



Wolter v.Tiesenhausen

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Family Letter 2014

of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

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News from the Family

Family Reunion 2015

Next year we will be celebrating our regular family reunion again on the Hoehnscheid Manor near Kassel in Germany. This time we managed to secure a nice summer week end which will allow us to use the beautiful outside facilities. The meeting will start on Friday, July 24 and will end Sunday, July 26. I am looking forward to meet as many cousins as possible.

It is important that many family members arrive already Friday evening, because the prices for accommodation which we are charged are based on the premise that a minimum of 18 rooms are occupied (and paid for) on Friday. At the last family reunion we had an unpleasant discussion with the host about the low number of rooms used on Friday which I would like to avoid this time.

For Saturday morning we have the opportunity to take a trip to the nearby Wilhelmsthal Manor which is located near Calden. It is said to be one of the nicest German rococo palaces and was constructed in the middle of the 18th century as a hunting lodge for landgrave Wilhelm VIII of Hessen-Kassel.

Even though there are no elections necessary on this year's family reunion, we will certainly have to discuss many interesting topics from all parts of the family. Besides the newest news from the genealogical works, we need to continue our plans for the trip to Lithuania and Kurland in 2017. And most certainly the festive part of this event will also play a very prominent role again.

After a long and partly laborious efforts our family genealogist Sabine Roeder has succeeded to gather all relevant dates for the new edition of the „Genealogischen Handbuchs des Adels“ – Band 157, Freiherrliche Häuser XXVI - . I would like to use the opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Sabine for her relentless detective efforts.

As decided and communicated in a separate memo, we have apportioned the charge for the print of the new edition across the various parts of the family. The first six members have already paid their dues. Many thanks for such exemplary behavior. The new edition can be purchased until January 31, 2015 for a reduced price of Euro 41.50 from C.H. Starke publishers in Limburg, Germany. After that the regular price will be Euro 45.00.

Obviously our efforts to carry forward our family tree do not stop with the new edition of the ‚Gotha‘. Therefore we all need to support the Genealogist in her important mission by communicating immediately important family related events such as births, marriages and deaths to keep our records updated.

Every now and then we find hints of so far unknown family members like Kaja-Tyzenhauz in Poland, who I came across accidentally on Youtube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-E4uZObiJU>). Wouldn't it be nice to know how we are related? Whoever can solve that puzzle in a credible way will receive a bottle of Syrah from me as a finder's fee.

Andreas v.Tiesenhausen

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The Deaconess Elsa v.Tiesenhausen

With the lurid headline ‘...and was sentenced to death twice by the same...’ Gerhard Fuerstler describes in his book ‘the belief which works through love’ the life of the deaconess Elsa Marie Baroness v.Tiesenhausen. She was born in 1890 as daughter to the imperial Privy Council Gustav Wilhelm Baron v.Tiesenhausen (1859-1926) and his wife Ludmilla Heimberger (1860-1937).

Elsa grew up in Sankt Petersburg, Riga and on the family property on the Crimea Peninsula. After preparation thru private tutors she entered the high school for girls in Sankt Petersburg where she graduated in 1908. After that she continued her studies and became a high school teacher. During the first world war

and the Russian Revolution she stayed in her family's home in Werru/Voru in what is today Estonia. She was arrested by the advancing troops of the Red Army and sentenced to death. However, she was freed by German troops which were still around in the Baltic area. She fled to Riga where she was again captured by the Red Army and sentenced to death a second time. But Baltic national troops freed her when they captured Riga.



The imperial Russian Privy Council Gustav Baron v. Tiesenhausen, father of the deaconess Elsa Baronesse v. Tiesenhausen

Elsa immigrated to Germany and joined 1919 the Christian House Malche in Brandenburg where she received a solid education as deaconess. In the following year she got to know the house of deaconesses Gallneukirchen close to Linz in Austria. There she worked for two years as religious support and in tending to old aged persons. In 1922 she returned to Germany serving as community and juvenile worker. In 1929 she moved to Berlin to be educated as a nurse. Upon her exams she went back as a deaconess to her motherhouse Gallneukirchen.

