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Familiy Letter 2020

Of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

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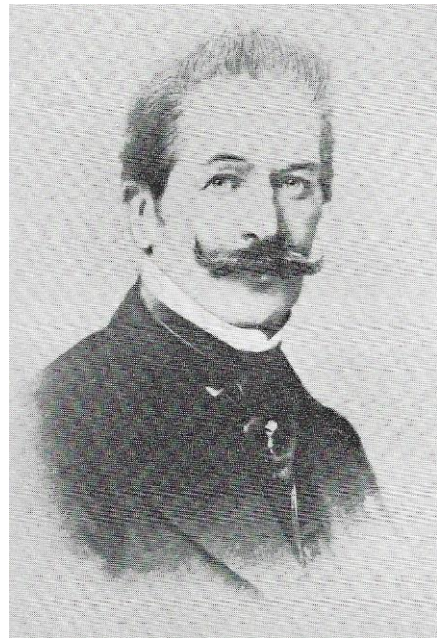
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Re-published after 160 years

British Library publishes a historic text by Eduard Tiesenhausen

In 1860 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of integrating Livonia – the territory of the nowadays states of Estonia and Latvia - into the Russian Empire, Caspar Eduard Baron v. Tiesenhausen had published a constitutional memorandum which has now been re-published by the British Library. It is part of the „General Historical Collections“ which serve the purpose to provide readers insight into the thoughts and understanding of the 19th Century history. The British Library is the National Library of the United Kingdom and calls itself the largest research library of the world with more than 14 million volumes.

Eduard Tiesenhausen, was born in 1806 on Weißensee Manor, died in 1878 in Wiesbaden, Germany, was married to Josephine Freiin v. Campenhausen (1811 – 1881). He held a doctor's degree in Law and Philology, served as Vice President of Court and Deputy of the County. His, as facsimile reprinted, memorandum is titled „Overview of the historic development of the main points from the Livonian State Constitution.“ It is 30 pages strong and contains according to the preface „a summary from the chronicles, historic ledgers and legal documents of the relevant elements of the Livonian Constitution with the purpose to provide to those interested in the country affairs the foundation of the country's legal history.“



The text is structured into four chapters which describe the time of independence under the German Order, the Archbishop of Riga and the Bishops of Dorpat, Reval, Courland and Oesel. Later the time under the government by Poland, Sweden and Russia is covered. He describes the change from knightly vassals of the Order and the Bishops to a more and more self-conscious acting knighthood and the inclusion of the larger cities Riga, Dorpat and Reval into the consultations and decisions of the country.

Eduard Tiesenhausen looks very critically on the time of the Polish and Swedish government. Both countries had tried to limit the independence of the cities and the knighthood. He looks much more benevolent upon the Russian government since 1710. He writes „As long as Livonia belonged to Poland and Sweden, there was no chance for internal peace and development. Only since the union

with Russia the blessings of peace came over these countries which were since centuries devastated by internal and external confrontations. “

At that time in 1860, Russia was ruled by Czar Alexander II, who was for these days a liberal reform-oriented ruler. He ended in 1861 bondage in the rest of the Russian Empire. In Livonia this had happened 40 years earlier. However, already after the Polish insurrection in 1863, the Russian government started to align the Baltic rules to those in place in Russia. After the assassination of Alexander II and the start of the reign of Alexander III in 1881 the russification of the Baltic provinces was increasingly driven. This bitter experience was spared for the author Eduard v.Tiesenhausen who died in 1878.

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Family Reunion 2021

Our next family reunion is planned to take place from June 25 to June 27, 2021 at Schloss Hoehnscheid, provided the Corona Pandemic or the feeble financial situation of the company managing the place, the Hoehnscheid KG, are not ruining our plans. The danger from Covid19 could well be limited until next summer. The development of vaccines which might be available until then and the application of general precautions which limit the spread of the disease can give rise to some careful hope.

Even if this hope comes true, it is questionable if we still can celebrate our event in the well-known premises of Schloss Hoehnscheid. Doubts are more than likely. Even before the pandemic, the Hoehnscheid KG was in a critical economic situation which has now worsened. Since February of this year the house is closed due to the pandemic.

