

History
of the
Family v. Kleist

First part
Documents

continuation

Family Day Protocols
and
news bulletins
From 1858 to 1939

(in the German public Internet version until 1939)

Hamm

2024

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Introduction

This volume follows the book of documents of the old family history with its supplements, in part it draws on individual documents already published there in order to be able to depict the founding and operation of the family association from the period of preparation in 1857. The focus is on the printed or hand-written and duplicated family day logs in the archive Hamm, which were newly built after the Second World War and were sent to the members of the association in a timely manner. In addition, there are the newsletters published from 1934 to 1944 by the family association, which have replaced the protocols. While the newsletters can also be found in individual libraries, the minutes of previous years appear to have been distributed only in the family. The old archives of the family association until 1945, which were held by the last president, Count Ewald v. Kleist, Wendisch Tychow, and in the Provincial Archives of Stettin, were lost at the end of the war.

During the work on this volume, it became apparent that even the first years of the post-war period still had to be documented, since the first seven newsletters for the years 1945 to 1955, published by the future president Berndt, depicted the effects of the war on the family. They therefore follow directly on from the news sheets of the war period, which reported much more extensively than was previously customary on the fates of the family members during this time.

The availability of the tape on the Internet ends in 1939. This is due to the much more intensive reporting on personal fates at the start of the war, but also to the fact that the gap to the present is only 80 years.

The period from 1945 to 1955 is characterized by the fact that up to 1 Family Day after the Second World War on October 1, 1955, the family association was still based on the old, originally public law statutes. In 1955 a new chapter of the family association began.

In the interest of better readability, all print texts were in fracture, and searchability, copies are published, not images of the originals. The formatting does not correspond to the originals (single-column pay a visit usually two-column). The spelling is retained, but only obvious spelling mistakes are corrected. The texts are reproduced in full as time documents. They reflect the mindset of the time.

One of the tasks of the family association was to keep an overview of the family members and to publish them occasionally. Only the first still incomplete list of about 1858 with the members known to the board is included here. Later, printed directories of the staff are issued, the first in the family archive dates from 1887¹. The catalog of the State Library on Berlin also shows a list for 1882, but this probably belongs to the war losses. The overview of persons of the family association is also the basis for the publications on the whole family in the genealogical manuals. The first two publications were published in 1884 and 1888 in the Genealogical Paperback of the Noble Houses, Brno, Buschak & Irrgang. In this book of documents, reference is made only to the lists issued by the family association for the respective year. In the Gotha Genealogical Paperback of the Noble Houses in 1901, the family members who do not belong to earl or baron houses are listed for the first time in the Gotha books.

Added to the collection of minutes are press releases on family days, which contain important information for the first few years in which minutes are missing.

The end of the volume is given a summary of the information about the board members, which refers to the biographies in the family history.

¹ The directory 1887 is available in a copy of a copy of the Württemberg State Library.

Members of the Board from 1858 to 2025 (still incomplete)

1858:

Board

1. Hans Hugo von Kleist-Retzow, Oberpräsident z. D. at Kieckow and Kl. Crössin
2. Ferdinand von Kleist, Lieutenant General in Cologne (III. 740 – 1797–1867)
3. Baron Gustav von Kleist, District Administrator at Collochau near Herzberg (II. 209 – 1801–1884)

Deputies

4. Anton von Kleist, retired District Administrator at Nemitz (III. 762 – 1812–1886)
5. Ewald von Kleist, Chamberlain at Wendisch Tychow (II. 236 – 1821–1892)

1865 Ferdinand von Kleist resigns for health reasons.

Anton von Kleist is elected as successor.

As deputy, Count Ewald von Kleist-Tzschernowitz, retired District Administrator (II. 223 – 1825–1877), is elected.

1877 Anton von Kleist of Nemitz resigns.

Newly elected: Hugo Ewald von Kleist, Oberforstmeister (III. 860 – 1817–1896).

Later in 1877, Count Ewald von Kleist-Tzschernowitz leaves office due to death.

By 1884 at the latest, Baron Gustav von Kleist also leaves office due to death.

Afterwards, the following changes occur, which cannot be dated precisely:

1892 Already newly on the board:

- Count Heinrich-Leopold von Kleist-Zützen (II. 226 – 1830–1907)
- Count Conrad von Kleist-Schmenzin (II. 225 – 1839–1900), brother of the former board member Count Ewald von Kleist-Tzschernowitz

In 1892 Ewald von Kleist, Chamberlain at Wendisch Tychow, has died.

Newly elected: Ewald von Kleist-Potsdam, General of the Infantry (III. 753 – 1824–1910).

The previous chairman Hans-Hugo von Kleist-Retzow died on 20 May 1892. Thus, the family's seat in the Upper House had to be filled. Through an election held the same year by the family members possessing knight's estates, His Majesty the Emperor and King was presented with the hereditary cupbearer Hugo von Kleist-Retzow of Groß Tychow as successor (see Family Day Protocol 1893 No. 7). No further documents exist regarding the election.

According to the stenographic report of the proceedings of the Prussian Upper House, session of Wednesday, 9 November 1892, it states:

*"Appointed to the Upper House were ... 2. von Kleist-Retzow of Groß-Tychow, knight's estate owner and hereditary cupbearer in the Duchy of Hinterpommern and Principality of Cammin, appointed by Supreme Decree

of 17 October this year upon the presentation of the family of von Kleist."*

1893 The succession of the previous chairman, Hans Hugo von Kleist-Retzow, is settled as follows:

Newly elected as deputy board member: Hugo von Kleist-Retzow of Gr. Tychow, retired Major (III. 843 – 1834–1909), nephew of Hans Hugo von Kleist-Retzow.

The board members appoint Oberforstmeister Hugo Ewald von Kleist as new chairman. As long as he is ill, Count von Kleist-Zützen manages affairs.

1896 Chairman Hugo Ewald von Kleist dies.

Count von Kleist-Zützen becomes chairman.

At this time, the later General of Cavalry Georg von Kleist seems to have become a deputy board member (III. 892 – 1852–1923). In *Gotha* 1901, he is listed as the 5th board member.

1901 As successor of the late Count Conrad von Kleist-Schmenzin, Hugo von Kleist-Retzow becomes a board member.

Newly elected as deputy board member: retired Rittmeister Hermann von Kleist at Groß Dubberow (II. 253 – 1849–1913).

Chairman Count von Kleist-Zützen dies on 14 January 1907. The election of his successor, General of Cavalry Georg von Kleist, must have taken place at the Family Day 1907, for which no records exist. In any case, he already invites to the Family Day 1908 as chairman.

1909 Hugo von Kleist-Retzow dies. Thus, the seat in the Upper House also has to be filled.

On 11 April 1910 the election of his successor by the entitled family members took place. The chairman Georg was elected. By Supreme Decree of 18 May 1910, Georg von Kleist was appointed member of the Upper House for life.

1910 General Ewald von Kleist-Potsdam dies.

New board members include:

- Count Wolf-Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow, Groß Tychow (III. 925 – 1868–1933), son of Hugo von Kleist-Retzow
- Count Ewald von Kleist-Zützen (II. 246 – 1861–1924)
- Chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist, Buonas (III. 838 – 1868–1938)

Board 1914 – Source: Gotha – Gräfliche Häuser

- Georg von Kleist
- Count Wolf-Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow, Groß Tychow
- Count Ewald von Kleist-Zützen
- Major General Fritz von Kleist (III. 865 – 1858–1917)
- Chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist

1917 Fritz von Kleist dies.

1919 Newly elected: Herr Ewald von Kleist, trainee lawyer, Schmenzin (II. 273 – 1890–1945).

1922 Count von Kleist-Zützen resigns.

Chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist becomes an ordinary member.

As deputy member, Leo von Kleist-Gr.-Krössin (III. 953 – 1869–1938) is elected.

On 23 July 1923 chairman Georg von Kleist, Wusseken, dies.

At the Family Day on 24 July 1924, Count Wolf-Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow-Gr. Tychow was elected new chairman. The protocol of the election itself is not extant.

Joining the board: Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch Tychow.

The Family Day 1930 is conducted by his deputy, Baron Ewald-Karthan in Berlin, due to the chairman's illness.

On 8 July 1933 Count Wolf-Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow-Gr. Tychow dies.

Board as of 13 September 1933:

Honorary Chairman: Baron Ewald von Kleist-Karthan (from 1935 he no longer attends Family Days).

Statutory Chairman: Count Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch Tychow (II. 264 – 1882–1953).

Deputy Chairman: Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin.

Ordinary Board Member: Leo von Kleist-Drenow (formerly Gr.-Krössin).

Deputy Board Member: Ewald von Kleist, Major General in Breslau (III. 1034 – 1881–1954).

Deputy Board Member: Berndt von Kleist in Karthan (III. 945 – 1896–1976).

Only the 1933 protocol is issued by the honorary chairman.

1938 Honorary Chairman Baron Ewald von Kleist-Karthan and Leo von Kleist die.

1939 Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow Kieckow (III. 927 – 1886–1966) is elected deputy board member.

During the war and until 1955 no Family Days were held. Until then, no new board elections took place.

Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin was executed in 1945.

Field Marshal Ewald von Kleist was in captivity from 1945 until his death in 1954.

Chairman Count Ewald von Kleist only arrived in June 1946 from Pomerania to Priesholz near Kappeln.

Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow returned in February 1947 from Russian captivity to West Germany.

Thus, Berndt von Kleist was the only board member able to act for the family association from 1945. After the arrival of the chairman in West Germany, he acted on his behalf until the latter's death in 1953. Ewald promoted family cohesion through lively exchange with many family members and devoted himself especially to compiling a new civil registry.

At the first Family Day after WWII, on 1 October 1955 in Bonn, the draft of new statutes for a registered

association was discussed, and a new board was elected.

Berndt was elected chairman.

Further elected members:

- Cousin Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow
- Cousin Paul-Jeanneau Baron von Kleist of Kerklingen
- Cousin Diether-Dennies von Kleist of Wendisch-Tychow
- Cousin Jürgen von Kleist-Vietzow
- Cousin Eva von Kleist of Zützen
- Cousin Peter-Christian Count von Kleist-Retzow-Gr. Tychow
- Cousin Rudolf von Kleist of Jeseritz

At the Family Day 1957 the association received statutes as an unregistered association. In 1963 a new registered association was founded.

The board of 1955 was confirmed.

As the new statutes provide that only the chairman and deputy are elected, reports of Family Days only contain details of the treasurer. Other board members can therefore only be identified from board records in the archive.

At the Family Day 1968 Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow was re-elected as deputy.

His son Heinrich von Kleist-Retzow was treasurer.

At the Family Day 1970 Jürgen von Kleist-Vietzow was elected deputy, after Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow had died.

At the Family Day 1972 the board was newly elected.

Karl Wilhelm von Kleist was chairman, Rudolf of Jeseritz was deputy chairman.

At the Family Day on 4 October 1986 in Bonn, Hermann of Dubberow/Schmenzin was elected chairman, and Bernd-Tessen of Drenow deputy chairman.

At the Family Day on 30 September 1995 in Celle, Heinrich of Kieckow was elected chairman, and Benita of Alt-Schmenzin deputy chairwoman.

At the Family Day on 15 October 2011 in Potsdam, Bernd-Heinrich of Wusseken was elected chairman, and Sigurd of Wendisch Tychow deputy chairman.

At the Family Day on 5 October 2013 in Ahrensburg, Sigurd of Wendisch Tychow was elected chairman, and Baron Karl of Pumlow deputy chairman.

At the Family Day on 7 October 2017 in Oberursel, Hans von Kleist-Retzow of Kieckow was elected deputy chairman.

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At the Family Day on 24 September 2022 in Osterfeld near Naumburg, Hans von Kleist-Retzow of Kieckow was elected chairman, and Sigurd of Wendisch Tychow deputy chairman.

By amendment of the statutes, “married-out daughters” became full members.

Family Day of 2 and 3 June 1857

The first mention of the intended establishment of a family unit is in a memorandum in the memoirs of Varnhagen of Ense of 23 June 1855. He talks to the Wilhelm Bogislaff Kleist of Loß, who says that the King has refused to appoint him as a member of the House of Lords if he is elected by family members to represent the family.

In the biography of Hans-Hugo von Kleist-Retzow (III. 710) in the family history it is stated that he had approached the King at a meeting in Schlesien in 1856, that the circumstances of the family of Kleist justified a representation in the manor house.

The biography of Adolph von Kleist (III. 706) contains the following information: "He issued the first call for a family day in Stettin."

In the *Berlinische Nachrichten von Staats- und Gelehrte Sachen* of 15 February 1857, the following Berlin was recorded: "The day before yesterday, the members of the family of Kleist who were present here had gathered for lunch at the Hotel de Rome. It was decided to invite all the bearers of the name of Kleist to a family convent on the third Pfingst holiday in Stettin.

The *Norddeutsche Zeitung*, Stettin, reported from Stettin on 6 June 1857: "On the 2nd and 3rd century the family of Kleist had a meeting here. The subject of the discussions, as we hear, was the creation of a family foundation, and at the same time the idea of having a family history written was suggested. The history of the Kleist is at all times closely related to that of the Fatherland, and in particular that of Pommern, and members of the latter have always been entrusted with the highest batches at court, in the civil service and in the armed forces. At the moment, the family in their midst really counts one. Go. Counsellor, a Chief President, an Hereditary Chef, a member of the House of Lords, and 25 to 30 officers of all levels of the armed forces; it is owned by at least 45 to 50 knightly estates, most of which are in Pommern, contain approximately 130 to 140,000 acres, and have a value of at least 3 1/2 to 4 million thalers in land."²

Under the date of 16 June 1857, the family, in execution of the Family Day resolution on family history, published the following advertisement:

Historical price promotion.³

von Kleist The family has decided to open a competition to promote a dignified and as complete a portrayal of their history as possible.

The content of the documents to be accepted for application would then have to concern:

- 1) Von Kleist The emergence and spread of the family according to credible news;
- 2) all rights, investiture von Kleist, obligations and possessions conferred on the family;
ad 1) and 2) with reference to documents, and with indication of the writers where they can be found.
- 3) a crowded biography von Kleist of all those members of the family who have made themselves known in any degenerate, or have held an excellent state office;
- 4) von Kleist a list of the daughters of the family, together with a message as to whom they had been married;
- 5) von Kleist a list of the wives who have married into the family;

² On 7 June 1857, the *Neue Preussische Zeitung* quotes this article on page 2.

³ *Neue Preussische Zeitung*, 25 June 1857 pp. 3; *Allgemeine Zeitung*, 26 June 1857.

ad 4 and 5 as far as they are known and their curriculum vitae

- 6) a pedigree based on that history which is as complete as possible;
- 7) Von Kleist Legends that concern the family, as far as such are present.

The prizes must be submitted to the co-signed President of Kleist, Berlin, Mauerstraße No. 72, by 1 January 1861 with the sealed and motto-bearing name of the author, and the Messrs. General v. Schöning, Direktor v. Ledebur and Dr. Hesekei have had the kindness to take over the decision on the prizeworthiness of the papers.

The prize is when the family takes ownership and printing of the crowned prize font itself, on the total of 1000 thalers. Courant, however, if the family leaves the winning prize to the author for self-distribution, against the obligation to effect printing within one year and to deliver 100 copies to the price-setters, to the sum of 500 thalers. In consideration of the uncrowned works, the v. Kleist family reserves the right to use individual notes of the same, which should not be contained in the crowned prize font, for their completion and, on the other hand, to grant the authors of the fonts used in this way appropriate additional premiums of 50 to 100 thalers.

Berlin, June 16, 1857.

Adolph v. Kleist retired , President Go. Counsellor. Ludwig v. Kleis retired , Major à Halle a. d. Saale.

Albert v. Kleist, knighthood owner on Warnin.

(Document 721.)

1857 Sanssouci. July 20.

Knigl. Granting of the right of presentation to the family von Kleist.

After a transcript.

In response to the report of the 2nd of July, I hereby wish to confer on the Pomeranian family von Kleist the right to present the manor house on the basis of Article 4, point 3, of the Order of the 12th of October 1854, by stipulating, in accordance with my decree to the Ministry of State of the 7th of July 1855, that the election of the member to be presented on the part of this family is to be made by all those family members - insofar as the provisions of the intended decree do not conflict with them - who are resident within the Prussian State with a manor, each of several co-owners being to have one vote. After that, you have to arrange the further.

The submitted overview will follow.

Sanssouci, July 20th, 1857.

Friedrich Wilhelm.

Von Westphalen.

To the Minister of the Interior.

Family Day of 5 October 1857 in Köslin

A report on this family day was published in the Neue Preussische Zeitung on 10 October 1857, on page 1.

"Köslin, 6 October. von Kleist [The family.] After Se. Majesty the King of the family v. Kleist retired the right of presentation for the manor house, was paid a visit yesterday under the direction of the Landraths of Kleist-Nemitz the election of the member to be presented here. The same first fell on the Real Secret counsellor retired President v. Kleist in Berlin. Since the same person is not resident, and therefore did not consider himself eligible, an alternative choice had to be made. At the same time, the Upper President of the Rhine Province, Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow, was elected. At the same time, a family statute was drafted by the members present, in which, in addition to the provisions relating to the election, the organization of fixed family days and the payment of fixed contributions for family purposes were also established."

1858

In the Magdeburg Zeitung of 7 February 1758, page 3, it says: "The King's Majesty has appointed as a member of the House of Lords for life the Chief President of Kleist-Retzow, who was presented by the Pomeranian family of Kleist as a result of the highest decree of 20 July BC."

On 2 March 1858, the President of the House of Lords announced "that the Member Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow had entered the House. The same is already sworn in and assigned to the 2nd department."

In the minutes of the sitting of the House of 6 March 1858, the President stated "that, according to the letter of the Minister of the Interior of Westphalen, the King Majesty, have rested, by the Most High Decree of 20 July B.J., to grant the right of representation to the House of Lords to the Pomeranian family of Kleist, and indeed to all members of the family who are resident within the Prussian state with knightly estates, and soon by the Most High command of 1 February B.J., to the Chief President of Kleist-Retzow, who was presented by the family, in accordance with § 4. Point 3 of the Most High Order of 12 October 1854 as a member of the House of Lords for life and that the Chief President of Kleist-Retzow was invited to take his seat in the House of Lords'.

Berlin, March 9, 1857. [Obviously written in error, actually March 9, 1858]⁴

Present:

1. Adolph von Kleist, President and Privy Councillor in Berlin,
2. Hans von Kleist-Retzow, Upper President in Coblenz,
3. von Kleist, Major General in Berlin,
4. von Kleist-Collochau, District Councillor,
5. George von Kleist-Reinfeld, retired District Councillor,
6. Theodor von Kleist-Schmenzin,
7. George von Kleist, First Lieutenant in the 5th Cuirassier Regiment in Glogau,
8. Ewald von Kleist, Major in the 20th Reserve (Landwehr) Infantry Regiment in Berlin,
9. Hugo von Kleist, Forest Inspector in Prussian Holland,
10. von Kleist, Lieutenant in the 6th Cuirassier Regiment in Brandenburg,
11. Leopold Count Kleist-Zützen, First Lieutenant in the 1st Guard Reserve (Landwehr) Cuirassier Regiment,
12. Reinhold von Kleist, Lieutenant in the 5th Artillery Regiment,

⁴ See extract in Urkundenbuch No. 723 and the following article. The protocol is preserved in the Archiwum Panstwowe we Wroclawiu Oddzia w Jeleniej Górze, 83/105/0/5/409.

Kreuzzeitung, March 12, 1858, p. 2 (Berliner Zuschauer):

"Twenty-seven noble gentlemen of the family of von Kleist, so gloriously represented in the history of the Prussian fatherland, gathered here the day before yesterday, on March 9, for a family assembly, among them a majorat holder, von Kleist-Kaiserlingk of Gawesen in Courland, who had come expressly from there to Berlin in order not to leave his seat at this family assembly vacant. The meeting took place in the 'English House,' and what the noble kinsmen, true to the traditions of their ancient noble family, discussed, arranged, and resolved there, formed a worthy continuation of that earlier family assembly to which the gentlemen von Kleist had come together from near and far in Stettin last year—on the second day of June.

The deliberation on the family statute was brought to an end the day before yesterday, the statute was approved, and, as a result of this adoption, the resolution was made in particular that the landed members should contribute annually a fixed sum for family purposes. To the family board were elected: Oberpräsident von Kleist-Retzow, member of the Herrenhaus, General and Brigade Commander von Kleist, and Landrat Freiherr von Kleist-Collochau, member of the House of Deputies; as deputies, Landrat von Kleist-Nemitz and Chamberlain von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow.

After this election of the family board, the assembly continued the discussions already begun at the previous family assembly in Stettin, which were directed above all toward the publication of a documentary history of the ancient noble house and the foundation of a family trust, which was to be established for the benefit of destitute widows and daughters. To these serious deliberations, dedicated to the honor and welfare of the entire family, there followed a festive meal. A cheerful episode of this Kleist family banquet was the lottery of an old family snuffbox, to which is attached, it is true, a somewhat doubtful legend from the time of Frederick the Great, and which was now raffled off for the benefit of the family foundation. The next day, on March 10, all the members of the family had the honor of being received by His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia in the presence of Colonel von Alvensleben, in order to express their thanks for the seat in the Herrenhaus, which His Majesty the King had most graciously granted to the family von Kleist for one of its members to present. The present representative of the family in the Herrenhaus, Oberpräsident von Kleist, gave words to the deep gratitude of those he introduced by saying in substance: 'that even if the family were no longer so numerous as to be able, in a war such as the Seven Years' War under the great Frederick, to sacrifice some sixty Kleists on the field of honor for king and fatherland, yet still even now they were all firmly resolved, on every field of battle assigned to them, whether with the sword in hand or in the field of words now opened to them through the newly granted right, always to do their duty for king and fatherland.' After His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia had graciously dismissed the members of the family thus presented, they gathered again yesterday during the day for a farewell banquet at the Hotel de Rome.

The past and future of the ancient noble family were considered at this family assembly; the past will be vividly recalled through the documentary history of the house, and for the destitute widows and daughters of the family a worthy refuge will henceforth blossom from the newly strengthened root of the far-spread lineage!"

In the biography of Adolph von Kleist (III. 706) it is stated concerning the election of the year 1858:

"He would likewise have been elected chairman of the family, after the statutes had been approved by the King, if he had not resolutely declined."

13. Feodor von Kleist, Captain in the 5th Cuirassier Regiment,
14. Ditrich von Kleist, of Gawesen in Courland,
15. Max von Kleist, Captain in the 19th Infantry Regiment in Breslau,
16. Albrecht von Kleist, Lieutenant in the 2nd Guard Uhlan Regiment in Berlin,
17. Ewald von Kleist, Lieutenant in the Guard Dragoon Regiment,
18. Oscar von Kleist, Lieutenant in the 5th Cuirassier Regiment,
19. von Kleist-Hohennauen, Lieutenant in the 3rd Reserve (Landwehr) Hussar Regiment,
20. Bogislaf von Kleist, Lieutenant in the 1st Cuirassier Regiment,
21. Leonhard von Kleist Cammin,
22. Anton von Kleist-Nemitz, retired District Councillor,
23. Albert von Kleist-Warnin,
24. Ludwig von Kleist, Major in Halle,
25. Xaver von Kleist, Chamberlain in Raddatz,
26. Wilhelm Count Kleist-Juchow,
27. For Count von Kleist-Tschernowitz, District Councillor von Kleist-Nemitz by proxy.

At the family day of the house of von Kleist, convened here for today, the members listed above appeared. The assembly was opened in the English House at half past 10 o'clock by the President, Privy Councillor von Kleist, with the proposal to first constitute the bureau by electing the chairman, the deputy, and two secretaries. The election carried out forthwith by acclamation had the result that

- 1) the Privy Councillor, President von Kleist, was unanimously elected chairman,
- 2) the Royal Upper President of the Rhine Province von Kleist-Retzow deputy,
- 3) the retired District Councillor von Kleist-Nemitz,
- 4) the estate owner von Kleist-Warnin secretaries.

The chairman thereupon presented the program of the agenda, and the individual items thereof are to follow here separately.

The first lecture was undertaken by Upper President von Kleist-Retzow concerning the drafted family statute, and he informed the assembly that His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia would graciously receive the family on the 10th of this month at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

After a more detailed presentation by Mr. von Kleist-Retzow concerning the family statute and in particular concerning § 3 thereof, the assembly resolved

to remove from the statute the passage of this §, whereby a member of the family who does not possess a knight's estate is nevertheless eligible.

It was further resolved to abolish the passage 11 of § 4 of the statute, which begins with the words:

"If, at the time of election, one voter [casts] more than 2 proxies"

to the end, and instead to determine that it be left to the proxy holder of several principals to decide which principal he wishes to represent.

With regard to § 5 of the statute, the assembly resolved to elect 2 additional deputies to the board. With this the deliberation on the statute itself was closed, it was read aloud in the attached wording, unanimously approved, and executed by signature of the attending estate owners.

Upper President von Kleist-Retzow thereupon submitted, with reference to § 6 of the statute, the proposal that the contribution therein mentioned of 25 thalers annually be from now on collected from every member of the family who is in possession of landed property, with the proviso that it must be left to each member to also contribute with a higher amount, as well as to any member not possessing landed property to pay voluntary contributions if need be.

Furthermore, from these contributions all expenses necessary for family purposes, etc., are to be covered, but next to that, preferably any widows and daughters in need of assistance are to be supported.

Whoever pays capital, or has already paid into the foundation, may, if he wishes, pay 5 thalers less in contribution annually for every 100 thalers capital.

The attending estate owners thereby simultaneously obligate themselves to the annual payment of that contribution of 25 thalers.

The funds already collected for the foundation are to be joined with this fund, and the entire administration is to be conducted by the board. It must render account to the family day each time, which grants the discharge.

This proposal was raised to a resolution.

As the next item on the agenda to be presented, the chairman reported the revenues and expenditures from the contributions up to now, according to which the

revenue for the foundation amounts to	730 thalers,
for the history	605 thalers.

Of this, 700 thalers for the foundation and 450 thalers for the history are deposited with the bank. The corresponding bank bonds were presented. Cash expenses for insertions, etc., which were to be taken from the fund for history, amounted to 36 thalers 2 1/2 silver groschen; the remainder of 148 thalers 17 1/2 silver groschen was presented to the family day.

Furthermore, a lecture was given on the present state of the family history, with great hope expressed for Referendary Kratz in Wintershagen, District Stolp, who is willing to undertake the work. In order to facilitate this work and to see a capable work delivered, the family members are requested to collect, write down, and submit to the committee, addressed to the chairman, all family documents, papers, and other information they have in hand. The commission previously elected is also to remain active, but must inform the family day each time about the state of the matter for any further resolutions.

Thereupon the family statute was executed by the attending estate owners and resolved that it should circulate among the absent ones for the procurement of their signatures, as well as that copies thereof be sent to all estate owners.

The election of the family board carried out next produced, after the 20 ballots cast were opened, the following result:

1. For chairman received votes
 - a. Upper President von Kleist-Retzow 20
 - b. Privy Councillor von Kleist 1

Upper President von Kleist-Retzow accepted the election.

2. For 2nd and 3rd members of the board
 - a. Major General and Brigade Commander von Kleist in Berlin,
 - b. District Councillor von Kleist-Collochau.
3. For deputies
 - a. District Councillor von Kleist-Nemitz,

b. Chamberlain von Kleist-W.-Tychow.

Those elected, insofar as they were present, accepted the elections; from the absent ones the declaration of acceptance is to be obtained.

There was nothing further to deliberate, and with this this negotiation is closed and executed.

(signed) v. Kleist, President. H. v. Kleist-Retzow. v. Kleist. v. Kleist. von Kleist-Schmenzin. von Kleist. v. Kleist. v. Rüchel-Kleist. von Kleist. C. G. v. Kleist-Zützen. v. Kleist. v. Kleist. von Kleist. v. Kleist. v. Kleist-Gawesen. Leonhard v. Kleist. B. v. Kleist. v. Kleist-Rheinfeld. Feodor v. Kleist. Georg v. Kleist. Kleist v. Bornstädt. von Kleist. v. Kleist-Nemitz. v. Kleist-Warnin.

Printed by Theodor Bauer in Belgard.

(Document No. 722)

Berlin. March 9, 1858

Von Kleist Statute of the Family on the Exercise of the Right of Presentation to the Manor.

After the original.

After resting His Majesty the King, pursuant to Paragraph 4(3) of the Order of 12 October 1854, for the formation of the First Chamber, and in accordance with the Most High Decree of 20 July 1857, to confer on the Royal Ministry of State the right of the von Kleistschen family to present a member to the House of Allergnädlgst, the members of the family entitled to participate in the election under the Most High Provisions, in gratitude for the Most High Trust established by that conferral and in consideration of the most faithful performance of the duties associated with that right, have come together in the following decisions.

§ 1st

Only those members of the family who are eligible to be enrolled and who possess the qualities required by Section 7 of the Ordinance of 12 October 1854 for the formation of the first chamber for the membership of the House of Lords are entitled to participate in the election of the person to be presented. However, it is sufficient to be 25 years old. It is also necessary to possess a knighthood within the Prussian state. From several co-owners, each exercises a voice.

§ 2nd

The right of representation shall be suspended until there are at least three members entitled to participate in the elections. In order for the election to be valid, a minimum of three eligible persons must participate in the same election.

§ 3rd

Only members of the association and only those who possess the characteristics required by Section 7 of the Ordinance on Membership of the House of Lords are able to be presented. Should one of the members be granted a hereditary or personal entitlement to sit in the House of Lords, it is not excluded from participation in the election.

§ 4th

The following procedure is observed in the selection.

1) Von Kleist The election of a member of the family to be presented to His Majesty the King for the manor house shall be made by an absolute majority of the votes in the degenerate that the person elected shall have received more than half of the declared members, or only half but less than half, of the vote of the oldest member of the electoral assembly after the years of life. However, if the oldest member is among those who have received equal votes, the vote of the next oldest voter who is not personally involved in the decision shall be taken.

2) If the degenerate contains a split between several persons and none of them has obtained an outright majority, the two persons who obtained the most votes shall be put on the shortlist.

3) If the votes are equally divided between three or more, a primary will be paid a visit to select the two persons to be shortlisted.

If the result of the second ballot is not different from that of the first, the election shall be repeated and, if the votes in the same Weise remain divided, the two shall be shortlisted at the age of the oldest among those who have received the same number of votes.

4) If the relative majority of votes is present for one person, but several others have received an equal number of votes next to him, then it is to be determined by means of a further area code in accordance with the procedure prescribed ad 3 which of them is to be shortlisted with that person.

5) In all primaries, which are held for the sole purpose of identifying the two persons to be shortlisted, a relative majority of votes shall be cast.

6) The persons shortlisted shall abstain from voting in the same election.

7) The electoral votes are cast by means of hidden ballot papers, with the two youngest members collecting the ballot papers at any time, which they will soon have to open jointly with the election commissioner.

8) At the election date, at which the voters are to be called at least 6 weeks in advance, the Electoral Commissarius first presents the certificates of insinuation of the invitations, and that this happens is expressly noted in the election protocol.

9) However, in order to give such persons, who are prevented by sickness, official position or in other Weise von Kleist, the right to vote, which was granted to the family by Royal Mercy Authorization, to present the manor house in person by appearing at election dates, the opportunity to exercise their right to vote should also be considered permissible to cast the vote by written submission to the Electoral Commissioner, as well as by granting authorization to a family member with voting rights.

10) If a person chooses to vote in writing, the ballot paper must be sent to the election commissioner sealed, but only opened by the commissioner at the election date. The document must be signed by hand and the coat-of-arms must be attached to it. If an absolute majority of the votes is not obtained at the first election and a close election is to be held, the ballot papers submitted shall count only if the person known therein is in the close election.

11) The power of attorney must be issued by means of a document signed by the client in person and stamped with a coat-of-arms, and must be presented to the election commissioner at the election date. In case of doubt, the election meeting decides on the validity. No person may cast more than two votes as an agent; three votes, including his own, are thus the largest number over which a person may have power.

§ 5th

A family executive board, consisting of three family members and two deputies, is elected in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 4, and it should be paid a visit to elect non-resident members of the von Kleistsche family to the executive board. The Executive Board shall elect the Chairperson from among its members and shall also determine the order in which the other two Executive Board members shall represent the Chairperson. It is for

the latter, first of all, to continue the list of members of the family entitled to vote and to determine the end of the period at which each member of the family must report to the same person that his right to vote has been acquired or ceased. If no such notification has been made, the family member concerned shall attribute it to himself if he is not invited to an election which is taking place and the election which was made without his invitation is therefore not invalid. The chairman is also free to convince himself in the Weise, which he considers appropriate, that the individual members of the family have the right to vote.

Doubts about this are decided by the electoral assembly. The chairman of the family board, or his representative in the case of disability, leads the election negotiations and issues the necessary invitations.

§ 6th

In order to discuss and decide on general family matters, a family day is held annually.

This is where all viable family members can participate, but only in person. However, only those who are of legal age have the right to vote.

Requests or proposals for consultation and decision-making must be submitted to the Family Board in writing and as motivated as possible at least 6 weeks in advance. The chairman of the board or his deputy also heads this family meeting, to which no special invitation is made.

The Family Day is authorized to advertise an annual contribution for family purposes of up to 25 thalers from each member of the family who is entitled to vote for the manor house and to have it collected by the Family Board.

The decisions of the Family Day are taken by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the vote of the chairman shall be decisive. Those who are absent are bound by the decisions of those present.

§ 7th

The Family Executive Board is free to also appoint extraordinary family days. The invitation is made by the public newspapers to be determined by the Board.

§ 8th

The Family Day is authorized to adopt amendments to the statute with at least two thirds of the votes and to request their confirmation by the Family Board of the Highest Place.

Read aloud, approved and signed.

Berlin, March 9, 1858.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow on Kieckow. v. Kleist-Nemitz. Kleist v. Bornstadt.

v. Kleist-Warnin. L. Graf Kleist-Zützen. v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow auf.

v. Kleist-Drenow. v. Kleist-Jeseritz. H. v. Kleist Groß-Dubberow auf.

v. Kleist - Kamissow. v. Kleist-Reinfeld. Baron of Kleist - Collochau.

v. Kleist-Glinke. v. Kleist-Schmenzin. v. Kleist-Tychow.

Kleist-Damen. Kleist-Rauden. Count Kleist-Werchau.

Ewald Count Kleist-Tzschernowitz.

1859

Since, after a correction in the record book, the family day of 1858 was the 4th and the family day of 1860 the 5th, no family day was held in 1859. This also results from the following letter of the chairman dated October 10, 1859, with the transmission of the minutes of the family day of 1858, where the next family day is announced for 1860.

(Document No. 724)

1859th Berlin. May 16.

Relating to the sovereign von Kleist endorsement of the family statute on the exercise of the right of presentation to the manor house.

After the original.

In the name of His Majesty the King. We Wilhelm von Kleist, Prince of Prussia by God's Grace, Regent, and hereby confess that We have rested at the highest of all to honor the right conferred upon us by the family through the exercise of the right conferred upon it in accordance with Section 4 No. 3 of the Ordinance of October 12, 1854, to present us as one of its members for appointment to the Manor of the Landtag of the Monarchy, Statute d. d. Berlin, March 9, 1858 Attached here in original writing, Our acknowledgement, with the proviso that the annual payments to be advertised in accordance with Section 6 should only be collected as voluntary contributions or as a result of an obligation specifically assumed by the individual. Deß zu Urkund We have executed this confirmation certificate by our very own hands and have it provided with the Royal Seal. Given on Berlin, May 16, 1859.

Wilhelm, Prince Regent. (L.S.)

Flottwell.

Your Excellency,

I hereby most respectfully inform you that, after long and arduous discussions, it has at last been achieved to bring the deliberations on the statute of our family to a conclusion. The same has now been confirmed by His Royal Highness the Prince of Prussia and is in the hands of the undersigned board, which allows itself to enclose herewith for Your Excellency a copy thereof. At the same time we enclose a copy of the proceedings of the family day dated Berlin, March 9, 1858.

In consequence of those resolutions and the public call already issued earlier, the work on the history of our family is already underway. In order to achieve the greatest possible completeness, and in particular to establish the present personnel status, Your Excellency is hereby requested, in accordance with those resolutions, to transmit as soon as possible to Government Referendary Mr. Kraatz in Stettin the following information:

1. The full name and place of residence of Your Excellency, with underlining of the call name,
2. The day and place of birth,
3. The day and place of marriage,
4. The offices and dignities, with indication of the time and of the possible occasion of their attainment,
5. The landed property with indication of its size, possibly the purchase price, the time and the title of its acquisition, in particular specification of the individual knight's estates among them,
6. Spouses, children — including those deceased young — parents, grandparents — on the father's and mother's side — as well as further ascendants insofar as they are known, likewise the parents of your wife,

the siblings and other collateral relatives — for all with indication of the known data according to 1 to 5, as well as possibly the day of death.

For easier orientation, explicit reference to the corresponding number of the Steinbrück family tree hitherto used must not be forgotten, and it must be stated whether the same gives the corresponding data correctly or incorrectly. Should Your Excellency not possess this family tree, Mr. Kraatz will gladly undertake to procure a copy from Miss Steinbrück upon your request against transmission of 1 thaler.

7. A short outline of your curriculum vitae as well as that of your ancestors and collateral relatives,

8. Information about the existence of a family archive or of documents concerning the family — (feudal letters, contracts, judgments, foundations, elevations of rank etc.), genealogies, biographies, funeral sermons — concerning the possession of the Elzow, Thilo, Winter, and the family register.

Any later change in property conditions is from now on to be reported as soon as possible to the undersigned chairman of the board, since according to the statute he is appointed to keep documentary proof thereof, — any change in other personal circumstances (births, marriages, deaths) to Privy Councillor von Kleist, His Excellency, in Berlin, who has kindly undertaken to pursue the exact continuation of the genealogy of the family.

Surely every member of the family is imbued with the great interest which the completeness of the historical work as well as the most exact continuation of the genealogy has for the whole family, and thus there will be no need for a special request for the continued communication of the above information; everyone will gladly submit to the associated efforts for that reason.

Since for the printing of the historical work, which is not expected to enter the general book trade, the number of copies to be made depends on the number of subscribers, those members of the family who wish to have one or more copies together with family tree are requested to inform Privy Councillor von Kleist, His Excellency, of this as soon as possible and to send him their contribution — the minimum of which is fixed at 5 thalers, but which, because of the costs connected with it, is urgently and respectfully requested to be increased according to circumstances up to 100 thalers.

Of no less importance for the family is the family foundation resolved by it. From individual members of the same, considerable capital contributions have already been subscribed or paid in. It remains an urgent wish to see this fund increased by further capital payments, and all members of the family are most earnestly requested, as far as their means allow, to do this already now or later, whether inter vivos — or also by testamentary disposition.

Insofar as capital payments are not possible, and in order to provide that foundation with the absolutely necessary basis without too great a burden on the individual family members, it is established by the statute that from every member of the family who possesses a knight's estate an annual contribution of 25 thalers for family purposes may be levied, and the family day of March 9, 1858 resolved to bring this contribution into effect immediately. In accordance with the clause in the confirmation document, the estate owners assembled at that family day in the related negotiation, and Count Kleist of Nollendorf, notwithstanding his remark upon signing the statute, expressly assumed in a special letter the obligation to pay the said annual contribution. However, for every capital amount of 100 thalers paid into the foundation, 5 thalers less of the annual contribution may be paid.

With the confirmation of the statute, that payment must now take place, and therefore the family members possessing knight's estates are requested to make those contributions still during the course of this year to the undersigned. All other members of the family are urgently requested to make voluntary annual contributions according to their financial circumstances, as some have already done previously. We ask all family members to now remit such contributions to the undersigned — for the current year before its end.

The next family day, to be held annually according to the statute, the board intends to call in Berlin during the session of the general diet in February or March, and reserves the right to announce more precisely the day and hour as well as the designation of the venue by three insertions in the Neue Preußische (Kreuz-) Zeitung. Already now, however, it most urgently requests Your Excellency to arrange yourself so that we may count with certainty

on the joy of seeing you there. At it, among other things, resolutions will have to be made regarding the manner of use of the foundation in general as well as in special cases, — and also concerning a worthy enclosure of the monument on the grave of Christian Ewald von Kleist in Frankfurt on the Oder.

A register of the presently living male members of the family of age, insofar as they are known to the undersigned, is attached for information.

Kieckow, October 10, 1859.

The board of the family.

By order.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

Printed by Theodor Bauer in Belgard.

Directory

of those adult members of the v. Kleist family,
which are currently known to the board of the family.⁵

A. The board of directors of the family.

- 1st Hans Hugo von Kleist - Retzow, Deputy Senior President on Kieckow and Kleist Krössin near Groß Tychow in Pommern. (Brother of ad C. 10, cousin of ad B. 1)
- 2nd v. Kleist, General-Leutnant in Köln.
- 3rd Gustav v. Kleist, Landrath on Collochau near Herzberg. (Uncle of ad C. 9, brother of C. 29, father ad 62.)

Deputies.

- 4th Anton v. Kleist retired, Landrath on Nemitz near Panknin in Pommern.
- 5th Ewald v. Kleist, chamberlain on Wendisch Tychow, Dubbertech and Priddargen near Schlawe in Pommern.

B. Commission on the publication of history

- 1st Adolph v. Kleist, Real Secret counsellor in Berlin. (Cousin of ad A. 1.)
- 2nd Ludwig v. Kleist retired, Major in Halle.
- 3rd Albert v. Kleist, Prem.-Leutnant retired on Warnin near Gross Tychow in Pommern.

⁵ The list was printed in Belgard. It contains no date. It is an appendix to the foregoing letter of the chairman of October 10, 1859. On the basis of the family history compiled in the following 25 years, the persons in the list can be identified clearly except for four: Nos. 46, 49, 60, and 75. No. 54 is not the son, but the nephew of No. 53. No. 59 is the brother of Nos. 19 and 20. Therefore, under No. 60, No. 19 may have been listed again. No. 51 was wrongly included, since he was an illegitimately born son. Missing from the list are the Rhenish branch and the Borntin-Danish branch, with two family members each, as well as a larger number of Baltic Kleists. Likewise missing from the Kowalk-Warnin branch is the elder brother of No. 43, III. 794 Otto Bogislaff, in whose archival records the family association protocols from 1858 to 1867 used here were found. Archiwum Panstwowe we Wroclawiu Oddzia w Jeleniej Górze, 83/105/0/5/409.

C. All family members in Prussia.

I. Owners of knightly estates:

- 1st Hans Hugo v. Kleist - Retzow. (cf. ad A. 1.)
- 2nd Gustav v. Kleist. (cf. ad A. 3.)
- 3rd Anton v. Kleist. (cf. ad A. 4.)
- 4th Ewald v. Kleist. (cf. ad A. 5)
- 5th Albert v. Kleist, (ad B 3.)
- 6th Hermann Heinrich Ferdinand Leopold Count Kleist v. Nollendorf retired, Landrath and canon in Knauten near Prussian Eylau. (Father of ad 27.)
- 7th Wilhelm Bogislav Count Kleist v. Loß, Hofjägermeister and Major on Werchau, Juchow, Raddatz Dresden — in retired. (Father of ad 8, 28, 63)
- 8th Ewald Count Kleist from Loß to Tzschernowitz near Guben. (Son ad 7.)
- 9th Heinrich Leopold Count of Kleist, Prem.-Leutnant retired on Zützen, Gersdorf and Sageritz near Golsen in the Nieder-Lausitz. (nephew of ad 2, brother of ad 30 - 32.)
- 10th Ferdinand Carl v. Kleist-Retzow, Hereditary Chef of and Colonel Leutnant retired in Möthlow, to Gross Tychow Pommern in Hinter-Pommern. (Brother of ad 1, father of ad 11.)
- 11th Hugo v. Kleist - Retzow, Leutnant in the 5th Reserve (Landwehr)-Husaren-Reg. on Groß Tychow in Pommern. (Son of ad 10)
- 12th Theodor v. Kleist, Member of the House of Lords, on Schmenzin near Bublitz. (Brother of ad 33 - 35.)
- 13th Otto of Kleist cavalry-captain retired, à à Kamissow and Natztow near Belgard in Pommern. (Cousin of ad 14.)
- 14th Hermann v. Kleist on Drenow and Kowalk near Groß Tychow. (Cousin of ad 13, brother of ad 37, 39 and 74, father of ad 36.)
- 15th August v. Kleist cavalry-captain retired, à Damen near Polzin in Pommern. (Father of ad 40, uncle of ad 16, 17 and 41.)
- 16th Rudolph v. Kleist retired, Major on Klein Dubberow, on Jeseritz near Polzin. (Brother of ad 17 and 41, nephew ad 15.)
- 17th Hermann v. Kleist on Groß Dubberow near Belgard. (Brother of ad 16 and 41, nephew of ad 15.)
- 18th Georg v. Kleist retired, Landrath on Reinfeld near Leesen in West Prussia. (Father of ad 42, father in law of ad 43.)
- 19th Kleist von Bornstädt, Leutnant in the 3rd Reserve (Landwehr) Hussars Regiment on Hohenauen near Rathenow. (Brother of ad 20.)
- 20th Carl Ludwig Kleist from Bornstädt, Leutnant in the 6th Cuirassier regiment on Nassen-Glienke near Ratzebuhr in Pommern. (Brother ad 19.)
- 21st Louis Wilhelm v. Kleist on Ruschütz near Stolp in Pommern.
- 22nd Otto Heinrich v. Kleist on Siedtkow near Belgard.
- 23rd Hans v. Kleist on Lanzen near Neu-Stettin in Pommern.
ad 21 - 23 patronized by v. Krockow on Rumske near Stolp.

II. Who are not owners of knightly estates.

- 24th v. Kleist, General Leutnant. (cf. ad A. 2.)

- 25th Adolph v. Kleist, Excellency. (cf. ad B. 1.)
- 26th Ludwig v. Kleist retired, Major (cf. ad B. 2.)
- 27th Hermann Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf, government clerkship in Potsdam (son of ad 6)
- 28th Wilhelm Count v. Kleist zu Juchow bei Neustettin. (Son of ad 7, brother ad 8 and 63.)
- 29th Xaver v. Kleist, chamberlain of Raddatz near Neustettin (Bruder ad 2)
- 30th Ewald v. Kleist, Leutnant in the Guard Dragoon Regiments,
- 31st Oscar v. Kleist. Leutnant in the 5th Cuirassier regiments, 6
- 32nd Bogislav v. Kleist, Leutnant in the 1st Cuirassier regiments.
- 33rd Adolph v. Kleist retired, Major in Koblenz.
- 34th Ewald v. Kleist, Captain in the 1st Guards Regiment
- 35th Max v. Kleist, Captain in the 19th century. infantry regiment to Breslau, currently com. in Schrimm.
- 36th Edmund v. Kleist zu Drenow bei Groß Tychow in Pommern, (Sohn von ad 14.)
- 37th Heinrich v. Kleist retired, Lieutenant Colonel in Düsseldorf. (Father of ad 38, brother of ad 14, 39, and 74)
- 38th Waldemar v. Kleist, Sec.-Leutnant in the 28th Infantry Regiment. (Son of ad 37.)
- 39th Leonhard v. Kleist, district-court Actuarius in Cammin. (Brother of ad 14 and 37.)
- 40th Rudolph v. Kleist, on Rauden near Polzin. (Son of ad 15.)
- 41st Werner v. Kleist, Leutnant. (Brother of ad 16 and 17, nephew of ad 15.)
- 42nd Georg v. Kleist, Premier Leutnant in the 5th Cuirassier regiments in Glogau, currently com. in Gurau. (Son of ad 18.)
- 43rd Feodor v. Kleist, Major. (Son-in-law of ad. 18)
- 44th Ewald v. Kleist, Major in the 20th century. Reserve (Landwehr) infantry regiments in Berlin.
- 45th Hugo v. Kleist, Forst-Inspector in Prussian Holland.
- 46th Reinhold v. Kleist, Leutnant in the 5th Artillery regiments.
- 47th Albrecht Philipp v. Rüchel-Kleist, 2nd Guard uhlan regiments in Berlin.
- 48th Wilhelm Heinrich Ditrich v. Kleist, Leutnant retired in Stettin.
- 49th Rudolph v. Kleist, Premier Leutnant retired à Stargard in Pommern.
- 50th Rudolph Heinrich Reimer v. Kleist, Leutnant in the royal regiments in Stettin, command as adjutant in Anklam.
- 51st Ferdinand v. Kleist retired, Captain in Breslau.
- 52nd Gustav v. Kleist retired, Major in Colberg.
- 53rd A. v. Kleist, major and artillery officer from the square in Wesel. (Father of ad 54.)
- 54th v. Kleist, Sec.-Leutnant in 1st Infantry Regiment in Königsberg. (Son of ad 53)
- 55th v. Kleist, formerly (Moholz) in Görlitz.
- 56th Hermann v. Kleist, Sec.-Leutnant in the Royal Regiment in Stettin.
- 57th v. Kleist, Sec.-Leutnant in 1st Dragoon regiment.
- 58th v. Kleist, Prem.-Leutnant and adjutant at the Seebataillon in Danzig.

⁶ Not nephew to 28 but to 29 (2017)

- 59th v. Kleist, Leutnant in the 10th Hussars regiment in Aschersleben, com. to the Mil. riding school.
60th v. Kleist, Leutnant retired, formerly in the same regiment.

D. Family members abroad.

I. In Austria.

- 61st v. Kleist, on Tippelsgrün near Neudeck, district elbow in the Kingdom of Böhmen.
62nd Gustav v. Kleist, lieutenant in the 8th Cuirassier Regiment (Prinz Carl von Preußen) in Ofen (Sohn von ad 2.)

II. In Saxony.

- 63rd Bogislav Kleist v. Loß, chamberlain and secret Legation Council on Hirschstein to Dresden (son of ad 7.)

III. In Russia.

- 64th Ditrich v. Kleist - Kayserlingk on Gawesen near Liebau, Majoratsherr.
65th v. Kleist, on Kerklingen and Dobelsberg near Frauenburg, Lord Majoris.
66th V. Kleist, on Zerxten.
67th v. Kleist, to Lambertshof.
68th Ludwig v. Kleist, Bankrath in Mietau.
69th Adam from Kleist, district captain in Bausk.
70th Constantin v. Kleist, Oberhauptmann zu Jacobstadt.
71st v. Kleist, government Forester and Colonel of Mietau.
72nd Alexander from Kleist, Oberrath from Mietau.
73rd Countess of Kleist, on Greater Autz and Sirmeln.

E. Family members who have become very poor.

- 74th Wilhelm v. Kleist, zu Flötenstein, workman.
75th Friedrich v. Kleist, to Naugardt, workman.

1860

Your Excellency,

I hereby most respectfully submit herewith a copy of the proceedings of this year's family day of March 6th for your kind information. Of the subscriptions for the foundation indicated therein, 687 thalers 21 silver groschen were still outstanding on the day of the family meeting itself; of these, 483 thalers 21 silver groschen remain outstanding at present.

Apart from these arrears, the assets of the foundation currently consist of

2,250 thalers in 4 percent Pomeranian mortgage bonds,

a hypothecary bond of 600 thalers,

and in cash 52 thalers 9 silver groschen,

together = 2,902 thalers 9 silver groschen.

The Regierungspräsident von Selchow has been requested by me, in consequence of the resolution of the family day, to bring about the restoration of the monument of Christian Ewald von Kleist in Frankfurt an der Oder and its appropriate enclosing with an iron lance-fence. The contributions subscribed at the family day with great generosity by the members present, mostly in sums of 20 thalers, are of course still far from sufficient for the noble purpose; but since the family day believed it must regard this as a matter of honor for the whole family, it counted with full confidence on proportionate further free contributions also from the absent family members. Should Your Excellency be inclined to such a contribution, I beg for its transmission as soon as possible.

[Handwritten for the specific recipient]

... contribution for the current year I have already [received] and hereby acknowledge it afterwards.

Potsdam, July 12, 1860.

Obelisk No. 5.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

Negotiated Berlin, March 6, 1860.⁷

Present are:

1. Upper President Hans v. Kleist-Retzow.
2. Privy Councillor Adolph v. Kleist, retired President.
3. Count Kleist of Loß.
4. Count Ewald v. Kleist.
5. Count Wilhelm v. Kleist.
6. District Councillor v. Kleist-Collochau.
7. Diedrich v. Kleist-Gawesen (Courland).
8. Count Leopold v. Kleist-Zützen.
9. Ewald v. Kleist (Guard Dragoons).
10. Bogislav v. Kleist, Lieutenant in the 1st Cuirassier Regiment.

⁷ In Document No. 723, Part of it.

Kreuzzeitung, March 9, 1860

On the 6th of this month the family von Kleist, after the Royal Highest Confirmation of its statute last summer, held its first Family Day here in the Hotel de Rome. Twenty-two members, one of them from Russia, attended. Reports were given on the funds being assembled for the history of the family and the family foundation, and resolutions were passed regarding their use.

Mr. Kratz, who has undertaken the compilation of the history, made interesting communications on the progress of the work, and presented a large number of important documents as well as the draft of a new corrected family tree.

Funds were immediately raised to appropriately restore and preserve the monument of the poet Christian Ewald von Kleist located in Frankfurt a. O., whose birthday falls precisely in these days, and who, a little more than 100 years ago, met a hero's death in consequence of the battle of Kunersdorf. He was baptized on March 15, 1715, died on August 24, 1759.

This was followed by a joyful common luncheon.

It was a special coincidence that, without any prior arrangement, on the same day in the same hotel the Family Day of the Schulenburg family also took place, with about 20 members attending. Both families exchanged deputations during the luncheon. On this occasion, the von Kleist family emphasized that it was remarkable that at the close of the 15th and beginning of the 16th century the then anarchic conditions in Pomerania had been eliminated by the two foremost councillors of Bogislaw X, Chancellor Georg von Kleist and Governor Werner von Schulenburg, and that Pomerania through them was raised to a prosperity and splendor not known before.

Both families joined in the vow, enthusiastically received as a toast, that they would continue, hand in hand, worthy of their ancestors, to serve our King and Lord and the enlarged Fatherland. The greeting was returned by the Schulenburg family and the vow taken up independently in the equally jubilantly received toast:

"At altar, throne, and hearth

May we — the Kleists, the Schulenburgs — be worthy of our fathers,

And should the time come — to horse, to horse,

In strong hand the Prussian sword!

To the brotherhood of the Kleist and the Schulenburg, a cheer!"

During the dinner, telegraphic greetings were sent to General-Lieutenant von Kleist in Cologne, prevented by a foot ailment from attending, to the sorrow of all present, and to the artillery officer stationed in Wesel, Major von Kleist, who on that very day had his son, presumably the youngest scion of the family, received into the church through holy baptism. Should he, as his father hopes, be constantly mindful of the admonition "noblesse oblige," he will surely in due time become a worthy member of the entire family.

It is indeed noteworthy that the year 1848 called forth such revivals of the old families. These too we owe to the profound insight of His Majesty the King into the needs of the time, to his love for those families who through their members have, over the centuries, faithfully and devotedly served his ancestors and His Majesty himself.

As the assembled family gratefully remembered this, so too shall its members, through active participation in this new life of the family, through free and independent manly devotion to the King and the Royal House, to the Fatherland in word and deed, have to offer this their thanks.

11. Anton v. Kleist-Nemitz, retired District Councillor.
12. Theodor v. Kleist-Schmenzin.
13. Adolph v. Kleist, retired Major in Coblenz.
14. Max v. Kleist, Captain in the 19th Infantry Regiment.
15. Xaver v. Kleist, Chamberlain in Raddatz.
16. Albrecht v. Kleist, Lieutenant in the 2nd Guard Uhlan Regiment.
17. Ludwig v. Kleist, Captain in the 5th Cuirassier Regiment.
18. Robert v. Kleist, from the house of Reinfeld.
19. Kleist v. Bornstedt, Hohenauen.
20. v. Kleist, retired District Councillor, Reinfeld.
21. Ludwig v. Kleist, retired Major in Halle.
22. Albert v. Kleist-Warnin.

The family day of the von Kleist family convened here today, at which the members listed above participated, was first opened by the chairman, Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow, with an address, whereupon he presented the following matters:

1. The register of the landed family members and its correction.
2. The record of the contributions subscribed for the family foundation, which at present, with addition of interest savings and balances, amounts to a capital of 3,210 thalers. At the same time, the list of the still outstanding contributions was communicated, whereupon the assembly expressed the request and expectation that these arrears would be paid in as soon as possible.
3. The requests for support of two completely impoverished family members from Naugard and Flötenstein, in which the chairman expressed his view that the family foundation ought not to be suitable for consideration of such requests. The assembly thereupon declared unanimously that the fund in general cannot be claimed for the support of impoverished fathers of families, or only quite exceptionally. Apart from the support of surviving widows and orphans, its purpose is: the education and equipment of the sons of those needy family members for a suitable profession.
4. The petition of a Miss v. Kleist in Mitau, directed especially at the granting of means for a decent burial.

The assembly resolved to comply with the petition insofar as the sum of 50 thalers (payable through the mediation of Countess v. Medem) is granted from the family foundation for Miss v. Kleist. Furthermore, the petitioner is recommended to the family members living in Courland.

5. The renewal or rather restoration of the monument erected to Major Christian Ewald v. Kleist in Frankfurt.

According to the communication of the chairman, not only the Royal Regierungspräsident v. Selchow, but also a part of the local citizenry, especially the Masonic lodge, take a very lively interest in this matter; the attendees therefore regard it all the more as an honor-bound duty to settle this subject in a worthy manner. They resolved not to assign the necessary costs to the family fund, but to raise them through voluntary contributions. On the list immediately circulated, 297 thalers were subscribed.

Furthermore, the unanimous thanks of the family were voted to Regierungspräsident v. Selchow for the lively interest he has shown in the matter.

Concerning the future maintenance and furnishing of the monument, the board will establish contact with suitable persons. The sum subscribed today was paid in except for a small remainder and was received by the board.

1861

Your Excellency,

I hereby most respectfully submit herewith a copy of the proceedings of our family day of this year, and as its enclosures a copy:

1. of the financial position of the family foundation fund,
2. of the fund for the enclosure of the monument of Christian Ewald in Frankfurt an der Oder,
3. of the register of the family members possessing knight's estates in Prussia,
4. of the overview of the fund for the history.

Of the arrears of the foundation fund mentioned therein, amounting to 368 thalers — silver groschen, 254 thalers 15 silver groschen were settled immediately at the family day itself, so that only 113 thalers 15 silver groschen remain outstanding. Among these, only an amount of 22 thalers 15 silver groschen is from the year 1859; the rest, 91 thalers — silver groschen, are contributions for 1860 from such family members who were not present at the family day, and who therefore are expected to settle them immediately upon receipt of this letter.

[handwritten individual addition regarding contribution payment]

The assets of the foundation currently consist of 3,100 thalers — silver groschen in mortgage bonds, an obligation of 600 thalers — —, cash and coupons of 218 thalers 17 silver groschen, and of those arrears of 113 thalers 15 silver groschen, thus amounting in total to 4,032 thalers 2 silver groschen.

Oscar v. Kleist, at the family day, undertook the obligation to make regular contributions to the foundation as the possessor of a small share of Schenkendorf.

Into the monument fund, another 10 thalers were received at the family day, altogether therefore 428 thalers, and 5 thalers still outstanding. Of the balance of 128 thalers, another 100 thalers have in the meantime been used, so that 33 thalers remain available.

At the family day, the unveiling of the restored and enclosed monument of Christian Ewald was discussed, either on the day of the battle of Kunersdorf or on the day of his death; at last the family day decided on the former. In the meantime, President von Selchow expressed the wish that the latter, i.e. August 24, be chosen, and I have believed, in the name of the family, that we should gladly consent thereto. The acceptance on my part in the name of the family, and the possible simultaneous handover to the municipal authority for further conservation, will take place early on the said day. Should Your Excellency intend to be present, you should arrive in Frankfurt already on the evening of August 23 and register your lodging with Mr. v. Selchow, where I shall likewise be found. The arrangement of a special celebration on that occasion on the part of the family would probably not suit the matter and the sense of the family. [handwritten] But a numerous attendance of members of the family would always be very desirable.

Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist gratefully acknowledged that he was permitted by the family to bear its coat of arms with the modifications mentioned in the proceedings.

[handwritten] The district court actuary Leonhard v. Kleist has been transferred from Cammin as district court secretary to Demmin, by which he has gained a slight salary increase and a better school for his son. But the moving expenses and the necessary covering of older debts required the immediate payment of 200 thalers. At the cry for help of his simple, faithful, industrious, and sorely suffering wife, I believed I ought not to hesitate for a moment to cover that sum on my part, in firm confidence that extraordinary contributions from members of the family would soon provide me the corresponding reimbursement. Where a member of the same strives in such circumstances to struggle through meagerly and honestly, it is certainly [illegible] somewhere a duty to support as much as possible and to help in temporary need — all the more so here, where I had requested such a transfer from

his superiors and had promised such assistance should it occur. Your Excellency I therefore most urgently request for as ample assistance as possible for this purpose. Should the total amount even exceed 200 thalers, the surplus would be very necessary for the distressed family.

Polzin, July 20, 1861.

[Signature] H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

Presence list

of the members of the von Kleist family present at the family day of March 1, 1861.

1. Upper President retired H. v. Kleist-Retzow.
2. Privy Councillor, President Adolph v. Kleist.
3. District Councillor v. Kleist-Collochau.
4. Retired District Councillor Anton v. Kleist-Nemitz.
5. Albert v. Kleist-Warnin.
6. District Councillor Count Ewald v. Kleist-Tschernowitz.
7. Count Leopold v. Kleist-Zützen.
8. Hermann v. Kleist-Dubberow.
9. Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow-Groß-Tychow.
10. Major Adolph v. Kleist-Coblenz.
11. Count Conrad v. Kleist-Berlin.
12. Major Feodor v. Kleist-Schneidemühl.
13. Chamberlain Xavier v. Kleist-Raddatz.
14. v. Kleist-Hohenauen.
15. First Lieutenant Carl v. Rüchel-Kleist.
16. Captain Ewald v. Kleist-Potsdam.
17. Major Ludwig v. Kleist-Halle.
18. Rudolph v. Kleist-Rauden.
19. Baron v. Kleist-Görlitz.
20. Wilhelm Count Kleist-Juchow.
21. Captain Max v. Kleist.
22. First Lieutenant Ewald v. Kleist-Berlin.
23. Lieutenant Bogislav v. Kleist, at present in Schwedt.

Berlin, March 1, 1861.

The family day of the von Kleist family held today, in the presence of the members listed by name in the annex, was opened by the chairman, Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow. He made:

1. first a communication about the financial position of the family foundation, which has a capital of 3,862 thalers

15 silver groschen including arrears and excluding the fund for the monument in Frankfurt. The detailed data result from the enclosed compilation.

2. Then the name list of the now eligible (landed) family members was presented, which is likewise enclosed.

3. Applications for support have not been received this time; on the contrary, of a support payment of 50 thalers made last year, half has been repaid. The assembly resolved to place this sum of 25 thalers at the chairman's disposal, to support with it an impoverished family member residing in Tangermünde, Regierungsbezirk Magdeburg.

4. For the restoration of the monument of the poet Ewald v. Kleist in Frankfurt, ample contributions have been subscribed, which will presumably suffice. According to the very detailed communication of President v. Selchow, eager work is being done on the repair, and completion and unveiling are to be expected at the latest in the month of May. The assembly expressed the unanimous wish to postpone the unveiling until August 12 (battle of Kunersdorf), and also agreed to the placing of a simple memorial plaque upon completion.

5. In the Engineer Corps there is a Lieutenant Colonel Kleist, illegitimate son of a Colonel v. Kleist, who, on account of his exemplary conduct in every respect, has been raised to the nobility by His Majesty the King. It now depends on whether, and to what extent, he may be permitted to bear the von Kleist family coat of arms. The family day considered it indeed questionable to grant to that von Kleist the identical coat of arms of the old noble von Kleist family, but nevertheless gladly approved this grant with the following modifications:

1. that in the coat of arms itself the foxes run in the opposite direction from that in the coat of arms of the von Kleist family;

2. in the crest instead of the 3 cudgel staves, 3 swords, instead of the 3 red roses, 3 white roses be placed.

At the same time, the assembly expressed its thanks to the Herald's Office for the consideration it had shown to the family here, but also resolved to petition the competent authority that henceforth, likewise before the granting of the name, the consent of the family should be obtained. Should this request not be granted, every member who is approached for his consent to the granting of the name or coat of arms of the family must at least beforehand obtain the declaration of the board and attach this to his response.

6. A motion directed at not convening the family day annually was rejected as inadmissible according to the statutes.

7. A communication about the financial position of the history fund, which had an income of 2,098 thalers, is annexed to this proceeding.

After disposal of the above matters, Referendary Kratz was again, as in the previous year, introduced into the assembly to report on the progress of the family history. According to his report, the printing of the record book will begin within a few months. The completion of the entire work is to be expected in the coming year.

Herewith the proceedings are closed and executed.

v. Kleist, President.

Wilhelm Count v. Kleist-Juchow.

H. v. Kleist.

v. Kleist-Damen.

L. v. Kleist.

Ewald v. Kleist.

Max v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist-Groß-Dubberow.

v. Kleist-Warnin.

Feodor v. Kleist.

v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow-Groß-Tychow.

Adolph v. Kleist-Coblenz, Major.

Ewald Count Kleist-Tschernowitz, District Councillor.

Leopold Count Kleist-Zützen.

Conrad Count v. Kleist.

Xavier v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist.

W. v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

Financial position of the foundation fund of the family von Kleist
on March 1, 1861.

The assets consist:

I. Of an obligation registered on Drenow amounting to	600 thalers — silver groschen
(gift of the Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist-Retzow and of the Lieutenant v. Kleist-Retzow.)	
II. Of Pomeranian 4 percent mortgage bonds in the amount of	2700 “ — “
III. Of a cash balance of	194 “ 15 “
IV. Of still outstanding arrears, according to the annex in the amount of	368 “ — “
together	3862 thalers 15 silver groschen.

At the family day in the previous year it amounted,

with the outstanding arrears, to 3210 “ — “

therefore at present more by 652 thalers 15 silver groschen.

Among the 3210 thalers there were, at last year's family day, in arrears 678 thalers 21 silver groschen

at present 368 “ — “

therefore this year less by 310 thalers 21 silver groschen.

Among these are still the contributions for 1860, which presumably will almost all be paid at the family day itself.

Of last year's arrears, 75 thalers 6 silver groschen have lapsed. The latter 6 silver groschen from the deceased v. Kleist-Cammissow, 25 thalers from the Vice Chief Huntsman Count Kleist, who no longer had estates in Prussia at all, 25 thalers from Kleist-Drenow and 25 thalers from Oscar v. Kleist, who had not yet assumed the contribution. The former has obliged himself since 1860 to a contribution; Oscar v. Kleist has not yet assumed an obligation.

Fund for the monument of Christian Ewald.

Subscribed	423 thalers
of which received	418 thalers
still outstanding	5 “
	above 423 thalers.
Of the sum sent to v. Selchow	300 thalers
cash on hand	118 “
outstanding	5 “
	again 423 thalers.

Berlin, March 1, 1860.

Active eligible voting members of the family von Kleist.
at the time of the family day on March 1, 1861.

1. Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow of Kieckow and Klein-Crössin.
2. Gustav v. Kleist of Collochau.
3. Anton v. Kleist of Nemitz.
4. Ewald v. Kleist of Wendisch-Tychow, Dubbertsch, Priddargen.
5. Albert v. Kleist of Warnin.
6. Hermann Heinrich Ferdinand Leopold Count v. Kleist of Knauten.
7. Heinrich Leopold Count v. Kleist of Zützen, Gersdorf, part of Sageritz and part of Schenkendorf.
8. Bogislav Adolph Leopold Count v. Kleist of Werchau, Knippelsdorf, Mehlsdorf and share of Raddatz.
9. Ewald Friedrich August Conrad Count v. Kleist of Tschernowitz, Beesgen, Döbern and share of Raddatz.
10. Wilhelm Conrad Johann Count v. Kleist of Juchow etc. and share of Raddatz.
11. Hans Ewald v. Kleist of Gebersdorf.
12. Oscar v. Kleist of part of Schenkendorf.
13. Eduard Bogislav v. Kleist of part of Schenkendorf.
14. Ferdinand Carl v. Kleist-Retzow of Möthlow.
15. Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow of Groß-Tychow.
16. Theodor v. Kleist of Schmenzin.
17. Hermann v. Kleist of Drenow and Kowalk.
18. Rudolph v. Kleist of Jeseritz and Klein-Dubberow.
19. Hermann v. Kleist of Groß-Dubberow.
20. Rudolph v. Kleist of Damen.
21. Georg v. Kleist of Reinfeld.
22. Otto Friedrich Erdmann Kleist v. Bornstädt of Hohen-Nauen.
23. Carl Ludwig v. Kleist of Nassen-Glienke.

In addition, still possess knight's estates but have not the eligible age:

24. Louis Wilhelm Ferdinand Carl v. Kleist the knight's estate Ruschütz, born January 6, 1837.
25. Otto Heinrich Rudolph v. Kleist the knight's estate Siedkow, born August 8, 1839.
26. Hans Ludwig Berndt Otto v. Kleist the knight's estate Lanzen, born April 26, 1850.
27. Carl Wilhelm v. Kleist the knight's estate Pöpel, born November 1, 1839.
28. (Georg Ferdinand Lorenz August v. Kleist, born August 8, 1841,
29. (and Max Gustav Hans Jürgen v. Kleist, born July 4, 1848, together with their siblings the knight's estates Camissow and Natztow.
30. Count Conrad Adolph v. Kleist share of Raddatz, born April 4, 1839.

Berlin, March 1, 1861.

Overview of the fund for the history of the family von Kleist
on March 1, 1861.

The following have paid:

1. Family members.

Major Ludwig v. Kleist in Halle	25 thalers.
President v. Kleist	100 “
Chamberlain v. Kleist-Tychow	100 “
v. Kleist-Glinke	30 “
Three Counts v. Kleist	150 “
Lieutenant General v. Kleist	100 “
Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow	100 “
v. Kleist-Rüchel	40 “
v. Kleist-Schmenzin	100 “
v. Kleist-Nemitz	100 “
Count Kleist-Zützen	100 “
v. Kleist-Leonhard	5 “
Major v. Kleist-Erfurt	5 “
v. Kleist-Warnin	75 “
v. Kleist-Gawesen	100 “
Rittmeister v. Kleist-Wohlau	5 “
v. Kleist-Rauden	50 “
Major Fedor v. Kleist-Riesenburg	5 “
v. Kleist-Reinfeld	40 “
v. Kleist-Görlitz	10 “

1862

Berlin, February 26, 1862.

Present:

- 1) His Excellency, Privy Councillor v. Kleist,
- 2) Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow,
- 3) Baron v. Kleist-Collochau,
- 4) Ewald v. Kleist, First Lieutenant in the 1st Guard Dragoon Regiment,
- 5) Major v. Kleist of Schmenzien,
- 6) Major v. Kleist from Halle,
- 7) Forest Inspector v. Kleist from Frankfurt an der Oder,
- 8) Lieutenant v. Kleist of Dragoon Regiment No. 1 (Lithuania),
- 9) Count v. Kleist-Juchow,
- 10) Rittmeister v. Kleist-Glienke,
- 11) Count v. Kleist-Zützen,
- 12) Count v. Kleist-Tschernowitz,
- 13) Major Adolph v. Kleist in Coblenz,
- 14) First Lieutenant v. Rüchel-Kleist.

Today's family day of the family v. Kleist was opened, in the presence of the members listed by name alongside, by the chairman, Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow.

1. He first made a brief communication about the impending change, by way of legislation, of the feudal relations in Pomerania and about the effect thereby taking place on the family's financial circumstances.
2. He then communicated the financial position of the family foundation, according to which a capital of 4487 thalers 22 silver groschen is present. The detailed statement is provided in the annexed compilation.
3. The account books submitted, as well as the cash on hand, were presented and audited by the two Counts Kleist-Zützen and Tschernowitz.
4. Upon motion made, the board is authorized to deposit at the bank the mortgage bonds constituting the assets of the foundation.
5. v. Kleist-Retzow makes a communication about the restoration of the monument of Christian Ewald in Frankfurt, about the festivities held at the unveiling, and the costs incurred. President, Mr. v. Selchow, has not yet rendered a specific account of the expenditures that took place, but it is foreseeable that a surplus of a few thalers remains, which is to be left at Mr. v. Selchow's disposal in order to have some still necessary arrangements made in the surroundings of the monument.
6. It is communicated that the owner of Siedkow has reached 25 years of age, and thereby the number of eligible voting members has increased by one.
7. On the occasion of the ennoblement of Colonel v. Kleist (protocol of March 1, 1861, sub 5.), the board has requested the competent authority that in any similar cases that may occur in the future, the resolution of the family be obtained.
8. The following are granted as supports from the family fund:

a) to the etc. v. Kleist in Tangermünde: “25 thalers for 1862”;

b) to the son of the etc. v. Kleist-Drenow:

for his equipment as an officer in the 54th Infantry Regiment “50 thalers”;

c) to the widow of the customs inspector v. Kleist deceased in Tilsit: a one-time support of “30 thalers.”

9. Chamberlain v. Kleist-Raddatz wishes to legitimize his illegitimately born daughter Agnes Gantzke, since she intends to marry, and asks the family for approval that she be permitted to bear the name and the arms of the family v. Kleist. It is resolved that the motion shall be acceded to as soon as proof has been furnished of the marriage of Agnes Gantzke and Chamberlain v. Kleist-Raddatz has declared in legally binding form that he expressly renounces all claims which his said daughter Agnes Gantzke and her descendants might possibly derive from the testamentary provisions of his deceased father.

10. President v. Kleist thereupon submits the enclosed compilation on the fund for the history of the family, according to which the cash balance amounts to 2148 thalers. Count v. Kleist-Zützen audits vouchers and money, which are correctly presented.

11. The said board for the family history further brings to the attention of those present a difference of opinion existing between him and Archivist Mr. Kraatz concerning the family ancestor Conrad, and calls for a resolution on it, which is adopted, agreeing with the view of the President. The latter is therefore to be set out by Mr. etc. Kraatz in the historical work, whereby it remains open to him also to present his own view.

12. The call issued by Herrmann Grimm in the first supplement to No. 46 of the Vossische Zeitung for contributions for the surrounding of Heinrich Kleist's grave mound leads to an immediate collection, the proceeds of which are handed to President v. Kleist for further delivery, and to the resolution to request further contributions also from the members not present, which President v. Kleist is ready to receive.

13. The members of the family are urgently requested, with reminder of the earlier resolution, to communicate any changes in family and other circumstances always as soon as possible to Mr. Archivist Kraatz in Stettin, Große Domstraße No. 19.

V. g. u.

Adolph v. Kleist, Major,

v. Kleist, retired President.

v. Kleist-Schmenzin.

Leopold Count v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist.

E. v. Kleist.

v. Kleist-Collochau.

Ewald Count v. Kleist-Tschernowitz.

Wilhelm Count v. Kleist-Juchow.

v. Kleist-Glienke.

v. Rüchel-Kleist.

Victor v. Kleist.

a. u. s.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow. H. E. v. Kleist.

Financial position

of the fund of the family von Kleist on February 26, 1862.

The family's assets consist:

1. of the obligation on Drenow	600 thalers — sgr. — pf.
2. of Pomeranian 4-percent mortgage bonds	3450 “ — “ — “
3. cash	136 “ 22 “ — “
4. outstanding arrears according to the annex	301 “ — “ — “
together	4487 thalers 22 sgr. — pf.

At the family day in the previous year it amounted,

with arrears, to 3862 “ 15 “ — “

therefore at present more by 625 thalers 7 sgr. — pf.

Among the 3862 thalers 15 sgr. there were at the previous

family day arrears 368 “ — “ — “

This year they amount to

301 “ — “ — “

thus this year less by 67 thalers — sgr. — pf.

Among the above arrears, 232 thalers 15 sgr. are contributions of the year 1861, which presumably for the most part will be paid at the family day. Only 46 thalers are arrears from the year 1860, and only one contribution, unfortunately, still from the year 1859.

Berlin, February 26, 1862.

Closing

of the calculation for the restoration of the monument of Christian Ewald von Kleist.

At the previous family day the income amounted to	423 thalers — sgr. — pf.
incl. an arrear of	5 “ — “ — “
thus in cash	418 thalers — sgr. — pf.
In the meantime there have further come in	20 “ — sgr. — pf.
together	438 thalers — sgr. — pf.

The expenditure amounted at the previous family day to 300 thalers.

Since then there still had to be paid 221 “

together 521 “ — “ — “

Accordingly excess expenditure 83 thalers — sgr. — pf.

which had to be taken from the fund, but will still be reduced by 5 “ — “ — “

and therefore will sink to 78 thalers — sgr. — pf.

as soon as the arrear has been paid in.

Berlin, February 26, 1862.

1863

Your Excellency

I herewith most respectfully submit:

- 1) a copy of the proceedings of the family day of March 7, 1863,
- 2) immediately attached thereto the overview of the current financial position of the family's foundation fund,
- 3) likewise attached thereto an overview of the fund for the history, and since we did not have the honor of seeing you among us at the said family day, at which the attendees were personally handed a copy of the proceedings of the family day of February 26, 1862,
- 4) the copy of the last-mentioned proceedings and
- 5) the statement connected therewith of the then financial position of our foundation fund.

Of the arrears of earlier years indicated as still existing in the statement of the financial position ad 2, Your
to settle the contribution for 1863 as well together
[handwritten]

This year's family day will presumably take place on March 19.
Kieckow, January 12, 1864.

Negotiated Berlin, March 7, 1863.

Present were:

1. His Excellency v. Kleist—Berlin,
2. Upper President v. Kleist of Kieckow,
3. Forest Master v. Kleist—Frankfurt,
4. Major v. Kleist of Jeseritz,
5. Chamberlain v. Kleist of W.-Tychow,
6. H. v. Kleist of Groß-Dubberow,
7. Count v. Kleist of Zützen,
8. Count v. Kleist—Tschernowitz,
9. Major v. Kleist from Halle,
10. Captain v. Kleist in the 1st Guard Regiment,
11. Major Adolph v. Kleist at Coblenz,
12. Count v. Kleist—Juchow,
13. Major v. Kleist—Schmenzin,
14. Rudolph v. Kleist—Damen,
15. Lieut. Carl v. Kleist in the 8th Dragoon Regiment,
16. First Lieutenant v. Rüchel-Kleist,
17. Count v. Kleist—Nollendorf,

18. Count Hermann v. Kleist—Nollendorf,
19. v. Kleist-Retzow of Gr.-Tychow,
20. v. Kleist-Bornstädt—Hohenauen,
21. Hermann v. Kleist, Lieut. in the 62nd Inf. Regt.
22. Ewald v. Kleist, First Lieut. in the Guard Drag. Regt.
23. B. v. Kleist, First Lieut. in the Guard Cuirassier Regt.
24. Georg v. Kleist, Lieut. in the 2nd Artillery Regt.

The members of the family von Kleist listed in the annex had assembled here today, and the session of the family day was opened by the chairman, Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow.

In connection with item 1 of last year's proceedings, the chairman submitted for information a report of the relevant commission of the Upper House concerning the dissolution of the feudal association in Pomerania.

A print of the minutes of last year's family day is distributed to the members of the family present.

The annual account of the family assets is submitted to the two Counts Kleist—Zützen and Tschernowitz for audit, and as the former is found correct, the family day grants discharge with regard to the previous asset management and accounting.

The number of eligible voting family members has not changed.

With reference to item 9 of the proceedings of February 26 of last year, the chairman submits a declaration by Chamberlain v. Kleist-Raddatz concerning the renunciation of his claims, but it is deemed necessary that the said declaration be made notarially. The necessary steps will be taken by the chairman. Count Wilhelm v. Kleist-Juchow assures that the marriage of Agnes Gantzke will undoubtedly take place in April of the current year. He likewise assures with equal certainty that she has received from the Chamberlain a dowry to the value of approx. 1200 thalers, and by this undertakes to see to it that a capital of 3800 thalers is still paid out to the young couple on behalf of Chamberlain v. Kleist, in that he himself thereby undertakes the payment or procurement thereof, but reserves reimbursement from the Chamberlain. Insofar as at the possible death of the latter the reimbursement has not yet been fully effected, the then possibly still existing remainder of the capital will, by agreement among the relevant cousins, be assumed as personal debt by the next possessor of Raddatz. To the legitimation of Agnes Gantzke requested by Chamberlain v. Kleist-Raddatz, the family day hereby grants its approval.

The following are granted as supports from the family assets:

- a) To the p. v. Kleist in Tangermünde: "25 thalers for 1863;"
- b) to the widow of the customs inspector v. Kleist deceased in Tilsit "a further 30 thalers;"
- c) to Marie v. Kleist here, daughter of the widowed v. Bock, widowed v. Kleist "a one-time support of 25 thalers;" Petitions for support by Carl v. Kleist in Tangermünde and by Auguste Fischer née v. Kleist in Straßburg, daughter of the deceased president in Bromberg, are rejected.

Lieutenant General v. Kleist in Cologne celebrated his fiftieth service jubilee on February 3 of the current year. The family board, in the name of the family, sent the jubilarian, with a congratulatory letter, a silver beaker as a token of sincere participation and high esteem.

President v. Kleist submits the enclosed compilation on the fund for the history of the family, according to which the cash balance amounts to 2205 thalers. Count v. Kleist—Zützen audits vouchers and money, which are correctly presented.

President v. Kleist requests that the subscribers collect the copies of the 1st volume of the family history still lying with him. He further reports that, due to the illness of Archivist Kraatz, the completion of the work is delayed and in this year in any case can no longer be brought to a close.

A remonstrance submitted by the said Kraatz concerning item 11 of last year's proceedings is not entered into,

and the resolution then adopted is upheld.

Of the still disposable copies of the family history, such may be released to subscribers at the amount of 5 thalers per copy; other members of the family are to pay 6 thalers per copy.

President v. Kleist further communicates how far the railing intended for Heinrich v. Kleist's grave mound has been completed, and what form and inscription it has received.

The cost account for the production of the enclosure of the Christian Ewald monument in Frankfurt an der Oder is handed to the chairman by Forest Master v. Kleist on behalf of Minister v. Selchow, who had kindly undertaken to direct the execution. The cash balance still on hand is to be used for the maintenance of the flowerbeds and the tree planting in and around the railing.

V. g. u.

v. Kleist, President.

v. Kleist—Jeseritz, retired Major.

v. Kleist—Tychow.

H. v. Kleist, Groß-Dubberow.

Count v. Kleist—Zützen.

Ewald Count v. Kleist—Tschernowitz.

L. v. Kleist.

J. v. Kleist, Captain.

Adolph v. Kleist, Major.

W. Count v. Kleist—Juchow.

v. Kleist—Damen.

M. v. Kleist—Schmenzin.

Baron v. Kleist.

v. Rüchel-Kleist.

G. v. Kleist—Nollendorf.

G. v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow, Gr.-Tychow.

v. Kleist-Bornstädt.

v. Kleist.

E. v. Kleist.

B. v. Kleist.

Georg v. Kleist.

a. u. s.⁸

H. v. Kleist-Retzow. H. E. v. Kleist.

⁸ actum ut supra = deliberated as above

Financial Status

of the Fund of the Family von Kleist on March 7, 1863.

The assets of the family consist of:

1. from the obligation on Drenow	600 Thlr. — sgr. — pf.
2. from 4 percent Pomeranian mortgage bonds	3950 „ — „ — „
3. cash	52 „ 2 „ 6 „
4. outstanding arrears	428 „ — „ — „
together	5030 Thlr. 2 sgr. 6 pf.

At the family meeting of 1862 it amounted to	4487 „ 22 „ — „
therefore presently more	542 Thlr. 10 sgr. 6 pf.

Among the 4487 Thlr. 22 sgr. at the family meeting of 1862 were arrears	301 Thlr.
In 1863 they amount to	428 „
therefore more	127 Thlr.

But it can now, at the time of printing the proceedings, be remarked that of those arrears in the amount of 428 Thlr., at the family meeting and in the course of the year, 322 Thlr. have been paid, so that at the beginning of 1864 only 106 Thlr. arrears remain, and among them only 21 Thlr. from the year 1861. To this, of course, now come again arrears for 1863, but as before the payment of these and the aforementioned older arrears can with certainty be expected at the next family meeting.

Overview

of the Fund for the History on March 7, 1863.

At the last family meeting on February 26, 1862, the balance of 2148 Thlr. was shown:

a) by bank bonds	1900 Thlr. — sgr.
b) cash	157 „ 15 1/2 „
c) expenditures since 1857	90 „ 14 1/2 „
sum as above	2148 Thlr. — sgr.

In the past year 1862 the following was received:

On February 26, 1862 from the forest master von Kleist	5 Thlr.	
On March 27, 1862 bank interest	18 „	
On September 22, 1862 ditto	19 „	
On January 4, 1863 from Major von Kleist-Halle	10 „	
On March 4, 1863 Herrenhaus library	5 „	
Sum	57 Thlr.	57 Thlr. — sgr.
Total of the income with the above		2148 „ — „

2205 Thlr. — sgr.

Expenditures are:

Insertion in the Kreuz-Zeitung of September 19, 1862

— Thlr. 20 sgr.

makes with the above expenditures since 1857

90 „ 14 1/2 „

total of the expenditures

91 Thlr. 4 1/2 sgr.

The balance of 2205 Thlr. is shown:

a) by bank bonds

2000 Thlr. — sgr.

b) total of expenditures as above

91 „ 4 1/2 „

c) cash balance

113 „ 25 1/2 „

sum as above 2205 Thlr. — sgr.

Berlin, March 7, 1863.

1864

Your Highborn,

I herewith forward an enclosed copy of the proceedings of this year's family meeting.

Enclosed is a compilation of the present financial status of the endowment fund, as well as of the history fund, and a list of the members of the family entitled to vote in the Upper House.

Of the arrears, there fall upon Your Highborn ...

in addition comes for this year the current contribution of ...

so that you would have to pay in the course of the year ...

Kieckow, July 20, 1864.

H. von Kleist-Retzow,

Upper President retired.

Berlin, March 12, 1864.

Were present:

1. Excellency von Kleist-Berlin.
2. Upper President von Kleist-Retzow.
3. Major von Kleist-Coblenz.
4. Count von Kleist-Zützen.
5. von Kleist-Collochau.
6. District Administrator Count von Kleist-Tschernowitz.
7. Chamberlain von Kleist-Tychow.
8. von Kleist-Groß-Dubberow.
9. Captain and District Elder von Kleist-Görlitz.
10. Baron von Kleist-Gawesen.
11. Major von Kleist-Halle.
12. Kleist von Bornstedt-Hohennauen.
13. First Lieutenant Ewald von Kleist-Gebersdorf.
14. First Lieutenant von Rüchel-Kleist.

The members of the family von Kleist listed in the annex had gathered here today, and the session of the family meeting was opened by the chairman, Upper President von Kleist-Retzow.

The annual account of the family assets was submitted to Counts von Kleist-Zützen and Tschernowitz for revision, and since it was found correct, the family meeting grants discharge regarding the previous financial management to the accountant.

The number of members of the family entitled to vote has changed through the entry of Kleist-Siedkow.

From the family assets the following support was granted:

- a) to the widow of the customs inspector von Kleist deceased in Tilsit, instead of the previously granted 30 Thlr., 50 Thlr. for the year 1864;
- b) to Marie von Kleist here, daughter of the widowed von Bock, formerly widowed von Kleist, a one-time support of 25 Thlr.

The president von Kleist submits the enclosed compilation regarding the fund for the history of the family, according to which the cash balance amounts to 2168 Thlr. 4 sgr. 6 pf. Count von Kleist-Zützen audits the documents and the money, which were presented correctly.

The president von Kleist announces that the difference of opinion regarding one point in the history to be drafted between the archivist Kraatz and the president has been resolved and that the work is approaching completion.

Furthermore, the president delivered a lecture on the right of castle-seating of the family, and in particular of the Dubberow line; he developed that the Dubberow line possesses this privilege, while the other lines claim it.

It was determined to hand this matter over to the history commission, with the participation of Upper President von Kleist-Retzow, Count von Kleist-Tschernowitz, and von Kleist-Groß-Dubberow for more precise discussion; if this commission is of the opinion that either the entire family or only the Dubberow line has the right of castle-seating, then this shall be handed over to Mr. Kraatz (cf. this matter No. 7) for inclusion; if doubts arise in the commission about this, then the family meeting in the next year shall decide on it.

The family approves the agreement reached with Mr. Kraatz, according to which the latter takes on the publication of the history of the family, but nevertheless retains the entire business management, in particular also the correction as before, and receives as a premium and for the total printing and other costs including appendix 2200 Thlr. The family commits itself not to make any changes or additions with respect to scholarly or legal expositions in the work. Where it should hold another opinion, a remark of the family shall be inserted below the text referring to the fact that the divergent opinion of the family will appear in an appendix to the work with consecutive pagination.

V. g. u.

von Kleist, President retired.

Count Ewald von Kleist-Tschernowitz.

Adolph von Kleist, Major retired.

L. von Kleist from Halle.

Baron von Kleist.

Baron von Kleist-Gawesen.

Kleist-Bornstedt.
von Rüchel-Kleist.
Baron von Kleist-Collochau.
Count von Kleist-Zützen.
von Kleist-Tychow.
von Kleist-Gebersdorf.
H. von Kleist-Retzow.
H. von Kleist-Groß-Dubberow.

Financial Situation

of the Fund of the Family von Kleist on March 10, 1864.

The assets consisted of

1. one bond on Drenow	600 thalers — sgr. — pf.
2. Pomeranian mortgage bonds at 4 percent	4650 „ — „ — „
3. cash	37 „ 5 „ — „
4. outstanding arrears	432 „ — „ — „
total	5719 thalers 5 sgr. — pf.

On Family Day 1863 it amounted to	5030 „ 2 „ 6 „
therefore more	689 thalers 2 sgr. 6 pf.

Of those 5030 thalers 2 sgr. 6 pf., there were

arrears in 1863	428 thalers
on March 10, 1864 they amounted to	432 „
therefore more	4 thalers.

But after the close of the account, immediately before and on Family Day, as well as during the course of the year, of those arrears were paid: 266 thalers 15 sgr., so that of them now only 165 thalers 15 sgr. remain, among them only 6 thalers from 1861, and only 37 thalers from 1862.

Overview

of the Fund for History on March 12, 1864.

On March 7, 1863 the balance of 2205 thalers was verified,

through bank bonds	2000 thalers — sgr. — pf.
total of expenses	91 „ 4 „ 6 „
cash	113 „ 25 „ 6 „
sum	2205 thalers,
	as above 2205 thalers.

In the past year there were received:

March 7, 1863, Lieutenant Herrmann v. Kleist	10 thalers — sgr.
April 1, 1863, bank interest	19 „ — „
January 8, 1863, ditto	25 „ 15 „
total	54 thalers 15 sgr. 54 thalers 15 sgr.
	Balance today 2259 thalers 15 sgr.

No expenditures took place in the past year.

The above balance is verified:

through bank bonds	2000 thalers — sgr.
total of expenses	91 „ 4 1/2 „ unchanged,
cash	168 „ 10 1/2 „
sum	2259 thalers 15 sgr.
	as above 2259 thalers 15 sgr.

Berlin, March 12, 1864.

v. Kleist,

President retired.

Active Voting Members of the Family von Kleist
at the time of Family Day on March 12, 1864.

1. Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow at Kieckow and Klein-Crössin,
2. Gustav v. Kleist at Collochau,
3. Anton v. Kleist at Nemitz,
4. Ewald v. Kleist at Wendisch-Tychow, Dubbertsch, Riddargen,
5. Albert v. Kleist at Warnin,
6. Hermann Heinrich Ferdinand Leopold Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf at Knauten,
7. Heinrich Leopold Graf v. Kleist at Zützen, Gersdorf, part Sageritz, part Schenkendorf,
8. Bogislav Adolph Leopold Graf Kleist vom Loß at Werchau, Knippelsdorf, Mehlsdorf, share Raddatz etc.,
9. Ewald Friedrich August Conrad Graf v. Kleist at Tzschernowitz, Beesgen, Döbern, share Raddatz etc.,
10. Wilhelm Conrad Johann Graf v. Kleist at Juchow, Falkenhagen, Gissolk, Kucherow, Schneidemühl, Zumenz, share Raddatz etc.,
11. Hans Ewald v. Kleist at Gebersdorf,
12. Oskar v. Kleist at part Schenkendorf,
13. Eduard Bogislav v. Kleist at part Schenkendorf,
14. Ferdinand v. Kleist-Retzow at Moethlow,
15. Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow at Groß-Tychow,
16. Theodor v. Kleist at Schmenzin,
17. Rudolph v. Kleist at Klein-Dubberow and Jeseritz,
18. Hermann v. Kleist at Groß-Dubberow,
19. Rudolph v. Kleist at Damen,
20. Hermann v. Kleist at Drenow and Kowalk,
21. Georg v. Kleist at Reinfeld,

- 22. Otto Friedrich Erdmann Kleist v. Bornstedt at Hohen-Nauen,
- 23. Carl Ludwig v. Kleist at Nassen-Glienke,
- 24. Louis Wilhelm Ferdinand Carl v. Kleist at Siedkow.

In addition, still owning knightly estates in Prussia, but not yet of voting age:

- 25) Conrad Adolph Graf v. Kleist, share Raddatz, Bramstädt, Neuendorf Ober-Pankow, born April 4, 1839,
- 26) Otto Heinrich Adolph v. Kleist at Lanzen, born August 8, 1839,
- 27) Carl Wilhelm v. Kleist at Popeln, born November 1, 1839,
- 28) Georg Ferdinand Lorenz August v. Kleist, born August 8, 1841,
- 29) Max Gustav Hans Jürgen v. Kleist, born July 4, 1848, together with their sisters Camissow and Natztow,
- 30) Hans Ludwig Berndt Otto v. Kleist at Ruschütz, born April 26, 1850.

1865⁹

Your Highborn

I hereby enclose the print of the proceedings of the last two family days in the years 1865 and 1866 together with the corresponding final accounts of the family foundation and the history fund, as well as the list of those then eligible to vote for the Upper House. Of the remainder existing according to the last statement of the financial status of the foundation fund,

in the amount of 668 thalers — sgr.,

were indeed paid immediately at the family day itself, 282 " 15 "

so there still remained 385 thalers 15 sgr.,

and to this there now comes a large part of the contributions for the year 1866, so that the arrears at the forthcoming family day would amount to more than before, if substantial payments are not made on them in advance. All the more urgently I request these, or at least the remittance of all arrears at the family day. It was impossible for me to hold it in March: I intend to schedule it during the wool market.

Of those arrears there fall upon Your ...

[handwritten:] none

In addition would come the contribution for 1867 and for Your ... from this year on, as not settled with a knight's estate, a voluntary contribution presumed in the proceedings of June 22, 1865 for the necessary strengthening of the history fund.

Kieckow, April 3, 1867.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow,

Upper President retired.

⁹ Excerpt in Urkundenbuch No. 728

From notes compiled minutes for the family day of June 22 [corrected year] 1865¹⁰

Berlin, March 14, 1866.

Present:

Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow.

Privy Councillor v. Kleist.

Count Kleist—Tschernowitz.

Count Kleist—Juchow.

v. Kleist—Hohennauen.

Major v. Kleist—Halle.

Major Adolph v. Kleist—Stolp.

v. Kleist-Retzow—Groß-Tychow.

Captain Ewald v. Kleist.

Captain Bogislav v. Kleist.

Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist—Jeseritz.

Forest Master v. Kleist—Frankfurt a. O.

Major Ewald v. Kleist.

The minutes of the previous family day [1865] have gone missing between the chairman and the district councillor v. Kleist—Nemitz who was keeping them at the time, without it being possible to ascertain how this happened. As a substitute, the registry here taken down thereon by the undersigned and by the chairman of the history commission, Privy Councillor v. Kleist, serves, in consequence of the absence of v. Kleist—Nemitz. The family day had been postponed to June 22, at the wish of the two other board members, owing to the illness of the chairman, but at the family day it was maintained as customary to schedule the family day at the beginning of March.

The account was presented by the chairman and information given about the state of the assets. The account was discharged and is attached. Likewise, the list of the owners of knight's estates eligible to vote for the Upper House was presented and is attached. The agreement made with Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist at Mainz was approved. Fräulein Marie v. Kleist was removed from the list of those to be supported. For the widow of the tax controller v. Kleist, 50 thalers were again approved as support for 1865.

Lieutenant General v. Kleist had definitely and repeatedly declared that he was compelled by his health to resign from the board. With heartfelt regret thereat, District Councillor v. Kleist—Nemitz was elected to the board and in his place as deputy District Councillor Count Kleist—Tschernowitz. Both accepted the election that had fallen upon them.

Privy Councillor v. Kleist submitted the account of the history fund as attached here, and it was discharged. He also reported on the agreement concluded, in consequence of the death of Mr. Archivist Kraatz, with his father regarding his estate relating to the history of the family v. Kleist, and it was subsequently approved by the family day. He then further presented the proposal to have v. Medem in Stettin continue the history of the family in place of the said Kraatz, the memorandum of June 12, 1865, especially §§ 9 to 11, and what was negotiated with Archivist v. Mülverstädt in Magdeburg in consequence thereof, in particular his letter of June 18. The family day assumed that the objections raised by the latter were not so significant as not to invite him before all others to

¹⁰ 2025: The protocol bears the date of the day before the day of the following Family Day, at which it was presented. That it reproduces the proceedings of the Family Day of 1865 follows both from the covering letter and from the dates of the accounts in the appendix.

continue the history of the family. In consequence, the family day resolved to accept the conditions of v. Mülverstädt, namely a) that he deliver the history of the Raddatz line as a sample for both parties, approximately by the end of June, b) but add the request that he at the same time deliver the still missing chap. 9 in the introduction, concerning arms and seals of the family, c) that he be paid 1000 thalers for the entire work, in individual installments according to its delivery, the individual installments to be approved and paid by the history commission in agreement with v. Mülverstädt, d) to cover the additional printing costs, at first 5 thalers shall be paid annually by every family member possessing a knight's estate, and readiness thereto by all, as well as the payment of other voluntary contributions by non-possessing members, is presumed. If necessary, another arrangement regarding this will be reserved for later.

v. Kleist-Retzow.

v. Kleist,

President retired.

Financial status.

On March 10, 1864:		On June 10, 1865:	
Obligations on Drenow	600 thalers	Loan from Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist	375 thalers
Pomeranian mortgage bonds at 4 percent	4650 "	Pomeranian mortgage bonds at 4 percent	5650 "
Arrears	432 "	Arrears	496 "
Cash balance	37 " 5 sgr.	Cash balance	52 " — 6 pf.
In sum:	5719 thalers 5 sgr.	In sum:	6573 th.—6 pf.

Account of the history fund.

On March 12, 1864 the debit balance was	2259 thalers 15 sgr.
In bank bonds	2000 thalers
Cash	168 " 10 sgr. 6 pf.
Expenditures	91 " 4 " 6 "
	together 2259 thalers 15 sgr. balanced.
After expenditure there remained a balance of	2168 thalers 10 sgr. 6 pf.

In the past year the following were received:

April 11, 1864 bank interest	14 thalers 15 sgr.
Sept. 23, 1864 bank interest	20 " — "
March 22, 1865 bank interest	20 " 12 " 6 pf.
	together 54 thalers 27 sgr. 6 pf.
	Sum: 2223 thalers 8 sgr. — pf.

The following were expended in the past year:

March 8, 1865 postage for the	
Kraatz papers	2 thalers 3 sgr.
March 23, 1865 to the father	
of Kraatz plus postage	1000 " 23 "
	together 1002 thalers 26 sgr.
	There remains a balance: 1220 thalers 12 sgr.

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Verified:

In bank bonds	1200 thalers		
Cash	20 " 12 sgr.		
	together		1220 thalers 12 sgr.
			balanced.

Berlin, June 22, 1865.

v. Kleist,

President retired.

1866

Actual minutes for the family day of March 15, 1866

Negotiated Berlin March 15, 1867.

Present were:

President v. Kleist Exc.

General v. Kleist Exc.

Chief President v. Kleist-Retzow.

v. Kleist — Warnin.

Kleist — Tzschernowitz.

Graf Kleist — Juchow

v. Kleist — Hohennauen.

Major v. Kleist — Halle.

Major v. Kleist — Stolp.

Von Kleist Retzow — Tychow.

Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist — Berlin.

Cavalry-captain Ewald v. Kleist — Gebersdorf.

Cavalry-captain Bogislav v. Kleist.

Forest Master v. Kleist — Frankfurt a.O.

Leutnant v. Kleist, of the Life Grenadier Regiment

At the family day scheduled for today, the kinsmen listed in the special presence list assembled. The chairman, Upper President v. Kleist-Retzow, opened the assembly with the communication that the proceedings of the last family day in the previous year had been lost, without it having been possible to ascertain their whereabouts. The matters that were then brought up for deliberation were recapitulated and found correct, as they are preserved in the enclosed registry of yesterday's date.

Next, the status of the family foundation comes to the knowledge of the assembly, according to which an increase of approximately 570 thalers is shown, so that the pleasing result of assets amounting to 7296 thalers 5 sgr. 2 pf. (incl. the arrears) is obtained. The assembly recognizes the correctness of the relevant calculation and grants discharge.

The statement of the eligible voting members of the family submitted next, according to which no changes have occurred, is acknowledged. However, the further notices given by Count Kleist—Zützen are to be observed.

With regard to the surety provided for the manager v. Kleist and the determination of its subsequent repayment upon change in the official position of v. Kleist, there is nothing to remark.

Likewise, support to the widow of the district inspector v. Kleist in Tilsit of 50 thalers for the current year is approved.

Support of 50 thalers for the son of Leonhard v. Kleist in Demmin, for his further education, is approved.

The chairman then communicates the motions that have come to him from various members of the family concerning the conduct of life of members of the same and in particular of the owner of a knight's estate, v. Kleist of Lanzen. After the family day took cognizance of the actions of v. Kleist, it recognizes with sincere sadness that a member of the family has sunk so low, and

in consideration that the said v. Kleist as the owner of a knight's estate has the eligibility to vote for the Upper House, in consideration that the family day, through the renewed union of the family into a family association, cannot regard such actions of a member of the same with indifference,

in consideration that, in view of the provisions of §§ 8, 9 and 10 of the Most High Ordinance of October 12, 1854,

concerning the formation of the First Chamber, regarding the deprivation of the right of membership thereof, — it appears urgently necessary to confer analogous rights upon the family day,

the family day resolves, upon proposal of its chairman, unanimously to add the following paragraph to the family statute:

"The family day elects a council of honor consisting of at least 3 members, to which the chairman of the family day or, respectively, his deputy is added. The council of honor has the right to admonish members of the family. Upon the motion of the council of honor, the family day may exclude a member of the family from participation in the rights conferred upon the family by the Most High Order of July 20, 1857 and by the family statute Most Highly confirmed on May 16, 1859, on account of lack of acknowledgment of unimpaired honorability or of a manner of life and conduct corresponding to the dignity of the family. With regard to an investigation initiated against a member of the family, or for other important reasons, the exercise of these rights may also be temporarily prohibited. Such resolutions must be passed by a majority of two thirds of the members present at the family day dealing with the matter and require, for their validity, the Most High Confirmation."

The board is commissioned to request the Most High Confirmation thereof.

At the same time the following are elected as members and deputies of the council of honor:

1. As members:

- a) the President, Privy Councillor v. Kleist, His Excellency,
- b) the General of Infantry retired v. Kleist, His Excellency,
- c) the District Councillor Count Kleist—Tschernowitz,
- d) the estate owner v. Kleist—Groß-Dubberow.

2. As deputies:

- a) Count Kleist—Zützen,
- b) the Forest Master v. Kleist in Frankfurt a. O.

Should a somewhat different wording of the above proposal be required upon the Most High Confirmation, or further formal regulations of procedure be necessary for its execution, then the board of the family and its deputy, in conjunction with the members elected to the council of honor, are hereby empowered to approve such altered wording in the name of the family and to establish such regulations.

Finally, the status quo of the family history is presented and it is resolved to remain for the time being with its compiler, Archivist von Mülverstädt, despite the illness he alleges, in the hope of its soon improvement.

With the treasury of the family history, whose account is discharged, there is a balance of 1266 thalers 12 sgr. The relevant financial statement is attached to these proceedings.

Thus done, approved, and signed.

Before the signature it is noted that Count v. Kleist—Zützen has taken over the 3 shares of the knight's estate Schenkendorf from his three brothers.

v. g. u.

v. Kleist — Bornstädt. Count Ewald Kleist — Tschernowitz. Count Wilhelm Kleist — Juchow.
H. v. Kleist-Retzow — Gr. Tychow. Reichel v. Kleist. B. v. Kleist. L. v. Kleist — Halle.
Adolph v. Kleist — Stolp. E. v. Kleist — Gebersdorf. H. v. Kleist-Retzow — Kieckow.
v. Kleist — Warnin.

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Financial status.

On June 10, 1865:

Debt of Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist 375 thalers
 Pomeranian mortgage bonds at 4 percent 5650 "
 Arrears 496 "
 Cash balance 52 " — 6 pf.

In sum: 6573 thalers — 6 pf.

On March 12, 1866:

remains 325 thalers
 Pom.mortg. bonds at 4 perc. 6250 "
 Arrears 668 "
 Cash balance 53 " 5 sgr. 2 pf.

In sum: 7296 thalers 5 sgr. 2 pf.

Account of the history fund.

At the family day of June 22, 1865 shown
 as balance 1220 thalers 12 sgr.

by bank bonds 1200 thalers
 cash 20 " 12 sgr.
 Sum 1220 thalers 12 sgr.

Income:

From Major Adolph v. Kleist—

 Schmenzin 5 thalers
 Count v. Kleist — Looß 10 "
 Forest Master v. Kleist 5 "
 Major v. Kleist—Halle 5 "
 President v. Kleist 10 "
 October 1, 1865 bank interest 12 " 47 thalers.
 Sum 1267 thalers 12 sgr.

Expenditure:

June 22, 1865:

Major Adolph v. Kleist—Schmenzin
 for the Steinbrück family tree delivered
 by v. Mülverstädt 1 thaler
 Remainder 1266 thalers 12 sgr.
 Verified by bank bond 1200 thalers
 cash 66 " 12 sgr.
 Sum 1266 thalers 12 sgr.

Berlin, March 15, 1866.

v. Kleist, President retired.

Subsequently for 1866 and 1867 from Major v. Kleist in Halle 5 thalers.

Active eligible voting members of the family v. Kleist
at the time of the family day of March 15, 1866:

1. Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow of Kieckow and Klein-Crössin.
2. Gustav v. Kleist of Kollochau.
3. Anton v. Kleist of Nemitz.
4. Ewald v. Kleist of Wendisch-Tychow, Dubbertsch, Priddargen.
5. Albert v. Kleist of Warnin.
6. Hermann Heinrich Ferdinand Leopold Count Kleist von Nollendorf of Knauten.
7. Heinrich Leopold Count Kleist of Zützen, Gersdorf, Sageritz, Schenkendorf.
8. Bogislav Adolph Leopold Count Kleist vom Loos of Werchau, Knippelsdorf, Mehlsdorf, share Raddatz.
9. Ewald Friedrich August Conrad Count Kleist of Tschernowitz, Beesgen, Döbern, share Raddatz.
10. Wilhelm Conrad Johann Count Kleist of Juchow, Falkenhagen, Gissolk, Kucherow, Schneidemühl, Zumenz, share Raddatz.
11. Hans Ewald v. Kleist of Gebersdorf.
12. Ferdinand Carl v. Kleist-Retzow of Möthlow.
13. Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow of Groß-Tychow.
14. Theodor v. Kleist of Schmenzin.
15. Rudolph v. Kleist of Klein-Dubberow and Jeseritz.
16. Hermann v. Kleist of Groß-Dubberow.
17. Rudolph v. Kleist of Damen.
18. Hermann v. Kleist of Drenow and Kowalk.
19. Georg v. Kleist of Reinfeld.
20. Otto Friedrich Erdmann Kleist von Bornstädt, of Hohennauen.
21. Carl Ludwig v. Kleist of Nassen-Glienke.
22. Louis Wilhelm Ferdinand v. Kleist of Siedkow.
23. Otto Heinrich Rudolph v. Kleist of Lanzen.
24. Conrad Adolph Count Kleist of share Raddatz, Bramstädt, Neuendorf, Ober-Pankow.
25. Carl Wilhelm v. Kleist of Pöpel.

In addition, still possess knight's estates in Prussia, but have not yet the eligible age:

26. Georg Ferdinand Lorenz August v. Kleist, born August 8, 1841.
27. Max Gustav Hans Jürgen v. Kleist, born July 4, 1848.

Both together with their sisters: Camissow and Natztow.