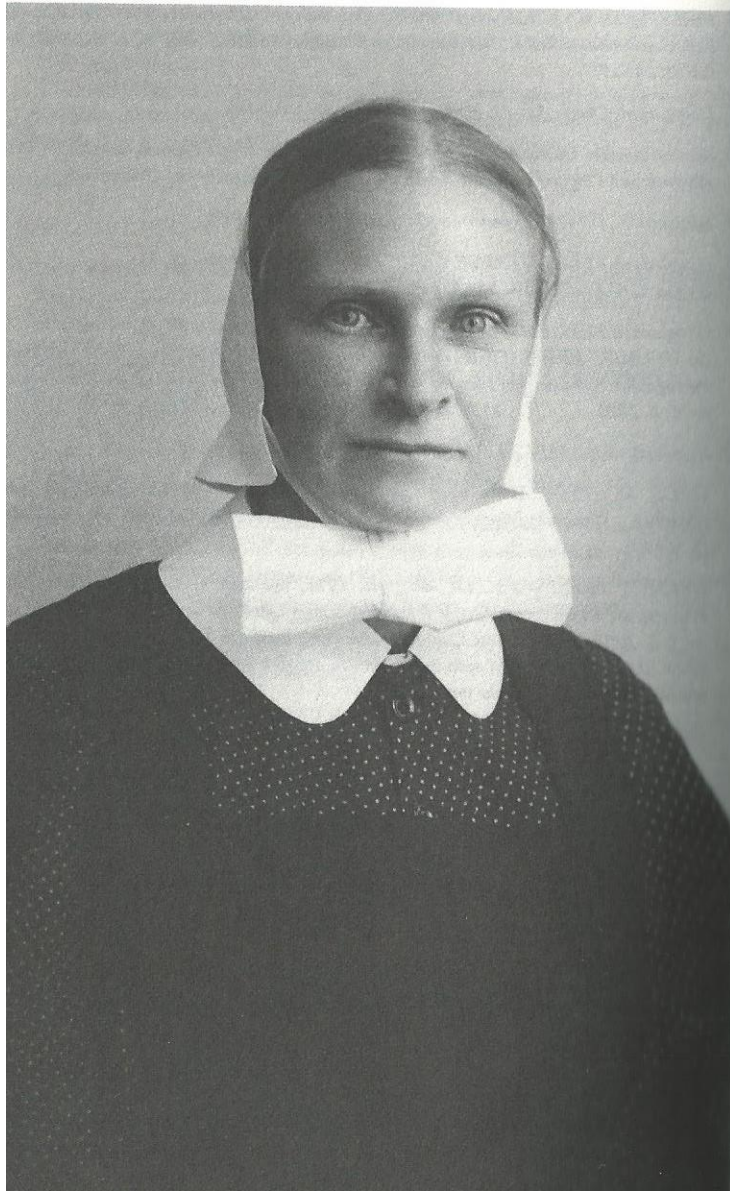
Her first assignment brought her to as a so called travelling sister to Kronstadt/Brasov in Romania. In her memoirs she noted, 'The cold went down to mi-

nus 25 degrees Celsius, the snowstorm whipped and howled, with a sleigh I reached the village where I had held a number of evangelizations in the year before. The concerns that the weather would keep many from coming turned out to be not true. The hall was full. Despite the cold and the danger to run into wolves on the long paths across the mountains, all had come. What a pleasure! Every day we held presentations and consultations. Men and women came with their bibles asking questions after question, revealing the troubles of their souls.’

After Austria was included in the German Reich by the Nazis in 1938 her missionary activities ended. She was active in her motherhouse in Gallneukirchen in various administrative and care giving areas until she was sent to Krummnau at the Moldau River in the occupied and partly annexed Czech Slovakia.

Gerhard Fürstler writes about this: ‘The service requires a lot of personal strength and takes her to the small and dispersed living groups of Protestants. She had to endure eight to ten kilometer walks and tiring rides in buses. It took great efforts to gather the members of the protestant community to bible reading sessions and children to religious services. As a consequence of the war, the provisioning and the transportation became more and more complicated, and Elsa was reduced to her own support. She held services, conducted religious education, bible reading events and was responsible for the entire spiritual guidance of the community.’

Elsa did not only use existing texts for her services but preached freely. Her superior pastor Erwin Schlachter wrote in a letter: ‘I fully approve and support the fact that you are not just reading from the bible in your services, but have decided to preach freely. Once the parish takes such an annunciation from a woman, the freely spoken word is certainly more important than a read sermon. We will all faithfully think about you.’ These words were written long before the protestant church started to ordinate the first woman.



