years ago. In the gap between two segments of the stem, Peter and his partner created a wooden sphere which rests as a dark contrast in form between the cylindrical segments of the giant stem. Peter v.Tiesenhausen and John Hemsworth called their creation „Listen“. In a comment to their installation they explained: „The listening is not necessarily meant to be done to the sounds of this place, but means that we should take the time to pay attention to what the woods are telling us. This sculpture is meant as a place of reflection where we have the chance to realize that we are a part of the environment.“

You can find further information to the environment art project under the following link: www.vancouver.ca/spea

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Looking for traces of ancestors

A family trip thru Livonia

For a long time it was talked about, but it took until this past summer that it was realized. The family trip thru Livonia which is the northern part of today's country Latvia. From all parts of Germany, but also from Norway and Canada 21 adults and three children came, to travel for eight days on the traces of their ancestors. The trip started in Riga with a panorama view from the top of the tower of the Petri church. This orientation made it easier to find the way thru the narrow alleyways and crowded places of the old city enjoying the summer sunshine. In the dome of Riga the impressive windows donated by our family in the 19th century displaying the mother of God and the founding of Riga could also be admired, as the recently artefacts from the history of the church which were displayed in the cloister. Very impressive was also the visit to the completely renovated „Schwarzhäupterhaus“, the seat of the influential German traders located in Riga which was done exclusively for our family.

A day later the trip continued with a bus following the river Düna upstream towards Kokenhusen/Konese. The ruins of this castle are now located in a beautiful way directly at the shore of the dammed river. During the 13th and 14th century the castle was owned by our family who had to waive their rights of ownership of this strategically important place after a long lasting dispute with three

different archbishops from Riga. In return for the ownership of Kokenhusen the Tiesenhausen family was awarded the right to build castles in Erlaa/Ergli and Bersohn/Berzaune of which only very limited remains are left.



The travel party in the ruins of Kokenhusen. Only Maria Tiesenhausen from Canada is missing. She took the photo.

A special welcome was given to the group in Tiersen/Tirza where our family once owned property. Nils Treijs had seen in the internet that the family had plans to travel to Livonia and he had invited the group to his carefully renovated estate. He also took us to a church which had recently been renovated. Although this church was built at the beginning of the 20th century it was in a place where the predecessor was co-financed by our family. Nils also took us to the Tiesenhausen mausoleum which looks currently rather battered, but according to our host it will be renovated very soon.

Next was a visit to the Hoppenhof/Ape estate which once belonged to Axel Freiherr v. Delwig whose daughter Karin was married to Johannes Tiesenhausen. Unfortunately this estate is very run-down after a fire destroyed the roof a few years ago. And for the night we stayed in Dickeln/Dikli which also once was owned by the Tiesenhausen family, but is now a very nice, for the rural Latvian area almost luxurious hotel. The following days there were trips Wenden/Cecis and to the ruins of the old castle of the Teutonic order and to a church where there was the plate of arms of our family amongst others. Another trip went to the castle of Treiden/Tureida, on which in 1211 our ancestor

Engelbrecht von Tiesenhausen was reeve of his brother in law archbishop Albrecht von Buxhoevede. The last day was dedicated to rest and relaxation in beautiful summer whether in shore city Rigaer Strand/Jurmela.

Since everything went well during this trip except a few minor mishaps, and the family got along with each other well, although there was quite a difference in age and interests, it is planned to undertake a similar trip in 2011 to Estonia., starting from Reval/Tallin with its cathedral and the many witnesses of our family's history. Also on the agenda will be Wesenberg/Rakvere, as well Weissenstein/Paide and Hapsal/Haapsalu, where in the 16th century Georg Tiesenhausen was bishop of Oesel-Wiek. More details of this planned trip, as well as the schedule and costs will be given in the family news letter of 2010.

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Family reunion 2009

The Untermühle in Köngernheim in Rheno-Palatina was for the second time the location for our family reunion. It started on Friday with a wine tasting and a tour of the wine festival which happened to be at the same beautiful June weekend. So everyone was ready, relaxed, and prepared for a harmonic reunion. The Saturday our cousin Christiane Röder, a master of arts of archaeology and daughter of Sabine Röder, born v.Tiesenhausen, led with knowledge and charm a tour thru the Roman remains in nearby Alzey

After a festive dinner and long evening of talking, exchanging and refreshing memories, the next morning everybody came together for prayer which was held by Elisabeth Oetken, born Freiin v.Tiesenhausen. Finally the necessary formalities of the reunion were discussed and decided which included the election of the directorate which was re-elected unanimously, to nobody's surprise. Andreas v.Tiesenhausen (Erbes-Büdesheim) remains chairman. His deputy is again Maximillian v.Delwig-Tiesenhausen (Marburg). The protocol is done by Matthias v.Tiesenhausen (Königstein), the finances are managed by Elisabeth Oetken, born v.Tiesenhausen. And the important task of family genealogist continues to be executed by Sabine Röder, born v.Tiesenhausen.