28. Hans Ludwig Berndt Otto v. Kleist of Ruschütz, born April 26, 1850.

1867¹¹

¹¹ "the 20th (June) to our Fam. Days", letter from Hans-Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow on May 22, 1867 to Alexander Andrae-Roman. Copy in the Kleistsche Familienarchiv. (2015)

1868 (Buch 729)

Notarial register number 114 per 1868.

Negotiated on Berlin on the eighteenth of June One thousand eight hundred sixty-eight in the morning 11 1/2 o'clock. At his request, the undersigned judge and notary, who lived in Berlin, Jägerstraße 61a, had gone to the Hôtel de Rome in the district of the Royal superior court of justice of Karl Friedrich Drews to discuss the negotiations and decisions of the family day that was gathered today

von Kleist of the family

keep a notarial record.

The following appeared for this family day:

I. On the part of the family board:

- 1) von Kleist the Deputy Chief President, Mr à-Retzow — Kieckow, resident in Kieckow, as chairman;
- 2) retired the Landrath, Mr Anton von Kleist, Nemitz, residing in Nemitz;
- 3) the Royal Chamberlain, Mr Ewald von Kleist, Wendisch-Tychow, residing in Wendisch-Tychow;
- 4) retired the Landrath, Mr Graf Ewald von Kleist, Tzschernowitz, residing in Tzschernowitz;

II. The following members of Family Day:

- 5) the owner of the manor, Mr Albert von Kleist, Warnin, residing in Warnin;
- 6) the owner of the manor, Mr Graf Leopold von Kleist, Zützen, residing in Zützen;
- 7) the owner of the manor, Mr Graf Wilhelm von Kleist, Juchow, residing in Juchow;
- 8) the major and knighthood owner Mr Rudolph von Kleist, Klein-Dubberow, residing in Klein-Dubberow;
- 9) Major Herr Ludwig von Kleist, residing in Halle;
- 10) the owner of the manor, Mr. Hugo von Kleist à-Retzow Groß-Tychow, residing in:
- 11) cavalry-captain the 1st Guards Dragoon Regiment and Adjutant to His Royal Highness the Prince George of Prussia, Mr. Ewald von Kleist Gebersdorf, residing here;
- 12) retired the Major, Herr Adolph von Kleist, residing in Stolp;
- 13) cavalry-captain the Royal Guard cuirassier Regiment, Mr Bogislav von Kleist, residing here;
- 14) the owner of the manor, Mr Otto Friedlich Erdmann von Kleist. — Bornstädt, residing in Hohennauen;
- 15) the Royal Forester Mr Hugo Ewald von Kleist, residing in Frankfurt a. d. Oder.

The Mr. Comparenten are all known to the notary of person, as well as dispositionable. The Family Day decided on the following for the family fund

charter of a foundation
von Kleist on the family foundation.

Introduction.

By the Most High Cabinet - command von Kleist of the sixteenth of May One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Nine, the statute for the family of the ninth of March One Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-eight is approved.

Pursuant to Paragraph 6 of those statutes, the family brought together a family fund by means of annual contributions for family purposes. This fund was joined by the One Thousand thalers allocated to it by the deceased Real Secret counsellor von Kleist on the condition that the principal amount in such shares be retained and that only the dividends accrued therefrom be used.

The total amount of this fund is currently about one thousand five hundred thalers. According to the law of March 4, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven on the abolition of the Old Pomeranian Lehne, the allodification sums laid down therein are intended for a foundation for the benefit of the former feudal family. It is in the interests of the whole family that these sums be combined with the existing family fund to form a foundation and the latter must therefore be given confidence by the authorized agents. The Family Day of 18 June decided on the following statute for the family fund: One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Eight. Once confirmed, this statute will soon be submitted by the members of the family entitled to it as the statute to be established for the foundation to be formed as a result of the negotiations on the use of the allodification sums provided for in Paragraph 20 of the Law of 4 March One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven. The Family Day hereby authorizes the following three family members as members of its Executive Board, respectively Representatives of the same, who all belong to the judicial district of the Court of Appeal in Cöslin:

von Kleist 1) the Vice-President of Retzow in Kieckow,
retired von Kleist 2) the Landrath à à à Nemitz,
3) the Chamberlain of Ewald von Kleist in Wendisch-Tychow,
to announce the following foundation document on behalf of the attendees or the family.

Section I.

The purpose of the Foundation and the entitlement to it.

§ 1.

The purpose of the Foundation is to:

- (a) to bear the cost of publishing the family history,
- (b) to cover expenses incurred for other family purposes decided upon by the family day once and for all or in a specific case,
- (c) The provision of the necessary assistance for professional education or entry into a profession appropriate to the status, including military and civil service, to those sons of members of the family who are in need thereof,
- (d) support for vulnerable widows and daughters of family members,
- (e) exceptionally, support for vulnerable family members themselves.

§ 2.

All blameless members of the family who would be able to live under the current feudal law are entitled to the benefits of the foundation, their widows and daughters.

§ 3.

To facilitate the evidence here, as part of the family history, the family tree of the family will be edited and continued. Each member of the family must report every marriage, every birth and every death in his

family or his ascendants with the necessary certified certificate to the board of directors of the family within the next three months, unless the same is attributable to the possible exclusion from the benefactors of the foundation until the provision of the local evidence. However, it is also subject to a penalty of five thalers for each case for the benefit of the Foundation.

Section II.

From the foundation fund.

§ 4.

The Foundation's fund is constituted by:

- (a) from the accumulated capital,
- b) from the contributions paid by members of the family in accordance with section six of the family statute of 9 March One thousand eight hundred fifty-eight,
- (c) from extraordinary donations made for the same person, whether by family members among the living, in the event of particularly happy family events, or on the grounds of death, or otherwise,
- (d) from the allodification sums allocated to him pursuant to the Law of March 4, one thousand eight hundred sixty-seven, paragraph 20.

§5.

Of the accumulated capital § four ad a), at least a sum of ten thousand thalers must be preserved as an iron, unassailable stock. All amortization¹² sums accruing to it under section four ad c) and those grants under section four ad c) are charged to this iron capital for which no special provisions have been made by the donor. The contributions now paid under section four ad b) cease when the Fund has grown to fifty thousand thalers.

Section III.

Management and use of the Foundation.

§ 6.

The management of the Trust and its Fund shall be conducted by the Family Board under the supervision of the Family Day, in accordance with the provisions of this document, with the participation of the Deputies of the Board of Directors as board. According to the statute of the ninth March, the Family Board consists of one thousand eight hundred fifty-eight members, and by bringing in the two deputies, the board consists of five members. As regards the decisions:

- (a) the interest-bearing investment or redemption of capital; and
- (b) on the use of the Foundation Fund (Section III.)

if the participation of three members is required, otherwise any number appearing at the invitation of the Chairperson shall constitute a quorum. Decisions shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast; in the event of a tie, the vote of the chairman shall be decisive. The Board of Directors may delegate the ordinary current business, with the exception of ad a) and b) to one of its members.

§ 7.

Von Kleist The Family Board currently consists of the Chief Executive for Disposition à-Retzow — Kieckow von Kleist as chairman, the Landrath à — Collochau von Kleist as its first deputy, the Landrath out of service à — Nemitz as its second deputy. Von Kleist The two deputies of the Board of Directors, and thus other members of the Curatorii, are at present: the chamberlain, Wendisch-Tychow von Kleist, and the Landrath, except for the Graf, Tzschernowitz.

§ 8.

The chairman of the Family Board or his deputy represents the Foundation in all its business with third persons and authorities without restriction and is authorized by the current document to lend, cancel and confiscate capital on behalf of the Foundation, to conduct trials, to receive judgments, to apply for

¹² Write error, should be called allodificationssummen, see certificate 930. (2017)

executions, administrations and subordinates, or to represent the Foundation in the proceedings in question, to also report on the name of the Foundation in auction and licensing dates and to apply for the award of the contract or to authorize the award of the contract to third persons, to conclude settlements and recesses, to compromise itself on the basis of an arbitration decision waiving all legal rights, to take, to issue or to accept for the Foundation oaths, funds and property, including from judicial proceedings Depositories, to receive and acknowledge, to cede rights and claims with or without warranty, to renounce rights or to make waivers of the same, to conclude agreements of all degenerates, including the acquisition, sale, encumbrance or pledging of land, to credit purchase funds, to approve entries and deletions in the mortgage books and to apply for the authorization of another member of the Board of Management or a third party for the individual transactions. The transactions carried out by the Chairman of the Family Board or his representative are legally valid and binding on the Foundation, without any requirement for third persons or authorities to prove to them that such a decision has actually been taken in cases where, for example, a decision of the Family Board or the Family Day is required for the transaction in question.

§ 9.

The legitimacy of the chairman of the Family Board or his representative is achieved by the submission of the minutes of the Family Day on the election of the Board and the election of the chairman by the latter and regulation of his representation.

The minutes shall be drawn up or authenticated by court or notary.

§ 10.

Management is free of charge by pages of the Curatorii. Only the unavoidable expenses, which do not include the reimbursement of travel expenses, are covered in advance by the foundation fund.

§ 11.

The duties of the board include primarily:

- (a) ensuring that the capital of the Foundation is invested in the safest way possible,
- (b) collection of the revenue received and payment of the expenditure to be met,
- (c) deciding on applications for family support received in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and the general provisions adopted in consequence by pages of the Family Day,
- (d) the annual accounts for the management of the Family Day Foundation Fund.

§ 12.

It is only exceptionally that assistance by granting a loan is permissible and, in any event, only if it is possible to provide support by that means alone which is appropriate to the purposes of the Foundation and is necessary for the maintenance of the family policy, even if it is subject to a high return on investment.

§ 13.

The capital of the Foundation may only be:

- (a) mortgaged on land of the national territory with a pupillary guarantee or lent to members of the family who own the land within the territorial authorization fee. If a loan is granted within the last third of the landscape tax, an annual amortization is also required,
- (b) or they may be invested in securities the interest on which is paid or guaranteed by the Prussian Government and in Pomeranian Pfandbriefe.

§ 14.

Only by decision of the family day is admissible:

- (a) the acquisition of real estate, provided that the same does not become necessary as a result of a substation in order to maintain a claim liable thereto (section 8),
- (b) the sale of real estate.

§ 15.

The Family Day will determine the location and the degenerate and Weise of the storage of the foundation fund and the documents associated with it.

§ 16.

By decision of the Family Day, a current account may be established for the Foundation at a bank or a banker's house for the collection of the income received for it, for the payment of the payments due to it, for the management of its surpluses and funds, unless otherwise provided for in Sections 12 and 13. In such a case, the bank or the bank house must submit a special invoice to the foundation each year and, in addition to the liability with its assets, provide a corresponding security.

§ 17.

The board shall submit to the Family Day an annual account of the Fund and its management for the purposes of verification and decharging, which, however, in the case of Paragraph 60, shall be the invoice submitted by the Bank for the funds it manages.

§ 18.

The Family Day convenes and decides on the basis of paragraphs six and seven of the Family Statute of March Ninth One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Eight, taking into account the Most High command of July Tenth One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

§ 19.

The question whether the personal or financial circumstances of the members of the family and of their dependants for whom the benefits of the Foundation are claimed justify the grant or assistance from the Fund, the amount, terms and conditions of the payment, whether the resources of the Fund are sufficient to meet this requirement, in view of the likely increase in the Fund, and, if so, the order in which they are to be granted, shall be a matter for the free resolution of the family by the bodies appointed for that purpose under this Statute. No member of the family has a right to it, which it could assert in any further way, pursue through actions, cede, sell, bequeath.

Section IV.

General provisions.

§ 20.

Von Kleist Legal recourse is also excluded for all claims which otherwise wish to be derived from this foundation by members of the family; the decision of the Family Day, on which the claimants do not take part their descendants, ascendants and siblings and whose counseling the same may not attend, is the final instance.

§ 21.

Amendments to the Foundation may be requested by the Curatorio from Sr. Majesty the King on the basis of a decision of the Family Day taken by two thirds of the members present with voting rights.

§ 22.

Should the voting members of the family die out to such an extent that the Foundation could no longer be managed in accordance with the provisions of these statutes, Se shall. Majesty of the King have the mercy to call upon as many other appropriate persons as are necessary, and until such time as the sufficient number is again present in the family itself.

§ 23.

The Foundation may be revoked only by a unanimous decision of a family day expressly convened for that purpose. In order to be valid, the decision in question must also be carried out in accordance with the procedures for its implementation by the Most High Confirmation of Sr. Majesty of the King.

§ 24.

If the whole family von Kleist of the family should die out without the abolition of the endowment having taken place according to § twenty-three, then His Majesty the King will have the mercy of the endowment as a whole or divided among one or more Pomeranian noble families under the same statutory

principles under the name:

von Kleistsche Familienstiftung

von Kleist which are descended from the family by daughters or are connected to it by marriage with daughters of the family and which have rendered the very highest or the very highest services especially faithful to your home and the fatherland. —

The three members of the family authorized to declare the above deed of foundation are hereby authorized at the same time to declare their consent on behalf of the family if the authorities concerned request amendments to the Statute.

The Family Day instructs the Board of Directors to ask His Majesty the Cöslin Allerunterthänigst to have the mercy, after this deed has been confirmed by the Court of Appeal for King, to also allow the Highest Confirmation of the endowment deed to occur.

The members of the family present hereby expressly endorse the decisions already taken on the previous day of the family: that they transfer to the present family fund the rights to the amounts to be paid for the modification of the individual fiefdoms which accrue to them as a result of the Law of 4 March 1000 860 and undertake: to vote in favor in each case and to act with all permissible means to ensure that this is done by all those entitled and that the allodification amounts are transferred to the existing family fund on the basis of the Statute adopted today. The Family Day renews the authority granted to the Family Board to investigate and prosecute the rights of the family or the agents under the Act of March 4 One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven in all estates affected by it, as well as to transfer the authority granted to him back to a lawyer.

The Board of Directors shall make known the steps already taken in this regard and shall subsequently make known the expert reports duly issued by the lawyer Stettin to the estates of Mandelatz, Pumlow, Zarnieckow and Quesdow. The members of the family present agree that a modification of these estates will be dealt with in return for payment of the allodification amounts to be agreed to the family fund, as well as with the steps taken with respect to Pumlow to maintain the quality of Pumlow A's loan.

Since there was nothing else to negotiate, the chairman closed today's family day at 3 1/2 pm.

The above protocol is available in the presence of the instrument witnesses:

1) by the Private Secretary Rudolph Schwedler,

2) the servant Albert Saltpeter,

both of them are domiciled here, known to the notary by person, and are capable of disposition, which, like the notary, as is hereby insured, are not precluded by any of the circumstances which, according to sections 5 to 9 of the Act of 11 July 1845, exclude from participation in the hearing, read to Mr. Comparenten, approved by them and executed.

Von Kleist H. à-Retzow — Kieckow von Kleist. à — Nemitz von Kleist. à — Tychow. Ewald Graf

Von Kleist — Tzschernowitz. Royal Retired Landrath à Albert von Kleist à Warnin. L. Graf von

Kleist von Kleist. W. Graf — Juchow. Rudolph von Kleist — Kleist-Dubberow. Von Kleist L.

Halle von Kleist. H.-Retzow Groß-Tychow. Ewald von Kleist — Gebersdorf. Retired Major

Adolph von Kleist Bogislav von Kleist Otto Friedrich Erdmann von Kleist — Bornstädt.

Von Kleist e.

It is attested that the above hearing, as written, really took place, that it was read to the participants in the presence of the notary and the witnesses, approved by them and signed by hand with their names.

Carl Friedrich Drews. Rudolph Schwedler.

Albert saltpeter.

Von Kleist The above hearing, entered in the register of notaries of the year One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-eight under number One Hundred and Fourteen, is hereby issued for the family day.

Berlin the eighteenth of June One thousand eight hundred sixty-eight.

Carl Friedrich Drews,

Judicial council and notary in the district of the Royal superior court of justice.

copy

von Kleist for family day.

Von Kleist To the former High President Mr. à-Retzow

delivered to Kieckow.

Certificate Buch 730.

(15 Sgr. Stempel are charged as court toasts.)

Tried at the Royal Court of Appeal in Cöslin, 3 September 1868.

Von Kleist In the date set by the decree of yesterday to announce the family foundation of 18 June cr. there were:

von Kleist 1) the Royal Chief President, currently Mr. Retzow, in Kieckow,

retired 2) the Royal Landrath, Mr Anton von Kleist, Nemitz, Nemitz,

3) the Royal Chamberlain Mr. Ewald von Kleist, Tychow, Wendisch-Tychow,

known and available to the person.

The notarial record of 18 June cr., which was handed over with yesterday's entry as far as the family foundation to be established is concerned, has also been read out, to which they explain:

Von Kleist We hereby acknowledge that the document read to us is erected on the family day on Berlin von Kleist on 18 June, and confess to the content of it in our name and in the name of the family. We note that there is a clerical error in Paragraph 5 of the Staff Regulations, in that it is not to be called 'amortization sums' but 'allodification sums'.

Von Kleist We ask the family foundation to confirm and to send me the local news, the senior president.

Read, approved, signed.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow. Kleist-Nemitz. Von Kleist Tychow.

A. U. S.

Böhmer, Appellate Court. Hannemann, Civil Supernumerary.

Made out under seal and signature.

Cöslin, 15 September 1868.

Royal Court of Appeal. Kitzing. Kitzing.

Copy.

Des Monats The information contained in the above notarial deed of June 18, 1868, which was announced to us in the above hearing on June 3

Von Kleist family foundation

is hereby confirmed by us.

Documented under seal and signature.

Cöslin, 15 September 1868.

Royal Court of Appeal. Kitzing. Kitzing.

I. 3721.

acknowledgement

von Kleist of the family foundation.

We Wilhelm,

by God's Grace King of Prussia, Margrave to Brandenburg, sovereign and supreme Duke of Schlesien, as well as the County of Glatz, Grand Duke of Niederrhein and Posen, Duke to Saxony, Enger and Westphalen, in Guelders, Magdeburg, Cleve, Jülich, Berg, Stettin, Pommern, Cassuben, Mecklenburg and Wenden, Crossen and Nürnberg, Burgrave to Niederlausitz, Landgrave to Thuringia, Margrave of Upper and Oranien, Prince of Rügen, Neuenburg and Valendis, Prince to Paderborn, Münster, Halberstadt, Minden, Cammin, Schwerin, Wenden, Ratzeburg, Moers, Eichsfeld and Erfurt, Count to Hohenzollern, Count to Henneberg, the Mark, to Ravensberg, Hohenstein, Tecklenburg, Ruppin, Sigmaringen Beringen, Pyrmont, Herr der Lande Rostock, Schwerin, Lingen, Stargard Lauenburg Bütow, zu Haigerloch und Werstein u.s.w. u.s.w.

von Kleist We hereby declare and confess that, at the request of the Chief President of Retzow von Kleist von Kleist, as the head of the family, who had been established by the family on 18 June 1868, we rested on 3 September 1868 before the Court of Appeal of Cöslin von Kleist, and on 15 September 1868 from the same affirmed family foundation to grant our relating to the sovereign permission. We therefore approve and confirm the intended family foundation, subject to our rights and the rights of any third party.

Documented under Our Highly Independent Signature and Attachment of Our Royal Seal. Given Berlin, December 7, 1868.

Wilhelm.

Von Kleist Highest certificate of approval of the family foundation of 18 June 1868 et confirm. 15 September 1868.

A. Leonhardt.

1869

Excerpt from the family record of June 18, 1869:¹³

Von Kleist After welcoming the family members, the chairman opened the family day with the memory of the sudden death of the general immediately after the previous family day. Cavalry-captain The Family Day spoke of this new loss of one of the most distinguished members of the family, his profound anguish, and noted with gratitude the deceased's appointment by which he transferred to the family the mug which he had given him for his fiftieth anniversary, and shall hand it over to Ewald von Kleist for safekeeping.

¹³ Quoted in the Family Day Report 1930, see below

1871

Excerpt from the family record of 17 June 71:¹⁴

From the Oberburggraf Constantin von Kleist à Mitau, the family has been given a double gift, consisting of:

1. in a silver honorary cup dedicated to him from the Borussia in Bonn as a senior of the association.

The Oberburggraf Constantin von Kleist has made the provision that the family as such accept the cup and drink it every family day for the good of the King.

von Kleist 2. in a case a pair of valuable pistols with the provision that they be handed over to an officer of the family distinguished by bravery in the recent war.

Von Kleist The board decides to recommend to the family the acceptance of both gifts, recognizing that the bond that unites the family will not be loosened by distance or time if the bearers of the name remain aware of it, to the extent that the revered Constantin von Kleist, to whom the board has expressed its sincere and joyful gratitude, remains.

According to the proposal of the board, if the family so decides, the pistols will be deferred to Colonel Ewald von Kleist, commander of the Mecklenburg grenadier Regiment No. 89, currently in garrison in Schwerin, who has earned the Iron Cross first class before the enemy.

¹⁴ Cited from the Family Day Protocol 1930, see below

1876

Negotiated
on the family day of those von Kleist
in Poppenberg'schen Local under the Lindens
10 March 1876.

Von Kleist Members of the family present on the family day

on 10 March 1876

- 1) Ewald Grf. Kleist-Tychow Wend., Master of Ceremonies and Chamberlain, Tychow
- 2) Arthur Baron Kleist, landowner on Susten in Kurland.
- 3) Friedrich Wilh. Kleist, Referendar, Frankfurt a.O.
- 4) Hans v. Kleist, Leutnant, Fürstenwalde.
- 5) Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow, stud. juris et cam, Göttingen.
- 6) Emil v. Kleist, Leutnant, Rastadt.
- 7) Georg v. Kleist, Leutnant, Berlin.
- 8) Conrad Grf. v. Kleist, Rittergutsbes., Schmenzin
- 9) Hugo Ewald v. Kleist, senior forester, Oppeln.
- 10) Paul Hans Robert Ewald v. Kleist, Preussisch-Lieut. in East Frisia. Inf. control No. 78, Aurich.
- 11) v. Rüchel-Kleist, Major, Berlin.
- 12) Bogislav v. Kleist, Major, Berlin
- 13) Otto of Kleist, Major, Stargard i.P.
- 14) Georg v. Kleist, Colonel, Hanover
- 15) Victor cavalry-captain of Aleist,, Tangermünde.
- 16) Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow cavalry-captain Groß-Tychow, à, à.
- 17) Kleist cavalry-captain v. Bornstädt, à, Hohenauen.
- 18) Grf. Kleist, Major, Zützen.
- 19) August v. Kleist, Major General z.D., Potsdam.
- 20) Adolph v. Kleist retired, Major, Stolp.
- 21) Ewald Grf. Kleist retired-Chernowitz, Landrath
- 22) H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

The names of the attending members can be seen from the attached list.

Retired von Kleist The President, Retzow's Kieckow, opened the meeting with a welcoming address to those present.

Negotiations took place on:

- 1) Is the Assembly aware of the current status of the family fund, which according to the admission already effected yesterday by the board of directors includes 225 marks remaining and 1353 marks not yet collected contributions per 1875

106,238 marks.

The Gender Day approves the marriage yesterday by the Chief Forester of Kleist and the Count. Ewald v. Kleist-Tschernowitz carried out an audit in the light of the results obtained and authorized it, by making a

discharge to the accounting officer, to place the note in question on the file.

in behalf of 2) Is the Assembly aware of what has been done about the collection of the Lehns replacement capital and disposition thereof in favor of the family fund since the last family day, in particular of the letter of the Court of Appeal of Cöslin de dato 19 February this year, according to which the intended court is entrusted exclusively with the regulation of the matter, namely, the property of a motion filed by law, the submission of which is owed to the board and chairman Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow.

The same gave an overview of the presumed Lehns replacement capital still to be received, which totaled 13,600 thalers.

3) If the family day approves the transfer of the further works of historiography proposed by the Executive Board to the superintendent of Wegner and Pastor Kypke as a joint editor of the remaining work.

4) Will the list of according to the statute of the family to event. Election of a representative in the House of Lords of appointees actively entitled to vote read out and, after correction with regard to the estate Nassen Glinicke, which now belongs to Mr. v. Kleist on Hohenauen, recognized as correct.

Read aloud, approved, executed.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow. Ewald Grf. Kleist-Tzschernowitz.

Ref. Kleist. Ref. Kleist. B. v. Kleist

Ref. Kleist-Tychow. August v. Kleist-Potsdam.

v. Rüchel-Kleist. Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow.

1877

Negotiated
on the family day of the family
VON KLEIST e
Berlin, February 28, 1877.

Present were:

Hermann v. Kleist Groß-Dubberow on.
Hugo Ewald v. Kleist, senior forester in Oppeln.
H. v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow auf.
Otto of Kleist, lieutenant colonel in Stargard i. Pom.
Baron. Adolph from Kleist to Mitau in Curland.
V. Kleist on Leegen in Curland.
Leopold Graf v. Kleist auf Zützen i. d. Niederlaus.
Ewald v. Kleist, Major General in Mainz.
Otto Kleist v. Bornstädt on Hohenauen.
Bernhard v. Kleist on Drenow.
Ms H. v. Kleist, Attaché at the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.
Adolph v. Kleist, Major in Stolp.
Hans Anton v. Kleist-Retzow, Student of Law, Kieckow.
Conrad Count v. Kleist on Schmenzin.
Ewald Count of Kleist retired, Landrath, Tzschernowitz.
H. v. Kleist-Retzow on Kieckow.

Von Kleist At the opening of the meeting, in which the members included in the attached special attendance list took part, the chairman, Senior President of Retzow, expressed his sincere thanks for the family and through the Weise in which they had participated in the celebration of his silver wedding on 24 July 1876. Retired He then announced that in the course of the year the Major of Rudolf von Kleist in Klein-Dubberow retired and the Lieutenant Colonel of Rüchel-Kleist had been removed by death.

The following decisions were taken:

von Kleist 1. At the request of the member of the Board, à-Nemitz von Kleist shall be elected in his place and the Chief Forester in Oppeln, who shall accept the election, shall be elected by acclamation.

von Kleist 2. The family takes note of the examination of the assets and the annual accounts carried out yesterday by the Board of Directors and gives the Chairman and Accounting Officer Chief Executive Retzow Decharge by joining the request of the Board of Directors, according to its minutes of yesterday.

The organization of the family fund is also noted (see paragraph 3 of the Protocol).

4. The now recognized family treaty of 2 September 1870 is presented and noted of its contents in the now established form.

5. 200 Marks shall be handed over to the chairman for use subject to his sole disposition in the interests of the

family.

6. The family shall take note and acknowledge the accuracy of the list submitted to it by the Chairman, including the names of the members entitled to vote for the Manor.
7. In consideration of the drafting of the family's story, the family approves the proposals submitted to it according to paragraph 5 of yesterday's board minutes, after the rehearsal work of Pastor K pke has been submitted.
8. In response to the chairman's warning to all members that they should be concerned with sending in the personal notes, the production of which is necessary in order to draw up a record of the living members of the family in the adopted Weise and to obtain it at the present time, the members from Curland, in particular Adolf von Kleist, who were present, noted that no request for the intended degenerate had been received in Curland and specifically at his address.
9. has been decided in accordance with the proposals of the Executive Board:
to the Committee, which was set up in Frankfurt am Main to erect a monument to the poet Heinrich von Kleist, to grant a contribution of up to one thousand marks from the family fund at the request of the Committee, and to authorize the Executive Board to delegate one of its members to join the Committee.¹⁵

A special notarial record of the decision of the family, as it had to be taken in accordance with paragraph 4 of yesterday's minutes of the board of directors, was recorded by the incoming Mr. Justice Council Drews from here, which shows how the family has consistently adhered to the board's proposals.

After having been read and approved by the members of the family present

Performed as follows:

H. v. Kleist-Retzow.

Ewald Count of Kleist-Tzschernowitz.

Adolph v Kleist retired, Major

Ewald v. Kleist, Major General,

H. v. Kleist Gro -Dubberow—e.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow Gro -Tychow—e.

Count of Kleist-Schmenzin.

Kleist-Drenow.

Ms. H. v. Kleist.

A. v. Kleist-Mitau.

L. Graf v. Kleist.

Hans v. Kleist-Retzow.

¹⁵ The following information is not included in the report:

The press. Wien. Saturday 14 October 1876

The performance of the "Prince of Homburg" by Heinrich v. Kleist in the Schauspielhaus in Berliner was attended by almost the entire surviving part of the poet's close family on the 10th century. Two brothers' sons, five nieces and six great-nephews and nieces had rushed in from afar for this purpose, and on the commemorative day in question they also arranged for the dignified restoration and decoration of the grave at Wannsee.

extract

from the negotiation of the family board
of 27 February.

Berlin, February 27, 1877.

2. The invoice for the management of the v. Kleist Family Fund pro 1876 is presented.

When the invoice was examined in detail and compared with the supporting documents, nothing could be criticized other than a difference of 50 pfennigs in favor of the accountant resulting from the financial statements.

The actual revenue of 1876 is 9500 Marks. Twenty-three horses.

" " output " " " 8944 "17"

therefore, stock 556 MECU. Six horses.

According to the evidence provided by the K. Seehandlung, they are deposited at the same site

110475 Mar. — Horse, in papers,

farther 233 " 10" cash.

With addition of 1,560 " 50" Remaining (on contributions)

and 1,884 " — " mortgage

collects all family assets

114708 Mark 66 horse.,

against the previous year's figure of 106238 marks. 98 Horse at

8469 Mark 68 horse. higher.

It is requested to propose to the family day that the discharge be granted. As is expressly stated, the invoices were revised by the appointed chief forester of Kleist-Oppeln in the presence of the undersigned secretary.

The following items should also be mentioned in order to draw attention to Family Day:

3,200 thalers. = 9600 Mrk. Allodification amount of Schmenzin,

1320 " = 3960 " of the same type. from Poberow,

6900 " = 20700 " of the same type. by Raddatz,

34260 marks will therefore shortly be added to the family fund, some of which have even already been received, just as within an unspecified period the further allodification amounts of Klein-Dubberow and Nassen-Glienke, the amount of which has not yet been determined, but is expected to be so much that within 2 years approximately 50000 thalers or 150000 marks of the family fund will be achieved (assuming that all expenses in the family history have been covered beforehand), which makes it possible to dispense with further annual contributions from the members of the family.

The envisaged 150000 marks will not merely represent nominal but real values of the effects. If the family day is to be proposed, because of the Fideicommiss capital ad 40000 thalers, which has hitherto been registered on Radatz, to elect the board of directors as the one who should be entitled and obliged to take over the curatel and to take the steps leading to the utilization of the capital in question for the benefit of its founder, and furthermore to make it possible, by means of a small grant, for the 4000 thalers to be covered not in 4% but in 4 1/2% papers, i.e. Pomeranian Pfandbriefe.

In order to follow the history, the now completed Elaborat of the Pastor Kypke on the Radatz-Vilnow route must be presented to the family day.

The Family Day will have to decide, Pastor Kypke or another it should be entrusted to the further elaboration.

It is up to the History Commission to:

- 1) arrange for an in-depth examination of Kypke's work and decide on the basis of its failure,
- 2) to authorize the printing of Kypke's labor after approval by the History Commission and any amendment.

(Buch Document No 732 b)

No. 53 of the register of notaries per 1877.

Negotiates on Berlin on the twenty-eighth of February One thousand eight hundred seven and seventy.

At his request, the undersigned Justice Council and notary resident in Berlin, Friedrichstraße No. 62, in the district of the Royal superior court of justice, Carl Friedrich Drews, had gone to Unter den Linden von Kleist No. 33 here to keep the notarial record in today's family day of some resolutions. The following were present:

retired von Kleist 1) The Chief Executive, Mr. Retzow, resident in Kieckow, Chairman of the Board of the family,
2) the knighthood owner Mr. Count Ewald von Kleist, residing in Tzschernowitz near Guben, Member of the board of the family,
3) Major General Mr. Ewald von Kleist, residing in Mainz,
4) the manor owner Mr. Hermann von Kleist, residing on Gross Dubberow,
5) the Royal Chief Forester Mr Hugo Ewald von Kleist, residing in Oppeln,
6) the Lord Majorat, Mr. Count Leopold von Kleist, residing in Zützen,
7) the knighthood owner Mr. Hugo von Kleist à-Retzow, residing on Gross Tychow,
retired 8) Major à Herr Adolph von Kleist, residing in Stolp,
9) the knighthood owner Mr. Bernhard von Kleist, residing in Drenow,
10) the Attaché at the Federal Foreign Office Mr Friedrich Wilhelm von Kleist (Wendisch-Tychow), residing here,
11) the Baron Mr. Adolph von Kleist, residing in Mitau in Curland,
12) the Baron Mr. Heinrich von Kleist, residing in Leegen in Curland,
13) Mr Hans Anton von Kleist à-Retzow, Studiosus juris, residing in Kieckow,
14) the Lieutenant Colonel Mr. Otto von Kleist, residing in Stargard,
15) the owner of the manor, Mr. Otto von Kleist à-Bornstädt, residing in Hohennauen,
16) the knighthood owner Mr. Count Conrad von Kleist, residing in Schmenzin
all known to the notary of person, as well as dispositionable.

Von Kleist After the statutorily invited family day, as was universally recognized, was under the chairmanship of the Mr. Oberpräsident constituirt, the following decisions were taken:

I

In place of Mr. Landrath à Anton von Kleist à - Nemitz, who had resigned from the board of directors of the family, retired was unanimously acclamated

the Royal Chief Forester, Mr Hugo Ewald von Kleist, resident in Oppeln, Mr Comparent sub 5, was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, who accepted the election.

II

1) Through the Codicill of Captain Bogislav Heinrich von Kleist on Raddatz of the ninth of April, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eight and Eighty de Publicato Coeslin, the twentieth of February One Thousand: Seven Hundred and Ninety is exposed to a capital of four thousand thalers, the interest of which shall accrue first to his widow, then to the owner of Raddatz von Kleist at all times, if he belongs to the family, but still each time to the oldest of those present in the Royal Prussian States, or still in the service of His Majesty the King von Kleist standing for life. This case has now occurred and the four thousand thalers have been deposited by the first buyer of the estate Raddatz in the subhastation to

the depository of the district-court Neustettin. Von Kleist This bond, which was made out at the time and handed over to the appointed curator of the Fidei-Commisses, landscape director in Segenthin, seems to have been forfeited and is in the process of being issued. Von Kleist von Kleist After the death of the landscape director, the family should appoint a new curator.

After this situation had been presented by the Chairman, and the Codicill of the ninth of April One Thousand Seven Hundred Eight and Eighty had also been read out, the Family Day decided unanimously:

that the curatel should be connected to and assigned to the board of directors of the family once and for all through this Fidei-Commiss.

von Kleist 2) According to the Codicill, for the first time the eldest of the family is to be mediated by an appeal of the court to all known at the fief office, later by the curator with the involvement of two other family members mediated by an announcement by a Berliner and a Stettiner newspaper. Since the fief law firm has very imperfect news under the now existing laws on the existence of the family, but the family is now in possession of a complete family tree, which is kept and is decisive according to the decision of the family within it, the Family Day decided unanimously, subject to the approval of the Royal Court of Appeal to Coeslin as supervisory authority:

that the curator, i.e. now the head of the family, is also left to determine the first authorized person.

3) It was also decided unanimously that:

The four thousand thalers are to be invested in Pomeranian Pfandbriefe at a rate of four and a half percent and the necessary subsidy will be borne by the family fund. They are taken out of course by the Executive Board and deposited with the Reichsbank or the Seehandlung. Half-yearly, the interest notes are received by the family member, which is identified as the oldest.

Mr Comparenten contends that the Court should:

retired von Kleist one-off copy of this negotiation shall be served on Mr. Ober-Präsident.

The above protocol is available in the presence of the instrument witnesses:

1) the waiter Carl Schulze,

2) the waiter Gottfried Wolf,

both of them are domiciled here, known to the notary by person, and are capable of disposition, which, like the notary as insured herewith, are not precluded by any of the circumstances which, according to sections 5 to 9 of the Act of 11 July 1845, exclude from participation in the hearing, read to Mr. Comparenten, approved by them and executed:

Von Kleist H.-Retzow. Von Kleist E. - Mainz. Von Kleist Count - Schmenzin.

Hugo Ewald von Kleist. Oppeln. Von Kleist H. à-Retzow - Large Tychow. Von Kleist von Kleist H., à- Drenow. Adolph von Kleist retired, Major Leopold von Kleist Graf. Otto von Kleist von Kleist-Bornstädt.- Zützen. Baron Adolph von Kleist on Mitau in Curland. Von Kleist Freiherr

Von Kleist H.-Retzow. Ewald von Kleist Graf- Tzschernowitz.

Otto von Kleist à -Stargard in Pommern.

It is attested that the above hearing, as written, really took place, that it was read to the participants in the presence of the notary and the witnesses, approved by them and signed by hand with their names.

Carl Friedrich Drews. Carl Schulze. Gottfried Wolf.

1879

V e r h a n d e l t
open
the family day of the family von Kleist.

Berlin, February 26, 1879.

At present:

- 1st Chief President of Kleist-Retzow.
- 2nd Count Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow.
- 3rd Count Kleist-Zützen.
- 4. Chief Forester of Kleist
- 5. General v. Kleist-Potsdam
- 6. Major Adolph v. Kleist-Stolp.
- 7th Hereditary Kitchen Master from Kleist - Retzow - Gross-Tychow
- 8. Colonel Bogislav v. Kleist.
- 9. Attache Fritz v. Kleist.
- 10. Main m. from Kleist-Spandau.
- 11. Leutnant Jürgen v. Kleist.
- 12th Stud. juris v Kleist-Retzow.

Von Kleist The High President of Retzow opened the session by welcoming those present and the less cousins he had seen, the more cordial he was.

He then made a statement about the current state of the family's assets, which today, including the remains, amounts to about 164,500 marks, which are usually laid out in 4% papers.

The cost of the family history is to be covered with about 2500 Thlrn. and also 1000 marks for the monument of Heinrich von Kleist in Frankfurt a.O.

The family fund, which, if Kleist - Dubberow would have been allodified, had already reached the level of 50,000 thalers., it is therefore expected that it will attain the planned level in 1879. From the year 1880, inclusive, payments of annual contributions would then cease.

- 3) For the settlement of the previous year, the discharge - grant requested by the Executive Board was approved by the family.
- 4) The mortification of the document on the Fideicommisscapital of 12,000 marks on Raddatz has taken place. The date for payment was set for 17 February, but the Court of Appeal in Cöslin has suspended the payment and reserved the right to make further announcements.
- 5) The list of eligible voters has been read out and recognized. Von Kleist Changes have taken place in that Mr. Damen is now standing up for Rauden.
- 6) For the description of history it is announced that the story of the Raddatzer line is printed and completed with

the previously discussed portraits etc. Only the drawing of the pulpit of Raddatz is still pending. The manuscript of the Tychow - Dubberow line is ready, the Bülow archivist is in charge of revising it.

Whether the pastor Kypke will retain the historiography of the great Muttrin-Damener lineage remains to be seen, and whether the history-commission will be given the authority to gain another figure, if any.

Read and approved.

Count Kleist Wendisch-Tychow. Count Kleist-Zützen.

A. v. Kleist-Potsdam. H. v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow-à.

Von Kleist B-Gebersdorf von Kleist-Magdeburg.

Paul Ewald von Kleist-Spandau.

Adolph von Kleist retired von Kleist, Major

Von Kleist J. Retzow. Georg von Kleist, Leutnant.

Von Kleist H.-Retzow.

1881

Negotiated
on the family day of the family
Von Kleist e.¹⁶

Berlin, March 2, 1881.

Present were:

Count Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow.
Count Kleist-Zützen.
Von Kleist Colonel Gebersdorf.
Von Kleist Lieutenant-General Reinfeld.
Lieutenant General and Commander of the 1st Von Kleist Guards Division Berlin.
Von Kleist Bornstädt-Hohennauen.
Major Victor of Kleist-Treptow.
Prem.-Leutnant Hermann von Kleist-Treptow.
Retzow-Groß-Tychow from Kleist-à.
Captain Paul Ewald von Kleist-Spandau.
Cavalry-captain Georg von Kleist-Kamissow.
Retired Major Theodor von Kleist-Magdeburg.
Cavalry-captain Leopold von Kleist-Belgard.
Robert von Kleist-Wusseken.
Major Adolph von Kleist-Stolp.
Leutnant Ferdinand von Kleist-Pasewalk.
Captain of the General Staff of Georg von Kleist Berlin.
Referendar Jürgen of Kleist-Retzow-Berlin.
Von Kleist First President of Retzow-Kieckow.
Count Kleist-Schmenzin.

Von Kleist Retzow The President-in-Office of the Council opens the meeting and welcomes those who are present on this family day.

The head president gives an overview of the state of the family's assets, according to which the fund now stands at about 167,000 marks. Von Kleist Because of the inheritance of Lieutenant-Colonel Düsseldorf, despite all the efforts of the chairman to avert or reduce the payment, a Stempel of 700 and a few Maik is levied on the family. A Stempel of over 600 marks will also be charged for the larger increase in the family fund. The Chairperson shall be granted discharge.

The reading of the members of the family entitled to vote for the election to the manor house takes place and the register was recognized.

¹⁶ The lords of the family of Kleist — there were 22 of them — held their annual family day on Saturday in the Kaiserhof. This time the Damen did not take part in the celebration; the toast to the emperor was delivered by Count Kleist-- Zützen. Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung, evening edition, 2 March 1891, p. 2. (2021)

It was also decided that the voluntary contributions, which are subscribed to 1235 marks, would no longer be paid on family days as before, but would be sent to the chairman during the year. If the contributions were not received by 31 December of each current year, the chairman would warn the defaulters.

A widowed wife, Lieutenant Colonel of Coffrane von Kleist, born, has applied for a grant from the family fund. Von Kleist Since the support of a person not belonging to the family, insofar as he changed his name by marriage, cannot be approved by the head of the family, the head of the family shall bring this request to the attention of the family day, which shall decide:

to grant Mrs Oberstlieutenant von Coffrane a one-off grant of DM 200. Von Kleist The Lieutenant General of Reinfeld reserves the right to submit a further request for assistance to the Lieutenant Colonel of Coffrane in the coming year if her financial circumstances have not improved. The Chairman reports on the progress of the family history. The story of the Raddatz line has already been published. That of the Tychow-Dubberow'er is ready for printing and only the images of Colonel v. Kleist, Major Ewald v. Kleist from Zützen and Count Ewald Kleist-Tzschernowitz are missing. The history of the Damen-Muttriner v, line is also transferred to the Pastor Kypke, with the proviso that the archivist Bülow is to review or Correction of history should also be transferred to this line. In addition, Pastor Kypke will be provided by members of the family with material for the biography of individual distinguished men of the Damen-Muttriner lineage, which Pastor Kypke will be required to use. It will also be attempted to obtain individual outstanding biographies, e.g. the poet (Dr. Jacob) - processed elsewhere. Von Kleist To strengthen the history commission, the lords Colonel Gebersdorf and Captain Georg von Kleist are elected by the General Staff.

The image of Mr. Oberpräsident à-Muttriner von Kleist is to be included in the history of the Damen-Retzow line by unanimous decision of the Family Day.

On next year's family day, the Damen of the family will also be invited.

The presence list is enclosed.

Adolph von Kleist, Major, Stolp.

Von Kleist Wusseken.

Von Kleist Reinfeld.

Von Kleist Bornstädt.

Victor von Kleist

Count Kleist-Tychow.

Von Kleist Berlin.

Von Kleist Retzow-Groß-Tychow H.

Theodor von Kleist-Magdeburg.

Georg von Kleist-Kamissow.

Leopold von Kleist à-Belgard.Hermann von Kleist à-Treptow a.R.

Von Kleist B. Gebersdorf.

Paul Ewald von Kleist.

Georg von Kleist, Captain in the General Staff.

Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow.

Ferdinand von Kleist

L. Graf Kleist.

Von Kleist H.-Retzow.

Von Kleist Count Schmenzin.

1882¹⁷

The protocol is not available.

¹⁷ (Family days) The members of the family of Kleist gathered last friday in the restaurant Poppenberg, Unter den Lindens, for a family day followed by a dinner. Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 14 March 1882. (2022)

1883

There is no protocol.¹⁸

(Article in the cross-newspaper No. 30, March 13, 1883.)

Von Kleist An honorary day for the family.

Twenty-five years have passed since the Emperor and King's Majesty — as Prince Regent — had the mercy to receive the members of the family of Kleist in a special audience and to receive their reverent thanks for the right of presentation to the House. This royal present has brought the family rich blessings. She became the occasion to found a family association, which year after year united its members more intimately and taught them better and better to maintain the chivalric traditions of their family in many eventful times. Externally, the work has also flourished quickly. Little money was started, and already today the family commands a notable fortune that allows it to enter where help is needed. Thus, the bearers of the old name gathered on 9 March were able to look back with satisfaction on the past quarter century and look forward to the future with glad confidence. The 25th anniversary had brought the competitors together in the largest number, and even a cousin based in Kurland had answered the call for Berlin.

It was also a matter of removing a thank you, a thank you for the faithful, paternal and truly devoted activity that the chairman of the family board, the bearer of all ideal endeavors in the same, devoted tirelessly and sacrificingly to her. We know our esteemed Prime Minister, Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow, too well not to know how much any public recognition is contrary to his purpose. But it was such a real need of the family's heart to honor their youthful-fresh heroic champion in white hair that he had to endure it when many words of thanks were addressed to him.

First, at the start of the negotiations, the member of the Executive Board, Graf Leopold Kleist-Zützen, took the word to thank the same leader for his meticulous management of the business, in retrospect of the 25 years that the family had followed him. To commemorate the 25 years of activity of the chairman, he presented an artfully executed table essay, which the family dedicated to the same. But the Damen did not want to take a back seat and had also prepared an homage. Before the beginning of the dinner, which united the members of the family with their wives and daughters in the imperial court in the handsome number of 60 persons, Miss Anni v. Kleist addressed the revered head on behalf of the Damen:

Five Lystras are in rapid flight,
Who saw you as the family of the head,
Ever since you bravely started the great work,
Deß Zeugen wir heute gratefully you bystander.
You united us, the far-flung limbs,
To brothers of a blood and tribe again.
Each of your mottos experienced strength:
Don't be afraid, just believe!

¹⁸ von Kleist ... the members of the family, who are gathered in Berlin at the time to hold their family day, were honored with the reception [at the Emperor's] at 3 o'clock. Berliner Börsen-Zeitung, Morgen-Ausgabe, 11 March 1883, pp. 1.

The Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist, Commander of the Oldenburg-en-Dragoon Regiment No. 19, has arrived here for a few days with a holiday from Oldenburg to take part in a v. Kleist family day held here. Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung, evening edition, 9 March 1883, p. 3. (2021)

The Major v. Kleist à la suite, of the Neumark Dragoon Regiment No. 3 and entrusted with the management of the Officers' Riding School, who had recently arrived here to take part in the v. Kleist Family Day which took place here, returned to Hanover yesterday. Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 March 1883, evening. (2022)

And our name future families,
They will reap fruit from your work,
This is always tirelessly with unweakened
Energy and loyalty our well-being sought,
Your name is written in gold script,
Announce how we honor and love you,
They will follow your example track:
Don't be afraid, just believe!

To wreath your snowy head rich with honor,
Happy to dedicate our thanks Tribute,
Man celebratin his jublee Dir, à, to credenzen die Festtrunk,
Today's family day invited us!
Long stay you at our top!
From now on, the flag shall also fly high,
To whom Your noble heart swore in faithfulness:
Don't be afraid, just believe!

The tradition of poets still lives in the family. The author of these beautiful words was also present. We must not betray her and only say so much: she is a real German woman.

The head president thanked visibly moved for this sensual surprise and took an album from the hands of the lovely speaker, in which the poem was entered.

Now followed a happy meal in the most colorful row. The uniform, in which the dragoon blue ruled decisively, was strongly represented in the young generation. His Majesty's first toast was to the Emperor and King. Man celebratin his jublee He pointed out how the family of Kleist, since it ceased to be the lord of the Dukes of Pommern, was linked by history to the House of Hohenzollern with indissoluble bands, as they fought first and foremost among all kings and found their glory in the loyalty of the kings. Thunderous high followed these words. — The well-being of the jubilee was expressed by General Leutnant Ewald, commander of the first Guards Division, and concluded with the wish to see the Chief President of Kleist-Retzow still after 25 years in physical freshness at the head of the family; "for his spiritual freshness, do not be afraid. " — In thanking the young people of the family, the chief president sent a word to them that they should hold up the banner after the death of the Alten. There are high goals to be set, to take part in work in all areas of public life, as the history of the family, in addition to the field marshals and other heroes, also poets, natural scientists, high administration officials presents us as role models. According to the goals, the effort and success depends, as on the one hand, on God's grace, and on the other hand, on our work. In this sense, too, it remains an eternally true word: "Man will live according to his faith. " — On the Damen, which, a telling testimony to the unwithered bloom of the family, graced the table, on its refining effect on the males rough family — through love — toasted General-Leutnant Georg on Rheinfeld.

However, this year's Family Day only gained its high importance through the grace of His Majesty the Emperor, as well as His Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince, who paid a visit in memory of the 10th of March 1858 of the family, to come before you on 10th of March 1883, in order to present their homage again with the now grown up generation after 25 years of existence of the family association. Thirty-four bearers of the name happily answered the call of their beloved King, and only those who could not come stayed away.

His Majesty received in the uniform of the 1st. Guards regiments on foot the family in the Royal Palace and had at the highest, through the Ober-President of Kleist-Retzow, the members of the family introduced, who were positioned so that the son was next to the father, the brother next to the brother. Before the performance of which

His Majesty made gracious words to the individual, however, you paid a visit the board to express the sentiments that animated the family particularly on this day of honor.

We will explain the meaning of this speech in the following:

"25 years ago today, Your Imperial Majesty had the grace to receive the members of the family of Kleist who were gathered here for a family day. On the occasion of the right granted to the Allerhöchst family to elect a member to the manor house, we had established the statutes for the reunion of the family the day before and requested: Your Majesty to offer thanks for the granting of that high right. Since then, a quarter of a century has passed by Your Majesty's glorious government, and our family has been allowed to participate in many ways, albeit in modest districts, in the accomplishment of the great deeds by which Your Majesty restored the German Empire and restored to him in Your Majesty his emperor. If in the north and Osten of Deutschland the nobility has retained a greater influence than in the west and south of that country, — the great deeds of the Hohenzollern in those countries and that the members of the imagined families have served their kings in devotion, that is the main reason. That our family was able to serve you most highly in this great time with Your Majesty's actions, and that the blessed experiences we have had in this long time of the existence of our renewed family unit in the common life and mutual assistance, strengthen in us the awareness of the duty of thanksgiving and renewing the pledge of allegiance to Your Majesty and Most High His successor on the throne, whether in the labors of peace, or at the Most High their reputation in honorable death on the field of battle."

What His Majesty rested upon this in mercy will be unforgettable to anyone who experiences this hour and shall be preserved as an expensive legacy to the distant descendants of the family. We can only make the wish that God give it to the family to justify the honorable trust that King places in them at all times in words and deeds.

After the gates of the Royal Palace were closed behind the family members, His Imperial and Royal Highness the Crown Prince, the governor of Pommern, rested to receive the family, who resided mainly in this province. The Upper President of Kleist-Retzow addressed the illustrious Hohenzollernsproß as follows:

"We sincerely thank Your Imperial and Royal Highness for the gracious granting of the audience requested today. The family of Kleist has spread its branches widely across the land, in the Margraviate, in the Province of Saxony, the Kingdom of Saxony, in Böhmen and Kurland, but the roots and tribe of these are in Pommern and Your Imperial Highness are the governor of Pommern. The whole family is enlivened by the conviction of devotional loyalty to His Majesty the Emperor and King, like his high house, and Your Imperial Highness are the next heir to the throne. On the occasion of the seat in the manor house awarded to the Allerhöchst family, the family reunited again 25 years ago by statutory provision to form a family association and then also on 10 March expressed its thanks to His Majesty as Prince-Regent for the granting of that right. The rich experiences she has made for the flourishing of the family during the existence of this association in the common life and mutual assistance move us, His Majesty to again and reinforce our thanks and Highest to the same, as your Imperial and Royal Highness as the heir to the throne to present the vows of unwavering loyalty. "

In his merciful reply, His Imperial Highness emphasized the close relations in which the history of the fatherland brought the family to the Hohenzollern house, and assured the family, which was tested in fidelity, also of the further well-being of their ruling house. His Imperial Highness had donned the uniform of his Pasewalker cuirassier Regiment.

This was the 10th of March 1883, which was so significant for the Kleistsche family. The personal relationship in which the Hohenzollern had always been with the old families of the country came to the most beautiful expression on that day. And if you looked at the handsome number of family members, you said to yourself: It is still the old German villager that performs army succession here. May the family preserve this Geist forever. True to the king, that is her motto.

1884¹⁹

The logs are not available.

Adelsblatt 1884, 6 April, pp. 169:

From the Gender Days of the Family v. Kleist.

Des Monats retired On the 19th, under the chairmanship of Sr. Excellence des Ober-Präsident, à v. Kleist-Retzow, the Kleist Family Day took pay a visit in the Weise, which has been laid down in the statute. At 4 a.m., a communal lunch united all the family members (about 21) to whom the President of the German Reichstag v. Levetzow joined as guest of honor.

The series of toasts was opened by the chairman. It goes without saying that the toast to our emperor, to the family, etc., is permeated by the warm patriotic feeling of always fresh, quick-witted excellence, as always, ignited. Among the following toasts, however, one was so peculiar*), profoundly symbolic and full of rhetorical impetus that he is probably suitable to become known in wide districts, all the more so as he can be regarded as a reminder to all peers (speaker of the retired Artill.-General A. v. Kleist, who lives in Potsdam). We therefore want to reproduce this important speech as faithfully as possible in the following. The speaker spoke, for example:

Who among us does not know the Uhland romance, which leads the title: "The happiness of Edenhall."

There is a profound, symbolic thought in this poem, which is ignored by some, and which also grips us with warning. An old, venerable knightly family has been preserved for centuries as the highest treasure, a refined symbol of its existence:

A glass of luminous crystal
That gave an ancestor at the spring the Fei
In it she wrote: "Is this glass coming down?
"Fahr' wohl dann o Glück von Edenhall!"

And everyone from the tribe of Edenhall's:

As much as he likes to sip in full force
As much as he likes to ring with full sound.

he remains under arrest for the symbol of family happiness.

Everyone understands what moved the ancestor's soul when he said:

[170] Zum Horte nimmt ein kühn family
Get the fragile crystal.

And they remain aware of this – always and everywhere – how much and how often the youth hubris foams and the unbridled youth force chases the blood through the veins, they do not forget that all passions find their limits in the anxious care for the common jewel. Anxious One watches over the Gentiles, lest in an unguarded moment One should be negligent in the handling of that with which the happiness of all is intimately connected. And somebody should even dare.

- - - The luminous crystal
to try to hit with too much impact

The house of the eldest vasall would paralyze the unwise and warn him with that fei:

¹⁹ von Kleist 1884: From a member of the family, the "D. T." receives a letter according to which the erection of a memorial stone and a lattice on the grave of the poet a few years ago originated from members of the Kleist lineage from which that lineage originated. — Since both were affected by the adverse weather conditions, it was decided by pages of those members at a family meeting held in March of this year to undertake a restoration and to take care of the tomb in future, provided that the poor soil and the location of the tomb on foreign property permit. The family had to stand up against the accusation as if they did not honor their great dead. We are pleased to announce this announcement to the public. There is therefore no reason to stop the collections that have been initiated, because the family will have nothing against it if steps are taken from the people for another piece of jewelry, and surely the owner of the land, Prince Friedrich Karl, will also be happy only if the greatest poet of the Margraviate hometown receives honors that his genius, his misfortune and his patriotism so richly deserve. Berliner Börsen-Zeitung, Morgen-Ausgabe. 10 April 1884, pp. 10 (2021)

"Stop! Come down this glass

I guess you'll be so lucky from Edenhall.'

My dear cousins, we do not want to follow the great poet any further; after all, he has given us a word of text that also vibrates within us. The allegory is close:

Also in our venerable family, in our newly closed family association, we preserve and inherit for centuries as the highest treasure as a celebrated symbol "A jar of luminous crystal" (our honor in the noble cooperative).

We also gave an ancestor the Fei at the source and wrote in it "If this glass falls, then probably drive so lucky of Edenhall!" We also adopted the motto:

"To the hoard takes a bold family

Get the fragile crystal."

We also understand the deep meaning that lies in this election and are aware of it always and everywhere and remain mindful despite youth - coziness and youth strength and passion which is a frail thing that symbolic crystal, as he demands surveillance clear vision and safe hands always and everywhere, as he "does not want to be tempted with too strong impact," as he also wants to be guarded

"in the sound of the trumpets and the desolate guests

through the house's oldest vasall.

It applies: - - The glass at a price!

Pour Rothen, from Portugal

(And purpur'n Licht wird überall)

God beware our happiness from Edenhall!

And shield it through the house of the oldest vasall!"

1885-1888

The logs are not available.²⁰

²⁰ In connection with the emergence of the family history, the most extensive volumes of which, Muttrin and Damen, were published in 1886, the Family Association also compiled a current survey of the family members, which was used in the future for printed address lists and publications in genealogical handbooks. The first publications known today were published in 1884 and 1888 in the series "Genealogical Pocket Book of Noble Houses", Brno, Buschak & Irrgang. von Kleist In 1887, the "Staff of the Family" was published independently, in the Berlin of Trowitzsch and Sohn. It did not contain a preface. The order of the persons in the 3 publications was based on the family history underlying master tables. (2022)

<https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/gotha1884.pdf>

https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1887.pdf

<https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/gotha1888.pdf>

1889²¹

Negotiated
on family days
Von Kleist e.

Berlin, March 26, 1889.

The attendance list:

- 1) Chief President v. Kleist-Retzow.
- 2) Count Kleist-Schmenzin.
- 3) Major v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow-à.
- 4) vice-Ober-Mundschenk Graf Kleist Wend.-à-Tychow.
- 5) v. Kleist-Wusseken.
- 6) Colonel v. Kleist-Potsdam.
- 7) Chief Forester of Kleist-Naumburg.
- 8) Major Georg v. Kleist - Berlin.
- 9) Major Paul v. Kleist-Spandau.
- 10) Leutnant Fritz v. Kleist-Potsdam.
- 11) v. Kleist-Nehmitz.
- 12) Hans v. Kleist-Retzow.
- 13) Colonel v. Kleist-Gebersdorf.
- 14) Major Graf Kleist-Zützen.

Von Kleist The chairman, Excellence à-Retzow, opens the meeting and welcomes the cousins who have appeared.

Thereafter, he reported on the audience granted by Sr. Majesty to the board, which was requested to pay the family's thanks for the fact that Se. Majesty had rested to award the name of the Field Marshal, Count Kleist of Nollendorf to the 6th Infantry Regiment.²² Von Kleist At the address of Excellence à-Retzow, the Emperor had initially thanked him for his outspoken attitude. It was a Freude von Kleist for him to give the families, and especially the ones in the outstanding field marshal, Count Kleist of Nollendorf, army regiments, whom he had to thank for the services rendered to his house in the war, but also in other state life. He wanted to give them proof of his mercy. - The family decided to give the Regiment of Kleist of Nollendorf a copy of an image of Kleist of Nollendorf von Kleist, from which half of the cost of Mrs Nollendorf von Kleist and the other half will be borne by the family. The unmediated family members who join the regiment Graf Kleist-Nollendorf as an officer or with the prospect of promotion to an officer are to be granted an annual allowance of 450 marks and an allowance for equipment.

The. Management of the assets is transferred to the Kur- und Neumark- knight- Darlehens- Kasse following the family resolution of 5 March 1888. This institution has proved very effective in discharging the chairman and paying the cousins' contributions on time.

²¹ **Deutsches von Kleist Adelsblatt 1889 p.174: The members of the family carrying loans are notified that this year's family day will take place on 26 March, 11 a.m., in the Kaiserhofe and are invited to the same. Von Kleist The day before, the Family Executive Board meets at 10 a.m. in the Thiergarten Hotel in the room of Mr. H. à-Retzow.**

²² Se. Majesty the Emperor and King received yesterday afternoon the members of the family v. d. Marwitz, v. Kleist and Count Goetzen, ... Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung, evening edition, 27 March 1889, p. 2. (2021)

On 31 December 1887, the family's assets amounted to 203 715.62 marks, on 31 December 1888 206 506.66 marks, i.e. they grew by 2791.04 marks in the current year.

The family gave the board discharge.

The list of those members who are entitled to vote for the manor house on their property is read out and corrected. The list in question is attached.

It was also decided to hold the next family day, if possible, in February, but at least with Damen.

The Damen is free to participate in the dinners of the other family days.

V.G.U.

- 1) H. v. Kleist Retzow.,
- 2) C. Graf Kleist-Zützen.
- 3) Count Kleist Wend. Tychow.
- 4) v. Kleist Retzow-Groß Tychow.
- 5) From Kleist to Wusseken.
- 6) Colonel v. Kleist-Potsdam.
- 7) Chief Forester of Kleist.
- 8) Major Georg v. Kleist Berlin.
- 9) Major Paul v. Kleist Spandau
- 10) Fritz v. Kleist-Potsdam.
- 11) v. Kleist-Nehmitz.
- 12) Hans Anton v. Kleist-Retzow.
- 13) Colonel v. Kleist-Gebersdorf.
- 14) Count Kleist-Schmenzin.

Kieckow, 9 August 1889.

The revered cousins

Sending an imprint of the negotiations of this year's Family Day above, I attach the further development of our relationship with the grenadier regiments of Count Kleist v. Nollendorf. The other descendants of the Field Marshal did not wish the agreement reached with the widowed Countess Kleist v. Nollendorf because of the joint donation of the image of the Field Marshal to the relevant regiment of pages of those descendants and the wider family v. Kleist, but rather wanted to give this image to the regiment alone. Thus, the family only had to give the gift of another picture. It was initially the intention of the board to suspend the decision until the next family day. Since the regiment is maneuvering on the day of Nollendorf Culm, it decided to use the same particularly honorable day of Wörth (6th August) to celebrate the bestowal of that name. On the one hand, the two granddaughters of the Field Marshal,²³ on the other hand, the undersigned and the major in the General Staff of Georg v. Kleist because of his life description of the Field Marshal, were invited to that festival as guests. Such an honorable invitation was grateful to accept, but just so fixed that the representatives of the family could not appear at the party empty-handed. We learned that the regiment already has the image of the Emperor Wilhelm I (knee piece) as a present from a former member, and has the vivid wish to have Wilhelm II as a counterpart to it, but shuns the cost of its own acquisition. Thus, the board of directors - with the subsequent approval of the family day, of course - had the image of Emperor Wilhelm II made on behalf of the family. The painter Hummel will paint a second copy of the painting, which he made for the same purpose on behalf of the family of Marwitz for the regiment bearing her name, and to which the emperor had the mercy to stand him. The representatives of the family were instructed to announce his surrender to the regiment at that feast. During the negotiations here, the undersigned learned through a communication from our cousin, the Major in the General Staff of Georg v. Kleist, that the regiment wished to possess the family's history. It went without saying that we met this family-honoring wish in the Weise to have a copy of the story, Old German in pigskin leather with the family coat of arms on the top lid of the 3 volumes and the role with the family trees, and to present it to the regiments.

The festival took place in the most beautiful Weise. It began with a serenade brought to us by the choir by both representatives of the family. At the parade, the undersigned was asked by the commanding general to take it at his page. It found a betting gymnastics and shooting for silver watches as prizes and a feeding of all the teams in the Kasernenhofe pay a visit. In front of the officers and guests, Colonel Unger gave a story of the Field Marshal, Count Kleist of Nollendorf and the battle of Nollendorf Culm as a clear outline of a local portrayal of our cousin Georg. At the dinner, the commanding general developed, like Se, in his toast to the emperor. Majesty the Emperor on 27 January would have had the mercy to add the names of notable army commanders and families distinguished in the army to various regiments of the army, with the grenadier regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf meeting both in the most perfect Weise.

Von Kleist The colonel then expressed his thanks for the appearance of the granddaughters of the Field Marshal and the representatives of the family and toasted to them, as to the family. The shell of the magnificent image of the Field Marshal, which was donated by the former, fell.

The representatives of the family gave the regiment the family history as that of a real soldier family, to whose publication the vow was adhered that the family would offer everything, also worthy of the fathers, to serve our princes in fidelity and devotion in war and peace - and promised the image of Sr. Majesty Emperor Wilhelm II, which had given the family the high honor that its name in the name of its most outstanding member was permanently associated with the Prussian army and whose image as the counterpart of the image of his unforgettable grandfather would give the regiment the confidence at all times that he, supported by the Prussian and

²³ The article reproduced in the note contains errors concerning the granddaughters:

Marianne Hermine Mathilde Henriette, born March 10, 1833 in Halberstadt, † Novi, Bosnia, February 23, 1898, married June 7, 1855 to Arthur Cäsar of Wulffen, called Küchenmeister of Sternberg.

Thekla Ernestine Wernerine, born 29 December 1834 in Halberstadt, died 16 October 1921 in Klein Bisnitz, married 26 April 1859 in Knauthen with Leutnant retired Wilhelm Bernhard Baron of Julius at Eckardstein manor Leuven, Kr. Brieg, Schlesien,

Deutsche armed forces, would not be able to take back the acquired by the Emperor Wilhelm I through this army. -

A brilliant performance of Flambeaux rounds and equally beautiful fireworks concluded the successful celebration, which highlighted the decorations, music performances and speeches, the honor of the Earl of Kleist of Nollendorf von Kleist, as well as that of the family. - ²⁴

I would like to remind myself that the contributions for the family are currently always payable in January to the Kur- und Neumark- Ritterschaftliche Darlehens-Kasse Berlin (W.), Wilhelmsplatz 6.

Von Kleist H. Retzow

²⁴ Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung, Abend-Ausgabe, 8 August 1889, pp. 2.

Posen, 7th August. The Grenadier Regiment lying in garrison here, Count Kleist of Nollendorf West- (1 As everybody knows von Kleist No. 6), which received this name on this year's birthday of Sr. Majesty of the Emperor for eternal commemoration of the victory at Nollendorf (Kulm) by the Most High Cabinet Order, which was fought with the outstanding participation of the then General, celebrated as the "Pos. Tgbl." recounts this anniversary in festive Weise yesterday, combining the commemoration with the unveiling of the life-size painting of the perpetual leader from the great liberation wars, which was given to the regiment's officer corps by the descendants of the Field Marshal, Earl Kleist of Nollendorf. In view of the provisions of the service, which led it into the maneuvering ground in the last days of this month, it was not possible for the regiment to celebrate the planned festival on 30 August, the anniversary of the Kulmer battle, and it was therefore decided to postpone the commemoration to yesterday, the anniversary of the glorious battle of Wörth as everybody knows, in which the regiment fought with distinction and suffered tremendous losses. And yesterday the regiment held a memorial service worthy of its many days of fame. For days before, all possible forces had been called upon to decorate the regiment's home, the new stately barracks at Bartholdshof, with dignity.

The course of the ceremony was as follows: At four o'clock in the afternoon, the regiment was standing in an open quadrangle on the barracks courtyard, when the representatives of the family of Kleist, the only granddaughter of the Field Marshal Kleist of Nollendorf, Mrs. v. Wulffen - Kuchmeister arrived with her daughter, the Baroness of Eckardstein, the senior of the family, Real Secret counsellor of Kleist-Retzow, Mrs. v. Kleist, born Freiin v. Puttkamer, Major v. Kleist of the General Staff, as well as the heads of the civilian authorities. From a military page, besides the regiment, the commanding general, Lieutenant General Freiherr v. Hilgers, along with his wife, the divisional

Kommandeur Generallieutenant v. Seeckt, Bezirkskommandeur Generalmajor Sucro mit Gemahlin, Stadtkommandant Generalmajor v. Henning mit Gemahlin and the Commander of the infantry regiment Graf Kirchbach (1. Lower Silesian No. 46) Colonel Krahmer with wife. When the commanding general approached, the regimental commander, Colonel Unger, stopped the regiment, refunded the front transport, and then gave a short, pithy speech, in which he informed the teams of the importance of the day, and pointed out in particular the great, bloody sacrifices the regiment had made on the day of Wörth, and how in the battle of Kulm a French army remnant had been completely destroyed by his participation and under the leadership of Field Marshal Kleist v. Nollendorf. Finally, he called on the regiment to,

to strive for the glory of the ancestors, in unwavering loyalty and devotion to his most gracious warlord. Colonel Unger then had the regiment presented and a three-time effervescent hurrah at sea. Call Majesty while the music played the national anthem. The commanding general then stepped down the front lines of the regiment, accompanied by Excellency of Kleist-Retzow and a number of retinues, whereupon the regiment formed a parade march. After the end of the same, the teams were fed at the Kasernenhof. During the meal, the regimental chapel on the barracks yard, also found a price gymnastics and price gunfire of the best forces of the regiment paid a visit, whereby valuable prizes were distributed.

In the evening, the attendees gathered with the regiment's officer corps in the garden of the officers' casino, where the regiment commander, Colonel Unger, gave an address describing the life of the Field Marshal, Count Kleist of Nollendorf. This was followed by the ceremonial unveiling of the life-size image of the immortalized, which was presented to the officer corps by the descendants of the field marshal and was admirably painted by Prof. Neide in Königsberg.

The evening brought with it a picture, which is staged very rarely in our city, a very impressive torchlight dance, carried out by the teams of the regiment. At the end of the celebrations was a magnificent firework display, in which due consideration was given to the military character of the festival by the pyrotechnics.

A number of promotions, which had been announced during the day, contributed to the substantial increase in festivities. (2021)

1890²⁵

The protocol is not available.

²⁵ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1890 p. 93: The chairman of the von Kleistschen family board, Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow von Kleist, issues the following invitation: The members of the family are invited to this year's family day on February 28, at 11 am in the Kaiserhofe and urged to attend the following luncheon at 5 am their wives and daughters, they want to have the kindness, a few days before the count Kleist-Schmenzin, Hotel Petersburg, to report their attendance, in order to be able to judge how many people we have to count on. The day before, at 10 a.m., the meeting of the family executive board, Thiergarten-Hotel, will pay a visit in the chairman's home.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1890 pp. 163: The family of those of Kleist met on 28 February in the "Kaiserhof" in Berlin under the chairmanship of Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow for a family day. In the evening, the 36 attendees united for a banquet.

1891²⁶

Negotiated
on the family days of the family of Kleist.

Berlin, February 28, 1891.

I

Before entering into the negotiations of the Family Day, under the assistance of the lawyer and notary Hentig, the election was made for the members who had left the honorary council by death: Count Ewald von Kleist Tzschernowitz and manor owner Hermann von Kleist Groß-Dubberow. They were elected by acclamation: Count Kleist—Schmenzin and Colonel Victor von Kleist, currently in Potsdam. Von Kleist The minutes of the election were recorded by lawyer Hentig and will be sent to the head of the family, Excellence Retzow. At the same time, it was noted that the elections to the honorary council of the family can be held without the involvement of a notary.

II

The Earl of Kleist-Zützen von Kleist opened the session of the Family Day by expressing the general profound regret at the absence of the President, Excellency of Retzow, due to illness.

He first commemorated the members of the family who died during the year: Albert, formerly in Warnin von Kleist, senior citizens, Major General Potsdam and minor Otto von Kleist in Kleist Dubberow-von Kleist. The attendees honor the memory of the deceased by lifting them from their seats.

The annual accounts for 1890 are presented and debited.

According to the same, the family's assets on 31 December 1889 were: 210668 Mk., on 31 December 1890 on the other hand: 225225 Mk., so they increased by 14557.25 Mk.

Von Kleist This considerable increase is due to the allocation sum received by Dubberow amounting to 12148.35 m.

The seniorship of the family has passed since July 1, 1890, with the passing of Albert von Kleist, formerly in Warnin von Kleist von Kleist and the associated annuity to the oldest, now living, the head of the family, Excellence Retzow in Kieckow.

Von Kleist The Regiment Graf-Nollendorf has changed its commander and replaced Colonel Unger with Colonel von Prittwitz and Gaffron. Both gentlemen have had the gratefully acknowledged kindness to inform the family of their appointments. They were transferred to the regiment on the basis of their patents: Leutnant Ewald von Kleist from the 7th and his brother Leutnant Hermann von Kleist from the 46th. Regiment.

Since the younger members of the family often do not have family statutes, but these consist of three parts, the first

²⁶ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1891, pp. 132:**

Von Kleist The members of the family are invited to this year's family day on 28 February, at 11 a.m., in the Kaiserhofe by the Board of Directors, Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow. At 5 a.m. there is a joint luncheon with the participation of the Damen of the family and the day before, at 10 a.m., the meeting of the family board, Bellevuestraße 4, in the home of the count Kleist-Schmenzin, pays a visit.

The lords of the family of Kleist — there were 22 of them — held their annual family day on Saturday in the Kaiserhof. The Damen did not take part in the celebration this time; Count Kleist-Zützen made the toast to the Emperor. Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 2 March 1891. (2022) Also almost identical Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1891, pp. 167.

with the granting of the right to vote for the manor to the family, the second relating to asset management (both printed) and the third authorizing the election of an honorary council (not printed), it was decided to have these three statutes printed in one copy at the expense of the family fund, namely 100 pieces.

A case against Count Bogislav Kleist of the Loß is pending for incapacitation on the grounds of mental insanity and waste. If the incapacitation occurs only because of waste, the Family Day unanimously granted the Honorary Council the power to exclude the Count of Kleist from Loß from all family rights for 10 years without prior consultation to the Family Day.

The list of eligible members for the manor house is reviewed and corrected.

Von Kleist It was also decided to determine how many copies of the family's history would still be available and to allocate the desired number of copies from this reserve to members of the family, after they had therefore turned to Excellence à-Retzow.

Count Kleist-Zützen. Count Kleist-Schmenzin.

V. v. Kleist-Potsdam. v. Kleist, lieutenant general.

Kleist-Bornstädt-Hohenauen.

Erwin v. Kleist-Osnabrück. B. v. Kleist.

H. v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow-à.

H. v. Kleist Groß-Dubberow-à. Paul v. Kleist-Spandau.

Georg v. Kleist, Major.

Ewald Baron v. Kleist-Spandau.

Georg v. Kleist-Nemitz. Fritz von Kleist-Potsdam.

Ewald v.. Kleist Berlin. Joachim v. Kleist-Posen.

1892²⁷ (handwritten)

Negotiated
von Kleist on the family day of the family

Berlin March 4, 1892

presence list

von Kleist 1. Excellence - Retzow;
von Kleist 2. Infantry General, Potsdam;
von Kleist 3. - Wusseken;
von Kleist 4. Colonel - Gebersdorf;
5. Emil von Kleist - Belgard;
6. Ewald von Kleist Freiherr à - Spandau;
7. Ludwig von Kleist Freiherr - Grenzhof;
8. Hans-Anton von Kleist - Retzow;
von Kleist 9. Fritz - Potsdam;
10. Werner von Kleist - Berlin;
11. Georg von Kleist, Captain in the General Staff;
12th Ewald von Kleist, Premier of Leutnant in the Kleist Regiment;
13. Hans Joachim von Kleist - Kamissow;
von Kleist 14. Freiherr à - Keyserling;
von Kleist 15. Colonel, Baron - Allenstein;
16. General Victor von Kleist;
von Kleist 17. Landrath - Retzow;
von Kleist 18. à - Drenow;
19. Major Paul von Kleist - Spandau;
20. Major Georg von Kleist - Berlin, General Staff;
von Kleist 21st graf - Zützen;
von Kleist 22. Chief Forester - Naumburg;
23. Hermann von Kleist, Greater Dubberow;
von Kleist 24. Major - Retzow, Greater Tychow;
von Kleist 25th Earl of Schmenzin.

Von Kleist The chairman, Excellence à-Retzow, opened the meeting and welcomed the cousins who had appeared.

Soon he commemorated the passing of the Vice-Obermundschenk, Count Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch Tychow, whose memory the attendees honor by raising from the squares.

²⁷ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1892 p. 93: The chairman of the von Kleists family board, Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow von Kleist issues the following invitation: The members of the family are invited to this year's family day on February 28, at 11 a.m. in the Kaiserhofe and are urged to attend the following luncheon at 5 a.m., they want to have the kindness, a few days beforehand to inform the Count Kleist-Schmenzin, Hotel Petersburg, of their attendance, in order to be able to judge how many people we have to count on. The day before, at 10 a.m., the meeting of the family executive board, Thiergarten-Hotel, will pay a visit in the chairman's home.

In his place, the General of the Ewald von Kleist-Potsdam Infantry is elected unanimously by notarial negotiation of Mr. Hentig, as a deputy member of the board and as a member of the board. The Assembly, without a notarial hearing, then unanimously elects Major Tychow von Kleist Retzow Tychow, Greater von Kleist, to replace the deceased Count, as Deputy Member of the Honorary Council of the Wendisch, so that he becomes the first Deputy to the Honorary Council of the Major Georg von Kleist (General Staff). The honorary council of the family has ruled out the Earl of Bogislav von Kleist Loß from the rights of the family for 10 years. This verdict has received the Highest Confirmation and has been published by the Earl of Kleist-Loß, of which the family is informed by the chairman.

On 31 December 1891, the family's assets amounted to 226,035.31 marks, which means that in 1891 they increased from the previous year to 810.06 marks.

The chairman was given the discharge family for the accounts.

The list of family members eligible for election to the manor house was read out and supplemented.

This year, the meeting will be followed by a family dinner paid a visit by the Damen.

Colonel von Prittwitz, commander of the regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf with his wife, have also been invited to dinner and have promised to appear.

The family of the Schulenburg von Kleist today holds their family day in the "Kaiserhof" at the same time as the family. After the process from an earlier year, it was decided to send the family from the Schulenburg through a deputation and welcome them.

Von Kleist At the request of Colonel Gebersdorf, it is also decided to have a new family register drawn up and printed, which he will take over.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist H.-Retzow Graf Kleist-Schmenzin²⁸

²⁸ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1892, pp. 212

On the 4th of June at noon, the family day Derer v. Kleist and the family day Derer v. d. Schulenburg paid a visit simultaneously, although spatially separated from each other. In the one Saale, Mr. v. Kleist-Retzow brought forth the high of Se. Majesty the Emperor and King retired from and in the other court marshal and lieutenant general of Schulenburg fulfilled this honorary duty. This was followed by the usual drinking slogans etc. Towards the end of the table, a mutual welcome of the two old noble families was given by deputations. Following on from the joint celebration 25 years ago, Derer v. Kleist retired, Senior Chairman and Chief Executive of Kleist-Retzow, was able to recall that 700 years ago a Schulenburg and a Kleist had served the same gentleman, a Duke of Pommern, in an outstanding position. Providence had kindly caused (as the speaker continued) that for some time now the families, once belonging to different states, were allowed to faithfully serve the same ruling house, the Hohenzollern, and had fought shoulder to shoulder in all the battles. This beautiful relationship, he hopes, will continue to unite the two families in the future and will also find expression in the profound intellectual struggle of the present, which is decisive for a long time, in a firm union for the highest estates of humanity. The speaker concluded that life has value only insofar as it is filled with the idea of devotion, the sacrificial devotion of one's own personality to the service of the King, to the well-being of the community and the brothers. - If this thought were to gain space in the hearts, we believe, the social question would be resolved without the involvement of legislation. Being a guide and flag bearer in this direction is a truly noble task. To recognize you may also this beautiful day have done his own. With a strong heart and eloquent mouth, Count of Schulenburg-Beetzendorf thanked him in his warm, heartfelt Weise for the greeting of his family, with a brotherly handshake, assuring that the Schulenburg would be on the scene in this fight as well. It was also inevitable that a deputation would appear among the Kleist and set a scorching high for the clichéd females. Just as the old Deutschen were followed by the women in the battle and offered them support, so the nobleman of the modern era found support on his high-minded wife in the religious, social and parliamentary struggles that he had to endure.

Unsurprisingly, after the table had been removed, both families gave up their separation and took coffee together in the large ballroom. While the older gentlemen exchanged family memories spanning half a millennium, the youth

indulged in the pleasures of an improvised ball that lasted for a long time.

Hans-Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow died on May 20, 1892 . This meant that the seat of the family in the manor house was to be occupied anew. By election of the members of the family residing with manors, Sn. Majesty, the Emperor and King the Hereditary Chef Hugo von Kleist-Retzow - Greater Tychow has been proposed as successor (see Family Day Protocol 1893 No. 7). No further documents are available on the election.

Stenographic reports on the Prussian House of Lords

Session Wednesday, 9 November 1892

"We have been called to the manor house

...

2. v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow von Kleist, knighthood owner and hereditary kitchen master in the Duchy of Hinterpommern and Principality of Kammin, appointed by the Most High Decree of 17 October this year to present the family."

1893²⁹ (handwritten)

Negotiated, Berlin, 21. March 1893

Von Kleist Family Day

Presence list.

- von Kleist 1. Graf-Zützen;
- von Kleist 2. Graf-Schmenzin;
- von Kleist 3. General of Inf., Excellency of Potsdam;
- von Kleist 4. H. Retzow, Large Tychow;
- von Kleist 5. B. Gebersdorf;
- von Kleist 6th H. Large Dubberow;
- von Kleist 7. Drenow;
- von Kleist 8. R. Wusseken;
- 9th th th th Kleist of Bornstedt-Hohenauen;
- 10. Hans von Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow;
- 11. Landrath Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow-Belgard;
- 12. Arthur von Kleist Freiherr à - Keyserlink;
- von Kleist 13. Colonel Freiherr à -Allenstein;
- 14. Major Paul Ewald v. Kleist-Spandau;
- 15. Major Georg von Kleist, Frankfurt a/O;
- 16. Prem.Lieut. Fritz von Kleist-Potsdam;
- 17th Lieutenant. Ewald von Kleist Freiherr-Spandau;
- 18. Werner von Kleist, Leutnant, 3rd Guard Regiment for F.;
- 19. Prem. Lieut. Ewald von Kleist at the grenadier Regt Graf Kleist
- 20. Hans Joachim von Kleist, Lieutenant in the same Regt.

Von Kleist The vice-chairman, Graf à-Zützen von Kleist, chairs the meeting and appoints the Landrath à-Retzow-Belgard as chief of protocol.

1. The Chairman pays warm tribute to the True Secret counsellor von Kleist of Retzow, who died on 20 May 1892, as long-time Chairman of the Board of Directors words.

The Assembly honors his memory by elevating him from the seats.

²⁹ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1893, pp. 191: The members of the family of Kleist are invited to this year's family day on Tuesday, 21 March, at 11 a.m., in the Kaiserhofe.**

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1893, pp. 250: The lords of the old noble family of Kleist met on 21. d. morning at 11 o'clock om Kaiserhofe for their family days. They were struck by the loss they suffered as a result of the departure of their long-time venerable senior citizen from Kleist-Retzow. The current senior, senior forester v. Kleist in Naumburg, was prevented from appearing by discomfort; for him, the deputy chairman v. Kleist-Zützen gave a warm obituary to the divorcee from their midst. Retired The hereditary kitchen master Major, from Kleist Groß-Tychow, who the family had presented as their representative for the manor house last autumn, was elected to the board. It was about 30 gentlemen who reunited this time without Damen at 5 o'clock to form a banquet table.

retired von Kleist 2. The Assembly shall elect Major à-Retzow auf Groß as a deputy member of the Board Tychow and re-elects Conrad von Kleist Schmenzin, who has resigned as a member of the Executive Board.

Both the elected accept the vote. A special and notarial record of these elections has been recorded.

3. The chairman shall submit the accounts for the family fund, which shall be audited and the accounting officer shall be granted discharge.

4. The list of the family of manor owners entitled to vote for the manor was submitted, examined and established, with the deletion of the Austrian Imperial Court. Retired MajorsGustavvon Kleist Collochau, which is not eligible to vote as an Austrian Unterthan.

von Kleist 5. The seniorship of the family has passed to the chief forester, Naumburg; the Assembly takes note of this.

6. The application of the association "Klause" to Berlin, concerning support for the establishment of a monument for Heinrich von Kleist - Wannsee is brought to the attention and announced that the board of directors must leave the support of the company to the individual members.

The board of directors will gladly leave it to the pp association to maintain the Heinrich von Kleist monument.

7. According to the election of the members of the Sn. family residing with manors. Majesty, who appointed the Emperor and King the Hereditary Chef Hugo von Kleist-Retzow - Greater Tychow to the manor house for life.

8. The General of the Infantry of Ewald von Kleist Potsdam shall be unanimously elected to the Honorary Council; the same shall accept the election.

9. The Chairman suggests that it is highly desirable to increase membership fees, as the most urgent requests for support should have been repeatedly rejected for lack of sufficient resources, especially as the death of some members caused not inconsiderable losses.

10. Increase in the fee for drawing up the annual accounts.

Supplement: Members of the Board present at the Family Day: Count Kleist-Zützen, Count Kleist-Schmenzin von Kleist Potsdam von Kleist, General of the Infantry, Hereditary Chef Retzow-Gross Tychow retired unanimously elected the senior member of the Oberforstmeister family, Hugo von Kleist, Naumburg, who was prevented from attending by illness, as chairman.

This was approved by letter dated 23 Von Kleist March announced the choice made to him with the request that, until his full recovery, the business be continued by the first deputy, Count à - Zützen.

Von Kleist Graf à-Zützen von Kleist; à-Retzow

1894³⁰ (handwritten)

Negotiated, Berlin, at the Kaiserhof, January 25, 1894.
Family Day of the family von Kleist

attendance list

von Kleist 1. Graf-Zützen;
von Kleist 2. Graf-Schmenzin;
3. Infantry General, Ewald von Kleist, Excellence in Potsdam;
von Kleist 4. Chef de cuisine à-Retzow Groß-Tychow à à;
5. Lieutenant General Carl von Kleist in Berlin;
von Kleist 6. Colonel in Gebersdorf;
7. Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist in Frankfurt a/O;
8. Thassilo Kleist from Bornstedt to Hohenauen;
cavalry-captain von Kleist 9. à - Large Dubberow;
von Kleist 10. Deputies of the district of Drenow;
retired 11. Referendar Hans von Kleist-Retzow on Kieckow;
von Kleist 12th Fritz, Captain of the I. Guards Regiment;
13. Referendar Wolf von Kleist-Retzow;
14. Ewald von Kleist, Prem. Lieutenant, Graf Kleist;
15. Ewald von Kleist, Baron, Leutnant in IV. Guard Regiment z. F.;
16. Werner von Kleist, Leutnant in III. Guard Regiment z. F.;
17. Hans Joachim von Kleist, Leutnant in the Regiment Graf Kleist of Nollendorf

As deputy chairman, Mr. Graf Kleist-Zützen opened the meeting of the Family Day and welcomed the attendance.

Von Kleist The head and senior of the family, Chief Forester of Naumburg, was unfortunately prevented from attending due to discomfort, and had also announced his intention to resign from the chairmanship.

At the request of the board, he did not execute his resolution.

The assembled cousins took note with Freude that the honorable chairman also wants to submit to the labor administration of this office and ask the count Kleist-Zützen to convey the sincere thanks of the family to the chief forester for this.

The newly appointed commander of the Regiment Graf Kleist von Nollendorf, Colonel von Müttschefahl, has informed the chairman of his appointment. Unfortunately, Colonel von Müttschefahl is prevented from attending today's family dinner with Damen by official meetings.

The association "Klause" took over the maintenance of the monument Heinrich von Kleists in Wannsee and paid his

³⁰ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1894, pp. 11: The members of the family of Kleist are invited to this year's family day on the 24th of the month at 11 am in the Kaiserhof. Lunch will pay a visit at 5 a.m. with the participation of the Damen.**

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1894, pp. 31: The Family Day of the Family of Kleist does not pay a visit on the 24th, but on the 25th of the month. The meeting of the Board of Directors is on 24th morning at 12 noon.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1894, pp. 91: The lords of Kleist met on 25 BC in the Kaiserhofe for their annual family days. In the evening they joined their Damen to form the family table, which counted 38 places. The toast to Se. Majesty the Emperor was delivered by General z. D. v. Kleist (Potsdam); among others, General z. D. v. Kleist (Berlin), Count Kleist-Schmenzin with wife and Count Kleist-Zützen with wife were present.

thanks in writing to the family for the permission granted to him.

The gardens and the monument Ewald by Kleists in Frankfurt a/O. inside the family-donated grid left something to be desired in their entertainment. In Weise, which is worthy of thanks, Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist has undertaken the one-off refurbishment of this facility in Frankfurt a/O..

The gentlemen responsible for auditing the accounts, Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist von Kleist and District Deputies Drenow, requested that the petition accepted by their cousins be granted to the managing Count Kleist-Zützen Decharge.

As in the previous year, the stock of assets is 223200 m.

The list of persons entitled to vote in the House of Lords was changed so that the manor of Dimkuhlen was purchased by the Count of Kleist-Schmenzin in 1892.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Count Zützen. Von Kleist Count of Schmenzin

1895³¹ (handwritten)

Von Kleist Negotiated on the family day of the family,
Berlin, February 25, 1895.

Presence List:

- von Kleist 1. Count Zützen,
- von Kleist 2nd Count Schmenzin,
- von Kleist 3. Chef de cuisine à-Retzow,
- 4. General Victor von Kleist of Potsdam
- von Kleist 5. Major General Freiherr of Allenstein,
- von Kleist 6. Colonel Gebersdorf,
- 7. Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist,
- 8. Lieutenant Colonel Paul von Kleist,
- von Kleist Wend. 9. Dr. Graf Tychow,
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 10. à-Large Dubberow,
- von Kleist 11. Wusseken,
- 12. Lieutenant Colonel Leo von Kleist, Labehn,
- 13th Leutnant Robert von Kleist in the Fusilier Regiment No. 35,
- 14. Wolf von Kleist-Retzow, the trainee lawyer and Leutnant of the reserve,
- 15. Landrath Jürgen von Kleist, Retzow,
- 16. Joachim von Kleist, Leutnant in the Regiment of Count Kleist of Nollendorf,
- 17. Ewald von Kleist Freiherr, Leutnant in the 4th Guard regiment on foot.

Von Kleist As deputy chairman, Graf à-Zützen opens the meeting of the Family Day and welcomes the attendees.

1. It makes announcement of the passing of the young hopeful Leutnant Friedrich von Kleist in 19. Artillery regiment.

The Assembly honors his memory by elevating him from the seats.

2. The chairman and senior member of the OberForstmeister family had announced his intention to resign.

Von Kleist At the request of the Earl of Zützen, he decided to retain the chairmanship of the family.

With sincere Freude, the assembled cousins take note of this and thank the chief forester sincerely that he wants to remain chairman of the family in the future.

von Kleist 3. On 16 June, the chief forester celebrates his golden wedding. Man celebratin his jublee The assembly instructs the board to express the warm share in suitable Weise that the whole family takes in this feast.

³¹ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1895, p.91: The family's family day v.Kleist takes place on 25 February, 11 am, in the Kaiserhof pay a visit, the dinner with Damen 5 pm. Registrations are requested at the Kaiserhof.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1895, p.149: The lords of the old noble family of Kleist met on 25 February in the Kaiserhofe for their family day, whose negotiations led on behalf of the absent senior and senior forester of the Count of Kleist-Zützen. Present were, among others, the Count of Kleist-Schmenzin, the Hereditary Chef of Kleist-Retzow and the Major General Freiherr of Kleist. The Damen and the officers of the Grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf, as far as they are in Berlin, also participated in the ceremonial table.

4. The former commander of the regiment, Count Kleist of Nollendorf, has been appointed Brigade Commander and has said goodbye to the family in writing.

The new commander, Colonel of Blumenthal, has reported his appointment to the family; he was invited to attend the family dinner, but sadly canceled due to urgent obstruction.

5. The Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist had the gardens around the monument to the poet Ewald von Kleist in Frankfurt a/O. built in accordance with the decision of last year's Family Day.

The Magistrate of Frankfurt will be asked to have the grid around the monument renovated according to the statements he has submitted.

6. The Association of Comrades of the Kleist Regiment of Nollendorf has requested that it be granted a contribution from the family fund for the issue of a flag.

Since the family statute did not pay a visit such expenses, the request had to be rejected.

7. Termination of the 3 1/2% Pomeranian Pfandbriefe is expected to take place in the near future due to conversion of the 3% Pomeranian Pfandbriefe into 3% Pomeranian Pfandbriefe.

This would result in a very significant loss of interest for the family fund.

In order to prevent this, the assembly decided unanimously to sell the 3 1/2% covered bonds and to invest the proceeds in 3 1/2% pension bonds, but to insure them against a draw.

8. The invoice of the family fund was examined and discharge was granted after the lords responsible for the examination, Lieutenant Colonel Georg von Kleist von Kleist and Landrath Retzow, had applied for it.

Its assets amount to 223,500 m.

9. A large number of family associations have concluded agreements with the Karlsruhe General Pension Office on life assurance for members of the family.

The board of directors of the family is instructed to conclude an identical agreement with the company, which also has a bureau in Berlin, Friedrichstraße No. 208.

10. The list of persons entitled to vote in the House of Lords is supplemented to the effect that the manor of Labehn retired has come into the possession of the lieutenant colonel of Leo von Kleist.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Count Zützen. Von Kleist Count of Schmenzin

1896³²

The protocol is not available.

³² Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1896, pp.167: The members of the family of Kleist are invited to the family day scheduled for 21 March this year and to the luncheon with Damen in the afternoon at 5 a.m.

This year's Derer v. Kleist family day was held at the Kaiserhof. In the afternoon at 5 o'clock, the gentlemen united with their Damen for a dinner. The same was attended by Theil: Count v. Kleist-Zützen, Count v. Kleist-Schmenzin, Hereditary Chef v. Kleist-É, General of the Infantry v. Kleist from Potsdam, Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist Leutnant von Kleist and Groß-Tychow Freiherr. Garderegiment, Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist of the Great General Staff, Baron. Arthur v. Kleist-Keyserlingk-Gawesen in Kurland, Oberst Bogislaw v. Kleist-Gebersdorf, Hans Anton v. Kleist-Retzow (Kickow), Joachim v. Kleist-Chamissow, Referendar Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow, Landrath v. Kleist-Retzow, Égraf v. cavalry-captain-Kleist, Graf Dubberow v. Friedrich-Kleist and others with their Wendisch-Tychow Damen. Also present were two direct descendants of Count Kleist of Nollendorf, namely Mrs. v. Wulffen and Mrs. v. Eckardstein. The High on Se. Majesty the Emperor brought Count of Kleist-Zützen, the High to the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf (1st Westpreußisches) No. 6 of the General of the Infantry of Kleist.

Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung 22 March 1896 (2022)

1897³³

The protocol is not available.

³³ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1897 pp. 15:** The members of the family of Kleist are invited to the Kaiserhof on Saturday, January 30, 1897 at 11 am.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1897 pp. 99: The lords of the old noble family of Kleist met at noon on 30 January in the "Kaiserhof" for their family day, the negotiations of which were led by the Count of Kleist-Zützen. The Damen and Colonel Prittwitz, commander of the Infantry Regiment v. Kleist, also participated in the joint panel.

Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung, Abend-Ausgabe, 30 January 1897 p. 1, additional information: Among those published were the General of Infantry v. Kleist, Lieutenant General Freiherr v. Kleist, Colonel v. Kleist of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, etc.

1898³⁴

Negotiated Berlin, 22 January 1898,
on the family day of the von Kleist family

Present:

- von Kleist 1. Count Zützen,
- von Kleist 2nd Count Schmenzin,
- 3. General of Infantry v. Kleist from Potsdam,
- von Kleist Retzow-Groß-Tychow 4. Hereditary Chef
- retired von Kleist 5. Lieutenant-General from Görlitz,
- 6. Major General Victor von Kleist from Potsdam,
- von Kleist Wend. 7th graf Tychow,
- von Kleist 8. Colonel Gebersdorf,
- 9. Colonel Georg von Kleist in Berlin,
- 10. Colonel Paul von Kleist from Frankfurt am Main,
- 11. district von Kleist Deputies of Drenow,
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 12. Dubberow,
- 13th Prem. Von Kleist Lieut.-Nemitz,
- 14. Leutnant Joachim von Kleist- Klein Dubberow,
- 15. Leutnant in IV. Guard Regt. Ewald von Kleist Freiherr from Potsdam,
- 16. Government clerk Wolf von Kleist Retzow from Belgard.

Von Kleist After the session opened, the President, Count Zützen, first commemorated the family members who had fallen asleep in the past year.

Retired They are the Major General Ewald von Kleist in Cassel and the Landrath Jürgen von Kleist Retzow in Kieckow.

Both were outstanding men, who have accomplished important things in their sphere of influence, whose premature deaths are sincerely bemourned by the family.

The attendees honor the memory of the deceased by raising them from their places. - -

The chairman then reported on the extraordinary family day held on 8 April 1897 - the same had to be held because, in the view of the President of the Higher Regional Court, Dr. Karlbaum, in Stettin, the election of the board members would not have taken place according to the statutes. The result was that the nomination by the notary now resulted in the same members of the board of directors, in the same order as before.

In order to avoid the useless and costly extensions in the elections of board members in the future, the attendees decide to amend the family statute in order to eliminate the ambiguities of the latter. - -

³⁴ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1898, pp. 82: Die Herren v. Kleist trat am 22.d. M. (January) , at noon in the Kaiserhofe for their family day, which presided over negotiations as Count Kleist-Zützen. Among the members of the executive board present were the Count of Kleist-Schmenzin, the General of the Infantry Count of Kleist from Potsdam, the Hereditary Chef of Kleist-Retzow, Colonel Georg of Kleist, Lieutenant General of Kleist from Görlitz and Major General of Kleist from Potsdam. From the Infantry Regiment v.Kleist, the former commander Colonel v. Prittwitz and some other officers had appeared. In the evening, the lords and their Damen united for a meal of about 40 people.**

On 14 October 1897, the Graf Kleist von Nollendorf regiment celebrated its 125th anniversary. Von Kleist At the invitation of the regiment took part in the feast of theil: Count-Zützen von Kleist, Count-Schmenzin and Colonel Georg von Kleist, Abtheilungs... in the Great General Staff. The latter had written a prolog to the festive performance in the Posen City Theater, which was received with deserved, general applause.

The family dedicated six bowls of crystal to the regiment.

On the part of the regiment, the board members who appeared were received with quite extraordinary kindness.

She quite rightly expressed the cordial relationship between the regiment and the family. - -

The Karlsruhe "General Supply Institution" (life insurance) was warmly recommended to the cousins. - -

Von Kleist The construction of a monument to the dean of the cathedral, inventor of the Leyden'er Kleist bottle, has unfortunately proved to be unfeasible, but the family will take part in a memorial plaque to commemorate the same at the house he inhabited. Von Kleist About the life of the dean of the cathedral and the invention of the Kleistsche Flasche, Pastor Kypke has published a text which is sent to the members of the family, the ... etc.

It was decided to print a new status at the expense of the family and send it to the cousins.

This work has again been carried out in Weise von Kleist by the Colonel Gebersdorf, which deserves thanks. - -

Von Kleist For the audit of the annual accounts, the following Gentlemen: Excellence Freiherr à-Görlitz von Kleist and à- Kleist Dubberow requested. The latter examined the invoice and requested that the decharge be issued, which was accepted by those present. - -

Following last year's resolution, the Board of Directors was requested to again warn the defaulting payers of voluntary ... contributions, including by registered letters.

If, contrary to expectations, this should also not succeed by 1 July of the year, the Executive Board is authorized to write down the contributions outstanding until 1896. - -

In the future, family days will not begin until 12 noon, according to the decision of the assembly.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Count - Zützen. Von Kleist Count of Schmenzin

1899³⁵ (handwritten)

Negotiated, Berlin, January 21, 1899
on the family day of the family of Kleist.

Present:

1. von Kleist Count Zützen,
- 2 von Kleist Count Schmenzin,
3. von Kleist Infantry General in Potsdam,
- 4 von Kleist Chef de cuisine à-Retzow Groß-Tychow,
5. Colonel Friedrich Georg von Kleist, Langfuhr, near Danzig,
6. Major General z.D. Victor von Kleist in Potsdam,
7. Colonel Paul von Kleist-Frankfurt a/O.,
8. von Kleist Wusseken,
9. retired von Kleist Lieutenant Colonel, Labehn,
10. retired von Kleist Colonel Gebersdorf,
11. cavalry-captain von Kleist Large Dubberow,
12. von Kleist Wend. Graf à-Tychow,
13. von Kleist Nemitz,
14. Hans Anton von Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
15. Wolf von Kleist-Retzow, Landrath in Belgard,
16. Leutnant Ewald Freiherr v. Kleist in Hanover,
17. Curt von Kleist-Kanisov,
18. von Kleist Captain Fritz in Berlin.

Von Kleist After the sitting was opened, the chairman, Mr Graf-Zützen, gave a statement on the changes in the family's staff resulting from deaths and childbirth.

The electoral list for the House of Lords remained unchanged this year.

The "Allgemeine Versorgungsanstalt zu Karlsruhe" is warmly recommended to cousins for use for life insurance.

The commander of the grenadier regiment, Count Kleist of Nollendorf, has been invited to today's family dinner and has promised to come.

The Premier Leutnant Hermann von Kleist is promoted from this regiment to captain and company commander;

³⁵ **Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1898, pp.845:** The Kleistsche Familientag takes place on Saturday, January 21, 1899, noon noon, the dinner with Damen afternoon at 6 pm in the "Kaiserhofe" pay a visit. Registrations for this will be requested in good time from the "Kaiserhof" directorate.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1899, p.77: The Lords of Kleist met at noon on 21 January in the "Kaiserhofe" for their family days. The negotiations were led by Count Kleist-Zützen. Present were Count Kleist-Schmenzin, the General of the Infantry of Kleist, the Hereditary Chef of Kleist Groß-Tychow, Count Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow, the Colonel of Kleist, commander of the 36th. Cavalry Brigade, the Colonel v.Kleist, Commander of the Leib-grenadier Regiment King Friedrich Wilhelm III and others. The ceremonial plaque, which numbered about 40, was attended by the Damen and the commander of the grenadier Regiment Kleist of Nollendorf, Colonel v. Kameke.

In 1899, a new personnel directory was issued without a foreword.

https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1899.pdf

Joachim von Kleist von Kleist, son of the lieutenant colonel, formerly in Wahlstatt, joined the regiment as a standard-bearer.

Von Kleist On 10 December 1898, exactly 150 years after the death of the dean of the cathedral in Cammin, the unveiling of the plaque for the same pay a visit took place there. The ceremony was attended by the inhabitants of Cammin. The same ones keep a grateful memento to the inventor of the Kleist electric bottle - incorrectly called Leydener bottle.

In grateful Weise, Mr. Landrath of Massow, at whose house (the former deanery...) the plaque is attached, Mr. superintendent Zietlow and Mr. Mayor Stipanski had prepared the celebration and participated in it. On behalf of the chairman, Count of Zützen, they lived with the Major of Retzow (Greater Tychow), Joachim (Klein von Kleist) and Count of von Kleist (von Kleist) as representatives of the family of Dubberow Kleist Schmenzin Kleist.

Von Kleist A great merit, not only for the affixing of the plaque, but also for the revival and the most possible dissemination of the memory of the great invention by a man, has earned the pastor Kypke. The board of directors is instructed to express warm thanks and recognition of the family.

Since Pastor Kypke, however, in addition to much effort and great effort, also had considerable expenses, he is granted 100 M. It is also decided that, in addition to the plaque above it, the Kleist coat-of-arms, also made of dark Swedish granite, will be placed. The Executive Board is instructed to carry out this decision and is granted the costs, the amount of which is not yet known, already today.

Some insignificant remnants of contributions to the family fund were struck down.

At last year's Family Day on 22 January 1898, it was unanimously decided, for the reasons stated in the relevant minutes, to amend the Staff Regulations in order to avoid unnecessary extensions in the case of elections for members or deputies of the Executive Board. All the family members were therefore aware of our subject of today's meeting. The following amendment to the Staff Regulations, confirmed on 16 May 1859 by Allerhöchst, was unanimously adopted in its § 5:

In future, the beginning of Section 5 shall be replaced by the following:

§ 5.

A family board is elected, consisting of the members and two deputies. This election, and that of any resigned board members or deputies, is made on a family day by notarial or judicial negotiation.

It should also be pay a visit von Kleist to elect non-resident members of the family to the board.

The convening of ordinary family days (paragraph six of the Statute of 16 May 1859, which was confirmed by the highest authority), or of extraordinary days (paragraph seven of the same Statute), shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the same paragraph 7.

The board elects u.s.w.

Von Kleist The decision will be implemented by the chairman, Mr Graf-Zützen. - -

Of the stem tables, the No III is no longer present. It is decided to have 100 copies of the whole master tables reprinted into the modern era after supplementing them. The Colonel Gebersdorf has taken over the task of completing the supplement in Weise von Kleist, which deserves our gratitude.

As soon as the above-mentioned amendment to the statutes has received the highest approval, the reprinting of the statutes will take place in 200 copies.

The Executive Board is awarded a discharge per 1898 for the invoice.

The family fortune at 1 January 1897 was: M. 243726,60,

1 January 1898: " 241732,60.

It had grown by M. 1994,00

The presentation of the overall situation of the family assets was followed by an in-depth discussion on the management of the family fund. All sides of the previous administration were recognized as impeccably grateful. - -

It was pointed out, however, that we could expect a fall in the interest rate, similar to what happened in England and Frankreich. However, the drop in the interest rate and the conversions caused by it would reduce the income of the family fund.

There is therefore an urgent need for austerity in expenditure and appropriations, so that perhaps greater savings than this year's would be achieved.

This was universally recognized as being right, especially since it was not intended to change the previous degenerate of statutory authorizations. By raising a little more capital, any shortfall in interest income could be compensated for, at least in some respects, and for this, efforts should be made in the management of the family fund.

Von Kleist By way of exception, the board of directors has granted a one-off grant of 150 M. to a widow, born, who had married a gentleman of a different name, for which the board is also granted discharge by the Family Day.

Von Kleist Count Zützen. Von Kleist Count of Schmenzin

1900³⁶ (handwritten)

Negotiated, Berlin, January 23, 1900
on the family day of the family of Kleist.

Present:

1. von Kleist Count Zützen,
2. von Kleist Count Schmenzin,
3. von Kleist. Infantry General in Potsdam,
4. von Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow,
5. Lieutenant General Freiherr v. Kleist in Görlitz,
6. von Kleist Lieutenant-General Berlin,
7. Major General Georg v. Kleist-Danzig,
8. Major General Victor v. Kleist-Potsdam,
9. Colonel Paul von Kleist-Frankfurt a/O.
10. von Kleist Colonel Gebersdorf,
11. von Kleist Wend. Graf à-Tychow,
12. von Kleist Landrath-Retzow in Belgard,
13. Captain Ewald v. Kleist Berlin,
14. Hans Anton v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
15. Captain Fritz v. Kleist Berlin,
16. Hans Joachim v. Kleist-Klein Dubberow,
17. Oberleutnant Ewald von Kleist Freiherr in Hanover,
18. Kurt von Kleist-Kamissow.

Von Kleist After the session was opened, the President, Count of Zützen, made a statement on the changes which had occurred in the family's staff as a result of deaths, childbirth and engagements.

Personnel changes:

a. Deaths:

1. Colonel. Hermann v. Kleist-Fürstenwalde.
2. Frln. Alice von Kleist-Hohenauen.

b. Births:

1. Son of Ewald, Captain Conrad von Kleist, in Darmstadt,
von Kleist 2nd son: à-Hohenauen,
cavalry-captain 3rd daughter of Hans von Kleist in Lyck;
4th daughter Vera: Hans Joachim von Kleist-Klein Dubberow.

³⁶ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1899, pp.870: The Kleistsche Familientag takes place on Tuesday, January 23, 1900, noon at 12 noon, the dinnerer at 6 am in the Kaiserhofe pay a visit.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1900 pp. 64: In the Kaiserhof the lords of Kleist met on the 28th of the month (January). The meeting was chaired by Count Kleist-Zützen; the hereditary kitchen master of Kleist-Retzow, General of the Infantry of Kleist from Potsdam, Count Kleist-Schmenzin, General of Leutnant Baron of Kleist from Görlitz, General of Kleist from Danzig, Count of Kleist Wendisch from Tychow and many younger cousins. Towards evening a dinner with Damen was paid a visit, which included a delegation from the grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist with Colonel v. Kameke at its head.

c. Engages:

Von Kleist Lieutenant Fritz's Retzow with Miss Valeska of Blumenthal.

The electoral list for the manor house remains unchanged this year.

The change to the family statute decided on last year has been approved by the highest authorities, which is indicated to the Family Day.

The monument to those who died in the wars of 1866 and 1870 of the Kleist of Nollendorf regiment was unveiled on 6 August 1899. At the invitation of the regiment, representatives of the celebration at:

Von Kleist Graf-Zützen,

Cavalry-captain von Kleist Groß-Dubberow à-à,

Hans Joachim von Kleist-Kleist-Dubberow,

The commander of the regiment, together with Mrs. Gemahlin, are invited to this year's family day; Mr. Colonel of Kamecke had promised to appear.