The deaconess Elsa v. Tiesenhausen 31. März 1890 to 15. April 1979

Elsa v. Tiesenhausen not only had to battle the war induced impediments and material shortcomings. She also had to stand up numerous times for her pastoral care in interrogations by the Gestapo. This was detrimental to her health. After a severe case of pneumonia, heart problems forced her in 1943 to end her mission in Krummnau. After some time as community nurse in Thening in Austria, she became permanently sick in 1946 and was retired in 1950.

On April 15, 1979, an Easter Sunday, Elsa v. Tiesenhausen died and was buried four days later on the protestant cemetery St. Peter in Graz, Austria. In the obituaries by her fellow sisters it said: 'In her service as travelling sister and com-

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munity sister, she was happy. She used her opportunities and chances, even in the times of the National Socialism to pass on the message of the Lord, which was also her personal purpose in life.'

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Hans Heinrich to his 100th Birthday

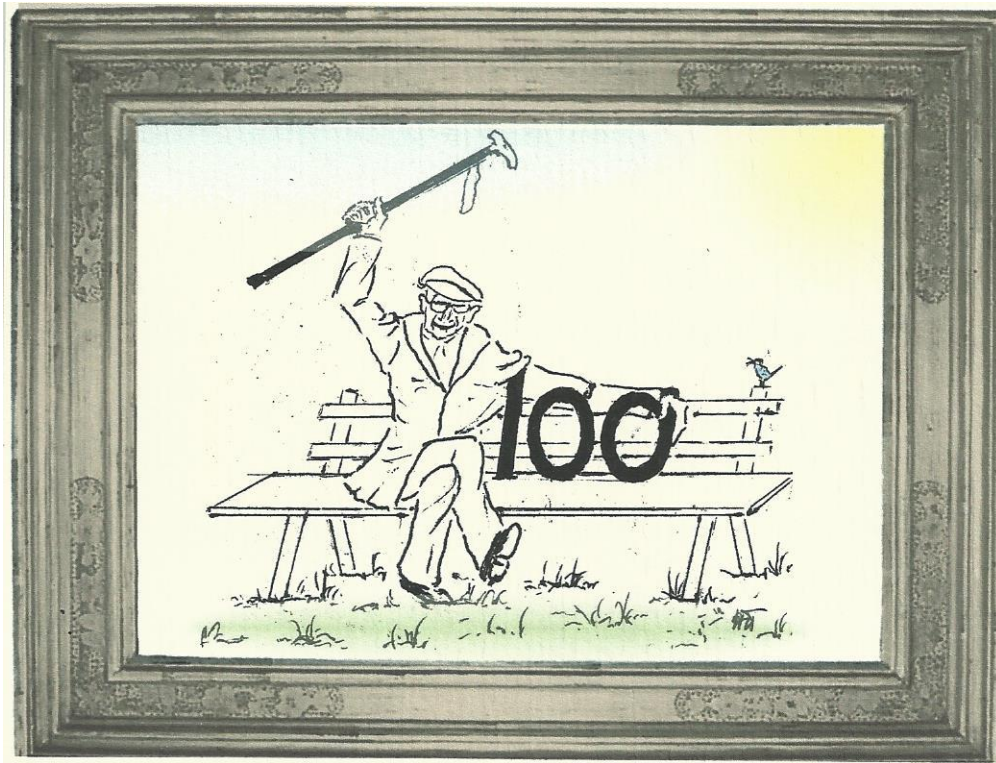
The senior of our large family, Hans Heinrich Freiherr v. Tiesenhausen celebrates his 100th birthday on December 16. He was born in 1914 in Riga as third son to the art nouveau architect Gerhard v. Tiesenhausen and his wife Carola v. Sittmann, who derived from Mecklenburg. Already in 1916 his father died during the war in Tiraspol in Southern Russia. The young widow moved to Germany with her three sons, where they grew up and became all officers in the German Wehrmacht.

Hans Dietrich, called Dietz, became a submarine commander, was captured by the British, and became a prisoner of war in Canada. His brother Hans Albrecht was killed in action in January 1945 near Tentismühle in the Eifel. He is buried on the soldier cemetery in Bitburg. Hans Heinrich survived the war, was educated to become an interior decorator, and immigrated to Canada like his brother and his mother.

In 1955 Hans Heinrich married Erika v. Hantelmann. They were blessed with two children. Their son Hans Christian was born in 1959 and their daughter Gabrielle was born in 1961. Since decades Hans Heinrich ensures that the ties between the parts of the family which live in Canada and those parts in the rest of the world stay intact. His historic and genealogical interest, his willingness to communicate which drove him, despite his age, to get educated in the secrets of the Internet, has created many new contacts and has led to old contacts to remain intact. The family is thankful for many interesting contributions regarding our history and regarding the development of the Canadian part of the family.



