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of the v.Tiesenhausen Family

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Family day 2015

Middle of July our traditional family day was held on 'Schloss Höhnscheid'. The event was blessed with gorgeous weather and good mood. Over forty family members used this occasion to come together and meet.

Friday late afternoon the first participants arrived and enjoying the warm and sunny weather and a cool drink in the idyllic atmosphere of the spacious park. One by one more cousins arrived and a casual dinner was arranged inside to equip ourselves for the rest of the evening. Afterwards news were continued to be exchanged and memories were renewed outside. Prudent cousins had started to collect dry wood in the park and found out where the fire wood of the castle was stored, so that with dimming light and evening cooling a fire could be lit which created warmth and a cozy atmosphere. It really was a long and beautiful summer evening.

Saturday, after an extensive breakfast we took off to visit Schloss Wilhelmsthal. This hunting lodge close to the city of Calden is one of the most beautiful rococo structures in Germany. Following the aesthetic ideas of the late baroque era, the mansion and the park form an elegant ensemble. Landgrave Wilhelm the VIII of Hessen-Kassel had this building constructed between 1747 and 1761 following plans by the famous Munich architect François de Cuvilliés. The internal decoration was done by the sculptor Johann August Nahl who had worked before on chateau Sanssouci in Potsdam.

We were lucky and found a guided tour almost without waiting which took us thru the rich and well maintained inner part of the castle. The guide managed to find a balanced mixture of historical competence and entertaining anecdotes which caught the interest of the younger as well as the more mature family members. It needs to be mentioned that the younger participants all behaved very well and displayed both interest and respect towards the antiques. After the tour we visited the large park where a herd of sheep provided an additional baroque note.

Upon our return to Höhnscheid most of the remaining family members had arrived to prepare for the christening of Susanna Mess, daughter to Bettina Röder and Uli Mess and granddaughter to our esteemed family genealogist Sabine Röder. Susanna is the second family member, after cousin Florian in 1984, who

is christened during a family day. The baptism ceremony was performed by a local parson together with the proud parents and godparents. The musical support was proficiently provided by Gila and Cyrill. Susanna was visibly impressed and enjoyed the whole procedure without uttering any signs of protest.



Afterwards we used the gorgeous weather and celebrated Susanna in the park with coffee, cake and Champaign. Specifically the numerous children enjoyed the opportunity to chase around after having been admonished to sit still during the ceremony. Time passed quickly and soon the preparations for the traditional group picture had to be made. Once again Christoph managed to assemble everybody on the large outside staircase and to have them all look into the camera on his command at the right moment. This year he even managed to control the dog. I want to thank Christoph wholeheartedly who, as a photographer, has done this chore for many years patiently and successfully.

The evening started with the festive dinner. The kitchen of Schloss Höhnscheid had again outperformed itself with the delicious roast venison and the fancy dessert. Unfortunately the wines were not a match for the meal. Nevertheless did the family enjoy the event at length.

The younger cousins still were longing for some activity which resulted in a number of daring Bobby Car races between the two two-year old cousins Jonathan and Theo. Minor crashes did merely lead to a few tears and only very short pit stops. However, the request by management to end the race at 10 pm to avoid neighbor complaints about the noise led to screaming protests by the two race drivers.

As usual during our family days we danced the Francaise. The attempts to do the dance in an organized and coordinated manner became more successful with every new round. I want to take the opportunity and thank those who initiated and patiently improved the performance. The evening ended late for many of us after a lot of interesting and entertaining conversations.

Sunday greeted us with heavy rain in the early hours of the day which turned to sunshine during the morning. After another extensive breakfast we had a short meeting of the family. This was possible because no elections were necessary and larger projects like the new edition of the Gotha are finally completed. The president was happy to report that the printing costs of our part of the Gotha were completely recovered through an apportionment and generous donations by some family members. After the meeting, the lengthy ceremony of Baltic farewell started with promises to stay in contact over the next years.