Insurance at the General Welfare Institution in Karlsruhe is highly recommended to the family, especially as the family fund also benefits from it.

Von Kleist It was decided to place the coat-of-arms of the family in the same Weise as the plaque above the plaque unveiled for the dean of the cathedral in Cammin in 1898, following the pattern of the coat-of-arms of Count Kleist-Zützen.

The following request has been made by Major General Georg von Kleist-Danzig and the reasons given are as follows:

"Since a later period will certainly begin to take the continuation of the family's history and the subsequent procurement of material has experienced great difficulties, the family decides to continue to collect biographical notes about the members.

For this purpose, it will be necessary, first and foremost, to establish and record in writing the important aspects of the family and history of each departure of a cousin. Von Kleist The representative of our history commission, Colonel Gebersdorf, is ready to receive any communication in this regard."

This request was adopted unanimously.

The family fortune was:

on 31 December 1897 246109,60 marks,

on 31 December 1898 ... 243726,60 marks,

thus, growth 2383.00 marks.

The family gave the Executive Board the charge for asset management.

At the request of Hans Joachim von Kleist-Klein Dubberow, it was decided that family day would normally be held in mid-February, followed by the agricultural week.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Count Zützen. Von Kleist Count Schmenzin.

1901³⁷ (handwritten)

Negotiated, Berlin on 5 February 1901
von Kleist on the family's family day

Present:

1. von Kleist Count Zützen.
2. Excellency General of the Infantry of Kleist.
3. von Kleist Hereditary Chef of Retzow.
4. von Kleist 4. Major General Danzig.
5. Major General Paul Ewald von Kleist.
6. Major General Victor of Kleist-Potsdam.
7. von Kleist 7. Colonel Gebersdorf.
8. von Kleist Wend. graf Tychow.
9. cavalry-captain von Kleist Large Dubberow.
10. Joachim von Kleist-Kleist Dubberow.
11. Curt von Kleist-Kamissow.
12. Lieutenant Colonel of Kleist-Labehn.
13. von Kleist Landrath-Retzow-Belgard.
14. Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow-Damen.
15. Georg von Kleist-Nemitz.
16. retired Captain, Ewald v. Kleist Berlin.
17. Lieutenant Colonel Ewald v. Kleist-Potsdam.
18. Lieutenant Oswald von Kleist Stargard.
19. Leutnant Rudolf von Kleist-Stargard.
20. Hans Anton von Kleist Retzow Kieckow.
21. Bernhard von Kleist-Drenow.

Personnel changes:

a daughter was born to Captain Conrad von Kleist in Darmstadt.

Deaths:

1. Count Conrad von Kleist-Schmenzin.
2. Count Hermann Kleist of Nollendorf, the last of his name.
3. Ms. Main Customs Assistant Wedig von Kleist, Elisabeth born Baumann.³⁸

³⁷ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1901, p.31: Kleist'sche Familientag will pay a visit on Berlin at 12 ½ noon on 5 February this year at the Kaiserhof, the communal meal at 6 o'clock there, where the registrations are to be directed.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1901, pp.102: Under the chairmanship of the Count of Kleist-Zützen, the lords of the old noble family of Kleist met for their family days on 5 February at noon. Among those present were the General of Infantry v.Kleist in Potsdam, the Hereditary Chef v.Kleist-Retzow on Gross Tychow, the Major General v.Kleist in Potsdam, Breslau and Danzig, the Minister-Resident Chamberlain Count v.Kleist on Wendisch-Tychow and the Messrs v. Kleist on Gebersdorf, Drenow, Groß Dubberow, Labehn and others, of which a large part belongs to the Deutschen Adelsgenossenschaft. At 6 a.m., the lords and their Damen united to form a banquet table of about 50 seats, in which the commander of the regiment, Count Kleist of Nollendorf, also took part.

³⁸ Prescribed. Really Borrmann. (2020)

4. Mrs Emma von Kleist born from Wuthenow to Kolberg.

Engagements and Marriages

1. Friedrich von Kleist-Retzow-Damen married to Valeska from Blumenthal from Staffelde.
- von Kleist 2. Edith à aus dem Haus Kleist Dubberow married Oscar of Sydow-Bychow.
3. Werner von Kleist (Drenow) married to Lilly Gutheil born Müller.

Von Kleist The chairman, Graf-Zützen, welcomes the cousins and first gives notice of the deaths, births and other changes in the personal circumstances of the family.

He pays special tribute to the grievous and irreplaceable loss suffered by the family following the death of his cousin, Count Conrad von Kleist-Schmenzin, and pays him warm words of gratitude.

When Count Hermann Kleist of Nollendorf died, this prominent name in the family disappeared, but through the grace of the Sr. Majesty of King in the Regiment of Count Kleist will live on to emulate the later families.

Von Kleist This was followed by the election of a new board member, for which purpose the Erbküchen-meister à-Retzow cavalry-captain retired was appointed by acclamation. The selection of a second deputy resulted in the à Hermann von Kleist à Groß Dubberow.

The grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist has received a new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Freiherr von Massenbach, who will attend today's dinner.

The Karlsruher general supply institution has paid 43.65 m and is ... recommended.

The affixing of the coat-of-arms von Kleist to the commemorative plaque for the cathedral dean in Cammin was done in accordance with the resolutions of last year's Family Day.

The electoral list for the manor house remains unchanged until the ownership of Count Wilhelm von Kleist-Schmenzin is settled.

The family fortune was:

on 31 December 1899246,109,60 m.

on 31 December 1900251,226,60 m.

Hence increase 5111.00 m.

The family issued a decharge after the accounts had been audited by two members.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Count Zützen. Georg von Kleist

1902³⁹ (handwritten)

Gather, Berlin on the 1st. March 1902,
von Kleist on the family day.

Present:

- von Kleist 1. Count Zützen,
- 2. General of the Infantry of Kleist,
- 3. Erbküchenmeister v. Kleist-Retzow,
- von Kleist 4. Major General of Königsberg,
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 5. à-Large Dubberow,
- von Kleist 6. Colonel Gebersdorf,
- von Kleist 7. Major General of Potsdam,
- 8. Georg von Kleist-Nemitz,
- 9. Leopold von Kleist-Labehn,
- 10. Captain Ewald v. Kleist Berlin,
- 11. Captain Hermann v. Kleist-Posen,
- 12. Captain Robert von Kleist Brandenburg,
- 13. Captain Conrad v. Kleist-Potsdam,
- 14. Joachim von Kleist-Klein Dubberow,
- 15. Oberleutnant Ewald Freiherr v. Kleist-Potsdam,
- von Kleist 16. Landrath-Retzow-Belgard,
- von Kleist 17. Fritz-Retzow-Damen,
- 18. Hans von Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
- 19. Karl von Kleist.

The Chairman welcomed the cousins who had appeared and made the following announcements:

I. Personnel changes:

Have died:

- 1. Baroness Caroline von Kleist, born baroness Dellinghausen, in Kurland;
- 2. Valentin von Kleist Customs Administrator, in Dänemark;
- 3. Baroness Aline von Kleist, in Naumburg.

Marriage:

³⁹ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1902, pp. 62: On Saturday, 1 March 1902, noon 12 ½ o'clock, the v. Kleist family day takes place, the communal meal at 6 o'clock in the evening in the Kaiserhofe pay a visit. Registrations for this will be requested in good time from the management of the imperial court.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1902, pp.159: On 28 February, the family days of those from Kleist and Krosigk were paid a visit in the Kaiserhof.

Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung 2 March 1902, p. 2: Under the chairmanship of Count Leopold v. Kleist-Zützen, the belongin to an earl, liberal and noble families of Kleist held their family day at the Hotel Kaiserhof at noon today. Von Kleist The General of the Infantry, Chief of the Infantry Regiment, Count Dönhoff, the Chief Chef of the Infantry of Kleist Groß-Tychow, the Inspector of the 1st Infantry Division, were present. Cavalry Inspectorate Major General v. Kleist from Königsberg, Colonel v. Kleist-Gebersdorf, Mr. v. Kleist-Nemitz, à v. Kleist-à, the captains v. cavalry-captain from the Grenadier Regiment No. 6 and Fusilier Regiment No. 35 and others. In the evening at 6 o'clock a dinner with Groß-Dubberow Kleist will be held, in which a delegation of officers from the Grenadier Regiment Count Damen of pay a visit Kleist Nollendorf will also take part.

Customs assistant Wedig von Kleist with Miss Frieda Heumann from Reinbeck in Holstein.

Born:

On February 27, 1901, his cousin Fritz had a daughter in Damen, Astrid, Helene.

II. Anniversaries:

1. On 12 August 1901, the General of the Infantry of Ewald von Kleist celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of service and was congratulated by the President on behalf of the family.

von Kleist 2. In the past year, a freelancer celebrated her eightieth birthday and was therefore given an honorary award.

III. Honorary Council matters:

1. At a meeting of the Honorary Council yesterday, a decision was taken to propose to the Familientage that Bruno von Kleist, a resident of Neu-Weißensee - hitherto a clerk - be declared losing of all family rights, since he was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for burglary by cognition on 19 May 1901. Family Day unanimously approves this proposal. The chairman will seek the confirmation of His Majesty the King. The Executive Board is granted the authorization to use the pp. Bruno von Kleist to change its name in return for appropriate compensation.

2. A new election shall be held for the Honorary Council, which could only be completed yesterday by a deputy, since at present it consists only of the General of the Infantry of Ewald and the Major General Victor. Von Kleist The Executive Board proposes that the current Deputy, Major Retzow (Greater Tychow cavalry-captain von Kleist) be elected as a member and Major Dubberow as a Deputy. It is advisable to appoint members of the board of directors, as their association requires the least amount of circumstances. Those named shall be elected unanimously by acclamation.

IV grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist of Nollendorf:

1. The regiment commander, Colonel of Massenbach has announced that Se. Majesty the Emperor on September 16, 1901, at the Parade Days in Danzig, awarded the bust of the Field Marshal, Count Kleist to the regiment.

2. Colonel of Massenbach has also congratulated the Board on New Year's Day, which has been repaid by the Chairman, on behalf of the family. The Colonel will be a guest at today's family dinner.

3. At the request of the Monument Committee, the family contributed 300 marks to the monument, which was erected on the battlefield of Wörth on 16 August 1901 to honor the fallen of the regiment. Maj. Alfred von Kleist à St. Avold had taken over the representation of the family at the celebration.

V. Lehns-Affairs:

Cousin Hans von Kleist wishes to communicate with those cousins of fiefdoms who are the next Agnatas for Ruschitz. In the interests of the family, the gentlemen concerned are requested to comply with the wishes of the cousin Hans.

VI. Family history:

1. Mrs Mathilde, born of Gellhorn von Kleist, presents to Otto von Kleist, through her son, a life-plan written by her of her deceased father, our former highly revered honorary chairman, the chief forester. The family expresses their special thanks for this contribution to the family history, which will also hold the memory of one of their best for the future.

2. At his request, a copy of the family's history was given to Paul Hoffmann in Frankfurt am Main, which he intends to use for a paper on Heinrich von Kleist.

VII. Karlsruher Allgemeine Versicherungsanstalt:

The institution paid M. 28.21 in the past financial year and is reminded of this in accordance with the contract.

VIII Manor House:

Count Wilhelm joined the family members entitled to vote in the manor house after he came into the possession of Werrhau and Mehlsdorf. Similarly, Cousin Joachim von Kleist-Kleist Dubberow became eligible to vote for Natztow and Curt von Kleist for Kamissow.

IX. Accounting and decharge:

Balance at 31 December 1900: M. 251200,60.

" 31 December 1901: M. 254210,00.

Hence growth M. 2989,40.

In consideration of this favorable asset, the Board of Management paid the Adelsgenossenschaft a one-time payment of 300 marks as a result of a suggestion from its page.

As a result, the family has become a permanent member of the noble cooperative with one voice. Von Kleist The Board of Directors has taken this step, firstly to support the good cause, secondly because the Noble Cooperative already makes payments to members of the family and thirdly to create a legal title, on the basis of which further demands can be made on the cooperative if necessary. The Executive Board requests that decharge be granted, which is done after two cousins have checked the annual accounts.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Graf-Zützen and 18 other signatures

1903

The protocol is not available.

1904⁴⁰

The protocol is not available.

1905⁴¹

The protocol is not available.

1906⁴²

The protocol is not available.

1907

The protocol is not available.

⁴⁰ Deutsches von Kleist Adelsblatt 1904, p.44: This year's Family Day will take place on Thursday, February 11, 1904, noon 12 ½ o'clock, the common dinner in the evening at 6 o'clock in the Kaiserhofe pay a visit. Registrations for the latter are requested in good time from the management of the Kaiserhof.

Count of Kleist-Zützen

⁴¹ The belongin to an earl, liberal and noble families of Kleist held their family day at the Hotel Kaiserhof yesterday under the chairmanship of Leopold v. Kleist-Zützen retired, Majors and member of the manor house. They had appeared: the General of the Infantry Ewald v. Kleist from Potsdam, Lieutenant General v. Kleist, Commander of the 38th Division in Erfurt, the Lieutenants General z. D. v. Kleist from Berlin and from Görlitz, v. Kleist-Retzow, Colonel z. D. v. Kleist-Gebersdorf, the Chief of the General Staff of the 17th Army Corps, Lieutenant Colonel v. Kleist from Danzig, the district deputy and member of the Chamber of Deputies v. Kleist-Drenow and others found a dinner with Damen pay a visit in which 40 family members participated. Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 12 February 1905, pp. 3. (2021)

⁴² Deutsches von Kleist Adelsblatt 1906 p.20: The 'family day' takes place on 14 February in "Kaiserhof" on Berlin, 12 noon, pay a visit, the communal dinner 6 pm.

Deutsches von Kleist Adelsblatt 1906 p.116: On 14 February, the family of Weise celebrated their family day by consulting and later sharing a table with Damen on Berlin in the "Hotel Kaiserhof". It was found that the Kurdish cousins (one counts about 40 males of Kleist in Kurland) were relatively easily affected by the unrest in the Baltic provinces of Rußlands and were mostly able to stay in their homeland.

Some families who had to flee found refuge on Kleistsche estates.

A special support fund has also been set up.

Von Kleist Among those present were: the General of the Infantry of Potsdam, Chief of the Infantry Regiment Count Dönhoff von Kleist, the Hereditary Chef of Pomerania Major of Retzow on Gross -Tychow, the "Hermann", the "Generalleutnants", "cavalry-captain", "von Kleist" and "Groß-Dubberow", Minister-Resident Graf von Kleist-Berlin, Colonel "von Kleist Görlitz von Kleist Potsdam von Kleist Erfurt Kleist Tychow von Kleist Gebersdorf". The lunchtime table, which was held with a large number of participants, was attended by the family of the Count of Osten-Jannowitz, the Lieutenant General and Chief Quartermaster Freiherr von Gayl and the Major General of Dittmar-Potsdam

The celebration of His Majesty the Emperor and King von Kleist was expressed by the Chairman of the Board, Count-Zützen.

1908⁴³

The minutes are not available, but the following report distributed on the family day and a photo of the participants.

⁴³ Cross newspaper 1908: This year's family day of the v. Kleist family association, on which a replacement election to the board of directors will be necessary, will be paid a visit, as already decided in the previous years, on 10 March in the Kaiserhof. Further announcements will follow. Berlin, February 5, 1908.

Chairman G. v. Kleist, General der Kav.

Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1908 pp. 175: To celebrate the 50th anniversary of their family association, 36 members of the von Kleistschen family met in the "Kaiserhof" on Wednesday, 11 March.

Due to illness, unfortunately, a larger number of resident cousins were prevented from appearing. Participants included the proprietors of,,, Drenow, Labehn, Gebersdorf, Wusseken, Kieckow, Kleist-Groß-Tychow, Groß-Dubberow, Dubberow, Nemitz and Kamissow(Jeseritz), among them the hereditary culinary master, Gawesen, the district deputies Kurland and Colonel von Kleist, and the lieutenants-general Retzow Freiherr, Bernhard and von Kleist Leopold von Kleist Karl von Kleist Viktor von Kleist Paul von Kleist.

The worthy senior of the family, General of the Ewald von Kleist Infantry from Potsdam, was prevented from appearing due to illness. The family was delighted by an extremely gracious telegram received from His Majesty the Emperor in response to their written homage.

The increasing volume of business and asset management, as well as the special appreciation of the day, required a long business session.

Von Kleist At the suggestion of the newly appointed treasurer, the Retzow Regional Council in Belgard, it was decided to set up a new fund in addition to the existing family fund, which would benefit only the daughters of the family. Through this decision, the feast day received its special consecration. The dinner with Damen that followed in the evening brought together 60 participants, including the Colonel of Dittfurth, commander of the Kleist grenadier Regiment of Nollendorf. The celebration of His Majesty the Emperor, which was expressed after reading his telegram by the presiding officer, General of the cavalry von Kleist, met with enthusiastic response.

Short messages

from the

past 50 years of

v. Kleist- Family history

Berlin

Printed in the Royal Book Printing House by E. S. Mittler & son

By Supreme Cabinet Order of July 20, 1857, the family was granted the right of presentation to the House of Lords. This prompted the leading men, among them Kleist-Retzow, who was then in the position of Oberpräsident of the Rhine Province, to proceed with the founding of a family association and to draft the first statutes. This took place on March 9, 1858. On the following day the family was granted the privilege to appear before their King and to render personally their thanks for the gracious trust bestowed.

The first statutes established chiefly in what manner the election to the House of Lords was to take place, and they were signed by 27 cousins who were present. It was further resolved therein to hold annually a family day and to impose upon each member entitled to vote, that is, each landowning cousin, the payment of a contribution of 25 talers annually. Thus the beginning of the formation of a family fund was made, although it was only ten years later that legally valid regulations regarding its administration were issued.

A distressing incident within the family gave occasion in the year 1866 to form a court of honor and, by Supreme confirmation, to confer upon it the right to admonish family members for dishonorable conduct or to exclude them permanently or temporarily from the rights to which they were entitled under the family statutes.

In the year 1868 it proved necessary to issue special statutes for the administration of the family property. Up to that time 10,500 talers had been collected through the annual contributions. To this had been added 1,000 talers which the Wirklicher Geheimer Rat v. Kleist had transferred to the family in shares of the charitable building society for usufruct. On June 18, 1868, the important resolution was passed to unite the sums of allodification, becoming liquid through the abolition of the old Pomeranian fiefs, with the existing family fund into a foundation in the interest of the entire family. Thus considerable means accrued to the fund. For Poberow, Zarnekow, Schmenzin, Raddatz and appurtenances, Nassenglienke, Mandelatzke, Kiefheide, Bramstedt, Klingbeck, Kl. Dubberow, Siedkow, compensation payments amounting to 62,645 marks have been verified. Only by this resolution did the property reach such a height as to make it possible to meet the various purposes of the fund, though at first only within modest bounds. These included, in addition to support for widows and daughters and assistance for the proper upbringing of sons of the family, the publication of a family history then resolved upon, without which no inner cohesion in a family can be formed. The principal promoter of this meritorious work was the indefatigable chairman. But the other members of the historical commission appointed for this purpose also had to expend much effort on the production of the work, for the editors changed twice. Begun by Superintendent Quandt, continued by Archivist Kratz, it was only Pastor Kypke who was able to bring it to completion and who accomplished by far the greatest part of the work, especially in the biographical sections. A greater number of biographies were prepared by sons and nephews; the life sketch of Field Marshal Count Kleist von Nollendorf by then Rittmeister and present chairman Georg. Thus the work has not acquired a completely uniform character and is, in general, more a source work than a history, yet of the greatest value not only to the family. Apart from all the ideal purposes which it promotes, it is an inexhaustible and hitherto also completely inexhausted source for further research in the various fields of our family history. We will only mention as an example that here all the material has been assembled to extract from it a history of the movement of landed property in the Kleist family and in Hinterpommern generally. Furthermore, only through the family history were we able to establish that the tradition concerning the large number of Kleists fallen in the Seven Years' War is no legend. It has been established that 116 Kleists fought side by side and in succession in the three Silesian wars, and that 30 of them remained on the battlefield or died of wounds and sickness. The family was more numerous in the 18th century than in subsequent times. Wars and the hardships of war then prevented many from establishing a household, and Frederick the Great, as is well known, did not at all favor the marriages of his officers. Thus today the family can only account for 110 male members in Prussia.

In 1806/07 there still stood about 40 in the field, among them five Russian cousins. The fate of captivity befell 13, apparently only two fell. Four Orders pour le mérite were won.

Eighteen of the above demonstrably took part in the Wars of Liberation, in which in all 29 Prussian and six Russian, two Saxon and one Bavarian Kleist stood in the field against Napoleon. Six Prussians and one Russian fell. Seventeen Iron Crosses, including three of the First Class, were won by the Prussians, some of whom went to the field at the age of 16, one even at 14. Of the Russians three Orders pour le mérite were won, one by a Gawesener, who was already captain at 17 years of age.

Against Austria in 1866, 28 cousins fought, of whom none fell, only two were severely wounded. Nine decorations, including one pour le mérite, were won. These reports too were provided us only by the family history.

In the Franco-German War, 26 Kleists participated, of whom only one was struck down by a bullet. Eighteen Iron Crosses, of which two were of the First Class, were won. In voluntary nursing service four cousins were active and most of them returned home also with the Iron Cross on the white ribbon. The number of participants in the more recent wars has thus been considerably smaller than in the time of Frederick, yet the joy of the military craft still flows in the blood of the family. Thus three Kleists went to China, and in Africa even five fought and distinguished themselves.

The family history was completed in the year 1887, thus having required nearly 20 years for its preparation. The costs amounted to 5,326 marks including honoraria. Its continuation in a worthy manner will only be possible if the several branches collect biographical material on their deceased, for which purpose earnest entreaty is made.

Alongside the family history, the personnel register, reissued from time to time in revised form, contributed much to bringing the members of the family closer to one another, and has now already become an indispensable reference work. For 25 years its preparation has been in the hands of Colonel v. Kleist-Gebersdorf, who by his constant activity in this field has earned the gratitude of the family.

Relations were maintained with the Russian cousins, who in part also contributed to the payments. One of them, Landmarschall Constantin, presented in the year 1871 a pair of valuable pistols and a silver goblet, which he had once received himself from the Borussia in Bonn as senior of that fraternity. He determined that at every family day a toast to the health of the King should be drunk from this goblet. Another goblet was bequeathed to the family by General of the Infantry v. Kleist, who died in the year 1867 immediately after the family day. He himself had once received the goblet as a gift from the family on the occasion of his 50-year jubilee.

Our Russian branch too has spread considerably. At present we count about 50 male Baltic Kleists. About ten estates are in their possession. The greater number of the cousins, however, have accepted positions in the state service. When two years ago the revolution in Courland made residence on most estates and even in some towns impossible, several families had to seek refuge in Germany. Some found shelter on Kleist estates.

Also in Denmark a branch of the family has spread, but at present stands only in very loose connection with us. From this Danish branch descends a Kleist who, as Countess Danneskjold-Samsøe, belongs to the ancestral line of Her Majesty the Empress.

According to the resolutions of the family day of 1868, the family fund was to be administered by the board, consisting of three members and two deputies, as a curatorium. The actual management of affairs lay with the chairman alone, to whom, now at his request in view of the extent of the property, a treasurer from among the board members is to be added. In that important period of the development of the family constitution, the board consisted, alongside the Oberpräsident, of Major General Ferdinand v. Kleist (later Lieutenant General and commander of the 15th Division, then Governor of Cologne, who died in 1867 as General of Infantry in Berlin), of District

Administrator v. Kleist-Collochau, of District Administrator Anton v. Kleist-Nemitz, and of the chamberlain, later Count Ewald v. Kleist-Wendisch Tychow; and since General v. Kleist retired in the year 1865, of District Administrator Count v. Kleist-Tschernowitz.

It is striking that even in the new statute a duty of contribution on the part of the non-landowning family members was not expressed, as it otherwise exists in all families, although non-landowning members were also admitted to the benefit of the foundation. On the other hand, the contribution duty of the landowners was to cease as soon as 50,000 talers had been collected. When this goal was reached, it was resolved that payments in the amount of 15–75 marks should continue to be made. From now on, non-landowning members also took part in these voluntary contributions. In the year 1893, a request was made to increase the voluntary contributions, which was done by some cousins up to 150 marks. No compulsory contribution exists at present either.

The family property will soon reach the sum of 300,000 marks, to which friendly donors from the family have also contributed. In his testament of April 9, 1788 / February 20, 1792, Captain Bogislav Heinrich v. Kleist had stipulated that 12,000 marks, entered upon Raddatz, should form a v. Kleist-Raddatz fideicommiss with the proviso that if the former Raddatz fiefs were to be alienated outside the family, the interest on these 12,000 marks should be paid to the senior of the v. Kleist family at the time. As a condition it was stipulated that the beneficiary must reside in the Prussian state or at least be in Prussian service. By this farsighted provision, at least 12,000 marks of the great Raddatz property were preserved for the family, for in the year 1878 the estates were sold outside the family. Since then the interest has benefited a family member. The capital was paid out, invested in 3½% Posen annuities, and united with the family fund, which since 1888 has been deposited with the Cur- and Neumark knighthood loan bank. Doubts had arisen whether the former rate of interest of 4% could thereby be maintained permanently by the family making up any difference from its assets. The family day of March 21, 1896 unanimously declared that such an obligation was not to be regarded as existing. Present beneficiary of the seniorate is General of Infantry Ewald v. Kleist at Potsdam.

Lieutenant Colonel Heinrich v. Kleist, who died in Düsseldorf in 1879, for a time senior of the family, bequeathed to the family a legacy of about 25,000 marks, the interest of which is now to be paid only half to his son, but after his decease to remain with the family. Through this donation, which testifies to a high family spirit, the family property was also increased by a considerable sum.

A useful agreement was concluded by the board with the Karlsruhe Life Insurance on March 18, 1895, under the obligation not to enter into connection with other companies as long as the contract lasted. The company granted in return the following advantages:

1. Preparation of documents free of charge.
2. Remission of admission fees.
3. Facilitation in premium payments.
4. Immediate payment of due insurance sums.
5. A one-time remuneration of 8 per mille of the insured sum, also in case of introduction of non-family members.
6. A smaller annual recurring remuneration.

From this contract the family has already received more than 2,200 marks, so that the use of the institution can only be warmly recommended. But the life insurance should also generally be used to maintain the family members in adequate and orderly living conditions.

The family has also, corresponding to the initially very modest means, taken part in the care of the monuments of its

great sons.

The poet Ewald v. Kleist, severely wounded at Kunersdorf, is known to have died on August 24, 1759, in Frankfurt an der Oder. On his grave site, the Masonic lodge erected a monument in the form of an obelisk 20 years after his death. It renewed this in the year 1861, on which occasion the family enclosed it with an iron fence, interrupted by granite pillars, which in turn bear Prussian eagles cast in bronze. On August 24, 1861, a votive tablet was affixed to the fence with the inscription: "The resting place of Christian Ewald v. Kleist was honored on the anniversary of his heroic death, August 24, 1861, by the family v. Kleist." The maintenance of the fence has meanwhile been assumed by the city, while the family has repeatedly renewed the gardens within it.

On the battlefield of Kunersdorf, though not at the place where the poet fell wounded, the city of Frankfurt erected from funds raised by various collections a "Kleist Tower," which, owing to its commanding view, is the goal of many excursions.

In Frankfurt an der Oder a memorial tablet affixed to his birthplace commemorates Heinrich v. Kleist, donated by the local historical society at the beginning of the seventies. For some time past a committee has again been active, working for the erection of a monument in Frankfurt an der Oder, after the said historical society had vainly attempted to realize this idea in 1877. The family contributed 300 marks to the monument fund.

When it became known that the grave of Ulrike, the intimate sister of the unfortunate poet, was also located in Frankfurt and in a neglected state, the family assumed care of the grave mound.

The family likewise took part in the maintenance of the grave of Heinrich v. Kleist at Wannsee and in particular carried out a restoration there in 1884. When once again complaints of neglect of the grave became loud in the press, the association "Klausse" approached the family with the request to be entrusted with the care of the grave, which wish was granted. This association discontinued its activity when in the year 1904 Prince Friedrich Leopold of Prussia presented the grave and the adjoining surroundings to the German nation, which will certainly shape worthily the resting place of the greatest Prussian poet.

To commemorate the inventor of the Kleist bottle, the family affixed a memorial tablet and above it the Kleist coat of arms to the former house of the cathedral dean J. v. Kleist at Cammin in Pomerania. More recent research clearly proves that priority in the invention belongs to him before the Leyden jar.

For the assembly hall of the district house in Neu-Ruppin, the family donated, at the request of the district, a window, as it was at times landowning with three knightly estates in that district.

To the archivist v. Petersdorff the family gave the initiative for the creation of a biography of Kleist-Retzow and, after its completion, expressed its joy in the excellent work by granting an honorary honorarium of 300 marks.

When in the year 1883 the family could look back on the 25th anniversary of its association, it requested the grace of an audience with His Majesty King Wilhelm I, and was permitted to appear before him with 32 members in his palace Unter den Linden. After an address by the Oberpräsident, who expressed the thanks and renewed homage of the family, His Majesty declared his joy at seeing the family so numerous about him, and his conviction that just as in the past, so also in the future, it would stand foremost among the servants of his house. He knew that at all times, in good and in troubled days, he could count upon the family, could rely upon his Pomeranians.

Thereafter His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm, as governor of Pomerania, also received the

family. He recalled, connecting with a poet's word, that since the days of the Great Elector no battle had been fought, no Prussian blood had flowed, where not the Kleists had stood in the foremost rank and, if need be, had fallen. The House of Hohenzollern would always preserve its goodwill for the race that had served it so faithfully.

The family celebration itself began on that day with the presentation of a table centerpiece to the chairman and an address by Count Leopold v. Kleist-Zützen. The ladies of the family, through a lovely speaker, offered to the highly honored and beloved head a homage in poetic form, which culminated in Kleist's motto "Fear not, only believe." The second verse of the poem composed by Mathilde v. Gellhorn, née v. Kleist, may be repeated here. It runs:

And of our name the coming generations,
They shall reap the fruit of thy deeds,
That ever unwearied, with unweakened
Energy and faith sought our welfare,
Thy name shall, written in golden script,
Proclaim how we honor and love thee,
They shall follow the track of thy example:
Fear not, only believe!

These were prophetic words, which have already today been fully fulfilled, in so far as they refer to the significance Kleist-Retzow had for our family. May they also be fulfilled in the wish that we may follow fearlessly our model and champion, who departed from us on May 20, 1892.

Twice more the family had occasion to honor highly esteemed and deserving members. In the year 1895 Oberforstmeister Hugo Ewald v. Kleist celebrated the rare feast of his golden wedding anniversary. For many years he had belonged to the board, and after Kleist-Retzow's death had assumed the chairmanship, until his health in 1896 compelled him to leave the business to younger forces. With lively interest he had always participated in all board affairs, with warm heart had taken thought for needy cousins, and in general had embraced the members of the whole family with special love and acquired for himself the affection of all in unusual measure. To high state positions in the forestry service, as one of his branch had already attained, he loved the forest like his home. Therefore the family presented him also with a table centerpiece, the chief piece of which was one of those old oaks beneath whose shade he had especially loved to linger, at the end of his career in Anhalt. He died on May 8, 1896, and found his last resting place in Naumburg a. S.

A second golden wedding could be celebrated in the year 1906 by the present senior of our family, to whom it was granted to attain in the military career the highest rank. General of Infantry Ewald v. Kleist became on June 1, 1885, commanding general of the 1st Army Corps and left the army as chief of the Infantry Regiment Graf Dönhoff. As such he could celebrate his sixtieth service jubilee. He won high military laurels for the family and brought back from two campaigns the Order pour le mérite and the Iron Cross First Class, which in 1870/71 besides him only First Lieutenant Ewald v. Kleist of the Infantry Regiment No. 83 won, who died in 1897 as major general, having shortly before taken his leave because of illness.

When Landmarschall Constantin v. Kleist at Mitau in the year 1871 presented to the family two valuable pistols in a case with the stipulation that they should pass into the possession of that officer of the family who had distinguished himself by bravery in the most recent war, they were by family resolution assigned to the then Colonel and commander of the Mecklenburg Grenadier Regiment No. 89, the later commanding general. The honorary gift which the family presented for the golden wedding took account of this military career. It consisted of a golden goblet, bearing on one side the Order pour le mérite, on the other the Kleist coat of arms, and was intended to

express that the jubilarian had become great through military merit, but that his military honors had also been won for the family and its name, and that therefore he was worthy and assured of its thanks for all time. May the highly deserving senior be granted a peaceful evening of life, and may his brave knightly spirit live on in his race.

Called away in the year 1907, before an honor could be bestowed upon him, was our chairman Leopold Count v. Kleist-Zützen, who had conducted the affairs of the board since 1896. Also an outstanding member of our family, whose noble knightly figure in the uniform of the Gardes du Corps, whose noble distinction and unlimited helpful kindness will never be forgotten. He was also a helper to many in silence and let no one depart without counsel and comfort.

A long series of noble men, deserving of state and family, has passed through our ranks, who have already found or will yet find their recognition in the family history, and can here only be briefly mentioned.

I name the Vice President of the Supreme Tribunal, formerly President of the Kammergericht, Wirklicher Geheimer Rat Ferdinand v. Kleist, who took lively and active part in the changes of internal politics about the middle of the past century in conservative sense (died 1866); the Oberpräsident's elder brother Ferdinand v. Kleist-Retzow of Gr. Tychow and Möthlow, equally capable as soldier as farmer and district administrator, an excellent man and Christian (died 1872). He is the father of the Hereditary Kitchen Master v. Kleist-Retzow, who after the Oberpräsident's death assumed the representation of the family in the House of Lords. The noble pair of brothers, Counts Ewald and Conrad v. Kleist of Tschernowitz and Schmenzin, both endowed with true family spirit, who went home to us far too soon. Especially Count Conrad exercised for many years as secretary a far-reaching influence on family affairs and a magnanimous benevolence in silence. We remember gratefully the elder generation of Gr. Dubberow, Drenow, Wendisch-Tychow and Nemitz, Kl. Dubberow and Jeseritz, whose representatives took lively part in the founding of the family, mostly as board members. Gladly we recall the venerable District Administrator Georg v. Kleist of Rheinfeld, the brave fighter for freedom, who preserved youthful vigor and fire into his old age, his excellent son Lieutenant General Georg v. Kleist, and his jovial and capable brother Robert, lord of Wusseken. In 1866 we see the later General Fedor v. Kleist with the 4th Uhlans engage in the cavalry combat at Stresetitz on July 3 and give it at a critical moment a favorable turn. On August 16, 1870, Major Ewald v. Kleist of the Zützen house rode in the charge of the 1st Guard Dragoons, almost unique in the history of war in its result, and remained with the flower of the officer corps on the field of honor.

These are some of the men from the ranks at whom we may uplift ourselves and strengthen our hearts for our own deeds. Space compels us to break off, though many more might be named.

A special honor was bestowed upon the family when His Majesty, our now reigning King, conferred upon a number of regiments of the army the names of distinguished generals, in that the 1st West Prussian Grenadier Regiment No. 6 received the name Count Kleist von Nollendorf. His Majesty thereby wished also to give the family itself a proof of his grace and thanks for the services rendered in war, but also otherwise in the life of the state. The board rendered in person our respectful thanks. The celebration held at the regiment on the occasion of this distinction was attended by a deputation of the family. It presented an oil painting of His Majesty the Emperor in the uniform of the regiment, and the family history, and at the same time announced the family's resolution to grant to every Kleist serving in the regiment who lacked means, an allowance for equipment and up to the rank of captain an additional 450 marks annually, a benefit which at one time six cousins enjoyed simultaneously.

The granddaughters of the Nollendorfer, Mrs. v. Wulffen and Mrs. v. Eckardtstein, donated a life-size portrait of the Field Marshal, and a few years later a flag for the association of former 6th Grenadiers.

In the year 1897 some representatives of the family again went to Posen to attend the 125th anniversary of the

regiment, and presented as a gift six punch bowls. On the eve of the festal day a play composed by cousin Georg was performed in the city theater, depicting the origin of Kleist's decision to march on Nollendorf on August 30, 1813, whereby, as is known, he brought about the victory of Kulm.

In 1899 the regiment erected a monument in its barracks yard to those fallen in 1866 and 1870, in 1901 such a one on the battlefield of Wörrth, to which the family contributed 300 marks. At both celebrations it was represented. In the latter year, at the imperial parade, the regiment received from His Majesty a bust of Field Marshal Kleist von Nollendorf, in 1906 from the family the life portrait of Kleist-Retzow. Thus ever closer relations have developed between the regiment and the family. Since 1899 the commanders were Colonels Unger, v. Prittwitz, v. Mützscheffahl, v. Blumenthal, v. Prittwitz, v. Kameke, Baron v. Massenbach, v. Dittfurth.

Fifty years are a long span in the life of a people and a family. Three names became extinct, which had been great in the past or also promised greatness for the future. The last bearers of the name Kleist von Nollendorf and of the name combinations v. Rüchel-Kleist and Count Kleist v. Loß went down into the grave.

Also a number of estates have passed out of the family's possession, which successively embraced about 600 names. Among others were sold Warnin, Raddatz, Juchow, Dubbertsch, Rauden, Lanzen, and Siedkow. Regained, however, are Damen and Gr. Kroessin. Still the landed property in Prussia numbers 32 estates in the hands of 22 cousins. The recently emerging tendency to secure the landed property of the family by entail will, it is to be hoped, prevent further attrition and help to maintain the present holdings. The family has grown from the Pomeranian soil, a strong, widely branched tree. Its roots rest in the native ground. If we strive to preserve this, we thereby at the same time secure the healthy continuance of the family.

Great deeds the family has not accomplished in the last 50 years. Not even in its very own sphere, that of military service, has it to record brilliant achievements, since in all the wars of King Wilhelm I no member of the family held higher commands. But in the more narrowly limited circle many capable men have accomplished capable works, and one of them has also become an historical figure, the intrepid leader of the Conservatives in the constitutional struggles of the past century, the noble Junker Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow. Gratefully, therefore, we may look back upon our forefathers; to us applies the poet's word: "Blessed is he who gladly remembers his fathers." All the more is there directed to us also the admonition to acquire for ourselves the great capital of capability, moral strength, and fidelity inherited from them, not merely to possess it, but also to hand it down unimpaired to our descendants, to the honor of the family and to the good of the fatherland, which for us is embodied in the exalted figure of our beloved King.

I beg that this hastily drafted sketch, which can lay no claim to completeness and reliable accuracy of detail, may be kindly received as a modest gift of the present chairman, intended to demonstrate the significance of our family celebration.

Berlin, March 10, 1908.

Georg von Kleist.

Von Kleist The Family Day of those in Berlin 1908

1. Miss Spes v. Kleist-Retzow. 2. Miss Alexandra v. Kleist-Gawesen. 3. Baroness of Kleist-Schl.Buonas.
4. Miss Elisabeth v. Kleist. 5th General of the cavalry and Inspector General of the cavalry of Excellence of Kleist.
6. Ms v. Kleist. 7. Mme v. Kleist-Kleist Dubberow. 8. Ms v. Kleist, born v. Nathusius. 9. Ms v. Gellhorn, born v. Kleist. 10. Mrs. v. Kleist Alt-Stutterheim, born v. 11th Lieutenant-General for Excellency Victor of Kleist. 12th Joachim v. Kleist-Kleist Dubberow 13. Mme v. Kleist-Kamissow. 14 Mrs. v. Kleist, born v. Beöczy. 15. Baron v. Kleist-Keyserlingk-Gawesen (Kurland).16. Rittm. Hermann v. Kleist-Groß Dubberow. 17th District deputy of Kleist-Drenow. Member of the House of Representatives. 18. Mrs. v. Kleist, born v. Hake-Ohr.

Image published in the magazine Sport im Bild

19th Lieutenant General of Karl, Freiherr v. Kleist. 20th Assessor Kurt v. Kleist. 21. Ms v. Kleist, born Freiin v. Riese-Stallburg. 22nd Erbküchenmeister von Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow, Member of the House of Lords. 23rd Lieutenant-General for Excellency Paul v. Kleist. 24. Freiherr v. Kleist-Gawesen junior. 25th Hermann v. Kleist. Leutnant in the grenadier Regiment on Horseback Baron of Derfflinger No. 3. 26th wife of Kleist-Drenow. 27th Hugo v. Kleist, Leutnant in the 4th Guard Regt. Walking. 28th Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow. 29th Colonel v. Kleist, Commander of the grenadier Regiment King Wilhelm I. No. 7. 30. Kurt v. Kleist-Kamissow. 31st Cavalry-captain Freiherr Ewald v. Kleist-Schl. Buonas. 32. Mrs. v. Kleist-Retzow, born Countess Zedlitz-Trützschler. 33rd Gunnar v. Kleist, Leutnant in the Emperor Alexander Guard grenadier Regiment No. 1. 34. Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow, district administrator in Belgard. 35th Heinrich v. Kleist. Leutnant in the uhlan Regiment Emperor Alexander II of Rußland No. 3. 36. Hans v. Kleist, Captain in the 3rd Guard artillery Regiment. 37th Alfred v. Kleist, lieutenant colonel and commander of the Oberfeuerwerkerschule. 38. Ms v. Kleist, born Freiin of Puttkamer. 39th Robert v. Kleist, Leutnant in the uhlan Regiment Emperor Alexander II of Rußland No. 3. 40. Leopold v. Kleist cavalry-captain, in the Regiment of Gardes du corps. 41st Rudolf v. Kleist-Jeseritz. 42nd Oswald v. Kleist, Hauptmann im Infanterie-Regiment Graf Kirchbach Nr. 45. 43. Adolph v. Kleist. Leutnant in the uhlan Regiment Prinz August von Württemberg Nr. 10. 44. Freifrau v. Kleist-Gawesen 45. Count Ewald v. Kleist-Zützen. 46th Referendar Werner Freiherr v. Kleist. 47. Mrs. v. Kleist, born Countess Kleist-Tzschernowitz. 48th Georg v. Kleist, Leutnant in the uhlan Regiment Emperor Alexander II of Rußland No. 3. 49. Mrs. v. Kleist, born Freiin v. Weber (Wien). 50th Georg v. Kleist-Nemitz. 51st Leopold v. Kleist. Labehn. 52. Mrs. v. Kleist, born Countess Schulenburg-Burgscheidungen. 53. Ms Coupette, born Freiin v. Kleist.

1909

Your Blessed Birth

are provided with an adjacent imprint

a. the hearing of this year's Family Day, and

b. the speeches made by the undersigned at sea. Majesty the emperor and to the family.

As is apparent from the hearing, 27 cousins took part in the same exercise against 36 in the previous year. The Executive Board attaches particular importance to the fact that the cousins, who are somehow allowed by their time, also come to the business meeting, since often important questions are discussed, such as this year's founding of the Daughters Foundation. Von Kleist The negotiations which took place with the judicial authorities on the announcement of the foundation have given rise to problems in that the court sees in it an amendment to the constitution of the family foundation of 18 June 1868 and therefore demands a further decision of the family day in accordance with § 21 above and its confirmation by His Majesty the King. Furthermore, the Court considers the Foundation to be a new one, even though it is expressly designated as a branch foundation; it would therefore be possible to reclaim the 3% stamp of the Foundation, which has already been paid once out of the 50 000 m drawn from the family fund. In order to avoid these difficulties, the Board of Directors decided to propose to the Family Day at its next ordinary meeting that the Foundation should refrain from making any announcement and consider it merely an extension of section 1 to d of the Foundation of 18 June 1868, which, among other things, refers to the purpose of the Foundation as "the support of widows and daughters of family members in need of assistance". The text of the Daughter Foundation shall not be changed; the funds of the same foundation are endowment funds, but shall be proven on separate account.

This will enable the creation of the special fund of the Daughters Foundation to begin immediately. I would ask all cousins, and especially the wealthy ones, whose next descendants, according to human calculations, are unlikely to make any share of the Foundation's benefits, to participate in it by paying a lump sum or by making contributions on an ongoing basis, in which case it will be possible to allow the neediest applicants to benefit soon from the proposed pension.

A copy of the foundation document is attached here.

Von Kleist Membership declarations and payments to the Daughters' Foundation are already accepted by our treasurer, Landrat à-Retzow zu Belgard. Payments must be made to the Kreissparkasse (Belgard).

In order to continue the family history, the request already made in the Minutes to send the biographies and images of deceased members to the Executive Board is repeated again, and every landowner is also requested to send a postcard of his estate to the Executive Board very soon.

The chairman.

Georgvon Kleist .

Negotiated

Berlin, February 20, 1909.

Present:

1. General of the cavalry of Georg von Kleist Berlin.
2. Hereditary Chef Hugo von Kleist-Retzow-Gross Tychow.
cavalry-captain
3. Hermann von Kleist Groß-Dubberow
4. Lieutenant General Paul von Kleist Berlin.
5. Wolf von Kleist-Retzow-Belgard district administrator.
6. Lieutenant-General Viktor von Kleist Potsdam.
7. Manor owner Bernhard von Kleist-Drenow.
8. Lieutenant Colonel Alfred von Kleist Berlin.
9. Baron Ewald von Kleist-Buonas.
10. Captain Leopold von Kleist Berlin.
11. Major Ewald von Kleist, Stettin.
12. Manor owner Rudolf von Kleist-Jeseritz.
- 13th Police Inspector Ewald von Kleist Baron.-Potsdam.
- 14th Count Ewald von Kleist-Zützen.
von Kleist
- 15th knighthood owner Fritz-Retzow-Damen.
- 16th Captain Ewald v. Kleist-Charlottenburg.
17. Major Hans von Kleist.
- 18th Captain Conrad von Kleist-Potsdam.
- 19th knighthood owner Georg von Kleist-Nemitz.
20. Referendar Ewald von Kleist-Lehsen.
- 21st Captain Oswald von Kleist-Posen.
22. Captain Hans von Kleist Berlin.
23. Leutnant Hermann von Kleist-Bromberg.
- 24th Student of Law Ewald von Kleist
25. Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow.
26. Leutnant Robert von Kleist-Fürstenwalde.
27. Constantin von Kleist-Kieckow.

The cousins, who had been named by announcement in the cross newspaper on family days that had been properly appointed today, had come together. Following the opening of the meeting by the chairman, work began on the draft foundation submitted by the Commission to the Family Day

Von Kleist I. for the best of the daughters of the Ea'ian family

After presentation by the chairman and detailed deliberation, the draft as recommended by the Family Executive Board was approved unanimously and a notarial record was recorded by the Judicial Council Lisco, who was also present. The cousins were elected to announce the foundation:

1. Hereditary Chef Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow-à.
cavalry-captain
2. Hermann von Kleist Groß-Dubberow
3. Landrat Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow-Belgard.

After confirmation of the foundation, a printed copy should be delivered to each cousin whose address is known.

Registrations for the Daughter Foundation are to be addressed to the Treasurer Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow-Belgard, who will keep the necessary cadastre and confirm payments.

II. Personal details.

Marriages:

1. Spes-Retzow, daughter of the late Landrat Jürgen with the factory owner Walter Stahlberg in Stettin, Leutnant Stettin of the reserve of the Cuirassier Regiment Queen on 27. 10. 08 to von Kleist. - -
2. First Lieutenant Rulekin von Kleist 2. Guard uhlan Regiment with Mrs. Edith Mark Berwind to manor Rust in Baden on October 21, 2008 in Wiesbaden. - -
3. Robert von Kleist, Captain in the East Africa Protection Force with Alice, daughter of the Puchstein Medical Council on 9 May 1908. - -
4. Margarete Freiin von Kleist from the House of Gawesen with Horst from Hartmann, Leutnant and Adjutant in the Grand Regiment. No. 101 in Dresden on 27.3.08.

Births:

A son Wolf to the district administrator Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow-Belgard on May 7, 1908. -

A daughter:

1. Eleonore to Captain Hans von Kleist in 3. Guards artillery Regiment Berlin on March 8, 1908. -
- von Kleist 2. Bodilt to manor owner Fritz à-Retzow-Damen on 19 July 1908. -
3. Leonie retired to the Captain and manor owner Leo Ewald v. Kleist on Greater Krössin on 21 September 1908.

Deaths:

retired 1st Lieutenant Werner von Kleist from the House of Drenow on 4 May 1908 to Lüneburg. 2nd Hans Anton von Kleist-Retzow on 22 November 1908 at Kieckow. - -

3. The Lady of the Collegiate Cäcilie von Kleist at the age of 90 on 9 March 1908 at Stolp i./Pommern.-
4. Helene Freiin von Kleist, died 20 July 1908 in Mitau. - -
5. Shortly afterwards their brother Theodor von Kleist Freiherr, who lived married in southern Russia, is called a colonel and is not listed in the family directory.

The memory of the deceased was honored by elevation from the seats.

III grenadier Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf.

The regiment has received a new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Dieffenbach, at last commander of the war school in Neisse. He has announced the beginning of his command and will follow the invitation to the table.

In March of this year, the Selektan Felix von Kleist will be transferred from the Cadet House to the regiment as Leutnant. He comes from the Warniner House and is a brother of the Leutnant Alfred von Kleist from the protection force.

IV. Right to vote in the House of Lords.

The list of members of the family eligible for election to the manor house is to be newly drawn up and submitted to the family day.

V. Vital affairs.

The estate Groß-Tychow, owned by Kleist and associated with the post of hereditary chef in the Pomeranian region, and the estate, both owned by the Majors of Hugo von Kleist Retzow estate in trust, are transformed into an Alt-Buckow retired. The chairman takes the initiative to encourage resident cousins to set up estates in trust.

VI. According to the contract, the Karlsruhe Life Insurance pays 194.49 marks as remuneration for insurance

policies taken out by family members. It is remembered in accordance with the contract. The aim is to verify whether the company is fully complying with its obligation.

VII. Family history.

The well-deserved biographer of the family, Pastor Heinrich Kypke, died in his 71st year. The chairman dedicated an obituary to him, which gave warm recognition to his services to the family.

There are so many changes in the status of the family that it is decided to do the same as Freiherr's. Ewald von Kleist-Buonas is to be reprinted.

Werner Freiherr v. Kleist-Ziegenhals has compiled a genealogical directory of the Muttrin-Damen lineage and submits the same. It is to be expressed to him for the work of the warm thanks of the family carried out with great diligence. If, in the opinion of genealogical experts, the scheme chosen by him is appropriate, the work should be continued for the other branches of the family, and any costs will of course be reimbursed. Ewald von Kleist Freiherr. à-Buonas is charged with the investigation in this regard. To continue the family history, it seems worthwhile to gather the biographies of deceased family members. The previous requests to provide the necessary material have been unsuccessful.

They are repeated and it is envisaged that the incoming biographies will be printed into a tape at the family's expense. The aim is to attach the pictures of the excellent members of the family and those of the seats in the hands of the cousins.

VIII. Monument cases.

The grave site of Heinrichs von Kleist, the maintenance of which was left to the association "Klause" and which then passed further into the ownership of the empire, has now been handed over to the municipality of Wannsee. On 6 March 1908, the Secretary of State for the Interior wrote to the chairman of the 'Klause', according to which the municipality undertook to preserve the grave of the poet in a state worthy of the place's importance and consecration.

Professor Bachmann in Frankfurt am Main continues his efforts to bring the funds together to create a monument to Heinrich von Kleist to be erected in Frankfurt am Main. 13000 M. has been provided, but the cost is estimated at least at 15000 M. His cousin Ewald-Buonas has arranged for Professor Bachmann to appoint a member of the family to the committee as which Lieutenant General Paul von Kleist has joined. It is decided to grant the committee a one-off payment of 200 M.

Von Kleist The same committee approached the family with a request to restore the tomb of Ulriken, sister of the poet, in Frankfurt. So far, the family has ensured the preservation of the gardening jewelry with 4 m. annually. Since the costs of the restoration were not significant (47 M.), the board of directors donated a bank for the visitors of the tomb on request and spent 74.50 M., for which the family day grants the authorization retrospectively. The maintenance of the complex was taken over by the city.

IX. Accounting.

The 1908 accounts were presented, showing a

Assets of nominal 283250 M.

against (in previous years) 273750 M.

which represents an increase of 9500 M.

means which is entered in Pomeranian Pfandbriefe. The Audit Committee has found the bill to be in order and has requested discharge from the Board of Management. The Family Day decides accordingly.

v. g. u.

Von Kleist Drenow.

Georg von Kleist

Count E. Kleist.	Von Kleist Retzow-Groß-Tychow H.
Conrad von Kleist-Potsdam.	Von Kleist Groß-Dubberow H.
Hans von Kleist-Hanover.	Paul von Kleist
Werner von Kleist Baron.	Hans Joachim von Kleist-Klein-Dubberow.
Robert von Kleist	Ewald von Kleist Freiherr.
Ewald von Kleist	Alfred von Kleist
Rudolf von Kleist	Georg von Kleist-Nemitz.
Hans Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow.	Leopold von Kleist Berlin.
Hermann Conrad von Kleist.	Victor von Kleist
Oswald von Kleist-Posen.	Wolf von Kleist-Retzow.

Speech by the Chairman at sea. Majesty the Emperor.

The festive atmosphere of today is still mixed with the impressions of the last family day, on which we could look back on the 50th anniversary of our family association. We cannot forget the honorable words of thanks and trust that His Majesty the Emperor sent to us in his telegram. They were a good guide through the politically turbulent period of the past year and made it really easy for us to maintain old loyalty where others were wavering. Those unpleasant days are behind us, happily Weise. Even the less royal minded have seen it again, what we have about our emperor. And so the celebration of his 50th birthday has taken on a particularly cordial shape. The day is close enough for us to remember him today and to speak from the heart of our hearts:

God preserve, God bless the emperor!

Speech by the chairman to the family.

I thank my esteemed and dear cousin very much for the kind words of recognition he has given to my work. But I would like to extend his thanks to the other members of the board and also to a cousin who voluntarily provided his business-savvy support to us, the cousin Ewald-Buonas. I would particularly like to thank our treasurer, who has been in office for a year and who has done a great deal of my work.

He's done more. From him comes the inspiration for our new Daughters Foundation. His energy has led to the creation today of a work that we can hope will bring as much blessing to the family as the Family Fund Foundation, which was created 50 years ago. It has to be said that, as then, it was again a Kleist-Retzow that carried out this act and also wants to take the further expansion into account. Von Kleist This will not be forgotten by the family after the district councilor of Retzow.

The Daughter Foundation is primarily a work of social care for the economically weak. But it should also be an act of compensatory justice, because on the other page we deliberately disadvantage our daughters by consolidating the land.

Today I am able to say with satisfaction and special thanks that the estate in trust Groß-Tychow Alt-Buckow's intended endowment has become a fact, and that other estates in trust are still in the process of being established. Praising this in particular seems to be primarily selfish. And yet the estate devolving by primogenitur Foundation has not only an ideal - because it makes sacrifices in the interests of the whole - but also a national page. By maintaining a strong patriotic family through the centuries, we perform an act that is as beneficial to kingship as it is to the state.

But what makes a family strong and viable? Only the property with its imponderables! Great riches can also be accumulated by the brilliant buyer, but even the able ones a war or an unfavorable economic situation plunges from the height to the full depth. The storms of war and economic crises pass powerlessly over the entrenched oaks of land ownership. He may live through bad times, but he can't go under. It bends, but it doesn't break. That's why your cousins All and especially your young: no foot wide Kleist soil must be lost! And this will not be the case when - protected and educated by noble and pure women - our young people grow up in powerful masculinity, a family who is not satisfied with enjoying life beautifully, but who knows and loves work and is clearly aware that

he only fulfills his noble duty, the father of our family is truly worthy, who has proven himself in faithful duty in the place where he is placed and in faithful work for the family, for King and the fatherland. I drink to the youth and thus to the future of the family, which may bloom until the farthest times!

Family Foundation.

§ 1.

Von Kleist The family unit of the family based on the statute of 9 March 1858, for whose benefit a family foundation founded on 18 June 1868 already exists, establishes a branch foundation of the general family foundation for the benefit of the unmarried daughters of the family.

§ 2.

Funds of the Foundation.

The resources necessary for the establishment and maintenance of this branch foundation shall be obtained in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Fifty thousand marks in 3 1/2% securities with interest from 1 January 1900 are drawn nominally from the foundation's existing assets for this daughter foundation for special administration.

von Kleist 2. Any male member of the family belonging to the family unit who wishes to have share in the endowment for his daughters shall be obliged, from the completed 30th birthday. life

to pay an annual contribution of ten marks for the Daughter Foundation. Pay, however

Landowners with a holding of up to 750 hectares twenty marks, with larger holdings fifty

Mark annually.

Members who are not resident with estates but are wealthier should also be called upon to make increased contributions. A certain standard cannot be established, but the head of the family is obliged to agree with such members on the payment of corresponding contributions.

Those male members who already receive land in administration for their own account before the age of 30 must pay the annual contribution from the date on which they receive their own management of the land.

The contribution year is the calendar year.

Beginning years are fully calculated.

3. Instead of the annual contribution, a one-off payment of 20 times the annual

Contributions are entered. Modification of the contribution obligation obligates to make corresponding additional payments.

4. For each daughter born to a member of the family unit, the sum of two hundred marks in the first year of the daughter's life shall be paid in addition to the current contribution payable under No 2. Upon request, this contribution shall be deferred in such a way that it is payable in five annual installments of 40 marks each. If there is a very special

In certain circumstances, the head of the family may grant further deferrals.

von Kleist 5. To the now living daughters of the family, who exceeded the 1st year of age

in order to benefit from the Benefits of the Foundation, it shall be determined that the Benefits of the Foundation are

one-off payment of two hundred marks is to be eligible for participation. The payment

this one-off contribution must be made in 1909, but may also be made for five years

be deferred by the head of the family in accordance with the provisions of point 4.

If the father is still alive, the obligation imposed by Section 2 (2) remains in place for him.

6. Direct coercion to pay the contributions referred to above cannot and should not be exercised. However, the daughters of such members of the family association who have evaded payment of these contributions are to benefit from the benefits of these

Foundation may be excluded once and for all, unless a daughter is subject to the one-time

The contribution of two hundred marks must be paid in accordance with No. 4 together with 4 of one hundred interest thereon since birth and, in addition, twenty times the annual contribution of her father to the foundation.

The exclusion and the lifting of the exclusion after payment of the above sums shall be decided by the head of the family.

7. Voluntary contributions, both one-off and ongoing, may be paid to the Foundation at any time and are expected from those members of the family who have no direct interest in the Foundation.

§ 3.

Entitlement to profit.

The following are eligible for the benefit of the Foundation:

1. unmarried daughters,

von Kleist 2. such widowed daughter who do not divorce the name,

for which the contributions specified in section 2 have been paid and whose fathers have paid the contributions specified in section 2 under subsection 4.

The deferral of payment permitted in Section 2 under Item 4 shall also apply here.

The benefit of the Foundation shall be granted only on request. This application shall be accompanied by detailed information on financial circumstances. All inquiries from the family management board regarding assets and other circumstances must be answered precisely. Refusal to provide information is tantamount to withdrawal of the application.

Excluded are daughters who were not born in a Christian marriage and who are blamed.

The selection of the daughters of the family, who are then appointed to the benefit of the foundation, is decided by the head of the family under consideration of need and worthiness.

In case of doubt, the need should always be in favor of the affected person and, in the case of equal need, the older person should have the preference over the younger one.

The benefit of the Foundation shall be lost by the omission of any of the above conditions and by waiver. Waiver in favor of a particular person is not permitted.

§ 4.

Management of the Foundation's assets and distribution of benefits.

The administration of the branch foundation is managed by the head of the family, who is elected by the family day in accordance with the existing regulations.

In particular, the head of the family must supervise the payment of contributions, keep a register of authorized female lawyers, decide on the award of benefits and on the exclusion of female candidates. The capital used for the branch foundation must be invested in a free-of-charge manner.

The interest is to be paid until the capital has reached a level of 60,000 marks. From then on, half of the interest will be used to distribute it to the candidates, the other half will be raised to the capital until the capital reaches 250,000 marks. The amount of an annual salary of a candidate is 500 marks.

How many daughters of the foundation's charity are to be shared is decided by the board of directors in accordance with the respective resources available from the income.

Payments by the Foundation shall be made in advance in one-quarterly installments. Should one of the recipients marry, the Board of Directors may, upon request, grant an annual pension beyond the wedding day.

When the capital serving this branch foundation has reached 250,000 marks, Family Day is to decide whether and to what extent interest should still be paid on the capital and whether the minimum contribution of an annual benefit should be increased.

§ 5.

Von Kleist Supervision of the management of the board is the responsibility of the family day of the family association. The same should be taken into account and discharge granted.

The decisions of the head of the family are final, with the exclusion of legal recourse.

An amendment of these statutes can only be made by the Family Day.

Sections 23 and 24 of the charter of 18 June 1868 shall apply to any cancelation of this foundation.

Berlin, February 20, 1909.

Georg von Kleist

Von Kleist The Family Day of those in Berlin 1909

1. District Administrator of Kleist-Retzow. 2nd Lt. A. v. Kleist (Ul. 10). 3. Lt. R.v. Kleist (Ul. 3). 4. Lt. G. v.Kleist (Ul. 3). 5. Hptm. C. v. Kleist. 6th Oblt. R. v. Kleist (2nd Guard) 7. Lt. H. v. Kleist (Ul. 3). 8. Maj. H. v. Kleist. 9th Colonel Dieffenbach, Commander of the Reg. Count Kleist.

10. H.-J. v. Kleist-Kleist-Dubberow. 11th Hptm. H. v. Kleist. 12. v. Kleist- Jeseritz.

13th Hptm. E. v. Kleist. 14. v. Kleist-Damen. 15th Major E. v. Kleist. 6th Lt. v. Kleist (Leibkürassier).

34. Frfr. v. Eckhardtstein, born Countess Kleist v. Nollendorf. 35 Fr. v. Kleist, born Countess Kleist. 36. Fr. v. Kleist, born v. Natzmer. 37. Fr. v. Kleist, born v. Puttkamer.

43rd J. v.Kleist-Retzow.

Image published in the magazine Sport im Bild

17th Colonel A. v. Kleist. 18. v. Kleist-Drenow. 19. v. Kleist-Kamissow. 20 Fr. v. Kleist, born v. Blumenthal. 21st Erb-Küchenmeister v. Kleist-Retzow. 22nd Hptm. O. v. Kleist. 23 Fr. v. Kleist, born v. Kleist. 24th Chief of Defense Exc. v. Kleist. 25 Fr. v. Kleist-Retzow, born v. Wrochem. 26 Fr. v. Kleist, born Countess Schulenburg. 27th Assessor of Kleist. 28th Frl Elisabeth v Kleist 29th Frl Hedwig v Kleist. 30 Fr. v. Kleist, born Countess Schulenburg. 31st Colonel F. v. Kleist. 32nd Hermann v. Kleist-Groß Dubberow. 32a. (between 32 and 33) Ewald v. Kleist-Wendisch- Tychow. 33rd Lt. G. v. Kleist (Alex Reg.)
38. Fr. Paul v. Kleist, excl. 39. Fr. Georg v. Kleist, excl. 40. Fr. v. Kleist-Drenow. 41 Fr. v. Gellhorn, born v. Kleist. 42. Fr. Viktor v. Kleist, excl.
44. Lt. H.v. Kleist. 45. C. v. Kleist-Retzow. 46th Stud Ewald v.Kleist.

In 1909, a new personnel directory appeared.⁴⁴ The preface reads:

I would like to give the honored cousins and cousins the newly assembled staff of the family.

The price of Mk. 1.50 goes to the Farnilienstiftung, and I ask you to pay the amount to the district- Sparkasse in Belgard a. d. Persante.

The job was made much easier by the years of accurate processing of the staff of pages of the cousin Bogislav von Kleist in Gebersdorf, and I consider it my duty to thank him at this point for his effort and work.

The long-deceased members of the family, who had been appointed to the former staff, are mentioned only to the extent that this was necessary to distinguish the individual branches or, as in the case of the Russian line, the many changes made this necessary.

However, it is only possible to precisely sense the number of staff if the revered cousins inform me of any changes and errors; I would particularly like to address this request to the cousins and cousins living in Rußland.

BUONAS manor

Ewald von Kleist Freiherr.

near Rothkreuz, Schweiz

⁴⁴ https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1909.pdf

1910⁴⁵

The protocol is not available.

The deaths of the former representative of the family in the manor house, the hereditary kitchen master Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow on, mentioned in the press report, required the election of a new representative of the family in the manor house. The file of the relevant executive board in Stettin is located in the Greifswald State Archives (Rep. 60 No. 65).

On 22 January 1910, the Prussian Ministry of the Interior asked the Oberpräsident to arrange for the new election by the eligible family members.

On February 4, 1910, the chairman of the family association Georg was asked to conduct the election.

On the date of 11 April 1910, Georg von Kleist sent the result of the election of the same day with a number of documents. Thereafter, he was himself elected by the entitled family members as the representative of the family in the manor house.

By the Supreme Decree of May 18, 1910, Georg von Kleist was appointed a member of the House for life.

On 25 June 1910, the monument to Heinrich von Kleist created by Gottfried Elster was ceremonially unveiled in Frankfurt (Oder). Von Kleist Invited guests included family representatives.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1910 p.117: On 19 February, the members of the family who bear the fief united in the Hotel Prinz Albrecht on Berlin von Kleist for this year's family day. Sadly, the death of the hereditary chef of Retzow in December BC and other mourning kept away a number of otherwise regular cousins, so that the table had 40 people with the Damen, including Lieutenant General Paul, the Counts of Wendisch-Tychow Zützen Drenow Labehn Nemitz and von Kleist and the proprietors of Groß Dubberow, von Kleist, von Kleist and Groß-Tychow. During the table, the presiding general of the cavalry of Georg von Kleist made a toast to the emperor.

⁴⁶ Der Traum vom Nationaldenkmal, Wolfgang Barthel, Frankfurter Buntbücher 1, 1991, pp. 11

1911

The protocol is not available.

1912⁴⁷

The protocol is not available.

A new personnel register was issued that year.⁴⁸ The foreword was:

To the honored cousins and cousins I allow myself to present the newly assembled staff of the family, completed in April 1912.

Since I was prevented from working on the staff due to an urgent trip, Dr. Vorberg kindly took over the new processing in Steglitz.

A number of family members deserve vivid thanks for providing extensive information; Freiin Elisabeth v. Kleist in Berlin-Friedenau has encouraged the work by providing particularly comprehensive communications.

1.50 M. is payable to the Kreissparkasse in Belgard for each copy of the staff. This money goes to the family fund.

I would urge you to inform me of any changes in the family situation and of any mistakes noted on the following pages.

BUONAS manor
at Rothkreuz, Schweiz.

Ewald von Kleist Freiherr.

Due to the lack of protocol, information from the Board on the 100th anniversary of the death of Heinrich von Kleist at Family Day in 1912 is therefore not available.

Berliner Local Scoreboard, 21 November 1911⁴⁹

The tomb of Heinrich v. Kleist in Wannsee was the target of many visitors on the 100th anniversary of his death. Numerous wreaths were laid, one with white silk bows bearing the inscription: "The greatest of their family. Von Kleist The family."⁵⁰ ...

Prager daily Berlin 21 November

Wreaths had also been laid by the Kleist family, with the inscription "The Greatest of their family".

Kafka Diary November 23. On the 21st, the hundredth anniversary of Kleist's death, the Kleist family had a wreath placed on his grave with the inscription: "The best of their family."

1913⁵¹

The protocol is not available.

⁴⁷ Deutsches's Adelsblatt 1912, pp. 113: On February 17, the family of Kleist convened under the chairmanship of the inspector general of the cavalry of Kleist for this year's family days. The family table in the Hotel Adlon united 37 Damen and men. The landed property was relatively well represented by the owners of Drenow, Zützen, Gebersdorf, Chernowitz, Greater Krössin, Damen, Kamissow, Jeseritz Kieckow and Groß-Dubberow. From the military, the lieutenants-general of Viktor v. Kleist (Potsdam) and Paul v. Kleist (Berlin) were seen, and the wing aide-de-camp, Fritz v. Kleist, and the commander of the Grenadier Regiment, Count Kleist Colonel Dieffenbach, were also present. The granddaughter of the Field Marshal, Count Kleist v. Nollendorff, Baroness v. Eckardstein, was also present this time.

⁴⁸ https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1912.pdf

⁴⁹ Heinrich by Kleist's traces of life (LS 572a)

⁵⁰ Although there is no evidence that the head of the family unit or the close family of the descendants of the poet's brother laid the wreath, the text 'of their family' supports the head of the family unit, although there is considerable doubt that this was his conviction at the time.

⁵¹ Von Kleist This year's family day of the family association will take place on Saturday 15 March in Berlin at the Hotel Adlon pay a visit. Meeting at 1/2 noon, with the new election of a board member. In the evening 7 1/2 pm dinner with Damen. Roland, Archiv für Stamm- und Wappenkunde, Volume 13 Archiv 9, pp. 144. (2022)

1914

Negotiated
at the
Von Kleist Family days of the family.
Berlin, February 14, 1914.

Present were:

1. General of the cavalry of Georg v. Kleist-Wusseken.
retired
2. Ewald v. Kleist Wend. Tychow.
3. Hermann Conrad v. Kleist-Groß Dubberow.
retired
4. Ewald v. Kleist-Gross Dubberow.
5. Rudolf v. Kleist-Jeseritz.
- 6th Count Ewald v. Kleist-Zützen.
7. Major Hans v. Kleist-Gebersdorf.
8. Baron Helmuth v. Kleist-Kerklingen.
9. Baron Ewald v. Kleist, chamberlain.
- 10th Count of Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow.
11. Excellence Paul Ewald v. Kleist.
- 12th Colonel v. Kleist-Labehn.
13. Leopold v. Kleist-Labehn, Jr.
14. Bernhard v. Kleist-Drenow.
cavalry-captain
15. Rulekin v. Kleist.
- 16th Lieutenant Ewald v. Kleist, Hus. 14th
- 17th Captain Herbert v. Kleist-Posen.
18. Excellence Victor of Kleist.
- 19th Diether of Kleist Berlin.

I

Those present are listed below.

II. Personnel news.

(a) engagements and marriages:

1. Engaged the daughter of Ilse retired of the Privy Council and Captain of Heinrich v. Kleist to Rudolstadt, Villa Waldfrieden, with Mr. Goetz v. Olenhusen, 1. Officer of the Hamburg America Line.
2. Robert v. Kleist, Brigade-Adjutant, Graudenz with Lonny v. Braunschweig, daughter of the knighthood owner and Rittmeister of the Res. v. Braunschweig on Standemin, Kr. Belgard.

(b) Births:

Major Leopold v. Kleist-Rome, 3 February 1914.

(c) Deaths:

1. born on 18 March 1913 to Berlin-Schöneberg Ms Elise v. Kleist Fallentiensen.
2. Born on 26 June 1913 at the age of 74 to Berlin Ms Elfriede v. Kleist v. Beöczy.

3. on 5 November 1913 to Allendorf lady superior a. Werra, where she was formerly, Miss Margarete v. Kleist from the House of Ruschütz.
4. on 21 December 1913 to Oppeln Mr. Oswald v. Kleist from the House of Rauden, Major in the 6th Gendarmerie Brigade.
5. on 3 February 1914 to Stettin Miss Gertrud v. Kleist.

III. Other particulars:

- 1st Colonel Alfred v. Kleist, commander of the L. Feldart Brigade became general.
2nd Major Leopold v. Kleist, military attache in Rome became Grand Adjutant Sr. Majesty of the Emperor.
3rd Major Konrad v. Kleist said goodbye.
retired 4. Landrat of Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow was elevated to the rank of Count.

IV grenadier Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf.

1. For the New Year, the regiment offered its congratulations to the family, which were telegraphed back by the chairman.
2. For the centenary of the battle of Culm on 30 August 1913, the family had been summoned by the local committee. General Fritz v. Kleist and Chamberlain Freiherr v. Kleist had agreed to be represented. The former was detained by an unexpected visit of Sr. Majesty to Potsdam. All the more reason to thank the cousin Ewald for not shying away from the long journey from Buonas and for representing the family.
Baroness of Eckardstein also attended the ceremony with her son, the owner of Reichenwalde. The regiment had also sent a deputation to Graf Kleist on the highest order.
3. The Regiment Graf Kleist was awarded the embroidery of the old Infantry Regiment No. 52 and the helmet of the Gardeadler without Gardesters.
The chairman expressed the family's congratulations on this honor.
4. The regiment originally intended to celebrate the battle with Culm. However, it was already outside the garrison on the 30th August and also had to send a delegation to Nollendorf.
So it postponed the celebration, which consisted of a feast with the Damen of the regiment, to the foundation day of the regiment, October 14. To this end, the whole executive board was invited, on which the chairman and the Count of Kleist-Retzow appeared. Also Baroness of Eckardstein and son.
Although it was only a feast, it turned into a worthy celebration through serious and substantive speeches, which will be unforgettable for those involved.
A poem written by Baron v. Eckardstein, which has been included in the guestbook of the regiment, is worded as follows:

"For Prussias king joyfully the blood,
The Eastern Market Strong and Secure Hat
And fresh laurel with the old flags
And new glory for the brave ancestors.
So march faithfully to the proud Paniere
The Kleist grenadiers in the period ahead."

5. The family was not invited to the unveiling of the monument to the Battle of Nations because there is no male descendant of the Field Marshal who bears his name.
Thought Se. Majesty of our name and our hero, for on 14 October 1913 he sent a long and highly honorable telegram to the Baroness of Eckardstein.
Adjutant General v Plessen informed the chairman at the same time that this was happening because his Majesty would certainly not be able to welcome Mrs. v. Eckardstein personally.
The emperor's telegram read:

"Baroness Eckardstein born Countess Kleist of Nollendorf at the time of Posen with the grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist, I am pleased to announce to the granddaughter of the victor of Kulm, there with the grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist, the only bearer of the name, that the memory of the high merits of the General Graf Kleist of Nollendorf is not forgotten by the grateful fatherland and will always be held in high esteem,"

Wilhelm I. R.

6. Colonel von Gallwitz is invited to the family dinner, but will not appear because he is ill. A telegram is to be sent to him and to the regiment of Count Kleist of Nollendorf.

V. Right to vote in the House of Lords.

The list of eligible voters recognized by the Executive Board as correct will be read, changes compared to the previous year:

1. Cousin Hermann Konrad has the title for Groß und Kleist Dubberow and is therefore included in the list.
2. Cousin Kurt Kamissow has bought the Brunswick share back to Natztow and is now eligible for the whole of Natztow.

VI. Family history.

The 5th volume of the Alten Handbook for the Army and Fleet, which contains the name Kleist, has been published. So far, no other family can boast of having received the same amount of support. The publisher has kindly provided 25 prints of the article to Kleist.

Since the chairman was involved in the processing, the publishers initially made the purchase of the entire, actually awarded work available to the board of directors, but soon to the entire family, at half (employee) prices. The entire factory will cost 260 marks, for family members only 130 marks. Reflectants want to contact the Deutsche publishing house Bong & Co., Berlin W, 57, Potsdamerstraße 88 or the chairman.

It is decided to give the Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf Regiment the value for its library; negotiations are to be held with the publisher to ensure that the same person approves the price of 130 marks in this case as well.

In the Century Exhibition in Breslau, a special room was reserved for the family, in which souvenirs of the Field Marshal Kleist v. Nollendorf and the poet Heinrich von Kleist were exhibited.

VII

New York life insurance is remembered with recommendations. In 1913, she paid 478 marks 24 pfennigs for the last time.

VIII. Accounting.

(nominal value)

1. The assets of the family were at the end of 1913 255,900.00 marks,

" 1912,247,900.00 "

Hence growth DM 8 000,

The intake was in 1913 14,069.19

plus stock from 1912 5350,"

Summa 19,419.19 marks,

The 1913 edition was 16110,19"

so that an inventory is now 3,309.00 marks
will remain.

2nd Daughter Foundation, end of 1913. 71,957.12 marks,

" 1912 69507.90"

Hence growth 2 448.22 marks,

The Executive Board shall be granted discharge at the request of the Audit Committee.

IX

It is decided to provide the Executive Board with the necessary funds to

he gains a suitable personality to continue the family tree of the family. It is particularly emphasized that it is not possible from here to continue the family tree of members living in Kurland and Rußland. It is urged that a cousin living there undergoes the effort of collecting the necessary documents.

It is also urged that the biographies of the deceased members of the family be submitted to the Executive Board, which will compile a compilation of them for the continuation of the family history; if possible, the stock of all family pictures within the family should also be determined.

X

The Pomeranian Auxiliary Fund of the Adelsgenossenschaft intends to build a convent in Kolberg. It is decided to authorize the Executive Board to contact Mr Landrat von Thadden-Trieglaff to obtain a leave in the same area and to offer him a capital sum of 15000 marks or an annual pension of 600 marks for this purpose.

V.G.U.

Georg v. Kleist-Wusseken,
Wolf Graf v. Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow,
Bernhard v. Kleist-Drenow,
Rudolf v. Kleist-Jeseritz,
Rulekin v. Kleist,
Ewald v. Kleist,
Leopold v. Kleist.
Leopold v. Kleist-Labehn,
Paul v. Kleist Berlin,
E. Graf v. Kleist,
Ewald Freiherr v. Kleist,
Hermann Conrad v. Kleist-Groß Dubberow,
Ewald v. Kleist,
Victor of Kleist.
Herbert v. Kleist.
Ewald v. Kleist-Wendisch Tychow.
Freiherr Helmut v. Kleist-Kerklingen,
Hans v. Kleist,
Diether Dinnies v. Kleist.

1919

Wusseken, 15 September 1919.

The minutes of the last family day will be sent to the cousins.

The family has declined greatly due to the war losses and other deaths in its holdings. For the time being, I have to give up hoping for the many additions from the districts of the brave Baltic cousins. Even more than before, Pommern seems to be the geographical center. We therefore thought that we could count on a more frequent visit to Stettin than to Berlin, where the local conditions are not very welcoming at the moment. However, only a small number had appeared. Two older family members had to cancel at the last minute because of illness. We may stick to Stettin for the future, where the opportunity to live in the same inn also paid a visit a longer time together than in Berlin.

The report on the trial records the facts only briefly. In my opening remarks, however, I also spoke about the political situation and would at least like to point out that I described it as a guideline for the family's conduct: no despondency, no ill will be endured in silent patience, but restless cooperation in the rebuilding of Prussia-Deutschlands, loyalty to the House of Hohenzollern, whose return to the throne should be sought by all means not only out of affinity but out of reason.

I have also remembered many who had gone home, referring to what they were to the family, especially our fallen heroes. Among these, I particularly emphasized the Herbert and Joachim brothers and presented them to the younger generation as role models. They belonged to a sibling circle of 4 brothers and 3 sisters. All 4 brothers fought through a deprivation-rich youth to full independence and fought in Africa and China with distinction, two of them now found a glorious end in the World War.

In many cases, our young people today will also have to go down the road of deprivation and will be more dependent than before on creating living conditions for themselves on their own. We do not want to complain about this, but hope that strong characters, capable men will grow up from the hardships of the times.

As far as the images of the fallen are concerned, I would like to believe that they belong in the family history. I shall not therefore include them in the accompanying compilation of the family's military activity. However, I would ask you to send me suitable pictures now, as the production of the replica will take a long time. I think of a group of 3 or 4 chest images or a complete sheet.

Finally, I would like to ask you to comply with the wishes of the family day and to send personal contributions to the small company (see 5.2 of the hearing). To give an Anhalt, I would like to say that I donated 1000 marks and our treasurer, cousin Count Kleist-Retzow 3000 marks.

The chairman.
Georg von Kleist

Stettin, 1 August 1919.

To hold a
family day

von Kleist the members of the family named besides had gathered in the Preußenhof in Stettin.

Present:

1. General of the cavalry von Kleist of Wusseken,
von Kleist 2nd Fideikommissowner Graf à-Retzow-Groß Tychow.
- von Kleist 3. Major Krössin.
- von Kleist 4th Captain, Jeseritz.
- cavalry-captain von Kleist Wend. 5. Tychow.
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 6. à-Large Dubberow.
7. Leutnant von Kleist-Ruschütz.
8. Referendar Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin.
- von Kleist 9. Manor owner Baron. à-Zerxten.
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 10. 'Freiherr.' Zerxten.

The chairman, General of the cavalry von Kleist, opened the meeting.
Negotiations were as follows:

1. Board election:

Elected according to special notarial record: Mr. Ewald von Kleist, Referendar, Schmenzin.

2. Family news:

(a) engagements and marriages:

- 1st Ewald von Kleist, Lieutenant Colonel at the staff of the Leibgren. Regiment., married on 5 August 1914 (Wartime Obstruction) to Maria Wentscher, daughter of the deceased knighthood owner and economics council Wentscher and his wife born Groth, Hohensalza.
2. Hedwig von Kleist, daughter of Colonel Hans von Kleist, married 1915 with Captain Wolfgang of Stephany.
3. Marie von Kleist, Potsdam, married on 2 August 1916 to Major General z. D. Leopold of Buch, Berlin.
4. Engaged and married on 10 November 1918 in Zirrhoissel on Rügen Captain Rudolf von Kleist, Jeseritz, with Gertrud of Usedom.
5. Engaged in May 1917 baroness Ada von Kleist from Gawesen with Dr. juris R. Kück, Delegate of the Red Cross (Hamburg).
- 6 November 1917 Count Ewald Kleist-Zützen married to Countess Adelheid of Kanitz born of the Decken.
- 7th Kurt von Kleist, First Lieutenant in grenadier Regiment No. 2, engaged October 1917 to Luise of Grolmann, daughter of the late Major General of Grolmann and his wife Born Tuchen.
- 8 April 1918 Second Lieutenant Felix von Kleist, married to Annemarie Hindermann, daughter of deceased architects and reindeer Hindermann (Berlin).
9. Ruth von Kleist à-Retzow engaged to Hans from Wedemeyer, Pätzig, Ober in October 1918

Lieutenant in the 3rd Gardeulanen-Regt., comdt. to the air force (also already married).

10. Gunnar von Kleist, Captain in a protection force, engaged 1918, married 2. 2. 1919

With Amata, Freiin from Schilling, Kurland.

11 Ewald von Kleist Wendisch Tychow, married on 2 August 1914 to Margarete Countess Finck of Finckenstein.

(b) Births:

1 June 6, 1914 a daughter of the manor owner Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow in Kieckow.

cavalry-captain July 2, 29, 1916, a son of Robert von Kleist on Berlin. (Georg Friedrich Heinrich).

November 3, 13, 1916, a daughter Sigrun dem Rittm. Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow (Berlin).

April 4, 12, 1917, daughter of Colonel Leopold von Kleist, wing adjutant, commander of the Hessian Leibgarde Regiment No. 115.

5. A son to the captain in General Staff 17, A. K. Ewald von Kleist (Georg).

September 6, 7, 1917 a son Eggert Bogislaw Peter to Captain Rudolf von Kleist, Jeseritz.

January 7, 27, 1918 a son of the lieutenant colonel and regimental commander Hermann von Kleist, Frankfurt a.O.

cavalry-captain February 8, 10, 1918 a daughter of Adolf von Kleist from the uhlan Regt. 10th

9 September 20, 1918 a son Karsten Rüdiger Barnim the Captain Rudolf of Kleist, Jeseritz.

10. 4. August cavalry-captain 1918 a daughter of Ortrun the Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow.

11 January 1919 a daughter of Colonel Leopold von Kleist.

12 July 3, 1919 a daughter of Veronika retired dem Major, Robert von Kleist, Besswitz.

July 13, 4, 1919, son of Lieutenant Kurt Detlef von Kleist, Gren.-Regt. 2, Stettin.

(c) Deaths:

They died for King and Fatherland in the field:

1. On 27 August 1914 in the Battle of Noyers near Sedan von Kleist Freiherr Ernst (Kurländer side branch), Major at the staff of the Inf. Regiment of Lützow No. 25 as Batls-Kommdr in the Res.-Inf.-Regt. No. 27.

2. On 29 August 1914, on a patrol ride at Cérizy near St. Quentin Georg von Kleist, H.H. Wusseken, Lieutenant in the Third Ul.-Regt., as an officer of the 2nd Res Ul Regiment.

3. On 6 October 1914, after his wounding on 30.9. in the war hospital Mars la tour Herbert von Kleist (Damen-Zadtkower side branch), captain and comp. chief in the Gren.-Regt. Count Kleist of Nollendorf. Already wounded on 22. 9. in the Côtes Lorraines by grazing shot on the head and shoulder shot, he had remained against the wishes of the doctors with the troops and found in front line in every endeavor, like Ewald von Kleist leading the sword in Kunersdorff in the left hand.

4. On 3 March 1915 near Perthes, near Rethel, during the storming of an enemy trench Von Kleist Fritz (Wendisch Tychower Branch), Leutnant in the Guards Rifle Battalion.

5. On March 14, 1915, to Stettin Verdun, Joachim von Kleist (Herbert's brother), Captain and Comp.-Führer in the King-Inf.-Regt. No. 145 as the leader of a field flight compartment.

6. On 22 July 1915 in the Battle of Pokryi near Janishki in Lithuania Heinrich von Kleist. d.H. Wusseken, Oberleutnant d. Res. des 8. Ul.-Regiment, as an Ord.-Officer of the 2nd Cav. div.

7. On 28 September 1916 by grenade shot Alfred von Kleist (Warniner branch), Captain in the Gren. Regt. Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf as leader of the Mash. Gain Comp. Res. Inf. Regiment. 46th

8. On 7 October 1917 at Azannes in front of Verdun Konstantin von Kleist-Retzow a.d.H. Kieckow, Leutnant a.d. in the 4th Res. Drag. Regt., as leader of a series of the air force.

9. On 27 March 1918 at Puissieux west of Bapaume in an attack at the head of his Battalions Hugo von Kleist (Kowalk-Schmenziner branch), Captain in 4th Guards Regt. as Batl.-Komdr. in the Teaching-Info-Regt.

10. On 18 September 1918 in Flandern Ewald von Kleist, i.e. Zützen, Leutnant, 3rd Ul.-Regt.

11. On 28 October 1918 near Pargny, near Rethel, during a frontline exploration of Ewald Von Kleist (Kösliner branch), in peace lieutenant colonel at the staff of the Leibgren. regiment. No 8, as Major General and Commander of the 51st. Res. Inf. Div.
12. On February 3, 1919 in the fight against the Polen in Neukarmzig near Züllichau Fedor von Kleist from the house of Wusseken, Leutnant and leader of the Mash.-Gew.Esk. in the 3rd Ul.-Regt.

On duty in the country:

1. On 11 February 1915 to Parchim Thassilo Kleist of Bornstedt (Segenthiner side branch cavalry-captain retired), and Lord-Majoris of Hohennauen, commandant of the Central Horse Depot No. 2.
2. On 24 September 1915 in Berlin of Joachim von Kleist (formerly Kleist Dubberow), captain in a motor battalion.
3. On 16 May 1918 to Potsdam Conrad von Kleist, i.e. Zützen, Major and leader of the replacement section. 4th Guard Field Type Regiment.

The consequences of the war:

1. On 18 November 1917 to Potsdam Freiherr Werner von Kleist (Churkölnische Linie)
Retired Captain and police inspector.
2. On 5 December 1917 at Stolp i. Pommern. Von Kleist Fritz (Kowalk-Schmenziner Zweig), Lieutenant General, in peace Gen.-Major and Commander of the 1st Guard Inf. Brigade, in the field commander of 51st. Res. Inf. Div.

They are happy to praise, for they were still allowed to believe that the word would become the truth: "The kingdom will never be destroyed if you are united and faithful."

Other deaths:

1. 14. June 1914 Mrs Marie von Kleist born of Natzmer, Berlin, formerly Nemitz, 76 years old,
- 2 April 2, 1915 Fräulein Ida von Kleist à Charlottenburg, sister of the Lord Paymaster Viktor. 3 May 21, 1916 Countess Ady von Kleist born Countess Seydewitz of Dresden.
4. 23. 5. 1916 to Berlin retired Major à Hans von Kleist à, Gebersdorf.
- June 5, 3, 1916, widow of Wilhelm von Kleist born Schultz to Friedenau, nearly 88 years old.
- 6 9 December 1916 aged 70 Mrs Agnes von Kleist à-Drenow born Hentze,
shortly after the celebration of the golden wedding.
- 7 January 2, 1917 General der Kav. Karl von Kleist on Berlin, shortly after the 80th century.
Year of life.
- March 8, 20, 1917 Ferdinand von Kleist on Rheinfeld West- with Lichtenfeld and Neufeld in
- 9 April 21, 1918 Prussian Leutnant retired Emil von Kleist to Kolberg in the 69th year.
- May 10, 25, 1918 at Mitau Baron Ludwig von Kleist.
- von Kleist June 11, 8, 1918 Katinka à Stettin, sister of the cousin Leopold, Labehn.
- 12 July 31, 1918, at Rhöndorf a. Rh. aged 88 years the senior of our family
Waldemar von Kleist
13. 20. October 1918 Baroness Vera von Kleist born from Gonzenbach to manor Buonas i. d. Schweiz.
- April 14, 25, 1919 Fräulein Marie von Kleist from Zützen.

3. Other personal messages:

1. On 1 April 1916, Lieutenant General Paul von Kleist celebrated his 70th birthday on Berlin.
The chairman congratulated him on behalf of the family and sent a donation of flowers.
2. In July 1916, the chairman visited the senior of the family, the 86-year-old cousin
Waldemar von Kleist in his beautiful mansion in Rhöndorf a. Rh. and found him well cared for

of his lovable daughter in great spiritual and physical freshness.

After his death, the seniorship was transferred to Lieutenant General Viktor von Kleist in Potsdam.

3. On October 21, 1916, Bernhard von Kleist and Drenow celebrated in full freshness the feast of the golden wedding. The family took by congratulatory letter, telegrams and flower donation on it share.

4. In November 1916, two war veterans celebrated their 80th birthday, General der Kav. Karl von Kleist and Lieutenant General Viktor von Kleist. Both combatants of 1866 and 1870/71 and distinguished by special achievements in these wars. Even with these Celebrations, the family was represented by congratulations and flowers. The Newspapers We brought honorable essays.

5. Likewise on 12 April 1919, on which day 50 years ago the chairman joined the army.

6. Cousin Alfred von Kleist, who led a division in the war, at last a corps in the Baltic, was coming. General of the 4th Army Corps.

Von Kleist A stud. juris, who rightly bears the noble title of 1799, turned to the chairman in 1914 and asked for admission to the Gotha and thus to the leaning family. It belongs to the so-called Darsener or Regenwalder Kleisten. The chairman refused to admit him because there is no link between his proven ancestor Peter II and the Peter I listed in our family tree, which he claims as an ancestor.

4. Participation in the war:

The chairman intends to make a list of all participants, including details. She will appear under special pressure, for which the family will grant the costs.

It is also proposed that the portraits of all the fallen and those who died in the war be duplicated individually or on one sheet, perhaps following the above compilation, and that they be sent to all family members. The Board of Directors is authorized to take the appropriate steps.

The idea has also been expressed that a memorial stone for the fallen could be erected on Berlin in the Kleistpark. In this time of complete renunciation of patriotism and tradition, this must be dispensed with.

5. Family history and the like:

1. On March 7, 1915, in several newspapers of the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth Ewald von Kleist thought honorably through longer essays. The Ode to the Prussian Army "Unconquered army" was usually printed. It fit into the war period, Like if it were just written.

2. On 26 February 1919 a Kleist company was established in Frankfurt am Main, which The aim is how the Goethe-Gesellschaft has set itself for Weimar. The old Oderstadt is to become a site for the discovery and collection of microscopic research. Christian Ewald and Franz Alexander will also be taken into account. Dr. Groeper, the secretary of the society, is thinking of publishing writings of the Kleist society, also promoting the stage care of the bold playwright.

The Committee of the Company consists of several cousins.

The family has expressed their full support for the company, including the promise of active support.

For this purpose, the Family Day approved 10,000 marks in war bonds from the family fund. It is hoped that the cousins will also contribute personal contributions to this purpose. The non-attendees are requested to transfer contributions to the Bank for Trade and Industry, Branch Frankfurt a.O. for the account of the Kleist company.

Supplements on family history:

1. The provincial governor of Pommern and the Association for Local History and Homeland Security in Köslin have both asked for the family history to be left. Family Day approves the free transfer.

2. In Fürstenwalde a. Spree, a street has been named after the chairman. (Kleiststrasse).

6. Family pictures:

1. The 2. For example, the Guards Regiment has sent the image of a commander of the regiment to the chairman, maintaining his right of ownership. It depicts Colonel Ferdinand von Kleist, who became commander of the regiment on 4 December 1849 and died in Berlin on 28 June 1867 as a general of infantry.

Since the whole branch is extinct, there are no relatives to whom the picture could be handed over.

2. Under the same conditions, the grenadier Regiment 5, Danzig, sent the image of a Von Kleist Colonel, who was commander of the regiment from 1701 to 1706.

7th grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist-Nollendorf:

Since the beginning of the war, the connection with the regiment has been interrupted.

8. New York Life Insurance:

The insurance company replied to a letter from the Treasurer stating that it intended to cease its activities in Berlin and that it was not taking up any new applications for the time being.

9. Fideikommissachen:

Material will soon be sent to the cousins, who are the owners of the peace commission, by the board.

SURVEY
of the
Participation
of the
Family von Kleist
in the
World War.

The Roman numerals denote non-participants; their age is calculated as of August 1, 1914.

The Arabic numerals name the participants.

I. Ferdinand von Kleist of Rheinfeld/West Prussia, lieutenant retired, 53 years, + March 20, 1917.

II. Count Friedrich Wilhelm von Kleist of Wendisch-Tychow, lieutenant d. L. cav. retired, 63 years.

1. Ewald (son of II), b. May 11, 1882, lieutenant of the reserve of the Life Cuirassier Regiment, remained with his regiment as leader of the great baggage train and took part in the Battle of the Marne. With the 5th Cavalry Division he marched as leader of the supply column Kleist through Poland, Hungary and Bukovina, through Galicia and the Ukraine, taking part in further engagements. A serious illness forced him to return home in January 1916, where he engaged in patriotic work with the Landesfuttermittel-Gesellschaft and the food supply of the district of Teltow. In September 1914 he received the Iron Cross, became first lieutenant in 1915, captain of cavalry (Rittmeister) in 1917.

2. Sigurd (son of II), b. January 15, 1885, captain of cavalry in the Life Cuirassier Regiment, took the field as leader of the cavalry signals detachment of the 8th Cavalry Division, which consisted of four Saxon cavalry regiments and two Prussian Jäger regiments. At the end of 1917 he became divisional signals commander with the same division and at the beginning of 1918 transferred in the same capacity to the Royal Saxon 241st Infantry Division.

Without interruption by illness he took part in France, East Prussia, Poland, Courland and again in France in innumerable battles and engagements, of which only the Battle of Lorraine, the Masurian battle, the battles at Warsaw, ód , on the Rawka-Bzura, at Jakobstadt, the great battle in France from March 25 to April 9, 1918, and the subsequent heavy fighting shall be named. (He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the Hanseatic Cross, the Lippe Merit Cross and the House Order of Hohenzollern.

3. Gunnar (son of II), b. August 23, 1886, lieutenant in the Schutztruppe for East Africa. As leader of the 14th Reserve Company Mwanza he took part from October 1914 to October 1915 in the fighting against the English in the district of Bukoba, from November 1915 to April 1916 in the fighting against the Belgians in the volcanic region of Lake Kivu. From May to August 1916 he fought again as leader of the Mwanza detachment against the English between Mwanza and Tabora. Supervening heart cramps forced him to seek the hospital at Tabora, where he was taken prisoner by the Belgians on September 19, 1916. Until February 1917 they transported him through the Belgian Congo and handed him over in March to France, whence on account of his heart ailment he was exchanged to Switzerland in May and to the homeland in September 1917. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, became first lieutenant in 1914, captain in 1916.

4. Diether Dinnies (son of II), b. March 13, 1890, as a lieutenant in the Kaiser Alexander Guard Grenadier Regiment had transferred to the aviators and was initially assigned to Aircraft Depot Park 1, but already on August 23, 1914, came to Army Flyer Detachment 12, where he could be active on the Belgian and French theaters of war. During the Battle of the Marne he was able, as the first of Kluck's army, to report the approach of the English from the right flank. On October 9, 1914, he fell into French captivity due to engine failure, in which he was held until

May 22, 1918, at times making so-called reprisal voyages on a hospital ship between Toulon and Salonika. After a short stay in Switzerland he was released to the homeland on September 19, 1918. Here he immediately placed himself at disposal, was employed for a short time at the staff of the Chief of the General Staff of the Field Army, then took part with his old regiment in the re-conquest of Munich and subsequently found employment with the border guard in Upper Silesia. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the observer's and flier's badge, and on November 7, 1918, became captain. For a time he was battalion leader in the Regiment Alexander.

5. Hans von Kleist, b. March 10, 1854, colonel and inspector of the military veterinary service, became at the outbreak of war inspector of the replacement squadrons of the VII Army Corps in Münster and later simultaneously inspector of the horse stocks of this army corps and fulfilled these duties throughout the duration of the war until summer 1918. In spring 1917 he was promoted to major general. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, the Saxon War Merit Cross, the Lippe War Merit Cross and the Turkish Imtiyaz Medal.

6. Kurt (son of 5), b. February 22, 1880, district judge, first lieutenant of the reserve of the Guard Rifle Battalion, was assigned as adjutant to the 1st Battalion, Reserve Infantry Regiment 61 and in this position took part in the combats of the 1st Reserve Corps before and at Tannenberg and then against the Rennenkampf army in Lithuania. Appointed captain on February 1, 1915, he fought in Regiments 54 and 373 in Courland, Galicia, in the Carpathians and in Romania, repeatedly as battalion leader. At the end of 1917 he was transferred with the 225th Infantry Division to the West and took part in the fighting on the Côte Lorraine and in 1918 at Amiens. In between he was for a time commander of a horse depot of the 1st Reserve Corps, gas officer with the 225th Infantry Division, and worked briefly in 1918 at the General Government of Warsaw.

Kurt von Kleist was wounded three times—1914 by shell splinters in head, neck and arm and likewise 1914 by rifle shot through the lower leg, 1916 by rifle shot through nape and occiput. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Austrian Military Merit Cross.

7. Fritz (son of 5), b. November 8, 1894, served his one-year volunteer term with the Guard Rifle Battalion and had himself transferred to the officer-candidate corps at the outbreak of war. On October 18, 1914, he became lieutenant after having fought in Belgium and having taken part in the Battle of the Marne and the winter battle in Champagne. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, but already fell on March 3, 1915, in the ranks of his battalion in a storm attack near Tahure.

8. Hermann Conrad von Kleist, Gr. Dubberow, b. August 6, 1886, first lieutenant of the reserve of the Grenadier Regiment on horseback, took part with this in the heavy fighting of Kluck's army in August and September 1914, then transferred to the composite Regiment Dietze of the 9th Cavalry Division, which was involved in the battles on the Somme, at Arras and Lille. In November 1914 he became leader of Reserve Cavalry Detachment 49 with the 49th Reserve Infantry Division, which command he retained until December 1, 1916, after having been promoted captain of cavalry (Rittmeister) in October 1915. With the 49th Division, temporarily also with Detachment Schmidt and with the I Reserve Corps, he fought in Poland at W oc awek, owicz, Warsaw and other places and in the ensuing pursuit combats. For a short time assigned to the 4th Cuirassier Regiment, he was involved in positional fighting in the Pripet marshes, but already in January 1917 was again transferred, namely to Reserve Infantry Regiment 223 and ten days later to Reserve Infantry Regiment 29. These units were in positional warfare in Galicia. With Regiment 29 he was in Lorraine in May and June 1917, then again in Galicia, where to the positional fighting were added the pursuit combats in eastern Galicia and Bukovina. The storming of the Dolzok falls in this time. Toward the end of 1917 the regiment again came back to France, where it took part in the fighting in the Siegfried position and in the battle of Cambrai. On March 19 followed transfer back to the old regiment, which at that time was in Macedonia, as squadron leader. His squadron there was assigned the protection of the headquarters of the 11th Army. After the end of hostilities he returned with the regiment, marching through Serbia and Hungary, to the homeland. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Austrian Military Merit Cross.

9. Ewald (brother of 8), Schmenzin, b. March 22, 1890, had in peacetime been unable to serve on account of unsteady health, but forced through his acceptance by the Grenadier Regiment on horseback and was able by mid-1915 to take the field. With the regiment he took part in the offensive in Poland and the campaign in Serbia. During the latter he was appointed lieutenant of the reserve. There followed the fighting on the Greek border and then the transfer to the western theater, where from July 1916 to June 1918 he took part in the fighting before Verdun, in Champagne, at Reims, in Flanders and at Lille and Cambrai. On June 16 of this year he became ordnance officer at the 4th Infantry Division, which was involved in the fighting at Armentières, Lille and Valenciennes. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class.

10. Bogislav von Kleist, b. Rauden, September 14, 1862, captain a. D. of the Schutztruppe, although completely disabled, in 1914 took over the leadership of the southern detachment of the Schutztruppe of South West Africa and in several heavy engagements against the English covered the retreat of the main body to the north. At the later capitulation of the Schutztruppe he fell into captivity with them, but was soon released to his farm Nabaos near Keetmanshoop, which he found completely plundered. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, having previously in earlier combats already earned the Red Eagle Order with Swords.

11. Hans Jürgen (nephew of 10), b. September 18, 1888, entered in the year 1916 as officer-candidate with the 10th Uhlan Regiment and on December 22, 1917, became officer, after having previously been transferred to the Landwehr Cavalry Rifle Regiment No. 10. He took part in the positional fighting of this regiment in the Pripet marshes and in the entry into the Ukraine. In April 1918 he again changed unit and came to the machine-gun squadron of the 1st Guard Dragoon Regiment, which was assigned to Hussar Regiment 8 (Guard Cavalry Division). With it he took part from mid-1918 in the heavy fighting in France and fought at Reims, on the Aisne, at Laon and at Rethel.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and transferred to the reserve officers of the 10th Uhlan Regiment in order to study law.

12. Rudolf (brother of 10), Jeseritz, b. February 22, 1875, captain a. D. of the Schutztruppe. Severely wounded in the engagement at Nabas 1905 in South West Africa, and discharged as completely disabled and one-sidedly maimed in the uniform of the Schutztruppe, he had received no mobilization assignment. He nevertheless volunteered for service and in autumn 1914 was appointed leader of the recruit depot at Grenadier Regiment 2. He himself brought the trained replacements several times to the front in West and East, where he also was granted to take part in the positional fighting around om a. Temporarily battalion leader in Reserve Infantry Regiment 306, he soon returned to Grenadier Regiment 2 and remained there until May 1918, when the management of his estate called him home. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, and for distinction in earlier combats in South West Africa bears the Red Eagle and the Crown Order with Swords.

13. Count Ewald von Kleist (Zützen), b. January 11, 1861, was from December 15, 1914, to December 15, 1915, company leader with the replacement battalion of the 2nd Guard Regiment of Foot. Further activity his state of health did not permit.

14. Konrad (brother of 13), major a. D., b. March 19, 1862, took over the leadership of the replacement detachment of the 4th Guard Field Artillery Regiment and remained in this position until his death on May 16, 1918. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

15. Ewald (son of 14), b. February 25, 1899, entered in spring 1917 as officer-candidate with the 3rd Uhlan Regiment and one year later was promoted to lieutenant. Already in autumn 1917 he took the field and took part in the positional fighting in Lorraine, Upper Alsace, in Flanders and on the Siegfried front as well as in the battle between Cambrai and St. Quentin. On September 18, 1918, a shell burst in the dugout near Gouzeaucourt put an

early end to his life.

16. Leopold (brother of 13), b. March 29, 1872, lieutenant colonel, wing adjutant to His Majesty the Emperor and King and commander of the regiment of the Gardes du Corps, led the regiment in the advance through Belgium and France in the battles at St. Quentin, at the Petit Morin, on the Somme, at Arras and Lille and in the fighting for the Yser line. In January 1915 he was appointed chief of staff of the 14th Reserve Corps, which lay in exhausting positional warfare on the Western Front. Here he took part in the Battle of the Somme. In June 1916 he was transferred as quartermaster general to Army Detachment Gaede, which stood in positional warfare in Upper Alsace and the Sundgau. At the end of 1916 he received command of the Grand Ducal Hessian Life Guard Infantry Regiment 115, with which he again had to sustain fighting on the Somme and on the Siegfried front. In April 1917 the regiment under his leadership particularly distinguished itself in the engagement at St. Quentin. Promoted to colonel in March 1917, he soon thereafter changed theater of war by transferring as chief of staff to the Beskid Corps, which was prominently engaged in positional fighting and soon after in the breakthrough and pursuit in eastern Galicia. Then followed fighting on the Sereth and Zbrucz and from the end of 1917 to the beginning of 1918 (as chief of staff of the 38th Reserve Corps) again positional fighting between Meuse and Moselle. In February 1918 he received the rank of brigade commander and on March 25, 1918, was appointed chief of staff of Army Detachment D (XX Army Corps) in Dünaburg. Drawn up in mid-September for a renewed concentration against Romania, which then did not take place owing to the collapse of Austria-Hungary, Army Detachment D was sent as Generalkommando XX to Poltava at the beginning of October 1918. As chief of staff of this army corps he returned, after fighting with Russian Bolsheviks and Ukrainian bands, at the end of January 1919 to the peacetime garrison of Allenstein.

Colonel von Kleist was slightly wounded in the head on October 26, 1914, but was able to remain with the troops. Of Prussian orders he received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the House Order of Hohenzollern with Swords and the Crown Order 2nd Class with Swords. In addition, numerous non-Prussian decorations were bestowed upon him.

17. Ewald von Kleist (Köslin branch), b. February 13, 1863, lieutenant colonel on the staff of the Life Grenadier Regiment No. 8, took the field as commander of Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 8 and took part in the successful combats of the 3rd Reserve Corps in Belgium and in the capture of Antwerp. After further participation in the fighting on the Yser the corps was transferred to the East, where in numerous engagements and battles it advanced toward and beyond Warsaw.

On June 3, 1917, Ewald, who had already been promoted to colonel in August 1914, received command of the 28th Infantry Brigade, with which he again had to sustain heavy fighting in Flanders into the year 1918. On February 25 he had become major general. In March 1918 he was engaged in the battles at Cambrai and Bapaume, and further in the fighting between Arras and Albert. On July 27, 1918, he was entrusted with the leadership of the 51st Reserve Division. With this he stood in continuous positional fighting on the Nesle and at Reims, fought in the defensive battle in Champagne and had to direct the difficult retreat combats of his division between Aisne and Serre. On October 28, 1918, a rifle shot during a reconnaissance in the foremost line near Parny (near Rethel) ended his brilliant military career, which promised further advancement.

Decorations bestowed upon him were: Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, Crown Order 2nd Class with Swords, the Austrian and Bavarian Military Merit Cross and the Lippe War Merit Cross.

18. Hermann (brother of 17), b. August 15, 1864, took the field with his 1st Battalion (Grenadier Regiment 12), fought through Belgium and sustained the battle on the Ourcq. In November 1914 he was detached from the 5th to the 6th Infantry Division, where he briefly commanded the 35th and thereafter the 20th Infantry Regiment, which until early 1915 lay in positional warfare at Soupir. Into this time fell the battle of Soissons. A contusion suffered on March 6, 1915, by shell burst brought a severe shock to the nervous system, which forced a return to the homeland. Here Kleist from June 8, 1915, to July 28, 1916, commanded the replacement battalion of his old regiment, became lieutenant colonel on July 24 and, after restoration of his health, returned to the front, where as commander of

Infantry Regiment 157 he fought in August 1916 in the Battle of the Somme.

Thereupon the regiment was transferred to the East and fought in the Carpathians against the Russians, storming Mount Kukul. In July and August it then fought in Romania, and from October took part in the victorious campaign against the Italians. In this connection Kleist at times led the 233rd Infantry Brigade. In March 1918 the regiment was again transported to France, where in April it entered the battle at Armentières and then for a longer time fought at Ravetsberg. On May 18, 1918, promotion to colonel took place. In the positional fighting now ensuing in Flanders, Kleist suffered on June 4, by shell burst in the dugout, a chest contusion with smoke gas poisoning. After recovery, in November 1918 he took command of the deputy 9th Infantry Brigade, became on February 2, 1919, commander of Infantry Regiment 48, with which he acted in the border guard until his retirement. At present he is district commander in Brunswick. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the House Order of Hohenzollern with Swords, in addition the Austrian Iron Crown and the Austrian Military Merit Cross.