The participants of the family reunion 2009

Genealogy was the topic for another important decision during the family day. The participants supported the proposal of the directorate to enter into negotiation with the editing company Starke in Limburg about a new edition of the family tree in the „Genealogic handbook of nobles“, better known as “the Gotha”. This decision has already put into action by now. In 2011 a new edition for the Freiherr and Barons will be published. The cost associated with this will be approximately €2000 which will have to be carried by the parts of our greater family. The family genealogist Sabine Röder (Falltorweg 12, D-63303 Dreieich, E-mail: familie-roeder@arcor-de) will collect the necessary data and will coordinate the overall activity. However, she does need the support of all parts of the family to ensure that those parts of the family who do not have a close contact to the family are represented correctly and completely. This pertains in particular our family members in France, Brazil, and the United States of America. Everybody is requested to provide contacts, addresses, email accounts and phone numbers to her.

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Are pictures really worth a 1000 words?

The cohesion within a family requires, like in any social group, to be aware of your memories and your past. The awareness of a common history creates closeness. This includes the stories told by the older generation, but also the

pictures which give us an impression of who and what was in the past. Two world wars and the revolution have caused many pictures, which were held and maintain in the family, to be lost. The so called ancestral portrait galleries, which held more or less perfectly executed pictures of our forefathers, do no longer exist. The more joy is felt when every now and then a picture of a family member is discovered which was thought to be lost. Such a case is the portrait of Anton Graf von Tiesenhausen – in the Polish version of the name Antoni Tyzenhaus. He lived from 1733 to 1785 and was finance minister under the Polish king August Stanislaus Poniatowski.



Anton Tiesenhausen was a reformer who worked towards improvement of the education of a broader segment of the Polish people and towards the improvement of the medical services thru implementation of modern hospitals. He established workshops and manufactures in which textiles, paper, ceramic, leatherwear, and other household utensils were produced. By intrigues launched

from the Russian court in St.Petersburg the Polish king lost confidence in Anton. And he finally lost his position and his fortune.

„Flight and rescue“ – was the title of an article in our 2007 family news letter which described the dramatic events that happened to Roman Freiherr v.Tiesenhausen (1882 – 1944), who was deported during the revolution by the Bolsheviks to Siberia, but managed to flee and find his way back to Estonia. His grandson Peter Tiesenhausen from Demmitt in the Canadian State of Alberta gave us the attached photo showing the audacious member of our family:



In our 2008 family news letter, Hans Heinrich Tiesenhausen from Vancouver wrote about the „Consequences of a royal affaire“. It was about the connection between the crown prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia, who became later king Friedrich Wilhelm IV, and Katharina Tiesenhausen, a daughter of count Ferdinand v.Tiesenhausen, who fell as aide-de-camp of the Russian czar in the battle of Austerlitz in 1805. Katharina gave birth to a son named Felix Elston who had a son duke Felix Felixowitsch Jussupoff Graf Sumarokow-Elston who belonged

to the group that killed the Russian miracle healer Grigori Rasputin. In a book about Russian art at the beginning of the 20th century the following portrait of him was found:



We remember our deceased

Dimitri Baron v.Tiesenhausen, born November 8, 1912 in Cherson in Russia, died September 3, 2008 in Los Angeles, California. In his obituary of his orthodox church, in which he served for many years as starost, he is described as a man of few words and full of friendliness. Dimitri was married to Natalie Prikot and leaves behind a daughter Elena Olga, married Zaharow.

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Family News

November 29, 2008 in Frankfurt Helena Anna Waltraut Freiin v.Tiesenhausen was born. She is the daughter of Christine and Matthias Tiesenhausen in Königstein, Germany. The family had the opportunity to welcome her during the family reunion

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April 4, 2009 in Marburg Amelie Freiin v.Delwig-Tiesenhausen was born. She is the daughter of Christiane and Maximillian Delwig-Tiesenhausen. The family congratulates and wishes a warm welcome to the new cousin.

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Hans Theodor Freiherr v.Tiesenhausen was called to serve in the board of directors of the „Landesvorstand der Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe“ in North-Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Last year he had been awarded the medal „Aktiv im Norden“ by his home city of Hagen to honor him for his engagement in numerous functions of the Order of St.John, the Protestant Church, and the Christian Democratic Party.

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