For quite a while there has been no tenant. After multiple changes, management was jointly taken over by the president of the “Verband der Baltischen Ritterschaften“ Klaus Baron v.Hahn and the Controller Alexander Freiherr v.Medem. Even if next year events from families and the knighthood can take place in Hoehnscheid, a full year without revenue but with costs for maintenance of the location will be hard to absorb by the Höhenscheid KG. No wonder that rumours about the separation from Hoehnscheid are spreading.

We will have to wait and see and hope for better times. There are other places outside of Hoehnscheid. There are Hotels where happy reunions can be celebrated. This will require phantasy and organizational talent of the chairman of

our family. Since he just got rid of his professional duties, he could concentrate on this important task. -- Dear Andreas get going on it.

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A sensitive Translation

The booklet remembering „Gut Hoppenhof – a small Baltic legacy “ by Barbara Pauli born Freiin v.Tiesenhausen is available since last year in Latvian language. The idea to translate it was brought forward by the president of the Latvian Academy of Science Professor Dr. Ojars Sparitis, who is working since years to foster understanding with his fellow Latvian inhabitants of the past of his country which was influenced heavily by German citizens. The translation was done by Irena Meistere, who enriched the book with its many gentle aquarelles created by the author by adding a sensitive preface.

She not only describes the history of the manor and of the village of Ape but also the genealogy of the owning family. In 1883 Axel Freiherr v.Delwig bought the manor of Hoppenhof and developed the dilapidated estate into a model operation. He was married to Alma v.Schrenk and fathered six daughters. The second was married in 1906 to Hermann Johannes Freiherr v.Tiesenhausen, called Hans. They are the parents to the painter and author of the booklet.

Her elder brother Hans Heinrich was supposed to inherit the Hoppenhof manor and was therefore adopted by his unmarried aunt Ingeborg v.Delwig. His descendants as of today still carry the name Delwig-Tiesenhausen. The family moved to Germany following the first world war and after the troop withdrawal of the German occupation in 1918. When Latvia became independent, the heir of the manor remained in Germany, so that Hoppenhof was managed by his cousins Rolf and Thure v. Wahl until the resettlement of the Germans in 1940.

Barbara Pauli geb. Freiin v. Tiesenhausen

Gut Hoppenhof – Ein kleines baltisches Vermächtnis



In addition, Irena Meistere has collected many statements from contemporary witnesses and former servants and tenants of the manor which draw an overall positive picture of the owners of the manor. Thanks to the energy and creativity of Axel v. Delwig not only farming was done on Hoppenhof, but also lime was burned, sold and transported via a newly installed narrow gauge railway. To have the railway run over Hoppenhof manor, Delwig had to commit to build a station. Assuming future development he also ordered a plan for a settlement. Within a few years the village Oppe – in Latvian language Ape – grew and in 1911 a total of 571 people lived there. It consisted of 47 houses, a post station, a telegraph, two tee houses, an agricultural society, a stationary shop and a state-run liquor store.

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We commemorate our Deceased

Gisela Olga Gräfin v.Tiesenhausen, born in 1927 on Odenwald manor in Estonia, died February 24, 2020 in Vancouver, Canada. She was daughter to Hans Heinrich Graf Tiesenhausen and Anna Baronesse v.Maydell, who emigrated in 1951 with their children to Canada. Our condolences go to her brother Hans Heinrich Graf v.Tiesenhausen.

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Hans Heinrich Freiherr v.Tiesenhausen, the senior of our large family, died July 8, 2020 in Vancouver, Canada age 106. He was the third son of the well-known art nouveau architect Gerhard v.Tiesenhausen, who died only two years after Hans Heinrich was born in an accident in Southern Russia. With her three sons, the mother moved to Germany to join her family. During the second world war Hans Heinrich, like his two brothers, became an officer in the Army and after the war he studied to become an interior architect. In 1953 he emigrated to Canada joining his brother Hans Dietrich, called Dietz, who had learned to love Canada during his time as prisoner of war. Hans Heinrich was the anchor of our family association in Canada, kept regular contact with Europe and reported all relevant family matters. He participated in family reunions whenever possible. Our condolences together with our hope of continuation of ongoing reports of Canadian family matters go to his daughter Gabrielle and his son Hans Christian.



Hans Heinrich at his 100th birthday with his children and grandchildren

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