When doing the final reconciliation of expense with Mrs. Steinacker, I was pleased to find out that the beverages consumed and the money collected were completely in line. Thanks to all family members for being so diligent. Unfortunately there was another less fortunate surprise when management of Schloss Höhnscheid surcharged us with 72 Euro for each room for the fact that we did not occupy 18 rooms on Friday but only 10 rooms. The requirement to occupy at least 18 rooms each day is part of the volume purchase agreement under which we rent the location. After some protest and negotiation, we agreed to pay 500 Euro surcharge. Most of it was recovered afterwards thru voluntary donations by some family members. Thanks to all donors. At our next family day in Höhnscheid in 2019 we will have to keep the requirements of the volume purchase agreement in mind and apportion the surcharge to all participants when required.

Andreas v. Tiesenhausen

Twice 101 – Georg und Hans Heinrich Tiesenhausen

This year two cousins celebrated their 101st birthday. On May 18, Georg Heinrich Patrick in Huntsville, Alabama; and on December 16, Hans Heinrich in Vancouver, Canada. We congratulate both cousins and wish them a healthy and fulfilled life together with their loved ones.

As a young engineer Georg worked at the German Army Laboratory in Peenemünde under technical director Wernher von Braun who motivated him to move to the United States in 1953. Georg helped to develop the Saturn rocket. His best known project was the so called Moon Buggy, the vehicle astronauts were using to move on the moon surface.



Georg Tiesenhausen was named in 2007 to the Hall of Fame of the Space Camp and received in 2011 the Lifetime Achievement Award for Education from Neil Armstrong, the first man ever to walk on the surface of the moon.

We have covered the interesting life of Hans Heinrich in our family letter in 2014. Today he lives together with his daughter Gabrielle and his grandchildren in Vancouver, Canada. He has reasonably recovered from a nasty hip fracture and – as he wrote – is slowly relearning to walk. We wish him persistence and the necessary luck.



From the „Memorial“ Files

The Russian human rights organization „Memorial“ was founded in 1987/88 and was formally registered in 1990. The original mission to commemorate the victims of the communist terror with a monument was later put more broadly. Today the organization takes care of former political prisoners and collects documents about the suppression of the opposition as well as the gulag system within the Soviet Union. Among these documents which can be viewed under the following address www.memorial.krsk.ru, we find evidence of two members of our family.

Dimitri Tiesenhausen was born March 12, 1872 in Torma as third son to the Imperial Russian General Major Ernst Konstantin Baron v. Tiesenhausen and his wife Helena Purkhold, who was the daughter of a high czarist official. Dimitri married in 1898 in St. Petersburg Sinaida Weiner who was also a daughter of a high czarist official. They had five children of which only one survived the ordeal of the revolution and the preceding war. Andrei Tiesenhausen (1901 – 1994), he emigrated to Belgium and lived for many years in Africa in Kongo. For many years during the seventies and eighties he used to be an interesting and regular participant to our family days.

Dimitri had a successful career in the czarist administration and became vice governor of Irkutsk in Siberia from 1916 to 1917. According to the files from “Memorial” he was sentenced and banned to Krasnojarsk in three trials between 1921 and 1927. There he worked as administrator and planner in a canning factory. On June 11, 1937 he was arrested and charged with counterrevolutionary conspiracy. On October 25, 1937 he was found guilty and sentenced to death by a three person tribunal of the NKWD administration of Krasnojarsk.

His son Ernst suffered the same fate according to the files of „Memorial“. Ernst was born in 1902 and had studied natural science. After the revolution he became head of the Physical Mathematic Institute for the higher qualified in Krasnojarsk. He was arrested May 26, 1937 and sentenced to death the same day as his father for anti-soviet agitation. Both were shot one day after the sentence.

The sentences against father and son did even violate the then existing soviet law. Already on January 4, 1957, Dimitri Tiesenhausen was rehabilitated by a military tribunal of the Siberian district. The rehabilitation of his son Ernst happened on November 2, 1989 by the prosecution of the city of Krasnojarsk.

FAMILY TRIP 2017

Following our successful trips to Livonia, the northern part of today Latvia, in 2009; and to Estonia in 2011, we plan to visit Lithuania and Courland, the southern part of today Latvia in 2017. There we will be able to see many remnants of our family. Starting with the Lithuanian capital Vilnius where the Tiesenhausen street (Tyzenhauzu galve) is located right behind the central station. Under number 18/4 there is a palace from the early eighteenth century which used to be owned by our family. The last owner gave the building to the public as a hospital, a function which the building still has today.