19. Robert (brother of 17 and 18), b. June 22, 1868, went to the field as commander of the 1st Battalion (Grenadier Regiment 9), which took part in the victorious fighting of Kluck's army in northern France until November 1914. At the end of November the regiment came to the Eastern Front, where it became active at Mawa and Lötzen. To support the heavily pressed Austrians the regiment was then thrown with other troops into the Carpathians, where Kleist took active part in the storming of the Swinin and in the battle on the Stryi. The winter in the Carpathians in connection with unceasing fighting had as consequence an illness which allowed return to the troops only after lengthy cure in January 1916. Immediately thereafter new combats in the Carpathians began, after the conclusion of which the 9th grenadier Regiment, of which Kleist had become commander on April 15, 1916, was again transferred to the Western Front, where it had to sustain the heavy fighting in Champagne, at La Bassée, on the Somme in the critical days of the first half of July and then on the Yser. Again transported to the East, the regiment was thrown against the Brusilov offensive and fought in September 1916 on the Narajowka. These renewed demands Kleist's health could not withstand. He had to return to the homeland owing to nervous exhaustion and cardiac weakness, where at the beginning of 1917 he was entrusted with the position of district commander in Detmold. On January 27, 1918, his promotion to lieutenant colonel took place.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the Austrian Military Merit Cross, the Hanseatic Cross and the Lippe War Merit Cross, all with Swords. In East Africa he had earlier already earned the Red Eagle Order with Swords.

20. Baron Ernst von Kleist (Courland side branch), b. September 25, 1866, was before the war major on the staff of Infantry Regiment von Lützow. At the outbreak of war assigned to Reserve Infantry Regiment 27, he already fell on August 27, 1914, as battalion commander in its ranks in the engagement at Noyers (near Sedan).

21. Baron Ewald (brother of 20), born 19 December 1868, chamberlain, Rittmeister of reserves of the Life Guard Hussars Regiment, placed himself at disposal at the outbreak of war and took over the first command that offered itself to him, the medical company of the Guards Replacement Division. With this he took part in the fighting at Luneville and Essay, but had to return home already in January 1915 because of illness. In April he was able to report for duty again and was assigned to the deputy Great General Staff and placed at the disposal of the Chief of the General Staff of the Field Army. His activity in this post was political-military in nature and lasted until the end of the war. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Oldenburg Order of Merit and was promoted to major.

22. Wolf von Kleist-Retzow (Gr. Tychow), born 6 October 1868, Rittmeister of reserves of the 9th Uhlán Regiment, was appointed at the outbreak of war as leader of Reserve Train Column 61 of the 1st Reserve Corps and took part in this army corps' fighting, chiefly the battles at Gumbinnen, at Tannenberg, and at the Masurian Lakes.

As commander of Flight Staff 202 of the same army corps he fought on the Rawka, the Bzura, and at Przasnysz, and with it took part in the entry into Lithuania and Courland in the summer of 1915, which led as far as before Dvinsk and there ended in positional fighting. In August 1916 he was assigned command of the ammunition

columns and trains there.

The corps reached Transylvania in the autumn of 1916, where it had to force the passage across the Transylvanian Alps and then took part in the victorious advance through Romania. The battles on the Arges and at Ramnicul-Sarat fall into this time. The battle on the Putna in January 1917 and positional fighting on the same river ended Kleist's military activity, as in April 1917 he transferred to the military administration of Romania. He remained there as district administrative officer, first in Pitesti and then in Targoviste, until 31 July 1916. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Austrian Military Merit Cross.

23. Friedrich (brother of 22), Damen, born 30 August 1873, first lieutenant of reserves of Hussar Regiment No. 5, was called up as leader of the large baggage of the 35th Infantry Division and took part in the 17th Army Corps' fighting, which culminated in the battles at Tannenberg, at Lodz, and at Warsaw. In the autumn of 1914 he was severely ridden down, so that he could no longer mount a horse, and the command of the division automobiles was given to him. At the same time he became supply officer of the divisional staff. At the beginning of January 1915 his health was so exhausted that he had to go home to recuperate and until June had to take various spa cures. From July 1915 to June 1916 he still did garrison duty with his regiment, but had to give up this activity because of shattered health. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

24. Hans Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow (Kieckow), born 1 November 1886, lieutenant of reserves of the 1st Guards Field Artillery Regiment, was assigned to the mounted section of his regiment and, in the further course of the war, fought as battery leader in Belgium and France, in Poland, Galicia, Romania, and then again in France and Belgium. He [14] received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the House Order of Hohenzollern, and the Austrian Military Merit Cross, and was promoted to first lieutenant in July 1916.

25. Konstantin (brother of 24), born 1 February 1891, as Vizewachtmeister of the 2nd Dragoons Regiment was transferred to the 4th Reserve Dragoons Regiment and with this was soon promoted to lieutenant of reserves. He took part in the victorious advance of the year 1914 through Belgium and France. In December 1914 the regiment was transported to the East, where it took part in the campaign in Poland, Galicia, and Serbia. In the spring of 1916 Kleist transferred to the air service and successively found employment with Air Sections 25 and 274, chiefly before Verdun. Thereafter he became leader of Photographic Survey Platoon No. 3 and, as such, met a glorious end at Azannes before Verdun on 7 October 1917. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the House Order of Hohenzollern with Swords, the Bavarian Military Merit Order, the Hessian Medal for Bravery, and the Lippe Rose, a decoration for Art and Sciences.

III. Baron Ewald von Kleist (Electoral Cologne line), born 14 December 1872, professor of theology at the St. Matthias Gymnasium in Breslau, had applied for a field-chaplaincy post, but was held back by reclamation.

IV. Baron Werner (brother of 3), born 21 March 1877, lawyer, unfit for military service because of a heart defect, from 1 August 1914 to 1 March 1919 found employment at the court chamber of the royal family estates as legal counsel and department head. He received the Cross of Merit and the Loretto Cross 1st Class, and became honorary chamberlain of His Holiness the Pope.

26. Baron Werner (uncle of III), born 18 April 1861, police inspector, captain (ret.), at the outbreak of war [14] placed himself at disposal and was employed first at the deputy General Staff, then in 1915 at the deputy intendancy and at the line-of-communications intendancy of the 9th Army. In 1916 he was temporarily assigned as company leader to the replacement battalion of the 1st Guards Regiment of Foot and thereafter was line-of-communications commander in the field at various places, until an illness setting in in September 1916 forced him to give up his military activity. He had contracted a serious heart disease, to which he succumbed at Potsdam on 18 November 1917. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

27. Baron Werner (son of 26), born 4 February 1898, entered in 1916 as officer cadet into the Franz Regiment, where on 16 September 1917 he became an officer. Even before that he had already gone to the field and with the 2nd Machine-Gun Company took part, among other things, in the battle on the Aisne, in the breakthrough battle in Galicia, and in the fighting in Courland. Recalled to France, he was seriously wounded on 23 October 1916 on the Chemin des Dames by a shot to the chest and fell thereby into French captivity, where he still now, not yet restored to health, is in the officers' prisoner-of-war camp at Cholet. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

28. Baron Karl (brother of 26), born 24 December 1865, major on the retired list, upon the beginning of mobilization took up his mobilization post as deputy commander of the Landwehr district Mosbach (Baden), then became commander of the Landsturm Infantry Battalion raised there, and already on 4 September battalion commander in his old Regiment 110. At its head he took part in the engagements at Flirey, Bouvin, Douvin, Hulluch, and in the fighting at Vermelles in September and October 1914. Unfortunately he had to lay down his command already on 4 November because of illness of the heart. His state of health [15] nevertheless allowed, from May 1915 onward, an employment in the interior, where at first he served at the district command Mannheim. At the end of June he became commander of the 2nd Replacement Battalion of the Leibgrenadier Regiment 109 and on 28 August 1915 adjutant at the deputy General Command of the Guards Corps. On 22 March 1916 he received the brevet rank of lieutenant colonel. As decorations he was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class and the Baden Order of the Zähringer Lion with Swords.

29. Baron Heinrich (son of 28), born 7 March 1894, lieutenant in the 16th Uhlán Regiment, took the field with it and, for a good patrol ride, received the Iron Cross as the first in the regiment. He took part in the advance through Belgium, the capture of Liège, and, alongside various engagements, the battles at Namur and St. Quentin, as well as the Battle of the Marne. The attempts to envelop the German right wing saw the regiment in October 1914 engaged in the battles at Arras, Lille, and Ypres. After positional fighting in the West, partly also in Upper Alsace, Kleist was seconded as ordnance officer to the 52nd Infantry Division. With this he took part in the Battle of the Somme and in the fighting on the Aisne, in Champagne, and on the Chemin des Dames. At the end of 1917 he was assigned as combat leader to Infantry Regiment 170 and fought with this again in Champagne. For the great battle in France in the spring of 1918 he returned to the 52nd Infantry Division and was further engaged without interruption in the battles at Soissons and Reims and in the ensuing defensive fighting. In August 1918 he temporarily led a battalion of Infantry Regiment 111 in the formation of the 17th Army.

After the end of the war he transferred to the Reichswehr cavalry. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the Saxon Albert Order and the Baden Zähringer Lion, both with Swords. On 20 May 1917 he became first lieutenant. In addition, a particularly valuable recognition was granted him, in that his divisional commander, Lieutenant General von Borries, gave him his portrait with the dedication: "To his excellently proven, brave ordnance officer and faithful companion, in the saddle as with the pen, as cavalryman and infantryman, Mr. First Lt. Baron von Kleist, Uhlán Regt 16, in grateful remembrance."

V. Wedig von Kleist, customs secretary in Hamburg, born 12 May 1856, 58 years old in 1914.

VI. Paul Ewald von Kleist, lieutenant general on the retired list, Berlin, born 1 April 1846, 68 years old in 1914.

30. Hugo (son of VI), born 24 November 1884, at the outbreak of war was first lieutenant in the 4th Guards Regiment and adjutant of the line commandant's office Bromberg. He remained in this laborious post until the completion of all mobilization transports. At the end of October he received a company in Reserve Infantry Regiment 93 and took part in the heavy withdrawal fighting in Poland, which led him back as far as Czeszochowa, but which was followed by the victorious advance on Warsaw. The exertions of this time, in which he was repeatedly buried by explosions, broke his health and forced him to return home, where from the autumn of 1915 he could be employed as instructor on troop training grounds, after he had been promoted to captain on the King's

birthday of that year. Gradually his health improved and allowed him to return to the front. On 12 March 1917 he was transferred to the grenadier Regt. 9, which belonged to the 3rd Guards Division, which was engaged in the fighting on the Yser. A daily order of the division particularly emphasized Hugo von Kleist's performances in the fighting for Langemark. Thereafter he was for a time director of an NCO school.

At the beginning of March 1918 the command of the 2nd Battalion, Lehr Infantry Regiment, which likewise belonged to the 3rd Guards Division, was entrusted to him. Although ill again, he remained with the troops and distinguished himself repeatedly in the great March offensive. When on 27 March he led his battalion to a fresh assault at Puxieux, west of Bapaume, a rifle shot to the head put a premature end to his career of victory. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class in Russia and the Iron Cross 1st Class for Langemark. The House Order of Hohenzollern intended for him could no longer be bestowed on him.

31. Adolf (son of VI), born 24 February 1886, first lieutenant in the 10th Uhlan Regiment, with his regiment in the formation of the 5th Cavalry Division shared in the victorious advance through Belgium and France as far as Meaux, east of Paris. Thereupon followed withdrawal fighting, which led as far as Reims. Soon thereafter the division was entrained for the East, where in the autumn of 1914 they advanced from Wreschen to Lodz. Toward the end of 1914 sent to Hungary, they marched over the Zablonica Pass in order to enter the heavy fighting at Kolomea and Stanislau. Here Kleist was wounded on 4 July 1915 by a shot through both thighs, but already in September could return to his regiment, which at that time was in the vicinity of Pinsk. Already earlier, on 28 July, promoted to Rittmeister, he now took over the leadership of the 5th Squadron, which he kept until October 1916. This period was mainly marked by positional fighting. On 9 October 1915 he had an opportunity for particular distinction, in that, with the riflemen of the regiment who were subordinated to him, he succeeded under hampering conditions in taking the outwork Ljado, which had withstood the attacks of other troops for 14 days. On 1 October 1916 Kleist took over the leadership of the regiment's newly formed machine-gun squadron, which at first was assigned to Reserve Dragoon Rifle Regiment No. 13, and in April 1917, at Kovel, together with Reserve Dragoon Rifle Regiment No. 10, to the 86th Infantry Division, which was engaged in positional fighting at Luzk.

In this time Kleist was temporarily company leader in Jäger Battalion 4, battalion leader in Infantry Regiment 341, and battery leader in Field Artillery Regiment 86, namely for his training for the General Staff. In January 1918 he was transported with his machine-gun squadron to Belgium, where the squadron was absorbed into the sharpshooters. He himself was transferred as third general staff officer to the 86th Infantry Division. In this post he took part in the fighting at Reims and the offensive in May and July and in the subsequent retreat as far as Strasbourg.

Returning to the regiment at Züllichau in December 1918, he took over on 1 January 1919 the leadership of a mixed border-protection detachment at Wollstein and on 5 January, in street fighting, was wounded by a rifle shot in the cheekbone under the right eye. After recovery he again entered border protection.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class in France, the Iron Cross 1st Class for Ljado, the Hanseatic Cross, and the Austrian Military Merit Cross with Swords.

VII. Leopold von Kleist, Labehn, born 22 July 1842, 72 years old in 1914.

32. Leopold (son of VII), born 19 May 1880, first lieutenant of reserves of the Jäger Regiment zu Pferde No. 4, was called up to his regiment, which as divisional cavalry of the 35th Infantry Division took part in the battles of the 8th Army Corps at Gumbinnen, Tannenberg, and at Eydkuhnen. In the further course of the year 1914 the corps was involved in the advance and withdrawal in Poland and in the fighting at Lodz and on the Bzura and Rawka. In February 1915 Kleist became Rittmeister and in May of the same year, with his squadron, was assigned to the 105th Infantry Division, which fought for a short time in Hungary and Galicia, on the Stryj and at Lemberg, and took part in the pursuit across the Bug. In the autumn of 1915 the division was involved in the campaign against Serbia and reached as far as Nisch. From there it came into the area of Varna to take over the coast defense on the Black Sea, where it remained until June 1916. Via Macedonia it then came again to Galicia, where it took part in the fighting at

Stanislau and on the Narajowka. There too it remained only a short time and reached Courland in October 1916. After positional fighting at Jakobstadt it took part in September 1917 in the offensive against Riga and Jakobstadt. In November 1917 it came to France and had to hold the position on the Suippe brook near Reims against frequent attacks.

Here Kleist was called away in order to take over the horse-mange hospital No. 90 in Thorn. He remained there until November 1918 and was then employed in border protection at Thorn, until he took his discharge in March 1919. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

33. Friedrich von Kleist, born 15 June 1858, general à la suite of His Majesty, took the field as commander of the 1st Guards Infantry Brigade and took part in the victorious course of the Guards Corps, which, over the battles at Namur and St. Quentin, led as far as beyond the Marne and, after the battle on the Petit Morin, ended in positional fighting. At the end of September 1914 there followed the battle of Reims and in October the battle of Arras, at the beginning of November the battle of Ypres. In the middle of this month Kleist received command of the 51st Reserve Division, which in wearing battles on the Yser at Langemark and Poelkapelle exhausted its strength, like all troops on this part of the Western Front, without noteworthy successes. In April 1916 he [20] resigned this command, was placed at disposal, and took over the commandant's post of his old garrison town of Potsdam. As this post could not satisfy him militarily, he asked for and received on 7 July 1916 his discharge as lieutenant general.

The mental agitations of the war had grievously shattered his health, so that on 5 December 1917, a victim of the war, not yet 60 years old, he died.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the Red Eagle Order 2nd Class with Swords and Star, the Hohenzollern Honor Cross, the Saxon Ernestine House Order, and other war decorations.

34. Friedrich-Karl (son of 33), born 27 August 1894, lieutenant in the 1st Guards Regiment of Foot, took the field in September and took part in the regiment's fighting in his father's brigade. On 5 October 1914 he was wounded in the battle of Arras by a rifle shot in the right elbow, but already in December was able to resume duty, namely as battalion adjutant. Upon his return the regiment was in positional fighting at Perthes and in Champagne and from 11 to 18 March 1915 had to endure the winter battle in Champagne. Here Kleist was severely wounded on 18 March by a shot through the lower jaw and could not return to the regiment until 26 February 1916, when he took over the leadership of a company. Until July 1917 he remained on the Western Front in continuous positional fighting, which was further heightened by the great battles on the Somme and in Champagne.

The transfer to the East brought fresh fighting at Zloczow, on the Sereth, and above all in the great breakthrough battle from 19 to 28 July. In September and [22] October 1917 there followed for a short time positional fighting in Courland, on the Dvina, and in October and November once more fighting in the West at Reims.

A posting as instructor to the officer-cadet course at Döberitz brought an interruption of military activity from 27 November 1917 to 25 March 1918, whereupon further fighting on the Western Front followed, with the battles at Soissons and Reims. In July and August 1918 Kleist was involved in the attack battle on the Marne and in Champagne, as well as in the ensuing defensive and withdrawal engagements. After returning home he volunteered for border protection in Silesia and is at present still on duty in Potsdam.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Saxon Ernestine House Order with Swords. On 26 June 1918 he became first lieutenant.

35. Bernd (son of 33), born 30 April 1896, from the Selecta of the cadet corps was appointed on 11 August 1914 as lieutenant in the 1st Guards Regiment and was sent after the regiment to the field in September. Fighting in his father's brigade, he took part in the battles at Reims and at Arras, already in October, at 18 years of age, leading a company. Likewise in November, when in the battle of Ypres he was severely wounded, so that the left leg had to be amputated.

As soon as he was able to move again, he sought to make himself useful at home and in 1916 found employment

as adjutant of the NCO school at Potsdam. On 24 February 1917 he received the requested discharge, but continued to place himself at disposal and from October 1917 was employed in the military administration of Romania, lastly as quartermaster officer. After the conclusion of this activity he returned to Pomerania in order to devote himself to agriculture.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class, the Hohenzollern Honor Cross, and the Saxon Ernestine House Order with Swords.

VIII. Hans von Kleist (Ruschütz), born 26 April 1850, first lieutenant (ret.), 64 years old in 1914.

IX. Georg von Kleist (Nemitz), born 2 November 1860, had not been a soldier, 53 years old in 1914.

36. Hans Joachim von Kleist (Kl. Dubberow), born 11 October 1869, first lieutenant (ret.), became leader of Line-of-Communications Motor-Vehicle Column No. 58 at Army High Command No. 9 and with this took part in the campaign against Poland.

On 26 December 1914 he suffered a hemorrhage. The occasion was as follows:

He stopped with his car at a railroad line on which a group of soldiers was standing. In the darkness they did not notice the approach of a locomotive and would have been run over had not Kleist, with all the force of which his voice was capable, called out to them at the last moment. This shout—one must say—cost him his health. He could no longer return to the front and found employment only at home with a motor-transport battalion in Lankwitz near Berlin. On 24 September 1915 he died of pneumonia, for which the incident described had laid the groundwork.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class with a letter of commendation from his commander, as the first of the column leaders. On 24 December 1914 he had become captain.

X. Kurt (brother of 36), Kamissow, born 20 September 1875, had not been a soldier and was not fit for field service.

XI. Bernhard von Kleist (Drenow), lieutenant (ret.), born 20 July 1843, 71 years old in 1914.

37. Leo (son of XI), born 5 March 1869, captain (ret.), Gr.-Krössin, volunteered at the beginning of the war and marched out as company leader with the Landsturm Battalion Deutsch Krone. In Detachment Westernhagen it took part in the first fighting in Poland. At the end of 1914 Kleist transferred as first adjutant to the 81st Reserve Division. This was engaged in positional fighting in France and then in the East was employed in the breakthrough battle of Gorlice and in the numerous battles and engagements that took place in Galicia around Przemy 1 and Lemberg. Owing to shattered health, on 1 October 1915 he was assigned as adjutant to the deputy 6th Infantry Brigade and, after promotion to major on 6 November 1917, was detailed to the deputy General Command of the 2nd Army Corps.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class and the Austrian Military Merit Cross.

38. Kurt Detlef (son of 37), born 17 June 1894, lieutenant in the 2nd Grenadier Regiment, took the field with his regiment and shared in the victorious advance up to the Marne, in part already as company leader. This was followed by fighting between Lille and Ypres and at Kemmelberg, until on 4 November 1914 a severe wound at Wytschaete put him out of action.

From the garrison hospital at Altona Kleist was discharged at the end of January 1915 to the replacement battalion of his regiment. Called to help against the surprise Russian incursion toward Memel (cf. Ludendorff p. 105), the battalion had to fight several actions between Tilsit and Tauroggen, in which it threw the enemy back over the border.

A renewed illness from the old wounds brought Kleist back to hospital. At the beginning of August, however, he was able to return to the field regiment, where he held the position of battalion adjutant. With the 8th Cavalry

Division the regiment took part in the advance in Courland, which ended with positional fighting on the Dvina. The 109th Infantry Division was also involved in these, to which he transferred in May 1916 as ordnance officer. He then went with the division to Romania and took part in all the fighting there until, in March 1917, there was a further relapse of his old wounds.

After service in various posts, among them as adjutant to the head of the War Office in Berlin, Kleist was able in autumn 1917 to take the field for the fourth time, namely as ordnance officer of the 33rd Infantry Division, which was engaged in positional fighting in Champagne and then had to endure the spring offensive of 1918 with its great battles. In June of that year he came to Infantry Regiment 98 as battalion commander and regimental adjutant, but already in July he was recalled as adjutant to the 33rd Division.

On 2 September 1918 he was posted to the Inspectorate of Machine-Gun Affairs and as instructor to Döberitz and was to return to his regiment on 4 November. He did not reach it because, owing to the revolution, the officers were held back in Berlin.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class, the Bremen Hanseatic Cross, and the Oldenburg Friedrich-August Cross.

39. Jürgen (son of 37), born 30 May 1896, naval officer cadet, came with the Marine Division (later Marine Corps) in the 1st Sailors' Regiment to Flanders and took part in the fighting at Antwerp and on the Yser. On 9 June 1916 he became a naval officer and now came aboard, first with the 3rd Minesweeper Flotilla. In April 1917 he became commander of torpedo boat A 36 and in June 1918 commander of A 65. In that capacity he had various naval engagements with parts of the English fleet. He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class.

40. Ulrich (brother of 37), born 26 March 1875, first lieutenant (ret.), took part in the fighting in South West Africa. Further information is lacking.

XII. Heinrich (brother of XI), Privy Finance Councillor, Rudolstadt, born 18 September 1852, captain (ret.), 61 years old in 1914.

41. Tassilo Kleist von Bornstedt (Hohennauen), born 15 August 1860, first lieutenant (ret.), volunteered and was employed at Central Horse Depot No. 2 at Parchim. Here he succumbed on 11 February 1915 to influenza which he had contracted in the line of duty. Previously he had received the brevet rank of captain of cavalry (Rittmeister).

XIII. Karl (uncle of 41), general of cavalry, born 1 November 1836, 78 years old in 1914, died 2 January 1917.

42. Rulekin (son of XIII), born 3 November 1874, captain of cavalry and squadron commander in the 2nd Guards Uhlan Regiment, took the field with his regiment. No further reports about his activity have been received.

XIV. Hugo von Kleist, born 29 January 1848, headmaster of a grammar school, Aurich, had not been a soldier, 66 years old in 1914.

43. Ewald (son of XIV), born 8 August 1881, captain of cavalry in the 1st Life Hussars Regiment, received at the outbreak of war the replacement squadron of his regiment, which originally belonged to the wartime garrison of Marienburg but was soon mobilized. Thus he was already able to take part in the Battle of Tannenberg and in the engagement at Wormditt (2 September 1914) against the Vilna Cavalry Division, which had advanced as far as the Passarge. His squadron was then assigned to the German troops standing in the area of Mawa, from which the 17th Reserve Corps was later formed. He took part with this formation in the battles of Soldau–Neidenburg and in the fighting around Przasnysz and Ciechanów in the winter of 1914/15, repeatedly as leader of mixed detachments of all arms.

During the summer offensive in Poland in 1915 he led a reconnaissance detachment consisting of two to three squadrons, a cyclists' company, machine guns, and an artillery platoon from Mawa to the Little Berezina. There it became positional warfare. In July 1916 he had to give up his squadron and was employed first as ordnance officer (until November 1916), then as general staff officer at the General Command of the 17th Reserve Corps.

In August 1917 he was transferred as first general staff officer to the Guards Cavalry Division, from which—after the armistice with Russia—together with the 5th and 9th Cavalry Divisions the Guards Cavalry Rifle Division was formed. With this division he came to France. In April 1918 he transferred in the same capacity to the 225th Infantry Division and fought with it on the Côte, before Amiens, on the Somme, Ancre, and Oise. He participated here in the battle on the Roman road and at Albert and Péronne. When this division, after heroic fighting at the end of August 1918, had shrunk so much that it had to be dissolved, he was posted as Ia to the General Command of the 7th Army Corps, which was fighting in the Vosges. Here he witnessed the outbreak of the revolution and took part in the withdrawal back behind the Rhine.

He remained in his post as Ia at the General Command until May 1919 and here witnessed the Spartacist unrest in the Ruhr area. With the formation of Reichswehr Brigade 7 he transferred there as first general staff officer.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and 1st Class (27 January 1915).

44. Alfred von Kleist, born 16 November 1857, major general and commander of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, took the field with it and, with the 6th Division of the 3rd Army Corps, entered the formation of the 1st Army Kluck. In almost unceasing fighting, driving the enemy before it, the division reached Villers-Genest, 45 km from Paris. The advance had led it via Henri-Chapelle, Firlemont, Chemappes, Béhain, Roye, Villers-Cotterêts, Gette, Mons and Solesnes, all places whose names are linked to victorious engagements. Without a day of rest unprecedented marching performances were achieved, with the night's rest further disturbed by the hostile attitude of the populace. Like a bolt from the blue, on 7 September the order to retreat struck the victorious troops. But they preserved their excellent bearing, kept the sharply pressing enemy at arm's length, and halted him on the Aisne. Thus positional warfare began, with the 6th Division having to hold the Aisne from Vailly to Soupir.

On 27 March 1915 Kleist was appointed commander of the newly formed 115th Infantry Division, which, under the new wartime organization, counted only three infantry regiments—namely 136, 171 and Reserve Infantry Regiment 40—and one field artillery regiment. The division was independent and therefore also had its own ammunition columns and trains. After a few days it was assembled, ready for use, and was transferred as reserve of the Supreme Army Command to Douai.

When on 9 May the 1st Bavarian Reserve Corps between Givenchy and Neuville was heavily attacked by the enemy and almost broken through, the division was committed to the counterattack over Vimy. In a fourteen-day, costly struggle it succeeded in restoring the situation. It had lost 110 officers and 2,000 men, but had earned the thanks of the Bavarian corps, which was officially expressed to the commander. A large number of Bavarian decorations further expressed this thanks.

The division was then withdrawn to Douai for restoration and refitting of its units and on 10 June was led back to the Aisne, where in the area of the 8th Army Corps it had to secure the sector Soissons-Vailly. A period of relatively great quiet, which lasted until 30 July. On that day the division was relieved and came as reserve of the 3rd Army into the area of Charleville, but already on 8 August it was transported to the East, where it entered the formation of the 40th Reserve Corps (Litzmann) and the 10th Army (Eichhorn). It arrived still in time to take part in the assault on Kovno. Until early October there then followed great marches on bottomless roads, interrupted by the battles on the Niemen and near Vilna. Since accommodation possibilities were very slight, the fighting strength declined considerably. For its night quarters the divisional staff relied mainly on its motorcar.

The operations here too gradually passed into positional warfare, with the division subordinated to the 21st Army Corps (von Hutier). After some shifts the situation developed such that the 115th Division occupied a position north of Lakes Marocz and Miadziol, between the 31st and 42nd Divisions, and maintained this, in closest contact with the enemy, over the winter. Frost at times removed the protection that the lakes otherwise afforded.

In March 1916 the Russian General Ragosa launched a great offensive here with 25 divisions. It began in the night.

The alertness of the sentries and searchlights caused the first attack to fail, although the ice on the lakes still bore. All the other attacks as well, which lasted from 18 to 27 March and were prepared by massive drumfire, failed. On 1 April General von Hindenburg appeared and congratulated the division on its successes. It had not yielded an inch. But there was much to repair in the shot-up positions. With spring there set in brisk economic activity, with 1,450 hectares sown with rye alone and all the other crops likewise cultivated. Alongside this the road network was improved and welfare facilities for the troops were created. The situation was in every respect good, the spirit of the troops excellent, so that the order for transport to Mitau was received with mixed feelings.

On 29 July 1916 the division arrived in Mitau, but was distributed by the 8th Army (von Below) as reserve among various parts of the army, so that the divisional staff at times was without troops.

On 16 August Kleist received the order to prepare an operation against Schlock. Hardly had the necessary reconnaissance been carried out when the 115th Division was assigned a new task which led it via Grodno, Brest, Kovel to Army Group von Linsingen in Volhynia.

In the area of the 4th Austrian Army the enemy had penetrated here 3–4 km deep. Kleist received the order, with a force assembled for this purpose, in conjunction with another division, to retake the lost position at Korytnica. Under him in this were his 229th Brigade (3 regiments), 4 other infantry regiments, 1 Jäger battalion, 1 Guards cavalry brigade, and 31 heavy batteries and 1 German and Austrian batteries.

After very careful reconnaissance and preparation, on 27 September the position was stormed. The 4th Siberian Army Corps left 2,800 prisoners in the victor's hands and vanished from the front. A complete success. The position was expanded, but the division was very soon called away.

It left the filthy Volhynia not unwillingly, all the more as the way pointed south. Before transport there arrived the following telegram from the Supreme Commander East, Prince Leopold of Bavaria:

"On its departure from the command area subordinate to me I express to the division my full thanks and my unreserved recognition for its outstanding performances on the Eastern Front, for the exemplary devotion to duty and for its incomparable bravery which it has always proved in all battles and engagements and in the most difficult war situations on Courland and Lithuanian soil as well as in Volhynia and Galicia against the Russian mass assaults seeking decision. My warmest wishes accompany the commander and the troops, proven in so many storms, whom I see leave my command area only unwillingly, to the tasks to which our Most High War Lord has called them."

Unloaded at Petroseny, on 24 November the division began the advance over the Szurdus Pass in heavy snow and followed in forced marches as reserve of the 9th Army (von Falkenhayn). On 4 December it was subordinated to Group Kühne and reached the Arge River. In the night of the 5th to the 6th Kleist, who stood in Joita, close before Bucharest, received the order to seize the western front of the fortress while it was still dark. This succeeded surprisingly quickly. By 9 a.m. Fort 1 had been taken. Only feeble counterattacks came from the city. A battalion furthermore occupied the north station and parts of the city, which parts of the Danube Army coming from the east also did. However, the order came not to occupy the city, so that the division remained in the suburb of Turani. Already on 9 December the advance to the east was continued.

The Romanian campaign had hitherto demanded more marching (in 17 days 500 km) than fighting. That now changed when Russians also appeared before the front, who vacated the sectors of Sargata, Ialomi a and Ruzaul only after fierce resistance. In the battle of Rîmnicu S rat the last resistance before the Siret was broken in the Christmas days from 21 to 27 December in costly fighting.

There followed positional warfare of the most difficult kind. In the flat and marshy terrain of the Siret lowlands cover and accommodation could be created only by elevated structures. The wood for this had to be brought from far away in the mountains. As long as the weather remained mild, the condition was tolerable. But when in the second half of January severe frost (down to 24 degrees) and a north-east storm (crivet) set in, the troops suffered extraordinarily. The clothes froze to the men's bodies and clinked like glass. 1,500 cases of damage from frostbite were recorded. Cholera cases also occurred sporadically.

The good spirit of the troops and the care of the command authorities overcame these hardships too, without loss of fighting ardor. In this situation, with the enemy in part immediately before the front, the division remained until April, when, as a result of the Russian Revolution, efforts appeared on the enemy side to establish friendly relations.

The summer showed great heat (up to 60 degrees Réaumur), which brought with it cases of typhus. Malaria, by contrast, was successfully combated by the entire division's taking quinine for months. At the end of July a heavy artillery attack began, followed by an unsuccessful infantry attack.

At the beginning of August 1917 the division was relieved and placed at the disposal of Corps Morgen, in whose formation it took part in the breakthrough battle on the Putna and Susi a, which lasted from 6 August to 3 September. The enemy position was broken through under blazing sun. His Majesty the Kaiser personally presented General von Kleist with a high decoration. After the conclusion of these battles the division took over the sector lying furthest in the mountains on the Susi a. In contrast to the previous one this position lay in the middle of the mountains, partly 1,000 meters high. It was very trackless and afforded little accommodation. The Romanians opposite maintained constant, well-directed artillery fire. On 10 December the armistice also came into force here and afforded time for training the troops and creating further welfare facilities.

The year 1918 brought the hard parting from the 115th Division, which Kleist had formed and with which he had reaped only glory and honor for three years. Full confidence had prevailed between commander and troops. Kleist was called to Riga as commander of General Command 58 and subordinated to the 8th Army. On his arrival the corps was strung out far apart on the Dvina. It consisted of the 29th mixed Landwehr Brigade and the 3rd Guards Cavalry Brigade. Both brigades had roughly the strength of divisions. At this time operations for the liberation of Livonia and Estonia began. They were initiated by flying columns pushing far into the country and cleansing it of the Red bands.

After the Peace of Brest-Litovsk had been concluded on 3 March, the General Command, without troops, was transported to the West and assigned to the Army of von Einem, which allotted to it the Argonne Group. The position stretched through the Argonne from Cernay to Avocourt and was occupied and mostly well developed by the 9th Landwehr Division, the 2nd Württemberg Landwehr Division and the 237th Infantry Division. The enemy—French and Italians—lay close before it and was very active. His systematically directed artillery fired much and well. Besides, the General Command usually had 1 to 2 divisions in the rear area for training, during which the instructions for combat issued by the Supreme Army Command after major engagements were made known to the troops. Above all, discipline had to be maintained and raised, the more so as the replacements arriving from home showed deficiencies in this point.

Extensive preparations were required by the July offensive against Reims, in which the corps took part with all its artillery and parts of the 9th Landwehr Division. The behavior of the French made it clear that the offensive had been betrayed. It was therefore broken off.

The next period passed fairly quietly, so that Kleist could begin a leave at the beginning of September. His chief of staff von Hahnke, however, called him back by telegram, as he believed an attack imminent. Belonging to the group at this time, alongside the two Landwehr divisions, was the 1st Guards Infantry Division. The 5th Guards Division stood available as an intervention division; another division was in rail approach. All divisions had only small combat strengths and at the same time had to hold 8–12 km of front. Artillery ammunition was scarce. Opposite stood 5–6 fresh and full-strength American divisions with numerous tank squadrons and much artillery.

Kleist had returned on 25 September and hurried straight to the front. Already in the following night at 11 o'clock a bombardment from long range lasting several hours began, which covered all roads and shelters with shells. At daybreak the mass infantry attack began, which struck especially hard the 1st Guards Division and pushed back its very thin lines in the fog. The 1st Guards Regiment suffered most. In what spirit it fought is shown by a report of an officer, which ran as follows:

"In dense masses the enemy storms from all sides. The struggle is bitter, to the last man. Long live the King."

Already on the evening of the 26th the 5th Guards Division had to be committed on the right wing of the 1st, and the army command reduced the sector of the group by assigning the 9th Landwehr Division to the neighboring group.

On the 27th new overwhelming mass attacks with many tanks took place, which finally forced even the Württemberg Landwehr Division to give up its Argonne position. There followed further days of the hardest fighting, greatest physical exertion, and highest mental strain. The corps commander is constantly with the foremost

divisions, to help. Wherever a breakthrough threatens, he has a last reserve at hand to prevent it. Deeply shaken but with unbroken bearing, on 10 October by higher order the withdrawal to the line Grandpré — St. Juvén — St. Georges is begun. The 5th Guards Division, burned down to slag, had already had to be pulled out before.

Colonel General von Einem issued the following order: "I lose a corps which proved itself in positional warfare as in great battle alike, which during this time untiringly trained its divisions for attack and defense. What the corps achieved during the first autumn days of this year secures for it not only my thanks but also for all times an honorable place in the history of the 3rd Army."

His Majesty awarded General von Kleist the Order Pour le Mérite, the only one acquired by the family in this war.

Further changes had occurred, so that on 10 October the group consisted of the Württemberg Landwehr Division, the 45th Reserve Division, the 15th Bavarian Division and the 41st Infantry Division. It now belonged to the Army Marwitz. A combat pause now ensued. Ground had been lost, but a breakthrough had been prevented in a fourteen-day defensive battle.

The divisions are in part melted down to a headcount of a few hundred men. They lie without developed positions, without obstacles in open terrain, and hold the aforementioned line until 31 October in daily fighting and in continuous massive artillery fire. Repeated relief helps little, as the relieving divisions are also very weak. In the front are the 240th, the 15th Bavarian and the 52nd Infantry Divisions. Behind the front, with one-third each, the 31st Division.

On 1 November, devastating fire again set in along the whole front, which shattered the defender's infantry and artillery even before the infantry attack. The 52nd Infantry Division is completely scattered and must be replaced by the 115th. The army orders the withdrawal to the line Aute-Buzancy-Forsé, which succeeds under the cover of rain and fog. In front stand the 240th, 31st and 115th Infantry Divisions. The 15th Bavarian and 52nd gather their wreckage behind the front. Thus the withdrawal is continued step by step, with repeated employment of the last strength, against the fierce pursuit of the enemy, and the Meuse is crossed unhindered at Mouzon, Fe. Alma and Pouilly. The bridges are broken. The corps forms itself, with the 31st, 88th, 27th (Württemberg), 7th and 236th Divisions, as Group Kleist for renewed resistance. The completely shattered divisions 115th, 15th Bavarian and 52nd are pushed into the line-of-communications area.

On 11 November the armistice ended the successful and glorious military activity of General Alfred von Kleist, who had brought honor to the family name in high command positions.

The account of the further course of events will be given in the family history itself.

We append at the end the wording of the telegram that the last commander-in-chief, General of Cavalry von der Marwitz, addressed to General von Kleist:

"The General Command departs on 17 December from the area of the army, into which it entered only in the hard days of the concluding battles before Verdun. Not long, but content-laden times bind the General Command to the Army High Command. Victory was not granted us in our common work, but untouched remained the honor of arms of the troops who fought under the command of the General Command against overwhelming superiority; in exemplary fashion they were led back by the General Command, under the most difficult circumstances, from the battlefield across the Rhine and into the homeland. The activity of Your Excellency and of the entire staff is a shining example of the truest soldierly fulfillment of duty, for which I express my thanks—mine and the fatherland's—in this gloomy time. Only the future will cause the merit of the leadership of Group Kleist to shine for the public in the deserved bright light.

(signed) von der Marwitz."

45. Ewald von Kleist (Damen-Zadtkow branch), born 21 May 1872, captain (ret.), had declared himself available for service with the infantry as well as with airship units, but was held back in order to be employed in supervising the construction of airships and aeroplanes.

He had earned the Order of the Crown with Swords in South West Africa in the years 1904/6.

46. Detlef (brother of 45), born 27 August 1873, captain (ret.), reported at the outbreak of war to the replacement battalion of the Fusilier Regiment Queen, from which he had been discharged on 1 April 1914 on grounds of illness. Upon the formation of Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 213 he requested transfer to this regiment in order to get to the field, and in October reached Belgium with it. As leader of 10/213 he took part in the advance engagements and the subsequent fighting on the Yser, especially the hard days at Bixschote, and there earned the Iron Cross 2nd Class. His health, which had already no longer been equal to peacetime service, had to fail here. Detlef was sent to the reserve hospital at Wiesbaden. After recovery, since fitness for field service was no longer to be expected, he took over a replacement company of Reserve Infantry Regiment 75 in Bremen. At the beginning of April 1915 he was assigned to District Command Hamburg 3 and in December 1916 was appointed district officer in Meiningen. On 1 July 1919 he retired and since then has held the position of commander of the Saxe-Meiningen Field Jäger Corps (gendarmerie). Alongside this he devotes himself with good success to youth work.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, the Hamburg Hanseatic Cross, and the Saxe-Meiningen Cross of Honour for Merit in the War. On 25 June 1916 he was granted the brevet rank of major. He too already possessed the Order of the Crown with Swords and an Oldenburg war decoration, distinctions which he had earned in the years 1904/7 in South West Africa.

47. Herbert (brother of 45), born 13 November 1874, captain and company commander in the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist von Nollendorf, took the field with his regiment. About his activity his battalion commander reports the following:

"At the regiment's first engagement at Ethe, Kleist received the difficult order to search the village of Ethe. The village was occupied by several battalions of infantry who were concealed in basements and cellars. There was wild hand-to-hand fighting here on the very first day. Kleist restored calm, re-established order through his outstanding bravery and steadiness, and with his company made 2 officers and 90 men prisoners.

In the further engagements Kleist always distinguished himself by his prudence, his intrepidity, and his personal courage. He carried his company, which clung to him with affection and respect, ever forward with him and was in all assaults the first to force his way into the enemy position.

On 22 September Kleist was wounded by a grazing shot to the head and a shot through the shoulder. Nevertheless he remained with the company until the end of the engagement and only then allowed himself to be bandaged. Contrary to the entreaties of comrades and doctors he stayed with the troops. He carried on through the following days despite his wound. In the heavy forest fighting in the Côte Lorraine he held out stoutly, forcing his way through using only his left arm.

In the position at Vaux he went and crawled night after night on patrol up close to the French trenches and ascertained the situation. As late as the evening of 29 September he stormed, with a platoon of his company, a French trench he had reconnoitred and then filled it in. From this the French had been flanking us in the dense forest, and thus many losses were spared us.

On 30 September Kleist, once again storming at the head of his company, was severely wounded, so that he was transferred to the hospital at Mars-la-Tour, where on 6 October he succumbed to his wounds.

In him the regiment lost not only its best comrade but also one of its most capable officers and noblest men.

His company too suffered a grievous loss through his death. During the long arduous marches after the first days of combat he was often seen carrying a fully packed private's knapsack on his back. He had taken it off one of his men who was too weak to march with full kit.

In the forest battles, on days when the troops lacked every kind of provisions, he always shared his last piece of bread with his men and gave them to drink from his field flask. In this way, through his own modesty and personality, he helped many a despondent man through hard hours, awakening in them courage and enthusiasm for fresh hard deeds."

signed Koppel,
captain and commander F/6.

It remains to be added that Herbert, despite the severest sufferings, gave the wounded in hospital an exemplary model in bearing pain, offered them comfort and courage, so that a clergyman from Berlin who worked in the hospital later named Herbert in his sermon as the model of a truly Prussian officer.

Herbert died on 6 October 1914 in firm trust in his Redeemer, reading the soldiers' hymn book. His right arm had been amputated. He succumbed to tetanus. He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and had already earned the Order of the Crown with Swords and the Oldenburg Order of Merit in 1900/1 in China.

48. Joachim (brother of 45), born 18 June 1878, captain and company commander in the King's Infantry Regiment, had transferred to the air service even before the war and at the outbreak of war received command of the fortress aviation detachment in Metz. From here he undertook almost daily large reconnaissance flights and thereby proved his worth especially in the Battle of Metz. When new air units were formed he became commander of Field Aviation Detachment 44 and with it took part in the fighting of the Crown Prince's army in October and November. He was designated to carry out the first flight to England and for this purpose had already handed over his detachment to his successor. An important reconnaissance mission led him once more into the aircraft. Apparently it was too heavily loaded with bombs. Immediately after takeoff the aircraft sagged, struck the top of a poplar, and crashed onto the roof of a house. Joachim suffered a severe concussion, wounds to the face, and a complicated fracture of the thigh. He spent three weeks in a field hospital and was then transported back home in a goods wagon. After a five-day journey he arrived at his brother-in-law's in Stettin. Despite most devoted care he died there already on 4 March 1915.

In his words on the sickbed the desire recurred again and again to climb into the aircraft and attack the English with bombs.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Bavarian Order of Merit. After his death the Saxon Albert Order still arrived. He also already possessed the Order of the Crown with Swords.

49. Sigismund von Kleist, lieutenant (ret.), born 25 April 1874, came on 18 August 1914 as company officer to the military preparatory institute of the Guards Corps, was promoted still in 1914 to first lieutenant, and on 1 June 1915 was transferred to the battalion "Collection Point Potsdam." On 21 September 1915 he received command of the so-called field company of this battalion, was made captain in July 1916, and in November was transferred as company leader to Infantry Regiment 399. With the Guards Replacement Division he took part in the heavy fighting around Verdun, but already in December had to undergo a cure in Wiesbaden because of articular rheumatism. At the end of January he was able to resume his garrison duty with the battalion "Collection Point Potsdam." On 31 January 1919 he was pensioned.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd Class.

50. Alfred von Kleist, first lieutenant in the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist, born 1 February 1882, was assigned to Reserve Infantry Regiment 46 and fell as captain and leader of the machine-gun company of this regiment on 28 September 1916.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and already possessed, for distinction in South West [Africa], the Order of the Crown with Swords.

51. Felix von Kleist (brother of 46), born 30 July 1890, lieutenant (ret.), became battalion adjutant in Landwehr Infantry Regiment 20 at the outbreak of war and with this, in the formation of the 1st Army, took part in the victorious advance through Belgium and northern France with its numerous engagements and battles. From November 1914 onward there followed positional fighting in Flanders. In May 1915 Kleist was transferred to the Alexander Regiment, where he served as company leader and took part in the breakthrough battle at Krasnostaw in Galicia and in the pursuit fighting in Poland. Severely wounded on 21 July 1915 before Che m, he had to remain under hospital treatment until March 1916. In May of the same year he rejoined his Landwehr Regiment 20, where he now also became company leader. The regiment had to endure continuous positional fighting in Flanders until

June 1917, interrupted by the battle before Arras. Then it also went to the East, where after the Battle of Smorgon it reached as far as the Berezina. Back in the West it fought in 1918 in the Vosges. In June 1918 Kleist was transferred as company leader to Infantry Regiment 76 and remained with this regiment during the fighting at Arras–Bapaume and the withdrawal fighting near Valenciennes until the entry into Hamburg. On 2 September 1918 he was wounded for the second time, but only lightly, so that he was able to remain with the troops.

The fatherland's distress induced him, after the regiment's demobilization, to place himself at disposal again. In the Marine Brigade Rhoden of the Guards Cavalry Rifle Corps he fought in Berlin, Bremen and Wilhelmshaven and again in Berlin. After the brigade was dissolved he transferred to Protection Troops Regiment 1 of the Lettow-Vorbeck Division, with which he entered Hamburg in June. From this regiment Reichswehr Regiment 79 was formed, from which, however, Kleist withdrew in October in order to devote himself to commerce.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Hanseatic Cross. In November 1915 he became first lieutenant, and on 1 June 1919 captain.

XV. Viktor von Kleist, lieutenant general (retired from active service), Potsdam, born 4 November 1836, 77 years old in 1914.

52. Georg von Kleist (Wusseken), born 25 September 1852, general of cavalry à la suite of the 3rd Uhlan Regiment, volunteered at the beginning of the war and was entrusted with the command of the 23rd Reserve Corps, which was established in September with its seat in Stettin and was composed for the most part of war volunteers. The course of events forced the Supreme Army Command to throw the corps to Belgium as early as October, where, together with the 22nd, 24th and 26th Reserve Corps, it advanced in light engagements toward the Yser and in this sector entered into the heavy and costly fighting that is grouped under the name "Battle of the Yser." Details of this are given in the General Staff pamphlet "The Battle of the Yser." Before noteworthy successes could be achieved, General von Kleist had to lay down his command already in December. A heart ailment forced him to seek the Flandria hospital in Ghent. In January 1915 he returned home, where in the national interest he could only be active politically.

He possessed the Iron Cross 2nd Class from 1870, received the Iron Cross 1st Class and the Swords to the Grand Cross of the Württemberg Crown.

53. Robert (son of 52), born 29 May 1882, captain of cavalry and adjutant of the 35th Cavalry Brigade. As the brigade was divided, he received a squadron of the Hussar Regiment Prince Blücher and with it took part in the fighting of the 17th Army Corps. On 20 August 1914, in the Battle of Gumbinnen, the horse was shot from under him. Vice-sergeant major Braun of his squadron helped him to salvage the saddle under enemy fire. In the Battle of Tannenberg the squadron made hundreds of prisoners and captured guns and matériel of all kinds. A non-commissioned officer, Wegner, alone made 90 prisoners in one day and captured two machine guns. Two hussars, each leading a spare horse, opened fire on a Cossack detachment and brought back the captain and 35 men as prisoners. So tremendous had been the moral effect of the battle of annihilation that the Russian had become completely helpless.

It had been an unforgettable sight when the squadron passed by Passenheim after the Battle of Tannenberg, where 80,000 captured Russians were waiting to be transported. The fields had been entirely brown with Russian greatcoats.

There followed the Battle of the Masurian Lakes and the long series of engagements and battles in Poland in which the 17th Army Corps was prominently involved. On 15 January Robert was seconded as ordnance officer to the 36th Infantry Division of the 17th Army Corps and soon after took up an adjutant post. Here too his further combat activity took place in Poland, likewise in the period from 1 June 1915 to 23 September 1915, when he was second adjutant at the General Command of the 17th Army Corps. After the breakthrough at Przasnysz, Hindenburg and Ludendorff came to the headquarters of the 17th Army Corps, so that Robert could get to know personally the greatest men of this wartime period.

In September 1915 he was seconded to the remount department of the War Ministry, followed in June 1917 by transfer into the War Ministry. In 1918 he became major and in 1919 retired in order to devote himself to agriculture.

He received the Iron Cross 2nd and 1st Class and the Oldenburg Order of Merit.

54. Heinrich (son of 52), born 8 September 1884, farmer, first lieutenant of reserves of the 3rd Uhlan Regiment, was called up to his regiment and then seconded as ordnance officer to the divisional staff. In Cavalry Corps Marwitz the 2nd Cavalry Division shared in the victorious advance through Belgium via Liège and Brussels and already on 29 August appeared 50 km before Paris. The advance then passed east of Paris, so that one could see the Eiffel Tower with the glass, until the Battle of the Marne was followed by the retreat. In doing so the cavalry corps, filling a gap in the front, had to fight daily engagements. The 2nd Cavalry Division then came to the north and had some days of rest at Lille. Then at the beginning of November it was employed in the trenches at Houthem–Hollebeek before Ypres. From here Heinrich was able to visit his father, who was posted somewhat farther north, and take leave of him. In mid-November the division was transported via Trier, Leipzig, Posen, Hohensalza to the East and unloaded at Soldau. From here the advance with Corps Zastrow went via Mawa toward Przasnysz, but had to be given up again when strong forces with much cavalry turned against it from Warsaw. This phase of the war proceeded with repeated engagements and continual skirmishing, ending here too in trench warfare. With several Landsturm battalions the division held for a long time the Wkra sector Bie u –Radzanów against repeated attacks. During this time Heinrich was quartered with officers of the staff at an educated Polish landed proprietor's and knew how to earn the respect and affection of his hosts to such a degree that the lady of the house wrote a letter of thanks to his mother. Also proof of how little we deserved the name "Huns." The pathlessness of the area, deep snow and cold, with often most meagre accommodation, brought great exertions and privations. Of great physical strength and sound health, Heinrich overcame them with ease, never losing his humour, which also showed itself in humorous drawings. Thus once, still in France, he designed a comic picture depicting a Spahi fleeing from Uhlans, and sent this to the local newspaper with the remark that the staff of the cavalry division had long not eaten a German sausage. The paper printed the picture and will also have understood the hint. To his humour were joined will to victory and confidence of victory and bright joy in the soldier's craft. "We look neither to the right nor to the left," he once wrote, "only forwards, and only one thought occupies us: to get at the enemy and cut down everything that gets in one's way." And later, when he was advancing in Russia, "I live in a veritable intoxication of victory. We are ever more inclined to believe in the exhaustion of the Russians. The signs are increasing. And then once more to the West, to clear up among the English. Not one may cross back over the Channel."

I append two verses from a poem that he sent home in January 1915:

"What through our willpower
and through our diligence on earth
German energy has achieved
can never be taken from us.
Proudly the German Reich has won
equal rights for all peoples,
for before God all are equal,
and we want no thralls."

He did not live to see that much, almost everything, was taken from us, nor did he come again to the West, but after having for a time been quartermaster officer, moved with the division via Tilsit into Lithuania.

In an engagement near Pokryi on 22 July 1915 the enemy bullet struck him as he was delivering to his regiment an order from the divisional commander. Silently he sank from the horse. His three youngest brothers had been with the regiment since early 1915. One of them, since transport home did not prove feasible, was able to lay him to rest

in the churchyard of Janiszki.

An officer of the staff dedicated to him a fine and honoring obituary, which may not be omitted here:

"With your fresh and cheerful spirit,
how we loved you, Heinrich Kleist!
He is no more, he has fallen.
He died, the best of us all.
A sunlit man, free of cares,
who was always full of hope.
And so with merry horseman's mind
he went laughing through his life.
Kleist now sleeps the eternal sleep,
he lives no more, yet lives his spirit."

In 1914 he received the Iron Cross 2nd Class and the Bavarian Order of Merit.

55. Georg (son of 52), born 4 February 1887, first lieutenant in the 3rd Uhlan Regiment, was at the outbreak of war military escort to Prince Leopold (son) of Prussia. He succeeded in freeing himself. But as his regiment had already marched out, he was assigned to the 2nd Reserve Uhlan Regiment, which used him as ordnance officer at the regimental staff. The regiment was divisional cavalry with the 2nd Guards Reserve Division, which, in the formation of the 10th Reserve Army Corps, marched with the Army Bülow, which fought victoriously at Mons and Charleroi and then at St. Quentin. While the last battle was still in progress, Georg on 29 August 1914 received the order to re-establish the connection with the divisional staff, which had been lost.

On this patrol ride he received fire from the village of Cérizy and, struck by a bullet through the carotid artery, sank from his horse. His two companions, as a report says, under enemy fire, recovered the body onto a cart that had been fetched and brought it to Itancourt, east of St. Quentin, where in the meantime the regimental staff had arrived. Here Georg was buried with military honors in the churchyard of the place. The divisional chaplain, court preacher Richter, delivered the funeral oration, which concluded with the words:

"Eternity, into time shine brightly, that the small be small to us and the great appear great! Blessed eternity."

It was a short, soldierly, yet shatteringly solemn and yet joyous-in-eternity and confident-of-victory leave-taking from the dear, young, radiant figure of your dear son, which will be unforgettable to me for life. In war one learns so quickly to know and to love one another."

Thus court preacher Richter wrote, in sympathy, to the parents.

56. Ewald (son of 52), born 9 May 1895.

57. Fedor (son of 52), born 10 July 1896.

Both were pupils at the grammar school in Kolberg and, the former after passing his final examination, entered at the outbreak of war as officer cadets into the 3rd Uhlan Regiment. After completing training, which also included a course at Döberitz, they came to the field at the beginning of 1915, became ensigns in February and officers in March. The regiment at that time was engaged in positional fighting on the Wkra, southwest of Mawa, and remained there until the division at the beginning of June 1915 was transported to Lithuania. After positional fighting on the Weuta, the advance on Mitau was begun there, then turned to the south in order to come into the rear of the enemy engaged at Šiauliai, during which the regiment was employed at Pokryi. The advance then took the direction of Dvinsk and led the regiment into the area of Lake Drisvyaty, north of Vidzy, where it remained in positional warfare until August 1916. Then followed, with an eight-day stopover in Brest-Litovsk, the transport of the brigade to Transylvania for the Romanian campaign. The attempt to push forward over Mount Arkanului failed owing to the terrain difficulties which opposed the bringing up of the transport and to the enemy resistance in

terrain very favourable to him. It had to be abandoned. Not until mid-November did the regiment, in the new formation of the 6th Cavalry Division, cross the Transylvanian Alps over the Szurdok Pass. There followed the brilliant and successful advance in the formation of Cavalry Corps Schmettow, which led through all Romania to the Siret, where it ended in positional warfare. At the end of February 1917 the 6th Cavalry Division was taken to the West, first to Belgium, and, after handing over the horses in May, was employed in the Vosges. Trained in Alsace for major battle, the division returned to Belgium and was employed at Ypres, then at the beginning of September at Gouzeaucourt, south of Cambrai, where it was involved in heavy fighting. Here Fedor led a squadron (since June 1918) and had the opportunity to prove himself in a difficult situation, for which the 1st Class of the Iron Cross was awarded to him. Beside him the English had broken through. However, with only a small number of riflemen in his trench, he held out until, supported by other squadrons, he was able to hurl back the enemy in a counterattack, during which a larger number of prisoners were taken.

Ewald had become regimental adjutant in August 1918, a position which two of his brothers had held before him in peacetime. Since September 1916 he had been prepared for this position by his secondment as ordnance officer to the regimental staff.

As one of the first regiments the 3rd Uhlans, after these battles, returned in good order to their old garrison of Fürstenwalde.

Ewald transferred to the reserve officers in order to become a farmer.

Fedor made himself available for border protection and moved as leader of the regiment's machine-gun squadron into the area of Züllichau. He had the satisfaction of leading a well-disciplined force that enjoyed the best of reputations, which could not be claimed of all border-guard units of the time. On 3 February 1919 he fell in an ambush engagement in the village of Neukarmzig in the fight against the Poles.

Both brothers earned the Iron Cross 2nd Class, Fedor also the 1st Class, for which Ewald has been recommended for the fighting at Cambrai.

58. Barnim (son of 52), born 26 September 1897, at the outbreak of war, not yet 17 years old, came from the cadet corps as ensign to the 3rd Uhlans Regiment and became an officer on 5 February 1915. With his brothers Ewald and Fedor he went to the field in January 1915 and took part in the same operations and combat actions as they did until 19 June 1915, on which day he fell severely wounded into captivity. He had the order, with a patrol of 10 riders and 10 cyclists, to secure the flank of his cavalry division, which was searching for a Russian cavalry brigade that had broken through. When, after completing his mission, he set out on the way back, he unexpectedly came upon the marching column of the Russian brigade sought. Quickly resolved, he attempted to break through with the lance, which, however, in view of the large number of pursuers who set after him, he did not succeed in doing. Nine men lay dead on the spot, the rest were taken prisoner, some of them wounded. Kleist too received two heavy sabre blows to the head and a stab in the back. After a longer stay in a hospital in Riga he came, with several intermediate stations, to Omsk in Siberia, whence, on account of his wounds, he was exchanged to Norway in spring 1917. Since re-employment in the field seemed out of the question, he was released to the homeland in autumn 1917. After a successful operation had removed the dangers of the head injury, Barnim went to Kolberg and, after a prolonged attendance at the grammar school, took his final examination in order to be able to devote himself to a forestry career.

To a Baltic baron the commander of the Cossack brigade that had taken Barnim prisoner, General Krymov, had spoken very appreciatively of the brave conduct of the young Lieutenant von Kleist. This remark became known here and served as a recommendation for the award of the Iron Cross 2nd Class, which was bestowed upon Barnim for the patrol engagement and already presented to him in Norway.

Afterword.

"It is not fitting to be proud only of the fathers' honor;
if you do not bend the bow yourself, it is not yours."

The family has made these words of the poet true and, from the proud traditions of our old soldierly lineage, read

out only the duty to hasten to arms when the fatherland was threatened. Old and young, all Kleists fit for service followed their King's call. Of 73 members of the lineage aged 17 and over who lived in Germany and whose residence was known to us, 58—as we have seen—took part in the war. And in this the Army List of 1914 showed only 35, including reserve and Landwehr officers.

Thus around 80 per cent placed themselves at the fatherland's disposal. Of the 15 who remained behind, 4 were over 70, 5 over 60 and 3 over 50 years old, 1 exempted. Only 2 cousins were not fit for field service. A sign that the lineage has also preserved its manly strength.

In number, however, it has declined over the course of Prussian military history. This is shown by the Army List of 1740, which still records 64 active officers; it is proved by the fact that in Frederick the Great's wars 30 cousins died for the fatherland.

This war too has further thinned our ranks; we have to mourn the loss of 17 cousins. That is 30 per cent of those who took part. But we do not wish to join in the lament to be heard in many quarters that they fell in vain. Whoever, like me, took part in the war of 1870 knows that the achievements of our army, especially of our officer corps, are something unprecedented in the history of nations.

We of 1870 respectfully and admiringly lowered the sword before the freedom fighters of 1813, who under the most difficult circumstances performed wonders of bravery. But even their deeds are outshone by what the astonished world saw the Prusso-German army accomplish in the last war. It is a high song of heroism, like the Nibelungenlied, which will resound through the centuries and in the coming generation will again engender will to victory and confidence of victory, which offer the sure guarantee of a new rise of Prussia-Germany from disgrace and shame. I believe firmly, as firmly as in a God in heaven, that Germany will win back the influential position that is its due in the council of European nations and that would only be a blessing to humanity.

In this confidence I hand this booklet over to our youth. May they strengthen their youthful strength on the exemplary deeds of the fathers. But let them draw fervent love of fatherland from the poems of our immortal Heinrich Kleist, the as yet unsurpassed Prussian poet. Until the German Reich has arisen again in former glory, let them day by day remember the words he has Germania address to her children and which I would like to write into the heart of the whole family as my legacy:

"Deliverance from the yoke of slaves
that, forged from iron ore,
sets a hell-born wretch's right
upon our necks.
Protection for the temples from ravaging!
To our princes' holy blood
submission and veneration:
poison and dagger for the bastard brood!
Free on German soil to rule
let us, after the custom of the ancients,
enjoy his blessing ourselves:
or let our grave be his."

Wusseken, 7 March 1920.

The chairman of the von Kleist family association.

Georg von Kleist.

1920

Wusseken, 4 May 1920.

In the annex, the minutes of the family day held on 9 April are sent to the cousins.

There were 31 members of the family in Groß Tychow found. Many were prevented from appearing by the unhappiness of the circumstances, deaths in relatives and illness.

As Lieutenant-General Alfred von Kleist told me, "Sadly, my recovery is progressing so slowly that I cannot yet expect to travel to Pommern, and so this time I regret not to be present at the family day. I would ask you to send my warmest greetings to all cousins." Lieutenant-General Paul von Kleist also regretted that he was unable to come and said: "From 1875 to 1914, for forty years, I attended family days without interruption. I would also ask you, on behalf of Adolf, to convey our warmest greetings to the cousins who are here today, and the fervent wish, the plight of time and all the humiliation and humiliation they have brought to us, should still be overcome, despite the bleakest outlook at the moment." A cousin, Captain of the General Staff of Ewald von Kleist, was detained by the unrest in the Ruhr area in Münster.

The family of Heydebreck von Kleist had sent us the following welcome: "The neighboring family, friends and near-despised, commemorates with faithful wishes the Heydebreck family united at the marriage of one of its members. In' Staub mit allen Feinden Brandenburg's." The family of Heydebreck was thanked by telegraph.

At the dinner that followed the meeting, for which some bases from the neighborhood had appeared, I remembered our exiled Emperor and expressed the unchanging loyalty of our family to the king.

After dinner, the majority of cousins stayed together until around 1:00 a.m., and all attendees will be thankful to the cousin Wolf for the hospitality that made this gathering possible, making it more undisturbed and intimate than it can be in a hotel.

The following days, many of those who had come from abroad used it to visit the cousins living in the neighborhood.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the new rules on contributions and ask for contributions to be paid in as soon as possible, which will be due by 1 April in future years. Payment card enclosed.

The chairman.
Georg von Kleist

Gross Tychow, April 9.

Family day.

Present:

- von Kleist 1. General d. Kav. à-Wusseken, Chairman,
- von Kleist 2. Graf-Retzow-Gross Tychow, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer,
- 3. Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow,
- 4. Captain Gunnar von Kleist,
- von Kleist 5. Dubberow,
- 6. Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin,
- 7. Leutnant d. Res. Hans-Jürgen von Kleist,
- von Kleist 8. Jeseritz,
- 9. Chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist,
- von Kleist 10. Retzow-Kieckow,
- 11. Leutnant Baron Werner von Kleist,
- von Kleist 12. Colonel Labehn,
- cavalry-captain 13. Leopold von Kleist,
- 14. Leutnant Berndt von Kleist,
- von Kleist 15. Drenow,
- von Kleist 16. à-Gross-Krössin,
- 17. Leutnant z. See Jürgen von Kleist,
- 18. First Lieutenant Ulrich von Kleist,
- 19. Captain Ewald von Kleist,
- 20. Major Robert von Kleist,
- 21. Ewald von Kleist-Ruschütz,
- 22. Leutnant Barnim von Kleist,
- von Kleist 23. Kamissow

Von Kleist There were also members of the family mentioned elsewhere.

Negotiations were as follows:

The chairman welcomed the cousins who had appeared, in particular the cousin Ewald von Kleist Hard, and thanked the cousin Wolf warmly for making his house available for the holding of the family day. The traffic conditions and expensive prices of the present time would otherwise have made it impossible for many cousins to appear.

The Chairman briefly discussed the political situation and the duties of the aristocracy in modern times.

1. Personnel changes.

1. Births:

- 3. 10. 1919 a son (Konstantin) to the cousin Hans Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow in Kieckow.

2. Engages and Connections:

- 1. In December 1919 Margarete von Kleist é born Krüge (Goslar) engaged to Major Kurt von Freyhold (Oldenburg).
- 2. In December 1919 Baron Hans-Jürgen von Kleist (Gawesener Zweig z. Heidelberg) is engaged to Thusnelda

Vally Büttner (Berlin).

3. In March 1920 Carla von Kleist (Göttingen) was engaged to Gebhard Freiherr Spiegel from and to Peckelsheim on Spiegelsberg near Bielefeld.

von Kleist 4. Charitas (Kolberg) married to Hans W. Julius Peter, Hamburg.

5. Veronika von Kleist (Kolberg) engaged in December 1919, married 5. 3. 1920 to Wolf by Igel, Leutnant d. Res. in the former. Field Type Regt. 60 (Hamburg).

6. Armgard Kleist of Bornstedt-Hohennauen engaged 2. 4. 1920 with Hasso of Manteuffel, Leutnant at the Ziethenhusaren.

7th Magistrate Kurt von Kleist, February 1920 married to Anita widowed Douglas, born Freiin by Puttkamer.

3. Deaths:

1. On 13 August 1919: Olga von Kleist à Labehn.

2. On 15 December 1919: Veronika von Kleist to Osterode i. Ostpr.

3. On 1 January 1920: Luise von Kleist à Hirschberg i. Schlesien.

4. On 19 January 1920: Countess Kleist-Schmenzin, born Countess Medem.

5. On 1 February 1920: Elisabeth von Kleist Alt-Stutterheim, born of Königsberg i. East Prussia.

6. On 22 February 1920: Valerie Ida (called Valida) Freiin von Kleist from Mitau on Berlin.

The congregation had risen in honor of the deceased.

It is decided to release a new staff. Frh. Ewald von Kleist Hard has taken over the processing.⁵² Due to the shortage of money in the family fund, the costs cannot be covered by this fund.

2. Family history.

Handover of the issue containing the family's participation in the World Wars. The costs shall be borne by the family fund.

The submission of the pictures of the fallen is remembered.

The same applies to the filing of biographies of the deceased for family history.

Ewald von Kleist-Berlin will be granted a copy of the family's history at its request.

3. micro-society.

The formation and the founding meeting in Berlin will be reported, with notification of the main provisions of the statutes and calls for accession.⁵³

⁵² http://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1921.pdf

⁵³ The founding meeting, which was originally scheduled for 29 June 1919 in Frankfurt, and to which the invitations had already been published, had to be canceled and repeatedly postponed because of the political unrest. She finally found her way to Berlin on 4 March 1920 in the meeting room of the Prussian State Library. In the Assembly, attended by political, industrial, press, artistic and scientific leaders, and attended by the Kleist family through three members, including the President of the Family Association, General of Georg's cavalry, Dr Arthur, Count of Posadowasky-Wehner, who chaired the Assembly, Lord Mayor Dr Paul Trautmann and Professor Dr retired Minde-Pouet, the Director of the von Kleist Library in Leipzig, addressed the Assembly, and the Student Counselor Dr Georg Deutschen Richard Groeper gave an account of the history of the Foundation and the preparatory work carried out up to that point. ...

After the meeting, General of the cavalry retired, Freiherr of Georg von Kleist, laid a wreath for society at the Heinrich monument of Kleists. ...

In addition, newly elected to the board ...and General of the cavalry retired of Georg von Kleist Freiherr, the President of the von Kleistschen Family Association. ...

The chairman announced that the board had decided to supervise the upkeep of the tomb of Heinrich von Kleist by Kleists

4th Cadet Corps.

National districts intend to continue the Cadet Corps. The family has promised to guarantee two places if education is guaranteed on a national basis and according to Christian principles.

The board of directors will be authorized to take over two positions of 1500 marks each; the award will be left to him. If and as long as no members of the family are eligible, the positions should be offered to members of other Pomeranian or other Prussian noble families on reciprocity.

5. grenadier Regt. Count Kleist of Nollendorf.

No messages from the regiment.

An association of the regiment under the chairmanship of Colonel von Tschischwitz has formed, which has sent a greeting to the family chairman.

6. Honorary Council.

All but one of the members of the Honorary Council have died.

The statute will be announced. Chamberlain Ewald von Kleist proposes a new formation and expansion.

At the request of the chairman, it shall be decided:

It is an honorary council, consisting of three members, elected with the duties and powers of the honorary council of the old army. The Honorary Court consists of the Honorary Council and three other members, who are elected as alternate members for the Honorary Council. The court of honor has the right to issue a warning and an exclusion from the family association. A withdrawal of the nobility is not possible. The exclusion has only a moral meaning, which is sufficient for the intended purpose, the preservation of the family shield.

The court of appeal against the decree of the court of honor is Family Day. A copy of the Supreme Regulation on the Honorary Courts is to be attached to the Statute of the Honorary Council.

Deals of honor must also be reported to the family chairman.

The following members of the Honorary Council were elected:

1. Gen. Leutnant Alfred von Kleist Brandenburg a.H., Bergstr. 11, as chairman,
2. Major Leo von Kleist Krössin,
3. Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow.

As alternate:

1. Colonel Leopold von Kleist, Zützenv
2. Major Robert von Kleist-Besswitz,
- cavalry-captain von Kleist 3. Dubberow.

7. Membership fees.

The need for each member to pay contributions is justified. Originally, only compulsory contributions from 25 thalers were paid by the beneficiaries of the manor house. Voluntary contributions were then added to cover the increased expenditure. In view of the high inflation and the increased need, the contributions paid so far are no

and to contribute to its upkeep together with the family. ...

Jahrbuch der Kleist-Gesellschaft 1921, Erster Geschäftsbericht der Kleist-Gesellschaft bis zur Mitglied-versammlung Oktober 1921, pp. 68, 71, 72. (2019)

As soon as the question of space was resolved, in that the Frankfurter Museum Society released a Biedermeier room for the Kleistbibliothek in accommodating Weise for use, and considerable funds were made available from the city, from wealthy Kleistverehrrern, especially also from the Kleistische Familienverband, it was possible to go to the drafting of the statutes and the recruitment of suitable personalities for the board and committee. . . The founding meeting in the premises of the Prussian State Library on Berlin took place according to the program. In addition to scholars, schoolmen, artists, parliamentarians, representatives of commerce, industry and the press, members of the Celtic Family Association also took part. Die Kleist-Gesellschaft, Dr. Richard Groeper (Frankfurt a. d. O.), Westermann's Monatshefte Band 128, pp. 387, 1920. (2022)

longer sufficient. Only 700 marks were paid last year. Very high contributions are paid for political purposes. Since the family should now be closest to the members, substantial contributions should also be made for them, especially since their preservation is also a politically useful and effective act.

An application by Cousin von Kleist-Kamissow for contributions to be differentiated according to the income tax currently in force is accepted.

For an income up to 5000 M. = 3 M.,

from 5000 M. to 10 000 M. from income tax without surcharges = 5%.

10 000 M. to 20 000 M. = 10%.

20 000 m. to 30 000 m. = 15%.

30 000 m. to 50 000 m. = 20%.

50 000 m. to 100000 m. = 25%.

100 000 m. to 200 000 m. = 30%.

over 200000 M. = 40%.

Members who are in arrears with their payment should be reminded. The paying agent is the family's account with the Kur- und Neumark- knight- Darlehnskasse in Berlin W 8, Wilhelmstr. 6th Payments must be made by 1 April each year, otherwise they will be collected by cash on delivery.

8. Legitimation of the Executive Board by Family Day
at the request of the cash register.

See the attached hearing today.

9. Accounting.

Von Kleist The invoices have been checked by Kamissow and the discharge has been requested. Discharge is granted:

The family fortune was 1918-12-31 286,295.00 marks (nominal value)
31. 12. 1919 284 133,- Mark, (nominal value)
thus less than DM 2 162.

The price is: 223 828, - Mark.

The reduction is explained by the transfer of 10,000 marks to the company.

On 31 December 1918, the assets of the Daughter Foundation amounted to 83,030.67 marks (nominal value)
1919-12-31 85 591.92 marks (nominal value)
2 561.25 marks.

The price is 72 172 marks.

The family has subscribed to war bonds in large quantities and has bombed papers to this end. The Lombard debt amounts to DM 83 102.

The Executive Board is authorized to sell suitable securities to repay this debt, which bears interest at 5 1/8%. 10. Baron Ewald von Kleist gave encouragement for the preservation of family assets.

V.G.U.

Georg von Kleist-Wusseken
Leopold von Kleist
Leopold von Kleist-Labehn
Count of Kleist-Retzow
Von Kleist K.
Von Kleist Frh.

Bernhard von Kleist
Rudolf von Kleist-Jeseritz
Robert von Kleist
Ulrich von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Wilmersdorf
Fritz Kleist-Retzow-Damen
Leo von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow
Hermann von Kleist Konrad-Dubberow
Von Kleist Retzow-Kieckow
Ewald von Kleist-Ruschütz
Berndt von Kleist
Barnim von Kleist
Frh. Werner Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin
Gunnar von Kleist
Jürgen von Kleist
Hans-Jürgen von Kleist

Negotiated

Gross Tychow, April 9, 1920.

Present:

Von Kleist Wusseken, Chairman,
Von Kleist Retzow-Groß-Tychow Graf à, deputy,
Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow,
Captain Gunnar von Kleist,
Von Kleist Dubberow,
Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin,
Lieutenant of Res. Hans-Jürgen von Kleist,
Von Kleist Jeseritz,
Chamberlain Frh. Ewald von Kleist,
Von Kleist Retzow-Damen,
Von Kleist Retzow-Kieckow,
Leutnant Werner von Kleist,
Von Kleist Colonel Labehn,
Cavalry-captain Leopold von Kleist
Von Kleist Drenow,
Leutnant Berndt von Kleist,
Von Kleist Gross Krössin,
Leutnant z. See Jürgen von Kleist,
Lieutenant Colonel Ulrich von Kleist
Captain Ewald von Kleist,
Retired Major Robert von Kleist,
Von Kleist Ruschütz,
Leutnant Barnim von Kleist,
Von Kleist Kamissow.

The Family Day convened here today acknowledges that members of the Family Board are duly elected by notarial act:

board members

1. General of the cavalry of Georg von Kleist, Wusseken, as chairman,
von Kleist Retzow-Groß-Tychow 2. Graf à - à deputy,
3rd Count of Ewald von Kleist-Zützen

deputy

4. Chamberlain Frh. Ewald von Kleist, manor Haard i. d. Schweiz,
5. Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin,

G. W. O.

Georg von Kleist-Wusseken
Leopold von Kleist
Leopold von Kleist-Labehn
Count of Kleist-Retzow

Bernhard von Kleist
Rudolf von Kleist-Jeseritz
Kurt von Kleist-Kamissow
Von Kleist Frh.
Robert von Kleist
Ulrich von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow
Leo von Kleist
Fritz Kleist-Retzow-Damen
Von Kleist Retzow-Kieckow
von Kleist Dubberow
Barnim von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Ruschütz
Berndt von Kleist
Baron. Werner Kleist
Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin
Gunnar von Kleist
Jürgen von Kleist
Hans Jürgen von Kleist

1921⁵⁴

The minutes of the Family Day of 5 February 1921 are not available. A copy of the Honorary Court Regulations adopted at this family day is attached to the minutes of the Family Day 1930, see below.

In that year, a headcount appeared again.⁵⁵ The preface reads:

The new staff of the family was completed on 1 March 1921. Unfortunately, the reprint cannot claim to be complete or unconditional. It is therefore urged to send amendments and amendments to the cousin Freiherr Werner von Kleist, Berlin NW 21, Turmstraße 24, who has kindly supported me in the compilation and to whom I would like to express my gratitude. Because of the high postage costs, it is necessary that all correspondence in Deutschland be dealt with.

MANOR Hard

Baron Ewald von Kleist.

near Ermatingen, Schweiz

⁵⁴ Excerpt from: *Der Kleist-Preis 1912-1932*, ed. Walter Müller-Seidel, Berlin 1968, pp. 35.

Neue Preußische Kreuz-Zeitung, Berlin, 9 May 1921

We receive the following letter:

Kleist Foundation. Under the above name there is an association under Jewish leadership, which does not correspond to the name of Kleist. - The family is keen to announce that they have nothing to do with this "small foundation".

Von Kleist The head of the family

[Fritz Engel.] *Berliner Tageblatt*, June 9, 1921

von Kleist Some time ago, "The Family Board" published a statement in the "*Kreuz-Zeitung*" saying that the family had nothing to do with the Kleist Foundation. Far from rejecting that assertion, the Board of the Kleist Stiftung finds that it is indeed true. Von Kleist The family has no relationship with the Kleist Foundation or with the Geist, which dominates it in memory of the unfortunate poet. Von Kleist From the beginning, when the best German writers called for the foundation of the foundation, she reacted negatively, thus expressing a view that, with a few exceptions, animated the family already during the poet's lifetime and even later. Even Kleist's badly derelict tomb could only be repaired by public aid. (2019)

⁵⁵ https://www.v-kleist.com/FG/personalbestand_1921.pdf

1922

Wusseken, 2 August 1922.

In the annex, the bases and cousins receive the report on the family day. He doesn't bring the best that the family days in Gross Tychow. He says nothing of the engrossing kindness of our hospitable hosts, to whom our heartfelt thanks should therefore also be expressed at this point, as it already did at the Ewald-Hard banquet table.

Those who have to stay away from these meetings, which are wrapping an ever closer and cordial bond of togetherness around us, are to be regretted. Those who can come should not refrain from it. I expect all young cousins who come into life and are still strangers in the family, if they have the means to imagine and thereby act, to take share of what is happening in the family, to be willing to take on the duties that the prestige of our respected name imposes on us.

It was in this spirit that I spoke at the Youth Celebration Board. The plight of our fatherland demands more than ever the cooperation of every individual in the rebuilding of the empire. Every degenerate that has been tried and tested in driving positions for centuries must also be at the forefront of this struggle. The reestablishment of kingship by legal means is the goal that shines in the distance and is to be sought. The fact that the first glass in a festive round was for the king of the future is not unmentioned.

A special Freude became to us in the late hour by the news coming in from Schmenzin of the birth of an heir in this old Kleist house. He was greeted by a quickly drafted poem.

It remains to be added that the Kleist Society has now continued to work on the production of the Kleistgrave and has further promoted this cause that is dear to all of us.

The chairman.
Georg von Kleist

Negotiated

Groß-Tychow , July 10, 1922.

Present:

1. General at cavalry von Kleist-Wussecken
- 2nd Count Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow.
- von Kleist 3. Baron. à-Hard.
- von Kleist 4. Schmenzin.
5. Captain Ewald von Kleist, Wilmersdorf.
- von Kleist 6. Besswitz.
- von Kleist 7. Dubberow.
8. Baron. Helmut von Kleist-Kerklingen.
9. Jürgen von Kleist
10. Barnim von Kleist.
- von Kleist 11. Retzow-Damen.
- von Kleist 12. Retzow-Kieckow.
13. from Kleist-Groß-Krössin.
14. Bogislav von Kleist-Rosenhof.
- von Kleist 15. Kamissow.
- von Kleist Wend. 16. à-à-Tychow
17. Major Sigurd von Kleist.
18. Diether von Kleist
- von Kleist 19. Jeseritz.
20. Baron. Werner von Kleist
- von Kleist 21. Ruschütz.

1. Board election.

Since Count Kleist-Zützen had resigned as a member of the executive board, a new election was necessary.

The Board consisted of:

General of cavalry von Kleist, Chairman,
Count Kleist-Retzow Groß-Tychow-à, deputy Chairman,
Graf Kleist-Zützen as full members;
Von Kleist Freiherr. à-Hard,
Von Kleist Schmenzin as deputy.

Von Kleist It was elected as a full member: Baron. à-Hard;
von Kleist as alternate: à-Gross-Krössin.

It was decided that in future the invitations to family day would no longer be sent through newspapers, but by simple letter, as far as the addresses are known.

2. Honorary council.

The honorary council of the family consisted of:
General-Leutnant Alfred von Kleist, Chairman,

Leo of Kleist-Groß-Krössin,
Ewald von Kleist Wend.-Tychow
as full members;
Colonel Leopold von Kleist,
Robert von Kleist-Besswitz,
Von Kleist Dubberow,
as a substitute.

Since General Alfred von Kleist died, a new election was required.

It was chosen:

von Kleist as chairman: à-Gross-Krössin,
von Kleist as a full member: à-Retzow-Kieckow.

Von Kleist Baron. à-Hard asked that the cousins immediately inform the Honorary Council of any misdemeanor of a family member.

3. Personal details.

Engages:

1. Friedrich Karl von Kleist retired, First Lieutenant, on 13. 9. 21 with Nora of Bandemer, from the house of Gambin.
2. Iris from Damen, on 17.1. 22 with Leutnant retired Walter from Koeller from Schönwalde, district Regenwalde von Kleist.
3. Jürgen von Kleist from Damen on 9. 2. 22 with Helene from Rhoeden from Vietzow.

Marriages:

1. Baron. Ewald von Kleist Hard born on 14. 5. 21 on Berlin with Marie of Buch von Kleist.
2. Astrid von Kleist on 30. 7. 21 to Damen with Friedrich Karl from Heydebreck-Rottow.
3. Irmgard Kleist from Bornstedt on 30. 6. 21 to Hohenauen with Leutnant Hasco from Manteuffel in the Rathenow Equestrian Regiment 3.
4. Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin on 28 September 21 in Warnitz with Anna v. d. Osten.
5. Berndt von Kleist Leutnant retired on 1 November 21 at Versin with Anneliese Puttkamer.
6. Anna von Kleist à-Stolp on 9. 3. 22 to Large Jannewitz retired with Colonel Busso of Blankensee.
7. Erika Freiin von Kleist Hard on 27. 4. 22 on Berlin with Hans of Holleuffer.
8. Emma von Kleist \born Stiefbold retired on 21. 3. 22 with Major General \Praefke, Karlsruhe.

Births:

1. A son to the cousin Kurt von Kleist à-Kamissow on 14. 8. 21: Karsten, Hans, Kurt.
2. A daughter of the cousin Rudolf von Kleist à-Jeseritz on December 19, 21: Waldtraut, Christa, Ilsabe.
3. A daughter to the cousin Ewald von Kleist Wend. à-à-Tychow on 2. 2. 22: Dietlind.
4. A son to cousin Robert von Kleist à-Besswitz on 7 May 22: Robert, Ewald, Eberhard.

Deaths:

1. Alfred von Kleist, General-Leutnant retired, on 13.5. 21 for Brandenburgs of the aftermath of the war. As the only knight of the Order pour le merite and a proven leader in high office, he has honored the name of the family. Participation in the funeral service was not possible due to late announcement.
2. Hans Jürgen von Kleist Baron. à Kurland am 3. 7. 21 zu Heidelberg.

3. Thekla Baroness of Eckardstein born Countess Kleist of Nollendorf, the last of this tribe, on 16. 10. 21 in Kleist-Bisnitz at the age of 87. The family dedicated an honorable obituary and a funeral wreath to her, and Kleist-Zützen attended the funeral service as a cousin of the family.

4. Baroness Mathilde von Kleist à-Kerklingen born Freiin of Fircks on 2 June 22.

A welcome telegram was sent to the senior of the family of Lieutenant General Viktor von Kleist and to Count Kleist-Zützen.

4. Kleist Society.

On October 22, 21, a meeting of the Kleist Society took pay a visit. It was decided to purchase a Kleist room at the Kleist birthplace to house the Kleist library and memories of the poet. Anyone holding such a license is requested to inform the chairman.

A suggestion by the Kleiststiftung auf Vereinigung was temporarily rejected, unless it wanted to be absorbed entirely into the Kleistgesellschaft.

The family chairman was elected to the board.⁵⁶

The evening General Assembly featured some newly discovered miniatures, which can be recognized as images of the poet and his sister Ulrike. It became a good image of the poet, of Karl Bauer-München, Augererstr. 8, painted, shown, whose purchase is recommended. The chairman gave it to the Kleistlyceum.

5. Kleiststiftung.

The headmaster of Neumann approached the chairman with the request to arrange a holiday in the countryside for some schoolgirls. Due to the delay of the request, she could not be granted any more.

The chairman donated 1000 marks, which are to serve as the foundation of a Kleist holiday foundation, and to enable unmediated schoolgirls to stay in the country. Count Kleist-Retzow also donated 1000 marks. The picture presented by the chairman had to be hung occasionally at their opening ceremony because of the lack of an auditorium in the gymnasium. Director and students thanked me.

6. Heinrich von Kleist tomb.

Prompted by a newspaper article in which complaints were felt that the grave had been neglected, the chairman stated that the grave was no longer free, but was confined by built-up villa plots and that a repair was to be carried out with a few thousand marks. So far, nothing has been done, as the president of the Kleist Society wants to sort things out and hopes for help from the government. The family has promised an annual subsidy of 500-1000 marks, subject to approval of the family day. Family Day gives its approval.

7th grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist von Nollendorf

The last regiment built by Friedrich d. Gross could look back on 150 years of existence on 14 October. The Association of Officers and Teams wants to celebrate the festival in Berlin in the Lehrervereinshaus - Alexanderstraße 70 - and has invited the chairman.

In any case, other family members are welcome.

In the meantime, the chairman, who was previously an honorary member, has been appointed honorary chairman. At the moment, the celebration has become doubtful.

⁵⁶ After the meeting, General of the cavalry retired of Georg von Kleist for Society laid a wreath at the Heinrich monument of Kleists. Yearbook of the Kleist Society. 1921, PP. 71.

On November 22, 1922, the first room of the Freude Museum was opened at our Kleist. ... Von Kleist At the subsequent inauguration of the room, the Lord Mayor Dr. Trautmann, General Freiherr and Prof. Dr. Minde-Pouet gave speeches. Yearbook of the Kleist Society 1929 and 1930, pp. 196-197. (2019)

8. The Land Department of Pomerania of the Adelsgenossenschaft

On the occasion of the dance tournaments, has addressed a serious and urgent request to all family members to keep their members, even as spectators, away from it. The chairman attached to this serious words of exhortation to keep the shield of the nobility clean from every stain.

9. Accounting.

The invoices have been verified by Cousin Kurt von Kleist-Kamissow. Discharge is granted. The family assets amount to 273,005 marks nominal and 199 341.57 marks exchange value.

The assets of the Daughter Foundation amount to 83,880.46 marks in nominal value and 58,108.76 marks in exchange value.

The bases and cousins capable of doing so are asked to increase their contributions. The Executive Board is instructed to approach individual wealthy family members for the purpose of paying increased contributions if necessary.

10th

It is decided that the board of directors is authorized to arrange for the family to be admitted to the nobility register. Inclusion in "Edda" is everyone's own business.

Georg von Kleist

Ewald von Kleist-Ruschütz.

Robert von Kleist

Sigurd von Kleist

Bogislav von Kleist

Ewald von Kleist (airship).

Hans Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow.

Hermann von Kleist Konrad-Dubberow.

Kurt von Kleist-Kamissow.

Ewald von Kleist Wend.-Tychow.

Von Kleist Fritz-Retzow-Damen.

Baron. Helmut von Kleist-Kerklingen.

Barnim von Kleist

Leo Ewald von Kleist.

Ewald von Kleist Baron.

Rudolf von Kleist-Jeseritz.

Jürgen von Kleist-Drenow.

Werner von Kleist Baron.

Ewald von Kleist-Schmenzin.

Count Wolf von Kleist-Retzow.

Diether von Kleist Dinnies

1923⁵⁷

⁵⁷ Kleist Society: Yearbook 1923 and 1924

[p. 166] The Kleistmuseum in Frankfurt a. d. Oder, Hans Berger-Schäfer:

... Two handsome rooms in Kleist's birthplace Oderstraße 26, located on the ground floor, were made available in 1922 and 1923, and were thoroughly renovated and equipped by the author. ... [169] ... Von Kleist As the greatest treasure, the museum then guards the miniature portrait of Kleist on loan from the family, which he had painted in Berlin - probably by Peter Friedel - in 1801. [In fact, it was a copy by an unknown artist, as it turned out in 1927.]

1924

Gross Tychow, 11 October 1924.

I would like to send you the Minutes of the sitting of our family day on 14 August for your convenience. Family Day was paid a visit again in Tychow and was attended by 56 bases and cousins; it is to be hoped and hoped that the number of attendees will continue to increase, so that on this Weise the best evidence of the cohesion in our family will be held.

The family day was initially influenced by the heavy loss suffered by the family as a result of the departure of their long-time chairman, the cousin Georg. His dear figure, his kindness of heart and his expert leadership were very much lacking and I would like to take this opportunity to pay heartfelt tribute to this highly important man, who has put all his energy into the family, especially for the members in need, in the deepest gratitude and indefinite reverence. I certainly know that honoring the memory of the deceased will never be extinguished in our hearts. It will be very difficult to replace him, and if the board has now elected me as its chairman, I know the burden this places on me, but the example of my unforgettable fatherly friend Georg is always there to guide me.

Moving on to the business aspect, I would just like to emphasize that the family is also gripped by the general distress in its assets. Most of our savings have been lost due to inflation, and while we have been able to collect 12 000 Mk in interest up to that point, today we are faced with nothing. To this end, the plight of our beleaguered members is becoming ever greater and the agricultural situation under the enormous tax burden has become devastating, so it is quite difficult to raise the funds absolutely necessary to support our members, but here is the categorical imperative, the funds must be raised and so I urge you to send the contributions requested by means of a special letter to the Kreissparkasse Belgard as soon as possible.

With a loyal German greeting

The chairman
von Kleist Count Retzow.
Retired district administrator

Present:

von Kleist 1. Graf-Retzow-Gross Tychow
von Kleist 2. Schmenzin,
von Kleist 3. à-Large Croeißin,
von Kleist 4. Retzow-Kieckow,
5. Colonel Leopold von Kleist,
von Kleist 6. Dubberow,
7. Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow,
8. Sigurd von Kleist Wend. Tychow,
9. Bogislav von Kleist-Rosenhof,
von Kleist 10. Jeseritz,
11. Jürgen von Kleist-Drenow,
12. Heinrich von Kleist-Wilmersdorf,
13th Otto Helmut von Kleist,
von Kleist 14. Artur-Stendal,
15. Felix of Kleist-Herford,
16. Baron. Georg von Kleist,
17. Captain Kurt Detleff von Kleist,
von Kleist 18. Wusseken,
von Kleist 19. Ruschütz,
von Kleist 20. à-Retzow-Damen,
von Kleist 21. Kamissow,
22. Joachim von Kleist,
23. Friedrich Karl von Kleist

Before entering the agenda commemorated cousin Wolf von Kleist in honoring words of the late unforgettable family chairman, Sr. Excellence of the Royal General of the cavalry von Kleist of Wusseken.

1. Election of Board members.

Reference is made to the separate protocol.⁵⁸

2. Appointment of the Rittmeister Leopold von Kleist à-Labehn
against the decision of the court of honor of 9 July 1924.

Reference is made to the Special Protocol.

3. Personal details

Births:

A son of the cousin Ewald von Kleist, Ruschütz, on 1 February 1924: Heinrich Georg Ernst Ewald.

A son of the cousin Friedrich Karl-Gambin on 3 August 1924: Friedrich-Leopold, Werner von Kleist Herbert Ewald Jürgen.

A son to the cousin Ewald von Kleist Schmenzin on June 2, 1924: Hermann Oskar Günther Karl French

⁵⁸ Not available.

Deaths:

On July 29, 1924 in Wusseken, the head of the family unit Sr. Excellence the Royal General of the cavalry à la suite of the uhlan Regiment No. 3 Georg von Kleist-Wusseken.

On February 2, 1924 to Georgenau the eldest of the family, Royal Prussian Lieutenant General and wing adjutant Sr. Majesty of King Viktor von Kleist.

On 25 May 1924 Ferdinande von Kleist-Retzow in Kieckow.

On 16 February 1924 Marie v. Kleist-Wien.

Retired On 26 November 1923, the Royal Prussian Colonel Leopold v. Kleist-Labehn.

Marriage:

Captain Ulrich von Kleist, with Miss Anni of Grolmann,

Other.

A request by Baron Felix von Kleist to include his adopted niece in the family association is rejected, because membership is acquired only by childbirth.

4. Honorary Council.

von Kleist Paragraph 6 of the Decree of 2 May 1921 for the Honorary Council and the Court of Honor of the Family is supplemented by the following:

The appeal against the decision of the court of honor must be filed within 14 days of service.

The old provision of March 1866 and the provision of 2 May 1921, concerning the marriage of foreign women, were read out.

5th Kleist tomb.

It had been decided to pay 50 marks to preserve the Kleist tomb. In this respect, the district office of Zehlendorf has been contacted three times; no reply has been received from there yet. Kurt Detleff will seek to negotiate with the competent authorities. Baron Heinrich von Kleist informs that a new stone has been erected on the tomb and that the tomb is in satisfactory condition.

6. Family pictures.

Von Kleist At the suggestion of Cousin Dieter from Wendisch-Tychow, it is decided to take stock of the family-owned ancestral images, to ask the cousins and bases to provide the family with photographs of their ancestral images and to point out to them that it is quite undesirable for such ancestral images to be inherited outside the family. Attempts are also being made to identify the family images that are in the possession of others.

7. Accounting.

Discharge is granted. The assets of the family and the daughter foundation have shrunk to small remains.

8. Other.

Outdated addresses are corrected and welcome telegrams are sent to Paul von Kleist and Bernhard von Kleist.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Graf-Retzow,

Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow,

Friedrich Karl von Kleist,

Baron. Helmut von Kleist-Kerklingen,

Kurt Detleff von Kleist,

Hermann von Kleist Konrad-Dubberow,

Rudolf von Kleist-Jeseritz,
Robert of Kleist-Wusseken,
Ewald von Kleist-Wilmersdorf,
Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
Von Kleist Artur-Stendal,
Von Kleist Fritz-Retzow-Damen.
Leo von Kleist Croeßin,
Sigurd von Kleist,
Joachim von Kleist,
Von Kleist K.,
Leopold von Kleist Berlin,
Jürgen von Kleist-Drenow,
Ewald von Kleist-Ruschütz,
Felix von Kleist,
Heinrich von Kleist Baron.
von Kleist Schmenzin
Von Kleist Rosenhof.

1925

Tychow, 17 July 1925.

This year's family day took place again in Groß Tychow pay a visit and was attended by 57 vases and cousins. The Chairman opened the meeting by pointing out the gravity of the time and the need for all members of the family to be as frugal as possible in all laughs. He pointed out that the agricultural situation was such that it was very difficult for any owner to obtain the property he had taken over, which meant clenching his teeth, saving, praying, working. On the family table, the chairman thanked the bases and cousins for their appearance and emphasized in his speech, inter alia, that the family, whose existence could probably be assumed to be about 1000 years, had its first official document dating back to 1175, so that it could celebrate the 750th anniversary of its existence that year. During this existence, she had always rendered loyal services to the respective sovereign - first from the family of the noble Griffins, then to the illustrious House of Hohenzollern - and she was also firmly convinced that the high sovereign virtues in the House of Hohenzollern had not yet died out. The chairman concluded his speech with a celebration of the upcoming King of Prussia.

Cousin chamberlain Ewald manor Hard thanked for being accepted into Gross Tychow drank for the good of the Damen, and in his speech he referred to the merits that the society of small poets would have earned in the memory of one of the greatest members of the family, the poet Heinrich von Kleist, who is still much-remembered.

Cousin Ewald-Schmenzin spoke to the Kleist Regiment of Nollendorf. I attach the imprint of his speech.

As regards the discharge of the agenda, I refer to the Minutes which are also attached. For the same reason, I would particularly like to highlight the decision on the payment of membership fees. In the continuing difficult situation of the agricultural sector, the members residing on land are no longer in a position to raise the funds needed to support our members in need on their own, and the district of contributors has therefore been extended to cover non-resident cousins and bases with a minimum contribution of DM 5. I would ask you, as warmly as I would bring you, to comply with this obligation as kindly as possible and in a Weise that is commensurate with your earnings, and to pay the amount to the cash office mentioned in the Minutes by means of enclosed postal checks.

I would like to ask the members residing with the property to pay the contribution specified for them below on time at the dates specified in the minutes, so that there is no stagnation in the timely payment of the support.

On July 1, many bases and cousins reunited in Greater Tychow to listen to a lecture by the Major of Wrochem on the subject: "the spiritual foundations of the struggle for freedom".

The lecturer assumed that the World War and the peace treaty had torn apart both Deutschlands's and Europe's economic relations, that people could no longer be fed and that the economic forces of Europe were therefore being forced together. This is reflected in the struggle for European leadership. Three major powers seek this leadership: Frankreich, Bolshevism, and international Jewish capital. In the case of the latter two, there is no sign of agreement. But the last methods are the same.

1. Building economic power by controlling bread values. Transforming the Germanic-Nordic concept of personal property into an irreconcilable and irresponsible Jewish (world control, communism).

2. Building spiritual power by decomposing the values of the non-Jewish races. Today, the Jewish press in Deutschland is paying a visit on the continuation of the propaganda of the World War I, and everything that made up the strong German imperial structure is being destroyed.

Boschlüge (misunderstanding of the German racial character),

Rage against kings and princes,

Hate speech against Prussia,

incitement against German law,

Rage against morality,

in addition, incitement to luxury and propaganda for reconciliation with Frankreich, America, Judaism.

This propaganda seeks to create a hostile mood, but does not work intellectually.

For us, there is now also a conscious struggle for the leadership of our people and of Europe. First of all, the hostile methods must be laid to rest and German values, above all a sense of law, morality and honor, must be revived. They are the protection of our race, which is already crumbling today, as the enemies have taken away the living conditions from it and have changed over to themselves.

The lecture found general approval, the problems of the same were so extractively pressed that an exhaustive discussion could not take place. There was, however, unanimous agreement that the ideas should be followed up and that the guidelines should be put into practice. The questions will have to be dealt with in detail, I ask the family members to familiarize themselves with them.

Mit Deutscher Gruss

The chairman of the family association.

Von Kleist Graf-Retzow,

Retired district administrator

I do not believe that any regiment bearing the name of a noble family has had closer and stronger ties with the family concerned than we had with the regiment to which the name of Count Kleist of Nollendorf was added by the grace of His Majesty the King. It fills us with high Freude that this feeling of solidarity has survived war and revolution. As was previously invited to the family days of the regimental commander, it was today the chairman of the Officers Association of the Kleistgrenadiers, who is unfortunately prevented from appearing. As in the past the Kleistregiment was always spoken of on the family day, so it should be again today.

Remembering this regiment, let us not forget that we are commemorating the last regiment built by Friedrich the Great, the regiment that three years ago had a 150-year history of glories. It is the story of a Prussian regiment. We see the shape of the Great King and in us the great images of Brandenburg-Prussian history come to life, especially today, when the reason for Preußens was laid a quarter of a millennium ago on the day of Fehrbelin. We become aware in pride and pain but also in unshakable confidence of what we have possessed and now lost "above all internally". And how to compare. We compare the great names who live on immortalized in honor with so many of our present peers who have fallen away from the high ideals. The bitter word of the Earl Strachwitz comes to mind: "To your heavens woeful emptiness, I show you the starry glory."

We have grown up through the heroic Prussian thinking, which has achieved such astonishing successes in its happy mixture with a sober clear view. We have become small because merchant spirit has made us weak and blind to the most real and powerful forces in history, the moral. - -

There's one more thing we'll be reminded of when we remember the regiment. It has kept a loyal watch in Osten and this reminds us to think where Preußens, Deutschlands's future lies - in Osten!, where our eyes are directed in anxiety these days.

But may worry and danger mount up against us - we believe in Prussian genius! In desperate times, Friedrich the Great wrote, "I will never experience the moment that compels me to conclude an unfavorable peace. No persuasion, no eloquence will make me sign my dishonor. Either I will be buried under the rubble of my fatherland, or, if this death seems too mild for the fate that haunts me, I will know how to put an end to my misadventure. I have acted and will act, guided by that one light and the notions of honor that guide all my steps. My behavior will always comply with these principles. I have said and I repeat: never will my hand sign a humiliating peace. I will stop this campaign, dare to do everything and try the most desperate things to win or to find an honorable end."

Heule would call them the majority of the errant German people a disaster politician, but we, the committed and appointed bearers of Prussia, we profess to that heroic thinking, to which the future belongs, and know that we in this Geist will remain loyal to the members of the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf and want to work with them purposefully for the day with hard will and relentless, renunciation-ready, Prussian sense of duty "where deeply shocking the earth ball listens, the eternally young, all the magic sound of the Prussian march cheering fanfars."

The grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist von Nollendorf, his Officers Association and Prussia - hurra!!

Negotiates Large Tychow, 30 June 1925.

Present:

- 1st Count Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow,
- 2nd Baron. v. Kleist-manor Hard,
- 3rd v. Kleist-Schmenzin,
- 4th v. Kleist-Gross Krössin,
- 5th v. Kleist Wend. Tychow,
- 6th v. Kleist-Retzow-Damen,
- 7th v. Kleist-Rosenhof,
- 8th Colonel Leopold v. Kleist,
- 9th v. Kleist-Jeseritz,
- 10th v. Kleist-Wusseken,
- 11th Ewald v. Kleist,
- 12th Captain Kurt Detleff v. Kleist,
- 13th Felix v. Kleist-Herford,
- 14th District Court Council v. Kleist,
- 15th Major Sigurd v. Kleist,
- 16th v. Kleist-Dubberow,
- 17th v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
- 18th Captain Diether of Kleist,
- 19th Baron. Georg v. Kleist-Stolp,
- 20th v. Kleist-Drenow,
- 21st Barnim v. Kleist,
- 22nd Baron. Helmuth v. Kleist,
- 23rd Hans Jürgen v. Kleist Berlin,
- 24th Friedrich Karl v. Kleist-Stolp,
- 25th Leutnant Arthur Kleist v. Bornstedt,
- 26th v. Kleist-Kamissow,
- 27th v. Kleist-Ruschütz.

1. Family news.

(a) Deaths:

Ewald Graf Kleist-Zützen on 18 October 1924,
Luise v. Kleist-Flensburg, 7 February 1925,
Elisabeth v. Kleist-Retzow, January 20, 1925.

(b) Births:

Sons:

on 18 August 1924 to the cousin Jürgen in Drenow, names: Carsten, Ewald, Leo, Robert;
on 18 April 1925 to the cousin Berndt in Karthan, named Friedrich, Heinrich;
on 4 September 1924 to the cousin Ewald Wend. in Tychow, names: Volker, Ewald, Friedrich-Wilhelm, Ernst, Erdmann;
on 16 March 1925 to the cousin Berndt in Centa, named Leo-Ewald, Bernhard, Adolf;
on 3 December 1924 to the cousin Friedrich-Karl in Stolp, named Henning, Georg, Heinrich.

Daughters:

on 12 October 1924 to her cousin Felix in Würzburg, under the names Gisela, Anne-Marie, Elisabeth, Erika;
on May 1, 1925, the cousin Ewald in Ruschütz, named: Elisabeth, Rose, Ilse.

(c) Marriages:

on 26 November 1924 Sonja v. Kleist with Hans Jürgen v. Hagen-Röglin,
on 17 May 1924 Berndt v. Kleist with Julia Lopez de Uruburu,
on 11 December 1924 Asta v. Kleist with Willy Vermehren-Lübeck.

Welcome telegrams were sent to the cousins Exellenz Paul and the senior cousin Bernhard in Drenow.

2. Award of Honor against Leopold v. Kleist-Labehn.

The Family Day shall be informed of the further development of the above-mentioned matter. It is decided:

The head of the family is authorized to accept the family's award of honor at the same time as the award of the Jäger Regiment for Horse. No 4, to an impartial court of honor.

3rd estate in trust Zützen.

It is reported that the problems caused by the lifting of the estates in trust have been resolved with the agreement of all parties.

4th Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf.

The family chairman has been appointed an honorary member of the Officers Association of the grenadier Regiment of Count Kleist v. Nollendorf. The chairman of the officers' association was invited to family days. A welcome telegram was sent to the Officers' Association.

5. Kleistgrab.

The tomb of Heinrich v. Kleist- has been declared a national monument.

6. micro-society.

From 1 to 3 May, the annual meeting of the Kleistgesellschaft paid a visit, to which cousin Ewald manor Hard had appeared as a representative of the family. Cousin Ewald reported on the meeting. At the request of the Kleistgesellschaft, a member of the family should be accepted into the board of the Kleistgesellschaft. It is cousin Ewald manor Hard elected by the board. It is highly desirable to join the micro-society. Unfortunately, the chairman of the society, who was invited to the family day, was prevented from appearing.⁵⁹

7. Edda.⁶⁰

It is highly desirable that all eligible family members should be admitted to Edda.

8. Accounting.

The revenue was.	. . . ,	5,787.82 METERS
	the expenditure	5,040.62 METERS

⁵⁹ Kleist Society: The General Assembly in Dresden from 1 to 3 May 1925.

In the new election of the board and executive committee, the previous members were re-elected and re-elected for the deceased or resigned members: Ewald von Kleist retired Freiherr, Major and Chamberlain (manor Hard at Ermatingen in the Schweiz), ...

The subsequent public ceremony in the same Saale was opened by speeches. The chairman Prof. Dr. Minde-Pouet welcomed the ... Baron v. Kleist [spoke] on behalf of the family association, on whose behalf he simultaneously loaned to the company two letters from Kleist (to Heinrich Lohse, 23-29 Dec. 1801 and to Ulrike, 30 Sept. 1808) which he had purchased.

Yearbook of the Kleist Society 1929 and 1930, pp. 198-200. (2019)

⁶⁰ **Iron Buch Deutschen Adels Deutscher degenerare (2014)**

inventory . 747.22M

The assets of the family are . 403050 M nominal value, that of the Daughter Foundation . . . 75750 M. The family contributions of the landowning cousins and bases are payable in two installments, namely on 1 October and 1 April to the Kreissparkasse in Belgard - Kleist Family Fund (account 1524). There are to be paid to full tens rounded up 3.4 pfennigs per morning.

The non-resident cousins and bases should be used with contributions of at least 5 marks.

Discharge has been granted.

The invoices were checked by Cousin Kurt from Kamissow. The same person shall be elected as auditor.

W. G. U.

Count Kleist-Retzow. Baron. v. Kleist (Ewald).

Leo Ewald v. Kleist-Groß Krössin. Baron Helmut Kleist.

Barnim v. Kleist Stud. Jürgen v. Kleist-Drenow.

Baron. Georg v. Kleist-Stolp. Diether Dennies v. Kleist.

Ewald v. Kleist-Ruschütz. Hans Jürgen Kleist-Retzow.

Hermann Konrad v. Kleist-Dubberow. Sigurd v. Kleist.

Kurt v. Kleist-Stolp. Felix v. Kleist-Würzburg.

Kurt Detleff v. Kleist. Ewald v. Kleist-Hanover.

Kleist-Wusseken. R. v. Kleist-Jeseritz. Artur v. Kleist.

Friedrich Karl v. Kleist. Leopold v. Kleist-Gebersdorf.

Hans Jürgen Kleist. B. v. Kleist-Rosenhof.

F. W. v. Kleist-Retzow-Damen. E. v. Kleist Wend.-à Tychow.

Kleist-Schmenzin.

1926

Greater Tychow, 25 October 1926.

This year's family day was paid a visit again in Greater Tychow and was attended by 54 bases and cousins, in addition, the representative of the Officers Association of the Regiment Graf Kleist von Nollendorff, Mr. Major Pfaff, and the President of the Kleist Society, Mr. Minde-Pouet, had appeared.

The chairman opened the meeting with a warm welcome to the attendees and with reference to the high duties that everyone must have in view of the gravity of the time and which must culminate in the greatest possible economy, only then would it be possible to preserve the property taken over. Time and again, it would mean clenching your teeth, saving, praying, working.

At the family table, the chairman thanked the bases and cousins as well as the aforementioned representatives for their appearance, reminded everyone once again of the fulfillment of the duties incumbent on us against King and Fatherland and let his speech end in a high on the King of Prussia.

Cousin chamberlain Ewald-manor Hard thanked them for their welcome to Great Tychow, while Maj. Pfaff spoke in a lively speech about the friendship between the family and the grenadier regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorff, while Maj. Minde-Pouet thanked them for their interest in von Kleist society, and Cousin Kleist-Ewald reminded them of their duties towards their homeland in earnest and enthusiastic Schmenzin words.

