



Wolter v. Tiesenhausen

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Family Letter 2021

Of the v. Tiesenhausen Family

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High nobility or ministerial?

New insights into the history of the family:

Up to now, when researching the origins of our family, we assumed that the Tiesenhausen belonged to the ministerials. They were noblemen but were subordinated to sovereigns who belonged to the high nobility. In the Latin documents from that time, i.e. the 12th century, a distinction is made between "nobiles" and "miles" - nobility and knights. Engelbrecht Tiesenhausen, the ancestor of all of us, was a ministerial of the Counts of Wölpe and administered a castle near

Nienburg on the Weser, which no longer exists today. The only remaining reference to this castle is the street name "Tiesenhusen" in Nienburg.



Statue of Engelbrecht Tiesenhausen in Roskisis Church in Lithuania

Dr. Stefan Eick from the publishing house Solivagus in Kiel, who is investigating the history of the county of Schaumburg in the 13th and 14th centuries, has now discovered that the Tiesenhusen also belonged to the nobles and were thus members of the Saxon high nobility. He proves this with a document from 1215 by Count Bernhard von Wölpe for the Mariensee monastery. In this document, among the witnesses, a Heinrich de Thisenhusen is described as nobile. In the same document Egelbertus de Thisenhusen also testifies. However, he is not listed among the nobles, but is described as a castellan, i.e. administrator of a castle.

Eick assumes that the economic circumstances of the Thisenhusen family were apparently not very rosy and only allowed Heinrich to live according to his status. Egelbertus had to become dependent on the counts of Wölpe and had to renounce his privileges. A development, which Eick can also prove with other noble families in the North German area.

A bit confusing is the dating of the document of the monastery Marien-see from the year 1215, because according to other documents Engelbertus de Tysenhusen is reeve of Treyden in 1211. Of course, one cannot exclude that Engelbertus took home leave after his assignment in Livonia and was temporarily back in Northern Germany. But

this can not have lasted long, because in 1224 he is mentioned as a vassal of his brother-in-law, the bishop of Dorpat, Hermann von Buxhoeveden, and administrator of the castle Odempä. The fact that Engelbertus is not mentioned in any of the known Livonian original documents between 1211 and 1224 also speaks for the thesis of "home leave".

Engelbertus was probably the only one from the family who embarked on the Baltic adventure. The reason was his marriage with the sister of the Bremen canon Albert of Buhoeveden, the initiator of the Christianization of Livonia and the first archbishop of Riga, the city he founded. In any case, Heinricus remained in Germany. Likewise a Gottfried Tiesenhausen, who is documented in 1270 as a fief of the Counts of Wölpe. He is promised half the income of the town of Münder - today Bad Münder. In 1281 his wife Margaretha bequeathed two salt pans in Münder to the nunnery at Lodhenu. At that time, the Baltic Tiesenhausen already owned the strategically important Kokenhusen Castle on the Düna River and were standard bearers of the Riga archbishopric.

According to the account of Dr. Stefan Eick, the Tiesenhausen who remained in Germany migrated to Holstein in the 14th century and became feudatories of the Counts of Holstein. That there were relations of the Baltic Tiesenhausen to Holstein, more precisely to the Hanseatic city of Lübeck, in the 14th and 15th century is documented. Johann Tiesenhausen was a member of the circle brotherhood in Lübeck and in 1361 he married Mechthild Warendorp, daughter of the Lübeck councilman Thiedemann Warendorp, who brought half of her father's property into the marriage. Johann's son Engelbrecht also married a Lübeck patrician's daughter, so that the family had property in Holstein, but still resided in Livonia and was politically active there.

Dr. Eick is continuing his research into the allegiance of the Counts of Schaumburg and has promised to inform us if he should come across any other members of our family.

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Family Day 2022

The disastrous Corona pandemic has thrown many things into turmoil. This also applies to our Family Days, which actually take place every two years. 2021 had to be cancelled. We very much hope that we will be able to get together again this year. Please, mark the date already:

August 19 to 21, 2022 at Höhnscheid Castle.

There is no exact program yet, but as always, the focus will be on socializing. The knightly center Schloss Höhnscheid has gone through a difficult time, but is now, according to those responsible, on a hopeful path. If all goes well, we will be able to judge for ourselves in August.