In the old university city of Kaunas there is the national museum of fine arts M.K.Ciurlionis where many pieces are shown which used to be in the possession of the Tiesenhausen/Tyzenhauz family. They used to be in Roskikis manor in the north of Lithuania not far from the Latvian border.



This manor was built in 1801 and today houses a museum. This museum is decorated in a way to represent the interior in the style of the early nineteenth century. To accomplish this, the memories of a former servant had been particularly helpful. A picture of the manor is on the wrapping of a cheese which is very popular in Lithuania and is sold under the brand name of „Tyzenhauz“.

The last owner of Roskiki was Maria Countess Tyzenhauz who married Count Przezdziecki. She sponsored the historic works „Schriften und Aufzeichnungen des Bannerherrn Heinrich von Tiesenhausen“ and a bronze sculpture of our forefather Engelbrecht which is located in the Matthäus Church from the middle of the nineteenth century . This church was also sponsored by our family.



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In Courland we will visit the well renowned Mesoten Castle which houses today an elegant hotel. This place was a donation by the Czar to his former tutor the princess Lieven. Another treasure is Ruhenthal/Rundale castle which was built by the Courland Dukes and artfully renovated under the leadership of Professor Landsmanis. He is profoundly knowledgeable about the history of our family. Finally a visit to Libau/Liepaja is worthwhile. There the asylum for handicapped children is among other institutions supported since many years by Waltraut Tiesenhausen with a lot of enthusiasm.

We commemorate our deceased

Axel Hans Wilhelm Tiesenhausen and his wife Liane, nee Strelsky, died in August this year in Graz, Austria. Axel was born on January 27th 1919 in Graz at home where (allegedly in the same room) he died on August 19th 2015. After

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finishing High School (Matura), he was drafted to the army and send to war to serve from Finland to Greece. After the war he studied Medicine, specialized as Pediatrician and opened a practice. He was the first anthroposophic-homeopathic pediatrician in Austria. He was practicing until the age of 75. He was married in 1949 to Liane Allesch, nee Strelsky, born August 1st, 1919. She died one day after Axel on August 20th 2015, the two have been together all of their lives.

Anna Dorothea Cunningham, nee Countess Tiesenhausen, died May 3, 2015 in Vancouver, Canada. She was born in 1925 in Odenwald, Estonia and married to the business man George Cunningham in 1954. In 1966 she was divorced. Our condolences are with her siblings in Canada and their families.

News form the Family

Hans Heinrich Leopold Gustav v.Delwig-Tiesenhausen was born February 7, 2015 in Essen. He is the third child to Max and Christiane Delwig-Tiesenhausen in Mühlheim/Ruhr. The family congratulates the proud parents and the elder sisters Amelie and Clara.

Niels Diedrich v.Tiesenhausen was born March 30, 2015 in Winnipeg/Manitoba. He is son to Michael Andrew v.Tiesenhausen and his wife Carley, nee Friesen. The family congratulates the proud parents.

Ava Frind was born September 5, 2015 in Vancouver/Canada. She is daughter to Anne Kanciar and Markus Frindand granddaughter to Karin Kanciar, nee Tiesenhausen. The family congratulates the proud parents and grandmother.

Wassili Baron Tiesenhausen, Paris was awarded by the Patriarch of Moscow Kirill with the medal of the holy and righteous Duke Daniel of Moscow, second

degree. This was in recognition of Wassili's longstanding support of the Orthodox community in Western Europe.

Peter v.Tiesenhausen, Sculptor from Demmitt/Canada, was awarded by the Governor of Alberta with the local art award. The award is endowed with 30,000 Canadian Dollars and was justified by the Governor because Peter is a role model of a sculptor, painter and multimedia artist.

The Tiesenhausen flag is not flying over all seven seas yet, but this summer it could be seen over the Adriatic Sea. Below you can cousin Cyrill from Augsburg navigating.