The brothers –from left – Hans Albrecht, Hans Diedrich and Hans Heinrich v.Tiesenhausen



...that is how Hans Heinrich caricatured himself to his 100th birthday

The whole family congratulates Hans Heinrich to his birthday, wishing him health, happiness and lots of pleasure with his children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends in Canada, Germany and the rest of the world.

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The Numismatist Woldemar v. Tiesenhausen

When sending the memo about the apportionment of the printing expense for the new Gotha, I was using an address file which contained a userid that I could not clearly identify. The following day I received an email from a curator of Islamic coins of the American Numismatic Society in New York who explained that years ago, when he needed a userid, he chose the name Tiesenhausen because

this was a numismatist in the 19th century who he admired. His works about the coins of the Abbasid caliphs is still state of the art. The person in question is Vladimir v. Tiesenhausen who lived from 1825 to 1902.

Searching in Amazon you can still purchase his book published in 1872 'Monnaies des Khalifes orientaux'. There is also an article about him in the French version of Wikipedia from which I am happy to quote below:

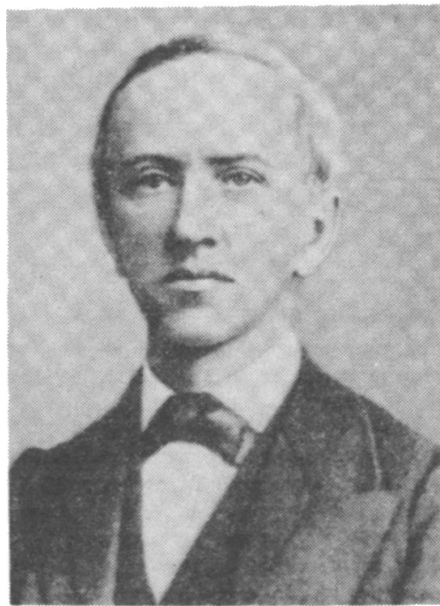
'The Baron Ernst Woldemar v. Tiesenhausen (in Russian Vladimir Gustavovich) was born on February 25, 1825 in Narva and died February 2, 1902 in Sankt Petersburg. He was scientist for oriental coins and author of a number of scientific and historic books and publications.

Woldemar v. Tiesenhausen is from an old German-Baltic family, who came to Livonia with the German knights. He attended the high school in Sankt Petersburg and graduated from university in 1848 with a diploma in orientalist languages. He participated in the research of Christian Martin Fraehn who was director of the Asiatic Museum of the Russian Imperial Academy. He did not have a large personal fortune, so he became a public servant for 12 years to earn the livelihood for himself and his family. In 1861 he became president of the Imperial Archeological Commission and undertook a number of exploring expeditions to ancient Greek and Scythe cities in Northern Caucasus and Little Russia which is now called Ukraine.

His two last works received the most attention and are still relevant today, as they are containing a lot of important and hard to access sources. Tiesenhausen could only conduct his research thanks to the patronage of the enormously rich and educated count Stroganov who also financed the publication of his works. He also paid for his trip to Europe in 1880 to allow him to assemble manuscripts about the history of the Mongols. The first volume of this work was published in 1884. The second volume only followed in 1941 because Tiesenhausen had lost his financial backing after the death of count Stroganov. The second volume deals mainly with Persian sources, which Tiesenhausen translated; specifically, it deals with the chronicle about the victory of Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazid in the 15th century. In 1893 Woldemar v. Tiesenhausen became a member of Russian Imperial Academy of Sciences.'

Following further research in the Gotha and in the Internet, I was able to locate our famous ancestor. He belongs to stem Erlaa, branch Sausen, twig Kavershof in the first house as the eighth child of Gustav Adolph v.Tiesenhausen who lived from 1786 to 1841 and was major in the Russian Army in Narva.

Andreas v.Tiesenhausen



Woldemar v.Tiesenhausen 25.Februar 1825 bis 2.Februar 1902

News from the Family

Karlie v.Tiesenhausen, daughter to Karl and Joy Lorraine v.Tiesenhausen, born Davis was born April 27, 2014 in San Francisco. The family congratulates and wishes the new born cousin a happy and blessed life.

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