With regard to the agenda, I refer to the attached Minutes. In view of the continuing bad situation of agriculture, it has been decided to charge a membership fee of 1.6 horses per morning for this time. I would ask the cousins concerned to send their annual contribution as specified below to Kreissparkasse Belgard on 1 December cr. under account 1264.

Of the non-resident cousins, a number have made a contribution in appreciable Weise, but many who should be able to do so have also steered clear. In the face of the great hardship of our members in need of support, it should be a duty of honor for all of us to do our utmost to help alleviate the suffering. I certainly hope that this appeal will suffice to persuade all cousins to pay.

I would like to draw particular attention to the final sentence of the Minutes, which concerns the collection of images of fallen family members. I would ask you to go to work unhemmed and send the paintings to Cousin Diether Wend.-à Tychow.

Mit Deutscher Gruss

The chairman of the family association.

Von Kleist Graf-Retzow,
Retired district administrator

Negotiates Large Tychow, 7 August 1926.

Present:

- 1st Count Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow.
2. Baron v. Kleist-manor Hard,
3. v. Kleist-Schmenzin,
4. v. Kleist-Groß Krössin,
5. v. Kleist Wend.-à Tychow,
6. Captain Ewald v. Kleist Berlin,
7. Major Sigurd v. Kleist,
8. Oblt. z. See Jürgen v. Kleist,
9. Captain Kurt Detleff v. Kleist,
10. Baron. Georg v. Kleist,
11. Baron. Werner v. Kleist,
12. Captain Dieter Dennies v. Kleist,
13. v. Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow,
14. v. Kleist-Dubberow,
15. v. Kleist-Kamissow,
16. Colonel Leopold v. Kleist-Gebersdorf,
17. Major Ewald v. Kleist,
18. v. Kleist-Wusseken,
19. v. Kleist-Rosenhof,
20. v. Kleist-Jeseritz,
21. Bernd v. Kleist,
22. Friedrich Karl v. Kleist,
23. v. Kleist-Ruschütz,
24. v. Kleist-Retzow-Damen,
- 25th standard-bearer Hans Ewald v. Kleist.

At the opening ceremony, the President referred to the high duties of the family towards King and the Fatherland.

1. Family news.

(a) Deaths:

on 16 December 1925 Maria von Kleist, widow of Major General Ewald von Kleist, commander of the 51st R.J.D.;
on 14 February 1926 Geheimer Rechnungsrat Heinrich from Drenow in Neubrandenburg;
von Kleist on February 2, 1926 his wife Toni.

(b) Births:

Sons:

the cousin Robert-Wusseken on 9 March 1926, name: Diether, Wilhelm;
the Vettel Bernd in Cento on 5 April 1926, names: Egbert, Hans, Jürgen, Ewald.

Daughters:

the cousin Ewald-Schmenzin on 21 June 1926, names: Marie-Luise, Elisabeth, Ulla, Emma, Elfriede, Maria, Laura;

the cousin Hans Jürgen-Kieckow on 7 February 1926, names: Ruth, Fernande, Dorothea.

(c) engagements:

Marie from Tzschernowitz with Dr. Gerhard Schultze-Pfaelzer.

(d) Marriage:

Irene from Kamissow with Egbert from Zitzewitz-Turzig; Freiin von Kleist Gisela with Dr. ing. Lienau in Karlsruhe.

A congratulatory telegram has been sent to the cousin Excellenz Paul on his 80th birthday and to the senior member of the Cousin Bernhard family in Drenow on his 83rd birthday. To cousin Paul, Se. His Majesty gave his image to the King with his signature. Von Kleist To the wing adjutant, Leopold has Se. Majesty awarded the Komthur Cross of the Hohenzollern House Order with swords.

von Kleist 2nd Regiment.

On 4 July of this year, the unveiling of the monument to the fallen Kleist grenadiers in Görlitz paid a visit, which turned into a very beautiful and dignified celebration, in which the family chairman took part and laid a wreath on behalf of the family.

3. Kleist Society.

Cousin Ewald manor Hard reported on the Kleist Society. Cousin Ewald has bought Heinrich von Kleist only known political appeal and has loaned it to the Kleist society. The original and the other two letters lent to the Kleist company by Ewald's cousin and the painting painted by Schuh: "Ewald Christian von Kleist falls at Kunersdorf" are to become the property of the family, according to the will, on condition that they are lent to the Kleist company.

4. Tomb of the former Konrad Waldemar von Kleist.

To preserve his grave and the grave of his wife, 12 M will be paid.

5. Cousin Ewald Berlin has had a facsimile of the Odes H. v. Kleist to Friedrich Wilhelm III printed to celebrate his return to Berlin and donated two copies for the family archive.

von Kleist 6. The President of the Honorary Council shall report on the follow-up to the proceedings against Mr. Labehn.

7. Accounting.

Revenue amounts to	6,897.68M
" expenditure	" 5,488.10 M
stock	1409.58 M.

The family's net worth is 16154.80 M. Cousin Kurt-Kamissow has checked the invoices and found them to be correct.

Discharge has been granted.

For the current year, the contributions of the landowning family members will be reduced from 3.4 horses per morning to 1.6 horses. Of the non-interest bearing papers, up to 2,350 RM are to be silvered by the chairman.

A 1000m fee is to be paid for the monument to the fallen of the Kleist grenadiers.

The family members are again asked not to join the Masonic Order.

The images of the family members who died in the World War are to be collected and later included in the family history. Cousin Diether Wend. Tychow wants to undergo this collective task in Weise, which is worthy of thanks. It is asked to support him in this on all sides.

Count Wolff von Kleist-Retzow. Von Kleist Schmenzin,
Von Kleist Baron. à-manor Hard. Leo Ewald von Kleist Krössin.
Ewald von Kleist Berlin. Ewald von Kleist Wend. Tychow.
Sigurd von Kleist Jürgen von Kleist Kurt Detleff von Kleist.
Baron. Georg von Kleist Baron. Werner von Kleist
Dennies von Kleist Diether. Hans Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow.
Von Kleist Dubberow. Von Kleist K. Kamissow.
Leopold von Kleist-Gebersdorf. Ewald von Kleist-Hanover.
Robert von Kleist-Wusseken von Kleist.-Rosenhof.
Von Kleist R. Jeseritz. Bernd von Kleist
Friedrich Karl von Kleist von Kleist.-Ruschütz.
Von Kleist Fritz-Retzow-Damen.
Hans Ewald von Kleist, standard-bearer R.R. 5.

1927

Groß-Tychow , October 4, 1927.

Unfortunately, this year's Family Day was attended by only 38 bases and cousins. I expressed my regret about this at Family Day and linked the question to it as to whether it might not be better to move Family Day to Berlin once again in order to increase the number of visits. My Freude Groß-Tychow was unanimous in its view that it was most appropriate to stick to the custom of recent years and to hold Family Day in. I sincerely hope that this unanimous decision will encourage many of those who have been away from our meeting to make the small sacrifice of inconvenience of traveling to Tychow to attend our meeting in the future. All family members are cordially invited.

I would like to briefly refer to just two points in the attached Minutes.

In Weise, which deserves our gratitude, Cousin Diether Dennies Wend. in Tychow had agreed in the previous year to gather the images of the family members who had fallen during the World War. Unfortunately, this request has been ignored. We would like to express our thanks for the cousin's courteous courtesy by complying with his request immediately and I urge you not to continue this letter until the pictures have been sent.

I would also like to draw attention to our financial situation. In order to balance our budget, the members who reside on land must pay an extra of about 75% of the previous year's contribution, which is a great sacrifice in today's still desperate agricultural situation. Faced with this situation, it should be an inescapable duty for the other members to make every effort to contribute to the costs of charity for our needy members. I miss this sense of duty in the case of many cousins and would like to urge everyone to consult with them and seriously examine the amount of money they can and must use to fulfill this honorary duty towards the family unit.

A postal check form is enclosed.

With kind regards

The chairman of the family association
Count of Kleist-Retzow
Retired district administrator

Negotiated

Gross Tychow, 10 August 1927.

Present:

Graf Kleist-Retzow Tychow.
Baron v. Kleist-Karthan.
Leo v. Kleist-Groß Krössin.
v. Kleist Wend. Tychow.
v. Kleist-Groß Dubberow,
Colonel v. Kleist - Gebersdorf.
v. Kleist-Retzow - Kieckow.
Kleist-Kamissow.
Kleist-Wusseken.
Ewald v. Kleist-Wilmersdorf.
v. Kleist-Retzow - Damen.
Hauptmann Kurt Detlef v. Kleist.
Oblt. Jürgen v. Kleist - Vietzow.
Bernd v. Kleist.
Georg v. Kleist.

Family Day is opened by the President with the regret that, for various reasons, the number of attendees is so small and he linked this to the question of whether it might not be better to move Family Day to Berlin once again. All the pages, on the other hand, are asking us to leave it at the habits of recent years, all the more so because everyone must realize that the long journey to Pommern will be amply compensated for by the elimination of all other costs, and that this is compounded by the high values emanating from the soil from which the family has emerged and which are now having an effect on this Weise.

1. News about the family stock.

(a) Deaths:

26. 12. 26. Paul v. Kleist Berlin retired, Gen.-Lt.
27th 2. 27. Leonie Countess Kleist-Tychow, born Countess Kospoth Wend., Tychow.
4th 8. 27. Frieda v. Kleist, born v. Wedel widow v. Oswald.

(b) Births: Sons:

on 16 March 1927 to the cousin Jürgen zu Vietzow: Bernd, Tessen, Jürgen, Eckardt.

(c) Marriage:

Marie, a.d. Haus Chernowitz, with Dr. Gerhard Schultze-Pfaelzer, Berlin.

Cousin Leopold v. K., Gebersdorf, is appointed as the emperor's general agent.

The senior member of the Bernd v. K. family, Drenow, was able to personally convey his family's congratulations on his 85th birthday. A telegram will be sent to this cousin.

2nd Kleist Regiment.

Colonel Hofmann, chairman of the regiment association and the chairman of the officers' association, Major Pfaff, were invited to attend today. The head of the family announced that he had attended the 155th anniversary of the regiment's foundation in Friedenau on 14 October BC and read out the splendid speech given by Mr Pfaff on that occasion. He also conveyed the thanks of the Regiments Association for the previous year's donation of monuments. The cousins who are eligible and who are not yet members of the Officers' Association of the Regiment are invited to join this association. You are advised that a regimental celebration will be held in Berlin from 21 to 25 October.

3. Kleist Society.⁶¹

The content of the appended call of this company is presented, but it is stated that the days of the party are different from those indicated there, namely the days 14, 15, 16 and 17 October 1927. The celebration is planned so that on October 14 in Frankfurt am Main, the city authorities will hold a welcoming ceremony. On Saturday, October 15th, in the morning, the Assembly of Members will take place in Berlin and in the evening a Fitzer concert will take place. On Sunday, 16 October, Scholz will give the speech at the Wilhelm Annual General Meeting. It is followed by a feast in the lodge and a theater performance in the evening. On Monday, October 17th, in the morning, the exhibit of the Kleisterinnerungen in the State Library and in the afternoon a trip to the Kleistgrab in Wannsee is planned and in the evening a recitation of Richard Kohlhaas in the State Library.

To mark the 150th anniversary of the poet's birth, an attempt is being made to obtain the original of a poem in which he sings about a new cowshed in Chernowitz and, if possible, the corresponding poem by his brother Leopold, both of which are said to be in Chernowitz, from Mrs. v. Kleist, born Countess Kleist, in order to transfer it on loan to the Kleist Society.

The family grants the requested permission to exhibit the small painting in the State Museum.

At the request of the publishing house Franckel-Berlin, a subscription list is being circulated on order of a memorial to the 150th birthday of Heinrich v. Kleist, entitled "Heinrich v. Kleist and Wilhelm Reuter". Professor Minde Pouet has been invited and has appeared today.

Mrs. v. Blankensee, born v. Kleist, in Stolp, gave the field cutlery of the poet Ewald v. Kleist, who had fallen near Kunersdorf, to the family on the condition that it be loaned to the Kleist Society for the Kleist Museum in Frankfurt. The family's thanks were telegraphed to the base.

4. Honor matters.

Honorary court proceedings are initiated against Dennies v. Kleist, Werchau, and Baron Christian v. Kleist, Berlin.

Retired After the creation of a Supreme Court of Honor, whose leadership is currently in the hands of the General of the Infantry, Hutier, Berlin-Charlottenburg 2, Bismarckstr. 106, phone Steinplatz 56-59, is lying, the family stands under him.

5th

Of the existing 11 family stories, 9 will be distributed, while 2 will remain with the board. As already promised, Cousin Bernd, Karthan, will receive one for free, the rest will cost 10 RM.

Last year's suggestion and request for submission of images from the World War fallen to cousin Diether Dennies Wend. v. K. after Tychow has so far gone completely unnoticed. It is therefore urgently recalled. It is also pointed out that it is of the utmost value to keep documents relating to the family as carefully as possible. For the same purpose, contact will be made with the provincial librarian.

⁶¹ **Annual Meeting of the Kleist Society. On October 29, 1926 took place in Berlin in the concert hall of the Staatlich Schauspielhaus pay a visit this year's General Assembly of the Kleist Society. The Ministry of National Education was represented by the Director of the Ministry, Dr Rentwig, the Kleistsche Familienverband, which is closely and gratefully associated with society, had sent its chairman, Count Kleist-Retzow von Kleist and a younger gentleman, and many scientific societies were represented. The holdings of the Kleist Museum have increased. Countess Marie von Kleist donated a number of family portraits, so that the museum now contains a complete collection of the portraits of Heinrich v. Kleist, Ewald v. Kleist and other members of the family. Die Blaue Blume, Volume 2, Issue 2, December 1926, pp. 161 (2022)**

6. Accounting.

The family's assets are . . . 20 605.56 GM.

in addition , the Raddatzer assets . . . 517.50 "

21 123.06 Diff.

and the Daughter Foundation with . . . 56,682.96 paper marks.

Revenue was RM 6,222.46

" expenditure " 5,971.88 "

Stock at 1 July 250.58 RM.

The estimate provides for:

of ongoing support 2659 RM.

in exceptional support 1000"

in administrative costs 441 "

together 4100 RM.

In order to raise this sum, the contributions of the landowning family members must be increased, from 1.6 horses per morning to 2.7 horses, to be raised in two installments, on 1 November 1927 and 1 February 1928.

It will be decided accordingly.

Cousin Kurt, Kamissow, has checked the invoices and found them to be correct. Discharge is granted.

Given the vulnerable situation of the family's financial situation, it is expected that each non-resident member will pay a contribution, if possible, of his capacity, but at least 5 RM.

7th

Telegrams were received from the neighboring and friendly family of v. Heydebreck, from Base Marie v. K., born v. Kleist-Karthan, and from Baron v. Funck, Stettin, and they will be replied to by the President.

V.G.U.

Count of Kleist-Retzow. Baron. Ewald v. Kleist. Leo v. Kleist.

Jürgen v. Kleist. Georg v. Kleist. Kurt Detleff v. Kleist.

Robert v. Kleist, Wusseken. Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow, Kieckow.

Kurt v Kleist, Kamissow v Kleist, Dubberow.

Leopold v. Kleist, Gebersdorf. Fritz von Kleist-Retzow, Damen.

Bernd v. Kleist. Ewald v. Kleist, Wilmersdorf.

E. v. Kleist Wend., Tychow.

1928

Gross Tychow, 14 November 1928.

I am sending the minutes of this year's, on 13. v. Mts. in Groß Tychow family day. As I said at the beginning of the Minutes, this day was only celebrated in a small district because of the sadness in my House, but above all in view of the seriousness of the time.

At the conference, the question of the organization of family days was again discussed in Gross Tychow was discussed in detail and it was unanimously concluded that it would cause a heavy burden on the needy members of the family if the previous custom were to deviate from and the family meeting took place in Berlin, since the stay in Berlin including the cost of food already by a very considerable the travel costs to Groß Tychow, not to mention the welcoming nature of the meeting in Gross Tychow. So it stays with Gross Tychow.

Welcome telegrams were received from the Kleist regiment as well as from the cousin Ewald (airship). Here's to you from us. Your Majesty the Emperor and King sent welcome telegram received the following reply:

Doorn, 14 October 1928.

"My sincere thanks for the greetings from Family Day. I am grateful to the Kleist for its great services to King and to the Fatherland, and I am relying on its unchanging fidelity at this grave time. WILHELM R

With reference to the request made in the Minutes, the images of cousins who died in the World War, and also life pictures of deceased cousins at Diether Wend. in Tychow, I would like to reiterate this request made last year.

I would also like to ask the unrepresented Members to contribute to the expenses in accordance with their capacities. A total of RM 4,100 has to be raised to balance our budget and the contributions for the members residing with land go into the hundreds of marks. A levy which is quite sensitive in a difficult agricultural situation. A postal check form is enclosed for use when sending any contributions to Kreissparkasse Belgard on account 1524.

With a loyal German greeting

The chairman
Count of Kleist - Retzow
Retired district administrator

family day

negotiates

Gross Tychow, 13 October 1928.

Present:

Graf Kleist-Retzow Tychow.
Baron v. Kleist-Karthan.
Kleist-Schmenzin.
v. Kleist - Large Krössin.
v. Kleist Wend. Tychow.
Excellency of Kleist-Gebersdorf.
Kleist-Wusseken.
Kleist-Jeseritz.
Kleist-Kamissow.
Retired Oblt. à Friedrich Karl v. Kleist.
Retired Main m. Kurt Detleff v. Kleist.
Jürgen v. Kleist in Vietzow.
Kleist-Dubberow.
Kleist-Retzow-Kieckow.
Georg v. Kleist.
Wolf-Friedrich v. Kleist-Retzow.
Peter Christian of Kleist-Retzow.
v. Kleist-Rosenhof.

Cousin Wolf opened the family day with the indication that because of the grief in the Tychower house and in consideration of the seriousness of the time, the family day would only start in a small district. With great seriousness he confessed the duties to our fatherland and the Crown. Sr. Majesty the Emperor and King were telegraphed expressing the family's loyalty.

Civil status.

(a) Deaths:

Countess Hedwig v. Kleist from Tzschernowitz † 24. 8. 28.

It was honored to her.

(b) Births:

a daughter of the cousin Hans Jürgen-Kieckow: Elisabeth, Maria, Anne, Fernande on 19 November 27.

the cousin Friedrich Karl v. Kleist on April 1, a daughter: Benita, Erna, Elisabeth.

(c) Marriage:

Barnim v. Kleist a.d.H. Wusseken on 12 June 28 with Anny Elisabeth Karczewski, daughter of the Oberpostinspektor Karczewski and Berta Burchert born.

Baron. Heinrich v. Kleist, lawyer, born on 11 April 28 with Karola Reinhold, daughter of Bernhard Reinhold and Johanna Reinhold Schultz.

Marie, Luise, Freiin v. Kleist (Berlin, Turmstraße 24) with Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm King on 17 December 27 to

Homburg/Saargebiet, widowed on 20 December 27 to Homburg/Saargebiet.

Cousin Leopold Gebersdorf is appointed Minister of the Royal House by the Most High Cabinet Order.

A telegram was sent to the family senior, cousin Bernhard in Drenow.

Kleist Regiment.

The head of the family has also taken part in the celebration of the foundation day of the regiment in the past years. It becomes the regiment's 157th. Des Monats A congratulatory telegram was sent to the Foundation Days, which also falls on the 13th. A very friendly telegram had been received from the regiment.

Kleist Society.

From 14 to 17 October, the Kleist Society in Frankfurt am Main celebrated the 150th anniversary of the birth of the poet Heinrich v. Kleist. The family included: cousin Wolf from Groß Tychow, cousin Ewald-Karthan with wife, cousin Berndt with wife and cousin Ewald-Schmenzin.

At the General Assembly of the Kleist Society, the family gave her a letter from the Wilhelmine v. Zenge and the field cutlery of Ewald Christian on loan.

At the monument, cousin Wolf laid a wreath with an address in which he emphasized the patriotic attitude, and cousin Ewald-Karthan a wreath at the grave of Ulricke, Heinrich's sister.⁶²

At the ceremonial meeting on 16 October, W. v. Scholz gave the speech, which rightly aroused general impetus, as he attempted to portray Heinrich as an international pacifist.⁶³

At the subsequent dinner, this derailment was corrected by speeches by cousin Ewald-Karthan and Professor Minde Pouet.⁶⁴

⁶² A photograph from the Kleist Museum's collection of the wreath laying at the monument can be found in the family archive.

In the Buch "Imperialist and Fascist Kleist Reception; 1890 - 1945" by Rolf Busch, Frankfurt am Main 1974, page 189, he writes: "The involvement of the Kleist family consists, among other things, in the fact that Count Retzow lays a wreath with a black-white-red ribbon with his von Kleist at the monument of Heinrichs: 'In dust with all enemies of word Brandenburg!' (86). He quotes the verse from the 'Germania' poem, which refers to the historic Napoleon: 'Beat him dead, the world court does not ask you why!'" (2019), referring unequivocally to the 'Franzmann' in today's Rhineland

⁶³ Festive lecture by Wilhelm v. Scholz, *Jahrbuch der Kleist-Gesellschaft 1927 und 1928*, pp. 1. (2019)

⁶⁴ From the Report on the General Meeting of the Kleist Company in Frankfurt op. cit. On October 15, 1927: ...In response, Ewald von Kleist seized the word and thanked the Lord Mayor for the kind word von Kleist with which he had commemorated them, hoping that the relationship between the city of Frankfurt and the family von Kleist would become ever more intimate. He had hoped that it would be possible to present the Kleists with a ceremony today, and that it would be a youth poem by Heinrich Kleists, but unfortunately that has not been achieved. On the other hand, it was possible to make a loan for the Kleistmuseum which could have an interest in the museum not because of the treasure of the material or the beauty of the presentation, but because of the historic value, namely the Ewald cutlery by Kleists, which he carried with him in the campaign and which he had permanently in his possession until the battle of Kunersdorf, i.e. until his death.

Lord Mayor Dr. Kinne thanks the Kleist Society and the city for this loan. He also thanked Ewald von Kleists for the presentation of his letter, which is available for viewing and also represents a valuable enrichment of the museum, especially as it is thought to build a memorial hall to commemorate the battle of Kunersdorf.

Yearbook of the Kleist Society 1930 and 1931, pp. 219.

The Kleist celebration in Frankfurt on the Oder. A world embarrassment. Special Report of the Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung, 26 Oct. 1927, p. 3 f., after the quote in the Buch "Imperialist and Fascist Kleist Reception; 1890 - 1945" by Rolf Busch, Frankfurt am Main 1974, addendum page 39: (p. 3:) "Kleist AND ITS grenadiers.

A descendant of Kleist von Kleist, a major, was asked by the festival committee to deliver the speech. Von Kleist Major responded willingly to this request. Von Kleist Sadly, however, it turned out at the end of the speech that Major was the victim of an embarrassing misunderstanding, because after discussing the importance of Kleist long and wide in his ceremonial speech, he finally had Kleist and the Kleist grenadiers celebrated with a "Hooray, hooray, hooray!" Von Kleist He was caught up in the error that the Major General was the great poet and considered it particularly appropriate

The aforementioned bases and cousins also took part in the inauguration of the mini-exhibition at the State Library in Berlin. In the afternoon, the family chairman laid a wreath at the grave of Heinrichs on behalf of the family.

Accounting.

The family's assets are. . . RM 27337.21 (exchange value)
 in addition the Raddatzer assets . . . 997.50 "
 together 28,334.70 "
 The assets of the Daughter Foundation amount to RM 4,765.85.
 Revenue was RM 7 980.51.
 " Expenditure 6,805.06 "
 Stock at 1 July RM 1,175.45

The invoices have been checked by the cousin Kurt-Kamissow and found to be correct. Discharge has been granted.

It was decided:

The contributions of the resident family members are to be reduced to 1.75 Pfg per morning, payable on 1 November and 1 February, provided that the non-residents pay the same contributions as in the previous years.

Miscellaneous.

The cousins commented on the question of whether the family day should be held in Berlin, to the effect that it is generally desirable to continue as before, thanks to the kindness of the cousin Wolf, to hold it in large Tychow.

Mrs Kück, born in Kleist, has thankfully sent the family news about the cousins who fought on the Russian page during the World War.

Wend. The bases and cousins are once again urged to show the pictures of the cousins who died in the World War to cousin Dielher in Tychow, as well as pictures of the deceased.

A request by the cousin Rudolph-Jeseritz to advocate that the names of the dissolved estate districts be preserved, including the rights granted by King, is approved.

Cousin Kurt-Kamissow is asked to make proposals for the preservation of the property, especially in the event of inheritance, on the next family day.

Please inform the chairman of any change of address.

At the dinner, cousin Ewald-Karthan presented the chairman with a silver punch bowl with tray as a present from the family on the occasion of his 60th birthday. In the wall of the vessel is a collection of the Prussian monarchs from Friedrich I to King Wilhelm II and on the tray is a double valley with portraits of the Great Elector and King Wilhelm II.

V.G.U.

Count Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow. Baron v. Kleist. Ewald v. Kleist.
 B. v. Kleist. P. Christian v. Kleist-Retzow. W. F. v. Kleist-Retzow.
 Georg Baron v. Kleist. Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow.
 Hermann Konrad v. Kleist-Dubberow.
 Jürgen v. Kleist. Leo v. Kleist. Leopold v. Kleist-Gebersdorf.

to commemorate at his celebration also the Grenadier Regiment named after the Major General."

In terms of content, the alleged error is, of course, a deliberate hoax because of the high life of the Kleist-Nollendorf Regiment, which was regarded as inappropriate. (2019)

Dr. Hans Jürgen von Kleist, Jeseritz, wrote an article for the Vossische Zeitung on October 20, 1927, p. 1, for the festival meeting, "Kleist and the Kleist", in which he defends a mediating position on the controversy there. [2024]

by Kleist-JeseritzRobert by Kleist-Wusseken.

K. v. Kleist-Kamissow. Friedrich Karl v. Kleist. Kurt Detleff v. Kleist.
Kleist-Schmenzin.

1929

Groß-Tychow , 18 November 1929.

I am sending you the minutes of this year's family day, held in Greater Tychow on 11 September 1929. It took part in the same 46 bases and cousins.

To our regret, His Excellency the General of the Infantry of Tschischwitz, honorary chairman of the Kleist Grenadier League, could not attend the family day because of illness of his wife; likewise, the gentlemen had to cancel Professor Minde-Pouet of the Kleist Society and Major Pfaff, chairman of the Officers Association of former Kleist grenadiers.

I urge all bases and cousins to inform us of any changes in addresses and family circumstances as soon as possible, and to do so on an ongoing basis, so that our statistics can be kept up to date.

The question of where the next family day should be held was again discussed in detail. The chairman suggested that a Berlin be given in 1930 in the hope that the family members who we have sorely missed on our family days would then also take part. In order to make it easier for the less well-off members of the family to take part, the cousin chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist, Karthan, agreed in generous Weise to invite all the appearing bases and cousins to breakfast and dinner, for which he was warmly thanked.

Von Kleist The oldest seal of the family with the signature "Clest de Densin", which was donated by Base Gisela à Chernowitz, was handed over to the provincial Museum of Pomeranian Antiquities in Stettin as a loan against a receipt. The property is reserved for the family.

It is also attached 1 copy of the news bulletin of the Association of Officers of the former grenadier Regiment Count Kleist of Nollendorf, which was sent kindly by the chairman of the Officers Association of the same Regiment Major Pfaff.

With reference to the request made in the Minutes, the images of cousins who died in the World War, and also life images of deceased to the cousin Diether von Kleist. (Wendisch Tychow, Kr. Schlawe, Pommern), I would like to reiterate this request made last year.

Again, the most cordial request is made to the non-resident members of the family to contribute to the expenses in accordance with their performance. A total of RM. 4100 is to be raised to balance our budget. Contributions for members residing on land go into the hundreds of marks, a rather sensitive levy in view of the distressed situation of agriculture. A postal check form is enclosed for use when sending any contributions to the Kreissparkasse Belgard-Persante on account no. 1324.

Your amount, dear cousin, is RM., the same is to be paid in two installments, on 1 December 1929 and 1 February 1930. Please make a valid payment on this date.

With family greeting

The chairman

Von Kleist Count of Retzow
Retired district administrator

Negotiated Großtychow, September 11, 1929.

Present:

Graf Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow, Groß Tychow
Baron Ewald v. Kleist, Karthan
Ewald v. Kleist, Schmenzin
Leo Ewald v. Kleist, Large Krössin
Ewald v. Kleist, Wendishtykhov
Fritz v. Kleist-Retzow, Damen
Captain Ewald v. Kleist, Berlin
Kurt v. Kleist, Kamissow
Lieutenant Artur v. Kleist, Osterode
Rudolf v. Kleist, Jeseritz
Robert v. Kleist, Wusseken
Excellency Leopold v. Kleist, Gebersdorf
Hermann-Konrad v. Kleist, Dubberow
Freiherr Werner v. Kleist
Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow, Kieckow
Oberleutnant z.S. Jürgen v. Kleist, Vietzow
Leutnant Hans-Ewald v. Kleist, Belgard
Captain Gunnar v. Kleist
Major Sigurd v. Kleist, Wendischtykhov
Peter-Christian v. Kleist, Groß Tychow
Georg Freiherr v. Kleist, Gross Tychow
Freiherr Heinrich v. Kleist
Captain Kurt Detleff v. Kleist
Friedrich Karl v. Kleist, Kunhof
Baron Ernst of Kleist, Berlin
Karl Georg v. Kleist, Kamissow

The following telegram of letters had been received from Sr. Majesty: I thank you for the announcement of the Family Day of the Family of Kleist and offer my Royal Greeting to all assembled members. I know what I have about My Pomeranian and Mark young noblemen, especially My Kleist. For centuries, the Kleist have done outstanding things under their kings in war and peace. I trust that they will continue to be faithful to their proud traditions when King and their homeland need them and remain so

Your well-disposed King.

Signed Wilhelm R.

Sr. Majesty was sent the following thank you telegram:

The Gender Association of the Family of Kleist would like to thank Your Majesty for the so gracious words to the family day and once again vows unwavering loyalty to his King.

Civil status:

(a) Deaths:

24. 11. 28. Arthur Baron v. Kleist from the House of Kerklingen in Berlin, civil status register p. 20.
20. 10. 28. In Belgard Hauptmann Bogislav v. Kleist, farm owner on Nabaos, from the house Rauden, civil status register page 8.
9. 3. 29. Miss Therese v. Kleist in Wien, page 34.
7. 1. 29. Rose v. Hepke, born v. Kleist in Potsdam, page 53.
5. 3. 29. Bernhard v. Kleist-Drenow in Drenow, page 42.

(b) Births:

22. 11. 28. A daughter of the cousin Ewald-Schmenzin, Reinhild Annemarie, Elisabeth.

(c) Marriage:

26. 6. 29. Ursula v. Kleist, daughter of Lieutenant General Alfred v. Kleist, with Major Wilhelm v. Detten, Berlin, page 48.
28. 6. 29. Ursula v. Kleist-Bornstedt from Hohenauen in Rathenow with Cornelius Walke, Kaufmann in Bremen, P. V. page 45.

(d) engagements:

retired 20. 7. 29. Captain Gunnar v. Kleist from the House of Wendischtychow with Carmen v. d. Meden, P. V. page 5.
May 1929. Leutnant Ernst Ewald Baron v. Kleist in Braunschweig with Anita Strohmeier in Braunschweig, P. V. page 25.

Honor matters.

The family chairman states that it was not possible to achieve the general binding nature of the family's claims to honor through an honorary senate encircling the most prestigious associations.

It is decided to postpone the hearing of the appeal of Count Dennis v. Kleist against the verdict of the court of honor.

Cousin Ewald v. Kleist-Ruschütz has been expelled from the family association by an honorary court ruling.

The Executive Board is proposing the following addition to the provision on honorary justice § ...:

The appeal shall be made by registered letter to the chairman of the family unit within a period of six weeks from the date of delivery of the honorary judgment.

It is therefore decided.

Kleist Society.

Cousin Ewald-Karthan reports on the status of the Kleist company.

Kleist - Regiment.

Excellency General of the Infantry v. Tschischwitz, honorary chairman of the Kleist Grenadier League is the uniform of the 8th. Prussian Infantry Regiment, whose 10th Company is the traditional company of the Kleist grenadiers. A congratulatory telegram will be sent to ex. v. Tschischwitz.

The comrades' club of the former Grenadier Regiment Graf Kleist v. Nollendorf in Liegnitz has invited the chairman to a flag ordination.

Miscellaneous.

A report on the 1928/29 school year was handed over to the family by the headmaster of the Kleist Berlin Lyceum, Director of Studies Neumann.

Various images of the late Therese v. Kleist have been bequeathed to the family, which are to be kept by the family chairman for the time being.

Cousin Georg v. Kleist has made inquiries about the Baltic members of the family and reports on them. He is asked to continue the inquiries.

From Gisel on Chernowitz, the family has been donated the Cleest de Densin seal. She is to be thanked by the family.

Accounting.

The family's assets amount to RM 35731.25.

Raddatzer assets 540,- RM., together 36271,25 RM. The assets of the subsidiary foundation amount to RM 5922.10.

Revenue was RM 10023,63. Expenditure RM 8646,45. Stock on 1 July 1376.75 RM. The invoices have been checked by the cousin Kurt, Kamissow and found to be correct.

Discharge has been granted.

The contributions of resident members are set at 1 pfennig per morning, payable in half on 1 November and 1 February. As regards the non-registered members, the existing arrangement remains unchanged.

We would ask for the pictures of those who died in the war to be sent back to cousin Dieter Vendischtychow. Only four have been received.

It is suggested that male family members who are coming of age should be solemnly obliged to perform the duties of a nobleman.

V.G.U.

F. W. v. Kleist-Retzow, Damen; Ewald v. Kleist, Wilmersdorf; K. v. Kleist, Kamissow;
Artur v. Kleist; R. v. Kleist, Jeseritz; Robert v. Kleist, Wusseken; Ernst v. Kleist, Berlin;
Leopold v Kleist, Gebersdorf; Hermann Konrad v Kleist, Dubberow;
Werner E. Freiherr v. Kleist; Hans Jürgen v. Kleist-Retzow;
Jürgen v Kleist, Vietzow; Hans Ewald v Kleist; Gunnar v Kleist;
Sigurd v. Kleist, Sigurdshof; Peter Christian v. Kleist-Retzow; Karl Georg v. Kleist;
Dr. Heinrich Freiherr. v. Kleist; v. Kleist, Wendisch Tychow; v. Kleist, Groß Krössin;
Freiherr. v. Kleist, Karthan; Friedrich Karl v. Kleist; v. Kleist, Schmenzin;
Kurt Detleff v. Kleist; Graf Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow; Freiherr. Georg v. Kleist.

1930

Karthan, 11 October 1930.

I am sending the Minutes of the Family Day held in Berlin on 23 September 1930.

They participated in the same 63 bases and cousins. Representatives of the former grenadier Regiment of Count Kleist of Nollendorf were the honorary chairman of the Kleist Grenadier League General of the Infantry of Tschischwitz and the chairman of the Officers Association of former Kleist grenadiers Major Pfaff.

It is with great regret that our most revered chairman was unable to attend the family day because of his illness. The family regretted his absence indefinitely and exchanged welcome telegrams with him.

Groß-Tychow It has been established that the two cups belonging to the family were in à with the chairman. Again after a long time the cups decorated our table. From one the high was spread to the King, from the other to the Damen.

Below, I note the history of these cups.

The first cup.

Excerpt from the family record of 17 June 71

"The Oberburggraf Constantin von Kleist's contribution to Mitau has given the family two gifts:

1. in a silver honorary cup dedicated to him from the Borussia in Bonn as a senior of the association.

The Oberburggraf Constantin von Kleist has made the provision that the family as such accept the cup and drink it every family day for the good of the King.

von Kleist 2. in a case a pair of valuable pistols with the provision that they be handed over to an officer of the family distinguished by bravery in the recent war.

Von Kleist The board decides to recommend to the family the acceptance of both gifts, recognizing that the bond that unites the family will not be loosened by distance or time if the bearers of the name remain aware of it, to the extent that the revered Constantin von Kleist, to whom the board has expressed its sincere and joyful gratitude, remains.

If the family so decides, the board proposes that the pistols be deferred to Colonel Ewald von Kleist, Commander of the Mecklenburg grenadier Regiment No. 89, currently in garrison in Schwerin, who has earned the Iron Cross first class from the enemy."

The second cup.

Excerpt from the family protocol of 7 March 1863.

von Kleist "The Lieutenant General in Köln celebrated his 50th anniversary on February 3. Man celebratin his jublee The head of the family has sent a silver mug in the name of the family, with a letter of congratulation, as a sign of sincere participation and respect."

Excerpt from the family record of June 18, 1869.

von Kleist "After welcoming the family members who had appeared, the chairman opened the family day with a reminder of the General's sudden death immediately after the previous family day. Cavalry-captain The Family Day expressed its profound sorrow at this new loss of one of the most distinguished members of the family, and noted with gratitude the deceased's appointment by which he transferred to the family the mug which she had given him for his fiftieth anniversary, and shall hand it over to Ewald von Kleist for safekeeping."

Von Kleist I will hand over a copy of the honorary court regulations of the family to all family members.

Groß-Tychow With reference to the attached Minutes, I ask all those cousins who did not attend this year's family day (except the officers of the Reichswehr) to sign the attached declaration and send it to the chairman after.

It was decided to re-establish the addresses. In the attachment I send the address list of the members of the family, as far as they are known at the moment, and please:

1. correct not only his own but also other known addresses,
2. also to indicate the addresses of those Kleist companies which are not listed,
3. returned to the chairman with the signature of the consignor.

The personnel directory is to be reprinted. I urge all bases and cousins to send the necessary personnel messages to the cousin Diether von Kleist (Wendisch-Tychow, Schlawe district) immediately. The images of cousins who died in the World War, as well as images of the lives of deceased cousins, must also be sent to cousins Diethers.

Inflation has deprived our family assets of up to a small amount, and interest rates are far from sufficient to pay the most necessary support. I would therefore like to make a most heartfelt request to all family members to help us according to their capacity. It has been decided to set the contribution of non-resident members at a minimum of 5 M per year.

If someone is unable to pay the small contribution, I would ask you to submit a request for a reduction or reduction. Remission of the contribution to the Chairperson.

The amount is payable: to the Sparkasse des districts Belgard, in Belgard-Pers. (Postal check account Stettin von Kleist 218) to the account "Familienfonds"

With family greetings!

The Vice-Chairman
Von Kleist Freiherr-Karthan
Chamberlain.

Negotiated

Berlin, September 23, 1930.

Present:

von Kleist Karthan

von Kleist Drenow

von Kleist Wendisch-Tychow

Colonel Hermann von Kleist

Baron Werner von Kleist

von Kleist Jeseritz

Captain Ewald von Kleist

von Kleist Wussecken

Major Adolf von Kleist

Colonel Ewald von Kleist

von Kleist Dubberow

Von Kleist Excellency of Gebersdorf

Von Kleist Retzow, Kieckow

von Kleist Schmenzin

Berndt von Kleist

Baron Heinrich von Kleist

von Kleist Kamissow

Peter Christian von Kleist-Retzow

Joachim von Kleist

Von Kleist Baron Ernst

Friedrich-Karl von Kleist

Baron Georg von Kleist.

von Kleist 1. His Majesty has had the mercy to send the following telegram to the family: "Thank you for the announcement of the upcoming family day of the family, and offer My Royal Greeting to the members. I remember in warm gratitude the high merits that the Kleist earned under Preußens kings at all times in war and in peace. I am happy to be assured that the Geist of devotion and duty, of manly loyalty to King and the fatherland, will also pass on to the young generation.

Ich Bleibe

Kleist's Benign King

Wilhelm R.'

Von Kleist His Majesty had been sent the following message of homage: "Your Majesty renews the family gathered for the family day for the vow of immutable loyalty to the ancestral house of the rulers with the words of Heinrichs von Kleist: "In dust with all the enemies of Brandenburg."

The revered family chairman, whose thoughts were warmly heeded, was sent the warmest greetings of the family.

2. Personal details.

died:

26 January 1930 Marie von Gottberg von Kleist, born, P. V. page 29.

9 July 1930 in Reinbeck, Baroness Elisabeth von Kleist à-Keyserlingk born baroness of the Ropp, P. V. page 14.

Born:

1 son, Christian Ewald (Catholic), on July 16, 1930 to cousin Barnim von Kleist, P. V. page 53.

1 son, Heinrich Walther Herbert Gottfried, on 21 September 1929 to cousin Hans-Jürgen à-Retzow in Kieckow page, P. V. von Kleist 30.

1 daughter Ulrike on 26 September 1929 to cousin Berndt von Kleist P. V. page 38.

Marriage:

On 3 May 1930 Ernst Ewald von Kleist, Freiherr, Leutnant im 17th Inf.-Regt. with Anita, née Strohmeyer.

On 19 August 1929 Captain Gunnar von Kleist, with Carmen born of the Meden, P. V. page 5.

Engages:

Im August 1930, Fides von Kleist, with Mr Herbert Simms, P. V. page 40.

3. Honor matters.

Count Dennies von Kleist has been expelled from the family by an honorary award of the family day.

Family members are urged to report immediately to the chairman of the honorary council or the family chairman any actions of cousins who come to their attention and who raise suspicions of honorary conduct.

The Governing Board shall propose the following decision:

The Regulations on the Honorary Council and Courts of Honor in the Family shall be reinstated by the members of the family, in the following form:

Von Kleist The members of the family present expressly declare the regulations for the Honorary Council and the Honorary Court of the Family (decided by the Family Day of 2 May 21), which were resubmitted in today's session, binding in all respects and expressly waive the right to appeal against a previous honorary court judgment. This provision does not apply to officers of the Reichswehr as long as they are under the honorary judicial provisions of the Reichswehr. A written declaration to this effect shall be sought from the cousins who are not present. If one of the family members refuses to make such a declaration, he must be informed that he is considered to be outside the family unit.

4. It is decided to read out the decision of Family Day of 2 May 1921 concerning marriage to foreign-bred women on each family day. The wording of the resolution is to be revised at the next family day.

5th Kleist Regiment.

A donation of 20 DM has been made to the association of former grenadiers of Kleist in Sagan. To the 159th The family chairman is invited to the grenadiers' foundation celebration.

6. Kleist Society.

A ballad by Mr. Dufner, which deals with the pictorial rescuing of the flags by the young noblemen von Kleist and Plates in the family history, was donated in several copies.

7. The list of personnel shall be reprinted. We kindly ask you to inform Cousin Diether in Wendisch-Tychow immediately of any personal news or changes of address.

8. Accounting.

The invoices have been checked by Cousin Kurt von Kleist Kamissow and found to be correct,

The family assets are: RM 29,362.25.

The assets of the Daughter Foundation 3,714.05 "

The Raddatz fortune 86.58 "

Not included are 155,000 paper mark Posener pension bonds.

Revenue shall be: RM 9 039.51

The expenditure shall be: RM 8,096.92
Stock = RM 942.59

Resident family members are also charged a fee of 1 Pfg. per morning in the current year. The contribution of the non-resident members is at least 5,- M.

V.G.U.

Von Kleist Freiherr
Ewald von Kleist-Wendisch-Tychow
Von Kleist R. Jeseritz
Leo von Kleist-Drenow
Von Kleist K. Kamissow
Leopold von Kleist-Gebersdorf

von Kleist Wussecken
Friedrich-Karl von Kleist
Ewald von Kleist
Von Kleist Ernst
von Kleist Schmenzin

Berndt von Kleist
Dr. Heinrich von Kleist Freiherr
Hermann von Kleist
Hans-Jürgen von Kleist-Retzow
Werner von Kleist Freiherr Berlin
Joachim von Kleist
Hermann von Kleist-Konrad-Dubberow

Peter Christian von Kleist of Retzow
Ewald von Kleist Berlin
Adolf von Kleist
Baron Georg von Kleist

Copy.

regulation
for the Honorary Council and the Court of Honor
of the
Von Kleist family
(decided by Family Day on 2 May 1921.)

§ 1.

In order to provide the family members with advice and assistance in matters of honor and to ensure honorable behavior of all members in their personal as well as economic activity, the Family Day elects an honorary council consisting of 3 members. An alternate shall be appointed for each member.

§ 2.

The chairman of the family shall be informed of any matter of honor brought. If the honorary council considers an honorary court award necessary, such an award must be requested from the chairman of the honorary court.

Each member of the family is obliged to inform the Honorary Council immediately of any actions of another member of the family that threaten or endanger the honor of the registrar.

§ 3.

At the request of the honorary council, the chairman appoints the honorary court, which consists of the chairman, the honorary council and the 3 alternates. The chairman shall appoint the persons missing from the number of six persons on his own authority.

, the 1930s.

An Den

Von Kleist Family Union of the Family
von Kleist for the attention of the Chairman, Mr Grafen à-Retzow

GROSS-TYCHOW e
District Belgard, Pommern.

explanation.

Von Kleist With reference to the decision of the Family Day of 23 September 1930 (see Minutes), I hereby expressly declare that the Regulation for the Honorary Council and the Honorary Court of the Family (decided by the Family Day of 5 February 21 and 11 September 29 respectively), which was served on me today, is binding on me in all respects and expressly waives the right to institute proceedings.

Addresses
of the family members of
Von Kleist family⁶⁵

⁶⁵ The following list is not printed here.

1931

Groß-Tychow December 1931

As a result of the catastrophic economic situation, which has also severely affected our family members, this year's Family Day will not be paid a visit. The discharge is granted to the board on the next family day in 1932. In order not to interrupt the normal course of business, I convened a board meeting on 18 October this year. Participants in this conference were:

Wolf von Kleist Graf-Retzow Groß-Tychow,
Ewald von Kleist Freiherr, Karthan,
Leo von Kleist, Drenow,
Ewald von Kleist, Wendisch-Tychow,
Ewald von Kleist, Schmenzin.

Instead of the usual family day protocol, I give the most important information below:

I. On behalf of the family, the President of the Family Union sent a telegram of congratulations to His Majesty the Emperor and King. His Majesty had the grace to telegraph: "Sincere thanks for the faithful commemoration of My birthday".

II. Personnel details:

died:

on 20 July 1931 Mrs Betty von Kleist, born, from Blomberg, (Braunschweig, Adolfstraße 60)
on 8 April 1931 Wedig von Kleist, Hamburg, Kibitzstraße 24 I.

Born:

1 son Rüdiger Rudolf Sigurd on 17. 12. 1930 to the cousin Gunnar von Kleist retired,
1 daughter Ingrid Mary Agnes on 1 November 1930 to cousin Jürgen von Kleist, Vietzow,
1 daughter Sigrun on August 14, 1931 to cousin Ewald von Kleist, Schmenzin.

engaged:

April 1931 Baron Georg von Kleist à (a. H. Kerklingen Groß-Tychow) in à with Miss Marie Saltzwedel, in Belgard-Pers.

May 1931 Lieutenant 5th (Pr) Reiter Regiment. Hans Ewald von Kleist, Belgald-Pers., with Miss Else of Schaumann, Grüssow.

married:

von Kleist on 26 October 1930 Freiherr, Galten (Kurland Ellinor) with Gernet, Riga.

von Kleist von Kleist on 18. 6. 31 Frä. Edelgard, daughter of the Major in the Ministry of Defense, Berlin, with Mr. Hermann of Oppeln-Bronikowski, Oberlt. in the 10th (Prussian) Rider Regiment. Züllichau.

The personnel directory is to be reprinted. We urge you to inform the Cousin Diether von Kleist in Wendisch-Tychow immediately of any personal news or changes of address,

III. Honor matters:

1. It is to be proposed to the next family day that the decision of the Family Day of 2 May 1921 concerning marriage to foreign-bred women should remain in its original form (see paragraph 4 of the Minutes of 23 September

1930).

2. The declaration of the Baltic cousins concerning the Court of Honor (see paragraph 4 of the Protocol of 23 September 1930) is hereby approved and noted.

IV Kleist Regiment:

The Chairman of the Association of Officers of the former grenadier Regiment, Count Kleist of Nollendorf, Mr. Pfaff has resigned. Retired In his place, Mr. Captain of Frankenberg and Ludwigsdorf was elected unanimously by the Association.

V. Kleist Society.

Lichtenstein On 13 July 1931, at the instigation of Se. Highnesses to Prince Günther of Schönburg-Waldenburg a small⁶⁶ plaque consecration and open-air performance of the "Penthesilea" by members of the State Theater Dresden pay a visit. Von Kleist As a representative of the family, the cousin chamberlain Baron Ewald von Kleist, Karthan, took part in this celebration. After an impressive speech, he had laid a wreath on the Heinrich von Kleist memorial stone in the name of the family. The speech and newspaper cuttings about this celebration will be read out on the next family day and rewritten in the minutes in 1932.

VI. Order Church of Sonnenburg.

On the initiative of Baley Brandenburg of the order of St . John, Berlin von Kleist, the head of the family association has appointed a window seat with the a'ian coat-of-arms in the church of the Order of Sonnenburg to mark the hero honor of the Kleist ordre of St . John knights who fell during the World War (in April 1930). The following names are entered under the coat-of-arms:

1. Ewald von Kleist killed in action, born, 13. 2. 1863, Major General, 28. 10. 1918 near Parny (near Rethel), leader of the 51st. Reserve division. Honorary knights of J.-O.

von Kleist 2. Baron Ernst, born 25 September 1886, Major, Res.-Inf.-Reg. Killed in action No. 27, 27 August 1914 at Noyers (at Sedan) as battalion commander.

3. Hans Joachim von Kleist killed in action, born 11. 10. 1869, Führer Stappen-Kraftwagen-Kolonnie Nr. 58 bei Armies-Oberkommando Nr. 9, Hauptmann, 24. 9. 1915.

The chairman himself has taken over the costs of this.

VII. Miscellaneous.

1. Cousin Excellency Leopold von Kleist, Berlin declares that he was compelled to sell his estate to Gebersdorf. The Executive Board takes note of this.

2. The gravestone of Ewald Jürgen von Kleist, Domherr zu Kammin (inventor of the Kleist bottle) will be transferred to the provincial Museum. The essay on him is to be rewritten in the next Family Day protocol.

VIII. Accounting.

The invoices have been checked by the cousin Kurt von Kleist, Kamissow and found to be correct. The discharge is to be granted on the next family day in 1932. As at 1 July 1931.

The family assets are	RM 29,362.25
The assets of the Daughter Foundation	RM 3,714.05
The Raddatz fortune	RM 86.58

⁶⁶ On the bronze plaque is an excerpt from the letter of May 5, 1800 from Heinrich by Kleist to his fiancée Wilhelmine of Zenge. The most beautiful thing on my trip so far, manor Lichtenstein. The plaque was stolen in 2011 and replaced with donations in 2014. Source: Verein für Geschichte der Stadt Lichtenstein/Sa. e. V. (2019)

<https://www.geschichtsverein-lichtenstein.de/veranstaltungen/rundg%C3%A4nge-mit-dem-nachtw%C3%A4chter/heinrich-von-kleist-1/>

Sat: RM 33162.88

155000 Papiermark Posener bonds are not included. In the meantime, the revaluation of the Posener Pension Bonds has taken place. The invoice for this will be presented on the next family day.

Current receipts were

RM 6,492.45

The expenditure was

RM 5,332.14

As a result, it existed on 1 July 31.

RM 1,160.31

The district savings bank director Mr. Hildebrandt, Belgard-Pers., has resigned his position in the family's asset management. On behalf of the family, the Board of Directors expresses its warmest thanks for his many years of loyal service. In his place comes the cousin Baron Georg von Kleist Groß-Tychow. The stores are to be handed over on 15 January 2032.

A contribution of 1/2 pfennigs per morning is levied on resident members in the current year. The contribution of the non-resident members is at least RM. 5 per year. I would like to make a most heartfelt request to all members of the family to contribute in accordance with their capacity. There are many who need to be helped in this difficult time.

Your dear cousin's dear base contribution is

RM. The amount shall be paid:

to the Kreissparkasse Belgard-Pers. (Postal check account Stettin von Kleist 218) to the account "Familienfonds."

With family greeting
von Kleist Graf-Retzow, Chairman.

1933

Karthan, September 20, 1933.

Dear cousins!

Thanks to the trust of the members of the Executive Board, I was elected Honorary Chairman of the v. Kleist Family Association. By the death of our former chairman of the Count of Kleist-Retzow-Gross Tychow has been left with a serious loophole. All cousins are aware of the warm heart with which he hung on to the family and how he always tried to alleviate the plight of family members with an open hand. The family days we spent in Gross Tychow in his hospitable house were allowed to spent, are indisputably one of the most beautiful family days. But the power of the native plaice escaped from them.

Replacing the deceased will be a difficult task that I dare to take on, in anticipation of the help of all bases and cousins.

In the annex I send the minutes of the last family day, which unfortunately had to take place without females. I hope that next year it will be possible to hold another family day with females, because we to count on the active cooperation of our wives and daughters.

I urge you to help us soften the plight of the family by paying the highest possible contributions. An extract of each individual's contribution account will be sent.

In order to maintain the connection with the family, it is absolutely necessary that the addresses and any changes are communicated to us immediately. In order to keep an accurate list of civil status, it is necessary that all changes in personnel, deaths, births, engagements, marriages are reported to the Executive Board. All notifications in this regard shall in future be addressed to Cousin Ewald v. Kleist-Wendisch Tychow, Chairman of the Articles of Association.

Mit Treuem Gruss

The Honorary Chairman
Signed Ewald Baron of Kleist-Karthan.

Negotiated: Berlin, 13 September 1933.

The following were present:

1. Ewald Freiherr v. Kleist-Karthan
2. Leo v. Kleist-Drenow
3. Ewald v. Kleist-Wendisch Tychow
4. Ewald v. Kleist-Schmenzin
5. Excellence Leopold v. Kleist, Berlin
6. Major General Ewald v. Kleist, Breslau
7. Rudolf v. Kleist-Jeseritz
8. Hermann-Konrad v. Kleist-Dubberow
9. Ewald v. Kleist, Wilmersdorf
10. Ernst v. Kleist-Zerxten, Berlin
11. Georg Baron v. Kleist Groß-Tychow,
- 12th Wolf-Friedrich Count v. Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow
- 13th Peter Christian v. Kleist-Retzow-Möthlow
14. Karl-Friedrich Baron v. Kleist, Berlin
15. Berndt v. Kleist, Karthan

1. His Majesty the Emperors and King have had the mercy to make known His participation in the death of our most revered chairman by telegram to the deputy chairman of the family:

House of Doorn, 11 July 1933.

letter telegram

His Majesty the Emperor and King

His Majesty the Emperors and King retired let Your Highly Born for reporting the return of the head of the family association, the Major and hereditary chef of Pomerania, Majoratsherrn on Gross Tychow, Grafen Wolf v. Kleist-Retzow Send his thanks. His Majesty has received this news with warm sympathy, and I would ask you to convey your sincere condolences to the relatives as well as to the members of the v. Kleist Family Association.

Im Allerhöchsten Auftrag

Signed Baron v. Grancy

Service. court marshal

Various telegrams of His Majesty were also read out, which had been received in response to congratulations pp. over the past few years. (See Appendix).

It was then decided to send the following telegram of surrender to His Majesty:

"His Majesty, Doorn House.

The members of the v. Kleist family gathered today for Family Day renew the pledge of immutable loyalty.

Baron v. Kleist, chamberlain".

His Majesty sent the following reply:

"I thank you for the homage from the family days of those of Kleist. The renewed pledge of loyalty of the members of this family, which has been closely associated with My House for centuries, has given me sincere pleasure. I trust that the young generation will also emulate the numerous shining role models among their ancestors in the struggle

for the throne and altar, people and fatherland, All members of your family association My greetings!

Signed Wilhelm I. R.

2. Elections to the Bureau:

In the presence of a notary, the necessary replacement elections for the board were made.

Cousin Ewald Freiherr v. Kleist-Karthan first reads the following resolution of the Executive Board:

"The Board invites the Vice-President to cousin Ewald-Karthan to take over the chairmanship. However, since permanent negotiations with the tax office will be necessary, which affect the family's assets, Cousin points out to Ewald-Karthan that he is abroad for half of the year. For this reason, the Board of Directors:

The cousin Ewald is elected honorary chairman and leads the family days.

For formal reasons, Cousin Ewald Wend.-à Tychow. The honorary chairman and the chairman discuss the distribution of business between themselves. The board continues to elect the cousin Ewald from Schmenzin as deputy chairman. The following should be proposed to the Family Day: to full board member Cousin Leo-Drenow, to alternate members Cousin Ewald, Major General in Breslau and Berndt in Karthan."

In the election that followed, which took place in the presence of a notary by casting ballots, the cousin Leo-Drenow was elected a full board member, the cousins Ewald, Major General in Breslau and Berndt in Karthan as deputy members. The cousins in question accepted the election.

The Board of Directors is now composed as follows:

Honorary Chairman: Cousin Ewald-Karthan.

according to the articles of association Prev.: Cousin Ewald Wend.-à Tychow.

Deputy Prev.: Cousin Ewald-Schmenzin.

Ordinal Vorst Members: Cousin Leo-Drenow.

Deputy Vorst members: Cousin Ewald, Major General in Breslau.

Deputy Vorst Members: Cousin Berndt in Karthan on 8 July 1933.

3. Personal details:

The honorary chairman commemorates the late chairman cousin Wolf Graf v. Kleist-Retzow on Groß in warm words Tychow. He emphasized what the deceased had done for the family and how much the family owed him. An old Preuße loyal to the king was buried with him. The honorary chairman undertakes to continue working in the interests of the deceased.

The following continued to die:

Wilhelm Baron of Kleist, Lord Majoris of Zerxten in Rostock, on 19 November 1931.

Ulrich v. Kleist from the house of Drenow in Hähnchen, Annahof on 18 June 1932.

Margarete Herm, born by Kleist from the House of Drenow zu Polzin on 22 June 1932.

Sonja v. Gontard, born v. Kleist from the house of Kamissow zu Hahnenklee am ? 1932nd

Georg v. Kleist (formerly Nemitz) on Berlin in hospital on April 14, 1933.

Asta v. Gerlach, born v. Kleist zu Parsow on 14 April 1933.

Adelheid Freifrau v. Rosenberg, born v. Kleist zu Flatow on 25 December 1932.

The assembled family members rose from their seats in honor of the deceased. The honorary chairman notes this with gratitude.

They got engaged:

Vesta v. Kleist, daughter of the cousin Rulekin with Count de Martino.

Bodild v. Kleist from Damen with Alfred Heerwagen, lawyer in Riga,

On June 19, 1933.

They got married:

Georg Freiherr v. Kleist from Kerklingen, Gross Tychow, with Marie Salzwedel

On 7 January 1932 at Stettin.

Hans Ewald v. Kleist from the house of Drenow with Else v. Schaumann, to greetings

On May 10, 1932.

Maria Theresia Freiin v. Kleist, daughter of Baron Werner v. Kleist Berlin, with Mr Wilhelm Brock on 24 May 1932 on Berlin.

The following were born:

A daughter: Wiltrude, Dora, Herma, on 12 January 1932 to the cousin Gunnar v. Kleist retired Wend., Hptm. Tychow, now in Angola.

One daughter: Monica on 10 September 1933 to the cousin Hans Ewald from the House of Drenow, Oberltn. i. Reiterregiment 5.

A daughter ? on ? 9. 1932 the cousin Barnim in Neu-Wusseken.

4. Honor matters:

Cousin Kurt v. Kleist-Kamissow announces that he and his children have registered in Edda. Registration was made on 18 June 1932 under No 18.

On 21 May 1932 the Honorary Council of the Family ruled in the case of the cousin Ewald v. Kleist-Schmenzin that 'by its investigation, the Honorary Council found that the cousin Ewald v. Kleist-Schmenzin had not taken any action in the matter in question which would be likely to endanger or violate the honor of the profession'. This verdict is to be sent to the main board of D. A. G. Berlin, Hindersinstraße, with justification.

The affair with cousin Berndt v. Kleist from the House of Drenow is referred to the Honorary Council.

As regards the term 'alien race' (see Minutes of 25 May 1921), it is stated that 'in cases of doubt, the head of the family shall take a decision, against whose decision an appeal to family day may be lodged within six weeks of service'.

5. Balance sheet, accounts and contributions:

The honorary chairman provides information on the reorganization of the accounting system, the cousins Georg, Gross Tychow, after taking over from the former Rendante Hildebrandt on April 1, 1932 in model Weise has newly established. A letter is read from the cousin Kurt-Kamissow, according to which the accounting and the cash office were found to be in order. The cousin also makes proposals on the collection of contributions and requests that contributions due on 1 July (as a payment in premieres) and not yet received on 1 October be collected on delivery.

The Family Day decides: A minimum contribution of 20.- Mark is to be set for the property, and 5.- Mark for all other members. Incidentally, the cousins should assess themselves. The cousin's motion Kurt-Kamissow is accepted. The cousins will now receive an extract from their contribution account and will be given 6 weeks to finish.

The honorary chairman reports on the inventory of assets. According to the status of 1 July 1933, the family's assets are:

including bank balances 56,714.23 Mk.

in addition, the Daughter Foundation with
13 612.46 Mk.

and the Raddatzer assets 2 670.21 Mk.

Summa	72,996.90 Mk.
The revenue of the main fund was	5,925.70 Mk.
the expenditure of the main fund was	4 503.06 Mk.
Hence cash on hand	1 422.64 Mk.

At the request of the cousin Hermann Konrad, discharge is granted to the Executive Board for the accounting years 1931/32 and 1932/33.

6. Miscellaneous:

Dem Cousin Diether v. Kleist Wend. in Tychow is authorized to use a writing aid for the reworking of the personnel inventory for a specific period of time, which is to be paid from the MRP fund. Cousin of Ewald Wend. Tychow is requested to take this writing aid in food and accommodation. Cousin Ewald agrees to this.

The honorary chairman reads out an Highest Cabinet Order to his cousin, Excellency Leopold, on the occasion of his retirement from the imperial service (see annex). For the appreciative words and the award, the honorary chairman extends his family's congratulations to his cousin, Excellency Leopold.

The honorary chairman provides information on the development of the micro-society and reads a letter from Prof. Minde Pouet in which he makes a statement on personnel policy, in particular the alignment of the board of directors.

Consecration of a memorial to Heinrich v. Kleist by the Prince Schönburg in Lichtenstein. The honorary chairman reports on his participation in the celebration. The speech he made there will be annexed to the Minutes. (See Appendix).

The assumption that the one in the park of Great Tychow's gravestone is the corpse stone of the well-known canon and inventor of the Kleist bottle, has not been confirmed. (See Chairman's circular of December 1931.) The inscription is according to the appendix has been deciphered.

A greeting was sent to the President of the Association of Kleist grenadiers, and thanks were also paid on behalf of the family to him for his participation in the funeral of our most revered President.

V.G.U.

Herrmann Konrad v. Kleist-Dubberow
 Leo Ewald v. Kleist-Drenow
 Ewald v. Kleist, Breslau
 Rudolf v. Kleist-Jeseritz
 Ewald v. Kleist, Wilmersdorf
 Karl Friedrich Freiherr v. Kleist-Berlin
 Ernst von Kleist-Zerxten, Berlin
 Leopold v. Kleist, Berlin
 Ewald v. Kleist Wend. Tychow
 Ewald v. Kleist-Schmenzin
 Ewald Freiherr von Kleist
 Freiherr Georg v. Kleist
 Dr. Graf von Kleist-Retzow-Groß Tychow
 Peter Christian v. Kleist-Retzow-Möthlow
 Berndt v. Kleist, Karthan.

fixed assets

to the minutes of the sittings of the v. Kleist Family Day on 13 September 1933.

1. Letter telegram of His Majesty the Emperor and King. Haus Doorn, d. 12. 8. 31.

I welcome the Kleiste united for Family Day in warm recognition of the high merits that she and her ancestors have earned for centuries to this day in insoluble adherence to the Hohenzollern house around prince and fatherland. In times of need, a "faithful Kleist" has always stood before the throne to Schütz and Trutz. May the old family, who can take pride in the knights of the mind and the sword that have been sprouted from him, and in the noble blood that he has shed on the battlefields of Preußens, continue to bring forth strong fighting natures. Give us a Kleist again, which animates the Deutsche people with the will to win, for the future "Hermannsschlacht" and a Kleist, which brings me a Nollendorf again! The Pomeranian and Mark young noblemen to the frontline!

Signed Wilhelm I. R.

2. Letter of His Majesty the Emperor and King Haus Doorn, d. 27. 1. 32.

For the faithful wishes for My birthday I say My thanks, and also ask him all to the parties with my greeting.

Signed Wilhelm I. R.,

3. Letter telegram of His Majesty the Emperor and King. Haus Doorn, d. 27. 1. 33.

For the congratulations on My birthdays, which I sincerely enjoyed, I say my thanks. Greetings to all loyalists.

Signed Wilhelm I. R.

4. Highest cabinet order to the cousin Leopold v. Kleist on the occasion of his resignation from the imperial service.

My dear Kleist!

I see myself, to my sincere regret, compelled to comply with your request of 9th of the month submitted to me, and grant you the requested farewell by granting you the pension fixed by My Order. It is a matter of my heart to take this opportunity to once again express my warmest appreciation for the exemplary dedication with which you, as an officer and as my house minister, have devoted yourselves to Me and My royal house. I know that you were alone in your desire to serve your king, to promote His and His house in the best way, but to ward off harm and disadvantage. Garde du corps You have proven this as an officer in times of war and peace, in My Regiment of the, whose command I had entrusted to you, in the General Staff, as a military attaché and especially as my wing adjutant. As commander of an infantry regiment, you have earned the special trust of your subordinates in the field and have done excellent work. During your responsible work as My Home Secretary, your knowledgeable care and purposeful will have succeeded in overcoming the economic hardships of our time and, despite all the significant difficulties, in maintaining and increasing the wealth of My Royal House as a wise housekeeper. In times of need and danger, you were worthy of the proud tradition of your name, faithful before My throne and My person. All that you have accomplished and wanted for Me and My House should remain unforgettable for you. As a token of My and My house, I give you My oil painting created by Professor Schwarz. May this gift always be a friendly reminder of your long and meaningful service.

Your Benevolent King

Signed Wilhelm I. R.

Haus Doorn, 31 January 33.

À la suite von Kleist To My Home Minister, General, Berlin.

5. Speech by Ewald-Karthan cousin at unveiling Heinrich v. Kleist memorial stone
Manor of Lichtenstein, July 13, 1931.

My Damen and gentlemen!

On behalf of the family of Kleist, I express our heartfelt gratitude to your Highness for the tribute you have paid to our great ancestor, the poet Heinrich of Kleist, by erecting the memorial stone.

But I believe that the thanks must be wider, far beyond the confines of the family. This poet does not belong to the family alone, this poet Heinrich v. Kleist belongs to the Deutschen people!

In a time of the most blatant materialism, you, my prince, have given the means not only to carry out this monument, but you have wanted to make this consecration hour particularly impressive by performing the "Penthesilea".

I know that for a long time you planned my prince, the display of the memorial stone and the performance of the "Penthesilea", and despite all the difficulties that have arisen, you have stuck to this plan, which has become a reality today, and you have carried it out, despite the difficult time circumstances that weigh on us.

They have thus proved that there are still men in Deutschen, that there are still princes who will not be dissuaded from pursuing their ideal aims by any difficulty. At a time when our people are increasingly being deprived of their ideals, all true Deutschen men and women must be thankful to you, the champion of our ideals.

Here at this point stood Heinrich v. Kleist, the son of the plain, deeply impressed by the beautiful nature surrounding it. Despite all the enthusiasm for these beauties towards the, on the other hand, miserable homeland, he nevertheless seizes the sense of home - it is the same heaven that spans over Frankfurt, the same heaven that radiates his bride, his "Minchen".

Heinrich v. Kleist rested here on his trip depressed by serious material worries, always asking the question: "Will I gain a position that allows me to establish a home to "bring home the beloved girl".

It seems like a picture from our time. Like many of our people today, they are moving with grave concern for the future of women and children, for the future of our fatherland.

May these depressed people of the Geist Heinrich v. Kleist float around, the Geist, which speaks to us from the "Battle of Hermanns". May they be filled with strength to fight for freedom from bondage, with belligerence at a time when leaders believe that "messengers" can save the motherland.

May the Geist of the Prince of Homburg inspire her, who in a difficult hour realized that community is to be placed above personality, and that community is to be sacrificed everything, even life.

If such ideas become the property of the German people, then the closing words of the "Prince of Homburg", the old Kottwitz, which has its significance far beyond the black and white border posts, just like the battle at Roßbach, can become true again:

Dust with all the enemies of Brandenburg!

This is Kleist's Geist.

In profound reverence, I lay this wreath on the Denkstein in the name of the family of Kleist and conclude with the call that may resound far and wide to the lonely tomb at Wannsee:

Heinrich v. Kleist Wake up!!! Save your Prussia! Save our German fatherland!

Groß-Tychow 6. The inscription on the gravestone standing in the park of:

"In 1607 the Lord Strictly and loyal Wilhelm Kleist, princely governor of Stolpe and Schlawe, head of Belgard to Vietzow, fell asleep in heaven. In 1619 the E... ?..?..? (Wife probably) and many-virtuous Barbara Kamken and his wife sleep in god."

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 1

September 1934

News from the Family

In its meeting of August 18, the Family Board resolved henceforth to dispense with the hitherto customary dispatch of simple protocols and instead to publish a newsletter, which is to appear at first semi-annually. Its purpose is to establish as close a connection as possible between all members of the family association, especially with those who are unable to attend the family gatherings. Also, all those who otherwise have an interest in the family shall be able, against a fee of RM 0.80 per year, to establish or maintain this connection, especially the daughters who have married out of the family.

Furthermore, this paper serves to prepare the so very necessary continuation of our family history, by publishing in it the life sketches of those male and female members who have passed away since the appearance of the history. All cousins are therefore already here requested for their cooperation. These life sketches should give as faithful a picture as possible of the persons concerned, thus not merely a listing of data. Very welcome alongside such contributions are also accounts of experiences of every kind, if only they are of interest to the family.

May this first issue go forth and win many successors; may from their content a new and still firmer cohesion of all members grow, for the benefit of the family, above all for the benefit of our Fatherland! May precisely for the sake of this the individual more and more come to recognize what firm standing in the struggle for the Fatherland the support of the family association bestows, and how inspiring and guiding the deeds and examples of the forefathers act! May therefore these pages find many collaborators of both sexes from our ranks!

Excerpt from the Protocol of August 18

Accounting. The accounts have been audited and found correct by cousin Kurt-Kamissow; discharge is to be sought at the next family gathering. The balance as of July 1, 1934, was:

Main fund	63,938.55 RM
Daughters' Foundation	16,148.19 RM
Raddatz fund	3,082.11 RM
Total:	83,168.85 RM

The cash balance on July 1, 1933, amounted to	3,111.71 RM.
The current income of the main fund	5,794.07 RM.
Total:	8,905.78 RM.
The current expenses amounted to	7,337.50 RM.
Thus, cash balance on July 1, 1934	1,568.28 RM.

A detailed account will be submitted at the family gathering.

Family history. The chairman has undertaken to initiate the preparatory work for the continuation of the family history.

Matters of honor. The board appoints, in view of the fact that too much time will elapse until the family gathering, the following as members of the Council of Honor: cousins Leo-Drenow, Hans Jürgen-Kieckow, Hermann Conrad-Dubberow, and as alternates the cousins Leopold-Berlin, Robert-Wusseken, and Sigurd-Sigurdshof. Of the declarations regarding the family honor regulations, all have now been received with one exception.

The board resolves to propose to the family gathering the admission into the family association of the so-called Krummensee Kleists. More on this below.

Telegrams. To His Majesty a telegram was sent in the customary manner on January 27, 1934, to which a telegram of thanks was received. Further telegrams were sent: to the family von Heydebreck on the occasion of the death of their family chairman, to cousin Hermann-Braunschweig on his 70th birthday, as well as to Hammelburg and Damen on the occasion of weddings.

Personal notes. Since the last family gathering the following have been born:

November 17, 1933, in Braunschweig, Friedrich Ewald Ernst Heinrich Werner, to cousin First Lieutenant Ewald, p. 21.

January 13, 1934, in Schmenzin, Ansgar Herbert Vollrath Fabian Matthäus, to cousin Ewald, p. 7.

January 24, 1934, in Hamburg, Ehrentraut Ruth Ingeborg, to cousin Gunnar, p. 5.

July 27, 1934, in Grüssow, a daughter, to cousin Hans Ewald in Stolp, p. 37.

Married.

Würzburg, April 4, 1934, Regina Baroness von Kleist, p. 28, to Anton Reiner, born Herbertingen, Württemberg, May 15, 1890, assistant teacher in Reimlingen near Nördlingen.

Deceased.

October 30, 1933, in Kolberg, Elly, line 7, branch 2.

April 14, 1934, in Naumburg, Mathilde, married von Gellhorn, p. 30.

April 24, 1934, in Riga, Baroness Jenny, née Knigge, p. 18.

June 13, 1934, in Stolp, Marie, p. 31.

June 28, 1934, in Angola, Rüdiger, son of Gunnar, p. 5.

? ? 1934, in Vienna, Maria, née Baroness von Weber, p. 28.

Promotions.

Cousin Adolf in March 1934 to commander of R.R. 12 (Dresden), p. 39.

Diether Dennies in June 1934 to Major retired, p. 5.

Friedrich Karl in June 1934 to Captain retired, p. 32.

Changes in landed property. Hohennauen has been sold at forced auction.

Miscellaneous.

Of the keepsakes that should, according to the records, be in existence, the following cannot at present be located: a snuffbox of Frederick the Great, a key for the grave of Christian Ewald in Frankfurt a. O., the so-called Schweder historical collection, once received by cousin Detlef in Meiningen.

The board resolves that in future the ladies are also to be included in the sessions of the family gathering (except in matters of honor), and that the approval of the family gathering for this be subsequently obtained.

Cousin Ewald-Karthan donates to the family two letters of Heinrich von Kleist, published by Herm. Wünsch.

Cousin Ewald-Wendisch Tychow suggests that instead of the previous protocols a family newspaper should appear about semi-annually; the board agrees.

On the Resolutions

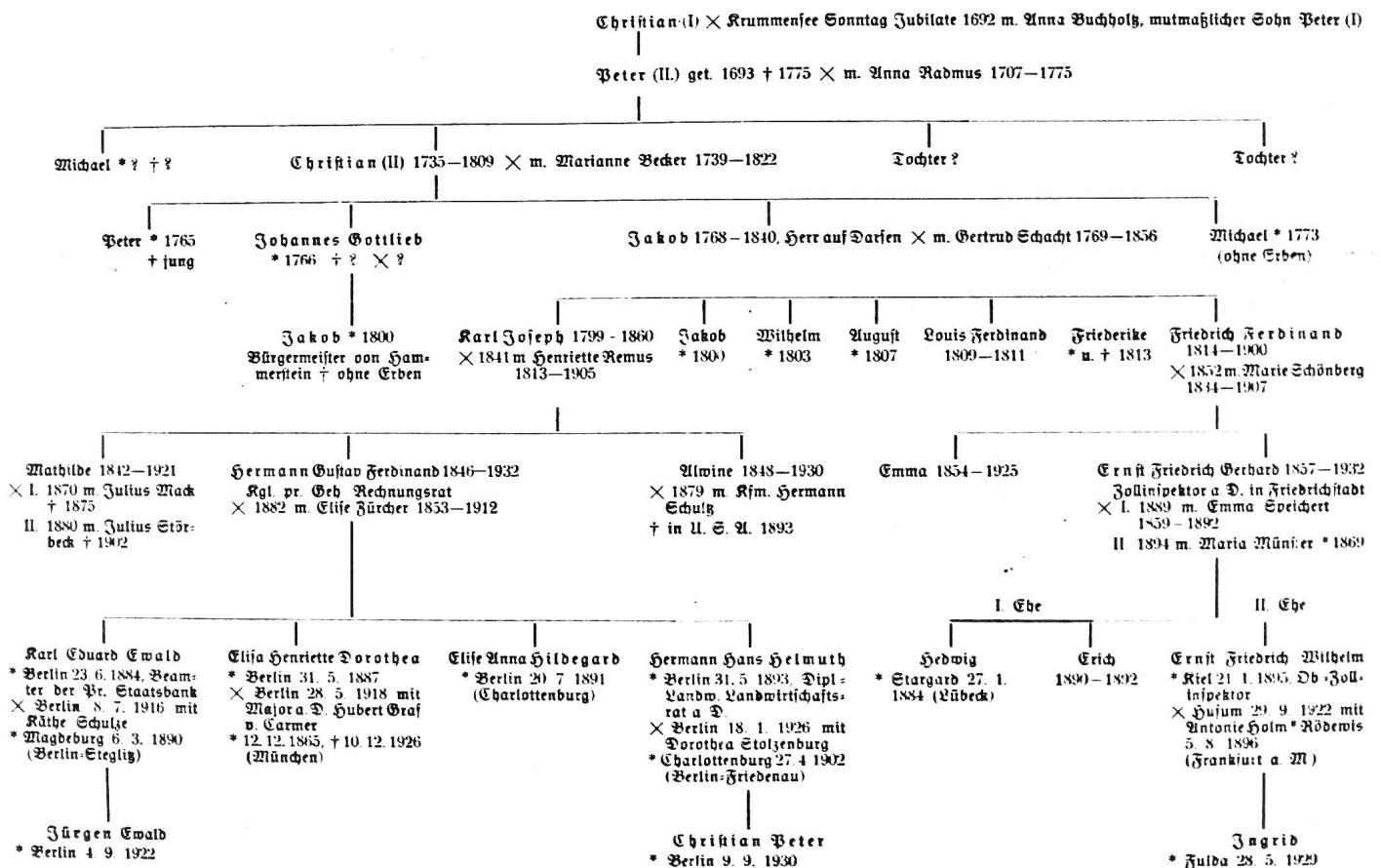
One way in which the continuation of the family history is to be prepared has already been mentioned in the introductory words, namely through this newsletter. Furthermore, at this moment, Mr. Bruchwitz has already been on our estates, in order, on our behalf, to photograph the existing portraits and to ascertain the documents and, insofar as possible, to forward them to the Prussian State Archives in Stettin. There they remain in our possession, but are accessible to general research and, what for us is most essential, secured in the best possible manner against all hazards. Through the photographing of the portraits it is at the same time determined where the portraits of the individuals are located, and we urgently request that any alienations or inheritances out of the family be made known to us. Aside from the estates, only Berlin and its surroundings have been worked through in this manner; in all other cases we are dependent upon the personal cooperation of our cousins. We very much ask you to support us by having each one's holdings of Kleist family portraits photographed in the size 9x12 or 10x15 and to send the negatives to cousin Ewald in Wendisch Tychow. The expenses will be borne by the family. In the same way, we ask that all old records and documents, approximately prior to 1850, which lead a precarious existence in drawers or even chests, be dispatched there as well. They are of importance for the family; also, information concerning documents and portraits which are in non-Kleist possession but refer to the family is urgently desired. And finally, we ask that everyone whose ancestors or siblings are not yet recorded in the family history set to work and in the above-described manner draw up a life sketch of them. Should time and ability be lacking to go beyond a reproduction of data and events, we are thankful also for that; in the interest of those to be portrayed, however, we would rejoice all the more in greater detail.

Through the aforementioned survey in Wendisch Tychow alone, five documents were established which are not yet recorded in our register of documents, from which may be seen the value of these investigations. The proof of ancestry demanded by the German Nobility Association has likewise promoted our history. Thus it was ascertained in Part 3, Section 3, page 256, that the daughter Huberta was born on November 3, 1800, and died in Salzbrunn. Her husband was born in Landsberg a. W. on December 27, 1788, and her father died in Lobositz. In the same volume, the wife of Carl Heinrich Christoph, on page 272, was found to be a *née* von Brecza, and finally a connection could be established between Johann Friedrich (p. 294), who allegedly died without heirs, and Carl Wilh. Joseph Sigismund, who stands without context on page 621. An extract from the church register of the parish of Nelep, district Schivelbein, states: "In Kreitzig on November 29, 1782, Mr. Lieutenant Joh. Friedrich v. Kleist was married to Miss Johanna Friederice Sigismunde v. Briesen. Mr. v. Kleist is lord of Born." Johann Friedrich must then have died between 1786 and 1790, for in 1790 his wife entered into a second marriage with Carl Friedrich Wilhelm Michaelis. Two children resulted from the Kleist marriage: (1) the above-mentioned Carl Wilh. Jos. Sigismund, whose place of birth is Born, but whose dates of birth cannot be ascertained, since the church book of Dolgen has burned; (2) Charlotte Luise Clara Marie, born October 6, 1786, in Born, died January 28, 1928, in Neuwedell. She was married to Major Gustav Michaelis (1772–1830), the half-brother of the stepfather.

In an altogether different manner the resolution concerning the so-called Krummensee Kleists has arisen. In the history of the Muttrin branch it stands on page 273 under number 277: "Peter, died 1683, Peter's eldest son, studied and traveled, but died without heirs." This Peter, said to have died without heirs, we will hereafter call Peter I. At various times during the course of the 19th century, a family von Kleist, which in the Gotha Almanac of Nobility appears as descendants of a Jakob v. K., to whom the West Prussian government at Marienwerder in 1799 attested nobility, undertook the attempt to prove connection with the fief-bearing family. Two obstacles stood especially in the way: first, the lack of documents from that region for the time in question altogether, due to the fact that Krummensee then lay in Polish territory, reinforced secondly by a fire which destroyed the relevant church book, so that the new one begins only in 1683. The repeated petitions therefore had each time to be refused, most recently still in July 1914. Since then, an agricultural councilor, Helmuth v. Kleist, living in Berlin-Friedenau, has labored unremittingly to prove the connection, and the Board has now been able to take the standpoint that, though a documentary gap still remains, that gap can be closed by a supposition well capable of justification. The family table now lies unbroken down to a Christian (I.), who married at Jubilate 1692 in Krummensee. He is indeed mentioned in the church register only as Christian Kleist, but that need not trouble us, since the "von" was not yet consistently in use. Also the Peter cited in the history (p. 273) is called in this register only Peter Kleist, with the note that he was buried in Krummensee on March 11, 1683. To this Peter the petitioners trace back their descent, basing it upon the fact that in a baptismal certificate it is said that their ancestor "Christian (2.) was born of Peter (2.) at Krummensee, and also his grandfather Peter (1.) had likewise resided in Krummensee." They have proved the descent of Peter 2. from the above-mentioned Christian I.; thus it is highly probable that this Christian was descended from Peter 1, even though the documentary proof is lacking owing to the burned church book. Certainly the objection of illegitimate descent might be raised and indeed has been raised, especially as in those days the "natural child" was held in the family on equal terms with the children, save only that he bore not the nobility. Yet against this stands a testimony given in 1794 by the Royal Director of the Landed Estates, C. v. Kleist of Segenthin, to a member of this family, wherein he, for the legitimation of his nobility,

certified that the above-mentioned descent from Peter 1. "accords with the pedigree accepted by the whole family." By this, both the legitimate descent from Peter 1. is attested, and also the missing document replaced, for in those days oral tradition played a wholly different role than in our present writing-happy time. The Board therefore regards the proof of descent from Peter 1. as successful and will submit the petition accordingly to the family gathering, which, in the case it concurs with the Board, must then also report the same to the publisher Perthes.

On this occasion the Board also discussed the relationship to other Kleists not belonging to the family association, and in so doing came to the conviction that it would in itself be desirable today to gather together all who bear the name of von Kleist with honor. For this reason this question will also be submitted to the family gathering. The obstacles which earlier stood against such admission no longer exist. The fiefs have fallen away, as well as the claim to a seat in the House of Lords; on the other hand, outside the association no one knows whether this or that person belongs to the great family or not, and it is only then possible to influence all bearers of the name so that they do it honor if they are united in the association. Only then also will it be possible to establish all bearers of the name, which today is by no means yet the case, for again and again one encounters such who cannot now be placed. In order to provide an overview of the descent and number of the Krummensee Kleists, we here present their family table.



The family register issued in April is to be corrected as follows:

On page 8 it must read “grandfather’s brother’s son” instead of “father’s brother’s son”; Götz on p. 30 is no longer a student, but an officer cadet in Infantry Regiment 9 in Potsdam.
As deceased must be noted: Viktor on p. 39, retired chief paymaster.

Returned as undeliverable were the dispatches to: Baron Friedrich Georg v. Kleist-Keyserlingk in Riga, p. 13; Baroness Marie v. K., née Baroness v. Grotthus, in Berlin, p. 16; and Mrs. Elisabeth v. K., née Franke, p. 33. Who knows their addresses, as well as those of Baron Christian, p. 15; Baroness Frieda, p. 17; and all the other Balts whose addresses are not given in the register?

Incidentally, the situation of the Balts has greatly occupied the Board and continues to give it grave concern. For explanation, a compilation from some letters out of Latvia: Of the whole large landed property, the family in Latvia retains only the remaining estate Galten, comprising 50 hectares. All else has been expropriated without compensation, and the remainder estates could not be held. The remainder of Zerxten (p. 20) is also sold, and cousin Ewald is director of a poorhouse in Mitau, but without salary. All the cousins have tried to create new livelihoods, whether as merchants, journalists, or lawyers; only the last profession affords relatively tolerable conditions of life. Widespread unemployment and retrenchment are encountered everywhere and shape the economic situation into one that is downright hopeless. That under such circumstances, in which each must eke out life with a bare minimum of which we can form no conception, the Baltic cousins cannot contribute to the family fund is plain; instead, we must very seriously consider how we can lend helping aid there, both as the family association and as each one of us individually, who in any way is still in a position to do so. Most difficult of all it is naturally for the parents, who know not how or from what they shall raise their children, so that in places even the most necessary needs of life can no longer be satisfied, and the great distress works harmfully upon the health of our young cousins. Here especially lies our duty to intervene! But we beg the Balts themselves to tell us in what manner and by what means help appears to them most fitting. To these sufferings of an economic nature are added those endured for the sake of their Germanness, since the Latvian government does not know how to refrain from chauvinism, and under this the Germans naturally suffer with special severity. Attention must also be paid to the fact that now even postal consignments from abroad must bear addresses in the Latvian language if they are to reach their destination. Here, hopefully, a Germany grown strong again will soon bring change! In order to impart more knowledge of our Baltic branch, we hope to be able to present in the next issue the memoirs of Mrs. Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist (p. 13).

“The dark invader”

This is the title of a book published in London, whose author calls himself Franz Rintelen von Kleist. We were made aware of this book through cousin Hans Jürgen in Berlin (p. 8); it is a welcome building stone for our family history and at the same time presents us with two questions. The author was active in America during the war as a naval staff officer with a special mission and in the course of this worked for a time with a Karl von Kleist. Why does the author assume our name as an addition, and who is this Karl? The first we hope to ascertain through the Naval Staff, and for the second the question arises whether it might be the Baron Andreas Karl Friedrich still standing in the register on page 17? The age would fit, but not what else is said of him. The book is very interesting, though not exactly cheerful.

The following only a few short excerpts; more extensive ones in a later issue.

Page 100: "Captain v. Kleist has good plan for bomb emplacement."

Page 103: Karl v. Kleist. "Rintelen has already heard much of his energy. Besides, he is modest despite his belonging to one of the oldest aristocratic families in Germany, and he has made his own way, ship's boy on an old hulk, mate, captain. He might have entered the Guards Cavalry in Potsdam, but he would not. He is nearly 70 years old. Kleist knew all the interned Germans."

Page 104/5/6: Conversations with Kleist.

Page 172: Kleist at "work."

Page 262/3: Court! "About 30 persons indicted, also Captain v. Kleist. Weeks of proceedings."

Page 283: "Captain v. Kleist too goes into the penitentiary Atlanta, collapsed; Rintelen together with the fine old man in one cell. Kleist dies in his arms of influenza and exhaustion."

The book may be obtained through Gsellius and is, of course, written in English. Another cousin, then, who gave his life for our Fatherland!

A Kleist Family Memorial

The Gymnasium Director Professor Dr. Gantzer, formerly in Stettin, now in Schweidnitz, sends to the editors number 34 of the *Ostrauer Chronicle for Old and Young Ostrowians* from the year 1919, from which we take the following description of a gravestone:

In connection therewith a viewing of the memorial stone in the Ostrau Park was recommended, a Rococo gravestone from the year 1757, standing by the pond beneath acacias and beech bushes. It rises as an obelisk of 10 feet in height from a low base. The cover slab has the form of a Bible; upon it lies a lamb, once bearing the cross banner, which now unfortunately is mutilated. The obelisk is borne by four skulls. Its four sides are covered with inscriptions. Above, the text is framed by two escutcheons as well as symbols of faith and hope, below by shell-like fans. Around the memorial verses of the base, proceeding from the foundress, who as a born Kleist composed them, shell frames entwine.

The inscription, because of its old-fashioned feudal style, some lifelike touches, and also because of the moving farewell greeting of the east side, which promises faithful remembrance so long as the veins shall beat, is worthy of mention.

North side:

Here rests in God the most noble-born Lord Herr Hanß Joachim von Kleist, former Lord of Dallendin and Nemmerin in Pomerania, born at Kappe (?) in Great Poland. He wedded in the year 1736 the most noble-born Miss Maria Erata (?) von Brisewiz of the house of Sellentin. They begot 8 children, 3 sons and ? daughters. Both died in their 53rd year, the husband in 1739, the wife in 1736 at Filehne, and both rest here in the Lord.

I know that my Redeemer liveth, who shall one day raise me up from the dust.

South side:

From sisterly loyalty follows further the memory of the late most noble-born Lord Hanß Christian von Kleist of Bornward (?), born 1715 at Dallendin in the service of His Royal Majesty in Prussia, Prince of Brunswick, captain of regiment. He wedded in the year 1746 the most noble-born Miss Eleonora Maria

von Unruh of the house of Peterkowicz. In 1757, during the march out of Bohemia, in a skirmish between Camenz and Kreisiz (?) in the Fatherland of his ancestors (for in 1264 Conrad Kleist came as knight out of Bohemia into Pomerania), he peacefully gave up his spirit at the age of 42 years and was buried in a forest there.

Sisterly love brings it about, that I too am remembered.

East side:

Here is the memorial also of a most noble maiden daughter of the most noble-born Lord Hanß von Kleist, namely the most noble Miss Hedwig Juliana von Kleist, born September 19, 1719, at Dallendin, who after much affliction of the body endured with patience and hope, peacefully gave up her spirit in the year 1733 at Filehne, with believing hope to see again eternally her most noble parents, siblings, and friends.

Rest well in yonder soil,

Thy fathers' Fatherland.

In our hearts shalt thou live,

So long as pulses give.

West side:

Out of filial love the above-mentioned most noble parents dedicated their last memorial of honor to their eldest daughter, the most noble-born Lady Charlotta Tugendreiche von Unruh, née von Kleist, born 1710, together with her husband the most noble-born Lord Boguslav von Unruh, Podstoli of Poznan (?), hereditary lord of Peterkowicz, who while still in a happily led marriage in the year 1757 provided this memorial stone.

The distant gravestone

Shall be to us memorial.

The foregoing concerns the extinct Borntin-Nemmerin side branch.

A Bismarck in the Turkish War

Excerpt from the diary of Major Christoph Friedrich von Bismarck of the Regiment Kurprinz zu Fuß in the Turkish War of 1685.

He stands like a Brandenburger.

(Turkish proverb.)

April 16/26, 1685. Since yesterday we are here arrived in Crossen, the entire corps which His Electoral Highness sends to His Imperial Majesty in aid against the Turk, who with great power has entrenched himself in the Kingdom of Hungary and from there threatens heavily the lands of all Christian potentates. This corps is formed of 8,000 men on foot and on horse, and the best troops from the entire *corps d'armée* have been chosen thereto; it brings with it two mortars, two culverins, and 12 field pieces, and the commander over the whole is General von Schöning. From our regiment a full battalion with 578 men has been commanded to the Turkish war, and I, together with von Belling, colonel, have come hither by way of Berlin and Frankfurt. My lieutenant, one von Kleist, is not quite well, yet would not remain behind, lest he should miss the campaign against the Turk; this pleased us all very well, seeing such

bravery, considering that this von Kleist is by no means an old war-dog, but a well-mannered young nobleman.

With this, this issue of the family news is to be brought to a close. May they in future help to give the family union such a content that each of us receives from it what Cousin Hermann-Braunschweig clothed in the fine words: "It was a true joy to me to receive the family congratulation on this day (the 70th birthday), because throughout my life I have borne a warm feeling of kinship for the family in my heart and will continue to bear it. The strong, honor-loving traditions of our old Pomeranian lineage, to which in my youth the old Kleist-Retzow so often and so impressively gave eloquent expression, have been my guiding rule in life."

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 2

März 1935

Report on the Family Day on January 25

This time, in the rooms of the Guards Cavalry Association, from whose walls Prussian history and tradition, wherever one looked, looked down admonishingly, a gratifyingly large number of cousins had gathered, and there would have been more of them had not, at the last moment, stubborn automobiles and other incidents forced a whole number to stay away. Thus there had come as guests: Captain von Frankenberg and Professor Dr. Minde-Pouet, and as family members: Hermann Conrad and Vera – Klein Dubberow, Ewald and Anning – Schmenzin, Rudolf and Gertrud – Jeseritz, Ernestine – Zützen with Luise Henriette, Eleonore and Hans Joachim, Leopold and Luise – Berlin with Eva Eleonore and Marie Luise, Georg from Groß Tychow and Marie, Karl Friedrich – I.-R. Potsdam, Peter Christian – Möthlow, Ruth – Klein Krössin, Hans Jürgen and Maria – Kieckow, Maria Corona – Berlin, Heinrich and Carola – Hamburg, Götz – I.-R. Potsdam, Friedrich Carl – Greifswald, Berndt and Anna Luise – Berlin, Fides – Berlin, Gudrun – Kamissow, Karl Georg from Kamissow, Leo Ewald – Drenow, Jürgen – Vietzow, Ewald – Breslau, Ewald – Wilmersdorf, Robert – Wusseken, Ewald and Margarete – Wendisch Tychow with Sigrun.

As usual, His Majesty the Emperor and King had been notified of the family's assembly, and the following telegram from His Majesty had been received:

“To those assembled for the Family Day of the von Kleist Family Association I tender my greeting. Numerous Kleists have devoted themselves as officers and as officials to the service of their kings, or in other positions in life have served the Fatherland. In good and in evil times they have stood by their kings in unshakable loyalty and have sealed this with their blood on the battlefields of the wars forced upon us. Of this I think today in sincere gratitude.
Wilhelm, R.”

The Family Day sent a corresponding telegram of thanks and congratulation for the 27th.

Further telegrams had been received from Excellency von Tschischwitz, Hermann – Braunschweig, Maria and Wolf Friedrich – Groß Tychow, Ewald and Maria – Meran, Kurt – Kamissow, Bratto – Wildenborn. Further was read a letter which the following Baltic cousins had dispatched on the occasion of a gathering in Mitau on December 27: Eduard and Lucie – formerly Groß Dselden, Natha a. d. H. Susten, Käthie, Mrs. von Adam and son Wolfgang, Helmut and Tony – Kerklingen together with son Wolf, Paul a. d. H.

Kerklingen, and Ewald and Wilhelmine a. d. H. Zerxten. This letter, too, was answered by a reply. To all the other senders thanks are tendered here in the name of the family. We most heartily wish that in future it may become possible for ever more cousins to take part in the Family Days, so that the bonds of blood which unite us may be renewed and redoubled through mutual acquaintance and the frequent refreshing of acquaintance.

This wish applies in particular also to our Baltic cousins, who now stand in such extraordinary distress. They may at least be assured that we have not forgotten them, but follow their situation with attentive eyes, ever ready to help where this is possible for us, and striving, at the very least by correspondence, to knit the relations with one another more firmly again.

Personal status.

Since the issue of the first newsletter this has changed as follows:

Born to Friedrich Carl in Greifswald (p. 32) there on October 4 a son: Horst.

Engaged: Elfriede (p. 42), daughter of the fallen cousin Alfred, in Goslar, in December 1934 to Gerhard Kiehl – Pomnik near Dönhoffstädt, East Prussia.

Married: in Damen on August 19, 1934, Bodild (p. 24) to Dr. Alfred Heerwagen, attorney and notary in Riga.

Since the summer, gratifyingly, no one has died; however, the register is to be corrected to the effect that the following have died or are to be regarded as deceased: on page 38 Elfriede Jahn, p. 42 Louis Stettin 1924, p. 43 Ewald 1918 (see the dark invader) and Alfred. Further, to our joy, the report in the first issue of the death of the Viennese cousin Maria, née von Weber, p. 28, has proved to be false.

Promotions

and changes of address.

p. 6 von Stephani, Kleefeld near Hanover, Spinozastr. 6 I

p. 11 Karl Wilhelm, senior ensign in the Cavalry Regt. Breslau

p. 12 Elisabeth, Düsseldorf, Leopoldstr. 13

p. 13 Friedrich Georg, Riga, Kungu iela 2. A. S. Oelrich

Janina, St. Prex, Switzerland, Vaud. le Scarabée

Cecile, Riga, Anzekla iela 6 Dz. 1 with Baron Hahn

Bratto, Wildenborn, Zeitz district

Eduard, Jelgava, Tervetes 4 p. 14 Natalie, Jelgava, Dika 6

Kurt, Galtenes pr. Balgali

Adam, Riga, Baznicas iela 27/29 dz. 29

p. 15 Helmuth, Riga, Klostera 9/11

Bernhard, Kuldiga, Kalna iela 9

p. 20 Ewald, Jelgava, Kr. Barona 40 4

Lilli, Rostock, Prinz Friedrich Carlstr. 1 2

p. 21 Karl Friedrich, grenadier in I.-R. Potsdam

p. 22 Ewald, Frauendorf-Stettin, Elisenstr. 11 a

p. 23 Wolf Friedrich has passed the assessor's examination

p. 29 Margarethe, Eppendorf, University Hospital 16 below

p. 30 Götz, non-commissioned officer in I.-R. Potsdam

p. 32 Friedrich Carl, Greifswald, Nikolaistr. 8/9

Berndt as captain retired with Group Command 1
in Lichterfelde-West, Margaretenstr. 22 a
p. 38 Arthur, Rittmeister
p. 39 Ewald, lieutenant general and commander in Silesia
p. 40 Ewald, Wegnerstr. 19
p. 42 Margarete v. Freihold, Goslar am Harz, Am Schieferweg 4

In addition, the addresses of the Krummensee line:

Ewald, official of the Prussian State Bank, Berlin-Steglitz, Klingsorstr. 56
Dorothea, Countess von Carmer, Munich, Karlsplatz 20
Hildegard, Charlottenburg, Bayernallee 44
Helmuth, agricultural councilor retired, Berlin-Zehlendorf, Hochwildpfad 14
Maria, née Münster, Friedrichstadt on the Eider, Prinzenstr. 3
Hedwig, Lübeck, Moltkestr. 12
Ernst, senior customs inspector, Frankfurt a. M., Waldschmittstraße 44.

Unknown addresses:

Returned as unknown or moved, address unknown, were postal items to Mathilde de Beauvais, née Baroness von Kleist, Mitau (Jelgava), Palaisstr. (p. 16)
Elisabeth v. Steuben, née v. Kleist, Kranz, district Meseritz (p. 30)
Julia v. Kleist, née Lorez de Uruburu, Ceuta (Morocco) (p. 36)
Lilly v. Kleist, née Müller, Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Hohenzollerndamm 204 (p. 37)
We would be grateful to receive the correct addresses, to be sent to the chairman.

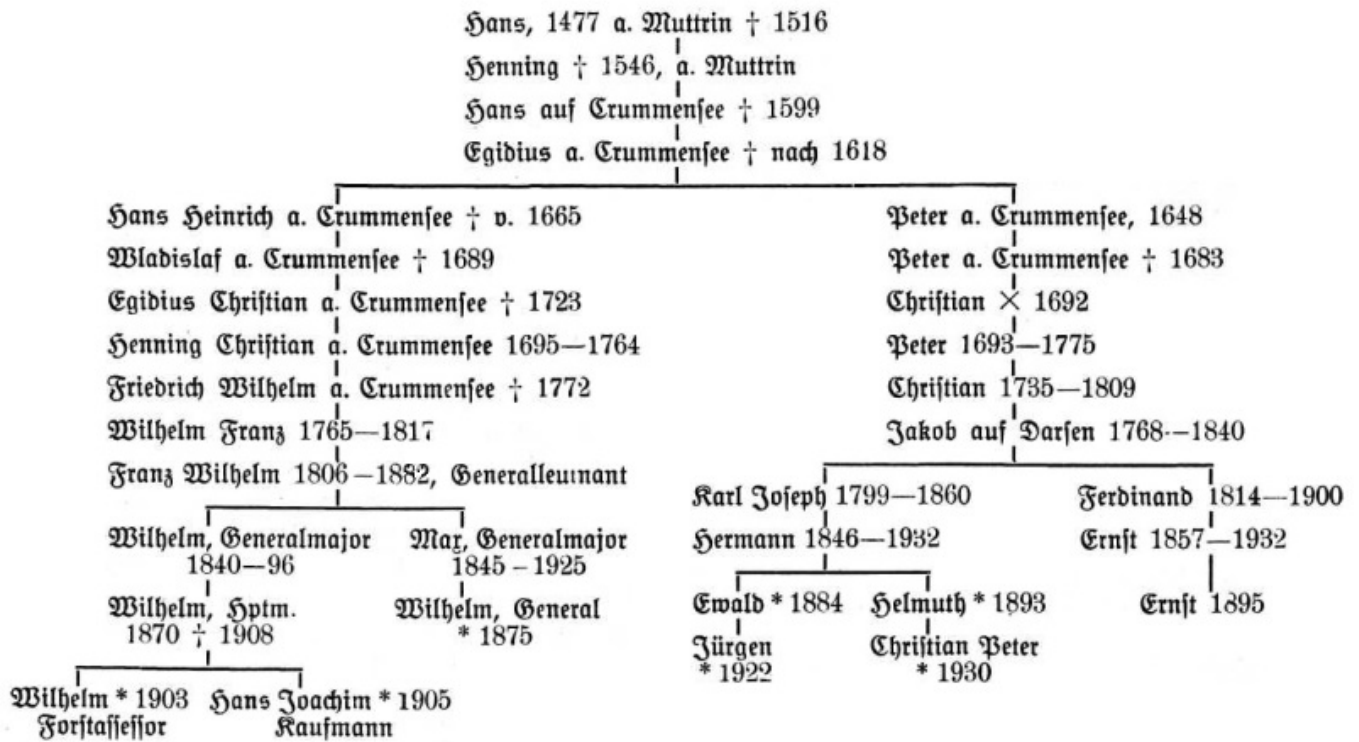
Family tree.

In order to elucidate the personal register of the family sent out in April 1934 and to continue the old family trees, cousin Hermann Conrad – Klein Dubberow has carried them forward to the present state, omitting the lines which have meanwhile died out. This commendable work was before the Family Day and was already acquired there by the cousins present. It can now be obtained from the chairman at the price of 1.50 RM. On this occasion it may be pointed out that those cousins who do not yet have a family history can obtain all seven parts together there for a price of 10 RM.

Krummensee line.

All particulars about it were already given in the first number of this paper, including that the board would propose to the Family Day the admission of these Kleists into the association. This has been done, and the Family Day likewise regarded the proof of connection with the ur-noble family as furnished and accordingly decided unanimously for the admission of this line into the association.

In order to make clear how this line is connected with the family hitherto and what its place in it is in future, we present below a supplement to the aforementioned new family tree, in that we add at once a second branch of this line, which indeed does not belong to the family association but was included in the family history (3, p. 269). For what follows, the line of descent under Bisprow of Muttrin, d. ca. 1493, on the first of the two tables which relate to the Muttrin–Damen line, is to be extended to the end of this table, so that the following new material would stand precisely between the content of the first and the second table. As progenitor of the two Krummensee branches, which we shall henceforth carry as the



Contribution.

The amount of the contribution fixed on September 13, 1933, remains in force. According to this, the minimum contribution for landed property is 20 RM, for all other members 5 RM. The cousins shall assess themselves in this. The contribution is thus kept at a level that everyone is able to meet his duty of honor of payment. The family therefore expects that the arrears from previous years will soon be settled as well. Exempt from the obligation to contribute, under the prevailing circumstances, are only the cousins in the Baltic lands.

The association's fiscal year runs from July to June; the contributions are payable in advance, namely to the account "Family fund von Kleist" at the District Savings Bank Belgard (Postal checking Stettin 218). In making payment we urgently request that first names and other distinguishing features be given, as otherwise doubts about the sender arise and corresponding extra work.

Your contribution amounts to: RM.

Your arrears RM.

Amounts not received by April 15 will be collected by cash on delivery.

Family portraits.

The photographing of the family portraits by Mr. Bruchwitz and their collection otherwise have met with approval. The result lay before us, so far still unarranged, and even in this state already allowed it to be recognized that this collection will be of considerable value for the future. It is therefore to be further extended, and we again request all cousins, in particular those who are outside the reach of Mr. Bruchwitz, that is, all outside the area between Stolp and Berlin, to complete the collection by having the

portraits photographed at the association's expense, or by giving Mr. Bruchwitz opportunity to do this on his renewed tour. We also ask that those portraits be included which represent the forebears of members married into the family.

As soon as the result of the collection can be surveyed in some degree of completeness and has been arranged, we shall here indicate the possibilities under which each person can acquire the entire collection or parts of it.

On this occasion we also again ask that there be a renewed check whether documents and records relating to the family are not still to be found in the individual houses. We also set value on old family trees; thus in the houses Hohenauen (stemming from Segenthin) and in Kalthof near Königsberg in East Prussia, which was owned by a Kleist not belonging to the association, there are said to have been especially valuable family trees.

Kleist Regiment.

The chairman reports that in October he was permitted to spend a very stimulating evening in the circle of the officers' corps of the regiment, and that Excellency von Tschischwitz on that occasion remembered the family in a particularly honoring manner. He also expressed the wish that soon again a number of young Kleists might enter the ranks of the tradition company.

We warmly support this wish and ask that every cousin whom traditions of another kind or otherwise compelling reasons do not lead to another unit, enter the Görlitz regiment with the tradition company of the former Kleist Regiment, and thus tie still more firmly the bond which unites regiment and family.

As representative of the regiment we had the pleasure to see among us Captain von Frankenberg, the chairman of the officers' association. He conveyed their greetings and on his part also expressed the aforementioned wish.

Moreover, we are pleased to be able to inform the family that the Reichswehr Minister has determined that the barracks under construction in Görlitz shall bear the name "von Kleist Barracks." An honor of which regiment and family alike partake!

Kleist Society.

At the end of November a largely arranged conference of the Kleist Society took place in Königsberg, in which the chairman participated as representative of the family. Performed on that occasion were: "Robert Guiscard" and "The Broken Jug." Professor Dr. Fricke of Kiel also gave a lecture on "Reality and Fate in Heinrich von Kleist." The attention which this conference found with government and armed forces was gratifying; all the more astonishing how little the university and higher schools, quite apart from the population at large, took part in this conference.

Nevertheless Professor Dr. Minde-Pouet, whom we were glad once more to see with us on Family Day as representative of the society, is of the opinion that the society has good prospects for the future and that it will succeed in creating ever more understanding for Heinrich von Kleist, in acquiring ever more knowledge about him, and in securing his work for the future.

Professor Minde-Pouet therefore requests that members of the family again take part more in these endeavors and in their turn become members of the society. He also urgently requests that all those who are still in possession of letters, etc., that bear relation to the poet or even proceed from him himself, make these known to him. (Address: Berlin-Dahlem, Schorlemerstraße 23). Apart from the fact that this constitutes an act of culture, the lending of such writings may, as the case may be, also bear monetary fruit.

In the following we first present a story which we have taken from the sheets of the Kleist Regiment and which refers to cousin Gunnar, now in Angola, p. 5, and thereafter we begin with the memoirs of Excellency Kück née Baroness von Kleist of the house Gawesen.

The volley that remained in the rifle barrel.

The World War pause of Kifumbiro. – An incident from the struggle over German East Africa.

Some time ago Baldwin spoke at a meeting of the English veterans' association on the occasion of a discussion about a German-English meeting of war participants on the former battlefields in Flanders.

No decision was reached on this point, but that is not the significant thing about this day. Important is that Baldwin, from the sense and purpose of the discussion, the idea of comradeship-in-arms across borders, was led to mention an episode which is a strangely shining reflex in the gigantic mosaic of the World War, and which concerns us Germans at least just as much as the English.

Baldwin recalled an incident during the German-English struggle over East Africa and in this account glorified a man who, in the strict sense of the words, is actually a war criminal.

His name is unknown, but the man deserves his monument, at the very least that which printing types are able to set.

East Africa 1914. For strategic reasons the German Schutztruppe must evacuate the entire northwest of the colony, the district of Bukoba, and withdraw to the east side of Lake Victoria.

But the engagement is not given up as lost, and after the Schutztruppe has been replenished by recruits and volunteers from the circles of German settlers, on October 24, 1914, a strong detachment advances westward to retake Bukoba, meanwhile occupied by England.

