



Wolter v.Tiesenhausen

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Family News Letter 2013

of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

Content

Family day 2013

The Tiesenhausen during the Thirty Years' War

A philatelic rarity

We commemorate our deceased

News from the familiy

Family Day 2013

After a pause of a few years, our family held this year's family day in April again in the Baltic center in SchlossHöhnscheid. The familiar surroundings gave rise to fond memories of many beautiful gatherings of our family at this location.

The necessary formalities were completed Saturday afternoon led by our chairman Andreas Tiesenhausen (Erbes-Büdesheim) in a swift and conjoint way. Upon proposal by our treasurer Elisabeth Tiesenhausen (Swisttal-Odendorf) it was decided to waive henceforth the collection of regular membership fees. Necessary amounts will be financed on a case by case basis thru apportionments.



Attendants of the family day in spring-sunshine before going to the dinner.

The family genealogist Sabine Röder (Dreieich-Buchschlag) reported about her efforts to support a new edition of the "GenealogischenHandbuch des Adels" by the publisher C.A. Starke taking into consideration the newer development of the "freiherrlichen" branches of our family. We still hope for the new edition to be available in early 2014.

Wolter Tiesenhausen (Meckenheim) was asked to evaluate the possibility of a family trip to Lithuania and Kurland.

The steering committee was re-elected unanimously: Chairman Andreas Tiesenhausen (Erbes-Büdesheim), second chairman Maximilian Delwig-Tiesenhausen (Mühlheim), treasurer Elisabeth Tiesenhausen (Swisttal-Odendorf), secretary Matthias Tiesenhausen (Königstein), genealogist Sabine Röder (Dreieich-Buchsschlag).

Following the obligatory picture –see above – and a festive dinner, the family was gathering until late exchanging news and catching up on old times. There was dance and even a bumpy Francaise was arranged.

The next morning the family gathered for a service in the chapel in the basement of the center. The next family day is planned again in Schloss Höhnscheid for the last week end in July 2015.

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The Tiesenhausen during the Thirty Years' War

In our newsletter ten years ago, we reported on the activities of our family during the Thirty Years' War (1618 to 1648) using the works of the frankonian regional historian Peter Engerisser who has published two books about the military activities in Franconia and southern Germany. Our main interest is on two individuals: the regimental commanders Detlof and Carl Tiesenhausen. Both fought on the protestant side which came somewhat natural but was not always self-evident.

Fighting for the protestant side was normal because the Baltic countries were since the beginning of the 17th Century under Swedish government and the Swedish king Gustav II Adolf was the respected leader of the protestant coalition. On the other hand, the Swedish control over Livonia (which to a large extent today is the northern part of the Latvian Republic) and Estonia was won in harsh fights against the Russians and the Polish. Specifically, against the Polish,

the Baltic parties were fighting to keep their protestant religion. Therefore, we can assume that besides the political and dynastic ties also religious reasons were playing an important role.

On the other hand there are ample examples where military leaders changed sides repeatedly during the Thirty Years' War. This happened due to violated pride, because the individual did not think he was sufficiently esteemed, or because the other side was making a more tempting offer.

Carl Tiesenhausen was commanding the Livonian Cavalry Regiment with differing references to his military rang. His unit was apparently financed by the Livonian Knighthood. In 1632 he is leading his regiment as a major during the Battle of Lützen which was won by the protestant party but during which the Swedish King Gustav II Adolf is killed in action. In the autumn of the same year Carl is leading his unit during the battle of the Alten Veste close to Zirndorf having the military rang of a lieutenant colonel. In 1634 he participates in activities in Upper Swabia and is listed as a major again.



Gustav II. Adolf King of Sweden

He is most likely the Carl Adolph Tiesenhausen born 1605. He owned the estates of Rösthof and Warrol. In 1652 he was feoffed the estate Luhde in Livonia. He was married first to Dorothea Tiesenhausen, daughter of Heinrich Tiesenhausen from Kalzenau, and later married to Ebba Barbara v. Wrangell, the heir of the Luhde estate.

Carl Adolph was Swedish lieutenant colonel and Livonian head of the district authority. He died in December of 1652. His line of the family is extinct.

His cousin Detlof we cannot determine exactly. While the first name Detlof is not rare with the Tiesenhausen family, we cannot match dates and functions with the Detlof Engrisser is mentioning. It appears that Detlof had, with his own money and with support from other parties, raised a regiment of foot soldiers which he put to service of Duke Ludwig von Anhalt who was in 1633 Swedish governor of the city of Magdeburg. His unit was dispatched to Frankonia to reinforce the troops of Duke Bernhard von Weimar who was trying to form a profane duchy Franconia from the dioceses Würzburg and Bamberg. An attempt which did not last very long.



