



Wolter v. Tiesenhausen

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Family Letter 2023

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Family Day 2024

The Chairman of our Family Association, Max Freiherr v. Delwig-Tiesenhausen, draws attention to the next Family Day in 2024:

Dear family,

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in a hopefully somewhat calmer 2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to our next Family Day from September 13 to 15, 2024 at the Schloss Höhnscheid Knights' Center.

An official invitation with information on room reservations etc. will be distributed by email sometime in the first half of the year.

I very much hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Stay healthy, happy and cheerful

Yours Max

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Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen – the Story of an exciting Life

We owe our family board member Susanne Kreusch the insights into the book published in 1856 by Eduard Baron von Tiesenhausen on "The Conquest of Livonia" by the Tsarist army as well as the life story of the Land Marshal of the Livonian Knighthood Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen.

Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen was born in 1650 - according to other sources in 1652 - as the fourth son of the royal Swedish lieutenant colonel Johann von Tiesenhausen (1627 - 1674) and his wife Catharina v. Brümmer on the Nachtigall estate in Livonia. After initially being educated by tutors, he was brought to Stockholm at the age of 16 by his father, who entrusted him to Count Magnus de la Gardie. The Reichstruchsess was the highest court official of the Swedish kings. He sent Georg Reinhold to the University of Upsala at his own

expense, where he devoted himself not only to the sciences, but also to the so-called knightly arts, i.e. riding, fencing and dancing. In 1668, he became a court junkie at the court of the Swedish King Charles XI and served as a trabant, ensuring the personal safety of the king and his court.



After two years of court service, he took his leave and returned to Livonia. While peace - albeit fragile - prevailed in his Baltic homeland, warlike conflicts were looming in Western Europe. France, under the domineering Louis XIV, reached for the Netherlands, so that its new strongman William III of Orange also had troops recruited in the Baltic. Georg Reinhold went to Holland in 1674 as an ensign in a Courland dragoon regiment and quickly advanced to lieutenant. However, as Sweden allied itself with France in those years, the Swedish subjects in Dutch service were recalled. Georg Reinhold returned to Livonia in 1676.

During the battles between Sweden and Brandenburg over the Swedish possessions of Greifswald and Stralsund, Georg Reinhold served as quartermaster with the rank of cavalry captain in General Horn's personal regiment. In 1687 he married Anne Salome von König, the daughter of a cavalry captain in the Royal Swedish Guard. Four sons and three daughters were born to the couple, whose descendants now live in Germany and the United States. For example, Georg Heinrich Patrick von Tiesenhausen, the "father of the moon vehicle" and head of department at NASA, who died a few years ago at the age of 103.

The beginning of the Northern War in 1700, in which Sweden defended its Baltic holdings against Russia, Saxony and Poland, saw Georg Reinhold as a major and shortly afterwards as a lieutenant colonel in Pahlen's cavalry regiment. Health problems prompted him to ask King Charles XII of Sweden for his resignation, which was granted in 1703.

But a peaceful retirement was out of the question. After initial successes, Sweden found itself on the defensive in 1709 following its defeat at the Battle of Poltava in the Ukraine. Russian troops under the command of Field Marshal Count Sheremetyev surrounded Riga. Resistance grows within the knighthood, whose influence had been considerably reduced under Swedish rule. Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhau-

sen is elected Land Marshal, a decision that is contrary to the Swedish crown's claim to power, but is nevertheless confirmed by the Swedish Governor General Count Strömberg in view of the external threat.

In June 1710, the Russians offer the besieged city and its troops negotiations on an honorable surrender. This was initially rejected. The result was heavy shelling, so that after a few days the Swedish Governor General gave up his resistance and agreed to the surrender. The terms were negotiated by the knights under the leadership of the Land Marshal and the city of Riga and accepted by Count Shermetyev without any major changes. A few days later, the knighthood took the oath of allegiance to Tsar Peter in the castle church and the citizens of Riga in the Town Hall square. The core of the capitulation conditions was the restoration of the privileges of the Livonian nobility as well as the freedom of the cities and thus their right to self-government. In addition, the Freedom of worship according to the Augsburg Confession was also guaranteed. Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen relinquished the office of Land Marshal, but continued to serve as district administrator of the knighthood until 1721 and thus participated in the administration of Livonia. Georg Reinhold von Tiesenhausen died on June 20, 1733.

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Family News

Felix Constantin von Tiesenhausen was born in Mainz on May 6, 2023. The family congratulates his parents Franziska and Janko and, of course, his grandfather Andreas, the long-standing chairman of the family association.

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Hans Albrecht von Tiesenhausen, born in Riga in 1913 and killed in 1945 near Tentismühle in the Eifel, kept a detailed diary of his experiences during the Second World War. The notes from 1939 to 1943 were transcribed by his widow Marina v.Grotthuß. Unfortunately, the later diaries, which could also be of particular historical interest, are missing because Hans Albrecht served in the army high command until he was transferred to the front, where he fell in the last month of the war. He is buried in the soldiers' cemetery in Bitburg in the Eifel region.

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