The vanguard under the command of Lieutenant von Kleist, who loads his small force – six officers, eleven non-commissioned officers, one hundred and twenty askaris and an equal number of porters – onto four dhows and with these primitive craft crosses Lake Victoria.

At Niembereembe they go ashore, and now perhaps the most adventurous advance of the entire duration of the World War begins. Straight through the primeval forest, through swamps, often up to the collar in mud.

But in this way at least they manage to get quite near the English lines without being noticed.

After the departure of the German troops the English had dug strong positions everywhere, which ran approximately parallel to the Ngono, a tributary of the Kagera.

The southernmost point, the Negro village of Kifumbiro, had been developed by them into a veritable blocking fort. Here the German attack is to set in. Kifumbiro must be taken if the offensive is to be carried through successfully.

Audacious, like the whole offensive, was this idea. It presupposed an excess of self-sacrifice and bravery as a matter of course. The crossing of the Ngono alone, almost under the eyes of the English, would have seemed to any other force an impossibility.

A torrential river, steeply rising banks, and hordes of crocodiles in the dirty, yellow-brown waters.

Bridge-building is an impossibility; the entire force must be brought across in dugouts and bark canoes.

A desperate undertaking, and in addition native runners report that English patrols are already traversing the terrain on the far side.

Lieutenant of the Reserve Schmidt goes across first to take over security against the enemy on the other side; close behind his boat the first askari canoe whirls through the fall of the waters. Hardly does Schmidt's boat grate upon the shore sand when from behind loud cries are heard, gurgling calls for help,

and that ominous splashing caused by the beating tails of crocodiles hurrying to their prey. Schmidt turns about and sees that one of the bark canoes has capsized and three askaris in full equipment are struggling with the waves. Three lost men, says reason. Everywhere the greedy reptiles are shooting up, and the ammunition equipment of the askaris alone – 90 cartridges with the heavy, 11-millimeter caliber lead bullets – seems to make rescue impossible. Nevertheless Lieutenant Schmidt, in his heavy marching equipment, jumps into the river, and from the other bank Lieutenant von Kleist and Sergeant Dachsold follow him. The three men dive and actually bring the askaris back to the surface. After half an hour they are already lively again and already composing a marching song to their three death-defying rescuers, as is the custom of the Negroes. The march continues. Hundreds of crocodiles, cheated of their prey, look after the troop disappearing into the undergrowth with yellow-glittering lights. No one knows that in these exciting minutes threefold death has been escaped, that in this brief time the World War held its breath. It is only learned when two days later Kifumbiro has been taken, and German officers, in a clay hut which had apparently served the English troops as a company orderly room, find the unfinished report of an English patrol leader to the high command.

This report is one of the most moving documents of the war and – of humanity, of chivalrous comradeship. Briefly, soldierly, the English patrol leader states in it that he had observed the crossing of the German troops and describes in every detail the dramatic events of the crossing. Simply, without any attempt at justification, he further declares that his men, concealed in the undergrowth, were ready, at his command, to disrupt the crossing with several volleys, if not to destroy the German vanguard altogether. But then he had seen how three German officers, without hesitation, had thrown themselves among the crocodiles in order to save three askaris from certain death. He had not been able to give the command to fire, because in the face of this simple heroism he would have had to regard himself for the rest of his life as a scoundrel. He had withdrawn with his troops and was ready now to assume before the high command full responsibility for his course of action. At this point the report breaks off. The German assault on Kifumbiro prevented the dispatch of the report. The same assault may also have been what drove the fate of this unknown English soldier in a direction which, minutes before, he had not expected. Much later the report of the English patrol leader fell, with other documents, into the hands of the English. Thus they learned of the dramatic pause of the World War which a small corporal in their ranks had occasioned. It did not become known that there arose then, still in the midst of the World War, a single voice which designated the unknown soldier a traitor. Nor were investigations undertaken to call him to account. It is not known what became of him. Perhaps he found a quick soldier's death; perhaps he still today sits before some fireplace in Wales or Suffolk or Norfolk and thinks now and then of that peculiar second when the commandment of chivalry was stronger in him than duty, and he brought the World War to a standstill for minutes.

1.

When the World War broke out and Libau a few days thereafter was shelled by a German warship, whereby a petroleum tank caught fire and the Russians blew up entire coal and munitions depots in the harbor Alexander III, my parents decided to go out of the way of the approaching horrors of war in a fortified port city and to move to Mitau on the Aa, the old, once ducal capital of Courland.

Thus the villa "Meeresruh," Ulichstraße 38, was entrusted to the care of our old cook "Trudchen," a few trunks were quickly packed, and with "Marri," the sturdy, rosy-cheeked, once red-skirted pearl from Niederbartau we drove to Mitau. The pleasant apartment of Baroness Lucie v. Fircks in Annenstraße was taken, and there my parents now hoped to weather the war in peace and quiet. How differently was it to turn out! Meanwhile I had already experienced all manner of things. – As a reward for a busy winter with much voluntary work as head of our German Women's League elementary school and as teacher of various subjects my father had given me a fine trip to Germany, Tyrol, and Switzerland. With the help of Baedeker and the good advice of Baron Alexander v. d. Ropp and Baron v. Keyserlingk my friend Ellen Melville, later Baroness v. Ungern-Sternberg-Groß Gramsden, and I had worked out the trip in detail, and at the beginning of June 1914 we happily and beaming with joy and expectation crossed the Russian border. Berlin, Dresden, Munich via Landeck, where we took the mail coach, to Gamogoi and Sulden in the very German land of Tyrol, now under Italian coercive rule.

In Innsbruck, lying on the green, foaming Inn, watched over by the mighty Martinswand, we witnessed the announcement of the murder of the Archducal Heir to the Throne Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his consort by Serbian assassins. We read the telegram, which had been posted in a shop window, together with some Austrian officers. Never shall I forget the expression of utmost attentiveness and inner agitation on the clean-shaven, energetic face of the older officer. It was as though he already sensed the beginning of a dreadful time.

We two tourists, however, were far too filled with our impending journey, our freedom, with all the great and beautiful things we wished to experience and enjoy, that, after we had given the unfortunate victims of fanatical Slavs a warm, personal pity, we quickly drove the sad thoughts from our heads again and surrendered ourselves wholly to the joy of existence, consciously enjoying our youth, strength, and the mighty Alpine nature.

Our passion for hiking and scrambling came over us with such impetuosity on the ride by post automobile from Landeck to Mals that we gave up the quick and safe opportunity of making headway and, with heavily packed rucksack and new, heavy, nail-studded mountain boots, began to run toward the longed-for mountains. It was three or four o'clock in the afternoon. The sun burned mercilessly upon the shadowless, endlessly long valley of Mals, upon the blindingly white, dusty highway, upon our heavy gear. Ah, and the mountains were still so far! And the poor feet burned in the unaccustomed hard footwear. Yet we marched undaunted the 16 kilometers of highway to Gamogoi, only now and then cooling face, neck, hands, and feet with icy water from a mountain brook. A quite ill-considered beginning!

At Gamogoi I boarded the post coach and rode the few kilometers upward in serpentine through splendid fir forest up to Sulden. An indescribably delightful drive! In high unearthly splendor and shattering grandeur there appeared, at the turns of the steep, narrow road, the mighty, ice-stiffened head of the Ortler above the dark firs and gray rock slopes. To this the moon rose and made the whole picture even more unreal and overwhelming. I sat there quite still and astonished. Heat, thirst, and the exertions of the valley march were forgotten. With astonished eyes and wide-open soul I enjoyed this unforgettable sight. Lord, how great are Thy works!

3.

In Sulden we put up at the post hotel. In the clean, simple sleeping chambers and in the common room with furniture and walls of stained Swiss stone pine we felt at ease and stayed ten days in the high-lying, narrow, meager Sulden valley with its stone pines and larches, closely enclosed by the Ortler massif and other mighty mountain groups.

One morning the whole valley was deeply snowed in. But when at noon the sun broke through the clouds and quickly cleared away the masses of snow, there offered itself to us on a walk into the nearby forest a wonderful sight: out of the thin snow cover of a wooded slope hundreds of rose-red alpine roses shone and gleamed toward us. A quite enchanting, colorful sight in the winter landscape!

When the weather cleared, we bravely set to the beloved mountaineering and were indescribably proud and happy when on a tour over the Düsseldorfer Hütte, 2812 meters, we climbed the “Vorderes und Hinteres Schöneck,” 3180 meters, and thereby for the first time in life had overcome the 3000-meter limit by our own strength.

From a letter to my mother of July 2: “... We have just returned from a splendid high-mountain tour, in the course of which, in hours-long climbing over rocks and great, quite mighty snowfields at dizzying height, over an iced, approx. 1-meter-wide arête, we reached an elevation of 3130 meters – we had a good guide – experienced a hailstorm at the top, crept into a sheltering rock notch, and there breakfasted on bread and cheese until the worst of the storm had passed. Downhill we had to go on an even steeper, sharp ice arête, partly sliding down sitting, sinking up to the hips in snow, so that I once even had to be dug out with the ice axe. It was higher, mightier, and more difficult than the Zugspitze! Ellen climbs like a chamois. The guide, too, was satisfied with my performance. Only do not worry; we are very cautious. Have got to know a nice Hanoverian who is doing the tours with us. Sulden is a splendid place! How beautiful life is!!!...”

From another letter: “... It is very pleasant traveling with Ellen and we harmonize excellently. Only I must restrain her from overly bold plans, as she knows no fear, no fatigue, no danger, and would most like to climb to the Ortler summit, although almost all climbers up to now have had to turn back without achieving their aim, as incredible masses of snow make the ascent impossible. I am fully satisfied with my Schöneck summit. It was a quite grand high-mountain tour. Splendid was the descent over the sloping snowfields on which one shot down sitting...”

I cannot go into all our undertakings here, as that would go too far. But the high-mountain tours in the Ortler region remain unforgettable, where we went over ice and snow and storm-swept slopes, roped to our guide, one of whom several times was an Austrian first lieutenant, who showed us the glories of the Alps.

In the evening the rough mountain garb was exchanged for light summer dresses and white shoes, and with First Lieutenant Paciz and his lieutenant comrade an hour was spent chatting in the great “Sulden Hotel” to music and a portion of ice cream.

4.

From Sulden we went over Trafoi and the Stilfser Joch, the highest and most magnificent Alpine road, to Bormio in the north Italian lowlands, where luxuriantly billowing fields of maize and grain and olive trees greeted us, a quite peculiar sight after the stay in the snow regions of the mountains.

Then again up the Bernina Pass into our beloved mountains to the delightful Engadine, to Pontresina, where we spent three weeks, took long walks through the larch forests and along the string of pearls of the lakes, but of course also again high-mountain tours over glaciers and moraines, over rock ridges and dead-lonely cirques.

In Pontresina we were well taken care of in the pretty Hotel Engadinerhof, where despite the tiny rooms we felt at home, were much together with a Baron Steinäcker and his wife from Berlin, often had a nice concert in the hall in the evenings, once for example a splendidly playing sextet, another time Tyroleans yodeling, dancing the Schuhplattler, singing pretty tunes.

We soon were reconciled with Pontresina, which at first seemed to us too elegant and urban, but which had a wonderful situation. Several times we walked to St. Moritz, which lies almost even more beautifully, right by the deep-green lake framed by dark forests, and to which a pretty woodland path leads in 1½ hours. As the weather was mostly cold and above all rainy, we could until then only make one large, somewhat tiring but very beautiful mountain tour, namely the ascent of the 3268-meter-high Piz Languard, from which one has a magnificent panoramic view of countless snow-covered mountain chains and peaks, also of various valleys, lakes, and villages. Unfortunately, this year an unusually great amount of snow lay on comparatively low elevations, so that we could unfortunately not make too many high-mountain tours. On quite harmless mountains tourists had accidents almost daily; even the Zugspitze claimed a victim, and so we curbed our urge to get up high. We made smaller, beautiful tours through the forest, to high pastures and refuge huts. For several days it had rained, and above everything fell as hail and new snow, effacing the paths, so that we were glad to have done the Languard with its rock climbing and snow tramping before these weather changes. The Julier, which we also wanted to climb, we had to give up, for it was said to be entirely in snow. We were thus colossally reasonable!

When recently in St. Moritz we were rained in and did not know where to take refuge, we fled to an acquaintance of Ellen's who had a pretty pension and kindly treated us to tea. There we met Irma v. d. Recke, who was very pleased to meet compatriots. She looked wretched, had been much ill, had often been in Tarasp together with the Hahns of Sowrosch, and told that Mrs. v. Hahn, despite her heart ailment, made great tours, climbed much, and was said to be very well.

One Sunday we went to the church service in St. Moritz, since there Franc Thomas preached in the Protestant church, and then we viewed there the Segantini Museum, which contained beautiful paintings of the famous Engadiner.

5.

We also went up the Schafberg and to Muottas Murail, where Segantini had stayed and painted. From there one has a splendid view over the whole valley as far as Molaja, of the blue lakes of St. Moritz, Camér, Sil, and Silvaplana, embedded in dark forests with the small, friendly villages, of Pontresina with the Roseg and Morteratsch glaciers, and of the mighty Bernina group with the royal mantle of eternal snow and ice. How the green masses of ice and the dazzling new snow glitter and sparkle in the southern sun! How deep blue, almost violet, the cloudless dome of the sky arches over this indescribably beautiful little corner of God's world! O world, how beautiful thou art! O life, how beautiful thou art when one is young, healthy, and intoxicated with beauty like we two travelers from the flat, earnest North!

Then there came, as a high point, the Diavolezza tour.

Quite early in the morning we set out with two professors, Keller and Trautmann, and two little Misses Moritz from Charlottenburg and two guides. A short train ride brought us from Pontresina to immediately below the starting point of the mountain tour. In shade and morning coolness it went in a 2½-hour, unbroken ascent up to the Diavolezza hut, 2980 meters. At roughly breast height of Piz Bernina it nestles, embedded in snow and ice fields, against the colossus which still towers over it by more than 1000 meters. There a half hour was now rested, breakfasted, and the wonderful panorama endlessly marveled at. Then came the descent.

Roped to our two guides, splendid, gnarled figures, we took the further but much more interesting route

over the Bernina glacier past the isola perta, the island of the lost, a tiny little rock ridge which seems as it were to have grown out of the ice fields, and on which, according to legend, the souls of deceased poor sinners who can find no rest in the grave assemble by night. A shudder-inducing place in a downright comfortless, lonely mountain wilderness.

Then it went in nearly three hours' climbing, jumping, and sliding down the mighty Morteratsch glacier. What a delight that was! Here a giant block of ice had to be gone around, there one climbed over; here a yawning crevasse, deep and green, had to be jumped, there a half snowed-over one crossed on a narrow snow bridge. We hardly had time to collect ourselves, so quickly, surely, and skillfully our guides worked with axe and rope, with handholds and instructions, supporting us, testing the ice, and taking us in hand vigorously. Not for a moment were we permitted to rest or look about much. All senses, all nerves and muscles were directed to but one aim: the most skillful and swift possible overcoming of the glacier, on whose mighty, wildly cleft, and grisly back we sought the way down into the valley, into the valley and back into life.

6.

But now it was time to think of the homeward journey. Ellen wished to meet her parents in Bad Kissingen, I to visit my sick brother in Leysin, where he sought, if not healing, yet alleviation of his severe sufferings. So we parted. I traveled alone across the whole of Switzerland, two days long by post coach, which was quite wonderful, since at the slow pace of the coach one gets quite another, much more lasting impression of the grandeur and incomparable beauty of the Alps, especially of the Furka Pass, which surpassed everything hitherto seen by its mighty green masses of ice and its unheard-of wildness. (Rhone glacier).

Saturday, August 1, I finally arrived in Leysin, which lies high and far from traffic above the Rhone valley, in sight of the Dent du Midi.

It offers shelter to thousands of the sick, that they may find strengthening and healing in the high-altitude sun and the mountain air. I wished to stay up there for a few days, recover from the exertions of the last weeks, and bring a little diversion to the poor sick. But when on Sunday, August 2, 1914, at lunch, Germany's declaration of war on France and Russia became known, I resolved on immediate departure. Already two hours later I was seated in the little, overcrowded mountain railway that brought hundreds of agitated people down into the valley.

The whole of Switzerland was like a stirred-up anthill. Thousands of travelers from all countries were streaming homeward, all trains were bursting full, there was swearing and weeping, and so one got a small foretaste of the war, which, like an immense, gigantic, heavy cloud, pressed upon everyone and everything!

With much delay we finally reached the vicinity of the border. But there there was a real fright for me. For it was said that only citizens of the Reich would be let into Germany! In my pan-German attitude and my flaming, pro-German war enthusiasm I had not at all thought of the fact that I was a Russian subject, and thus an enemy of Germany!

(To be continued.)

Newsletter.

In conclusion, a brief remark about the newsletter. This issue also goes once more to all cousins who have married out, thus also to those who did not subscribe to it. Later issues will then be sent only to the actual female subscribers and, of course, to the members of the family association. The members of the family association receive the paper free of charge, whereas for other subscribers, as said in the first issue, it

costs 0.80 RM per year. The year here, too, runs from July to June. Insofar as cousins have already sent in the aforementioned amount after the first issue, it will be credited to them for the year 1935/36. For the sake of simplicity we also ask that these amounts be sent to the family's account at the District Savings Bank Belgard (Postal checking Stettin 218), with clear identification of the sender.

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 3

August 1935

News from the Family

Births and engagements: none

Married:

on 8 July 1934 in Dessau Deodat-Glien, p. 38, to Erika Marwitz, born Dessau, 5 Dec. 1910.

Died:

Friedrich-Karl von Heydebreck, p. 23, in Neubuckow on 20 Feb. 1935.

Eduard Baron v. Kleist, p. 13, in Mitau on 22 Apr. 1935.

Change of address, of family status, transfers and promotions:

Page 8: Hans Jürgen now Budapesterstr. 13.

“ 13: Bratto now Jelgava, Tervetes 4.

“ 16: Mathilde de Beauvais: Charlottenburg, Knesebeckstr. 86/87, parterre.

“ 16: Marie von Seek, died in Dortmund, in January 1931.

“ 17: Adolf is deemed to have died.

“ 18: Oscar died after the war. His daughter Sophie lives in Leningrad (Petersburg).

Adolphine, Baroness v. d. Recke: Latvija,

Cäcilie: Dresden A., Franklinstr. 20. Jenny, née Knigge, died in Riga on 24 June 1934.

Harald: Samarkand, Bukhara.

Paul: at first studied medicine, now engineering sciences in Kharkov.

“ 19: Bruno, died autumn 1918.

Paul and sisters: Riga, Gertrudes iela 32.

“ 24: Heerwagen, Dr. attorney and notary, Riga, Pulkv. Brieza iela 20, apt. 3.

“ 26: Brok, now Friedrichsstr. 15 a.

“ 30: Adolf, now colonel and regimental commander, Mounted Regiment Stuttgart (Cannstatt near Stuttgart).

Page 38: Deodat, now: Glien near Hohennauen, West Havelland.

Artur, Rittmeister and squadron leader, 3rd Prussian Mounted Regt., Stendal. von Manteuffel,

Rittmeister and squadron leader, Eisenach, Bismarckstr. 5.

News Sheet page 6: Jakob 1768/1840, leaseholder at Darsen, District Schlochau.

Karl Joseph, at Damnitz, District Schlochau.

Ewald, Prussian State Bank senior inspector.

Dorothea, Countess Carmer, now: Grafrath 72, Upper Bavaria.
Hedwig, married at Lübeck, 26 March 1913, to Johann Christian Wilhelm Hübner,
born 28 Jan. 1881 in Lübeck, marine engineer retired.

Comital title in Groß-Tychow:

The Court for Questions of Nobiliary Law, section for questions of nobiliary law, resolved in its session of 6 April 1935: "The use of the comital title by Mr. Wolf Friedrich von Kleist–Retzow, owner of the 'Count von Kleist–Retzow Forest Estate Groß-Tychow–Alt-Buckow,' is not objected to."

Pictures.

The collection of family photographs is proceeding gratifyingly, and we urgently ask that every existing family picture be recorded. It is also gratifying that a number of life sketches have been received, of which we present the first below.

Further acquisitions:

Cousin Paul in Riga has kindly presented to the family the works of Ewald Christian v. Kleist, published in 1803.

A treatise by Erich Günther Blau: "The operational employment of the German cavalry in the World War 1914/18," Part 1, peace-time preparation, was purchased, because in it the cousin, Gen. of Cav. Georg–Wusseken, is repeatedly mentioned with praise.

Finally, the family history of the von Puttkammer came into our possession by exchange against our own. It is intended to acquire in this way also the histories of the other families which, through marriages, are in a special degree connected with ours.

Contribution.

We point out that on 30 June the old contribution year expired and the new one began. The amount of the contribution has remained the same. Those who have not yet sent in last year's contribution are requested to make this up as soon as possible, preferably at the same time remitting the new contribution. The contributions are to be sent, with exact indication of the sender (first name, née, etc.), to: The Savings Bank of the District of Belgard, branch office Groß Tychow, for account 211 (main fund of the family association). Postal check account of the branch office: Stettin No. 8700.

Coat of arms.

Various inquiries as to why the foxes in the escutcheon at the head of the News Sheet do not have the otherwise customary elongated form prompt us to explain that this escutcheon is modeled after the oldest seal of the family, from about the year 1290. The original bears the legend: "Clest de Denzin," and was most recently in the possession of the house of Tschernowitz. Aunt Gisela donated it in 1929 to the family association, which in turn has consigned it as a loan to the Provincial Museum in Stettin.

Krummenseer line.

The Court of Nobility resolved in its session of 20 July: "The transfer of the so-called Krummenseer branch of the family von Kleist, hitherto listed in the Almanac of Nobility, Part V, into the Almanac of Nobility, Part A, is approved." Therewith the Court of Nobility has taken the same position as the Family

Day, and the Krummenseer branch has also “officially” found its connection to the uradel part of the family.

Life sketch of Major General Friedrich Georg Ewald von Kleist
by his brother: Colonel retired Hermann v. Kleist.

If we enter the Hall of Fame of the Berlin Arsenal, we read, among the names of the independent commanders fallen in the World War: “Major General Ewald von Kleist, commander of the 51st Reserve Division, fallen at Pargny (near Rethel, Aisne) on 28 October 1918.” One of the many of our family who met a hero’s death for King and Fatherland. He too, whose name his Fatherland has cast in bronze in the Hall of Fame for the honoring remembrance of coming generations, is a shining example for us and our children. To learn something from his life will be of value.

Friedrich Georg Ewald was born on 13 February 1863 as son of the then captain in the Sea Battalion Wilhelm Ewald Hermann v. Kleist (History of the Lineage von Kleist, Part 3, p. 22, Muttrin–Damen line) and his spouse Johanne Antonie von Kleist née von Kleist of the house of Rheinfeld. After careful upbringing in the parental home and after attending the gymnasia at Danzig and Landsberg a. W., he entered as advantageur (ensign) the King’s Grenadier Regiment No. 7 in Liegnitz. Already at school he distinguished himself by diligence and conscientiousness and acquired thorough knowledge, which he strove eagerly to enlarge and build upon in later life. Early as well there showed itself in him a poetic disposition, as in more than one of our lineage. Often already at school he recited self-composed pieces, mostly of patriotic content, at festivities.

With the King’s Grenadiers, this old, fine regiment that in the war of 1870/71 at Spichern, storming the heights, fastened imperishable renown to its colors, he became an officer in 1883. Soon he found employment as battalion adjutant and then came to Berlin to attend the War Academy. When the Grenadier Regiment No. 6 in Posen received the name Count Kleist von Nollendorf, he was transferred to this regiment with antedated seniority and, after promotion to captain, was detailed as instructor to the War School at Metz. The great troop training ground at Metz offered the intelligent, striving officer rich stimulus in military matters, all the more as the brilliant Count Haeseler was serving there as commanding general and, in tireless work, was preparing his border corps for the war of the future. With great zeal and much understanding he devoted himself at the War School to his task as teacher and educator of the young ensigns. Many of his pupils of that time preserved for him in gratitude a faithful attachment in later life.

From Metz he came, as company commander and later battalion commander, to the eastern border of the Empire, to Infantry Regiment 140 at Hohensalza. “The small border garrisons stand nearest to my heart,” said His Majesty, and sent officers thither who were to exercise an intellectually stimulating and fructifying effect upon the life of the officers’ corps. Major von Kleist fully answered this call and not only trained the troops with a firm hand, but also employed his rich knowledge in military and scholarly fields to give the officers intellectual stimulus. He used his leave for journeys abroad. He traveled in France and was in Paris, traveled in England and Scotland, and on sea voyages saw the Mediterranean countries. He traveled, as one says, to advantage, with open eyes, with understanding and delight. Very much to his benefit was his complete command of the English and French languages, a fruit of his diligence and steady practice. In the year 1912 he was transferred, with promotion to lieutenant colonel, to the Life Grenadier Regiment No. 8 at Frankfurt a. O.

Now the war broke out, and Kleist became colonel and commander of the Reserve Infantry Regiment No. 8. Into the field at the head of a regiment! Pride, satisfaction, and enthusiasm filled his whole soul. Full of

eagerness for action and in complete dedication to the cause of his Fatherland, he marched out confident of victory to the fight. After rapid advance his regiment, within the 3rd Reserve Corps, was assigned to the besieging army under General von Beseler. Like a massive battering ram the siege troops burst the girdle of forts. Kleist fought with his grenadiers in the foremost line, pressed forward unremittingly, and wrested from the Belgians piece by piece the foreground. On 2 October, after stubborn resistance, the outer fort of Boschbeek was stormed by the regiment, which the 42-centimeter guns had shot to pieces. Then the regiment crossed the inundated, broad Nethe flood and thereby, already on the seventh day of the siege, broke the second strong line of resistance of the fortress. Antwerp itself now lay under German artillery fire. In the irresistible advance the inner ring of forts was reached by the regiment and on 9 October the German flag was hoisted on the works near Hove. The breach had been made. Bold, resolute, and daring, Kleist seized the moment. Of his own decision he moved forward and led his regiment, the first troops, through the unoccupied Mechelen Gate into the subdued city. Bivouacking on the Place de la Commune, he, with prudence and vigor, took the first measures for securing and handover. The Belgian generals de Maas and de Guise surrendered to him.

There was no time to celebrate the victory. Already on 11 October the III Reserve Corps set out in pursuit of the escaped Belgians and English, and in restless pursuit marches the bank of the Yser was reached, where the regiment, with the 4th Army under Duke Albrecht of Württemberg, went to meet new heavy battles. On 24 October Kleist succeeded in crossing the Yser with his regiment. At the beginning of November the regiment was employed south of Dixmuid to attack French line troops and, in a position northwest of Langemark, had to sustain hard and costly fighting in extremely unfavorable terrain in wet and cold weather.

After a short rest and replenishment of the units, the III Reserve Corps left the western theater and was transported to Russia for the thrust at Warsaw. Step by step, marching and fighting, it went forward into Russia.

The Russian steam roller, brought to a standstill, receded. Grand Duke Nikolayevich extricated himself from the encirclement that threatened him. In December 1914 Kleist fought with his regiment in the battle of Lowicz and achieved with his troops success and victory on this theater as well. The year 1915 dawned, and the advance against Russian superiority proceeded. The positions on the Rawka and then on the Bzura were forced, and Warsaw was entered. In the year 1916 the regiment reached the Berezina. In June 1917 came the appointment of Kleist as commander of the 38th Infantry Brigade, which he was to take over on the French theater. In the breakthrough battle at Cambrai, at Bapaume, and then at Arras and Albert, he stood with the brigade in combat. In February 1918 he was promoted to major general and in June was appointed commander of the 51st Reserve Division. As a war-proven, prudent, and energetic leader he took the head of the division, to which, under his tried command, heavy and responsible tasks fell. In positions on the hotly contested Vesle and near Reims the division offered stubborn resistance to the onrushing enemy and fought bravely and perseveringly in the defensive battle in Champagne. In the difficult withdrawal battles northeast of Reims and on the Aisne he kept up the fighting strength of his division with strong will. Ruthlessly he committed his own person to the utmost resistance. On 28 October 1918, on a reconnaissance on the Aisne at Parpny not far from Rethel, he and his escort were fired upon in the foremost line by French riflemen, and, struck to the heart by an enemy bullet, he died a hero's death. A few days before the armistice he gave his life for King and Fatherland.

Ewald von Kleist's life and work were borne by a high enthusiasm for Emperor and Empire and an unshakable trust in the German power, superior to the enemy. Personally he was brave, bold, capable, and always ready for swift, resolute action. He set high demands upon the troops under him, but the highest

demand he set upon himself. Manfully and selflessly he stood up for comrades and subordinates. His solicitude, his goodwill, and his justice won him, in high measure, recognition and esteem with the troops, who followed his leadership in full confidence. Of the great grief of the officers and soldiers of his division at the loss of their leader, the letters home gave eloquent expression. Thus a young officer of his entourage wrote: "The whole division mourns sorely its general. He was an exemplary soldier and an excellent man. It is to his personality that the division owes it that the blood-drained remnants of the regiments, firm and true, in these shattering days of the withdrawal battles, fulfilled their duty with death-defying courage."

Kleist's body was brought home to Magdeburg; there, at the gravesite of his mother, deceased on 27 October 1915, he was laid to rest.

He left behind his widow, Mrs. Maria, née Wentscher. Joined in war marriage at the beginning of the war, happiness in marriage shone upon them only during short periods of leave. His spouse sprang from a stock settled on the eastern border of Posen in the region of Hohensalza. A German stock of the Eastern March, grown strong and hard in the struggle with the Poles. During the war Maria served as a Johannite sister in devoted self-sacrifice in the nursing of the wounded and sick. She survived her husband by only a few years in deep yet proud mourning. On 17 December 1920 she passed away and was buried at his side in Magdeburg.

The life and death of Ewald von Kleist were faithful fulfillment of duty unto the last breath. Manly courage and true German heroism he exemplified to us. He bore the steadfast motto of our stock not only on the shield, but also firmly in the strong heart: "Fear not, only believe!"

A Thousand Miles in Angola

Original report by the well-known writer Dr. Paul Nohrbach for the
Deutsche Zeitung in São Paulo, Brazil.

Luati, 30 September 1933.

The odometer of the car with which our harbor-building and consular host, Mr. Bilfinger, has driven us through Angola showed last evening, in front of the verandah "Voßberg," 997 English miles since departure from Lobito on 20 September. Voßberg lies in the Luati district in the hinterland of Luanda and belongs to a Mr. v. Kleist from Pomerania. In the Kleist coat of arms stand two foxes; hence the name of this African holding with 80,000 coffee trees. In a place of honor in the living room stands, silver gleaming, the tall, Frederician officer's parade cap of the Kaiser Alexander Grenadier Regiment.

In the years after the collapse, when in Germany it looked especially sad for men of the old conviction, such a group came together and emigrated—since all other countries, especially the former German colonies, were still closed—under the leadership of a tried East African, to Angola, to plant cotton after the East African pattern. The cotton did not thrive here, however, and after some years of disappointment they turned to coffee cultivation, which took hold better. The earlier corporate form no longer exists, but the close neighborhood of these first German post-war settlers in Angola does. Our present host as well, Mr. von Kleist, belongs to them.

The number of Germans in Angola, including family members, has today grown to over five hundred. In ten days, on our circuit of the highlands, we have come to know a good number of typical enterprises and set our feet under more than one brave countryman's table. Luati, the area first visited by the Germans, lies only between 1,000 and 1,100 meters high, thus still bears, in such close proximity to the equator, semi-tropical features, and is not free from malaria. Nevertheless, there are the most German children here. One helps oneself in such wise that one family engages a lady teacher and the neighbors send their

children along. The Red Cross has stationed here a nurse and set up a small hospital containing three beds. It is said they are almost always occupied.

Against malaria there are three means: prophylactic use of quinine, wire gauze before every window, and beds with mosquito nets. One tries to keep the *Anopheles* mosquitoes, which begin to swarm when it gets dark, away from the interiors of the houses and the sleeping places, and endeavors to keep the blood continually in the condition of a diluted quinine solution. Many women cannot tolerate quinine, however, and then the protective measures against the mosquitoes must be applied with particular care. There is a strong will in the Germans here, in the women as well, and more than once in these days we have marveled at the clear and cheerful energy with which “younger” and “riper” married couples, who were used to very different conditions at home, live for years in a bush house, save the costs for a somewhat more comfortable home, in order to put every available mark, every “angolar” (now 12 pfennigs), into the coffee plantation.

Coffee rules day and hour on most plantations in Angola, especially the German ones. The highlands of Angola, which fill the greater and more important part of the interior, rise in two steps. The first lies 1,000 to 1,200 meters, the second 1,400 to 2,000 meters above the sea. The most brilliant coffee lands lie near before the ascent to the second step and above on its somewhat bulged rim. There I saw three- to four-year-old coffee trees that bore at the same time full-ripeness, red cherries, young green ones, and already the delicate white blossoms of the third fruit sequence. Thus they are, practically, harvested almost without interruption.

The car rolls up before the planter’s house in the midst of coffee, the dogs bark at first, but soon wag their tails in friendliness; one is welcomed, led to the table; one asks how the coffee stands and is asked how it stands with Germany. Everywhere there is a feeling of joy and deliverance over the new time, and after our report of what we ourselves have heard and seen, the conclusion of our speech is always: Have confidence in the man who leads the new Germany; wait until he has made Germany capable of alliance; then we shall once again live to see that we are in demand as allies.

Then comes the walk through the plantation, talk and counter-talk as to how the coffee ought and could stand, what it is already yielding, and what it will yield in the next and the year after next. Five years, from planting out, it takes to develop a plantation. If everything is prepared so far, then the tree, including dwelling house, irrigation system, machinery, etc., costs one mark and henceforth yields per year 20 to 25 pfennigs net at present prices. Thirty thousand trees should a planter have at least; forty thousand are better. The one-mark installation cost holds, however, with the reservation that not too many mistakes accrue to the account of deficient African aptitude and experience. We have come to know such cases as well, and conversely many another where practical experience and natural African understanding permitted the cash account in establishing the plantation to be greatly reduced.

Thus with wakeful eyes and warm heart we have driven through the land, have spoken with the German planters, eaten their bread, drunk their coffee, slept under their roof, joked with their children, heard their cares and hopes, and convinced ourselves that Germanhood in Angola has in many cases to struggle hard, but that it is, at its core, sound and resolved upon the future. A thousand miles it has come to this day; half a thousand will probably yet be added before at last, at long last, the way leads homeward.

War and Revolution Memories 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness v. Kleist.

(First continuation.)

What now to do? Good counsel was dear! With very little travel money and not a single soul known to me

in Switzerland, save my brother who could not help me, I could not and would not remain in Switzerland. I wanted at any price to go to Germany and then home, to Courland. What to do?

In a very depressed mood I sat in my corner and found no solution to the difficult question, when I was distracted by the lively conversation of two ladies. They were agitated over their missing passport and the possibility of not being let into Germany. Like a flash the thought shot through my head: "Conceal the Russian passport, give your old German name!" No sooner thought than done! When the German customs and passport officials appeared, and more than one Russian with his green passport was put out, I showed, with a beating heart but outwardly very calm, only my visiting card and ... passed, inwardly exulting, the German frontier!

7.

In overcrowded reservist trains I rolled slowly toward Dresden. Uplifting was the journey with the confident, joyfully moved people, who without grumbling left home and family to fight "with God for Emperor and Empire" and to defend their fatherland against the onrushing enemies in East and West. Uplifting, too, was the sojourn at the many small and large stations with the thousands taking leave and greeting, who distributed flowers, fruits, chocolate, smoking supplies and other trifles, and the bands that played patriotic songs and marches, to which all sang along. Uplifting finally was the immense surge of noble, great enthusiasm that had seized a whole people in all its estates, steeling and strengthening it to accomplish for years unheard-of marvels of bravery and heroism.

Whoever was permitted to live through those first days of August 1914 in Germany and be witness to the mighty upswing of patriotic sentiment will not forget them all his life long. How unconquerable, how great, mighty, and truly admirable the entire German people stood there in its weighty compactness and unity! And how deeply shameful and saddening it was later to see how this same people, disunited, torn, unworthy and selfish, trampled its great past under foot and abased itself. The young Courlander as well was swept along by the general enthusiasm for the just cause. She forgot the tragedy of her German blood and belonging to the Tsar's realm, forgot the much-worn loden costume that bore upon it traces of high tours. She sang and exulted with the others and felt herself wholly at one with all the German people, their feelings and hopes. Only too soon was she to be reminded of harsh reality.

8.

Through southern Germany all went well, though very slowly and of course in great crowding. But when the train halted in Halle and Prussian officials, with strictness and conscientiousness, examined all travelers, I, who through my tanned face and the costume attracted attention, had to identify myself. This time I produced my ill-fated Russian passport. It wandered from hand to hand. Stern eyes looked at me with mistrust. My hand luggage was searched. Then, however, I was given by a lieutenant who had been called the permission to continue my journey. Despite correct treatment, I had become quiet and timid, avoided conversing with the soldiers and betraying myself as a foreigner by my Baltic accent. I became aware of the entire double nature of my position. Farewell, carefree, merry holiday time!

Now I went on to Dresden to my siblings. My brother-in-law, Horst von Hartmann, was then living with Margarete in the Neustadt and served as captain in the 2nd Royal Saxon Grenadier Regiment No. 101, "Emperor Wilhelm, King of Prussia." We had always been glad that my brother-in-law bore the same cipher on his shoulder straps as my brother Georg, the W with the crown. Georg served as Rittmeister with the Narva 39th Hussar Regiment, "H. M. Emperor Wilhelm II," in Sedlitz in Poland. Both had the same high chief. Now they were to stand opposed to one another in hostile armies! My brother Arthur too, as imperial Russian reserve officer of cavalry, must in all likelihood go into the field. Eduard would, one hoped, obtain deferment on account of his ear.

With these tormenting thoughts I went on to Dresden, much sobered by the determination of my state allegiance and also in concern as to how I could in fact return to Courland, which was now separated from Germany as by an iron wall and entirely cut off from the whole West. When I arrived in Dresden, dead weary after the 48-hour journey in overcrowded third-class carriages, I was at once surrounded at the Neustadt station by a large crowd of excited people and finally, under the suspicion of being a Russian spy, brought by a constable to the guard.

The running of the gauntlet through the living wall of pale, enraged people, who stretched out clenched fists at me and shouted insults, I shall never forget! No more the ride in a rickety blue second-quality droshky with a half-foundered nag from the station to the Waldschlößchenstraße, accompanied by the yelling, hooting and threatening of the Saxon rabble!

At the guardhouse I was treated entirely correctly and, after a short interrogation, released. At last I arrived, physically and mentally exhausted by exertions and excitements, two days and two nights without sleep and without hot food, at the Hartmanns'. There prevailed great agitation there, which my wholly unexpected arrival increased.

For Hartmann, with his children Wolf and Gerda, 5 and 4 years of age, had spent his leave in Courland, had been with my parents in Libau and with Arthur and Barbara in Gawesen, had been surprised by the war, and finally, leaving behind all his things and his children, had, at great risk, driven by motor car to the German frontier and secretly crossed it without being captured by Russian soldiers or even shot. A few hours before me he had come home. In a few days he marched off with his regiment to France and, happily, survived the whole war.

9.

A few weeks I remained in Dresden. What rejoicing the first news of victories evoked, in whose honor all the bells rang, many flags waved, and services of thanksgiving were held! Day after day and night after night the streets resounded with the measured tread of troops marching out and in, regulars and reservists, with strong cheerful singing, especially of the "Watch on the Rhine," which sounded everywhere. "Dear fatherland, be at rest!"

The unusually hot days of August I used for hours-long walks into the nearby "Heath," that great, beautiful wood that lies close by Dresden, and where, with the scent of firs and the murmur of the forest, one could forget the nearness and the din of the big city. The little Axel, then one year old, I always took with me and had much joy in occupying myself with the chubby, handsome little lad.

At last, after 5 to 6 weeks, I learned through Ellen Melville from Berlin that the possibility of an early return home existed. I at once went thither. Attorney Melville from Libau, a very adroit and amiable gentleman, undertook the completion of the many formalities for the 14 Courlanders who had joined together to travel home in company.

The hope of some optimists, in a few weeks to take the nearest way by Memel into Courland, which would surely soon be conquered by German storm troops, had unfortunately to be abandoned. Instead we were to use the "Russian train" from Berlin to Sassnitz and reach Russia via Sweden. A long and unexpected journey!

Before, however, we received permission to depart, we were informed at the commandant's office that every "Russian" who wished to travel first class must take, at his own expense, two Russian Jews as far as Petersburg; every second-class traveler one Jew; and that only a third-class ticket protected from such agreeable and costly company. One can imagine the consternation of most! Naturally we all took third-class tickets.

This measure sounds very odd, but was entirely justified. Thousands of long-coated, long-locked Eastern

Jews who had visited the German and Bohemian spas in the summer, and of whom, it was now alleged, many were suddenly entirely without funds and demanded to be conveyed home at the expense of the state, had to be expelled from Berlin. Then the well-to-do, at any rate honest, "Russians" had to be drawn upon to get rid of this clamorous, gesticulating, and speculating rabble. By night we departed from Berlin in overcrowded, sealed carriages through the sleeping German land to the north.

At one station we saw, in the gray of morning, cavalymen being loaded with their horses. Soundlessly they went to and fro; their silhouettes stood out dark against the slowly brightening morning sky; here a horse neighed softly, there one jingled its chain. "Morning red, morning red, you shine for me to early death." The old song, which one had so often sung in carefreeness and comfort at home on fine, peaceful summer evenings, went through my mind and suddenly took on a deep, serious meaning.

At Sassnitz the ferry took us on board and brought us to Sweden. We were also to be brought in Sweden in sealed carriages to a small northern harbor and only at the Russian frontier to be set at liberty. The first Russian trains had been received kindly and feasted by Sweden. When, however, unmannerly, saucy travelers poured out onto the platforms, plundered the sandwiches, and took teaspoons as souvenirs, the order-loving Swedes naturally wanted nothing more to do with this company and to pass it on as quickly as possible. There were, however, few real Russians among them. Of the 700 occupants of our transport, at least 600 were Eastern Jews.

In order to be freed from this traveling company, Mr. Melville had telegraphed his former acquaintance, Mr. Consul Vikander in Stockholm, informing him of the arrival of 14 Courlanders and asking him to obtain for us permission to leave the "Russian train" and travel at our own expense via Stockholm to Courland.

This now came to pass. Upon setting foot on Swedish soil we were permitted freely to dispose of ourselves, stretch our stiff limbs in comfortable sleeping cars, and travel to Stockholm, where we were very kindly received at the station by Mr. Vikander and conducted to the pretty Strand Hotel.

Glorious sunny weather made the stay of three days in Sweden's beautiful and clean capital most enjoyable. The variegated foliage, the blue sky, the many blue waters, the stately, light-colored buildings, the whole harmony and muted joy of color of a northern autumn landscape delighted us. Added to this was the hospitality of the Vikanders, who received us in their tasteful, artistic home, showed us a rare porcelain collection, a rich library, and paintings by foremost Swedish masters. How good it felt to be looked upon without prejudice and mistrust, as we had experienced as "Russians" in Germany and as, in correct foreboding, we feared to be as "Germans" in Russia.

After some peaceful days, restorative in every respect, which we used to get to know Stockholm's museums and parks, we boarded a small, neat, white steamer that was to bring us across our home Baltic Sea to Finland. On the passage through the skerries we unfortunately all had to remain below deck, as we were passing through a secret minefield. Only after careful leaving of the danger zone were we allowed on deck again, to greet the sea and let sun and sea wind caress us, as I so greatly love. It was a splendid voyage in calm, clear weather by day, to which an even more splendid night followed. Well until midnight we sat above, wrapped fast in our coats against the noticeable chill of a September night at sea. Billions of stars, appearing especially large and bright, and the pale northern lights worked soothingly upon heart and nerves, lifting thoughts from the wild battlefield of this earth to brighter, peaceful heights.

10.

In Raumo we were kindly greeted by Finns and Russians. We traveled directly to Petersburg. There, however, we, as German speakers, were observed at the station and looked upon very askance. I used the few hours until the evening train to visit my dear aunt, Olga von Hoyningen-Huene, Mama's eldest sister.

How cordial was her Ada's and Nina's welcome! I met Aunt Alice von Lode there, and saw her for the last time. Since the time of the Bolsheviks nothing has ever again been heard of her. Whether she starved or was murdered? Who can know it?!

For the last time I, too, was in the comfortable, pretty apartment of the Huenes at Kirotschnaja 8, apt. 67. How many merry weeks had I in former years passed there with cousins male and female! Aunt Olga later had to flee and has never again seen either her apartment or all her things.

We had much to tell. Here I heard, to my great dismay, that my parents had moved to Mitau immediately after the outbreak of war, and that my brother Georg had been wounded in a skirmish with Austrian cavalry. Thank God it was but a slight wound, a rifle bullet that had gone through the leg without, however, touching the bone and causing serious injury.

For eight weeks I had had no possibility of obtaining any news of my parents and siblings or of letting any from me reach them. Thus only now did I learn that my parents had left Libau, whither, of course, I would otherwise at once have traveled. That I should go instead to Mitau was very regrettable to me. I loved my activity in Libau, had friends there, among others my merry traveling companion, Ellen Melville, and my cousin, Lothar von Grothus, with whom I was much together and whom I should miss. And then I would miss our home life, my dear books, pictures and notes, my comfortable writing room, and above all my beloved sea, from whose eternal youth, freshness and grandeur I daily refreshed myself, where in joy and sorrow I went to walk, found solitude and strength, so that it had come to seem indispensable to me. All this I was to exchange for Mitau, our narrow, uncomely residence with the many, all too many relatives and acquaintances, who all had so much time and interest for other people's private affairs, concerned themselves with everything and anything and, in my view at that time, judged in petty and narrow-hearted fashion.

So then I went, quite unwillingly, instead of to Libau, to Mitau. There I arrived on 14/27 September, just on my father's 75th birthday, which was a great joy for us all.

11.

For the birthday chocolate there came Papa's sisters, Otilie von der Ropp and Konstanze von Kleist, and his sister-in-law, Talie von Kleist, née v. d. Recke. There came cousins, nieces, ladies and gentlemen from family and acquaintance. Like wildfire the news of my unexpected arrival had spread in little Mitau. I was the first who came from Germany after the outbreak of war. Many expected from me personal news of relatives from whom they were cut off; all, however, longed for truthful tidings from Germany, the land to which the love, the silent prayers and hopes and the whole warm-hearted, selfless feeling of most Balts were directed.

For two months in Courland one had read only strictly censored newspapers, which reported of continual Russian victories, but of German defeats, shameful acts and atrocities, only. One heard only of the imminent smashing of Germany and the impending occupation of all Prussia, of the victory march of the Cossacks to Berlin, of nothing but things that hurt sorely and which one had to leave unanswered.

After the first great reverses on the field of war, there began on the Russian side an agitation against Baltic Germanhood. Thus one had to be extremely cautious. One was surrounded by Latvian watchers and informers who sought to curry favor with the Russian government by casting suspicion on the entirely loyal Balts, true to their oath. However hard the inner conflict for us was, given our inner alignment with Germany, the sense of duty toward Russia was not thereby affected. One rendered unto the Tsar what was the Tsar's, though with a bleeding heart.

Admittedly, Tsar Nicholas II, through his pronouncement that he was going to war against the entire Germanic race, had forfeited the personal sympathies of most. Thereby he had grievously offended his

most state-supporting, most loyal subjects, and taken from them the last remnant of inner belonging.
12.

Into all this uncertainty and oppression there came, like a reviving and refreshing wind, the news I brought: Germany's unanimous, enthusiastic and yet so fate-conscious upsurge, the glorious victories in West and East, the names "Hindenburg" and "Tannenberg," the confidence of victory among people and army, and all the great things that I was permitted to experience. What rejoicing among young and old! What blissful hope of deliverance of the beloved homeland from Russian pressure, which was becoming ever more intolerable, and of union with the dearly loved, the great mighty Germany!

Now one was willing to suffer and silently endure, for unthinkable glorious things lay before us as well. And we needed this firm inner support in the heavy months that now followed. House searches, arrests of respected noblemen, prison, banishment, defamation and insecurity through tsarist officials made life very toilsome.

On Christmas Eve 1914, when we, in peaceful mood, went to the liturgical service, placards at all street corners announced the prohibition of the use of the German language, the mother tongue of us all. It struck like a bomb! On the streets, in the well-known German shops, on the railway and in the authorities, not a word of German was to be uttered. The Latvians triumphed to see us thus gagged and humiliated! At every step one was observed and spied upon. It rained fines despite all the caution that was exercised. Schoolchildren were punished. And yet, with the best will in the world, they could not converse with their parents and comrades otherwise than in German. They themselves could indeed speak Russian; our ladies, however, could not. They rummaged up their knowledge of French, but the children did not understand it. What was one to speak in the shops? One could not speak Russian; one would not speak Latvian. So one pointed with the finger, silently, at the desired article, paid in silence, and left the shop with a silent nod. There prevailed a Babylonian confusion. "Why may we not speak German, why do the Russians not love the Germans?" lamented little children who spoke only German and who, on the walk, had to be admonished at every step to speak not a single word, since here or there stood someone who could denounce them to the police.

(To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 4

September 1936

News from the Family

Report on the Family Day

The heavy rush to the Green Week had the result that the customary rooms of the Garde-Kavallerie-Verein had already been allotted months beforehand, and, after longer searching, we had to content ourselves with the "Russischer Hof," where in itself it was indeed inexpensive and good, but unfortunately there was a lack of cozy side rooms. The following cousins male and female had assembled: Ewald and Anning-Schmenzin, Rudolf and Gertrud-Jeseritz, Ernestine-Zützen with daughters Luise Henriette and Elisabeth, Leopold and Luise-Berlin with all four children, Georg-Großtychow, Ernst-Berlin, Wolf Friedrich and Peter Christian-Großtychow, Götz-Berlin, Ella Stolp, Friedrich Karl-Greifswald, Berndt and Annelise-Lichterfelde, Joachim-Cottbus, Kurt and Gudrun-Kamissow, Leo-Drenow, Jürgen Vietzow, Ewald and Giesella-Breslau, Ewald-Berlin, Elfriede-Goslar, Robert-Wusseken, Ewald-Zehlendorf, Hildegard-Berlin, Ewald, Margarete and Ortrun-Wendischtychow. Further, as guest and lecturer, Professor Dr. Curschmann from Greifswald.

To His Majesty the Emperor and King, as always, the Family Day had been reported, and the congratulations of the family on the 27th had been expressed, with the addition that the bond woven by history is indissoluble; yet the flood of congratulations received had prevented a reply in good time. This, rather, arrived only in February and reads:

"For the friendly congratulations on My birthday, which sincerely rejoiced Me, I return My thanks.

To all the faithful My greeting!

Wilhelm IR.

Further telegrams had been received from Cousin Ewald-Meran and from Cousin Maria Luise-Großtychow, as well as a letter from Captain von Frankenberg, in which he expresses the good wishes of the Kleist Regiment and at the same time his regret at being prevented by an injury from taking part in the Family Day.

As is evident, participation was not great this time, and that is much to be regretted, with reference to various important matters that were up for resolution and to the particularly interesting and instructive lecture; and we hope that the recognition will again ever more return that Family Days mean service to the family and that it is the duty of all those who, not prevented by illness or other urgencies, are otherwise in

some measure in the economic position to do so, to come to the Family Day and to make and cultivate acquaintance with all those with whom descent and name connects them.

The telegrams were answered, and, besides, to Cousin Karl in Wiesbaden, on 27 [January], on the completion of his 70th year of life, the congratulations of the family were sent.

Civil status

It has altered since the issue of the first News Sheet up to the Family Day as follows:

Born

a daughter, Erdmuthe Cornelia Sigrid, to Cousin Gunnar in Angola on 3 November 35, p. 5.

Married

in Riga on 10 December 35:

Baroness Janina, p. 13, to Prince Karl Johann von Lieven, born 19 June 1911,

Changes of address, of family status, transfers and promotions:

Page 2: Sigurd, now horse pre-induction commissioner in Köslin and major (E)

6: von Stephani now Major E in the Clothing Office, Lichterfelde–West, Theklastraße 1.

11: Ernestine and children, Berlin W 15, Pariserstraße 39/40.

13: Janina Princess Lieven, Latvija, Maz–Mežotne, via Pils–Rund?le

14: Between Adam and Christian is to be inserted:

Baron Hans Jürgen, * Grenzhof 19. 9. 1891, + Neustadt in the Black Forest on 3. 7. 1921, + there 1921 to Thusnelda Büttner, * Berlin 2. 11. 1896. (Berlin W, Würzburgerstraße 19, with Mrs. v. Wedel)

15: Christian, Berlin, NW, Dortmunderstraße 13, ground floor, right entrance, 1st staircase I.

: Cornelle, née Baroness von Rönne, Helmuth's mother is still living, namely in Birkenwerder, widows' foundation.

: Louise, née Brunzlow, Berlin–Waidmannslust, Nimrodstraße 30

: Isalie, Rostock, Georgstraße 106.

16: Marie, née v. Grotthus, in Lichterfelde in a Baltic foundation

: Irmgard x with engineer Siebert in Siemensstadt near Berlin

: Gerda x with ? in Prague

27: Emmy together with daughters, Charlottenburg 5, Königsweg 31, concierge's lodge 3 IV

: Karl, Wiesbaden, Rüdesheimerstraße 24.

28: Karl, Dr. oec., Berlin W 50, Marburgerstraße 9a IV r,

30: Götz, Berlin NW 40, Scharnhorststraße 35

: Elisabeth v. Steuben, Berlin W 30, Hohenstaufenstraße 1,

32: Joachim, Cottbus, Ströbitzerstraße 89.

: Charlotte, Greifswald, University Clinic, head of the diet kitchen

: Elisabeth von Jagow, Potsdam, Pension Klee, Kaiser Wilhelmstraße 11,

33: Elisabeth, née Franke, Berlin–Schöneberg, Barbarossaplatz 3.

34: Karl Georg, Berlin W 15, Uhlandstraße 165 II.

35: Bertha, née Lehmann, long since deceased

: Reinhold, pensioner in Bergfelde on the Northern Railway, Hubertusstraße 1

: Bernhard, merchant with Hasberg & Co., Berlin, Berolinahaus at Alexanderplatz

: Bruno deceased 1913

: Betty, authorized signatory, Berlin–Weißensee, Pistoriusstraße 3,

- 37: Lilly, née Müller, Berlin NW 87, Brückenallee 36
38: Edith, née Berwind, Le Grand Saugy, Genthod near Geneva
40: Ewald, Berlin, NW 23, Altonaer Straße 9.
42: Felix, Jülich, Rhineland, Schloßstraße 10.
43: Olga v. Briesen, Kolberg, Mackensenstraße 8.

Crummenseer line:

Hildegard, Berlin W 15, Kaiserallee 209
Ewald, Zehlendorf, Hilssteig 13
Aenny, née Lölhöffell v. Löwensprung, Blankenburg/Harz
Wilhelm, forestry assessor at the Landesbauernschaft, Hanover, Heinrichstraße 19,
Hans Joachim, merchant, Zittau/Sax., Marschnerstraße 86.
Marie, née v. Biehler, Rudolstadt, Thuringia
Wilhelm, colonel retired, same place.

Professor Minde-Pouet, the chairman of the Kleist Society, now lives Berlin-Halensee, Cicerostraße 59.
We most urgently ask that all changes be communicated at once to Cousin Ewald at Wendisch Tychow.
Admission to the family association has now also been applied for by the further branch of the Krummenseer line, whose blood connection with the family is recorded in Volume 3 of the History on page 269. The admission was effected unanimously. It concerns the last five of those named above.

Family pictures.

Their collection has progressed gratifyingly, so that at the Family Day already ten albums could be presented. A large number of pictures that should still exist, however, are still lacking, and we ask all those who do not live in Berlin or Pomerania, insofar as it has not already been done, to support our work by having photographs made from existing family pictures in size 9×12 or 10×15 and sending the negatives to Cousin Ewald in Wendisch Tychow. The costs will be borne by the family.

It is intended to send the albums, after completion, to all those who have an interest and insofar as they concern the persons in question, so that they have the possibility likewise to order prints as they please.
Life sketches.

They have unfortunately not come in to the same extent, and those of the very most of the deceased since the issue of the Family History are still lacking. In the interest of these and of their descendants we very urgently ask that the cousins male and female once set themselves to the by no means so very great labor and compile the life sketches of their parents and grandparents, so long as those still live who have knowledge of them. Later the work becomes essentially harder and the result much less personal.

Her Excellency Alexandra Kück, née v. Kleist-Keyserling, has kindly sent us her reminiscences from "Childhood and Youth from 1883–1913," however with the stipulation that publications from them be brought only after the passing of her circle of siblings.

Family history.

By exchange in accordance with News Sheet p. 16, we were able to acquire the Family History of the House of von Zitzewitz. Further, Major retired v. Schönfeldt-Werben presented to us the history of his house, which, through the family von Pannewitz, came into closer contact with that of our poet Heinrich. Acquired was a letter from then Colonel Henning Alexander v. Kleist to the Margrave of Brandenburg from the year 1739.

Miscellany.

Captain of the Reserve of the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist von Nollendorf, presently mayor of the town of Deutsch Krone, Sperling, presented to the family a Heimat play authored by him, "The Jesuit Pupil of Deutsch Krone," for which the thanks of the family were expressed to him. It relates to the "Spring Poet" Ewald Christian, who, in the years 1725/29, attended the Jesuit school in Dt. Krone. The author writes thereto: "The first and third scenes, 'Witchcraft' and 'Prussianism,' are composed after motives from Paul Schreckenbach's 'Der getreue Kleist'; the second scene, 'Judaism,' shows the fanatical hatred that, since the founding of the Jesuit school in the year 1605, existed between the pupils of this institution and the Deutsch Krone Jews, and which frequently led to severe brawls between the two parties, once even to the burning of the entire Jewish quarter. Because of the excellent successes in teaching, the Deutsch Krone Jesuit school was also very much attended by the Evangelical noble circles of Pomerania."

Kleist Regiment.

Again in this year the chairman was able to spend a fine evening in the circle of the officers. An honorary copy of the just-published war history of the regiment was intended for the family on that occasion, which the chairman has received for the family. To the officers' corps as well, at this point once more, our sincere thanks are expressed, as is our regret that Mr. Frankenberg was prevented from taking part in the Family Day.

Rendering of accounts.

The cash balance of the main fund amounted on 1. 7. 34 to	RM 1,568.28.
the corresponding receipts	RM 6,838.02.
gives	RM 8,406.30.
The expenditures amounted thereto	RM 7,414.23,
so that on 30. 6. 35 a cash balance remained of	RM 992.07.

Cousin Kurt-Kamissow had examined the books and accounts and found them correct; discharge could therefore be granted to the board, and special thanks of the family were also expressed to Cousin Georg for the so precise and clear manner of the keeping of the accounts.

Contribution.

With regard to the present location of the Family Day, presumably to be maintained, and the easing of work vis-à-vis the tax authority, the board has resolved to bring the fiscal year into alignment with the calendar year. That requires that those who have already paid their contribution for 1935/36 have to pay a half-year contribution still by 1 July at the latest (thus 10 or 2.50 RM), but that those who are still in arrears therewith shall now, by that same date, pay one and a half times the annual amount, thus 30 or 7.50 RM, into account 211 at the District Savings Bank Belgard, branch office Groß Tychow, "Main Fund of the Family Association v. Kleist." The District Savings Bank has postal check account: Stettin 8700.

As of 1 January 1937 the normal contribution year will then again run, and we ask that from then on the contributions be paid, if possible, already in January.

In order to be able to devote the means of the family funds as completely as possible to the support of our needy family members, especially to the education of our youth, it has been resolved to raise the contribution for the News Sheet to one mark and to request this amount as well, in addition to their other

contribution, from the cousins male and female otherwise paying contributions, so that the contribution in future amounts to at least 21 or 6 RM.

We again ask that, in all payments, everything be specified that serves the exact identification of the payer, in order to make correct bookings possible and to eliminate confusions.

Lecture

This year's Family Day distinguished itself from earlier ones by the insertion of a lecture, which was to broaden knowledge of the history of the Pomeranian nobility. The lecture found such general approbation that we wish to try to continue along this path. The lecturer was Professor Dr. Curschmann from the Historical Seminar of the University of Greifswald, and we gladly take the opportunity to thank him once more, at this point as well, for his extraordinarily interesting exposition, which awakened in us the wish for a continuation and which we shall endeavor to present in excerpts below:

Professor Dr. Curschmann is known in Pomerania in that he is working on the historical atlas of the province. Thus for the theme underlying the lecture as well, "Pomeranian Noble History," he applied, as research method, the backward-looking, historical-geographical one, i.e., he proceeded from the 18th century with a map representing the state of the territorial division immediately before the district reform of 1817, and then applied the principle that almost all lines that adhere to the terrain—boundaries, for example—do not change for centuries. Where, therefore, a change cannot be demonstrated, in the younger known state the older unknown has been preserved. With the aid of maps thus created he showed the princely, urban and noble possessions in the 18th century, whereby it is to be borne in mind that the princely portion had for the most part in the meantime been in the hand of the Catholic Church and was only regained through the Reformation.

Even on this map there stood out clearly a district in western Farther Pomerania, leaning upon the Neumark, where larger ecclesiastical possession has never existed. It comprises the four noble districts of the castle-seated families, the Borcke, Osten-Blücher, Dewitz, Wedel, and in addition the offices of Naugard and Massow, which only after the dying out of the Counts of Eberstein in 1663 fell to the sovereign as escheated fiefs. In this district the sovereign has never had immediate rights of possession. The Borcke are evidently a very ancient dynasty lineage; the other four are German immigrants who at some time, in successful acquisition policy, were able to acquire these possessions from Slavic previous owners, probably from the Woedtkes.

Also in eastern Farther Pomerania there are such closed possessions, originating for us from prehistoric time, either remaining in the hands of the descendants of their ancestors living in pre-German time, or acquired as a unit by German immigrants—thus the possessions of the Glasenapp, Kleist, Manteuffel, Puttkamer, Massow, Zitzewitz and Stojentin.

It was then shown to us, in illustrative fashion, how as late as about 1170 numerous Slavic nobles surrounded the Pomeranian princes; only in 1173 does the name of a German knight appear; but then there begins a complete displacement of the Slavic nobility by the German, brought about by the superiority of German character and German custom. That also had as consequence a strong withdrawal of the Slavic nobility from the western districts. In contrast, eastward of the Persante it was able to maintain itself very much better, for here the land, after the dying out of the Ratiborides in 1227, did not come to rest for ninety years, and only in 1316 did the lands of Belgard, Schlawe and Stolp finally come under Pomeranian rule. Only then did numerous knightly families of German origin, and some of Slavic origin but already Germanized, come into the land. German: the Böhn, Manteuffel, Ramel, Heydebreck, Glasenapp, Massow, Münchow, Versen, Wolde; originally Slavic houses: the Tessen, Natzmer, Butzke,

Bonin, Kamecke, etc. Alongside them, however, native families preserved their position and their large, contiguous possessions, particularly the Puttkamer, Zitzewitz, Stojentin and probably the Kleist. Unfortunately the following centuries—the closing Middle Ages and the first of modern times—say very little about all these families, and there lies before us there a rich field of research.

With the aid of a map of the state of possessions around 1630 we were then shown the possessions of the family at that time, whereby the still older possession was specially marked. The oldest possession in the Belgard district, to which there soon attached further possession in the Neustettin district, the Raddatz one; at the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th century there occurs the expansion eastward, and only since the 17th century is there expansion of possession west of the old main possession.

Many questions about the state of possessions remain, for the period mentioned above in Pomerania, unanswered, and all the more concerning its estate constitution and Pomeranian feudal law. Important as well is to elucidate the connection of the kindreds among one another and to utilize heraldry for history.

Thus this lecture has given us a good overview of the history of Pomeranian noble houses established up to the present, but has also shown us how much there is still to be researched there, and awakened in us the wish to hear another time more, and still more in detail, about the significance of these houses for Pomeranian history.

Obituary!

Cousin Eduard, deceased on 22. 4. 1935 in Mitau, was a man who always, with his whole personality, championed the Kleist family he loved and revered so ardently and cultivated the cohesion of the cousins. He, with his modest, unassuming life in work and toil, still always found time to help others with counsel and deed, and devoted his scant free hours selflessly to the struggle for Germandom and the alleviation of German need. Correspondingly, his funeral was extraordinary; the abundance of wreaths and floral tributes, the participation of people of all estates and nationalities from Mitau, Riga and the countryside, full of heartfelt sympathy and deep mourning, were unique. The “Mitauer Nachrichten” wrote thereto:

“Fir branch green and spring-fresh flowers, rose-decked wreaths and simple blossoms covered with delicate veil the cool turf beneath which a faithful son of his homeland was laid to his last rest. In the midst of an active life, Eduard Baron von Kleist was torn from his own and from us all by an unexpected death. For many years the departed man, a tireless worker for the good of the whole, was a member of the board of our German–Baltic Working Association. As head of the library he earned special merit with all the many who in town and country could draw recreation, stimulation and instruction from the holdings of our library. In the hard struggle of life that we all wage, it is above all the treasures of the spirit and of the heart that give us the strength to cope with the adversities of daily life. Here the good book is a valuable friend and helper. Eduard von Kleist was one of the first to recognize how necessary the creation of a good library was for our Germandom, and set about the work with energy. Not least to his efforts we may owe it that our Working Association could offer to our countrymen in the countryside the so necessary moral assistance of a readily accessible library that took account of many interests. For the development of this work there is owed to the departed the thanks of us all.

Outwardly his life differs little, perhaps, from that of many another nobleman. Born in 1880 on the paternal estate, Eduard Baron von Kleist attended school in Liepaja, did his military service there, and studied in Königsberg. He then was for some years engaged in agriculture, in order, after the agrarian reform, to have to build a new life. Since 1927 he was employed as head of the firm Semkopis (Countryman) in Mitau, where he at once placed his powers at the disposal of the Working Association. Many other organizations as well saw him as an active and highly esteemed member in their ranks: the

Economic Society of Courland, the cooperative for real estate acquisition and horticulture, the church council of the rural congregation of St. Trinitatis, the Diakonie, the youth home Altona, the Society for Literature and Art, the noble Catherine Foundation, the charitable association of Courland, and several others. Everywhere he was an active co-worker in a position of responsibility.

Everyone who was permitted to work together with the fine-sensed and upright man preserves for him a faithful and grateful remembrance. Selfless and noble friend to his neighbor, he was beyond that a faithful son of his nationality and his homeland, always ready to devote his best powers to the good of the whole. Honor to his memory!"

We too are proud to be able to count this cousin among our own, and shall keep his memory in honor!

Life sketches

III 822. Family History 3, page 99. (Composed by his son Paul v. Kleist, Riga.)

Baron Paul Julius Nikolaus von Kleist was born at Tuckum as son of the Courland Land Marshal Georg Alexander and of Baroness Annette von Nolde on 25 May 1832. After the early death of his mother he was sent to the cadet institute at St. Petersburg, where, despite his Russian schooling, he remained soundly German. He soon left the military career, moreover, since the love of his fathers for country life and nature awoke in him, and thus he acquired for himself a beautifully situated country seat (manor) near Goldingen: Charlottenruh, and, after the sale of the same, a country house in the vicinity of the same small Courland town.

He now became assessor at the captain's court at Goldingen and then married Jenny Olga, née Knigge, the daughter of the theologian and later crown forester Alexander Knigge at Turlau. To this marriage were born five children: Harald, Magda, Lucie Elise, Paul Jeanot and Martha, the last of whom died in early childhood.

Paul von Kleist was regarded as an outstanding chess player. His sense for humor and geniality, as well as his sociability and hospitality, won him numerous friends and made him universally popular. His pretty and humorous occasional poems as well were gladly read in Courland. An event of his life was his journey to Germany, where he stayed some months for a cure.

After a happy but short marriage he fell ill with pneumonia and died on 18 January 1891, deeply mourned by his spouse and his children, to whom he had been a loving father, as well as by his numerous relatives and friends. His self-chosen motto, to be read on his grave monument, runs: Christ is my life, to die is my gain. He rests in the hereditary burial plot in the cemetery at Goldingen.

His spouse, Baroness Jenny Mathilde Olga, was born on 31 December 1859 at Turlau as daughter of the theologian and later crown forester Alexander Knigge and of the highly gifted artistically and musically Mathilde Gerling, daughter of the councilman and mayor Gerling. After the early death of her father, who left behind a numerous family, Jenny Olga came into the house of a friend and neighbor of the deceased, the excellent forester Hermann and his affectionate spouse, who tried to replace the parents for the early-orphaned child and in whose house she passed a sunny childhood. Here, too, she came to love country life. At the age of 19 she married Baron Paul von Kleist. After his early death she sold her property near Goldingen and, for the sake of better schools, moved with her four children to the city of Riga, in order there to devote herself wholly to their upbringing. She passed the summer with her children in Krynki in the Vitebsk guberniya on the beautiful, rich country seat of a cousin, Baron Orgies Rutenberg, who there gathered about him his numerous relatives, particularly of the name Kleist, Drachenfels and Rutenfels. This hospitable house, laid out on a great scale, became, as it were, a meeting point of the Kleist family and of the Courland nobility in general. Thus in the year 1895 the writer of

these lines was there with mother and siblings; Pauline v. Kleist, Marie v. Friderici, née Kleist; Bruno v. Kleist as well, and also Theodor Adolf v. Kleist (Fam. Hist. III. 914) with family, among others, have stayed here as guests. Baron Rutenberg, himself a Courland nobleman, as a relative of the Kleist family (see Fam. Hist. III. 551, p. 92) had much love and interest for this family. His spouse had a very good camera for that time and understood excellently how to arrange groups in fine composition, and we have many a beautiful family photograph still extant to thank her for. In this hospitable house Jenny Olga passed happy days with her children.

Before the outbreak of the war in 1914 she still had the possibility to travel to South Russia and visit her sister, who in the beautiful old Russian city of Kiev was married to a great industrialist, the engineer Lyson, and likewise had five children.

The war years 1914/19 Jenny Olga v. Kleist spent in the war zone of Riga, since she did not wish to leave her homeland, and here lived through all the horrors of the war. The multiple conquests of Riga, the abduction of her daughter Magda by the Bolsheviks to Siberia, whence she was only released after—and thanks to—the conclusion of the Brest–Litovsk peace treaty, further the terror of Bolshevik rule and the famine, the fivefold bombardment of the city, as well as the street fighting and the expulsion of the Bolsheviks by the Iron Division and the Baltic Landeswehr—hunger and privations of this time of horrors had strongly impaired her vital powers and produced a severe heart ailment, of which, after long patient suffering, she died on 24 June 1934, mourned by her children and numerous friends, for whom her hospitable house, as in the lifetime of her husband, had at all times stood open and to whom she had been a helpful friend and adviser.

She rests in the cathedral cemetery of Riga beside her mother.

An ecclesiastical dispute from the year 1536

(Stettin Archives: Rep. 4 P. 1 Tit. 116 No. 3 fol. 123, 124, 126.)

Roggenpans and Parsowen, judgment contra Jürgen Kleist of Tichow concerning a clerical benefice at Schlawe, from Quäsdow.

We, Barnim, acknowledge and make known hereby before all men that the hereafter-named parties, also in the acta entered proceedings, came before us in due legal form, and, as in this matter the custom and usage of our court required, was done and occurred, and, as last, by both sides was concluded, we, upon the motion of the worthy, our dear faithful, Mr. Peter Pritze, fully empowered attorney of the worthy and honorable, likewise our dear faithful, Mr. Johann Roggenpan and Lorenz Parsowen, plaintiffs—whereof in the acta due mention is made—against the honorable and our dear faithful Jürgen Kleist of Tychow, being defendant, have caused, before us, lawfully and peremptorily, a final judgment to be heard; and as the appointed term on this date arrived, there appeared before us in court the aforesaid procurator of the plaintiffs and Jürgen Kleist, defendant, and both parties prayed that herein a final judgment be spoken and proclaimed. So have we, once more, humbly and diligently caused, in this cause, a final written judgment and sentence to be proclaimed and read aloud, as word for word follows hereafter. B.

Hereby were present the honorable and highly learned, our councillors and dear faithful: Jacob Wobeser, our captain at Lauenburg; Achim Moltzan, our court marshal; Bartholomäus Schwabe, our chancellor; Martin Tesse at Smoltzin; Alexander von der Osten at Woldenburg; and Stephanus Klinckbyll, licentiate of laws. Given at Stettin on Tuesday after Corpus Christi in the year 1536.

B. Between Mr. Johann Roggenpan and Lorenz Parsowen, plaintiffs, on the one hand, and Jürgen Kleist of Tychow, heritor, defendant, on the other hand, we speak finally that the above-named Jürgen Kleist has, against the said Roggenpan and Parsowen as vicars of a clerical benefice founded in the parish

church at Schlawe, in the possession of the farms and hides which Jacob Heuptman, Jacob Nonneken and Lorenz Dallege inhabit at Quäsdow, or of the rents and dues which they are bound to give therefor, willfully and against right trespassed, and has withheld from them the said rents and dues; and we order hereby that the aforesaid rents, taken from the aforesaid Roggenpan and Parsowen, shall by the defendant be restored, and that Lorenz Parsowen be left henceforth unmolested in the possession of the collection. But if the defendant Kleist thinks to speak, as to the paramount right or in the petitory, against Lorenz Parsowen as a vicar, or against those who lay claim to the right of patronage in the said vicarage, we hereby reserve to him the right so to speak. We moreover condemn him in the court costs incurred by the plaintiffs in this cause.

There follow copies of the land tax registers of the bishopric of Cammin, insofar as they concern our family.

1608.

(Stettin Archives: Rep. 4 P. I Tit. 97 to No. 898 Vol. I. Land Tax Register Anno 1608, due on Michaelmas.

Kleist

Georg at Dargen 8 guilders 2 groschen, 9 village hides, previously 11 but 2 waste; 1 cottage; 1 tavern; 1/2 mill; 1 ram sheep; according to his note given 6 October Ao. 1608.

Carsten at Zebbin, from 16 1/2 village hides; 2 cottages; 1 miller; 8 1/2 ram sheep: 16 guilders 22 groschen, according to his note given 29 October.

Jochim at Voldekow, from 9 village hides, 6 guilders 24 groschen, without note, paid with the land receiver 5 May Anno 1609.

Martin's heirs at Dargen, from 29 village hides; 2 cottages; 1 1/2 3/4 mills; 5 ram sheep

Summary: all Kleist, from 63 1/2 village hides; 5 cottages; 1 tavern; 2 1/2 1/4 mills; 14 1/2 ram sheep; or from 31 1/2 1/12 hunter's hides 4 groschen. Owe 56 guilders 12 groschen. Hereon paid 31 guilders 16 groschen, and remain due from Martin's heirs 24 guilders 28 groschen.

The registers for 1609 and 1610 are the same as that of 1608, only that Joachim Kleist in 1610 has only 8 instead of 9 village hides.

1620.

Rep. 4 P. I Tit. 97 No. 898 I

The Kleist

Gürgen Kleist at Dargen

13 village hides 19 guilders 16 gr.; 1 cottage 24 gr.; 2 taverns 1 guilder 16 gr.; 1 mill 24 gr.; 4 ram sheep 3 guilders; 26 guilders 16 gr.

Received in Colberg from Casper Macheln, land receiver, on 1 February 1620

Jochim Kleist at Voldekow

8 village hides 12 guilders; 2 village hides alternating 3 guilders.

Carsten Kleist's widow at Zebbelin

16 1/2 village hides 24 guilders 24 gr.; 2 cottages 1 guilder 16 gr.; 1 mill 24 gr.; 5 1/2 ram sheep; 2 shepherds' servants 2 guilders 4 gr.; 3 guilders 83 gr.

Peter Kleist at Dargen

16 village hides 24 guilders; 1 mill 24 gr.

Note: hereon in Colberg received 28 March 1621

18 guilders 24 gr. from Hans Volkmar. There remain 4 village hides 6 guilders, whereupon Peter Kleist has laid a sheep farm to his knight's seat.

1623.

Rep. 4 P. I. Tit. 97 No. 898 II.

In the village of Dargen, collected together as poll tax from the subjects of Jürgen Kleist's widow, heavy money 3 thalers; from peasants 1 guilder; from 3 cottagers in the ortsthaler 1 ortsthaler; from shepherd 1/2 thaler; from shepherd's servant 1 ortsthaler; from miller—sum 5 thalers heavy coin.

The young lord George Kleist remitted out of Zebbelin the land tax which was due on St. Lawrence of this year, namely 10 thalers and 18 argent. good coin out of Zebbelin, which the treasury scribe of Zeiger received and would communicate the due acquittance:

Signed at Köslin on 22 August Anno 1623

Georg Kleist

Register of war tax, namely: from 16 hides 8 thalers and 1 waste mill—thereof Martin Bonin, on his share, 6 argent.—the treasury scribe of Zeiger will receive and acquit me.

Dated Dargen on 28 August Anno 1623 Peter Kleist

The second instalment of the war tax, namely: from the hunter's hide 1 thaler

The Kleist

Gürgen Kleist at Dargen

6 thalers 12 argent.; 13 village hides 6 argent.; 1 cottage 12 argent.; 2 taverns 6 argent.; 1 mill 18 argent.; 3 ram sheep—sum 8 thalers 6 argent. Received, per note, in Colberg in good money on 18 September A. 1623: 4 thalers 18 argent. in good money from 6 guilders 10 gr. 12 pf. Pomeranian from the Jürgen Kleist estate of Dargen, received in Colberg on 18 7bris 1623. 3 thalers 12 argent. in good money from 4 guilders 21 gr. 6 pf. Peter Meyer's widow of Dargen, received 25 October Anno 1623.

Carsten Kleist's widow at Zebbelin, now son George Kleist, 8 thalers 6 argent.; 16 1/2 village hides 6 argent.; 1 cottage 6 argent.; 1 mill 2 thalers; 8 ram sheep—sum 10 thalers 18 argent. Received in Colberg in good money, per note, on 2 7bris 1623.

Jochim Kleist at Voldekow

5 thalers; 10 village hides—sum 5 thalers. Received, per note, in good money in Köslin from Jochim Schuenemann on 2 7bris A. 1623.

Peter Kleist at Dargen

8 thalers; 18 village hides 6 argent.; 1 mill—sum 8 thalers 8 argent. Received in good money, per note, from the land receiver Casper Macheln in Colberg on 9 October An. 1623.

1625.

Rep. 4 P. I Tit. 97 No. 898 III.

The Kleist

Gürgen Kleist's widow together with Peter Meyer's widow at Dargen, from 13 village hides—note: lacking 2 hides—1 cottage, 2 taverns, 1 mill, 3 ram sheep—20 guilders 20 gr. Note: hereon 7 guilders 22 gr. Pomeranian from Gabriel Sommerweiß at Dargen, namely received from 5 village hides, 2 ram sheep and something more, on 7 November Anno 1625.

10 guilders 20 gr. Pomeranian from Mrs. Gürgen Kleist of Dargen, namely received from 6 village hides, a cottager, 1 mill and 1 ram sheep, which the land receiver Schmiede, per note, paid in on 19 May 1626.

And there remain due 2 guilders 16 gr. Pomeranian on account of 2 hides from Heinrich von Wolde. Carsten Kleist's widow at Zebbelin, now the son George Kleist—20 guilders 20 gr.; 16 1/2 village hides 20 gr.; 1 cottage 20 gr.; 1 mill; 5 guilders; 8 quarter sheep—sum 26 guilders 28 gr. Pomeranian. Received, per note, from Mathias Steingraber on 7 April Anno 1626.

Joachim Kleist at Voldekow, the district councillor

12 guilders 16 gr.; 10 village hides—TT12 1/2 guilders—sum paid. Received, per note, from the land receiver Christoph Schmiede on 19 May Ao. 1626.

Peter Kleist at Dargen, of 20 guilders; 16 village hides 20 gr.; 1 mill—sum 20 guilders 20 gr. Pomeranian. Received in Colberg, per note, from the land receiver Christoph Schmieder on 19 May 1626.

Sum: From the Kleist received comes to 78 guilders 10 gr. Pomeranian. 2 guilders 16 gr. Heinrich v. Wolde at Wusterbarth.

War and Revolution Memories 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness v. Kleist

(Second continuation.)

How unfavorably this measure influenced education and youthful characters lies on the face of it. It was perhaps the most senseless and at the same time the most cruel, because it struck all. That was doubtless also intended.

In the "Evangelical Monthly," issue 12, 1914, there appears a prohibition of the German sermon in Taurien. The provost at Kannapäh, Estonia, is sentenced to a fine of 100 rubles because he spoke German in the Evangelical parish house. The "Petrograd Zeitung," the "Rigaer Tageblatt" and many other papers are no longer permitted to appear. Such are the Christmas gifts of the government.

We bore that as well with confident heart. In the chicaneries and persecutions of the Russian government we had the best barometer for the conduct of the war: the worse things went for Russia, the more brilliantly Germany triumphed, despite all the false reports—so much the more were we oppressed. But so much the more did our hope grow.

Never have the divine services been so strongly attended as then. In the churches at least the German language might still resound aloud in word and song. How long yet? one asked oneself each Sunday.

When all German inscriptions had to disappear—one read only Russian and Latvian signs, notices and names—then my way often and gladly led me to the old German churchyard. There German names, sayings and parting words still greeted from thousands of graves, in which they may rest in peace—all the old noble and literary houses. There the past became alive. For a short time one forgot the inexorable, humiliating present.

13.

Thus the winter of 1914/15 passed in rich inner experience. One came much together with the like-minded, one shared joy and sorrow, one worked, collected, and acted in the greatest secrecy for the German prisoners of war, who were supplied with clothing and money through reliable intermediaries.

One intoxicated oneself, with parts distributed, by the reading of German classics. With what glowing inner conviction did my cousin Julius v. d. Ropp cry the words of Marquis Posa: "Give us freedom of thought!" A few years later he had to pay with his life for his enthusiastic love for Germany and his belonging to the hated Baltic nobility. His last words on the short way from the prison to the place of execution were: "Life is not the highest of goods!" Then he too fell, with many others, by murderers' hands in the Bolshevik time. But we do not wish to anticipate the time.

One Sunday, after divine service, I went to my acquaintances Ina and Meta v. Koskull, who lived with the

Pokroy Ropps at Bachstraße 2 and with whom we had passed many cozy hours in the fine, tasteful rooms. Quite confused, the old Lithuanian servant opened to me. I did indeed notice that a constable stood on the staircase, but, suspecting nothing evil, I went up.... Solemnly, all the members of the household sat together in a circle in the hall. What was the matter? Then I saw, in the next room, two sub-lieutenants of police ransacking the desks and old office, while yet a fourth policeman stood by. House search! For hours the Koskulls and Ropps had sat there, not allowed to move, while the officials rummaged through everything in the house. I too had to remain until they were finished, about two o'clock. Although they had found nothing suspicious or incriminating, but took only entirely harmless private letters, the two barons Leo and Bruno v. d. Ropp were nevertheless arrested and, through the Sunday-busy streets, led to prison. Afterwards they were banished to the interior of Russia. The ladies received house arrest for a few days and were permitted to receive no one. A guard stood day and night before the house.

In the dusk I slipped daily into the back courtyard. The Koskulls opened the window; thus we could exchange a few fleeting words. Arbitrariness and injustice had displaced right!

New Year's Eve I passed with my siblings Eduard and Lucie at their neighbors', Baron von Bistram-Waddax. The former manor house had been burned down by revolutionaries in 1905; the brother, Baron Bistram-Mescheneeken, then had been murdered. Now the new manor house was almost completely finished. In the great white semicircular hall we sat around the Christmas tree and sang one German song after another. Very serious was the master of the house, as though he had a presentiment of dark things; all the merrier the only son. After a few days the father was banished to Siberia. The son, the pride and joy of his parents, fell in the struggle against the Bolsheviks.

14.

Life in Mitau, of whose narrowness and pettiness I had been afraid, shaped itself quite otherwise than I had assumed. In great cordiality and unanimity the whole circle of relatives and acquaintances held together in this great hard time, in which there was no room for other smallnesses. The few "Russian-minded" one avoided. One felt oneself members of one family, one great whole. One saw one another often, one read, one made music. How beautiful were the hours with Baroness Johanna v. Hahn-Rokaischen in her quiet house, with the wide rooms, the fine old furniture and pictures, the great park-like garden. This house in the Seestraße had belonged 150 years ago to my forefathers v. d. Ropp, and people told one another that the wicked Costanzia, née v. Kleist, still walked there. She finds no rest in the grave, disturbs and disquiets the people who inhabit her former rooms, by rustling with silken dresses and flitting on stairs and corridors.

Most beautiful I found it when Baroness Hahn seated herself at the grand and played for us, often for hours, quite gloriously, mostly Beethoven, and made us forget present and future. One sat then in the great hall with the view into the much green of the garden, surrounded by fine, tasteful things, saw and heard nothing of the noisy outer world, and was wholly sunken into the realm of tones.

Baroness Beate von Wolf as well, the little shy old maid, outgrew herself when she refreshed us with glorious playing. In little old Mitau one found, altogether, such finely shaded, distinguished sociability. The now so popular themes—money, business, clothes, eating and drinking—one would have sought in vain. Instead there was often a witty talk about old times, the little weaknesses of one's dear neighbors, about books, journeys and ideal endeavors; serious conversations about politics, religion and all that moves the human heart; humor and wit spiced the conversation. How much one took in in the way of stimulation and instruction! How many tacit lessons in self-discipline and self-control, in duties of estate and decorum, one received, as a modern person, from the many old, old-fashioned yet so balanced, distinguished ladies! "Noblesse oblige"—one did not often hear that, but one experienced it in most of the

people of our circle. Yes, not only nobility obliged among us. Germanhood, wealth, sense of family, education obliged as well. One lived—aside from a few unavoidable exceptions, of course—a responsible life in great outward simplicity and unpretentiousness, yet on a broad foundation, as the forefathers had done for centuries. One was hospitable and helpful; one read much and cultivated manifold interests. One was ready to bring sacrifices for one's conviction. That held not only for the nobility but also for our literati. A long-established merchant estate, such as for example in the German Hanse towns, there was not among us in Courland.

The greatest pleasure of our gentlemen was the hunt, which most pursued with passion, whether merry driven hunts or the exciting stalk, the capercaillie and blackcock rut. With us there was much and gladly traveling. One had understanding for the beauty of foreign lands, for nature and art. The materialistic tendency that lays the main weight on luxuriant living and superficial amusements, the ostentatious nature of the newly rich, was wholly lacking. There was—despite some junker-like habits—after all, old culture in manners and disposition.

15.

In autumn and winter I was for months with my brother Eduard, who at that time was plenipotentiary of Count Reutern–Nolcken. Wolf and Gerda v. Hartmann were there as well, so there was much life with them and Bratto, who raced with their wild games through the whole house. How merry were the almost daily sleigh rides with “Cliquot” and “Pommery,” the two great grays. In the beautiful park of Ringen, in which we also walked much, one saw roe deer, hares, pheasants and many birds, in which the children took lively joy. Or we set out armed with small toboggans. If, well ventilated by the cold, sharp winter air, tired and hungry, we then returned home, Lucie, the indefatigably and lovingly caring mistress of the house, received us with a richly laid table: the tea machine sang and hummed; country bread, caraway cake, beckoned to reach out. Much was sung with the children.

Fatherland and soldiers' songs, which I had heard from departing troops in Dresden and learned by heart, we sang on solitary walks on which no one could hear the proscribed strains. With resounding voice and quite purely Wolf and Gerda blared their “Gloria! Victoria! With heart and hand for the Fatherland!” into the rural solitude, while Bratto shouted loudly, deep and utterly off-key in between. In the evenings we adults then sat together for hours by the petroleum lamp, did needlework, read, chatted, and built castles in the air in politics.

A few times we also saw the esteemed old Count Reutern–Nolcken, our plenipotentiary for the province, whose fine, clever manner of telling and highly educated conversation gave us much pleasure. Shortly thereafter he moved to Petersburg, where, in his high position as imperial master of the hunt, he could be of more use to his Courland homeland. He never saw it again and died a few years later in Stockholm.

16.

Spring 1915 brought life in a stroke into our comparatively still quiet existence. German cavalry pressed, in dashing advance, into Poland, Lithuania and Courland. As the completely surprised Russians offered little resistance, the advanced troops reached to the vicinity of Mitau. As heralds, long columns of expelled Jews from Lithuania passed through Mitau. On suspicion of espionage and allegedly German-friendly sentiments, they had, by tsarist order, to move into the interior of Russia. With heavily loaded wagons they came along. Household goods, bedding, bales of cloth and leather, cooking pots, single pieces of furniture, old folks, women and many, many black-haired children with the dark, tragic eyes of the Semitic race were piled upon the wagons. One to three worn-out nags in front, the men beside them—so they moved, as once the children of Israel out of Egypt, silently and pitifully into an unknown, inhospitable distance. Beyond the Aa they pitched a laager of wagons, a night camp, before moving on. In

the evening, all the men are said to have assembled in the synagogue and pronounced the “great curse” of their people upon Russia and its Tsar. In terrible fashion it was then fulfilled a few years later as well!

There followed throngs of Latvians fleeing of their own accord. The terror news of German atrocities had aroused a veritable panic among the peaceful rural population. Thus all who could fled before the barbarians and Huns! Many of them later perished in Russia. The Russian authorities sought the wide world as well. At the last came Russian troops marching back, and then the cannon thunder came ever nearer.

Our feeling Elisabeth Goercke clothed in the following words:

“Now draws near the foe of the realm, the foe who thirsts for our blood...

O Germany! Come! We entreat thee, we wait in joyful courage.

Thou buildest with thy hand of iron for us homeless a fatherland!”

War, in its true form, actually entered our field of vision for the first time. With what rejoicing we greeted the first German airman, who, in dizzying height, circled and dropped a few bombs, which, however, caused no damage!

With what beating of heart we listened to the, now farther, now nearer, rolling thunder of the field guns! Will they now really come, the Germans?!

This time, however, they did not come. That is, not to Mitau. Libau was taken on 8. 5. 15 after little resistance and with the help of the fleet. Baron v. Engelhardt greeted the approach of the German troops with the following words, which came from the heart of us all:

“You sang them all, the Watch on the Rhine, and stormed into the fight.

Strong rang your song, and over the border corpses piled up.

By the first bivouac fire of the night you pressed each other’s hands tight.

Out of your dead-weary eyes there laughed: ‘For Emperor and Fatherland!’

We sing no song, we speak no word, we only press each other’s hand in silence.

And wander dusty roads along—we without a fatherland.

And our sons stand in the field, in the midst of weather and wind,

And fight as though for them it were for the world—who are without a fatherland.

And though hatred flames round us everywhere and presses upon us sore and hard,

We hold one jewel without cease: German faith and honor.

We hold it pure, we hold it white—the German, the glorious garb—

And pray from our deepest heart, hot, for God’s justice!”

(To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 5

August 1936

News from the Family

Personal status.

A son was born to Cousin Hans Ewald in Stolp (p. 36) on 2/2/36.

Engaged:

in December 1935 Ingeborg (p. 30) to First Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 1st Battalion, Panzer Regiment 3 in Kamenz/Saxony, Hans-Georg Lueder.

Sigrun (p. 4) on 3/1/36 to Rudolf von Bandemer of Selesen.

Bratto (p. 13) in February '36 to Ines, Baroness von Fircks, daughter of Eduard, Baron von Fircks, and Charlotte, née Negenborn.

Ruth Maria (p. 30) in May '36 to First Lieutenant and Adjutant in Reiter Regiment 18 in Cannstatt, Max von Groll.

Karl Georg (p. 34) in June '36 to Elisabeth von Trotha of Altenburg/Thür.

Married:

Dessau on 7/17: Karl Georg (p. 34) to Elisabeth von Trotha.

Deceased:

on 2/21/36 in Hamburg, Hermann von Dassel (p. 37).

On 4/19/36 in Wend. Tychow, Count Friedrich Wilhelm (p. 4).

Promoted:

Ewald (p. 39) to General of Cavalry on 8/1/36.

Changes of address and the like.

Page 5 Sigurd, Major (E) Stolp, Bachstr. 1.

“ 13 Friedrich Georg can be reached via Apsos caur Durbi c/o Baron Grotthuß, Latvia.

“ 16 In amendment of the notice on p. 24 of this issue it should read: Gerda married to Eng. Siebert, and Irmgard in Prague.

“ 21 Ewald, Captain in Infantry Regiment 38, Northeim, Hindenburgstr. 12. Karl Friedrich, lance corporal, 10th Company, Infantry Regiment 29, Guben. “ 25 Werner, Buffalo N.Y., 52 Summit Ave. “ 30 Adolf, Colonel, Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt, Martin-Luther-Str. 4.

“ 34 Karl Georg, Weinmeisterhöhe, Posl Spandau, Wilzenweg 12.

Krummenseer line: Ernst, District Customs Commissioner, Nennig/Mosel.

Our female cousin Marie (p. 7) celebrated the completion of her ninetieth year on 11 June '36 in Groß Dubberow. The family's congratulations were conveyed to her by telegram.

Raddatz Foundation. In accordance with its purpose, a portion of the interest is received by the Eldest of the family. The previous Eldest has been Count Friedrich Wilhelm. According to the register, the following would next come into consideration:

Baron Adolf, born 22 Nov. 1858 in Kronstadt (p. 17), and after him his brother Oscar, born Kronstadt, 15 May 1860.

For both it is unknown whether they are still living, and probability speaks for the contrary. Should no news be received by 30 June 1937 that both, or one of them, is still alive, then henceforth the senior of the family would be: Colonel (ret.) Freiherr Karl in Wiesbaden, born Düsseldorf, 24 Dec. 1865.

Correction. On page 32 of this issue it was stated that the poem cited there had been composed by a Baron Engelhardt; we have the pleasure today of correcting this to say that the poet is our esteemed female cousin Lilly in Rostock from the Zerxten house (p. 20). We further learn that at the time she passed it on only orally to her closest relatives with the request never to name her, because of the danger connected with it. Nevertheless it spread with incomprehensible speed. It traveled as far as Lake Baikal and sent greetings from the first German book that was smuggled in from the trenches. Since our cousin never published it herself, she remained unknown as the author. It also went out without a name with a V.D.A. film; only since 1931 has the name been set beneath it.

We further announce that Cousin Elsbeth (p. 40) has had the body of her husband, our Cousin General Alfred, transferred from Brandenburg to the Invalids' Cemetery in Berlin.

Contribution. We remind you that, owing to the change of the fiscal year (see page 25 of this issue), by 1 July a half-year's contribution was to be paid in arrears by those who had already paid their current contribution; but those who were still in arrears with it were to pay a year and a half's contribution by that date; and that the contribution was increased by one mark to cover the costs of the family paper.

Collection of family photographs. It has progressed gratifyingly far. We now have photographs of the persons listed below. Interested parties can order prints from Mr. Otto Bruchwitz, Finkenwalde near Stettin, Verbindungsstraße 3. There are photographs of: Family History: III. 2. 93. p. 36, 135/p. 40; 136/40, 185/53, Sophia Charlotte 148/75, Friederike Charlotte Sophia 198/78, 201/81 along with wife and children, likewise as silhouettes, 219/921; 236/94 along with wife, 250/94 along with wife, of her parents; 220/96 three times, 2 of them young, 1 as man and wife in addition, 237/96 twice, 253/97, 238/97 along with wife, she young and old, 221/98 I young, II old along with wife, 257/102, 125/154, 127/158, 128/158, 129/159 three times, wife thereto four times, 167/162 twice, 168/162 twice, 205/165 twice, 225/171, wife thereto twice, 207/173 and wife twice each, daughter of 207: Ida, 209/174 and wife and 5 of her forebears, 226/175 twice, 227/175 and wife twice each, 246/176 twice, 247/176, his son twice, 248/176 and wife, 249/176 and wife, 229/178, 230/179, picture of the Battle of Nollendorf. III, 3/p. 22, 247/68, 338, 81 young and old, likewise wife, 425/84 young and old, likewise wife, 682/87, 903/89, 551/91 and wife, an unknown married couple from the Kerklingen house at the beginning of the 19th century, 688/95, daughter Maria Mathilde thereto, likewise Dorothea Pauline, 817/98, 822/99 and wife,

she with son Paul, he twice, his sisters Magda and Lucia 431/129, 565/143, wife thereto, she again old, 710/150 twice, wife thereto, 844/173, 845/173 twice, sons thereto: Hans Jürgen and Konstantin, the latter three times, 843/172 and wife, she twice and as a child with her mother, her daughter Helene, son Friedrich Wolf as a child, son Fritz and wife, daughter Ursula as a child, 365/230, wife thereto, wife of 448/240, seven pictures of her forebears Loen and Teufkirchen, 586/250, picture of Haus Rath, 381/329, his daughters Sophia von Polentz and Friederike von Podewils, 383/332, wife thereto, 484b/341 twice, wife thereto, 610/351, wife thereto, both twice each, 740/354, 615/373 three times, 499/380, 626/387, wife thereto, 751/391, 753/391 twice, wife thereto, 865/393, 744/360, wife thereto, 611/356, 922/363, 975/363, 766/435, wife thereto, 869/435, wife thereto, 870/436, 929a/436, likewise of the wife, 874/440, wife thereto, 930/440, wife thereto, 931/442, 526/472, 658/473, 785/474, 883/479, 940/482, 941/482, a picture of Perkuicken, four pictures of the Morstein forebears of the wife of 941/482, 398/514 twice, 885/561, his sons Ewald, Detlef, Herbert and Joachim, 536/573, wife thereto, 671/574, 796/582, 891/586, 892/588, his son Heinrich. IV, 48/55, 53/81, wife thereto, five unknowns.

Books received. Through Cousin Paul—Riga (p. 19) we received a little book written by his sister, the purchase of which we warmly recommend. The *Rigasche Rundschau* of 9 April 1936 writes about it: “Ulrike.”

“Ulrike.” A tale from the God’s-land’s resplendent days by Baroness Lucie von Kleist. Printing and publishing by the A.-G. “Ernst Plates,” Riga 1936. The little booklet in a sky-blue cover is a booklet of memories. In it figures and views spring to life that are known to every German inhabitant of the God’s-land—and beyond that to many another Balt as well—from tradition or from hearsay. A distinctly Baltic-feeling and Baltic-written book! A small, unassuming love story in the home tone, familiar and pleasant to read.

Tetsch and Schwander appear, the Mitau bachelors who, through their marriage legacy with its special provisions, secured a good remembrance among posterity. The starostin Korff—well known from Elisa von der Recke’s memoirs—sweeps in, and with her Elisa herself, not acting on the world’s stage, but occupied with the mysterious Cagliostro. Superstition, freemasonry, and the question of dueling—those were the themes of which, in that time, all Courland spoke. Mitau’s reputation as a freemason city had also attracted the trickster Cagliostro, who at that time—1779—was still far in time from the necklace affair that was to shake the French throne. In this Mitau of 1779 and in the countryside the story takes place. Over it there lies like a delicate scent of long-withered roses from a potpourri vase in an old-fashioned quiet room. And that we are glad to accept.

E. St.

Biographical sketches

Baron Alexander Eduard Bruno von Kleist was born in Riga on 11 April 1872. He was the son of Hermann von Kleist (Family History III 823, p. 99) and Caroline, née Baroness von Simolin Bathory. His father, Excellency and Imperial Russian Actual State Councillor, had graduated from the faculty of law of a Russian university and held the high post of presiding judge of the Supreme Court in Kowno. Early on, Bruno and his somewhat older brother Robert Peter Armin (born in Riga 1869, died and buried there 1901) lost their mother (1879), whereupon their blood aunt, Baroness Pauline von Kleist (Fam. Hist. III 688, p. 95), daughter of the Land Marshal Georg Alexander, moved to Riga to take charge of the upbringing of the orphaned children and the running of the household. Also frequently a guest in the house was her younger sister, Maria Mathilde von Kleist, later the wife of the nobleman enrolled in

Estonia, August von Friderici.

The two boys were early developed, and Bruno shone particularly through talent of a literary kind. Ambitious and energetic, he advanced quickly, completed the venerable Gymnasium at Mitau and thereafter the aristocratic college of imperial Russia, the Imperial Lyceum at St. Petersburg, to which only the richest and most aristocratic part of Russian society had access. Upon graduation from that college in the year 1897 with a first-class diploma, all paths in Russia stood open to the fortunate one, and a brilliant career began for him. He first served out his one-year voluntary military service in a Guards regiment, then immediately received a good post in the Ministry of the Interior in St. Petersburg itself, advanced quickly thanks to his efficiency and sense of duty and his good connections, and had access to the highest social circles of Petersburg. He knew the life of the capital in all its details and took a lively part in everything. Outwardly good-looking, sociable in manner, gifted in speech and languages—so his friends portray him.

In 1908 he married Katharina von Scheremetjeff, bearer of a historical name, hereditary lady of the estates Zawiolowo (Guberniya Nizhny Novgorod) and Bolotowo (Guberniya Tula), daughter of the colonel of the Chevalier Guards Regiment, Boris von Scheremetjeff. Two daughters (twins) were born of this marriage, whom he loved dearly until the end.

But then in 1914 the World War broke out with its agitation against everything German. Bruno von Kleist too had much to suffer from it, as the author of these lines could ascertain on his visits to Petersburg. Yet it went even worse for him when in the spring of 1917 the Kerensky Revolution broke out. He was immediately dismissed from service without a pension and, as a so-called “bourgeois,” was exposed to all manner of persecutions. He also suffered material want. To apply to the Bolsheviks for a position he considered beneath his dignity, as his friends report. His attempts to make his way through the front to the Baltic lands, which at that time were still occupied by German troops, failed. When then in the autumn of the fateful year 1918 the news came of the collapse of Germany and of the German front, his shattered nerves gave way. Driven into a corner by the Bolsheviks and in an attack of melancholy and despair, he shot himself. His faithful friends buried him in St. Petersburg.

In character, Bruno von Kleist was amiable and kind, ever helpful and noble in his disposition, and he counted many friends his own. He had much family feeling and possessed a considerable collection of Kleist family pictures and items which, in Petersburg, may well have gone to the four winds, since the attempts by the author of these lines to gain access to the family pieces have so far remained without success. Bruno v. K. was very musical, had a sympathetic tenor voice, and accompanied himself on the guitar. He loved his Baltic homeland above all else, often visited Courland, Riga, and especially the beautiful Riga beach, then the meeting place of the Baltic and Russian nobility in summer. He was also a welcome guest at the estate of Baron Orgies-Rutenberg, Krynky in the Vitebsk Guberniya.

As is evident from what has been set forth above, the life of a gifted representative of his lineage, so promising at the outset, ended, owing to the vicissitudes of circumstances, tragically and in the end even disappointingly; yet his lovable nature and his magnanimous disposition, as well as his strong striving for higher things, will remain unforgettable to all who knew him.

Author: Paul, Baron von Kleist, sworn attorney in Riga.

Baroness Pauline Dorothea von Kleist (Fam. Hist. III 688, p. 95) was born on 29 December 1828 at Jakobstadt. She was the daughter of the Courland Land Marshal Georg Alexander, Freiherr von Kleist, and Annette, née Baroness Nolde.

After the early death of her mother she devoted herself to the upbringing of her numerous younger

siblings—she had three sisters and seven brothers.

In later years she found a place at the Katharina von Bismarck Foundation in Mitau, from where, each year, she undertook journeys to Heidelberg, Riga, Amboten and Baldohn (Courland), and to Krynki, the country seat of her cousin, Baron Orgies-Rutenberg, in the Vitebsk Guberniya, to visit her siblings and relatives, to whom all her love belonged.

All who knew her valued in her the loving manner, the noble sentiment, and the warm humanity. She died on 9 March 1902 and is interred in the hereditary burial place in Mitau beside her father and her sister Marie Mathilde.

The following is a poem by her, in which her simple manner and her deep heart are reflected.

“People are loving and kind,
Would gladly help and give delight.
But into the heart’s deep places
Their sharp gaze never makes its way.
Gladly they listen to the word
That the friend’s lip speaks;
Yet where silently a heart bleeds out,
Their soul has no inkling of it.
For so many a thing can never
Pass our lips at all!
Therefore much remains on earth
Misunderstood, unseen.”

Baroness Maria Mathilde von Kleist (Family History III 688, p. 95) was born on 3 May 1833 at Jakobstadt in Courland as daughter of the Land Marshal Georg Alexander, Freiherr von Kleist, and Annette, née Baroness Nolde.

On 5 June 1869 she married August von Friderici, the Imperial Russian Collegiate Councillor at Mitau. After the early death of her husband, she, herself childless, took a lively part in the upbringing of her nephews and nieces, the early-orphaned children of her brother Paul Julius Nikolaus. From Mitau she frequently undertook journeys to Germany, where her sister had married the provost von Wilpert in Heidelberg. Likewise she often went to Amboten to her sister Johanna and to Krynki to her cousin, Baron Konrad von Orgies-Rutenberg, who, each year in summer, gathered his numerous relatives—chiefly of the name Kleist—around him.

Thanks to her lovable nature and her spirited manner, Maria Mathilde was everywhere a welcome guest, and her pronounced family feeling, as well as her warm sympathy in the weal and woe of her relatives, was highly valued by them.

In 1908 she was struck down by a stroke and completely paralyzed, and for four years, without a word of complaint, with full mental freshness and alertness, she lay bedridden, until in August 1912 she was delivered from her sufferings.

She was interred in the hereditary burial place at Mitau from the St. John’s cemetery, and here she rests beside her father and her sister Pauline Dorothea.

Author: Paul, Baron Kleist, Riga.

We take this opportunity to thank our Cousin Paul in Riga for the life stories he has portrayed for us, since they represent a valuable continuation of our history and have brought us somewhat closer to the lives of

our female cousins and cousins in the Baltic lands; and we append hereto the repeated request that this example provide the incentive for very many among us to record and send in the life accounts of forebears who lived after, or concurrently with, the publication of the Family History.

War and Revolution Recollections 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

(3rd continuation.)

17.

The spring weeks with the German offensive brought our family many personal agitations. We worried about my sister-in-law Barbara, who was living with the one-year-old Friedrich Georg at her parents', Baron Edmund and Baroness Alice von Hahn–Sawersch, and was expecting a child. My brother Arthur had been called up a few days after the outbreak of war. Barbara therefore did not wish to remain alone in Gawesen with the little one, but moved to Mitau so as not to lose the connection with Arthur. She had visited him a few times over the winter at Lomza, where he was station commandant, and had gone through many hardships, especially in March, when the German advance began, Lomza was evacuated, and she had to leave quickly. On 24 April she gave birth to a boy, who, alas, lived only four days. His grandfather Hahn had given him in emergency baptism the name Peter-Paul. On 29 April, on Mama's birthday, Baron Hahn–Sawersch, Countess Evy Keyserling, sister of Alice von Hahn, Cecil von Hahn, and I carried the little coffin across the whole churchyard to the grave, where the little Kleist was to rest beside his great-grandparents, the former Land Deputy, Count Heinrich Keyserling, and his wife, née von der Ropp. Poor Barbara! How she had rejoiced over the fine boy and over Arthur's happy telegram! Only slowly did the wound scar over. All the more joy did Barbara have in her Friedrich Georg, quite a splendid little fellow. How sweet he looked, and how comical he was when, half amused, half frightened, he danced in the kitchen with a stiff-frozen hare! Unfortunately we could not long delight in him. After her recovery, the capture of Libau and thus also of Gawesen, and the possibility of being cut off from Arthur, Barbara set out, quickly resolved, and moved with the little one first to Riga and later through half of Russia and half of Europe. We did not see her again for three years.

18.

The winter of 1914/15 had been cold and snowy. Then in spring there was a flood such as Mitau has not often experienced. First we had the magnificent sight of the breaking up of the ice on the Aa. Massive floes slowly set themselves in motion. Ever more joined them. They jam and pile through and over one another, they crash and splinter, push on, split upon the bridge piers. Between them gurgles dark water. For days on end hundreds marvel at the grand spectacle. And then the snowmelt comes. From all sides it trickles and murmurs and wells from countless rills that want to reach the Aa and, with it, the sea. But Mother Aa has not so much room, despite the wide bed and the many meadows all around. One day the whole Bachstraße, the proud, high-lying one, stands under water. Like a vast lake the flooded Aa valley stretches out. Our quiet Annenstraße too resembles, apart from the houses, the Canale Grande! What comical scenes there were! One could reach the houses in the flooded quarter only by boat. There stood or sat the oldest folk with very anxious, strained faces in the uncomfortable, makeshift skiffs and then had to climb into the house over runways. There was much laughter and jesting in it, for the Kurlander does not lose his good humor and quick wit even in the most unpleasant situations. After a few days the water dispersed. Soon it turned green and colorful with many flowers in the meadows and the wood.

19.