Duke Bernhard von Weimar, the Regiment Tiesenhausen was under his general command

In the same year in Franconia there is the siege of the city of Kronach where Detlof Tiesenhausen is heavily wounded by bullet in the belly. The details of the unsuccessful siege of Kronach were reported in the newsletter of 2003. According to Engerisser, Detlof died in 1657 without having fully recovered from the injury suffered in Kronach. In a footnote Detlof is listed as a member of the Lithuanian part of the family which is unlikely because Lithuania at that time was a part of Poland and a military engagement for Sweden and the protestant union in Germany might have resulted in negative consequences for Detlof. Furthermore, the Tiesenhausen family is already documented at the beginning of the 13th Century in Livonia and not only in the 14th Century as the footnote incorrectly states.

The foot soldier regiment commanded by Detlof upon its arrival in Bamberg had four companies with a total of 500 men when physically examined by Duke Bernhard von Weimar. At the same time the strength of the Livonian Cavalry regiment under Carl Tiesenhausen is listed with eight companies and a total of 300 men. In November of 1633 Bernhard's troops capture Regensburg following a fierce battle. After this the Tiesenhausen Regiment is down to 300 men and moves to Thuringia close to the city of Schmalkalden for the winter where it is refilled by recruitment. In February of 1634 a head count of 770 men and 80 officers is documented. Four month later at a physical inspection on 600 men are registered. The loss of 20% is not due to military action but rather due to sickness and desertion.

Finally, at the battle of Nördlingen the Tiesenhausen Regiment is completely annihilated. This battle ends with a decisive defeat for the Protestant-Swedish side due to a poor judgment call by Duke Bernhard von Weimar whose cavalry attack opened the left wing and allowed the Catholic-Imperial infantry to stranglehold and completely defeat their opponent.

The Thirty Years' War was however far from being over. It lasted for another 14 bloody years. Duke Bernhard died already in 1639 at the age of only 36. Friedrich Schiller assumed in his book History of the Thirty Years' War that he was poisoned by the French because they were jealous of his conquests.

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A philatelic rarity

It is for real: the stamp of the Deutsche Post with the coat of arms of the Freiherrn v. Tiesenhausen. As you can see it is worth 58 Euro Cent and stamped correctly.



However, this stamp is not the result of a good relationship between our family and the Deutsche Post AG, but a result of the resourcefulness of our cousin Christoph Tiesenhausen (Gütersloh). He has used a special service the German Post is offering thru the internet to have a stamp of your choice printed. If you would like to use this service as well follow the link www.deutschepost.de/, then look for "marke individuell".

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We commemorate our deceased

It is only now that we learned that in the United States of America, on June 12, 2012 Michael Tiesenhausen died age 77 in Cortland Manor, New York. He was the son to Anna Tiesenhausen and her divorced husband Mark Thomitsch Pankow and adopted by his grandfather Michal Tiesenhausen, professor for pathologic anatomy at the University of Odessa. Our condolences go to his widow Susanne Tiesenhausen, born Caspar, his sister Helen Virecci-Fana, and to his nieces and nephews.

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Barbara Tiesenhausen-Schar died February 21, 2013 in Bad Salzuflen age 76. She was widow of the retired parson Hermann Schaar. She was born October 4, 1936 in Riga as daughter of parson Hans Carl Tiesenhausen and his wife Margarethe Berens v.Rautenfeld. Our condolences go to her siblings, nieces and nephews.

News from the family

Theo Berend, son of Anja and Florian Tiesenhausen was born in Gütersloh February 25, 2013. The family congratulates the proud parents and the grandparents Christine and Christoph Tiesenhausen.

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Hans Heinrich Tiesenhausen from Vancouver/Canada has moved and is now to be reached under the following address: 3205 West 32nd Ave., Vancouver B.C., V6L2C2 .

His email is: hansheinrichvontiesenhausen@gmail.com. As already mentioned in the newsletter of 2012 he has designed a beautiful family tree capturing all male members of the Tiesenhausen family from medieval times until now. The table measures 135.5 times 42.5 cm. Should you be interested to have a copy please contact Wolter Tiesenhausen (Meckenheim). For a lumbsum of 20 Euros he is happy to mail you a copy to you. Please contact Wolter@tiesenhausen.de directly for details.

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