It grew quiet again in the land. After giving the Russians a thorough fright, the Germans had withdrawn

from Libau and the Windau line. The Russian officials returned, and many refugees and troops as well. People felt so secure from the Germans and celebrated this momentary victory over them with a great church procession. On 30 May the wonder-working icon of Our Lady of Kazan came especially for this, in an extra train to Mitau, conducted and received by priests and soldiers. A thanksgiving service was held in the Russian cathedral. Then, under the lead of holy images and church banners, by priests in gold-bedecked vestments with long beards and high caps, with music and military, it proceeded in solemn train through the city, in whose streets wild-looking Cossacks formed a guard of honor. The governor, His Excellency Nabokov, the heads of the authorities, generals and other high military men followed bareheaded. Some of our gentlemen with court charges also had to join. With stony facial expression, pale and deeply earnest, our resident district marshal, Baron Hahn-Platon, strode along. He was chamberlain to His Majesty the Tsar. But he was also a former German Uhlan, brought up at the cadet house in Dresden, a convinced Protestant, a German-Baltic patriot. Into what a conflict of conscience many of our Balts must have fallen can easily be imagined. The Latvian, German-hostile populace was glad over the "liberated" homeland. And now one had the "Kazan" here, and it was said that no enemy would ever again be permitted to tread the soil which she, the wonder-worker, had hallowed by her presence. How secure and confident could Russians and Latvians now look to the future! What was denied Russian feats of arms, that she, the wonder-worker, was to accomplish, namely the expulsion of the enemy from Curonian soil.

20.

The summer of 1915 passed quite quietly. People often saw one another and encouraged one another's courage. I spent interesting hours with the elderly, very original Fraulein von Tornow, who told with such wit of her richly eventful life and declaimed with swing. She had spent her youth in the Caucasus—her father had been governor there—had behind her day-long rides in the mountains, brigand adventures, and splendid festivities. With the von Hoerners of Ihlen and the von Hoerners of Sirmeln there were stimulating teas with music and recitations; at Marie von Fircks-Nogallen there was much politics. She was the soul of the prisoners-of-war relief, a forbidden, dangerous activity which, with great secrecy, she nevertheless continued undaunted, was able to send many clothes, much money to Moscow, whence the shamefully treated German prisoners of war were supplied. Later the Bolsheviks also threw Baroness Fircks into prison and she died of the consequences of typhus, which she caught there. Unforgotten too are the dear ladies Fircks-Dorthesen, the one overflowing with spirit and wit, the other warm-hearted and philanthropic, both ever hospitable and glad to see one. Some small refreshment the old servant himself brought even in the scantiest times. And then the ninety-year-old, quick-living, lively little abbess of the noble Bismarck maidens' foundation, Baroness von Behr, née von Rüdiger, mother of Marie Fircks! She had an interest in everything, ruled with a firm hand over her twenty ladies, gave nice coffees, and otherwise mostly sat at her elevated seat at the window of the foundation, whence the coming and going on Palaisstraße was observed. Great indignation is said once to have reigned in the strict-foundation when a stork pair picked the high gable roof for its nest. All Mitau laughed! In earlier years young people had allowed themselves many a jest toward the ladies, for example a nocturnal serenade before the windows of the venerable maidens. As the ladies were disturbed in their sleep and it was Passiontide besides, the little abbess demanded that the respective culprits apologize. Contrite, a bit hungover, and very ashamed, the squires then presented themselves to her and fetched their absolution. With Marie von Fircks-Rudbahren and Ina von Keyserling-Tels-Paddern I regularly read Chamberlain's "Foundations of the Nineteenth Century," in order to distract our thoughts and exercise our memory. We worked through at home the material covered, thoroughly, and in the next hour had in turn to render the reading in brief,

clear form. That was useful and stimulating and gave us great joy. From the brothers we had good news. Arthur was used permanently in the rear area, Georg stood with his hussars mostly opposite Austrian troops, among whom Czechs and other Slavs came over, and against whom the fighting was not over-dangerous. Unfortunately my cousin Wendt von Kleist fell, from a head shot, during the advance in the Carpathians. Philipp von Hahn, Barbara's brother, also had to lay down his young life there. The young Jürgen von Hahn of the Linden family, Lucien's brother, was so badly wounded by a kidney shot that, after a long malady, he died of it in Finland.

21.

Our little garden, closely hemmed in by walls and houses, on Annenstraße, was much used. The idyllic calm came to an end, however, when Russian billeting was assigned to the upper, vacant apartment of Mr. von Ascheberg, who too had been deported. A staff with many officers and soldiers moved in. There was now a constant coming and going, running up and down the stairs. Iron discipline prevailed. The consumption of alcohol was strictly prohibited, a salutary measure which I would have wished the German army too! In the whole first year of the war, among the many thousands of Russian soldiers, I did not see a single one intoxicated, nor the least insubordination or lack of smartness. Honor to the truth! Properly, willingly, cleanly, and modestly the good-natured, childlike Russian soldiers behaved with us. With relentless severity the superiors proceeded at the slightest offense. How I started one day as I entered my room! It was at ground level toward the garden. The window was open, and right before this window, staring into the last corner of the room, stood a soldier in full kit, with shouldered rifle, motionless, straight and smart. What was the meaning of this? The poor fellow had to stand two hours' punishment and had been posted right before my window. I felt so sorry for him that I brought him some candies. The Russian soldiers were so unassuming and unspoiled that one could give them great joy with a bit of white bread, tobacco, or candies. Wordlessly and alarmed, however, he shook his head and glanced meaningfully toward a nearby post, upon which I then laid the little packet. After he had stood off his two hours, he fetched it and disappeared with a grateful smile. As much as we had to suffer under the measures of the police and civil authorities, who in consequence were also hated, especially the notorious gendarmerie, so well, in general, did one get along with the frontline troops, for whom one felt so sorry. The brave lads were driven ruthlessly to the slaughter bench. Only the Cossacks we feared. Fear-inspiring they looked, the wiry wild fellows on their small, nimble horses, with the defiant tuft of hair under the askew fur cap, the long lances, curved sabers, and nagaika, the chase-whip. In uprisings they danced mercilessly upon people's heads and quickly brought them to dispersal. When they rode through the streets, half standing in their high saddles, looking about defiantly, singing wild songs, whistling shrilly, and accompanying themselves on primitive instruments, everyone made way for them in a trice. We could readily imagine how they had behaved in East Prussia. To them the conquest of Berlin had been held out as near prospect. There they were to plunder to their heart's content. When these Asians rode into Warsaw, the first Western-European-looking city into which they came, they thought that at last this was Berlin. With the greatest difficulty could the officers restrain them from plundering. With us too they looked about very mistrustfully and would gladly have begun, since they imagined themselves in enemy land. They understood neither German nor Latvian, they had never seen Protestant churches with slender towers, the houses, the people looked so different—was this to be Russia?... The further summer advanced, the more nervous and expectant grew the mood. The suffering of the Baltic women Maddi von Hoerner-Blaese portrays very eloquently in her poem to the Reich German sisters: "Baltic Mothers."

Who is so proud as we in the world? Thus spoke you, German women!

Our sons set forth into the field from all German districts,

To conquer, to die, as God shall will! Yes, you are brave, and you endure silently,
You suffer for your country's honor— and yet, yet, we suffer more.
May God be gracious to us. Our sons are not among them!
Our sons, they lead in arms and gear Against you Asiatic hordes,
Our sons, they must, in the Russian army, murder their kinsmen.
And while they sacrifice their honest blood, hatred and fury pursue us all here,
Our honor, rights, and language are taken! Who helps the Balts? Who wipes out the disgrace?
Who hears our cry of pain: Our sons are not among them?!
In spirit you already see the victors, the laurel-crowned heroes,
You hear the sound of jubilant bells that announce to you victory and peace,
O think of us too on the Baltic shore, o think of the mothers in the Baltic land,
Who stand from afar, silent and weeping, who too in spirit see your sons,
The heroes so strong and free. And ours are not among them!

“Great experience makes reverent and firm at heart.”

Kaiser Wilhelm II.

22.

In July we noticed that it was becoming restless at the front. Unforgettable is, and remains, 31 July! It was very hot and dry. The retreat of the Russian troops began. There they came—cavalry, artillery, and then endless lines of brown infantry. Poor people! How dead-tired they looked, grimy, dust-covered, with red, bloated faces, parched, exhausted! They threw themselves down on streets and squares to catch their breath a little, yet nearer rolled the thunder of the cannon, ever more daringly German troops thrust forward, pursuing aircraft came. The chase began. The retreat—indeed the flight—of an entire army had a shattering effect. Despite the great joy in our hearts, we had heartfelt, personal compassion for these poor peasants' sons, who knew nothing of politics and Pan Slavist war aims, and who, thanks to poor leadership, were led from defeat to defeat. Now it had grown serious for us and our homeland, and now all the horrors of a retreat came upon us too: the hay harvest on the far bank of the Aa is set aflame so that it not fall into enemy hands. The great stores of timber on Seestraße, factories and other buildings, become a prey to the flames. The whole night it cracks and blazes. Burning beams crash down, walls burst, flames shoot up out of the ruins, thick swathes of smoke creep over streets and houses. Here there are demolitions, there scorched earth. The fire brigade is not allowed to extinguish, the police have been withdrawn, no one puts a stop to the looting. Cossacks have seized alcohol and go yelling, robbing, and saber-swinging through the streets. The head of a simple woman in our neighborhood is struck off. And ever nearer comes the din of battle. In wild panic Latvians and Russians flee with bag and baggage. One overcrowded train after another is sent off, cars, wagons, and carriers' cabs are loaded at utmost speed, hordes of refugees tramp eastward on foot to escape the “German atrocities.” Our faithful Marri, egged on by desperate siblings, packs all her things into her large, self-woven shoulder-cloth, swings the heavy bundle on her back, and leaves the city, loudly weeping, on foot. We never saw her again. Whether she, like so many, perished somewhere in inner Russia in hunger, misery, and homesickness? There is no holding back any more! What a day, that unforgettable 1 August 1915! The sun burns and is darkened by all the smoke and soot. It cracks and rumbles and trembles. Into the blasting there booms and rolls the heavy gunfire; the shells of the field howitzers hiss and whistle. As if hell were let loose! The club proprietor from whom we daily fetched our meals has left Mitau. To scout out another possibility of dining, I set out in the forenoon. The streets are deserted. No one dares go out. The regular Russian troops

have withdrawn; only a few demolition squads and marauders dart through the streets. Here a drunken Cossack staggers by, swinging his curved saber with whoops. There plundering soldiers clamber about in the ruins of a blown-up munitions depot. The entire front wall has been torn away; one can see into all the floors, as if a giant knife had slit the house from top to bottom. It is so uncanny that I hasten home as quickly as possible. Luckily we live in a stone house. Most houses in Mitau are of wood and so old that there is great danger of fire, since the city is burning at all corners and ends, no one is extinguishing, it is hot and dry, and on top of that bombs and shells strike in. God be thanked that it is perfectly wind still! Many neighbors flee into our solid house. Suddenly a bang so that the very foundations quake! The great iron railway bridge flies into the air with a mighty crash. A heavy shell strikes a few paces before our house on Annenstraße. I am just standing at the window to peer out—only for a moment; in the next instant all the panes fly clattering and splintering into the room, and I, likely from air pressure and fright, like a ball into the farthest corner of the room. So, now we have no windowpanes any more and live on the ground floor! A pleasant situation if it comes to further looting or even street fighting! Thus hour upon hour passes in dreadful suspense. The projectiles fly to and fro over our quiet Mitau. One hears them draw near clearly with an uncanny whistle. One listens tensely whether they pass on. Praise God! Yes, they are past us; then comes the thundering impact! And then the rattle of machine guns, tak, tak, tak, tak—very fast and sharp—and this cracking of whips, what is that? Ah yes, rifle shots. Whole volleys, now single ones, quickly one after another. We have long since closed the inner wooden shutters. We are in the very midst of the tumult of battle! What frightfully anxious hours! Any moment our house too could be hit, burying us under the ruins; or we could be cut down if the Cossacks return. Many a fervent silent prayer rises from a heart racked with anguish up to God. There—does not the pavement before our house resound with countless, nail-studded boots? Rapid and in step it comes near from hundreds of footfalls! My God, is this the hand-to-hand struggle, the fighting man against man for each house, for each corner?... In rigid horror we look at one another wordlessly. No one stirs. Then I steal to the window, peer cautiously through a crack in the shutter outside... Great God—can it be, can it really be: “Pickelhaubes! The Germans are here!”—A half-choked cry of joy! All rush to the windows, tear open the shutters, stare out, cannot believe it, cannot grasp that it has become reality for which one yearned in longing. Yes, they are the Germans, the heroes! Battle-trying assault troops fill the streets. They take cover in our gateway; they bring up a machine gun. “A munitions cart forward!” rings out the clear, rasping voice of the officer. For the first time in seven months a German call sounds loud and clear in Mitau! Already the ammunition is on the spot. Before our house I see the first machine gun fire, across the Aa, after the fleeing Russians. For a few moments we are speechless at the unaccustomed, scarcely-to-be-hoped-for. Then the tension dissolves. We fall into each other’s arms, we weep, exult, laugh, give thanks! My father stands immovable and wordless at the window. His eyes are full of tears, of which he is not ashamed. Out there they are, our kinsmen, our rescuers in utmost need, Germany’s sons of valor! Now it no longer holds us in the house. What does it matter that the battle still rages outside? That projectiles strike? We are delivered; we are saved! All rush out, despite the officer’s warning. The soldiers are quite astonished at the cheering and at once weeping people who press the powder-blackened hands, bring them beer and lemonade, water, cigars, fruit, and who knows what else. The captain gives a manly address: they were in friends’ country, had come as helpers and saviors, and had been received with open arms. Now they were to do honor to the German name as well, behave properly, and keep discipline. We hurry to the market. From all houses jubilant people pour. People embrace and kiss each other in the street; they shake the hands of complete strangers. Everything is full of troops. In a trice they are there by the thousands—cavalry, artillery, infantry—and ever more come. They laugh and wave, though they are worn out by the forced

marches. Almost all are decked with flowers. And they sing: "Dear Fatherland, mayst calmly be" and "Gloria, Victoria, with heart and hand for the Fatherland!" Is it possible that one can experience such glorious things?! How proud and valiant they stride along, how the eyes laugh in the dust- and sweat-covered face! Yes, so do victors look! Oh, how different the fleeing Russians looked only yesterday, with their tired, hunted, hopeless eyes! The victor's psychosis seizes us all. We sing along, we press around the guns, we watch the fat "Max" that on the marketplace flings its 21-centimeter suitcases over the town hall after the Russians. The roof tiles fly down from the air pressure. It patters and cracks, but we know no fear any more. Now and then a Russian shell still strikes, but how should it hit us—us happy, delivered people? What is there not all to see! There comes the goulash cannon. Hey, how it tastes to the exhausted! They camp out on the pavement, rest, feast, jest, and all are full of pride and confidence of victory. We learn that the assault on Mitau had not been ordered until 2 August. The Sunday before was still to be rested a little. One had, some 20 kilometers from Mitau, paraded in the forenoon for divine service. Then comes the flyer's report: "Mitau is burning; the Russians are blowing up and destroying everything. Immediate help necessary." The service is broken off. In forced marches and steady fighting with Russian rearguards it goes forward. At 5 o'clock they are there. They have done it this time too. The Russians flee; the left bank of the Aa is free! Happy beyond desire, firm and dreamless as a child I slept after the enormous experiences of the last twenty-four hours. That was the finest day of my life thus far. That there was such happiness on earth! Courland, the beloved homeland, German! Black–white–red flags over Mitau, the old ducal city! German lockstep, German song and sound in the streets! The inconceivable had become reality. "Now thank we all our God with heart and mouth and hands"—yes, out of innermost conviction we sang that with the many field-grays in the thanksgiving service which, after a few days, was held in our beautiful old Trinity Church by the military chaplain. (To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family von Kleist

Number 6

März 1937

News from the Family

Report on the Family Day

Thanks to the efforts of Cousin Berndt, rooms were at our disposal this time for the Family Day such as we could hardly have imagined more worthy and beautiful, and it was doubly gratifying that in these large, fine rooms an especially imposing number of female cousins and cousins had gathered. In the former officers' casino of the 1st Guards Field Artillery Regiment, today the Officers' Home of the War Academy, no fewer than 53 female cousins and cousins took part in the meeting and the meal.

These were: Gunnar and Carmen-Angola, Hermann Conrad-Kl. Dubberow, Ewald-Schmenzin, Rudolf and Gertrud-Jeseritz, Ernestine-Zützen with her four children, Leopold and Luise-Berlin together with their four children, Georg from Gr. Tychow, Ernst-Berlin, Karl Friedrich-Guben, Peter Christian-Möthlow, Sigrid and Jarislaf from Damen, Hans Jürgen-Kieckow and son Konstantin, Emmy-Charlottenburg and daughter Maria Corona, Ella-Stolp with children Berndt and Anna Luise, Joachim and Charlotte, Kurt and Gudrun-Kamissow together with children Karl Georg and Elisabeth, Leo-Drenow, Jürgen and Helene-Vietzow, Isa-Lindow, Ewald and Gisela-Breslau together with son Ewald, Ewald, airshipman, Robert-Wusseken, Ewald and Käthe-Zehlendorf together with sister Hildegard, Anna-Blankenburg and son Wilhelm, Ewald and Margarete-Wendisch Tychow together with daughter Ortrun.

After, as always, the departed had first been commemorated, and joy had been expressed at being able, for the first time, to welcome in our midst two representatives of the branch of the Krummensee line newly taken up in the previous year, the chairman commemorated His Majesty the Emperor and King. The family's loyalty and gratitude had already been expressed on 27 January at the same time as the announcement of the Family Day. The telegram from His Majesty that was received in response was read out. It runs:

"To the members of the family von Kleist assembled for their Family Day this year I send my greeting. In so doing I gratefully remember the great services that the Kleists have rendered to King and Fatherland through the centuries. Wilhelm R."

In the closest connection with the foregoing the chairman communicated what reasons had moved him and the provincial committee of the Department of Hinterpommern of the D. Adels-G. to pass the resolution to dissolve the provincial department.

Further telegrams and greetings had been received from the female cousins Ruth-Stettin and Maria-Groß Tychow, the cousins Ewald-Karthan and Wolf Friedrich-Groß Tychow, as well as from the officers' corps of the Kleist Grenadiers and His Excellency von Tschischwitz. Thanks to all senders for their remembrance!

Rendering of accounts. In accordance with the resolution of the previous year, the fiscal year was changed over to the calendar year, so that the closing extends over one and a half years, i.e. over the period from 1. 7. 35 to 31. 12.

36. In this time

the receipts of the Main Fund were	11,701.79 RM,
the expenditures	11,370.95 “,
the cash balance on 1. 1. 37	330.84 RM.

The total assets of the family amount today to:

Main Fund	71,273.40 RM.
Daughters' Foundation	19,224.99
Raddatz Foundation	3,387.22
Total =	93,885.61 RM.

Unfortunately today a full third of the receipts is swallowed up by the corporation tax and, since at the same time the claims on the receipts are continually increasing as a result of growing need, particularly in the Baltic region, it is difficult to do even approximately justice to the demands made, and some member of the family must stand back or yield precedence to others more in need.

Cousin Kurt-Kamissow had examined the books and accounts and found them accurate, so that discharge could be granted to the board. Cousin Kurt had at the same time asked to be relieved of the office of auditor, and so the Family Day elected Cousin Hans Jürgen of Kieckow in his stead. Thanks are due to Cousin Kurt here as well for the decades-long faithful exercise of this thankless office!

Contributions. Despite the situation just described, things shall for the present remain at the previous contributions, i.e. at 20 or 5 RM. All the more we ask for punctual remittance to account 211 at the District Savings Bank Belgard, Großtychow branch, under: “Main Fund of the Family Association von Kleist.” The District Savings Bank has post check account: Stettin 8 700. To this contribution there comes 1 RM each for the Newsletter, so that the amounts actually to be paid are: 21 or 6 RM.

Those who receive the Newsletter but do not belong to the Family Association are likewise requested to pay the subscription price of 1 RM to the above-named account.

All depositors are urgently requested to identify themselves as clearly as possible, that is, to state first names and other distinguishing marks.

Raddatz Foundation. The inquiries have shown that the eldest entitled person in the family is Cousin Colonel (ret.) Hermann in Braunschweig. The payments from the foundation will therefore in future be remitted to him.

Personal status.

In the past half-year our personal status has changed as follows:

Engaged in December: Fides (p. 34) to Freiherr Werner (p. 27)

Married: on 4. 8. 36 Ruth Maria (p. 30) to First Lieutenant and Adjutant in Reiter Regiment 18 in Cannstatt, Max von Groll,

on 3. 10. 36 Freiherr Eugen (p. 26) in Buffalo, North America, to Elisabeth Louise Lienert.

Deceased: on 18. 12. 36 Freifrau Carola (p. 27), on 15. 1. 37 in Berlin Lilly, née Müller (p. 37),

Changes of addresses, additions, etc.

Page 8 Hans Jürgen, Berlin W 15, Joachimsthalerstraße 14 hp. r, Page 18 Baroness Cäcilie, Dresden, Lindengasse 26,

Page 20 Freiherr Ernst, married 6. 2. 20 in Berlin to Lilly Maud Kirchner, born Berlin 22. 11. 89.

“ 23 Peter Christian, lieutenant of the reserve.

“ 24 Jarislaf, sergeant of the reserve 6/32 Field Artillery Regiment Deutsch Krone.

“ 26 Eugen, Buffalo, N. Y. Mariner Street 174.

“ 27 Freiherr Karl, Wiesbaden, Thelemannstr. 5.

“ 32 Joachim, Frankfurt/O, lieutenant of the reserve Infantry Regiment 8.

“ 38 Deodat, resident farmer in Faßberg via Unterlüß, Hanover. Our female cousin Ruth (p. 24) celebrated the completion of her 70th year on 4. 2. in Kieckow.

A young Lothar von Kleist from Berlin has approached us with a request for a piece of family-historical information. His father was the graduate engineer and captain (ret.) Karl Hermann v. Kleist, born on 20. 1. 1890 at Posen; his mother is née Urban. The grandparents were: Karl v. Kleist, landed proprietor, and Auguste Viktoria v. Blücher. The former is deceased, last resident in Posen; the grandmother is still living in Hanover. In the Family History nothing is to be found about these Kleists. Can anyone provide information about them?

Female cousin Maria Luise König, née Baroness von Kleist (p. 27), had inquired whether, in view of the shortness of her marriage, there was any objection on the part of the family to her intention of resuming her maiden name. The board has answered this question in the negative.

Further, two brothers Frank in Munich inquired whether the Family Association would have anything to object to their bearing the double name "Frank-v. Kleist." The board has given the gentlemen a negative reply. The following is the basis of the request. The father of the two gentlemen, deceased in the year 1928, was the son of Mrs. Jeanette Frank, née Baroness von Kleist, born 1832 in Susten. Before her death she had asked the son to add her maiden name to the father's name and to bear the name Frank-v. Kleist. The father complied with this wish, which had already on various occasions led to disagreements with the authorities. The sons now intend to ask the guardianship court for authorization to bear the double name and hoped thereby also for consent from the Family Association. There is, however, no sufficient ground to grant this.

Addresses. We again urgently request that changes of address and of personal status be communicated to the chairman. This applies especially to the young members of the Family Association.

Family history matters. As female cousin Ruth, Stettin, Pölitzerstraße 103, informs us, the 2nd volume of "Pomeranian Biographical Sketches" will shortly appear at the publishing house Saunier in Stettin, Mönchenstraße. It contains a very well written biographical sketch of Hans Hugo v. Kleist-Retzow. Members of the family will be supplied with this volume at a preferential price. Female cousin Ruth requests that, in any order, reference be made to her.

The book by Mr. Witte, "The Pomeranian Conservatives," contains much of value on the same personage.

The monument to Ewald Christian in Frankfurt/O has been made over to the Family Association by the Johannes Lodge "Zum aufrichtigen Herzen" there. The Association has thereby assumed its maintenance.

Mr. Rogozinski, royal superintendent (ret.) in Rostock, has written a detailed essay on Ewald Christian with particular treatment of his school years in Deutsch Krone. The Family Association was able to acquire several letters of the later General Field Marshal Count Kleist von Nollendorf to the Minister of State Count von Lottum, as well as a memorial pamphlet in his honor from the year 1823.

With the family von Hertzberg the family histories were exchanged.

Through the mediation of Cousin Ewald in Breslau we received "Memories of the Family von Kleist in Castle and Town of Sagan," compiled by Mr. Rector (ret.) G. Michael. This concerns in particular contacts of the well-known Elisa von der Recke, née Countess von Medem, with the family and almost throughout the likewise poetizing Legation Councillor Franz v. Kleist. A letter preserved in Sagan and attributed to the poet Heinrich does not originate from him, however, but from the Nollendorfer.

Collection of family photographs. We may consider it as essentially concluded, at least insofar as the photographs from our houses come into question. Otherwise, of course, we shall continue to strive to track down Kleist pictures and are grateful for indications of such.

To the photographs named in No. 5 the following are to be added: III, 823/99 together with wife and children, son of the same Bruno Alexander, 824/100 twice, 825/100, 826/100, wife of 695/105, 556/108, the same, older, together with wife, 699/108 and wife, two photographs of his son Ernst, son Ewald of 699 and wives Vera and Marie.

Unfortunately, the use of Mr. Bruchwitz to obtain prints will no longer be possible in future, because illness

prevents him. Negotiations are under way to win another gentleman for this.

Kleist Grenadiers. The officers' corps of the regiment had the great kindness to present the family with an engraving of the death of Ewald Christian. This is not the better-known one by Chodowiecki, but a very effective engraving after the design by Dähling from the year 1799. To the gentlemen our sincere thanks are again expressed here! Regrettably, Mr. von Frankenberg was prevented by a military exercise from attending the Family Day.

Kleist Society. A great Kleist festival week in Bochum is owed to the activity of the Society. The essentials of it have become known through the newspapers. Mr. Professor Minde-Pouet had wished to give a more detailed report, but unfortunately he too was prevented from coming. He asks, however, to be able to say to the family at this place how much he is striving to expand and raise the Society to the honoring remembrance of Heinrich v. Kleist, and how much the membership of many family members is still lacking to him therein.

A larger commemorative celebration for Heinrich has also taken place in Frankfurt/O.

Miscellaneous. Even today it should be pointed out that we wish to try to increase cohesion in the family by following next year's Family Day with a breakfast to which those female cousins who have married out, together with their husbands, are also to be invited.

Supplement to the cartulary

Enfeoffment with the former Bonin estates of half of Naseband, Zarnekow, and Drenow (Records of the Imperial Chamber Court Rep. 23 B, 126 fol. 80 et seq.)

"We, Bogislaw, by God's grace at Stettin, Duke of Pomerania, Cassubians and Wends, Prince of Rügen and Count of Gützkow, acknowledge and attest before all that we have seen and recognized the manifold faithful, willing services which our honorable and capable councillor, the Vogt of Neuenstettin, and dear loyal Peter Kleist has often and many times gladly rendered to us, and may and shall render again in time to come; therefore also, by reason of particular favor and grace, we have given and lent to him and his heirs as a proper male fief such estates and escheats as have come to us and escheated to us from Hans Bonin, Anton's son, now deceased in God, namely half of Naseband, half of Czernekow, half of Drenow, and wherever else he further had right, and where in our lands his expectancy was; so that the said Peter Kleist and his heirs shall have, use, and possess the estates with all their appurtenances, usufructs and rights in woods, fields, meadows, pastures, hunting, fisheries, rents, mills, services, courts, the high and the low in hand and neck and all lordships, nothing excepted, as the late Hans Bonin previously and he thereafter have held and possessed them in the best and freest manner, as the estates all lie within their bounds and limits; we give, grant, and lend them to him and his heirs, as above set forth, in force and effect of this our letter, and have thereto given him, as introducer, the noble, honorable, our councillor and dear loyal Heinrich Borcke, knight, who shall bring him into the peaceable possession of the said estates. Also have we done the grace to the above-written our councillor and dear loyal Peter Kleist that we have lent to him his brothers and all his cousins the said estates to the joint hand, just as they have their other estates from us. Present with us herein were the noble, honorable, and capable our councillors and dear loyal Heinrich Borcke, knight, Werner von der Schulenburg, Bernhardus Ror, Nicolaus Kruse, Danlores Tamm von Scheninck, Dornick Ramel, Ewald von der Osten, Georg Kleist, and many more credible [men]. For further testimony our great seal is appended here. Dated Stolpe on the Monday before Dionysius after Christ's birth in the year fourteen hundred and eighty-five."

Biographical sketches of the new Krummensee branch

compiled by Agricultural Councillor (ret.) Helmuth v. Kleist-Zehlendorf.

Peter, died Krummensee 1683.

Since the old Krummensee parish register begins only with the year 1683, only the burial on 11 March 1683 is to be found there concerning him. In addition it is known of him that he studied and traveled much. Here, then outside the actual homeland, he is likely also to have married and to have had the son who appears in 1692 in Krummensee and thus also in its parish register. Peter's great-grandson, Christian II v. Kleist (1735/1809), names him, in a letter of 13 December 1795 to the government (see Prussian Privy State Archives, Dahlem), as his ancestor. The Director of the Landscape C. v. Kleist-Segenthin confirms, in a handwritten note of 10 October 1794 (see loc. cit. under

Danzig Dept. 91. 5571), the line of descent from Peter, d. 1683, up to Christian's son Jakob with the words that "this (line) corresponds with the family tree adopted by the whole family."

Christian I, married Krummensee 1692. The son of Peter married in Krummensee on Jubilate Sunday 1692 Anna Buchholtz. From which family of the Buchholtz (Bochholtz) she stems has not been established. From this marriage stems a son, Peter, who on Cantate Sunday 1693 is baptized in the church at Krummensee. Nothing is known of Christian's and his wife's deaths.

Peter b. 1693, d. 1775. He was baptized on Cantate Sunday in the Krummensee church. While still young he left Krummensee, after he had ceded his share of the estate, and went traveling. He had no desire for military service, his son says of him. As he soon thereafter got into debt and no longer had a home in Krummensee, he went as steward to the estate Prechlauermühl near Prechlau, district of Schlochau (12 houses). There he married on 17 January 1723 the daughter of the owner of Prechlauermühl, Christian Michael Radnus, Anna Eva Catharina, born there 27 November 1707. He had three children: Anna Marianne, b. 1729, Michael 1732, and Christian, b. 1735. Soon thereafter he bought the farm in Neuguth, district of Schlochau. On 28 January 1775 he died at a great age in Ostrowitt near Konitz in the house of his daughter Anna Marianne, who was married there, after he had previously already ceded the farm to his son Christian.

In place of a lecture at the Family Day we present below an essay which Mr. Dr. Eggers of the Pomeranian Provincial Museum in Stettin has kindly written for us. We thank him very much here as well for it. The essay is intended to supplement last year's lecture, which Mr. Professor Curschmann gave us, by making us acquainted with the present state of research concerning the times that precede the period treated last year, and concerning which precisely the last decades have brought much that is new and that overturns old views.

The population of East Pomerania in prehistoric and early historic times.

Written records in Pomerania do not go far back—scarcely 700 years have passed since, with the German colonization, a continuous tradition through chronicles and documents began. Some centuries earlier a scant light still falls by reports of ancient writers; further back even this ceases. For a long time one did not get beyond this boundary drawn by the written sources. Only a little over 100 years ago did people begin to find new ways to "extend history backward." At first it was linguistics that began to illuminate many long-ago facts. To it there joined, at first hesitantly, toward the end of the 19th century ever more zealously, prehistoric archaeology. Its sources are the finds from the soil—the weapons and tools, the graves and settlements of the people who inhabited Europe in prehistoric times.

It took a long time to come to clarity about the chronological layering of the objects found in a region (relative chronology!) and finally even to be able to provide the individual time stages with approximate years (absolute chronology!). Only around the turn of the century was the great coup achieved of reading the history of peoples from the finds. For this, exact observation of the find was the first prerequisite: a single prehistoric object, however well preserved, does not tell us very much; but if one knows the find spot, if possible also the find location within a district, and the exact find circumstances, it is a valuable source to us. If, for example, one plots on a find map all known objects of one time and one type, a sharply delimited distribution area often results. If this distribution area coincides with those of the other types of the same time, one can infer a uniform culture, which again presupposes a uniform people. If one then sets such maps of different time stages next to one another, one sees clearly how the one or the other cultural area expands or retreats, and one can thus draw conclusions concerning movements of peoples and historical events in prehistoric times. On the basis of this method (Kossinna!) it has been demonstrated for Pomerania that the first Germans, coming from Denmark, gained a foothold in Western Pomerania. That was in the older Bronze Age (about 1600–1200 before Christ's birth). In the preceding epoch of the younger Stone Age a Nordic wave had already once passed over Pomerania. The megalithic tombs, numerous in Western Pomerania, more sparse along the coast as far as the extreme east of our province, are their most impressive witnesses. But other cultures too were of importance for Pomerania in the younger Stone Age, in particular the "Oder corded pottery" culture, which at the beginning of the Bronze Age filled all East Pomerania. The land east of the Oder was

only in the younger Bronze Age (after 1200 before Christ's birth) occupied by the Germans, who advanced in a great thrust as far as the mouth of the Vistula. Soon the Germanic culture of the East German colonial soil split into several sharply distinct special cultures: stone cist graves with face and cap urns in the eastern part, urnfields in the western part are their most conspicuous characteristics. It will interest the readers of this paper that this division of the Germanic culture of East Pomerania was first recognized by Major Diether von Kleist, Wendisch-Tychow, who, in his capacity as custodian for antiquities, made available to provincial research a large body of material from the district of Schlawe.

Around 100 before Christ's birth (time of the Cimbrian march!) new Germanic tribes advanced into Pomerania from Scandinavia. In East Pomerania, the large burial grounds with cremation pits that contain bent iron swords, lances and shield parts, bronze and iron ornaments, remind us of them. We can now already name some peoples: Burgundians, Goths, and Rugians.

The first centuries after Christ confront us at first with many richly furnished graves, which, besides finely wrought Germanic ornaments, also contain Roman silver, bronze and glass vessels—witnesses of the wide trade relations of that epoch and the reason why even today we speak of a "Roman imperial period" in free Germania. It may have been these fine Roman objects as well that tempted many Germanic tribes of East Germany to move south and conquer the rich lands of the Roman Empire. For Pomerania this emigration is clearly discernible through finds that become ever more sparse. From the 6th century onward, datable finds then cease altogether.

Before the end of the 7th century, according to written reports, the Wends must then have immigrated into Pomerania. The oldest datable finds of the Wendish period, however, are to be placed still later.

Such, in brief, are the things that we know today about the population of Pomerania in prehistoric times. The anonymous character of prehistoric sources entails that we can speak only quite generally of peoples and tribes, but the personality of rulers or even individual outstanding families does not become graspable to us. As far as the origin of the Pomeranian nobility is concerned, the German lineages who immigrated in the period of colonization naturally drop out from our consideration at the outset. There then remain some lineages of ancient nobility who meet us in the oldest documents as Wendish magnates and who soon become Germanized by German culture and also through marriages. The question now is to what extent there are still blood connections between these Wendish noble lineages and the pre-Wendish Germanic population.

It may be assumed as probable that even during the purely Wendish period there were occasionally marriages between Wendish and Germanic nobility (Vikings)—even if in detail the proofs thereof can scarcely be provided. But the continued existence of Germanic noble lineages from the "Roman imperial period" must also be assumed as possible under certain circumstances. Already in the "imperial period" it is striking what a great difference there is in the furnishing of graves: alongside very rich ones, extremely poor ones; social contrasts will therefore certainly have existed then as well, and this is indeed confirmed by Roman and Greek writers. Very conspicuous, however, is that the sparse finds of the Migration period which we possess from Pomerania are, to a very high percentage, extraordinarily splendid: no epoch of prehistoric time has so many gold finds to show. This reinforces the impression that precisely the noble lineages were the last and autochthonous settlers of Pomerania. Depending on whether one assumes that the Wends came into the land as warlike conquerors and slew the last Germans, or rather that, as "seasonal workers" of the Germanic great men (who had been deserted by their Germanic followings!), they slowly "undermined" the land peacefully, one will take a negative or an affirmative stance on the question of the Germanic origin of a part of the Pomeranian ancient nobility. A solution can be hoped for only through a broader basis of the material of finds available to research, in particular the complete uncovering of "continuous" burial grounds.

By way of supplement it may be remarked that the Slavic immigration proceeded along the Elbe from Bohemia, and that later a Polish realm formed with its seat around Krakow under a Germanic prince named Samo. Nothing further can be said about this today.

War and Revolution Recollections 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

(4th continuation)

How the German liberators were also received in other Curonian towns is portrayed by Gertrud von den Brincken in her poem:

“Entry of the Germans into Tuckum.”

18 June 1915.

The town lay in fearful sleep

When a jubilant hoofbeat struck the pavement:

“The Germans, the Germans are coming!”

The houses shut, the streets empty.

And in the distance the fleeing Russian host

Which had heard the victor’s coming.

The hour is here that delivers the land,

That smashes the bars of the Slavic prison.

We have not suffered in vain

How imperiously the column moves through the streets,

On the young lips an ancient song,

And the waving flags in the midst!

Whatever bears a coat of arms in German districts,

Whatever still flames in noble hatred

As in the time of the battle-glad forefathers,

A proud eagle and a victorious falcon:

The cuirassiers of Pasewalk,

And there the Demmin Uhlans!

With steel-hard gaze they look up,

As free as Baldr, as daring as Thor,

Their sword as if taken from Siegfried.

Germanic heroes, an entire army...

Homeland, dear homeland, now weep no more!

The Germans, the Germans are coming!

23.

The high tension of feeling lasted a long time. But now there also came times of privation and hardship. So long as Russia’s hinterland with its virtually inexhaustible sources of help stood open to us, we had felt no lack whatever. On the contrary, foodstuffs and necessities had been plentiful and cheap. In Germany hardship had, to be sure, not yet arrived either, but nothing, or practically nothing, was sent into the many occupied territories; instead requisitions were made and purchases by officers and men, because it was cheaper with us. Thus we soon felt the lack of everything to which we were accustomed. Butter, milk, eggs and meat were scarcely to be obtained any longer. The depopulated countryside could not produce as much as was necessary to feed the towns and the large garrison. The open country had been greatly stripped of people, since thousands had fled and taken their supplies with them or had dumped them at far under price to peddlers. Worst of all was the lack of salt. One does not suspect how necessary it is in the household and how flat everything tastes without it. We were happy when good-natured soldiers let us barter a pound or two against something else. Sugar, too, was almost entirely lacking. Then stable lads sold us some of the brown, damp, oddly tasting horse sugar. We were glad to have it, but got used to doing without sugar and milk when drinking grain coffee, stoutly ate the horrible bread of beech bark and bran that soon turned up, with some undefinable jam or a little lard, if we could snag any. At first things went quite well; no one complained and lamented. One was proud to be able to forgo, to hunger and to suffer with Germany. With a certain

joyous patriotism and heroism one hungered. One was still well nourished and tolerated the involuntary fasting. But "length bears the burden." That proved true in this case as well. After some months, undernourishment made itself quite unpleasantly noticeable with us. To be sure, it is said to have been still much worse in Germany proper, for example in the turnip winter of 1916. The appalling consequences of the hunger blockade the German people will not have overcome in decades; this satisfaction the enemies can have, who indeed, by all means, worked toward total annihilation. Old Mitau had only a few houses with electric lighting. In all the others cozy petroleum lamps and candles were burned. Now, all at once, there was no petroleum and no candles; what was to be done? Only very few had supplies, and in the shops, of course, everything disappeared immediately, as it did with all items that became scarce. We now had to content ourselves, during the long, dark northern winter from 3 o'clock on, with very small, dim-burning, unpleasant-smelling oil lamps that burned so faintly that one could neither read nor write nor do any finer handiwork by them. That was a real trial! All the rest was bearable. But this daily, hours-long twilight hour in the one room, and complete darkness in all the others, this involuntary inactivity worked so paralyzingly and darkeningly on heart and mood that even today I must admire the steadfastness and self-overcoming with which this evil was borne. By tacit agreement, complaints about the unavoidable were considered contemptible. One would have been ashamed, in so grave a time, to yield to one's egoism and desire for comfort. We still had a little packet of good Russian stearin candles. Every evening at supper one was lit and burned until early bedtime. How one enjoyed the brightness that this one paltry candle gave! One could read and mend one's things; one fairly came alive then.

24.

When the German troops marched in on 1 August 1915 we had all hoped that the fleeing Russians would be pursued beyond the Dvina and that Riga too would be taken. That unfortunately did not happen. The front was already four kilometers from Mitau. That, under these circumstances, life was not cozy can well be imagined. Every day Russian fliers came and dropped their bombs on the Aa bridges, which had been restored by the German pioneers in astonishingly short time. They usually came very early in the morning, when the air was clear. Our house lay near the Aa. So we soon became accustomed to hearing, as a morning greeting, the crash of the bombs and the rattle of the anti-aircraft guns. Indeed, we were quite astonished and on edge for unpleasant surprises when they failed to appear. The youth skated calmly on the frozen Aa, unconcerned about the fliers and bombs. If the fliers became too intrusive and bombed the town by day as well, one simply stepped into a gateway for a while or pressed oneself against a row of houses. One was a complete fatalist: what is destined for us will come. Only keep calm. What God does is well done! Thus most people thought, and thus they acted.

But it was not only fliers who honored us with their visit. The Russian artillery also sent iron greetings. From the much nearer German front there sounded over almost unbrokenly the thunder of cannon and the rattle of machine guns. Attacks were made and repelled back and forth.

The front was considered very quiet, to be sure, compared to the West, but it "lived" nonetheless. By day and by night we were reminded of that. One evening, when things were lively again, I climbed with the Roennes to the attic of their tall house on Palaisstraße. How exciting that was! One saw the ascending light rockets, the flash of the guns, and only then, after a few seconds, heard the bang, could follow, by the distinct whistling, the course of the bullets and, by the distant crash, the impact. One heard the differently sounding rattle of German and Russian machine guns, the volleys of rifle fire, rapid fire, single nervous shots. "Dear Fatherland, be only confident; firm stands and true the watch in the East."

Thus I had composed even before the capture of Mitau:

"The Watch in the East."

Now it roars here too like peal of thunder,
Like clash of battle and surge on shore:
All-Germany draws near with strong hand,
It brings deliverance to the Baltic land!
It draws near with fire, iron, blood,

With German strength and German courage,
Hail to thee, band of heroes! come only confident!
Firm stands and true here too the watch in the East!
Still it stands firm, still it holds its ground,
The little band on the Baltic strand,
By grim foes threatened all around,
In peril of body and of soul,
Therefore loud and urgent sounds their cry:
“You brothers, saviors! hasten nigh!
We await you indeed, are confident of you:
Still we stand firm and true, we watch in the East!”
Through many hearts it quivers swift
And all eyes flash with bright uplift:
After bondage, scorn and bitter shame
At last the day of freedom came
The slave’s chain breaks in twain.
The Russian yields... soon we are free!
Hail to thee, my Fatherland, come only confident:
Exulting greets thee the watch in the East!

In August and September people met at the military concerts in the castle garden, where one saw troops of all arms. One strolled in the old alleys to the sound of snappy tunes and could have thought oneself in peace, had not thunder of cannon, now and then an enemy flier as a dot in the blue, and the grave on the edge of the highway to Riga reminded one of reality. A seamstress, namely, had been killed on the flight, with her sewing machine, her dearest possession, in her arms, by a shell, and buried on the spot. In August we had the joy of seeing my brother-in-law, Horst von Hartmann, show up at our house in Mitau one day, quite unexpectedly. Emaciated from unheard-of infantry fighting in the West, with thick black full beard and large horn spectacles, which were just coming into fashion then and disfigured people, he looked so changed that we scarcely recognized him. He stayed with us only very briefly, hurried to Talsen to fetch his children, Wolf and Gerda, who had found kindly reception there with the good Mrs. von der Osten-Sacken. For the 4- and 5-year-olds, at the time, sojourn in Mitau had been forbidden by the Russians.

25.

By degrees Mitau filled up with wounded and sick. In the swamps of Tirul and on the Dvina they had contracted rheumatism, pneumonias, and particularly kidney ailments in frighteningly large number. We visited them in the hospitals, brought them small refreshments and flowers, newspapers and books. We read to them, wrote their letters, chatted with them, let them tell of wife and children, of home and work, of fighting and war experience. Our hands were full. In the mornings I taught in the German Women’s League school; in the afternoons I took turns with the many ladies of our acquaintance at the soldiers’ home. The large Russian “Kruschok,” the society house, had been turned into a soldiers’ home. In the large rooms there was room for a few hundred men; men on leave, in transit, or needing rest went in and out there. For little money they could buy inexpensive coffee, lemonade, sandwiches, cake, tobacco and writing supplies. They could make music, get together for informal company, could rest, write, and take part in the several-weekly entertainment evenings that took place in the large hall and at which ladies of society and field-gray comrades sang to them and recited serious and light pieces. Our work now consisted, by turns, in hours-long “buttering of slices” or in service as saleswoman at the counter. Both were equally unfamiliar and strenuous. In factory-like speed hundreds of giant sandwiches had to be prepared and brought forward. Whole mountains of butter, cheese, sausage and ham were processed, not to speak of all the army loaves. The very slender, very poorly nourished ladies of Mitau did, many a time, have the water run in their mouths at the sight of all these delights that were unattainable for us. But when one had worked with them for hours, the pesky

hunger had passed. One was so glad when, now and then, one was allowed to buy army bread and take it home! Such a welcome improvement of the meager fare! One did not dare think of the seductive fat victuals. One would, after all, have deprived the field-grays of them, and for them the best was just barely good enough for us. In the entire time of my service in the soldiers' home I did not see a single act to personal advantage. I believe that this too exemplifies the spirit that reigned among us Balts at that time. If one had duties at the counter, one often had no time to collect oneself for hours. Uninterruptedly sandwiches and other desired things had to be handed over. Here someone wanted information, there money had to be given out or changed. This one wanted only East money, that one only marks; this one wanted to drink, that one to eat; this one to smoke; another to write and asked for ink and pen. And so it went on and on. The feet burned, the hands stuck, but eyes and throat burned from the biting smoke of many pipes, cigars, and cigarettes. And then the air! This sultry, stuffy effluvium lay like a nightmare on head and lungs. I often could scarcely breathe. Clothes and hair smelled of bad tobacco, tallow boots, wet clothes, sweat, grease, and cramped humanity. One truly made a sacrifice with this work, but one made it gladly, as a matter of course, without any reimbursement or compensation.

26.

People vied in service to the field-grays to whom they owed so much. All houses opened to them. No questions were asked about rank and station; plain Landwehr men were received with the same cordiality and Baltic hospitality as officers and noblemen. My father's cousin, Lulla von Behr, who lived in the noble Katharinenstift on Palaisstraße, had named her room: "Villa Rose, home for the homeless." All day it stood open to her field-gray friends. With a motherly heart she shared joy and sorrow with them. They could open up to her, seek counsel, tell their cares and troubles to an understanding, loving person, speak with a free, helpful German woman in the rough, brutalized time of war. What blessing went out from her little room! And on Sundays before the service one found her in the Quiet St. John's Churchyard at the grave of her parents, and could open one's heart to her there. To many the hours in the simple Baltic houses were dear and precious. More than one found his life's happiness and his life's companion in the occupied territory. The occupation also brought us many a restriction of our personal freedom. We were, for example, allowed to write letters neither in the land itself nor to Germany or abroad, were not allowed to use the railways, and were pretty much cut off from the world. Added to this, when combat activity increased, came the curfew from 3 o'clock in the afternoon. One had then to sit in one's half-dark apartments and was not allowed to visit. On my soldiers' home days I was fetched by the orderly and brought home again. One really felt oneself to be a prisoner. But that must have been as it was! Unfortunately, very many field-grays, officers as well as men, did not distinguish the Balts from the Latvians. With the latter too friendships and love affairs were quickly struck up, contrary to our urgent warnings, for we knew the German-hostile, treacherous character of the Latvian. This foolish German credulity and trustfulness hindered the success of the conduct of the war quite considerably. Every plan, every troop movement or reinforcement, in short, every movement of the front army, was immediately known on the Russian side by means of spies, as was often confirmed to us by officers. The soldiers' home was run by Mr. Tebbe with zeal and prudence. He was a major in the Salvation Army and therefore a great friend of singing and playing. One day he asked me whether I would not like to recite something for some men on leave. I could neither sing nor play, but I could do stirring poems that aptly reflected the Balts' distress, hope and trust. I would gladly bring those to them, if only it were a small circle of people content with that. Yes, that would be a joy to the soldiers, he requested it. At the appointed hour I arrive. Tebbe receives me, leads me up a dark steep stair, opens a door; I stand on a stage in the great hall. It is quite full with perhaps a hundred or more men who, head to head, are waiting expectantly for the reciter. A pleasant moment! I could have crawled away! That did not do, however; I had to put a good face on the bad game and step forward, although it was quite contrary to the agreement. Tebbe held a little address: that a dear young friend wished to give the comrades a pleasure and recite Baltic poems to them, etc.; that they should sing her a fine song in return. Which did she wish? I asked for "O Deutschland, hoch in Ehren!" and soon from many strong throats it rang through the hall: "Hold out, hold out in the storm's uproar!" I felt quite solemn. Then I stepped forward and recited to them, who were before Riga, so near that one saw the church towers over the swamps and woods, the poem that—who knows by whom originating? who knows how and through whom?—had penetrated to us from Riga like a cry from utmost distress:

Brothers, we wait for you!
Tormented in uncertainty
We listen for your greetings
Day and night.

Brothers, each keeps watch!
How long are we not yet yours?
How long does the fire still separate us?
Does the stream separate us?

Brothers, the cathedral greets you.
Even though they robbed us of the bells,
Our hearts exult In your victory!

Brothers, the war unites us,
Mockingly they broke the faith,
Masterless are we anew,
Await the Lord!

My initial embarrassment passed. One poem after another told them of Baltic nature and hope. Perhaps to more than one of them it became clear for the first time on how ancient-historical German soil they were standing. With a common song and a few words of thanks from Tebbe my first public appearance concluded quite harmoniously. It had gone better than I had feared and even brought me strong applause.

27.

On 16 October 1915, a cold, gloomy autumn day with early frost, a German offensive was to push back the Russian front so as to free Mitau, which had become the rear area, from the dangerous proximity of the combat zone. With great tension we awaited this day. My father in particular found no rest. Early in the morning he rose and went out even before coffee, to follow with his field glass, with the greatest interest, the beginning and course of the battle. He distinguished exactly whether they were Russian or German guns, Russian or German machine guns and rifle shots. He could walk up and down for hours in Bachstraße, look out over the Aa into the wide, flat land, listen to the noise of the front, observe aircraft and tethered balloons, and try to make himself a picture of the course of events. Quite frozen through, and in an unusual inner agitation, he came home for morning coffee. He was so cold that he did not take off his winter coat, but kept it on for coffee and during joint morning devotion. "It is so cold and unfriendly outside today; do not go out again," my mother said to him when he wanted to set out immediately once more; but nothing could hold him back. Driven by inner restlessness, he wanted to go again. Quite briefly he spoke again of the impending battle, folded his hands very tightly, and said, with a voice trembling from excitement and a deep sigh: "Ah God! Grant them the victory!" Those were the last words, in consciousness, that we heard from him. He went out. About an hour later Mrs. von Hoerner-Irmeln came to us quite distraught: something had happened to my father. She had found him on Schlossstraße. She had seen a crowd of people, stepped up, heard someone say that an old gentleman had just collapsed there, whom no one knew. Then she recognized my father. A few steps away stood the house of his notary, with whom he had, only very recently, changed his will. The procurator had soon thereafter died. Mrs. von Hoerner now asked the latter's widow for permission to have my father carried in until we could be notified. I could not grasp all this at all! Mama and I stood quite uncomprehending. Too unexpected, too unprepared, this blow struck us. We children had never known our father other than as a hale, lively man who detested every illness, every self-observation, and whose death we had in fact never seriously thought of, he seemed to us so long-lived and tough. And now this! I cannot go into it more closely; the shock was too great. And yet I had to pull myself together in order to arrange everything necessary, since we had no close male relative in Mitau and nothing could be demanded of Mama. So I went with Mrs. von Hoerner to fetch Papa. Only

when I was alone with him and saw him lying there, so peaceful and still, so near and yet so far, did it become truly clear to me that he was really dead, that we had lost him for good. God had taken him to Himself out of full life, as he had so greatly wished. He had spared him illness, suffering, and toilsome infirmities of age, had spared him also witnessing later the collapse of his beloved Germany, the destruction of his Curonian homeland, as well as complete impoverishment and all the horrors that came over Russia, Germany, and the Baltic land. The bearers came. We lifted him onto the bier, covered him, and carried him home. When the bearers tired, we asked two soldiers to help carry. A gust of wind lifted the sheet. They saw the dead man. "Ah, it is the old gentleman who, scarcely half an hour ago, spoke with us and asked us all sorts of things. He is dead now!" said the one. Near and distant thunder of cannon rumbled over to us. Thus we bore my father home. Until the burial on 29 October, three weeks after his 76th birthday, we kept Papa at home. In the overcrowded St. John's churchyard I had found a quiet little place. Thither we led him. A large mourning congregation followed, some field-grays as well, who, together with Baltic corps brothers, had donated a wreath with broad dark blue-white-light blue ribbon in the name of the Corps "Saxonia" in Göttingen. A Russian flier circled high above us. Would we be favored with a bomb? Many mourners pressed themselves against the houses and sought cover. The flier must have recognized what sort of procession it was. He does not drop a bomb, but moves away. Then a cab turns the corner of Palais- and Annenstraße at a gallop. It stops; a gentleman jumps out: Eduard! Now I no longer need to make the long way alone! The news of Papa's death had just reached him. As quickly as possible he had hastened to Mitau and arrived just as the funeral procession set in motion. Where were the others?! Arthur, Georg and Barbara in Russia. Since the occupation of Mitau we had heard nothing further from them, did not know whether the brothers had not already fallen. We had of course not been able to send news of the father's death. Only much later did it penetrate to them as a rumor. Kurt lay ill and forsaken in Leysin; Margarete was in Dresden. All that weighed heavily upon us! At last we were at the churchyard! Far from his forebears and his own soil in Susten our father was laid to rest. Peace be with him!

(To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 7

August 1937

News from the Family

Married: on 14 May in Wendisch Tychow Sigrun (p. 4) to Rudolf v. Bandemer (Selesen).

Deceased: on 3 May in Schmenzin Anning, née v. d. Osten (p. 7).

Promotions and changes of address:

Page 21 Dr. Lienau, Berlin-Südende, Hanstedter Weg 7.

Ewald, captain in Inf. Regt. 105, Trier, Kurfürstenstr. 18.

Karl Friedrich, ensign NCO in Inf. Regt. 29 in Guben, at present War Academy Hanover.

“ 23 Peter Christian, Berlin-Halensee, Kurfürstendamm 152, entrance I.

“ 27 Baroness (Freifrau) Emmy and daughters, Charlottenburg, Wundstr. 68/70.

“ 28 Baroness (Freiin) Rita, 613 N Washington Street, Baltimore (MD) USA

“ 29 Elisabeth, Hamburg 26, Ankelmannstraße 103, III.

“ 36 Hans Ewald, Rittmeister and detailed to the War Academy (Berlin).

“ 38 Artur, Rittmeister (ret.), chief of police in the Police Presidium Berlin (Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Wilhelmsaue 128).

v. Manteuffel, major in the Reich War Ministry (Berlin-Charlottenburg, Kaiserdamm 5).

“ 39 Ewald, ensign in Cav. Regt. 9.

“ 40 Ewald (airshipman), Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Landhausstr. 37.

Other news: Of interest to the family is that Cousin Sigurd, in the course of his horse pre-inspection journeys, was able to establish that in the Frontier March a larger number of peasant families live who call themselves von Kleist. These must be further descendants of the Krummensee line.

Family pictures: Through the mediation of the Pomeranian Provincial Museum we received a photograph of the picture of Primislaus Ulrich v. Kleist, major general and commandant of the fortress of Kolberg, which depicts him as shooting king of 22 May 1771. The original belongs to the Kolberg marksmen's guild.

Furthermore, through Cousin Alexandra Kück we received the pictures of Christian Ewald, lord of Grünhof in Courland 1630–1708 (Vol. 3, p. 68) and of Friedrich Casimir, founder of the family entail Susten-Kreutzberg, Apsen-Leegen and Kerklingen-Dobelsberg, 1693–1762 (Vol. 3, p. 81). From photographs, the pictures of Baron Dietrich Kleist-Keyserlingk of Gawesen 1812–1878 and his wife Ida,

née Baroness v. Ascheberg–Kettler of the house Essem, 1818–1903 (Vol. 3, p. 88).

Historical: We already wish today to draw the attention of the family members to the fact that in the near future in Pomerania a subscription drive will be undertaken for a work that very much concerns our family as well. A Dr. phil. Sauer has written it on: “The Nobility during the Settlement of East Pomerania, 1250–1350.” As contents he himself states: “Since Pomerania has once again become a borderland, scholarly research has been dealing more and more with the questions that arose from the new situation of the present. History, too, must make its contribution. A major role in this is played by the re-settlement of Pomerania, to which no larger investigation has been devoted for a generation. The work named above is now intended to fill this gap in part. The question of the origin of the knightly lineages named in the Persante, Wipper, and Stolpe lands up to 1350 formed the starting point of my investigations. For this reason the literature on the East Pomeranian nobility from Bugenhagen to the present had to be reviewed. The first part therefore describes the working methods and reliability of the individual researchers. In addition, in detail extensive collections of sources and engagements with previous research were necessary. The question of the origin of the von Borcke, von Kameke, von Natzmer, von Puttkamer and von Kleist required therefore larger special studies, which are summarized in the concluding part.

In these labors it emerged that the main part of the East Pomeranian knightly families immigrated from or via Middle and West Pomerania—German as well as native Pomeranian lineages. Therefore in the second part, which presents the political contexts under which the immigration took place, I had to take very substantial account also of the overall Pomeranian circumstances. A contribution to the history of the nobility is provided in this section by the compilation of the knightly lineages named in East Pomerania up to 1350, which has hitherto been grounded in sources neither by Bagmihl and von Mülverstedt nor by Elzow or Klempin and Kratz in the way I have done it. At the same time I gave the first documentary mention of the estates of these families, insofar as they became known to me.

Finally, in the third part the legal and economic conditions of the knightly estate for the period of settlement were presented. Here, too, all of Pomerania had to be taken into consideration, because (1) the sources are very scant for the administrative district of Köslin treated primarily in the second part, and because (2) East, Middle, and West Pomerania in this period do not differ essentially from one another in legal and economic areas.

Thus we have to cut this work, which for the first time has not examined a single noble lineage but the estate within certain regions, according to the above overview into two parts: the descriptive one, which deals with the events and the legal basis of the period of re-settlement of Pomerania, and the part that deals with the tradition and at the same time provides a contribution to Pomeranian noble historiography.”

The subscription drive referred to above has the purpose of making possible the printing of this work by pre-order of a certain number. The pre-order price for the 264-page book, with five single-color and one multi-color map, bound in full cloth, will be ten RM, and we here already express the hope that, should the subscription drive become a fact, a larger part of our family members will pre-order the book.

Biographical sketches of the new Krummensee branch

compiled by Agricultural Councillor (ret.) Helmuth v. Kleist–Zehlendorf.

Christian II. He was born on 3 April 1735 at the estate Prechlauermühl near Prechlau, district of Schlochau, as son of Peter v. Kleist. He later took over the paternal farm at Neuguth and in 1764 married at Grabau, district of Schlochau, the daughter of the leaseholder of a knight’s estate, Royal Prussian Senior Bailiff Becker, Maria Andrea, born in Grabau on 18 March 1739. From this marriage stem the

three sons: Johannes Gottlieb, b. 1766, Jakob, b. 1768, Michael, b. 1773, who in 1793 became involved in the lawsuit concerning their nobility and in 1799 received a confirmation of their nobility by King Friedrich Wilhelm IV. A fourth son, the eldest, died young, Peter, b. 1765. In the aforementioned lawsuit, in 1795 Christian wrote on behalf of his sons to the government in Konitz. This letter of 13 December 1795 is preserved in the Prussian Privy State Archives Dahlem under: "Danzig 91/5571." It bears the Kleist coat of arms as seal: preserved are a springing fox and two cudgel spears in the crest. The old signet ring with which Christian sealed was lost in the fire of Damnitz in 1858. Christian died at his son Jakob's, at the knight's estate Darsen, on 2 December 1809. His wife followed him only on 5 October 1822, likewise in Darsen.

Jakob. He was born as the third son of Christian on 15 July 1768 at Neuguth, district of Schlochau. Around the year 1793 he became embroiled in a dispute with the district recruiting officer concerning military service. It is said to have come to a duel, from which then developed the lawsuit concerning the proof of nobility, which ended with the confirmation, under 21 June 1799, to the three brothers Johann, Jakob and Michael von Kleist of the proof of their ancient nobility. In addition they received from the Royal High Court of Bromberg in the name of the King the following letter, which in the original was lost in the fire of 1858: "By God's grace Friedrich Wilhelm, King of Prussia, our gracious greeting in advance! Noble, dear loyal men. The certificate issued at the West Prussian Government concerning the recognition of your proven nobility of 21 June of this year is herewith delivered to you in the original appended for your legitimation. We are graciously inclined to you. Given in our West Prussian High Court on 16 July 1799. (signed)."

On 23 April 1798 Jakob married at Neuguth the daughter of the landowner Daniel Schacht, Luise Henriette Gertrud Agathe Schacht. The Schacht are an old free lineage who (according to the cartulary Neustettin in Six Centuries) have been seated at Sparsee since 1485. In 1801 Jakob leased the knight's estate Darsen, district of Schlochau, which had already once before, temporarily, been managed by a Kleist (Martin Kleist in 1597). In 1826 Jakob bought the free reeve's estate Damnitz, district of Schlochau, of 800 morgens, which was soon taken over by his son Carl Joseph. It is interesting that Jakob was on good terms with the Kleists in Segenthin (Bornstedt line). There he also entered himself, together with his sons, around 1820 in an old album, which he particularly impressed upon his sons on the same day; he noted there that such incidents as in 1793 to 1799 could no longer occur. According to his sons' account he took part in the Wars of Liberation as a senior officer in the Landsturm under General v. Pribernow. His marriage was blessed with six sons and one daughter. These are: Carl Joseph b. Neuguth 14 March 1799, d. Damnitz 2 June 1860; Jakob b. Neuguth 7 December 1800, d. there after 1869; Wilhelm b. Darsen 19 April 1803, d. Flötenstein 18 November 1878; August b. Darsen 20 April 1807, missing in America; Louis Ferdinand 1809/11; Friederike Wilhelmine b. and d. 1813; and Friedrich Ferdinand b. Darsen 29 October 1814, d. Plathe 27 March 1900. Jakob himself died on 16 August in Damnitz; his wife there on 8 December 1856.

Carl Joseph, born on 14 March 1799 in Neuguth, was two meters tall, blond, strong yet slender, had light eyes and a slightly curved nose. He was so strong that he was able to lift an entire wagon. When he stepped into the farmyard, it is jokingly told, everything that could run disappeared into doors, hatches and holes, such respect was had for his physical strength. He was an enthusiastic hunter. The day on which he had shot his hundredth fox and wolf was solemnly celebrated. With the red hussars in Stolp he rode three horses to ruin which he had had sent from home from Darsen. Thus he was in everything often immoderate and of a careless character. He spent his youth in Darsen. Then he leased the estate Mlatkowkowo, in order, around the year 1830, to take over from his father the free reeve's estate

Damnitz. Shortly before his death in 1859 he gambled it away in one night for 30,000 thalers. The consequences for the family were inevitable. The wife was just able, from rescued money, after the soon following death of her husband, to acquire a house with a large garden in Konitz. The education of the son Hermann also suffered from it. Already the year before, 1858, had been a year of misfortune. The manor house in Damnitz burned down to the foundations. Carl Joseph, who wished to save the family papers, broke down with the burning front door. Only the sheepskin coat he had put on saved his life. At this time an old ring, with which Christian (I) had sealed, was also lost. An impression of this seal is still preserved on a letter of the year 1795 in the Prussian Privy State Archives Dahlem. On 2 June 1860 Carl Joseph died. On 13 July 1841 he had married Henriette Friederike Wilhelmine Remus, born on 6 June 1813 in Ossowo. She was the daughter of the landowner Carl Remus of Ossowo (now Gr. Aspenau), whose lineage already in the 15th century possessed this 600-morgen estate as a free and feudal reeve's estate. The forebears belonged to the so-called "Panen," who had to furnish a mounted man and were enfeoffed. Henriette von Kleist did not die until 18 December 1905 in Konitz. She had given her husband six children: Mathilde, b. Damnitz 14. 1. 1842, d. 27. 10. 1921; Carl Gustav, b. Damnitz 3. 1. 1844, d. there 1845; Hermann Gustav Ferdinand, b. Damnitz 13. 6. 1846, d. Charlottenburg 1. 4. 1932; Alwine Auguste, b. Damnitz 1. 9. 1848, d. Schneidemühl 8. 1. 1930; Pauline Auguste, b. Damnitz 29. 3. 1851, d. Konitz 18. 4. 1878; Carl Rudolf, b. Damnitz 25. 4. 1854, d. there 1854.

Hermann Gustav Ferdinand. He was born in Damnitz on 13 June 1846 and attended the Gymnasium in Schlochau. The fire of the manor house and the loss of the paternal estate soon thereafter brought the family into such need that Hermann had to leave school. At 17 years of age (1863) he entered as a volunteer the second mounted battery of the 1st Guards Field Artillery Regiment, took part in the campaign of 1864 and fought at Düppel. Again in 1866 it saw him at Königgrätz. In 1870/71 he took part in all the battles and engagements of his regiment, among others at St. Privat, Gravelotte, Sedan and at the siege of Paris. An extensive diary from this time, which he left behind, testifies to his great love for all things military and for the Fatherland. He found a friend and patron in Major Prince zu Hohenlohe. Unfortunately the prince fell in the battle of Gravelotte, so that Hermann then had to bury his hope of a great military career. This had the consequence that after the war he had to claim civil provision and first became confidential secretary in the Royal Prussian Ministry for Public Works. Here, in over forty years of service, he attained the rank of Confidential Councillor of Accounts. Besides the customary war and peace medals he received, for services as church councillor of the Dorotheenstadt Church in Berlin, the Red Eagle Order IV Class, later the III Class thereof and the Crown Order III Class. Through great thrift and his well-to-do wife he amassed the considerable fortune of a good half million. It was to serve for the purchase of the old family estates by one of the sons, but it was lost almost entirely through the inflation of 1920. Eighty-six years old, on 1 April 1932 Hermann died in Charlottenburg, vigorous to the last moment. Like his father, he was a powerful figure with dark hair, brown eyes and a slightly curved nose. Because of his excellent appearance he was called in Wilhelmstraße the "Envoy." On 25 October 1882 he had married in Berlin Elise Dorothea Karoline Zürcher. She had been born in Berlin on 14 January 1853 as daughter of the wholesale merchant Carl Eduard Zürcher and lord of Marienfelde near Stettin and Chalim near Schrimm, district of Birnbaum. The Zürcher trace back to an old councillors' lineage whose line goes back around 1360 to Heinrich von Zürich, councillor in Mülhausen. Elise von Kleist died on 15 November 1912 in Berlin. To the marriage were born 3 sons and 2 daughters: Ewald, Eduard, Helmuth, Dorothea and Hildegard.

On the occasion of the hundredth recurrence of his father's birthday, Cousin Ewald-Berlin (airshipman) has kindly sent in the biographical sketch of the latter. It is authored by Cousin Ewald's brother-in-law, Medical Councillor Dr. Schnitzer, and follows below:

Hermann Eduard Carl Robert (III 885). When Lieutenant Colonel Hermann von Kleist, on 16 September 1907, shortly after reaching the biblical age of 70 years, closed his eyes forever, a life came to its close that, in the most faithful fulfillment of duty and readiness for sacrifice, denied itself everything in order to give itself entirely to service for King and Fatherland. The lineage that, like hardly any other in Prussia, produced so many outstanding personalities as commanders, politicians, officeholders, poets and scholars, stamped its character also upon this excellent man. Heredity, tradition, and environmental influences fused here together in order, as a harmonious unity, to determine development and life's path. A nobleman in the best sense of the word, of noble mindset, he embodied chivalrous thinking and acting in all situations and tasks of his life.

His outward career was, according to traditional viewpoints, preordained for him. Like his father and grandfather, he was destined for the officer's career. The father, who had already, at the age of 48, taken his leave as a major at Neisse, possessed no special aptitude for the requirements of practical life, and so he soon had to give up the attempt to create a new sphere of activity by acquiring a small estate. His first marriage, which he entered in 1831 with Karoline von Buchs, had already ended in 1836, through the early death of his religiously enthusiastic wife, and thus the five-year-old daughter Elisabeth and the two-year-old Hermann were deprived of a mother's love and care until the father married again. From the second marriage, which the father concluded in 1842 with Minna Baroness von Müllenheim, there came two more children: Helene and Sigismund. Through the loving and prudent activity of the second wife, family life became harmonious in every respect, even if it had to suffer under the oppressive economic situation.

Hermann grew up first in the parental home at Neisse and later in the Moravian Brethren's institution. At the age of ten he was admitted to the cadet house at Wahlstatt and now went through the usual course of training. After completing the "Selekta" he entered on 2 May 1857 as second lieutenant the 2nd Infantry Regiment at Stettin, and spent here, as a cheerful young officer, some years in which he not only fulfilled the demands of duty with loyalty and conscientiousness but also, in a spirit of comradeship, took lively and joyful part in the events and stimulations which the big city offered. Although he early became accustomed to keeping measure in all things, he by no means excluded himself from social pleasures and could, on occasion, give free rein to his exuberant vitality. Thus, once, he entered into a wager and won it, in consequence of which he swam, in full uniform, down the Oder at Stettin from the Baum Bridge to Frauendorf. Since the Stettin garrison apparently became too costly, on 14 January 1860 came the transfer to the 22nd Infantry Regiment at Cosel. On 10 February 1866 Hermann v. Kleist was promoted to first lieutenant, on 16 July 1871 to captain, and on 11 March 1883 to major. As participant in the campaigns of 1866 and 1870/71 he received the Iron Cross 2nd Class, the Knight's Cross 2nd Class of the Bavarian Military Merit Order and the war commemorative medals of 1866 and 70/71; further, the long-service cross and, on 18 January 1886, the Red Eagle Order 4th Class were conferred upon him. In the autumn of 1887 he was appointed commander of the cadet house in Wahlstatt, where he himself had spent his cadet years. Here he had ample opportunity to develop his pedagogical gift and not only to direct successfully the school instruction and education, but also, in an excellent manner, to influence the character formation of the cadets, in that he combined with the serious conception of the task and clear sense of responsibility a rare goodness of heart. In Wahlstatt Hermann was promoted in 1888 to lieutenant colonel and, as such, was honorably retired in 1894. Unfortunately, a serious eye ailment, which worsened in the course of

years, forced him to leave the military career prematurely, although he would have been called to render the Fatherland the most valuable services in higher commands.

Thus life brought for Hermann von Kleist on the one side many cares and disappointments; on the other side he found rich compensation in an exceedingly happy marriage and a harmonious family life. On 2 April 1889 he married Anna Cochius, daughter of the district administrator Alexander Cochius, at Mesow near Daber. Thirty-eight years joined him to his quick-witted, many-sidedly interested and poetically gifted wife, who also, in the management of the household, by virtue of her practical efficiency and experience, helped to overcome economic difficulties more easily. This talent deserves all the higher esteem, as very considerable demands had to be met by reason of a numerous family. Five sons and three daughters sprang from the marriage. Of the sons, the eldest died in early childhood; two, as officers, decorated with the Iron Cross 1st Class, fell already in the first months of the World War.

After his retirement, Hermann strove to create a new field of activity in which he could bring to bear and make use of his pronounced abilities. For that purpose he moved first to Liegnitz and then to Berlin-Steglitz, since, naturally, here he could best count on finding a position to his liking. Even if his efforts were not crowned with success to the extent that he obtained a well-endowed permanent position, he nevertheless had ample opportunity thereby to cultivate successfully his literary inclinations and studies in military science and to utilize them. Already as captain he had written a work of military history on "The Days of Combat at Le Mans from 5 to 12 January 1871," published by Hellwig's publishing house in Hanover in 1880. Later he published smaller essays on military questions and on questions of general scholarly content in reputable daily newspapers, which, with detailed knowledge of the subject and from a high military point of view, treated difficult questions. His multifarious talents also found expression in occasional poems which testified to fine humor and heartfelt warmth. He cultivated with particular predilection his gift for drawing, which, in his youngest son Joachim, developed, as valuable inheritance, to artistic height. The other children too have developed into personalities whose qualities, each with a special note, have, in the best sense, worked for the good of people and Fatherland: valuable human beings as bearers of valuable inherited endowment.

In the life of Hermann von Kleist there lies a certain tragedy in that outward successes were not granted to this excellent nobleman in the measure that would have corresponded to his richly endowed personality. Yet all who knew him and had the opportunity to come to know him more closely personally preserve his memory as a precious good that well deserves to be held fast and cherished in the history of the family.

War and Revolution Recollections 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

28. (5th continuation)

In the time that now followed we really came to know Mitau and the Mitauers. How much warming love and sympathy, how much understanding friendship was bestowed upon us!

Mama and I celebrated Christmas with five stray, homeless soldiers whom we had invited to a hearty evening meal—roast pork with potatoes and cabbage—and to a small distribution of presents at the Christmas tree. Most families took in field-grays on this evening in order to make the feast, in a foreign land far from home and loved ones, cozy in the German way for them. Beforehand I had attended a beautiful Christmas celebration in the hospital in the apprentices' home. Into the great hall many beds with sick and wounded had been rolled. Many sat and stood around in patients' clothing, the doors to the wards were open, so a large number of patients could see the beautiful, light-bedecked tree, hear the warm words of the Catholic military chaplain, the choral singing of the sisters and orderlies, and be gladdened

by small gifts. A hundred men were presented with gifts by us, truly a pretty token of the generosity of our German society.

29.

The year 1916 brought a great event, joyfully welcomed by the entire population: on 15 January, 5 1/2 months after the occupation, the Imperial German Reichspost was solemnly opened in Mitau. Now at last we were allowed to enter into written connection with the outside world, could finally write to Germany and receive letters—something we had missed for so long! A few days thereafter, on 18 January, my uncle, Leon v. d. Ropp, Papa's brother-in-law, died. At his funeral he had already said: "I shall be the next," and had rightly foreseen it, for soon thereafter he fell ill. Yet he took a sled and drove to all the relatives to pay them a farewell visit. He had to suffer for weeks, lay mostly alone in his room, rejoiced each time when one visited him and brought something tasty to stimulate his waning appetite. Now he was no more!

The burial was quite peculiar. As a Catholic he had to be interred according to the Catholic rite. He had, however, paid little heed to his church, had allowed his six children, baptized Catholic, to be confirmed as Protestants at their own wish, and was himself essentially supra-confessional. All his relatives and all mourners were Protestant. How would the Catholic priest extricate himself from the situation, which was doubtless somewhat awkward for him? With the great adaptability and prudence of his order he therefore omitted the many unintelligible litanies and ceremonies, spoke only a few simple words, then turned to the assembly and said: "Do sing a chorale." We thus intoned "Harre meine Seele" in the house of mourning and at the open grave "So nimm denn meine Hände." All joined in, and the solemn act took a harmonious and dignified end.

On 27 January we were allowed, for the first time, united with Germans from the Reich, with grateful and joyful hearts to celebrate the Kaiser's birthday with festive thanksgiving service, parade, music and many faithful, warm wishes for the imperial lord, who, because of his chivalrous and magnanimous disposition, had many admirers and devotees among us Balts.

In February there came to Mitau military missions from Sweden, Romania, China, Spain and Brazil to inspect the front, to study all military, sanitary and civil institutions, and to convince themselves how humanely and considerately the German conduct of war and administration of the occupied territories was carried out. There was always something new and interesting to see. In March we saw the first French and Belgian prisoners. As a countermeasure against Allied cruelties against German prisoners they were to be employed in the East, in cold, inhospitable Russia, which aroused great indignation among the French. We had to laugh. So a stay in our beautiful, healthy land blessed by spring was supposed to be a punishment! Far too beautiful was it here for these impudent, self-assured fellows! Far too considerately were they treated by the good Landsturm men, with whom they, chattering loudly, visited shops to make purchases and also spread themselves in the streets with defiant behavior. We, at any rate, were indignant at this gang, in which representatives of the "grande nation" confronted us for the first time. The long, lazy, big-mouthed English fellows who showed up soon thereafter likewise aroused general displeasure. How different, by contrast, were the many thousands of Russians! Good-natured and childlike, industrious and unassuming, they made little trouble for their guards and made friends with them, which was impossible with the others.

30.

Although we were in mourning and lived very quietly, we nonetheless came to know a whole number of field-gray gentlemen. I name only General von Hülsen, Count Kleist-Retzow-Großtychow, at that time Rittmeister with the Demmin Uhlans and later chairman of our family association, the sympathetic judge

advocate Dr. Weimar, who was billeted in the same house and often visited us. I was frequently together with the imperial delegate, Baron v. Schauenburg, forester-in-chief in Baden by profession, a sparkingly lively, witty and very amiable gentleman, with whom I practiced graphology, who read to us from his own poems and always gave stimulating hours. Schwartzmariechen v. Hahn and Albertine von Franck also took part in the graphological studies. Albertine, that selfless great soul, lived entirely for others. She had brought into being a home for drunkards, in which she worked in touching fashion on the depraved, tireless, allowing herself to be discouraged by many failures, sharing everything with them, eating with them and spending her last pennies on tramps and sots. She had given over her apartment to the field-grays, who could hold Bible classes and common devotions in the large hall and gather themselves in quiet and stillness, which indeed was not well possible in the overcrowded soldiers' home.

Fraulein von Franck's good works, pleasing to God, were later a thorn in the Bolsheviki's eye. Although she had never in her life concerned herself with politics, had always been helpful and lived quite poorly because she gave everything away, she was thrown into prison and, together with the others, shot in the yard and thrown into a pit.

Among our field-gray acquaintances were also two Hamburgers: Dr. Wilhelm Burchard, Rittmeister with the Pasewalk cuirassiers, the "Crown Prince of Hamburg," as he was jokingly called, later a senator of his native city, and Lieutenant Dr. Karl Merck, whom we had met in 1913 as a Heidelberg Vandal with the red cap in beautiful Heidelberg, when Mama and I were there together with his mother, Frau Syndikus Merck, and his siblings Heino and Emily. Dr. Burchard and Dr. Merck frequented Baltic houses much and both had themselves painted by Fraulein Greta von Hoerner, who at that time was portraying with great success and had many commissions from field-grays. One often met in the hospitable house of the district marshal von Hoerner-Ihlen, the small, lively, warm-hearted man with the flaming German enthusiasm, who was a dear friend and relative to us. His musical wife and three talented daughters always offered the many Sunday afternoon guests stimulation: there was singing in one and more parts; Frau Maddi sang to the lute and composed verses herself; Greta, the painter, showed shadow plays for which Baron Schauenburg had written the text. Rittmeister von Goßler, head of the civil administration, a fine, spiritual man, played the piano beautifully; senior staff physician Professor Dr. Stratz, a brother of the well-known writer Rudolph Stratz, knew how, by highly gripping accounts from his richly eventful life, his many travels and art studies, to direct general attention to interesting topics of conversation. The old Professor Dr. Starck from Kiel soon made friends with us, and Professor Dr. Staehelin-Nuremberg, later leader of the German youth movement, brought scientific, religious, moral problems to discussion. We also there came to know the generals von Alten, von Jakobi, v. Papperitz, the conqueror of Mitau. I cannot list them all, the many, many field-grays from general down to sergeant and Landsturm man who crossed our path. There were too many of them. From all regions of Germany they came, from the most varied social classes, estates, professions and regiments, such as otherwise we would never have come to know. Gratefully they enjoyed being able, in German houses, in association with educated German women, to recover from the privations and horrors of the war, from the dreary life in the rear. In astonishment they became aware how German we Balts were in language, custom, and disposition. There many a one of them may have been won over to the Pan-German idea, which, in the church-tower politics of their homeland, was foreign and incomprehensible to them.

I also came to know First Lieutenant Erdmann, who, as the first German flier, had visited and bombed Mitau; in our eyes, of course, quite a special hero, who knew how to tell thrillingly of his flights and presented little Arthur von Behr with a real flier's dart as a keepsake. With great blue eyes, opened wide in wordless enthusiasm, this boy listened to the words of the hero, whom he fairly devoured with his

looks. He and his little sisters, the three children of Wanda v. Behr, experienced this whole period of the occupation with unprecedented, fiery participation and downright idolization of all field-grays. Touching were they in their trusting, believing love and their boundless admiration! Yes, we adults too at first saw in every German a Siegfried, a hero without fear and reproach. In the course of time, of course, there were some very bitter disappointments. One saw much that was human, all too human, much that was ugly and impure. That hurt very much, for such sobering, such disappointment we would never have thought possible. And yet one had to say to oneself that in a nation-in-arms, as the German was, and in the long war full of privations, there had to be inferior people too, who by their deeds damaged the reputation of their people and country.

31.

Easter time drew near. It became spring. A spring so elemental, intoxicating and blissful as it comes to the land only with us in the North after a long, hard winter. "Winter storms give way to the month of delight!" On Monday in Passion Week, on 18 April 1916, the spry, white-haired Prof. Dr. Stark took me along for a 2 1/2-hour walk out into the country. How I enjoyed getting out once from Mitau's narrow streets, refreshing myself with a brisk march, seeing fields and meadows and the swift Drixe, the tributary of the Aa, greeting the first stork, larks, starlings and gulls. For us civilians the right bank of the Aa was closed. We were not allowed to take our beloved walks to Henriettenruh, Sorgenfrei and into the birch grove; we had to gaze, from the castle garden or the Aa bridge, with longing eyes across the river to the wide meadows and the distant forest, for over there was the war zone and we idlers had nothing to seek there. How I therefore enjoyed the walk! The sentries let my field-gray companion pass, and I too was allowed along. Unfortunately we had to return to town at quick tempo, for we were invited to tea at Baroness Marie v. Fircks-Nogallen's, the youthful, keenly feeling, temperamental lady with whom one spent such merry hours in her cozy house on Palaisstraße. Therefore Prof. Dr. Stark could show me only in passing the abandoned trenches and dugouts, likewise anti-aircraft guns hidden under birch boughs, and a tethered balloon gently swaying to and fro far over the dark forest.

At the baroness's we met two guests who aroused lively interest in me and with whom I was very glad to be together: Baron Schauenburg, the quick-alive "Ritter Jörg," and Major Freiherr v. Schilling, editor of the Prussian Kreuzzeitung, a splendid-looking, intelligent, very politically active, as amiable as entertaining man. We sat down at the tea table in lively chatter.

Somewhat disturbing, after a time, was the arrival of a further guest. A delegate of the imperial commissioner, a fine, slender gentleman with raven-black hair and large, strikingly shining, warm, dark eyes—southern eyes—sat down at my side, quite inopportune, as the two other cavaliers were so pleasant. But the amiable and kind manner of my neighbor soon reconciled me to his unwelcome presence. He came from Libau, told of there, offered, in friendly manner, to have a look at our house and was so nice that I forgave him the interruption. He was a Hamburg lawyer, knew Burchard and Merck of course, but made upon me a worldly, spoiled impression, so that I said to my mother afterwards about him: "I do not think that he will call on us in Libau. He is an elegant man of the world, does not fit into our simple house and with us simple people. And then he has such a funny name, he is called Dr. Kück!"

Yes, that was the first acquaintance with my husband! I did not, therefore, assess him quite correctly from the first, although I had always prided myself much on my instinct, my intuitive knowledge of people. From the first time he made an exceedingly sympathetic impression on me—no more! And I cannot believe either that I made a deeper impression on him right away, as he claims, however. Such thoughts and feelings were completely remote from me at that time. I did not think in the least of love, engagement, marriage. With everyone I had been quite comradely, had rejoiced in being together with pleasant,

educated people, but the thought of pleasing them as a woman and not only as a human being would never have entered my mind. At my 32 years, with a life filled with work and ideal strivings, healthy and cheerful, rich in friendship and manifold interests, in economically ample and independent circumstances, I felt quite content and merry in my skin. Female vanity was far from me. Otherwise I would hardly have appeared in an old mourning blouse of Mama's with sleeves much too short for the little coffee hour. We Balts in general laid much less weight on outward appearances than is done in Germany. With us the person counted more than the clothes. I could therefore later not at all comprehend how it was possible that this somewhat elderly, poorly clad, comradely friendly Baltic woman unconsciously and unintentionally touched the heart, set in bachelorhood, of the fine and elegant Hamburg gentleman spoiled by women.

How often in life things turn out differently, quite, quite differently than one thinks! It is strange that we women, most often, affect men most strongly when we are not at all concerned with it, when we are either quite indifferent or love another and do not think of making an impression. In any case, that has often happened to me.

Well, be that as it may: Dr. Kück came, Dr. Kück went, and I continued to live my own serene life, quite without wishes as far as love was concerned.

(To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Number 8

Februar 1938

News from the Family

Report on the Family Day of 4 February

Despite the cancellation of the "Green Week," a gratifyingly large number of cousins once again gathered in the fine rooms of the officers' home of the War Academy. Those who came were: Hermann Conrad—Kl. Dubberow, Rudolph from Jeseritz with his wife and daughter Editha, His Excellency Leopold with his wife and all four children, Elisabeth from the Zützen house, Georg from Groß-Tychow, Ernst from Berlin, Karl Friedrich from Guben, Peter Christian—Möthlow, Hans Jürgen—Kieckow with his wife and sons Konstantin and Jürgen Christoph, Maria Corona from Charlottenburg, Heinrich from Hamburg with brother Karl and sister Rita, Berndt from Lichterfelde with his wife and brother Joachim, Jürgen—Vietzow, Hans Ewald and wife presently in Berlin, Ewald from Berlin (airshipman), Robert—Wusseken, Anny from Blankenburg with children, Wilhelm from Hanover and Joachim with wife from Löbau, Ewald from Zehlendorf with wife and sister Hildegard, Ewald—Wendisch Tychow with wife and daughter Ortrun.

In addition, we had the pleasure of welcoming in our midst, as representative of the former Kleist Grenadiers, Mr. von Frankenberg and Ludwigsdorf.

First the deceased were commemorated, two of their number especially: "We were all surely deeply shaken when we learned of cousin Anning's swift passing in Schmenzin. For many years, years of struggle for a narrower and wider homeland, for German dignity and noble estate honor, we knew her standing side by side with her husband, who devoted himself unsparingly to all this—helping him, supporting him, defending and caring for him and, besides, a faithful mother of her own large brood of children and a caretaker of others in need. In addition, a gracious companion and neighbor and a willing member of the family. Thus she stands before us, and thus, in grateful and faithful remembrance, she will remain unforgettable before us!

And further, shortly before the year's close, death took from us yet another particularly precious member, though apart from the closest relatives personally known only to the chairman: Helmuth in Zehlendorf. In dogged, tireless work, despite the severest suffering, he achieved what his forefathers strove for in long struggle in vain—the affiliation of his branch of the Krummenseer line to the family association. Whoever looks into the files concerning this striving will be filled with admiration for the purposefulness and tenacity of this man, who from the youngest youth on did not let go until he reached his goal, and involuntarily the words will come to mind in altered form: Whoever loves the family as you do is faithful in the deepest soul! May there be many, very, very many members of our family to whom the value of

union in a great family has dawned as it did to cousin Helmuth! An example for us all, his memory will always be held by us in particularly high esteem!"

On 27 January the family, in the customary manner, conveyed its congratulations to the Kaiser and expressed its devotion, and on this evening as well he and his house were remembered in unwavering loyalty. His Majesty's reply telegram reads:

"With sincere thanks for the faithful wishes on My birthday I send My greeting to the members of the family v. Kleist assembled for the Family Day. In so doing I again give grateful thought to the excellent services which the Kleists have rendered to King and Fatherland.

Signed Wilhelm"

Greetings and telegrams for Family Day also arrived from Colonel Hermann in Braunschweig, Wolf Friedrich—Großtychow, Fritz and Valeska—Damen, cousin Ruth from Stettin, and Ewald and Gisela from Breslau. To them all we return the greetings most cordially and express our warm thanks!

Accounts: The fiscal year now coincides with the calendar year, so the figures below pertain to the year 1937. In the main fund

the receipts amounted to 8,983.48 RM.

the expenditures 6,925.51

The cash balance on 1 Jan. 38 2,057.97 RM.

The level of receipts rests on a sale of securities that had become necessary, which in turn was prompted by the amount of taxes and the swelling of the most necessary relief payments. To give an overview: for main fund and daughters' foundation the taxes together amounted to RM 2,381 and the relief payments made from both to RM 4,408. Opposed to these expenditures stood income from interest totaling RM 4,265.

The family's total assets are composed today as follows:

Main fund 70,746.40 RM.

Daughters' foundation 21,693.—

Raddatz funds 3,565.94

Total 96,005.34 RM.

The accounts and books were audited and found correct by cousin Hans Jürgen—Kieckow, so that discharge could be granted to the board.

Contributions. Given the situation outlined above, they are of substantial importance, and so let what was said a year ago about them be repeated here. This year, too, the contributions shall remain as before, i.e., 20 or 5 RM. All the more we ask for punctual remittance to account 211 at the Kreissparkasse Belgard, Großtychow branch, under: "Main Fund of the Family Association v. Kleist." The Kreissparkasse has postal checking account: Stettin 8 700. To this contribution there is to be added 1 RM each for the Newsletter, so that the amounts actually to be paid are: 21 or 6 RM.

Non-members of the family association who receive the newsletter are likewise requested to pay the subscription price of 1 RM to the account named above. All remitters are urgently asked to identify themselves as clearly as possible, that is, to give first name and other distinguishing particulars.

Changes in civil status since the summer:

Married were:

in summer in Cannstatt, Ingeborg (p. 30) to First Lieutenant Lueder, Panzer Regiment Bamberg, on 20 Aug. in Anklam, Kurt Detleff to Leonore Berger (p. 36),

on 28 Dec. in Dresden, Hans Joachim (Newsletter p. 9) to Rosemarie Seifert.

Deceased are:

on 6 Oct. in Wernigerode, Anna (p. 29),
on 8 Oct. in Reinbeck, attorney and envoy (ret.) Roberto Kück (p. 13),
on 27 Dec. in Zehlendorf, agricultural councilor (ret.) Helmuth (Newsletter p. 9),
on 7 Jan. in Hanover, Rena, née Baroness v. Hake—Ohr (p. 39).

Promotions and address changes:

Bratto (p. 13) student of agriculture in Danzig—Langfuhr, Hermannshöferweg 7,
Karl Friedrich (p. 21) lieutenant in I.R. 29 in Guben,
Jarislaff (p. 24) lieutenant in Artillery Regiment 32 in Deutsch Krone with seniority from 1 Apr. 37,
Götz (p. 30) is now learning the book trade in Munich,
Joachim (p. 32) first lieutenant in I.R. 8 in Frankfurt an der Oder with seniority from 1 Oct. 35,
Agnes Countess v. d. Gröben, Berlin NW 40, Scharnhorststr. 3. (p. 33),
Kurt Detleff (p. 36) Anklam, Hermann-Göring-Str. 30,
Ewald, airshipman (p. 40) no longer works at the Tschudi Archive and lives in Wilmersdorf,
Landhausstraße 37, Hans Joachim (Newsletter p. 9) Löbau, Goethestr. 8.

Other items from the family:

On 12 December, Agnes Countess v. d. Groeben celebrated the completion of her 75th year. The family's congratulations were conveyed to her.

Cousin Maria Luise König (p. 27) had her petition for resumption of her maiden name (cf. Newsletter p. 42) denied by the authorities. By contrast, on 3 November 1936 the chief of police of Berlin permitted her to call herself "König—v. Kleist."

Passages were read from a letter by a cousin in the Baltic that cast a gloomy yet characteristic light on the situation of the Germans living there. It is not advisable, however, to reproduce the letter here.

In the course of the Germanization of place names, the locality of Kramzig, District of Bomst, Grenzmark, has been renamed "Kleistdorf" in remembrance of cousin Fedor (p. 44), who fell there on 3 Feb. 1919.

From the place name "Wendisch Tychow" the "Wendisch" has been officially struck.

As to the report in Number 7 about peasants in the District of Schlochau with the noble name Kleist, cousin Helmuth was still able to ascertain before his death: those of them who replied call themselves only "Kleist." The churches consulted reported that the entries all read simply "Kleist," and the Grenzmark Rural League today lists all living peasant Kleists solely as "Kleist."

Family portraits. The pictures mentioned in Number 7 of the newsletter were shown, and it could be reported that in Boeck, District of Randow, there is, in the church, an oil portrait in larger-than-life size of Lieutenant Colonel Nikolaus Christoph v. Kleist (1667–1725, III 3, p. 35).

Reproductions could also be shown of the oil portraits of Albertine du Trossel (1758–1843) and her husband, Colonel Ludwig du Trossel. The originals are in the possession of Mr. von dem Knesebeck in Löwenbruch.

With regard to the work likewise mentioned in Number 7, which is historically important for our family, by Dr. Sauer, it may be noted that subscription solicitations for it will be sent out in due course. We ask

most earnestly that participation be as numerous as possible.

Acquired were: a poem about the collapse of the Elbe Bridge in Dresden on 31 March 1845, composed by George Baron v. Kleist of Leegen in Courland, and a doctoral dissertation by Stephan Nicolaus v. Kleist (III 392, p. 470) from the year 1661.

Attention is also drawn, by way of recommendation, to the book by Adolf Fischer published by Safari-Verlag in Berlin: "Südwester Offiziere" ("South-West Africa Officers"), in which, among others, "the brothers and cousins Kleist" appear.

An exchange of newsletters has recently been established with the family association of the von Rekowski.

Kleist Regiment. As mentioned earlier, the infantry regiment in Görlitz carries on the tradition of the former 6th Grenadiers. The tradition detachment is concerned to obtain mementos, in particular, if possible, the sword of Field Marshal Kleist v. Nollendorf. Anyone who possesses or knows of such items is requested to inform Captain of the Reserve v. Frankenberg, Berlin W. 9, Bellevuestr. 16. Moreover, as said, we again had the pleasure this time of having Mr. v. Frankenberg in our midst.

The Kleist Society held a conference in November in Frankfurt an der Oder, where cousin Joachim represented us and laid a wreath at Heinrich's grave. The Society has entered into closer cooperation with the city administration of Frankfurt, and thus its library has once again been affiliated with the municipal library there. The consolidation requires a meeting, which is to take place on 20 February.

Family breakfast on 5 February. This event should have demonstrated that a gap previously existing has thereby been filled. There were a few more happy hours that we spent together there. In addition to 20 of those who had come the previous evening, those present included: Her Excellency Marie (p. 29), Count and Countess Pourtalés (p. 22), and cousin Ewald—Schmenzin (p. 6). We hope that ever more numerous use will be made of this event to strengthen the union.

Finally, a reminder to all who move: do not forget to inform the chairman of the new address.

My Activity in the World War 1914/18
compiled for the purposes of the history of the family
v. Kleist by Alfred von Kleist, Lieutenant General (ret.)

Commander of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade 1914, Belgium.

The outbreak of the great war found me in the position of commander of the 6th Field Artillery Brigade, 3rd Army Corps—6th Infantry Division—Field Artillery Regiments Generalfeldzeugmeister 3 and 39. Garrison: Brandenburg an der Havel.

My first task was initiating the mobilization of the division, as its commander, Lt. Gen. Baron v. Richthofen, had at once to assume his field post as higher cavalry leader. Mobilization proceeded smoothly and without disturbance, so that personal intervention was nowhere necessary.

On 6/8 my brigade was ready to march, and on 7/8 at 7:30 a.m. I left Brandenburg an der Havel with the staff. Transport went via Güsten, Paderborn. On 8/8 at 6 p.m. we reached the Rhine near Mülheim and that same evening our rail terminus Grevenbroich. The entire journey was a triumphal procession that cast the willingness to sacrifice and the enthusiasm of the population in the brightest light. Rations, improved by numerous gifts of love, were almost more than plentiful. In our first quarters, Rommerskirchen, it became known that the 3rd Army Corps together with the 2nd, 4th, 9th, 3rd Reserve and 4th Reserve Corps formed the 1st Army under Colonel General von Kluck. Upon completing its deployment the army at once advanced via Aachen. On 15/8 at 11:45 a.m. we crossed the Belgian border at Henri-Chapelle. In

the continued, irresistible drive of the division via Wandre—Tirlemont—Chemappe—Rohains—Roye and Villers-Cotterêts, driving the enemy before us, there came the battles on the Gette, 18–19 Aug., at Mons, 22–23 Aug., at Solesnes, 25–27 Aug., the fighting on the Somme, 28–30 Aug., and the engagements at Villers-Cotterêts, 1 Sept., and at Vich-Maison on 4 Sept., until at last the battle on the Ourcq beginning 5 Sept. put an end to the further advance.

France. Without rest days, in unprecedented feats of marching and combat over three weeks, with nights of rest often disturbed by the restless population, the division had reached the westernmost point of the advance, Villers-Genest, 45 km from Paris. Like a lightning bolt into this victorious advance there struck, on 7 Sept., the order to withdraw behind the Marne. The dream of taking Paris in the first onslaught was over. Even if at that time we did not yet fully grasp the crushing turning point of the war in all its immense scope, still, when in the moonlit, enchantingly beautiful night of 7/8 Sept. we crossed the Marne at Charly, the mood, especially in the staffs, was depressed. After heavy rearguard actions at Neuilly, 10 Sept., we reached the Aisne at Vermeuil on 11 Sept. The enemy pressed very strongly; a hard, bloody struggle unfolded on the heights north of Vailly, but the enemy's further advance was halted. A day of honor for the brigade's batteries. For their brave conduct I received the Iron Cross, 2nd Class, on 13 Sept. 1914.

On the Aisne. On 12 Sept. positional warfare begins! The 6th Division's position, on the left flank of the 3rd Army Corps, ran along the north bank of the Aisne from Vailly to Soupir; to the right adjoined the 5th Division, to the left the 13th Infantry Division. The brigade's billets were Ferme Royère, and, when we were shelled out of there, Pargny and Chavignon. In the course of positional warfare my main task was to foster a well-understood cooperation of artillery and infantry. This was at first not impeccable everywhere. Thanks to the exemplary pre-war training that both arms had already received in this respect in the 3rd Corps, close cooperation soon came about. Artillery activity was hampered by the urgent shortage of munitions, which made the utmost husbanding a duty. To the forward-driving offensive spirit of the troops was due the successful capture of Vailly on 30 Oct., whereby the position could be pushed forward to the north bank of the Aisne.

1915. Through the battle of Soissons, 8–14 Jan. 1915, at last the plateau of Brégnay came into the corps' possession. These undertakings were of particular significance tactically because for the first time they were prepared by a systematic and very carefully prearranged artillery effort through mustering all batteries of our own and neighboring sectors.

I had received the Iron Cross, 1st Class, on 14 Oct. 1914. At the end of January I was detached as a member to a multi-day conference meeting at General Headquarters in Mézières—Charleville, which was to make the artillery experience thus far, of a tactical and material nature, useful to the army. Interesting questions of organization, tactics, and armament of the artillery were discussed. In my view, however, it was too early to lay down decisive determinations.

2. Commander of the 115th Infantry Division

On 27 Mar. 1915 I was appointed commander of an infantry division, with the order to report at General Headquarters on 1 April. The promotion caught me completely unawares, as given my seniority I could not count on it in the foreseeable time. I received the newly to be formed 115th Infantry Division. Its place of formation was Tournai. It consisted of three infantry regiments, two dragoon squadrons, an artillery regiment of three battalions with one heavy battery, a pioneer company, a signal detachment, and an ambulance train. As the division was independent, i.e., subordinate to no army headquarters, it was equipped with its own echelon staffs, ammunition columns, trains, field hospitals, etc. Although the units and formations assigned had first to be drawn from the most diverse stations, the division could be

reported ready for use after a few days.

Arras. On 18 April it was transferred as a reserve of O.H.L. to Douai. When on 9 May the front of the 1st Bavarian Reserve Corps between Givenchy and Neuville was heavily attacked by the enemy and almost broken through, the division received its baptism of fire. Thrown forward toward Vimy, it succeeded, in the battle of La Boisselle and Arras, in a fortnight of bloody and very costly fighting, in restoring and holding the position. During this time I was at the divisional command post at Vimy, which lay under constant heavy fire. Losses of the division: 110 officers, over 2,000 men. They were days of honor for the 115th Division, in which the newly assembled troops were welded together by blood. I received the Commander's Cross of the Bavarian Military Merit Order with Swords, and the division a large number of Bavarian decorations. Upon the division's departure the commanding general of the 1st Bavarian Reserve Corps, von Fasbender, appeared in official form at the staff headquarters and expressed his thanks for the brave support. The rear area in and around Douai celebrated us as saviors!

On the Aisne. After the division had been pulled back to Douai for refitting from 29 May to 9 June, it was transported to the Aisne on 10 June and took over, in the area of the 8th Army Corps, Lt. Gen. Riemann, the sector just north of Soissons to Vailly. Headquarters: Château de la Motte. I celebrated a reunion with the Aisne front, and here, after the hell of Vimy, in a splendid region in full bloom, not excessively harassed by the enemy, we spent a fine time that steeled nerves and body, in which the division, after the hard fighting, soon fully recovered.

But already on 30 July I handed the sector over to the 16th Infantry Division, and we were moved, as reserve of the 3rd Army, to the area south of Charleville. Headquarters: Guignicourt. In this status we remained, contrary to expectation, only a few days; for already on 8 August the long-cherished wish of the division to take part in the war of movement in the East was to be fulfilled. The entire officer corps was just assembled on the battlefield of Sedan in Bazeilles, to call to mind the glorious deeds of the fathers, when the order arrived: "The division is to be transported eastward, destination for the time being unknown. First train 6:35 p.m., trains at half-hour intervals." Despite these aggravating circumstances the transport went smoothly, a merit of my excellent general staff officer, Captain von Cochenhausen. On the evening of 11 August the division was assembled at Kosłowa Ruda—line Wirballen—Kowno.

Russia. It came under the command of the 10th Army, Field Marshal von Eichhorn, 40th Reserve Corps, Lt. Gen. von Litzmann, and arrived just in time to take part gloriously and decisively in the storming out of Kowno.

After the fall of this fortress it advanced to the northeast, took part from 19 Aug. to 8 Sept. in the battle on the Neman and, following on, in that of Wilna. Both great battles, bearing fully the character of war of movement, with great marching feats on bottomless ways, with almost completely lacking quarters and daily heavy engagements, placed great demands on staffs and troops. Combat strengths fell considerably. For lack of quarters I spent almost all nights in the motorcar, so long as these could manage to follow us. On 23 Sept. we reached our easternmost point, Kureniec, and here, on the extreme left flank of the 10th Army, far advanced with an open, unprotected flank, we had severe, exhausting fighting against enemy superiority to stand. They were the most exciting days I experienced in this part of the war. The forward movement was abandoned for strategic reasons, and, within the 21st Army Corps, Lt. Gen. von Hutier, the division received the order to fall back on Iza.

Lithuania. Thus positional warfare began in the East as well: after temporary occupation of a position lying between Lakes Wysznew and Narocz, in which the 9th Cavalry Division later relieved us, and after several shifts, the division was assigned the middle sector of the 21st Army Corps; to the right adjoined the 31st Infantry Division, Lt. Gen. Berrer, to the left the 42nd Infantry Division, Lt. Gen. von Bredow.

Our sector ran north of Lake Miadziol via Gladowo—Rohwito—Lake Spori to Lake Sagatsch and was about 20 km long. The trenches nestled, in manifold meanders, to the hilly west banks of the narrow lakes. In the land-bridges between them the defense chiefly entrenched itself. The sector was thus in part protected by the lakes in front, which, however, being firmly frozen, offered only slight protection. We were therefore constantly in contact with the enemy. Headquarters: Gut Karolinow.

In this position, excellently developed during the hard winter and in part protected by electric obstacles, the division withstood the great Russian spring offensive of 1916.

1916. Already in the first third of March, the high command of the 10th Army clearly recognized that the Russian General Ragosa intended to attempt the shattering of the front of the 21st Army Corps. The 25 divisions assembled for this purpose were to break through the wide gate of the barriers between Lakes Wiszniew and Narocz and, with irresistible force, push in the long, corridor-like space between Lakes Swir and Narocz deep into the rear of the corps. At the same time, a breakthrough through the tactically weak front of the northern wing of the 42nd Infantry Division was to put into Russian hands the light railway Swenzjany—Lytupy—Gorniczizki—Postawy, important for supply. This breakthrough would have most gravely threatened my division, standing in the middle of the 21st Army Corps, and would have made a return of the division, heavily engaged also in front, extremely difficult if not impossible.

Thus the Russian commander hoped, with a giant pincer, to crush the 21st Army Corps, to drive almost a 100 km wide gap into the German eastern front, and to reach Wilna with his masses unstoppably. Recognizing this, the 10th Army pushed its reserves and the units placed at its disposal by O.H.L. behind the flanks of the 21st Army Corps; of the 115th Infantry Division, standing in the middle, it had to be expected that it would hold by its own strength.

On 15 March thaw set in. The ice on the lakes was covered with a foot-deep layer of water. Under the snow-water the ice stretched and strained. All roads were bottomless, the wide land a swamp. Dr. W. Flex gives a dramatic depiction of the Russian spring offensive of 1916:

“Two hours after midnight, 17/18 March, the telephone buzzers rattled in all command posts of the watchful combat front. The general staff officer of the 115th Infantry Division, Captain von Rundstedt, informed the neighboring troops that the enemy before the Lotwa and Woronez narrows was leaving his trenches and filling skirmish lines between breastwork and obstacle. The trench garrisons were alarmed. On all sides the signal flares rose and poured a pale, fading brightness over the gray ice of the lakes and the snow wastes of the marshes and forests. The enemy artillery was silent along almost the entire front. From the trees the thawing snow trickled in streams into the underbrush. Without artillery preparation the Russians, while remaining in the Lotwa narrows behind the broad wall of a mighty snowdrift, advanced in long skirmish lines toward the Woronez narrows and further east toward Schibani across the ice of Lake Glodowo. The listening posts of R.I.R. 40 heard the wading and splashing of the Russians in the thaw-water layer of the lake and alerted the trench, while a strong enemy patrol was already cutting around in the obstacles of the Dorha narrows. The 40th let the silently advancing Russians come up to within 150 paces. Then the sudden and merciless brightness of the searchlights flooded their skirmish lines, and the ravenous machine guns rattled against the welcome target, whose image on the lake emerged out of the almost gray night like a sharply outlined, brightly illuminated giant disc. A skirmish line of dead lay, faces in the water, on the ice of Lake Glodowo. Soundlessly and hastily the Russian withdrew along the entire front of the division after having burned his outstretched feelers in the light of the searchlights and in the fire of the German rifles. The artilleries on both sides began to rumble. A foggy morning dawned!”

At 7 o'clock the tremendous drumfire began. The first day of battle commenced. Its result was: not an

inch of German trench was lost! 19 March passed in similar manner. Again the enemy developed against my division skirmish lines intended to provoke an alarm and artillery fire. The main fighting took place, as the army command had assumed, on the flanks of the corps. Thus the attacks, undertaken with great masses, continued until 27 March, did indeed bring on the flanks serious moments, but nowhere did the enemy succeed in achieving a lasting success. At last the Russian broke off the attack. Exhausted, the Russian regiments lay before us without stirring. The order in our formations, the relief of individual parts, took place in full view of and undisturbed by the enemy. The Russian liberation offensive had collapsed!

On 1 April 1916, the division's anniversary, Field Marshal von Hindenburg visited the division, congratulated it, and spoke his warm recognition. I later received the Red Eagle Order with Swords.

Fresh and uplifted forces now set to work to rebuild the battered positions. The beginning spring also brought new work in agriculture. In this regard, too, noteworthy things were accomplished. Of the sector's total arable land—3,500 hectares—the greater part was sown, including 1,450 ha rye, 300 ha barley, 7.5 ha wheat, 69 ha potatoes, and large parts with buckwheat, peas, and cabbage. All quarters were expanded, positions constructed, the road network improved, and many welfare facilities for the troops created. The division felt very well in the sector. The development of the position was excellent. The superior spirit of the troops, raised by the defensive success, showed itself in manifold successful enterprises. A close relationship of trust between commander and troops bound the division. Thus the order that we were to vacate the sector on 28 July and be transported to Mitau was received with mixed feelings.

Courland. Arrived in Mitau on 29 July, we were assigned to the 8th Army, General of Infantry Otto v. Below. To my great regret the division was rather parceled out here as a reserve. The staff was at times without troops. I myself was, during this period, while retaining command of my division, temporarily detailed to deputize for the furloughed commander of the 76th Reserve Division, Lieutenant General Elstermann von Elster; Hq., Merzendorf. The division lay east of Mitau on the Düna. It was of interest to me to look into the internal and tactical routine of another division. The sector was protected by the Düna, well developed, and quite calm. Already on 16 August I was relieved of this command, and the army assigned me the special task of pushing forward an enterprise against Schlock. For this purpose, under the designation "Sector Kleist," a wide sector was formed just north of Mitau on both sides of the Aa river, and I was assigned, with strong artillery, the L.-I.-R. 29, 49, 57, R.-I.-R. 9 and Landsturm Posen. Hq. Liven-Bersen.

Given the difficult terrain, it was particularly important to determine precisely to what extent it would be possible to emplace heavy artillery in the extensive Tirul marsh. Personal reconnaissance of the ground, which I undertook with my general staff officer up to the Russian positions, soon identified numerous sand oases on which batteries could be sited. These interesting attack preparations were almost complete and ensured full success when, unfortunately, we were recalled and were unable to carry our very careful preparations into effect. On 10 September the divisional staff, with elements of the 115th Infantry Division, was entrained with destination unknown.

War and Revolution Reminiscences 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

32.

At Easter we visited and made gifts to the wounded in the hospitals. One child was dressed as the Easter Bunny, another as a mole. The latter had been driven from his rest by the underground trenches and now came to announce the spring and bring greetings from the front. They brought colored Easter eggs and

spring flowers, some ladies sang, I had composed a festive poem which was printed and distributed to all the wounded. In this way we tried, as far as possible, to bring a little joy into the monotonous life of the hospital and to show the field-grays again and again with what grateful fidelity we Balts remembered them.

33.

And then came May! A year earlier the wonder-working Mother of God of Kazan, after the successful driving back of the enemy—an enemy of our own blood!—had passed through the streets of our town. A year later, on 30 May 1916, joy and jubilation entered: Kaiser Wilhelm II came to visit the city and the troops! What joy that was! Feverish excitement seized everyone. People procured passes in good time; they adorned the houses along the streets through which he was to drive, as prettily as possible, with flowers and carpets. They spoke of nothing else; one hardly slept for excitement; with such enthusiasm and rapt love did our hearts beat for Germany's Kaiser. To us he embodied the power, the splendor, the unity of the Empire. He was the supreme war lord of his incomparable, victorious army; but he was also the conscientious, earnest leader in a hard, bitterly hard time, who bore the need of his land and people from a living, caring heart. An example in his sense of duty, his moral seriousness, his noble, oh so often misunderstood, intent. How we loved, revered, admired him in spite of undeniable faults and shortcomings! How we cheered him, how we trusted him! The enemy's campaign of lies, conducted in an unprecedentedly base and incendiary manner and directed especially against His Majesty's person, seeking to make him contemptible, ridiculous, hateful, had produced among the vast majority of Balts quite the opposite effect. The more he was slandered, the more we inwardly clung to him. I believe that not a few of us kept faith with him in the time of exile and loneliness, when a malicious lack of understanding and cruel condemnation by the German people struck him harder than the baseness of Wilson and the other enemies had done.

But I must not anticipate... We are only at 30 May 1916. From early morning onward German troops passed through the city. Some drew up before the station; others formed a guard of honor all along the long Station, Palace, and Castle Streets up to the castle; most, however, assembled beyond the Aa at "Sorgenfrei," where His Majesty wished to hold a parade and greet his brave soldiers in the extreme northeastern sector of the Eastern Front. From 11 o'clock we could not stay at home. We surged up and down Palace Street with acquaintances and many furloughed field-grays, awaiting the great moment with pounding hearts. Traditional Kaiser and Hohenzollern weather—radiant sunshine and blue sky—did not fail us. Nature was arrayed in its first fresh green. Our little town looked so festive and gay, despite shattered and burned houses, the open wounds the war had dealt it and which it bore with honor.

I had laid aside mourning for the first time. On the steps of the Linden house Mama and I took our place, ringed by soldiers. At last, at 12:30, the tension and excitement reached their height. From the station there sounded distant music; all the bells of the town rang solemnly and joyfully. Words of command ran along the chain of men forming the guard. It stiffened. With a jerk, rifles flew to the present, sabres from their scabbards. Ever nearer rolled a dull shouting, swelling, thundering: Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

And then he came. Slowly the plain field-gray automobile drove. Erect, deeply serious, with a penetrating Hohenzollern gaze that took in everything: the Kaiser; at his side Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the victor of Tannenberg, the "terror of the Russians"; in front General Otto von Below, the commander of this front section.

Hail to thee, Kaiser!

Then—the Kaiser's eye falls upon the group of soldiers to the right, upon the waving female figures. A fleeting smile passes over his earnest features; his hand lingers a little longer at his helmet—he has

“noticed” us! Now he is already past. He drives to the castle and to “Sorgenfrei” for the parade, but is to visit our old Trinity Church afterwards. I do not know how we got through the hours until then. One is as if in a dream. But they do pass. We gather in the venerable building, place ourselves beneath the, fortunately not shattered, window with the image of Tsar Alexander II, donated on the occasion of his visit to Mitau, in the correct expectation that His Majesty would look at this stained glass and linger before it. Then we should be able to see him more closely. So it comes to pass, but we must still wait. In the market square many hundreds of schoolchildren have drawn up, wreaths of spring flowers in their hair, white dresses, radiant eyes, in their hands green–blue–white pennants—the proscribed, now again honored colors of Courland! From many buildings great black–white–red and black–white flags wave in the mild wind. Is it possible? Everything Imperial German and Curonian; nothing more to be seen or felt of Russian foreign rule!

Visibly pleased by the homage of the schoolchildren, the Kaiser enters the church. There the Protestant clergy await him, at their head our much-revered General Superintendent Bernewitz. With reverent thanks he greets the protector of the Protestant Church in this land, whose freedom of conscience has been so sorely oppressed. He conducts him up the central aisle to the altar. Hindenburg and Ludendorff, generals and adjutants, follow. Before the altar a short, silent prayer; a brief, weighty explanation by Bernewitz; a short pause before the stained-glass window—and then these unforgettable minutes, too, belong to the past.

In the Ritterhaus on Bachstraße, the age-old meeting place of the nobility for solemn sessions, social gatherings, balls, and weddings, His Majesty is received by the acting plenipotentiary of the land, von Hoerner–Ihlen, and three gentlemen of the knighthood committee. They lead him through the fine rooms with the imperial portraits and into the great Rittersaal, where the walls are covered with the coats of arms of all the many, many families who belong to the so-called indigenous nobility, i.e. to the Curonian matricular estate—nearly all of them German ancient nobility, with vanishingly few exceptions: some who immigrated centuries ago with the Swordbrothers, others who came later from the Reich. “To the East we would ride!”

How many of those families, however, have already died out! The Kaiser has everything shown and explained to him. He shows lively interest and great historical knowledge. Later, in the enclosed churchyard, he has a considerable number of gentlemen of the knighthood and the estates presented to him. He shakes each man’s hand firmly, and then, in his clear command voice, delivers a short but weighty address which made a deep impression on us all. Then he departed. From half past twelve to three o’clock his visit had lasted—unforgettable to all who had seen and greeted him!

The waves of enthusiasm still ran so high that it was impossible for us to go home and resume our quiet life. The whole day had to be celebrated. Professor Dr. Starck invited Mama and me to his house in the afternoon. We toasted with champagne—at that time an almost unheard-of luxury! We drank to our Kaiser, to Germany, to Courland, to the future, to victory and peace, to ourselves and our loved ones. But one really needed no champagne at all; “youth is intoxication without wine”—so I felt it indeed. In the evening we gathered in the Ritterhaus. It was a quickly improvised and therefore doubly atmospheric gay celebration. The field-gray gentlemen of the civil administration, clergymen, respected citizens came, and of course almost all the nobility in Mitau—old and young, men and women. One saw Bernewitz, surrounded and questioned, and likewise von Hoerner; Silvio Bröderich was there, the bold German colonizer from before the war, and many others. How beautiful was the unity and the common feeling and experience, the expression and bond with like-minded souls! It was a harmonious conclusion to this wondrous day.

34.

For all the unforgettable experiences in Mitau, I was nevertheless drawn back to Libau, to our home, to our old region. Our house had been continuously occupied by German billets. The upper floor was inhabited by a captain at sea, later rear admiral, Bertram; the lower served younger gentlemen as a pied-à-terre for shorter stays; in the boys' rooms on the second floor lived orderlies. We were therefore quite anxious how we should find everything. It was high time to look after the property and not leave it entirely to the military administration. Then, too, the nearness of Gawesen was very important for our bodily well-being.

In Mitau, in the immediate vicinity of the front, the food situation for the civilian population had become ever more sparse and meagre. The war might last a long time yet. How long could we endure the hunger? We did not make much fuss about it, to be sure, but I did not see why we should not take advantage of the possibility of far better nourishment and move back to Libau. My mother, however, was very fond of Mitau. She would have to do without the many dear people, relatives and friends, in Libau; but in the end one had to return home and see to the house. So in the spring of 1916 we resolved to do so. That was easily conceived, but not so easily executed! Any travel by civilians was forbidden. And then our whole house was under requisition. But thanks to the kind efforts of some field-gray acquaintances, we succeeded in obtaining all the necessary permits, and on 17 June 1916 we were at last able to depart for Libau. It was quite hard for us to part from Mitau and the Mitauers, but "parting must be"—that is the way of the world. In cold, unfriendly weather we set out at six in the morning and reached Libau about midday. My brother Eduard and my brother-in-law Horst awaited us. Joyfully we took possession of our house, which we had not seen for almost two years, and of our things. The ground floor had been cleared for us, while the upper stories were still occupied by billets. The four lower rooms with kitchen and side rooms, with veranda and garden, were quite sufficient for Mama and me. We were glad to find everything in tolerable condition and to be at home. Our old Latvian cook, Trudchen Plawnek, had watched over our house and our belongings like a hen over her chicks. They had been entrusted to her by my father; that meant everything must be kept in order, everything defended against the orderlies—and the faithful soul had indeed done so. She had taken on the provisioning of a number of officers and orderlies and received the prescribed rations for this from the victualling office. Thrifty and prudent as she was, she had cooked the gentlemen tasty food and yet had saved a little coal, colonial goods, coffee, sugar, and other things already becoming very scarce for us—a touching sign of her attachment.

She awaited us with a plentiful and good midday meal, which tasted particularly fine at the neatly laid table with Eduard and Horst as companions, while gentle, nice Anna, the new parlormaid, a farmer's daughter from Gawesen, served noiselessly and attentively. Some acquaintances had sent greetings of welcome and came themselves kindly to us; thus we at once felt at home after the long absence.

Life in Libau was in every respect different from Mitau. Outwardly, the town already presented a quite different picture.

Libau had been occupied three months earlier than Mitau, and indeed without a fight, from land and sea. The Russians, withdrawing in all haste, had had no time to destroy much. Hardly any of the civilian population fled. Above all, the strong Jewish population had remained, and this at once showed itself in the shops with their well-stocked displays. How and whence they were able to procure all the good, edible things, luxury articles, fabrics, and so forth, remains their secret. In the streets surged fashionably and elegantly dressed people and a host of sailors, who, in their tight-fitting dark blue "monkey jackets," spotlessly clean, neat, trim, and merry, enlivened the scene enormously. What a splendid impression the Imperial German Navy made at that time! How sharply these well-nourished, impeccably trim blue lads

stood out from the many worn-out, weary field-grays to whom we were accustomed in Mitau, on whose rough clothing one often still saw traces of trenches and barbed wire, of wet clay and enemy bullets.

In Libau there was life, brisk trade, comings and goings by water and by land. Smart torpedo boats and warships put in and put out. Blue and wide lay the sea, and the front so far away! No cannon thunder, no aircraft, no shot-up houses, blown bridges, and no ambulance wagons with their bloody human freight reminded one of the war. The officers visited in many houses. People ate, drank, and lived incomparably better than in Mitau, but it seemed to me that the spirit here was different too—less self-denying and earnest. There were airy suppers with music and dancing, concerts, theater, spa music—almost all things foreign to Mitau.

We also received ample foodstuffs from Gawesen and could therefore keep open house and see very, very many gentlemen with us—from the district office, the commandantur, the governorate, the naval base, the fleet. It was quite a colorful time. Every Sunday afternoon we held a reception tea, to which acquaintances came and could bring friends. For it Trudchen baked Curonian caraway and fruit cakes; the pretty Meissen plates and cups saw the light of day, after having long stood hidden in the cupboard from grasping orderlies' hands; and despite great simplicity in our hospitality many gentlemen came who were glad to pass a few cozy hours in a homely room with German ladies and old things. They were so tired of the constant casino life, the incessant company of men, the official lodgings so often furnished in very poor taste with requisitioned furniture. Who can count the towns, count the names, that came together here as guests! Many were frequent, welcome visitors, of whom we keep a friendly memory.

We were very glad that our dear old Frau von Fircks–Rudbahren came to Libau for the summer with little Marie. We understood one another very well, loved one another, and were very much together. The times lived through together in Mitau had brought us close. The old Frau von Offenbergs–Strocken with her daughter Helene often invited us to pleasant, stimulating afternoons. Frau von Simolin, née von Laverigne–Péguillan, from an old émigré family whence she derived her fabulous temperament and youthfully cheerful spirit, gave pretty parties with dancing and much gaiety, with old Curonian schnapps, and was probably the most popular and most visited house in Libau. It was like a beehive at her place—people going in and out. Guests came to every meal; the guest room was mostly occupied; things were lively and always light-hearted. The nimble, round little hostess with full gray hair darted like a weasel from one room, one guest to another, then quickly into the kitchen where an excellent cook was always at work, then to the sideboard for a little schnapps, a glass of wine, a particularly good cigar for her dear guests. If there was singing, she joined in cheerfully with her loud voice—mostly off key, but that mattered little, for the ancient, tinny-sounding upright scarcely allowed for musical harmony in any case. If there was dancing—which by flickering firelight from the hearth was very atmospheric—she would whirl through the hall like a ball at the quickest waltz tempo, bosom heaving, breathless. It was always merry at her house. With warm cordiality everyone was received and indulged as far as possible, so that he would be sure to come back soon, for the fun-loving “neighbor lady” could not abide being alone!

We struck up a friendship with the fiery young naval chaplain Graeber. He pursued theosophical studies with me. We read about them together, including English treatises which I had to translate, as he did not command the language sufficiently. With him and Pastor Graß and his wife, our clergyman in Libau, we had very stimulating regular reading afternoons. We met by turns at the Graßes', at our house, and at Graeber's, drank tea, read essays on current politics, also older pieces by Treitschke, about Goethe and Bismarck, and conversed with the two educated and intellectually very lively gentlemen about what we had read. We also attended Graeber's fine Bible hours at the naval hospital in Neu-Libau and the military

services in the Latvian Anna Church, as well as good church concerts there, which sounded particularly fine in the mighty Gothic building.

Most interesting, however, were the musical evenings at Frau Edelmänn's, a woman artistically very gifted, exceedingly temperamental, lively, clever, and warm-hearted, with a beautiful, impressive voice. How romantic it was at her house in the little salon with its many carpets and pictures and the subdued, softly rose-colored lamp that only faintly lit the room and the faces of the men and women who sat together in earnest, deep conversations! They spoke "of all that is high and moves the human heart; they spoke of all that is sweet and thrills the human breast!" And when the hostess sat down at the piano and sang "of spring and love, of blest, golden time," "of freedom, manly worth, of loyalty and holiness," one song after another, carrying us along and lifting us above ourselves and the pettinesses of daily life—then indeed all our hearts opened! From the windows one saw over the gardens to the dark expanse of sea, at times pale-lit by the moon, and heard the steady breathing of the waters. Oh, fair hours that we were permitted to experience there! Frau Edelmänn often sang at our house as well and delighted us and our guests with her mature art. (To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family  von Kleist

Nummer 9

August 1938

News from the Family

The personal status has changed as follows since the publication of the previous number:

Engagements:

In April Eleonore (p. 11) to Nickel, Baron von Salza und Lichtenau – Kittlitz near Löbau, Saxony.

In May Rita (p. 28) to Mr. Georg Bödiker – Hamburg.

In June Brigitte (p. 11) to Dr.-Eng. Karl Wilhelm Hennig, professor at the Technical University of Hanover.

Marriages:

Ewald (p. 6) Kowalk, on May 14 to Alice Kuhlwein von Rathenow, born Liegnitz on October 8, 1910.

On 18 June in Hamburg Rita (p. 28) see above.

Deaths:

On 6 Dec. 37 in Riga Cornelia, née Baroness von Rönne (mother of Helmuth (p. 15)).

On 11 Mar. 38 Elisabeth von Jagow (p. 32) in Berlin.

On 18 Mar. 38 Marie, née Baroness von Weber (p. 28) in Vienna.

On 29 Mar. 38 Her Excellency Olga von Briefen (p. 43) in Kolberg.

On 15 Jun. 38 Marie (p. 7) in Groß Dubberow.

Miscellaneous:

As of 1 Mar. 38 Colonel Adolf (p. 30) became commandant in Hanover.

Hans Joachim – Löbau on 1 Jun. Second Lieutenant of the Reserve in I. -R. 9.

Baron Karl (p. 27) has moved to Hamburg, Oberstr. 103.

Baron Georg (p. 13) Jagemanoz caur Vainode, Latvia.

Baron Arthur (the son) Landschulheim Neubeuern near Rosenheim, Upper Bavaria.

According to no. 281 of the DAZ, a new portrait of the poet Heinrich v. Kleist has been found. In the view of Dr. Paul Hoffmann it must have been executed in the winter of 1808 to 1809; Gerhard von Kugelgen may be considered as the painter. In contrast to the other known portraits it shows Heinrich as a mature man.

Through the kindness of the Pomeranian Provincial Museum the family has obtained a photostat of the handwriting of the cathedral dean of Kamin. The illustration shows two receipts from the years 1729 and 1732. The originals are in the State Archives at Stettin.

Kleist Regiment: From 6 to 9 May, in Görlitz, a reunion of former Kleist grenadiers took place. The family was represented by Cousin Detlef-Meiningen (p. 40) and on the first evening also by the chairman. Cousin Detlef laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the family. The inscription on this memorial is so honorable for the regiment, and thereby also for the family, that it is given here: "From the Grenadier Regiment Count Kleist von Nollendorf (1st West Prussian) No. 6 there fell in the World War 1914/18 the regimental commanders Lieutenant Colonel Heyn, Lieutenant Colonel von Kaisenberg, 112 officers, 237 NCOs, 2084 grenadiers and fusiliers."

Briefly let us touch on the history of the regiment. After the first partition of Poland, Frederick the Great raised a number of new regiments in the newly acquired territories. Thus General von Lengefeld formed in Preußisch Holland 12 companies which later became the 1st and 2nd battalions of the regiment that at first bore the name von Lengefeld and, from 1795, carried the number 52.

The fusilier battalion was raised in 1787 in East Prussia under the name von Thiele and in 1807 was assigned to the regiment, which then received the number 6. In the battle of Nollendorf the regiment distinguished itself particularly. Its garrisons were at first quite changeable, lastly Posen. On every occasion the regiment distinguished itself. In 1860 it received the designation 1st West Prussian Grenadier Regiment No. 6 and from then on was permitted to wear the black hair-plume with the parade dress. In 1889 it was given the name Count Kleist von Nollendorf, in 1913 the flying eagle and the Guards' lace. After the World War, tradition was carried on by the 10th Company of Inf.-Regt. 8; in the new Wehrmacht it has been taken over by the 2nd Battalion of Inf.-Regt. 30 in Görlitz. An entire block of military buildings in the east of the city today bears the name "Kleist Barracks," and one of the streets running past it the name "Kleist Street."

The family is proud to see its name thus linked with the Wehrmacht, and it expects of its youth that they do their part to maintain and prove the association of the family with the regiment. It expresses the most urgent hope that everyone who is not led by particular traditions to another regiment and who wishes to enter the infantry will do so with Inf. Rgt. 30 in Görlitz!

Below are three poems that come from Leegen in Courland and which we owe to Cousin Lillie of Zerxten. They are meant to shed light on times past and to be a remembrance of old Courland folk customs.

To celebrate the seventieth birthday of Mr. Georg Christoph von Kleist, the valiant, sprightly old man.

Presented by Hermann von Frank and his children

Mitau, 13 Dec. 1799

Joy! thou great spark of gods!!
Thou, thou shalt make us glad today;
See how, drunk with rapture,
We strew flowers for Kleist, the worthy.

To thee! the noble, sprightly elder,
Who enjoys his life in fair measure,
And, in true forefathers' fashion,
Pours fortune upon his branches.

Who, at his neighbor's suffering,
Comports himself as friend of man,
Helping quaffs the cup of joys

That no reproach can cast down.

To thee! who ten times seven years
This day with noble heart dost count;
Far be yet from thee the bier
That no mortal can escape!

Long yet wander, to the joy
Of thy children—friends—along—
Be our bliss, our feast for eyes!!
This today is joy's own sense.

All: yea! that is the sense.
Kleist shall live! far and near.

Poem by Mr. von Hüllessem on the occasion when Friedrich, Baron v. Kleist (III. 695) and Count Keyserling left the university, thus about the year 1820.

We who joyfully have found us,
Are now kindly still united,
Yet from friend doth friend be parted
By the day's soon-envying hours.

Let us then in cheerful number
Taste the juice of Bacchus' vine,
Let, beside the brimming goblet,
Father Bacchus' bounty flow.

From life's fairest time of all
Two of friends must now be sundered!
With Curonia's heart within,
Rich in learning and in mind,
Wandereth our old friend Kleist
From the Muses' cheerful seat.

May there ring, o brothers, to him,
Midst of punch and wine, farewell.
Joy may softly round him blossom
On his dear young consort's breast,
Wreathed about with youthful pleasures
May life's dream from him glide hence.
And may he, when grown a greybeard,
Think upon his merry circle.

See! with heart all void of malice,
Charming round Latona's son,
'Midst of laughter, midst of jesting,
Count Kayserling goeth hence.

With Curonia's glow to deck him
Roses grace his little mouth,
From his blue eyes softly glancing
Sleep and dream in fairest bond.
O! that Keyserling might stay us!
Yet his purpose is unbending,
Glowing love unto his country
Drives him to his fatherland.

Not the Swiss snow-burdened mountains,
Not the Middle Sea's fair strand,
Not Venezia would he gaze on,
Only his dear fatherland,
Only friendly Cabillen
Can with longing fill his breast.

There, beneath green oaken branches,
May a gentle sleep o'ertake him!
Therefore sleep thou all the day;
May none ever mar thy slumber—
It can only gladness grant us,
Shield us well from pain and grief.
Only in our father Charon's
Shallop would I wake in bliss.

Hüllessem.

A song such as, until the World War, was still sung on the evening of St. John's Day, with the presentation of wreaths by the people of the manor before the manor house.

Translation

of the old Jahn's song and prayer for the gracious lord of Leegen, in the name of all the people of Leegen

To me, an old greybeard, Thou, dear God, hast ever granted help in this world, to make my honest way through, in good fortune and misfortune.

Cheerfully I thank Thee also for dry bread. Despite hard going I remain honest nonetheless.

Also for the lord I have, I thank Thee, dear God; the heart in my breast leaps when I behold him.

He is neither an oppressor, nor a devourer, nor hard of heart; to us, his people, he does only good, and lets justice be done us.

In times of want he gives us bread, and when we do ill, he condemns not without mercy, but admonishes as a father.

When in the Polish time we raged along with other raging ones, and wished to be without a lord like other fools, then, as he went through the servants' houses, he spoke to us like a gracious father, and forgave us our folly. A better than this thou wilt not find in Courland, and even in the wide world thou wilt seek him in vain.

When he, as often befell, addressed me in fatherly friendliness and asked "how art thou faring?" how did I then weep? For joy I then wept, that he did not proudly mock me, good-for-nothing that I am, as many a rich man does.

When a poor man prays to Thee, dear God, Thou art well pleased to hear him. Ah, hear also that for which we folk of Leegen beseech Thee. Preserve to us our golden lord into his late old age. Give him health and fortune, honor

and prosperity. Children and children's children shall rejoice in him; and upright and honorable tread in his footsteps. Take him after long years into Thy heavenly realm, and then let me, old man, rejoice with him forever. Requite him there in Thy heaven richly for the forbearance and love he has shown us.

My Service in the World War 1914/18

compiled for the purposes of the history of the von Kleist family

by Alfred von Kleist, Lieutenant General (ret.)

Volhynia: The journey went from Mitau via Grodno, Brest-Litovsk to Kovel, where the unloading point Wladimir-Wolhynsk was designated. We arrived there on 12 Sept., were assigned to Army Group Linsingen, Austrian army, Colonel General von Tersztyansky, Group v. d. Marwitz. In the sector of the 4th Austrian army the Russians had succeeded, near the place Korytnica, southeast of Swiniuchy on the front of Wladimir-Wolhynsk, in gaining a local advantage, in that they had bent in the Austrian front on a breadth of 3 to 4 km. On 22 Sept. I received from Group Marwitz the order, with a "Division v. Kleist" assembled for this purpose, to retake the position at Korytnica in conjunction with Division Runkel under Group Beckmann.

Abbreviated wartime order of battle of the Division v. Kleist: 229th Infantry Brigade = L. I. -R. 61, R. I. -R. 225, I. -R. 42, R. I. -R. 265, Jäg. -B. 14, 3rd Guards Cavalry Brigade = 3rd G. Uhlan Regt., 1st G. Uhlan Regt.; 31 heavy and light German and Austrian batteries, columns and trains, etc. St. -Qu. Kuty.

After very careful reconnaissance of the terrain and preparation, the position was stormed on 27 Sept., and by evening we were in possession of all the lost ground and held it against furious counterattacks. Prisoners: 41 officers, 2,800 men; captured: 2 guns, 17 MG. The enemy was so utterly beaten that the opposing 4th Siberian Army Corps disappeared from the front. A complete success! I received the 2nd Class of the Austrian Military Merit Order with war decoration.

In the course of October my 115th I. -D., which, completely split up, had taken part successfully in the battle of Kovel, again assembled with us. We strengthened the captured position, had to defend it repeatedly against heavy Russian attacks, and it had the appearance as if we would remain for the winter on the Volhynian front. On 8 Nov., however, the directive came that the scarcely assembled division was to prepare for transport. Three days later I handed over the by then quite quiet sector to the 224th I. -D., Major General Bürtow.

On 13 Nov., at Iwanice, a small Volhynian station, we were entrained in rain, storm, and darkness. The farewell to dirty Volhynia was not hard for us, especially as the order came to send an advance detachment to Budapest. Was the journey now, to general joy, indeed to lead to Romania! In any event, the Volhynian campaign offered us much of interest. In the close cooperation with the Austrian allies I gained a deep insight into their military qualities!

The order for the division's transport coincided with a change of the general staff officer. Captain von Rundstedt, universally liked in the division, was transferred to O. H. L., and Captain Raschick became his successor. Despite this personnel change the transport proceeded smoothly and according to orders. As the division departed from its previous circumstances, it was accompanied by rich recognition. The Supreme Commander East, Prince Leopold of Bavaria, R. H., wired to me: "On the departure from the area under my command I express to the division my full thanks and unreserved recognition for its outstanding achievements on the Eastern Front, for the exemplary fidelity to duty and for its incomparable bravery, which it has shown in all combats and battles and in the severest situations of the war on Courland and Lithuanian soil, as well as in Volhynia and Galicia against the mass onslaughts of the Russians seeking decision.

My warmest wishes accompany the commander as well as the troops, tried in so many storms, whom I only reluctantly see leave my command, to the tasks to which our Most High War Lord has called them."

Romania: The route went via Lemberg and Arad. There the unloading station Petroseny was announced, where we arrived on 17 Nov.

Wallachia: The journey through fair Hungary offered much of interest, but was somewhat spoiled by cold and inadequate lighting in the rail coaches. Although the division had not yet fully assembled, on 19 Nov., in heavy snow weather, it set out to advance through the 24 km long, scenically splendid Sznodus Pass. At first as reserve of

the 9th Army, v. Falkenhayn, it followed along the only passable road via Târgu Jiu – Craiova – Caracal. On 4 Dec. we were, however, subordinated to Group Kühne, Gen. -Kdo. 54, and drawn by it to the southern wing of this corps. On that same day we reached the Arge? River, took successful part in the pursuit after the battle, and kept contact with the approaching Danube Army. On 5 Dec., having come up close before Bucharest, I received in the night of 5/6 Dec. at Joi?a the order, if possible still in darkness, to take possession of the western front of the fortress. This succeeded with surprising speed. At 9 a.m. I stood on Fort 1 and had Bucharest before me! Deserted and desolate lay the forts and works of the extensive ring of fortifications before our eyes; only feeble counter-thrusts from the city sought to hold us up.

III. I. -R. 171 immediately took possession of the North Station and occupied parts of the city. Meanwhile the Gren. -Regt. 2 had also entered the city from the east, so that both units might contend for the honor of having first taken possession of the country's capital. By higher order, however, no further advance was made. The division remained in the suburb Turani after we had cleared it of the enemy.

We had not long to visit the beautiful city; for already on 9 Dec. the advance was resumed. Whereas hitherto the Romanian campaign had demanded only tremendous marching (500 km in 17 days) but comparatively little in the way of combat, conditions now changed. Daily heavy fighting began with the Russians coming to the Romanians' aid, who likely also feared for their own flank. The forcing of the Sargata sector with its steep, channel-like banks and the Jalomita succeeded only on 11 Dec. Thence it went irresistibly, under daily heavy combats, via Pogoande to the northeast, until on approaching the Buzau it became apparent that on its northern bank the Russians had entrenched themselves at Galbanul-Drogul in a prepared position. During the Christmas days, 21 to 27 Dec., this position was stormed in the battle of Râmnicu Sarat, after hard fighting very costly to the division. Our Christmas 1916 shone over a battlefield on which the best of the division, among them a brave and proven regimental commander, had met a glorious end.

The enemy's resistance as far as the Sereth was broken. There were still pursuit combats, in which the division, on the extreme right flank, took part very successfully by storming the places Garleacka and Gulianka, threw the Russians back as far as the Sereth estuary, and fought out its winter position.

1917. On the Sereth: On 10 Jan. trench warfare began. The division's sector lay between the rivers Ruzaul and Rinnicul and is separated from the Sereth by a marshy lowland about 5–6 km wide, on which the enemy lies. The marshy ground offered great difficulty, since with a few spade-strokes one struck water. The position was therefore in part built up above ground; with the shortage of timber, a lengthy task. Artillery positions were impossible given the absolute flatness. The highest point of the whole sector was +24. To deny the enemy observation, a very extensive system of works woven from acacia branches had been constructed. Quarters for the troops, stabling for the horses, were altogether lacking. They were provided only gradually and provisionally. Other than thin acacia scrub there was no wood, neither for building nor for heating. It had to be brought from far in the mountains.

The troops, after the tremendous marching and fighting, into which they had been thrown straight from the train without winter outfit, were utterly in rags. Replacements in clothing and boots had not arrived. The weather had not harmed us much thus far. On 19 Jan., however, following a period of rain, there set in quite unexpectedly a dreadful northeast gale, the dreaded "Kriwet." Temperature fell to -24°R. The men, without shelter in the wet trenches, had their clothing frozen on their bodies, it clinked like glass. The troops suffered greatly under these conditions; 1,500 cases of frostbite, some of very severe kind, were the result. Morale was worsened by the sporadic appearance of cholera. Yet all these difficulties, despite a very hard and snowy winter, were overcome thanks to the excellent spirit of the troops and the very intensive activity of the division in all its parts, and a tolerable state was gradually achieved.

The sector was without any road communications, a wide snow field on which the eye found no point of rest. Bringing up rations was therefore very difficult. It always required great care and forethought. The division lay as if on a board, cut off from all means. Our neighbors were to the north the 109th I. -D., Major General v. Behr, and to the south a Bulgarian division with its commander Major General Kantardieff, with whom good neighborly relations were maintained.

The enemy lay to the north directly before our position, to the south somewhat withdrawn. Our St. -Qu. Corbeni

was a Romanian crown domain, lay quite solitary in an acacia oasis, and consisted of several small houses which we fitted up comfortably. We felt quite well there. In April, as a consequence of the Russian revolution, attempts became noticeable to establish contact with our lines. This was at first supported by us through mutual propaganda activity, but was always soon dropped again, as no lasting success could be observed.

The summer brought great heat, temperatures up to 50° [Réaumur], which however were borne well by officers and men. The entire division took quinine for months as protection against malaria and was therefore fairly spared from the disease. On the other hand we suffered from epidemic typhus, which cost many victims, particularly among the medical personnel. Agriculturally the land was made useful by sowing maize and wheat. The yield was very abundant.

At the end of July the division had to endure a very heavy artillery attack, in that on 22/23 July the position was deluged with a methodical, very heavy drumfire. The fire was well borne by the brave troops. An infantry attack stuck in its beginnings.

On 2 Aug. we were relieved from the position and, for an offensive to be undertaken toward the east in the region of Focșani, placed at the disposal of the 1st Reserve Corps, Lieutenant General von Morgen. The breakthrough battle at the Putna and Susita, taking place in the days from 6 Aug. to 3 Sept., brought us hard fighting. Despite the enemy's stubborn resistance the hostile positions were broken through, the valleys of the Putna and Susita crossed, and all counterattacks repelled. The bold onrush of the division, its endurance through all exertions and privations in these fighting days fought out under a blazing sun, brought it rich recognition. For this period I received the star to the Order of the Crown, 2nd Class with Swords. The decoration was doubly precious to me, as His Majesty the Kaiser, when he visited the division in September, pinned it on me in person.

In the Transylvanian Alps: The offensive, undertaken with weak forces, had at least the advantage that our line was pushed forward northeast over the Susita and the valleys of the Putna and Susita were opened to us. After several shifts of the division, in the autumn we took over from the Alpenkorps the sector lying farthest in the mountains on the north bank of the Surita, about from Muncenul in the northward-jutting bend to Varnita. Neighbors: right, 217th I. -D., Major General v. Gallwitz; left, 76th R. -I. -D., Lieutenant General Elstermann von Elster; under command of the 18th Reserve Corps, Lieutenant General Wenniger, and when he fell a hero's death in the division's sector while inspecting the position, Lieutenant General Sieger. Later a special group was formed under my command, consisting of 217th I. -D. and 115th I. -D. St. Qu. Vatinesti.

Whereas last winter we lay on absolute flatland, our position now was in the midst of the mountains, up to 1,000 m high. Thus it presented quite a different picture, was beautiful in landscape, but very pathless and posed great demands on the troops, since quarters were lacking and ammunition and rations had to be carried. The Romanian lying directly before us had apparently entrenched himself well and maintained a methodical, very well directed, heavy artillery fire.

After already on 4 Jan. the armistice with Russia had begun, one began on 10 Dec. also on the Romanian front. Therewith the warlike events came to rest. Both opponents were held in the trenches; the Romanians rejected any contact. We devoted ourselves entirely to training and to the care of the troops. Quarters and positions were built and countless welfare institutions arose.

III. Commander of Gen. -Kdo. z. b. V. No. 58.

1918. Russia: At the beginning of February I was at a course for higher troop leadership in Ruzau when, on 6 Feb., I received my appointment as commander of Gen. -Kdo. z. b. V. No. 58, together with the order to report in Riga to the 8th Army, Colonel General Count Kirchbach. This appointment, too, came to me entirely unexpectedly.

Now it was a matter of taking leave of my dear 115th Division, which I had formed and with which I had stood three years in combat and victory on almost all theaters of war, and with which a wealth of glorious memories bound me inseparably. With pride and never-dying gratitude shall I remember those years which I lived through at the head of the division, bound to it by a close tie of mutual trust. Thus, despite my promotion, it was a day of sorrow for me when, on 9 Feb., I left the division, accompanied by the good wishes of my faithful staff, with whom I was closely united inwardly and outwardly.

Livonia and Estonia: On 18 Feb., after a toilsome journey, I arrived in Riga, precisely on the day on which the armistice with Russia expired. My corps, chief of staff: Lieutenant Colonel Oskar v. Hahnke, stood on the Düna, widely spread out, roughly from Lievenhof, 15 km east of Jakobstadt, via Friedrichstadt to about 10 km east of Lennewaden. K. -H. -Qu.: Warenbrock.

Abbreviated wartime order of battle: 29th composite Landwehr Brigade, Colonel Count Lippe; 3rd Guards Cavalry Brigade, Colonel von Brandenstein; both brigades were organized like divisions, each had 3 to 4 Landwehr infantry regiments, cavalry, and strong artillery, which, however, was partly unhorsed. In addition, medical formations, searchlights, pioneers, signal troops, columns and trains.

With the beginning of hostilities our operations for the liberation of Livonia and Estonia commenced. The Gen. -Kdo. pushed flying columns over the Düna which advanced farther into the country. Full of offensive spirit and dash, these mostly weak columns broke into Livonia in severe winter, quickly cleared the land of the red bands, freed the population, and captured much army materiel.

After the peace of Brest-Litovsk was concluded on 3 March, we received the directive that Gen. -Kdo. 58 was to be placed at the O. H. L.'s disposal for other employment, and already on 8 March we were on the railway to be transported to the West, where more serious tasks awaited us.

War and Revolution Memories 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness v. Kleist

36.

A regular guest at these evenings was Dr. Kück. Thus it came about that he soon became good friends with me, also visited us frequently, and gradually laid aside his Hamburg stiffness. We also met often at Baroness Valeska von Medem's. She then lived in the Christiani house in Hückestraße and received many guests. How pleasant was the evening during the Christmas days at her home! She had invited only me, Dr. Kück, and the sympathetic Rittmeister v. Mechow.

Three nice Courland bachelors were often with us: the old, ever tactful, refined, humorous Baron Lex v. d. Ropp; Richard v. Bordelius, the lame one, with manifold interests, well traveled, artistically attuned, entertaining; and my particular friend, Baron Lothar v. Grotthuß—Castle Hasenpote—with whom I had in recent years grown well acquainted. He brought me books and pictures, told much of his frequent travels, and could for hours tell jokes and anecdotes from old times with biting mockery. But he cared little for new acquaintances and withdrew somewhat when the many field-grey guests came into our house.

37.

First there were the delegates of the imperial commissioner, a very distinguished company in which Dr. Kück and Mr. Keudel were the only commoners. The others were princes, counts, barons, diplomats, excellencies, to whom it was naturally not always easy to accustom themselves to the militarily organized, scant and narrow life of the rear area and to the Red Cross activity as protectors of nurses and orderlies, to look after recreation and soldiers' homes, to settle leave and transfer questions, etc. As the gentlemen were all serving honorarily—my husband did so, despite heavy workload, for a full four years!—the position of the delegates was, of course, particularly exalted. My husband, for instance, who had never served, held the rank of a major. One of them, formerly an envoy, once remarked with his characteristic circular arm movements: "Formerly I handed over declarations of war, now I have to concern myself with cooks!" He was horrified by the poor mess fare. "Autrefois nous dinions, maintenant nous mangeons!" "Dipping gravy! how ghastly!!—if only it were called sauce!" But since, apart from such ridiculous affectations of gentility, he played the piano very nicely and painted charming watercolors, and was otherwise a very amusing companion, his little inanities were forgiven and he was gladly seen nevertheless.

At the head of voluntary nursing for the Eastern Front stood Prince Hohenlohe-Langenburg, who once came to Libau for inspection and took tea with us. Rear-area delegates were: Count Keyserling-Neustadt, direct superior of Dr. Kück, by him highly revered and loved, a prudent, refined, truly noble and kindly man. His successor was Excellency von Jagow, the former German envoy in Rome and State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who had guided Germany's destinies until 1916 alongside Bethmann-Hollweg. After the enormous responsibility he was quite run

down in his nerves and lived quietly and withdrawn. After a year he was relieved by General le Bret. Delegates for assignments were: Excellency von Below, formerly envoy in Brussels; Mr. von Oesterreich, a great merchant from Hamburg, with whom we also later remained in touch; Dr. Kück; and Mr. Keudel, an old East African.

And then the district office! At the corner of Ulich and Badesstraße the district captain, Major Baron Knigge, resided like a little king in his realm, granted audiences, received countless petitioners from town and country, helped many, softened the often senseless and harsh ordinances of A. O. K. East, which, issued from Kovno without closer knowledge of town and land, people and Courland conditions, simply rained down, caused confusion and drove our Baltic gentlemen to despair, who had in many cases placed themselves honorarily at the German government's disposal as heads of communes and also mediated between it and the Latvian rural population. With Baron Knigge, the rough, witty, self-assured yet good-natured squire, lived the justice of the peace Karl Rehmann from Kassel, a native of Courland, who had long since sold his estate and moved with his family to Kassel, where he occupied himself with sculpture, studying and modeling horses in all postures and breeds. We liked this splendid, modest and yet so entertaining, reliable man very much, who was warm-hearted and stimulating, and we soon agreed that Rehmann and Kück were by far the most agreeable "field-greys." Hence they could not be absent from our Sunday afternoons and our small evening gatherings.

39.

Among our dearest guests, however, was also the rear-area inspector, Lieutenant General von Harbou, who became a faithful and dear friend to us. His fundamentally kind, simple and unassuming nature, his great modesty and warmth of heart won all hearts. He loved our Courland and us Balts, adapted himself completely to us, and later married a Miss v. Derschau of Mitau. He was often with us and as cozy as an old Courlander. The military governors Excellency v. Schwerin, Excellency Heinemann, Excellency Neugebauer, Excellency v. Alten we also saw to tea, likewise the city commandant, Colonel v. Below, who had reorganized the army in Chile and shaped it on Prussian lines, the police president Becherer, many lieutenants from the war school and many gentlemen of the navy.

There was stout Admiral Witschet, a Saxon, who in his dialect told stirringly of his mountain tours and hunting adventures in Europe, America, Asia, and Africa; Admiral Vegas, the taciturn, convivial man with the striking Napoleonic head; Excellency Hopmann, an old East Asian hand, clever and of fine manners; Captain Robertson of Hamburg, very sympathetic, whom we later saw again in Reinbek; Captain at Sea Schlick with the many orders and merry festivities aboard S.M.S. "Straßburg," which he commanded; and many, many others. We were fond of Count Wolf v. Finckenstein, Garde du Corps, severely wounded, hence assigned to the district office, an open, clever, interested man with whom one could converse engagingly.

Excellency von Harbou one day brought us the old court preacher v. Dryander and the senior military chaplain v. Strauß to tea, as well as the poetess Frida Schanz. Countess Groeben, née v. Kleist, the chairwoman of the Patriotic Women's Associations, came to Libau to found such an association and was our evening guest. With Dr. Kück and a few other ladies and gentlemen she traveled the occupied territory up to Reval, gave lectures and canvassed for the P.W.A.

Through all these various people, life, stimulus, and novelty streamed into our quiet house and our receptive minds, enriching life and shaping it manifoldly.

40.

In summer I took the lovely, refreshing sea baths which I so loved. Libau lies right on the open sea on Courland's west coast, and thus has heavy surf and bracing sea air. One day I was standing on the long pier of the ladies' bath—it was a sunny, clear summer's day with an entirely blue sky and deep blue sea—when I suddenly saw a white point appear in the southwest. What can that be? A cloud? Surely not, in this blue clarity? The white shining point in the boundless blue comes ever nearer, comes straight toward us, a deep, organ-like humming becomes audible... a Zeppelin! The first steerable airship to visit our native strand! Grand was the sight of the giant ship approaching majestically, surely, and swiftly. There were some astonished, unbelieving eyes in Libau then. Such a thing the very fewest had ever seen! "The Germans, those devil-fellows, what can they not do!" many a simple Latvian may have thought.

41.

In September I visited my siblings in Groß Dselden, to which they had moved back again. We missed Bratto very much, who, with his grandmother v. Hahn, had left Mitau in the summer of 1915, when the German advance, with the accompanying combats, had brought so much unrest and insecurity into our land. They turned to Riga, but fled thence to Finland and Sweden and only later returned home.

With the siblings I spent pleasant days in fair Dselden, also drove to Rudbahren, where the Fircks, after a long similar odyssey, had at last returned home. The manor house, burned down in 1905, had been rebuilt by Fircks very beautifully, large and magnificent. It was not yet quite finished and, likely, never became so. From Rudbahren we made pleasant walks and excursions, and were also on the outlying estate of Lehnien on the Windau, which showed various traces of combat. Abandoned trenches, collapsed dugouts, a few quiet graves, imprints of exploded shells, shrapnel and rifle bullets bore witness to the stubborn struggle over the Windau front. We were at beautiful, quiet Tels-Paddern with Ina and Brigitte v. Keyserling, whose withdrawn life strongly recalls that in the "Evening Houses" which their uncle, Count Keyserling, has so masterfully portrayed.

We also visited dear old Baroness v. Offenbergh and Mariechen in Illien, which, for the sake of many happy childhood memories, was especially dear to me; we were in Leegen, the old Kleist majorat, with Baroness Ida v. Grotthuß, née v. Kleist, where one was always very kindly received by Dibuschka, the laughter-loving, faithful friend, and Nicko, the witty, biting causeur, and was regaled with many good things by the house factotum, Miss Grosch, and, with great hospitality, welcomed and indulged.

(To be continued)

Newsletter

of the Family von Kleist

Number 10

Februar 1939

News from the Family

Report on the family day on January 28

This time the family day was extraordinarily well attended to our great delight; once again, in the rooms of the Officers' Club of the War Academy, there gathered—some already for the meeting, others only for the dinner: Sigurd from Stolp, Diether Dennies from Tychow, Hermann Conrad and Vera-Klein Dubberow, Ewald and Alice-Schmenzin, Rudolph and Gertrud, Peter and Editha-Jeseritz, Ernestine, Luise Henriette and Elisabeth from Berlin, Hans Joachim – Zützen, Leopold and Luise, Eva Eleonore, Marie Luise and Anna from Berlin, Ernst from Berlin, Ewald and Anita from Trier, Karl Friedrich from Guben, Wolf Friedrich – Großtychow, Peter Christian-Möthlow, Fritz and Valeska-Damen, Jarislaff with fiancée, Adelheid v. Döring, from Dt. Krone, Ruth from Stettin, Hans Jürgen and Maria with Jürgen Christoph-Kieckow, Maria Corona from Berlin, Berndt and Anna Luise from Lichterfelde, Joachim from Frankfurt, Betty from Weißensee, Hasso from Rostock, Jürgen-Vietzow, Hans Ewald and Else from Berlin, Artur from Berlin, Isa from Filehns, Ewald and Gisela-Weidebrück, Ewald from Fürstenwalde, Ewald from Wilmersdorf, Robert and Lonny with Veronika and Rose Marie-Wusseken, Ewald and Käthe from Zehlendorf, Hildegard from Berlin, Wilhelm from Hanover, Ewald and Margarete with Ortrun-Tychow. As a guest we were able to welcome Professor Minde-Pouet, the chairman of the Kleist Society.

In his opening, the chairman upheld the honor of the family and further commemorated the deceased of the year. From their large number he mentioned in particular our previous honorary chairman, Cousin Ewald-Karthan, and Cousin Leo-Drenow, and once more recalled their services to the family.

The greetings and telegrams received were read out, and then, in the presence of the notary, Attorney Dr. Koch of Berlin, the supplementary board election was carried out. In place of the late Cousin Leo, Cousin Ewald-Weidebrück, General of Cavalry (ret.), now takes office. Cousin Hans Jürgen-Kieckow was elected as a deputy member. The board now consists of the cousins:

Ewald-Tychow, chairman,

Ewald-Schmenzin,

Ewald-Weidebrück, as regular members, and

Berndt-Lichterfelde and

Hans Jürgen-Kieckow as deputies.

The death of Cousin Leo also required a by-election to the Council of Honor. It resulted in Cousin Robert-Wusseken advancing to regular member and Cousin Wolf Friedrich-Großtychow being elected as deputy.

The Council of Honor is composed today as follows:

Regular members:

Hermann Conrad-Klein Dubberow,

Hans Jürgen-Kieckow,

Robert-Wusseken;

Deputies:

Leopold–Berlin,
Sigurd–Stolp,
Wolf Friedrich–Großtychow.

Accounts: The family's assets today amount to:

Main fund	67,473.25 RM.
Daughters' foundation	21,564.83 RM.
Raddatz	3,503.86 RM.
In total:	92,541.94 RM.

Income in 1938, including drawn bonds and dues:

	10,989.68 RM;
expenditures	8,670.86 RM.
Cash balance on 1/1/39:	2,318.82 RM.
The expenditures include:	
for assistance	6,139.73 RM;
for taxes etc.:	1,846.81 RM.

As taxes amount to about 45% of the net capital earnings, negotiations have been initiated with the tax office to avoid at least the corporation tax through an amendment to the statutes. Should these negotiations achieve their aim, an interim family day on a small scale will be necessary solely for the purpose of putting this amendment into effect. If the desired goal is not achieved with the tax office, there are only two ways to avoid these taxes: first, splitting the assets into a purely charitable part and one for the other purposes, or else diverting a larger portion and investing it in a supplement to the family history, which as such does belong to the purposes of the assets.

Changes in civil status: To the changes in civil status and addresses listed in issue 9 of the newsletter, the following are added:

Born: A son, Gunnar, to Cousin Gunnar in Angola on October 13. (p. 5)

Engaged: in January Jarislaff (p. 24) to Adelheid von Döring in Dt. Krone,

Married: in August Brigitte (p. 11) to Dr.-Ing. Karl Wilh. Hennig, professor in Hanover;
on August 27 Eleonore (p. 11) to Nickel, Baron von Salza und Lichtenau.

Deceased: on 8/7 in Mois Ewald, Baron Karthan (p. 21),
on 8/23 in Drenow Leo Ewald (p. 35),
on 9/5 in Poland Arthur, Baron von Kleist Keyserlingk (p. 12),
on 10/8 in Hanover Gisela, née Countess Kleist vom Loß (p. 10).

Miscellaneous: Elisabeth v. Quast (p. 3), Potsdam, Burggrafenstraße 37,
Agnes, née Strousberg, Frankfurt a. M., Cronstettenstr. 57, Nellini home (p. 5),
Asta Vermehren (p. 6), there as well, Grüneburgweg 103, II,
Leopold, Excellency, acquired the estate Haltauf in the district of Ohlau, Silesia (p. 11),
Werner, Baron (p. 27) c/o Gerlach & Co., Guatemala City, Central America,
Karl, Baron, colonel (ret.) (p. 27), Hamburg 39, Sierichstraße 82, III,
Heinrich, Baron, likewise,
Karl, Baron (p. 28), Dessau, Leopoldstr. 1,
Kurt Detleff, (p. 35), Brandenburg (Havel), Wilhelmsdorf, Schmöllner Weg,

Luise Baroness Stenglin, née v. Grolmann, Stuttgart, Gänsheide 47. (p. 36),
Hasso (p. 36), officer cadet in Artillery Regiment 12 in Rostock,
Deodat (p. 38), Reichertswalde, district of Mohrungen, East Prussia,
Ewald, General of Cavalry (p. 39), since 11/11/38 lord of Weidebrück (Kryschanowitz), district of Trebnitz, Silesia,
via Breslau I,
Ewald (p. 39) since 9/1/38 lieutenant in Cavalry Regiment 9 in Fürstenwalde,
Annemarie Türk, née Hindermann (p. 42) from March in Lippstadt,
Ernst (Krummensee line), district customs commissioner, Fulda on the Rhön, Schildeckstr. 12, II,
Hans Joachim in Löbau (Krummensee line) since 6/1/38 reserve lieutenant of Infantry Regiment 9.

Apart from that, the family association today counts 354 members. Of these, sons: 124, daughters: 152, and wives: 78.

Family pictures and historical notes:

Thanks to Cousin Hermann Conrad the family acquired four sheets of inheritance matters from the year 1803 of Friederike Johanna v. Kleist, née v. Versen, wife of Johann Bogislaus of Carvin (III 542, p. 19).

Also acquired from the well-known study of uniforms were two pictures by Knötel the Younger, depicting uhlans of Kleist's Freikorps from 1763, and likewise belonging to this corps a Hungarian infantry regiment.

Excellency Kück sent us photographs of her brothers: Arthur, Georg, and Eduard.

A grave cross offered by the parish church council with the inscription: "Here rests Baron Friedrich Leopold Ludwig von Kleist in his 56th year, died on August 19, 1835" will be taken by Cousin Ewald to Schmenzin. It concerns II 204.

In the will of Cousin Ewald-Karthan there is the following provision: "I bequeath the large battle painting by Schuch 'Ewald Christian v. Kleist falls at Kunersdorf' to the lineage association of the von Kleist family with the request that it be lent to the Kleist Museum." This is a fairly large painting which has in the meantime been sent to the Kleist Museum on loan.

The family's thanks are due to all donors here as well!

There was nothing new regarding the Kleist Regiment and the Kleist Society.

A request received to move the family day to early December met with no support; rather, the date should continue to be tied to the agricultural week.

This time, too, the family breakfast on January 29 was well attended and brought a few more hours of cheerful togetherness. In addition to about 25 who had already been present the previous evening, the following also came: Mr. and Mrs. Lienau (p. 21), Mrs. Maria Luise König – v. Kleist (p. 27) and Cousin Aenny v. Kleist from Blankenburg (Krummensee line). We were pleased to welcome some who married out back among us in this way and hope that more and more will make use of this arrangement and thereby renew the connection with the family.

We once again request notification of address changes, since without them the transmission of invitations and newsletters cannot be guaranteed.

My activity in the World War 1914/18

compiled for the purposes of the history of the von Kleist family

by Alfred von Kleist, Lieutenant General (ret.)

France. Arriving in Montmédy on March 14, we were assigned to Army Group Crown Prince, the 3rd Army, Colonel General v. Einem, and took over from Gen. Kdo. 16 A.K., Lieutenant General Wild von Hohenborn, which was shifted further westward, the "Argonnes Group."

The assigned corps sector crossed the Argonne, ran with its foremost line from Cernah via Servon – Boureuilles – Vauquois to Avocourt, and was divided into three divisional sectors: 9th Landwehr Division, Lieutenant General von Bronikowski; 2nd Württemberg Landwehr Division, General of Artillery Franke; 237th Infantry Division, Lieutenant General von Jacobi. In the west the Perthes Group adjoined, to the east the Maas-West Group, separated

by the army group boundary. The Argonne Group thus formed the left wing of Army Group Crown Prince. Corps HQ Buzancy.

Argonne. On March 15, 4 p.m., I took command of the group. The positions were well developed in the area of the two Landwehr divisions, while this was less the case in the left divisional sector, where the divisions often changed. The enemy—French and at times Italians—lay immediately in front of us. He was very active, disposed of strong, very systematically directed artillery, and fired a lot, 10 to 15,000 rounds per week. Very lively air and patrol activity.

In this otherwise splendidly scenic sector I spent the summer, heavily occupied with improving the position, training and care for the troops, as well as preparations for many and varied offensive and defensive projects. The perfection of training lay especially close to my heart. In addition to the positional divisions, one or two divisions in the rear area, as far back as Sedan, were always assigned to the corps for training. These had to be replenished and prepared for new offensive tasks. The extensive lessons learned issued by OHL after every major engagement had to be transmitted to the troops in short order. The attack battle, the use of open-order formations by the infantry, and machine-gun tactics opened entirely new paths for infantry tactics. On the artillery side, the theory of the rolling barrage and the support of the infantry by accompanying batteries had to be practiced. I still regarded this as the foundation of good success. It now had to be valued all the more highly because the replacements arriving from home left something to be desired in this regard. Extensive, very systematically elaborated preparations were devoted to the intended great July offensive against Reims. The corps participated in this action with its entire artillery, but in infantry only on the right wing.

The offensive began on July 15 at 1:30 a.m. with a 210-minute artillery preparation by all batteries. This was followed by the infantry assault, in which only elements of the 9th Landwehr Division took part. Already during the artillery preparation the view took hold at our command post that the enemy had been prepared for the attack. The infantry assault soon showed that the French had vacated their first position and withdrawn, as one advanced effortlessly as far as the second position. From this it was clearly recognized that the offensive had been betrayed. It was broken off along the entire front, and on July 17 the 1st and 3rd Armies again assumed the defensive. This depressing course had once again proved that secrecy for such large operations is a prerequisite for success.

The next period was generally quiet. Close observation of the enemy front as well as his artillery deployment did not indicate intentions to attack. The enemy, however, clearly strove to conceal his forces as much as possible, and we attempted, through incessant larger patrol enterprises and by bringing in prisoners, to see into his force preparations. In doing so, the rumor that the enemy intended a larger offensive against the Lorraine front was deliberately nourished; prisoners and returnees stated with great certainty to this effect. In this situation I was able to take a short leave at the beginning of September. My chief of staff telegraphed me back from it on September 23, however, since in his view an attack on both sides of the Argonne was imminent. I am still grateful today to this proven general staff officer for his decision, taken on his own responsibility, to recall me, for the next few days were to prove the correctness of his view.

I arrived at corps HQ on September 25 and that same evening drove out to the divisions to inform myself of the situation on the spot. Distribution of forces on September 26: in the line: 9th Landwehr Division (Lieutenant General v. Bronikowski), 2nd Württ. Landwehr Division (Gen. of Art. Franke), 1st Guards Division (Major General Prince Eitel Friedrich); as intervention division at St. Juvin: 5th Guards Division (Major General v. Haxthausen); in transport: 52nd Infantry Division (Lieutenant General v. Borries). With our own weak combat strengths, the divisions had large fronts (8 to 12 kilometers); artillery ammunition situation unfavorable.

Opposite stood 5 to 6 very strong, unweakened American divisions (divisions of 12 battalions) and numerous tank squadrons and strong artillery.

Defensive battle in Champagne. In the night of September 25/26 at 11 p.m., there began abruptly heavy drumfire and very intense long-range fire on all roads and billets, smashed almost all communications, and lasted for several hours. In daylight the mass infantry attack began. It was directed primarily, and with superior forces, against the weak, very thinly stretched 1st Guards Division. In the heavy fog the foremost garrison was surprised by the enemy and pushed back to its main line of resistance. After very fierce, bloody, seesawing fighting, the division stood in

the evening on the line Montblainville – Charpentry – Epinonville. It was badly shattered, had suffered heavy losses, and was much disorganized. The 1st Guards Regiment had suffered the most. The last report of an officer standing in the forward area of Vauquois read: “In dense masses the enemy storms from all sides. We fight bitterly to the last man. Long live the King!” That same evening I decided to slot the 5th Guards Division into the right flank of the 1st Guards Division. To reduce the corps sector, the 3rd Army also inserted between us and the Perthes Group the 1st Reserve Corps (Lieutenant General Wellmann), to which we transferred our right-flank division—the 9th Landwehr Division.

On September 27/28 the enemy continued his heavy attacks in dense masses and with many tanks, unconcerned about the flanking fire from the Argonne striking into his ranks, so that we were pressed back into the line Chatel – Exermont – Gesnas. The brave 210th Landwehr Division still held the eastern part of the Argonne and yielded ground only step by step. Its artillery operated with all its forces in enfilade against the Aire valley.

Thus, in the following days the incessant attacks repeated themselves against the heavily fought-out, exhausted, and disorganized divisions, which nevertheless let the blood-soaked ground be taken from them only slowly, again and again bringing the enemy to a halt by counterattacks. The much-cut-up terrain and the fog, which lay thick in the valleys, favored the massing of the tank squadrons. Unseen, they appeared on the heights with lightning speed. Our badly shaken infantry tried to defend itself against them as best it could, but mostly without success. Often, in these hard days, a breakthrough of the front threatened, but time and again the gap was plugged. I was constantly with the foremost divisions to encourage and strengthen them. A nerve-wracking and corroding task! Hours of spiritual tension that the troop commander must fight out alone with himself!

The 5th Guards Division was utterly burned out to slag, so that I pulled it out on October 5 and replaced it with the 37th Infantry Division (Lieutenant General v. Eberhardt). On the same day the army group boundary was shifted, so that we now belonged to Army Group Gallwitz, 5th Army v. d. Marwitz.

On October 10, in accordance with the overall situation, the entire front from the Chemin des Dames into the Argonne was given up. The group therefore, by order, withdrew to the line Grandpré–St. Juvin–St. Georges, and on October 11, with divisions partly newly inserted in the meantime—2nd Württ. Landwehr Division – 45th Reserve Division – 15th Bavarian Division – 41st Infantry Division—held this line; 37th Infantry Division as intervention group. Corps HQ had to be moved to Beaumont; Buzancy lay under heavy fire.

A temporary pause thus set in. Although we had lost ground, what had been achieved so far was a defensive success on which the corps, given the circumstances, can look back with satisfaction. Fighting with very weak forces against an overwhelming superiority in a 14-day struggle, the enemy had not succeeded in breaking through the front.

Upon our departure from the 3rd Army I received an honorable order from Colonel General v. Einem, in which, among other things, he said: “I am losing a corps that proved itself equally in trench warfare and major battle, that untiringly trained its divisions for attack and defense during this time. What the corps accomplished during the autumn days of this year not only secures my thanks, but also an honorable place for all time in the history of the 3rd Army.” By A.K.O. of October 8 I received the Order Pour le Mérite! (Conclusion to follow.)

War and Revolution Memoir 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

An NCO, Rasmus, stationed there, brightened the evening by singing German, French, Italian, and Russian songs, which he performed with a pleasant voice. People strolled into the little town of Durben, procured chocolate and small trifles from the shopkeeper, and went up a fortress hill with the ruins of an old order’s castle, from which there was a pretty, peaceful view of town, manor, and lake.

42.

In the autumn things became quite scarce in Libau as well, at least for the unpropertied population who could indeed look at the enticing, rich, and sweet displays in the shop windows, but could not buy them. Fuel was especially expensive, and kerosene, as in Mitau, was scarcely to be had, which of course caused much suffering

among the inhabitants of the old, small workers' houses. We received wood, flour, groats, pulses, and potatoes from Gawesen. The Susten leaseholder, Skabart, supplied us generously with good fresh butter at a low price and thereby earned our great thanks. After the low-fat time in Mitau we knew how to appreciate this household assistance!

Our Women's League school, at which I had worked with such love and zeal up to the war, no longer existed. It had had to close at the outbreak of war. We did not think of reopening. The German administration had provided enough schools and teachers in town and country. But the plight of the German schoolchildren from the public schools weighed on our hearts. In cold, often dark apartments, undernourished and unsupervised, they could make no progress. Then one day Mrs. von Malm came to me on behalf of the board of the German Women's League to ask whether, as a board member—I was second chairwoman—I would take on these children and assume the management of a planned after-school center. I gladly agreed, for I longed for regular, satisfying work; without it, existence always seemed joyless and empty to me.

I took the matter in hand energetically. I was assigned a ground-floor apartment in the small house at the corner of Bade and Thomas Streets. The school benches, the piano, and other furniture from the Women's League school were distributed among the four rooms; there was also a kitchen, a veranda, and a little garden.

In Mrs. Melkert I found a self-sacrificing, thoroughly reliable, and faithful co-worker who took the kitchen regiment into her proven hands and ran it with tireless enthusiasm for work during the two years of our center's existence without receiving a single penny of compensation for the daily hours of effort. In addition she maintained her small household and had to be quite frugal, as her husband, a cooper, at times had no position. I mention these apparent trivialities in such detail to show how even Balts of the lower middle class were animated by a spirit of energetic idealism when it came to helping compatriots in need. Of great value to me, too, was the help of Hella and Klara von Rautenfeld. The two alternated every afternoon at the center, where they occupied themselves with the children, studied with them, played with them, supervised them, and supported me in my efforts toward strict order and firm discipline. These two young women, who had taken their teaching examinations, daughters of a physician, also worked on a voluntary basis. For me as director it went without saying.

Poor German children presented themselves at once in sufficient numbers. In the warm, bright rooms they felt happy and content. The older ones did their schoolwork under our guidance; the younger ones were instructed in sewing and other handicrafts. How well I could make use of the knowledge I had acquired at the seminar in Kassel in 1912! We put on song-plays, which truly delighted these unspoiled children; I assembled a small choir from the musically inclined, with whom I rehearsed church, folk, and patriotic songs.

To remedy the weak religious instruction in the school, catechism and chorales were learned by heart, but also short poems, which the children pursued with great zeal and lively participation. Thus we were able to develop the little minds, influence them in a Christian and patriotic sense, bring instruction and joy into their existence, and keep them off the street, where they learned nothing good.

43.

We soon realized, however, that it was impossible to hold these undernourished children for hours and get something out of them if they had to sit there hungry. We determined that a good number of them received no hot midday meal—the mothers were often at work, and school and pensioners' meals were unknown to us—others got nothing hot in the evening; almost all were insufficiently nourished. So we decided to serve a pot of thick soup at six o'clock, by which we also hoped to attract some children who did not come but were much in need of supervision. It was easy for us to make this decision; the execution was all the more difficult given our very limited means and the increasing scarcity. Would we be able to manage it?

I applied to the district captain, Baron v. Knigge, who had disposal over all requisitioned foodstuffs. The necessity of our undertaking was evident to him, and for two years he supplied us with groats, flour, potatoes, and beets, which we received from the district office for a very small price. From these we could hardly produce very strong, nutritious soups. It took all of Mrs. Melkert's inventiveness and care to make them reasonably tasty and nourishing. We bought bones and milk, a bit of meat or bacon, a little fat—whatever we could lay hands on—and every time there was a little piece of meat for each portion or an extra slice of bread it was a holiday, not only for the children but for all of us. How good it tasted nonetheless to our cheerful little guests! With what willingness and proud joy

the older children selected for the task served each day, ensured order, cleared up, and helped wherever they were needed. Even the otherwise wild boys behaved on the whole quite properly, so that I really have only pleasant memories of this time at the center.

If only it hadn't been for the air! I have, unfortunately, always been very sensitive to thick, hot, bad air, and it was almost the only thing I had to overcome in social work. The rooms were simply quite inadequate for so many children. For the first Christmas party we held, 85 children gathered, and in the second year it was between 100 and 120. For the holiday we received 5 hundredweight of flour, groats, and barley to distribute among the children so that the parents would have something edible for the feasts for their numerous families. It was a great joy but also a lot of work to weigh and distribute these quantities correctly, but the thanks and joy of our little protégés rewarded us for all the effort.

44.

But "length bears the burden," here as well. My three volunteer helpers and I had set to work with joyful zeal. Over time it became a bit much for us. One was very tied down, should really never be absent, had to endure for hours deafening noise, stuffy air, and whirling dust, had to strain one's voice to make oneself heard, had to be uniformly friendly, cheerful, and patient, and yet felt that a great responsibility and a great workload rested on one. It was therefore an invaluable help and relief to me when Dr. Kück, himself a long-standing board member of the Patriotic Women's Association in Hamburg and of the main board of the Red Cross in Berlin, procured for me a young, trained kindergarten teacher, whom the Hamburg Women's Association paid and equipped. She brought pedagogical knowledge, enthusiasm for work, and joyfully welcomed aids and materials for instruction in handicrafts. This was precisely what we completely lacked. We had neither money for such purchases, nor was anything of the sort available in Libau, so that keeping the children occupied became increasingly difficult.

By sending Sister Lotte, the Patriotic Women's Association of Hamburg laid our Women's League and especially our wartime children's center under a great obligation of thanks and significantly eased our difficult task.

My throat had already suffered in the soldiers' home in Mitau; the unusual exertions at the center had produced an annoying hoarseness, a relaxation of the vocal cords that made treatment by a specialist and complete rest necessary. Now I could, with a good conscience, grant myself both, for I knew the children were well occupied and supervised. Naturally, I continued to concern myself a great deal with my dear center, but I no longer had to be there daily, and the Misses von Rautenfeld also benefited from the relief. Only the good Mrs. Melkert worked every day, unrelieved and tireless, at the big kettle and provided for the many hungry mouths. Dr. Kück also showed much interest otherwise in my center. He visited us several times, had the children sing and recite poems, encouraged them, praised them, and was surrounded with tumultuous jubilation. His visits were each time a little celebration for us. With fiery zeal the children learned and rehearsed beforehand, strove to make pretty curtsies and bows, appear neat, and then belted out with ringing voices "Heil dir im Siegerkranz" or "Es braust ein Ruf wie Donnerhall" or one of the other proud songs in honor of the rare guest and benefactor. How great the joy when he returned from leave in the spring and brought two handcases full of toys and handicraft supplies. One fine colorful thing after another was triumphantly unpacked; more and more delights came to light, and many shining, happy children's eyes thanked him for remembering and for his effort.

45.

On April 20, 1917, I became engaged to Dr. Roberto Kück of Hamburg, at the time assignment delegate with A.O.K. 8. Great was my mother's joy at the son-in-law. How my father would have rejoiced over him and over his daughter's happiness! Of my brothers, we could notify only Eduard, who soon came to Libau and entered readily into brotherly relations with the new brother-in-law. We did not want to announce our engagement at once before informing the relatives. But it was hard to keep a secret in Libau! Little by little we shared the happy event and received many kindnesses from near and far.

46.

Yes, now we were happily engaged! But when two people of 44 and 33 become engaged, after both have considered the step seriously and thoroughly and have come to know and love each other in a time of hard work and hardship, they naturally want to marry as soon as possible so as to belong wholly to each other, even before the

world, in uncertain wartime.

In our case, however, this was not so simple. Members of the forces were not allowed to have their wives with them in occupied territory. What should we do? Should we marry only to separate at once? Either my fiancé would have had to be transferred to another front, or I would have had to leave my homeland and relocate to Germany. We could not bring ourselves to separate and therefore remained as betrothed in Libau.

Although life in the rear area was frugal and Spartan-simple for the gentlemen, something to which Excellency v. Harbou strictly attended—he himself ate no more and no better than any Landsturm man and demanded the same of his officers—my fiancé nevertheless got on very well with superiors, comrades, and subordinates, had worked himself into his duties, knew his few hundred nurses and orderlies for whom he cared, and would have been reluctant to give up his post with the 8th Army. So the watchword was to wait. We could be together a great deal and had only reason to be very thankful and happy, because we had it so much better than other young couples married in wartime.

In the summer we went with Mama for a few days to Groß-Dselden to my siblings, and later also to Wainoden to Aunt Helene von Grotthus and Theo. They lived in a new, comfortable, pretty country house that in no way recalled the proud manor house burned by revolutionaries in 1905, in which we had spent such wonderfully festive days as children.

In September 1917 the rear area was transferred to Mitau. Now we could think of marriage. I was to remain in Libau with my mother, and Robert would, from Mitau, sometimes find an opportunity to visit me, since the Libau nursing personnel also came under his remit.

47.

Before the summer ended, however, Robert and I went for a few hours to Gawesen. I wanted so much to show him my most intimate homeland, the places of my earliest and happiest childhood and youth, the old entail of our family. At his rapid call-up to the army, my brother had appointed Baron Werner von Korff as proxy, who, with his wife, ruled and managed in Gawesen at his discretion. We were their guests, and I must confess this visit was not easy for me. One has to overcome a good deal when one calls as a guest where one is essentially at home, even if one is received most kindly by the placeholders of one's own family.

Alas, how altered, overgrown, and neglected I found everything! The park much thinned, the paths so overgrown that one could hardly find them, most benches broken or disappeared, individual favorite trees unfindable, the pavilion dirty and dilapidated, the ruin so terribly depressing in its desolation and ugliness. To this was added the new roof that had been set on it to protect the walls from decay and which now positively disfigured the once stylish, noble lines of the old manor house. With a wistful heart we clambered about inside. I tried to make the layout and the location of the individual rooms clear to Robert, but one could form no picture of how it used to look here under this heap of rubble, with windows and doors missing. So in the end we were glad when the hour of departure approached and we could leave.

48.

Our wedding had been set for October 2, 1917. We had chosen this day because it was Hindenburg's 70th birthday and because, as Robert then thought, it would one day be celebrated and become a holiday for the German people like April 1, Bismarck's birthday, or March 9, the old Emperor's birthday. Robert hoped to receive a leave of about 14 days, but where should we spend it!? Food was rationed and extremely scarce everywhere; fuel and light had to be saved—where would a little spot be found for us? We did not want to begin our marriage with hunger, and we did not want to stay in Libau among the many acquaintances. Then Eduard and Luise made a splendid proposal to us: "Come to us in Dselden. We will in the meantime go to Libau and then visit some neighbors. You can spend your honeymoon in peace and comfort, have plenty to eat, need worry about nothing, and be truly happy and carefree together before you must separate again!" How gladly we accepted this proposal! How grateful we were to the dear siblings for their hospitality, and how we intended to enjoy the days in their house!

Two days before the wedding Robert came from Mitau to Libau and brought his two stepbrothers Adolfo and Hans. We were very happy that they had made it possible to come for the elder's day of honor—Adolfo from Flanders, where he served as a lieutenant in the 45th Reserve Artillery Regiment, Hans from Lithuania, where he was a

district head and was practically preparing himself for his agricultural profession. Both came from regions in better economic condition, knew nothing of such a primitive rear-area life as was led in Mitau, and were therefore highly astonished and unpleasantly affected when, in the morning with Robert, there was only rye coffee without milk and sugar and army bread with a bit of jam—no butter, no sausage, as they were used to. Such hospitality they had not expected as wedding guests! Robert laughed for years afterward at the long faces of his pampered brothers in remembrance.

On October 1 Eduard and Lucie arrived; Margarete had come from Dresden and stayed with us for five months, enjoying the more ample, richer food and the lively social life with so much field-gray cloth after sparse, quiet years in Dresden. Wolf, Gerda, and Axel were well provided for at Horst's sister's, Mrs. von Nostiz-Wallwitz, in Schweikershain in Saxony. These were our only wedding guests. We had refrained from inviting others in this serious time. I missed my three absent brothers very much. Not even in thought could they be with us.

Our "polterabend"—if one wants to call the quiet being-together and getting-to-know-you with the mutual siblings on the eve of our wedding that—took on quite involuntarily a decidedly wartime cast. For the first time in years the electric lighting in the whole house failed—on that very evening! Just at the right, or wrong, moment! We could get no mechanic anymore, and were glad when Eduard still turned up a pound of candles in town and proudly brought them home.

We had no kerosene for our old lamps; we owned only two very old, heavy brass candlesticks, since we had, conscientiously and willingly, sacrificed to the Moloch of war and duly handed in all the others as well as tea urns, mortars, and all the fine copper casseroles from Mama's trousseau; we were therefore quite distressed when we received the news of the sinking of the Libau "metal ship," which had gone down in the Baltic Sea with all the copper, brass, tin, and lead treasures. Was it an accident? or a villainous act? We did not learn. In any case our candlesticks were gone.

How were we now to light the living rooms, the kitchen, and later seven or eight bedrooms? In normal times this question would have given us much to puzzle over. But we were at war. One did not stand on ceremony, gratefully made do with the most primitive arrangements, and had become positively inventive in adapting to all the difficulties and hardships of daily life.

So two candles were stuck into the two candlesticks and placed on the dining table, where they spread a mood-filled twilight. After dinner we took them into the living room, where they sufficed perfectly. The cook received half a candle. When it was time to go to bed, a half candle—stuck into a bottle neck—was prepared for each bedroom, and cheerfully we parted. Robert slept for the last time at Mrs. Consul Graedener's, Ulichstrasse 27, with whom he had been quartered during his stay in Libau and from whom he had received much kindness and consideration. When Mrs. Graedener heard of our wedding, she had at once sent to ask us and had begged Robert to lodge with her, which he gladly and gratefully did.

At four o'clock Pastor Groß married us in our house, in my green study, which held so many dear, beautiful memories for me. We had asked for 1 Corinthians 13 as the wedding text, the whole beautiful chapter on love, which Pastor Groß read from beginning to end.

After the ceremony there was a very simple meal of three courses and little wine. For the festive roast we had received a round little piglet from Gawesen. But when it arrived so squeakingly lively and rosy, our old cook wrung her hands and begged to be allowed to raise this charming creature, so we granted her the joy and bought a roast instead. The little wedding pig then accompanied me two years later to Germany into my own home as ham and sides of bacon, rendered me good service, and reminded me of Gawesen, Libau, and old Trudchen.

Our wedding was beautiful precisely because we were entirely among ourselves and had nothing to do with strange, curious, demanding people. Lucie had set the simple myrtle wreath on my hair; the ceremony was at home; we ate our luncheon cooked by our cook and served by the stately orderly Kaiser and Anna. Our neighbor, the city gardener, had sent plants and bushes to decorate the wedding room; gardener Trautmann violets for the table—both out of friendliness and without taking payment.

At five o'clock we took the little Hasenpoth train to Hasenpoth. The advance—or rather, the operations—against the island of Ösel had begun. Part of the German fleet was assembled in Libau, which consequently swarmed with

bluejackets. I recognized Prince Adalbert of Prussia among the many officers of all ranks. A multitude of infantry had arrived, to be transported northward. All trains were closed to civilians. It had taken endless running about and bother on my part, much waiting and pleading at commandant's office, district office, and government, before I obtained a permit for the Hasenpoth train, made out in the name "Baroness von Kleist," which I also had to use as identification for the return journey, concealing my twelve-day married state! For if the high authorities had gotten wind of my existence as Mrs. Dr. Kück, my expulsion from Courland, the rear area of the 8th Army, would likely have been certain. So I traveled as Baroness von Kleist with the rear-area delegate Dr. Kück to Hasenpoth! It was a thoroughly wartime and contemporary honeymoon. All third-class carriages were filled to the last seat with heavily laden field-grays on a serious advance, dimly lit by a flickering stearin candle in each carriage, the two of us in a little corner, glad to have found two seats among the hundreds who were going out to fight. I was the only woman in the whole carriage! And yet not a joke, no mockery, no provocation! At that time discipline and order still reigned among the soldiers. The mood was good and confident, though serious. On September 3 the beautiful, proud Riga, the old Hanseatic city, had been wrested from the Russians. With jubilant thanks the German liberators had been greeted. That had raised morale and confidence, and even the simplest man spoke with pride of this event. With all the fighters we rolled slowly through the night. At last at eight o'clock we reached Hasenpoth, the little country town where years earlier I had attended such merry balls and spent such happy hours with friends and cavaliers. There the carriage from Groß-Dselden awaited us, drawn by two sturdy horses, for almost 40 kilometers had to be covered before we could reach the hospitable siblings' house.

The moon had risen meanwhile. The air was mild and windless. There was the smell of autumn, of earth, falling leaves, and strong firs as we entered the forest. Hasenpoth was soon behind us. It went up hill and down dale, through fields that seemed immeasurably wide, through silent, dark woods. Now and then a little house stood drowsy and still by the wayside. In the distance a dog barked; otherwise stillness and peace and quiet all around. That at the same time men lay opposite one another in trenches, lurking; that some were struck and killed; that somewhere on the thousand-kilometer front the din of battle disturbed the night's stillness—was that even possible?!

Thus the stirring of murderous war penetrated even into the hours that ought to belong wholly to oneself; so deeply was everyone impressed and filled by it.

We drove nearly four hours through the sleeping, peaceful land. Toward midnight we arrived in Groß-Dselden. The house door was wreathed with a green garland; the windows were lit. In the dining room a laid table awaited us with many good things unknown in the city, and a friendly maid who asked after our wishes. Lucie had thoughtfully provided in the most charming detail: dry brushwood and roots lay stacked before the fireplace and were diligently used by us each day; grapes stood in the living room; bowls with fruits and flowers; and on one table, in touching attention, the most varied literature of love: old minnelieder next to Borries von Münchhausen, French sentimental verses, German languishing poems—a whole collection of most fitting things for a bridal couple!

We needed trouble ourselves about nothing. "Little table, set yourself!" stood ready for us and brought a selection of exquisite country dishes that we had long been without. Few people have probably had so wonderfully beautiful, atmospheric, and unforgettable a honeymoon!

We took many walks in Dselden's pretty surroundings, read, ate well, sat in the evenings by the crackling fire in the cozy gentlemen's room with its comfortable upholstered oak furniture, and gratefully and happily enjoyed being together in this lovely, peaceful country seat, despite all the unrest, discord, and suffering in the world.

After ten days Eduard and Lucie came home, and we soon had to set out. Robert brought me to Libau and himself returned to his post in Mitau. It was very, very hard to have to part again so soon! This separation lasted a whole year, apart from mutual visits. We did not complain or grumble, for we had it so infinitely much better than most young couples married in war, in which the husband usually stood at the front. I knew my Robert safe in the rear area. That was an undeserved great blessing, for which we were very thankful.

49.

The coup de main on the island of Ösel succeeded brilliantly! In flawless cooperation between fleet and land army, the island was taken with few losses. Among the fallen, however, was a young life that was very precious, indeed

irreplaceable. Walter Flex, the ardent poet glowing with the noblest love of the fatherland, with the pure and great heart, fell on Ösel and was buried there. In his "Wanderer between Two Worlds" he has given the German people, whom he loved so deeply, one of the most beautiful and imperishable war books, which may serve in later years of peace as a guide and admonition to the young. Personalities such as Walter Flex was are bitterly needed by us: youths of selfless, pure striving, with courage and bravery, full of drive, will, and ready idealism.

Baltic hands tend his lonely grave on the far green island, which he helped to conquer with such fine enthusiasm.

Russia, after the revolution in spring 1917, after the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, after the assumption of government by Mr. Kerensky, was no longer the mighty enemy it had been at first. Admittedly, the poor Russian people still had to bring unheard-of blood sacrifices demanded ruthlessly by the windbag Kerensky, but a war-weariness, a reluctance to fight, did make itself felt. All sacrifices were in vain. The Germans pushed ever further into Russia; the march on Berlin was no longer talked of; the Tsar, the holy little father, was no longer autocrat, and with that the inspiring element fell away of itself.

When in 1918 the Bolsheviks came to power, the front disintegrated ever more. The officers were deposed, felt themselves no longer bound by any oath to the Tsar, and strove home.

50.

It cannot be the task of these notes to describe the events in Russia, of which we had only imprecise and contradictory reports. Only insofar as they concerned us and our personal life shall they be mentioned here. (To be continued.)

Newsletter

of the Family von Kleist

Number 11

August 1939

News from the Family

Births: To cousin Karl Georg (p. 34) in Berlin on 13. 3. 39 a daughter,
to cousin Kurt (p. 14) in Galten on 2. 6. 39 a daughter Irmgard Jutta.

Engaged: In June Eva Eleonore (p. 11) to Karl Heinrich von Thümen, referent in the Reich Ministry of Economics,
in July Joachim (p. 32) to Elisabeth v. Kleist (p. 11),
in August Ortrun (p. 4) to Hans Radloff, lieutenant in Cav. Rgt. 5 in Stolp.

Deceased: On 23. 1. 1939 in Goldingen Bernhard (p. 15),
on 30. 4. 1939 in Altdamm Mrs. Antonie Behnke, née widow von Kleist (mother of Ewald Jesko, p. 22), née Schroeter,
on 8. 7. 1939 in Upper Bavaria Colonel (ret.) Wilhelm, Krummensee line, former commander of RR. 5,
on 5. 8. 39 in Charlottenburg Sigismund (p. 41).

Promotions: Diether Dennies (p. 5) on 1. 6. 1939 to lieutenant colonel.

Change of address:

Barbara, née Baroness Hahn (p. 13), Poland, Zawiersk, Slobodka Zawierska, Prov. Braslawski,
Friedrich Georg (p. 13), Latvia, Apse mz. caur Durbè,
Astrid (p. 23), Damen via Bad Polzin,
Regina (p. 28), Oettingen, Bavaria, Pfarrgasse 70,
Karl (p. 28), Hamburg, Sierichstraße 82 III,
Rita (p. 28), Blankenese, Kösterbergstr. 26,
Frieda (p. 29), Hamburg 26, Ohlendorffstr. 11 pt.
Elisabeth (p. 29), Hamburg 21, Winterhuderweg 104 hpt.
v. Oppeln, major (p. 30) commander of the 2nd battalion Cav. Rgt. 10 in Torgau,
v. Groll, rittmeister (p. 30), Cav. Rgt. 10 in Torgau,
Lueder, captain (p. 30), Panzer Rgt. 3, Vienna-Mödling.

Miscellaneous:

On the occasion of his silver wedding anniversary, the family chairman received such a quantity of the kindest congratulations that he asks to be allowed to express here, too, his heartfelt thanks. In particular he feels deeply abashed by the family's wonderful gift; after all, he has done nothing but his duty, and he hopes he may take the gift as a sign that he is on the right path toward maintaining and strengthening cohesion within the family.

The book mentioned earlier: "The Nobility during the Settlement of East Pomerania" has meanwhile been published by Leon Saunier in Stettin and can again be recommended. A few copies are also available from the chairman (price 10.– RM).

In Kleistdorf near Bomst, on 18 June 1939 the memorial plaque for those fallen in the border fighting on 3. 2. 1919 was unveiled. It was pointed out earlier that the village received this name in honor of our cousin Fedor (p. 44), who fell there. The ceremony proceeded in a very dignified manner with strong participation, especially on the part of the old 10th Uhlans. The family was represented by cousins Adolf (p. 30) and Robert (p. 43). The field service was conducted by Wehrmacht chaplain Kornrumpf-Cottbus, a friend of Fedor's, on the text: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be manly and be strong." After him cousin Adolf spoke and unveiled the plaque, on which are recorded: from Ul. Rgt. 10: 1st Lt. v. Gladiß, Vizewachtmeister König, Sgt. Klose and Sgt. Kurzmann; from Ul. Rgt. 3: Fedor v. Kleist; from the Home Guard: Lt. Dehne.?

Below we present a compilation of those in the family who received the Order "Pour le Mérite" and of those who attained the rank or character of general. Should anyone be in a position to supplement this compilation, we would be grateful.

Holders of the "Pour le Mérite".

The Order "Pour le Mérite" was awarded to bearers of the name v. Kleist in chronological order:

1. 1742 Feb. 10. Karl Wilhelm, Capt. 1st Battn. Guards
- 1a. 1740/42 Karl Wilhelm, Capt. 1st Battn. Guards
2. 1740/42 Henning Alexander, lieutenant general, chief IR. 23/1806.
3. 1740/42 Zabel, Capt. IR. 23/1806.
4. 1740/42 Ewald Georg, major in the Field Battn. Kroeher, receives in 1739 the Ordre de la Générosité.
5. 1753 June Friedrich Ludwig. Colonel IR. 4/1806.
6. 1756 Oct. Primislaus Ulrich. Major and wing adjutant, cmdr. of the gren. battn from IR. 3 and 6/1806
7. 1756 Oct. Friedrich Wilhelm, Capt. IR. 21/1806
8. 1757 Sept. Friedrich Wilhelm Gottfried Arnd, major Rgt. Hus. 1/1806.
9. 1757 Nov/Dec. Peter Christian, Capt., adjutant to Prince Moritz of Anhalt.
10. 1757 Dec. Georg Ernst, staff-capt. IR. 26/1806.
11. 1758 Oct. 23. Wilhelm Heinrich, lieutenant Rgt. Cuir. 10/1806
12. 1760 Adolf Bogislaf, first-lt. JR. 17/1806.
13. 1762 July 26. Henning Alexander, colonel IR. /1806.
14. 1740/86 Reimar (for Zorndorf?) 1771 major general, 1757 retired.
15. 1740/86 Heinrich Werner (for Mollwitz?) 1784 retired as major general.
16. 1787 Friedrich Wilhelm, colonel and cmdr. IR. 29/1806.
17. 1787 Friedrich Wilhelm Franz Philipp Christian, Capt., adjutant to the Duke of Brunswick.
18. 1789 Sept. 22. Hans Reimar, colonel and cmdr. Rgt. Hus. 4/1806
19. 1792 Dec. 4. Friedrich Heinrich Ferdinand Emil. Capt. a. d. Armee.
20. 1793 Sept. 17. Ludwig Franz Philipp Christian, major Rgt. Cuir. 7/1806.
21. 1794 June 7. Friedrich Ulrich Karl Leopold Eugen Anton, staff-capt. Rgt. Drag. 11/1806.
22. 1794 July 16. Christoph Friedrich Anton Joachim, Lt. Rgt. Hus. 8/1806.
23. 1794 Dec. 7. Franz Otto, Lt. IR. 1/1806.
24. 1807 Dec. 17. Friedrich Karl Gottlob, staff-rittmeister Siles. Cav., formerly Rgt. Dragoons 11/1806.
25. 1808 Feb. 8. Ludwig Ivanovich, imp. russ. Lt. Musket. Rgt. Tschernigow.
26. 1813 Dec. 8. Ewald Johann, imp. russ. Lt. IR. Tschernigow.
- 26a. 1814 March 31 Friedrich Heinrich Ferdinand Emil, lieutenant general, commanding general 2 A.-K., oak-leaves to 19.

- 27. 1814 Oct. Peter, imp. russ. Lt. Hus. Rgt. Grodno.
- 27a. 1865 Nov. 16. Ewald Johann, the Crown to 26.
- 28. 1866 Sept. 16. Christian Ewald Leopold, major 1st Guards Regt. on Foot 1914.
- 29. 1918 Oct. 8. Alfred, lieutenant general, leader Gen.-Kdo. (z. b. V.) 58.

Generals.

I. Prussian-German

- 1. Henning Alexander v. Kleist, b. Raddatz 5. 4., d. Berlin 21. 8. 1749.
F.: Joachim Daniel, lord of Raddatz, d. 6 Sept. 1709.
M.: Maria Katharina v. Ramel, 1644/85.
W.: Albertine Marie v. Biedersee (Ilberstedt), 1700/31.
1747 field marshal, PIM., SchwAdl., portraits etc. Wendisch-Tychow.
- 2. Franz Ulrich v. Kleist, b. Kowalk, Dist. Belgard, 2. 2. 1687, d. Dresden 13. 1. 1757 of the wounds from Lobositz.
F.: Georg, lord of Kowalk, d. 1718.
M.: Anna Ernestine v. Zastrow (Wusterhanse), 1630/1725.
W.: Christiane Luise Eleonore Gans Edle v. Putlitz (Wolfshagen), 1705/36. Dorothea Margarethe v. Lepel, widow Lt. Col. v. Kleist, 1703/1774.
1756 lieutenant general, 1757 SchwAdl.
- 3. Ewald Georg v. Kleist, b. Wendisch-Tychow, Dist. Schlawe, 11. 5. 1698, d. Wendisch-Tychow 11. 10. 1768.
F.: Philipp Hartwig, lord of Wendisch-Tychow, b. 12. 9. 1652.
M.: Elisabeth Sophie v. Grape (Carwitz), d. 1701.
W.: Anna v. Kettelhack.
Essa Margaretha v. Kleist, d. 1765.
Barbara Sabine v. Bandemer.
1754 major general, 1758 retired.
- 4. Friedrich Ludwig Wilhelm v. Kleist, b. Klein-Dolgen, Dist. Neustettin, 4. 1. 1694, fallen near Breslau 22. 11. 1757.
F.: Melchior Ludwig, lord of Dolgen and Dietersdorf.
M.: Esther Elisabeth v. Borke, 1672/1766.
W.: not married.
1756 major general, chief of JR. 9 1806, 1753 PIM.
- 5. Georg Friedrich v. Kleist, b. Königsberg, Pr., 4. 7. 1707, d. Cremitten, Dist. Wehlau, 1761.
F.: Christian Ewald, colonel, cmdr. of IR. 16 1806, 1657/1707.
M.: Helene Margarethe v. Kalnein (Kilges).
W.: Helene Friederike v. Rapp (Albehnen), d. 1747.
Luise Juliane v. Schierstedt, widow v. Massow.
1761 retired as lieutenant general.
- 6. Friedrich Wilhelm Gottfried Arndt v. Kleist, b. Potsdam 29. 8. 1724, d. Jeschkendorf near Breslau 28. 8. 1767.
F.: Andreas Joachim, 1678/1738, colonel, chief of IR. 14/1806, lord of Stavenow.
M.: Marie Elisabeth v. Hacke (Kl.-Machnow), 1700/58.
W.: not married.
1762 major general, 1763 chief of the Regt. Hus. 1/1806, PIM., lord of Pretschendorf and Adendorf.
- 7. Heinrich Werner v. Kleist, b. Groß-Tychow, Dist. Belgard, 1703, d. Wendisch-Tychow, Dist. Schlawe, 27. 10. 1736.
F.: Kaspar Henning, lord of Groß-Tychow, d. 1704.
M.: Sabine v. Bonin (Crangen).
W.: not married.

- 1764 retired as major general, lastly colonel and cmdr. of IR. 42/1806, for Mollwitz PIM., portrait in Wendisch-Tychow.
8. Henning Alexander v. Kleist, b. Raddatz, Dist. Neustettin, 6. 6. 1707, d. Juchow 22. 1. 1784, lord of Juchow, Dist. Neustettin.
 F.: Georg Heinrich, lord of Raddatz, 1674/1743.
 M.: Maria Katharina v. Kleist, 1676/1753.
 W.: Hedwig Charlotte Ernestine v. Kleist, 1725/1765.
 Ursula Luise v. Kunheim, widow v. Below, 1722/1812.
 1778 lieutenant general, 1780 governor of Spandau, PIM., two portraits in Wendisch-Tychow.
9. Primislaus Ulrich v. Kleist, b. Trenow, Dist. Belgard, 1711, d. Kolberg 21. 4. 1781.
 F.: Cartz Ulrich, kgl. Danish lt. col., d. c. 1741.
 M.: Barbara Juliane v. Kleist.
 W.: Anna.... widow Heydemann.
 1766 major general, commandant of Kolberg, PIM., portrait Schützengilde Kolberg.
10. Reimar v. Kleist, b. Schwellin, Dist. Bublitz, 10. 4. 1710, d. Rathenow 7. 9. 1782.
 F.: Lorenz Christian, kgl. Danish lieutenant, lord of Klein-Voldekow and Schwellin, 1676/1756.
 M.: Marie Elisabeth v. Kleist (Kowalk), 1687/1747.
 W.: Hedwig Elisabeth v. d. Hagen, 1722/1806.
 1771 major general, 1775 retired, PIM, portrait in the collection.
11. Franz Kasimir v. Kleist, b. Stettin 25. 1. 1736, d. Berlin 30. 3. 1808.
 Parents: Franz Ulrich see no. 2.
 W.: Karoline Luise Eleonore Johanna v. Kleist (Zützen), 1747/1780.
 1802 gen. of infantry, governor of Magdeburg, chief IR. 5 1806, SchwAdl.
12. Hans Reimar v. Kleist, b. Heiligenbeil 11. 4. 1736, d. Oels 10. 3. 1806.
 Parents: see with brother no. 6.
 W.: Elisabeth Luise v. Schlabrendorf, 1741/66. Antoinette Maria Josepha v. Dumont, 1752/1809.
 1793 major general, 1794 retired, 1789 PIM.
13. Friedrich Heinrich Ferdinand Emil v. Kleist, then Prussian count with "von Nollendorf", b. Berlin 9. 4. 1762, d. Berlin 17. 2. 1823.
 F.: Friedrich Conrad, 1726/1808, privy councillor
 M.: Luise Dorothea Juliane v. Schwerin, 1736/79.
 W.: Henriette Karoline Charlotte v. Retzow, 1767/1833.
 1821 field marshal (ret.), 1792 PIM., 1814 oak-leaves thereto, 1813 SchwAdl., portraits in Kl.-Dubberow and Wusseken.
14. Friedrich Jakob v. Kleist, then v. Rüchel-Kleist, b. Segenthin 25. 1. 1778, d. Danzig 15. 3. 1848.
 F.: Karl Kaspar, 1734/1808, captain (ret.)
 M.: Marie Luise v. Boehn, 1739/1803.
 W.: Albertine Friederike Adelaide v. Rüchel, 1790/1831.
 1847 with the character as general of infantry (ret.).
15. Friedrich Anton Ulrich Karl Leopold v. Kleist, b. Cottbus 4. 2. 1765, d. Deutsch-Kessel, Dist. Grünberg, 26. 10. 1833.
 F.: Friedrich Karl Leopold, 1731/99; Capt. (ret.), last in IR. 27/1806, lord of Kahren and Koppatz.
 M.: Marie Irene Baroness v. u. z. Wetzel
 W.: Marie Magdalene Dietz, 1768/1817.
 1827 major general (ret.), last colonel, 1820 retired with waiting pay.
16. Friedrich Ludwig Heinrich v. Kleist, b. Potsdam 11. 3. 1771, d. Darmstadt 1838 on 16. 4. Parents: Franz Kasimir, no. 11.
 W.: Charlotte Marianne Sophie Louise Eleonore v. Donop, 1777/1855.

- 1832 major general, 1834 (ret.).
17. Wilhelm Heinrich Friedrich v. Kleist, b. Stettin 19. 9. 1785, d. Stargard 15. 9. 1867.
 F.: Wilhelm Hans Georg Wedig, 1750/1816, major (ret.).
 M.: Konstanze Friederike Christine Hille, 1760/1833.
 W.: Albertine Ernestine Friederike v. Ploetz, 1789/1859.
 1841 with character as major general (ret.).
18. Ferdinand Wilhelm Reimar Alexander v. Kleist, b. Gr.-Schönebeck near Liebenwalde 5. 12. 1796, d. Berlin 28. 6. 1867.
 F.: Ferdinand Friedrich Wilh. Alexander Ernst, 1767/1841, chief forester in the Duchy of Magdeburg.
 M.: Dorothea Wilhelmine Corsika, 1769/1842.
 W.: Eleonore Leopoldine Henriette Sophie Marianne Countess v. d. Goltz, 1810/1845.
 1864 placed on the retired list as general of infantry, remains general adjutant, portrait in Wusseken.
19. Gustav Franz Wilhelm Kleist, later v. Kleist, b. Körbelitz near Magdeburg (filius naturalis) 19. 9. 1806, d. Berlin 16. 4. 1877.
 F.: Wilhelm Franz v. Kleist, 1765/1817, lt. colonel of engineers.
 M.: Friederike Fleischer.
 W.: Friederike Charlotte Emilie Gundlach, 1819/1857.
 1870 engineer-general, 1871 ret., portrait in collection.
20. Fedor Benno Constantin v. Kleist, b. Reichenau, Dist. Osterode, 26. 4. 1812, d. Rheinfeld 25. 8. 1871.
 F.: Christian Friedrich Heinrich, Capt. (ret.), lord of Schwellin, 1769/1812.
 M.: Charlotte Sophie Ehrlich, 1779/1849.
 W.: Rosamunde v. Kleist, daughter of no. 23, 1827/1875.
 1868 with character as major general placed z. D., last commander of the 22nd Cav. Brigade.
21. Christoph August Viktor v. Kleist, b. Perkuicken 19. 2. 1818, d. Potsdam 14. 6. 1890.
 F.: Christoph Albrecht Leopold, 1789/1824, lord of Garbnicken, rittmeister (ret.).
 M.: Jenny Emilie v. Steinwehr, 1790/1870.
 W.: Bertha Emmeline von Morstein, 1827/1866.
 W.: Bertha Emmeline von Morstein, 1827/1866, Elisabeth Bertha v. Ostau, 1823.
 1870 major general, 1872 z. D., last cmdr. of the 2nd Art. Brigade. Portrait in the collection.
22. Christian Ewald Leopold v. Kleist, b. Stolp 24. 3. 1824, d. Potsdam 29. 12. 1910.
 F.: Leopold Friedrich, 1780/1837, major (ret.), postmaster in Stolp.
 M.: Wilhelmine Agnes Dorothea Friederike v. Blankensee, 1788/1867.
 W.: Betty v. Knoblauch, 1884/1914.
 1886 general of infantry, 1889 z. D., chief of IR. 44, last commanding general of the 1st AK., 1868 PIM., portrait in the collection.
23. Demetrius Georg v. Kleist, b. Rheinfeld, Dist. Karthaus, 22. 12. 1822, d. Rheinfeld 30. 5. 1886.
 F.: Georg Caspar Otto, 1794/1877, captain (ret.), district administrator.
 M.: Mathilde v. Zabackrycki, 1802.
 W.: Adelheid Countess v. Schlippenbach, 1833.
 1876 major general, 1880 z. D. with character as lieutenant general, last cmdr. of the 20th Cav. Brigade, lord of Rheinfeld.
24. Karl Wilhelm Heinrich v. Kleist, b. Hohenauen 1. 11. 1836, d. Berlin 1. 2. 1917.
 F.: Ludwig Karl Kleist v. Bornstedt, 1772–1854, lord of Hohenauen.
 M.: Wilhelmine Charl. Julie Auguste v. Hanstein, 1818/1869.
 W.: Klara Bertha Karoline Marie v. Gordon, 1849/1920.
 General of cavalry, formerly lord of Pöppelhof.
25. Viktor Fedor Benno v. Kleist, b. Dt.-Eylau 4. 11. 1836, d.
 F.: Otto Bogislaff, 1800/67, lt. colonel (ret.).

- M.: Bertha v. Rosenberg-Gruszyńska, 1812/79.
W.: Martha v. Alt Stutterheim, 1847/92, Elisabeth v. Alt Stutterheim, 1866/1920.
1891 major general, cmdr. of the 2nd Guards Cav. Brigade.
26. Karl Ernst Baron v. Kleist, b. Niesky O.L. 14. 7. 1839, d. Liegnitz 5. 3. 1912.
F.: Carl Heinrich, 1801/70, 1st lt. (ret.).
M.: Agnese v. Haugwitz, 1807/82.
W.: Laura Marie Therese v. Watzdorf, 1842/72, Johanna Baroness v. Ohlen und Adlerscron, 1866/1924.
Lieutenant general z. D.
27. Emil Viktor Albert Hugo Wilhelm v. Kleist, b. Spandau 12. 10. 1840, d. Magdeburg 18. 12. 1896.
Parents: no. 19.
W.: Marie Anna Karol. Völker, 1847/1933.
1894 major general a. la. S. d. G. PiB., charged with acting for the Inspector of the 3rd Pioneer Inspectorate.
28. Max Emil Albert v. Kleist, b. Berlin 24. 4. 1845, d. Rudolstadt 9. 7. 1923. (Brother of 34).
W.: Karola v. Oertzen, 1847/89, Marie v. Biehler, 1873.
Major general.
29. Paul Hans Robert Ewald v. Kleist, b. Erfurt 1. 4. 1846, d. Potsdam 26. 12. 1926.
F.: Hugo Ewald, 1817/90, chief forester (ret.).
M.: Karoline Friederike Charlotte Albertine Klara Thomas von Benwoe, 1819/1903.
W.: Marie Gertrud Emilie Sophie Baroness v. Riese-Stallburg, 1863.
Lieutenant general (ret.), portrait in the collection.
30. Georg Friedrich v. Kleist, b. Rheinfeld 25. 9. 1852, d. Wusseken 29. 7. 1923.
Parents: no. 20.
W.: Hanna Barbara v. Nathusius, 1859/1922.
Gen. of cavalry (ret.), formerly a. la. S. of Ul.-R. 3, Inspector General of Cavalry, last leader of the 23rd AK, lord of Wusseken. Portrait in Wusseken.
31. Hans Dönniges Erdmann v. Kleist, b. Dubbertsch 10. 3. 1854, d. Lübeck 31. 8. 1927.
F.: Heinr. Erdm. Bogisl. Ewald Count v. Kleist, 1821/92, lord of Wendisch-Tychow.
M.: Anna Leopold Auguste v. Kleist (Collochau), 1826/92.
W.: Agnes Klara Strousberg, 1856.
Major general (ret.), last inspector of the veterinary service.
32. Eugen Christoph Erwin v. Kleist, b. Danzig 11. 12. 1855, d. Liegnitz 23. 3. 1910.
F.: no. 21.
M.: Emeline v. Morstein.
W.: Rena Luise Karol. Charl. Eleon. Baroness v. Hacke-Oehr, 1863/1938.
Major general, commander of the 71st Inf. Brigade, portrait in collection.
33. Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor Alfred v. Kleist, b. Magdeburg 16. 11. 1857, — d. Brandenburg (Havel) 13. 5. 1921.
Parents: see brother Erwin, no. 28.
W.: Elsbeth Gevers, b. 1873.
Lieutenant general (ret.), last leader 4th AK., formerly Gen.-Kdo. 58., 1918 PIM., portrait in the collection.
34. Friedrich Wilhelm Ewald Leopold v. Kleist, b. Potsdam 15. 6. 1858, d. Stolp 5. 12. 1917.
Parents: no. 22.
W.: Elisabeth Agathe Katharina v. Puttkamer, 1878.
Lieutenant general z. D., last cmdr. 51st RJD., portrait in the collection.
35. Paul Ludwig Ewald v. Kleist, b. Braunsfels 3. 8. 1881.
F.: Christ. Albr. Aug. Hugo, 1848/1923, Dr. phil., privy councillor.
M.: Elisabeth Gley, 1856.
W.: Joh. Amal. Gisela Wachtel, 1889.
General of cavalry (ret.), last Kdr. Gen. of the 8th AK.

36. Adolf Friedrich Paul Ewald v. Kleist, b. Spandau 24. 2. 1886.

Parents: Paul no. 26.

W.: Gertrud Marianne Ella Marie v. Sydow (of Kalzig) b. 5. 5. 1888.

1938 major general, commandant of Hanover, last commander Reiter-Rgt. 18.

II. Non-Prussian

1. Ewald Baron v. Kleist, b. Pumlow 21. 9. 1667, d. Rheinberg 29. 4. 1746, became Catholic.

F.: Wilhelm Christian, 1636/1726, lord of Pumlow and Timmenhagen.

M.: Idea Reichmuth v. Kleist.

W.: Maria Anna Baroness v. Manteuffel.

1719 Electoral Cologne lieutenant general, governor of Rheinberg. 1719 Electoral Cologne lieutenant general, governor of Rheinberg, portraits in the collection.

2. Clemens August Baron v. Kleist, b. 2. 5. 1720, d. 1797.

Parents: no. 1.

W.: not married.

1774 Electoral Cologne lieutenant general, governor of Bonn, lord of Buschdorf.

3. Ferdinand Caspar Baron v. Kleist, b. 23. 3. 1729, d. 1812.

Parents: no. 1.

W.: not married.

1787 Electoral Cologne general-wachtmeister, lord of Dottendorf.

4. Friedrich Caspar Ewald Baron v. Kleist, b. 6 June 1793, d. 14. 9. 1871.

F.: Christian Ewald, 1753/1812, lord of Kreutzburg and Susten.

M.: Maria Elise v. Keyserlingk (Gawesen), 1761/1800.

W.: Johanna Luise Betty v. Grotthuß, 1795/1832.

Anette v. Brewern, 1808.

Imperial Russian major general, PIM., chief forester in Mitau.

My Activity in the World War 1914/18

compiled for the purposes of the history of the family v. Kleist

by Alfred von Kleist, Lt. Gen. (ret.)

Up to 31. 1. this line was held, under daily fighting, with the deployment of all available forces. Without positions, without obstacles, the exhausted divisions—often reduced to a few hundred men—lay exposed to the enemy's tremendous fire opposite him. They had to be relieved several times, only to be replaced by others little less exhausted.

On 1. 11., in the front from the right flank: 240th I.D., 15th Bav. I.D., 52nd I.D. (Maj. Gen. Müller, Maj. Gen. Siegener, Lt. Gen. v. Borries). For lack of any reserves, the 31st I.D. (Lt. Gen. v. Wissel) is split up, with one third each placed as commitment groups behind the divisions.

On 1. 11., 5 p.m., artillery fire of the strongest kind sets in along the entire group front, which, even before the infantry attack, smashes our infantry and artillery lying without cover. The 52nd I.D. bursts completely and is replaced by my old 115th I.D. The army orders a withdrawal into a previously fixed position Authe-Buzancy-Fossè. Disengagement from the enemy succeeded, under cover of rain and fog, without major artillery losses, and in the evening of 3. 11. the corps, with 240th I.D., 31st I.D., 115th I.D., stands in this position. K.H.Q. Carignan. The 52nd I.D. and 15th Bav. I.D. collect their remnants behind the Meuse.

Thus in the next days we fall back, step by step, under heavy enemy pressure, committing the last reserves, to gain the north bank of the Meuse. In the night of 4/5. 11., I crossed the Meuse smoothly and without losses with the main forces: 240th, 31st and the remnants of the 115th I.D. at Mouzon-Fe. Alma-Pouilly, while the newly arrived 236th I.D., in a barrier position at Yoncq and east thereof, covered the crossing. K.H.Q. Frenonville. The following

day the 236th I.D. followed. All bridges are blown. The corps forms, under the designation "Group Kleist", in the line Mouzon-Moulins-Martincourt with the 31st I.D., 88th I.D., 27th W. I.D. (Maj. Gen. v. d. Hardt, Gen. v. Beczwazowski, Gen. v. Maur). The 236th I.D. remains as commitment group. The completely shattered 115th I.D., 15th Bav. I.D. and 52nd I.D. are moved back into the rear area; 240th I.D. passes to the 3rd Army. In this position the group awaits a further attack by the enemy.

Meanwhile the most disquieting reports regarding the internal political situation at home appear in ever more serious form and are confirmed in a commanders' conference at A.H.Q. on 8. 11. On 9. 11. our radio stations already intercept numerous wireless messages sending greetings to the front from workers' and soldiers' councils in Cologne, Metz, Diedenhofen, Munich, and confirming that governmental power at home has passed into revolutionary hands. Rumors of the Kaiser's abdication and the Crown Prince's renunciation increased the general unease. The disgraceful behavior of the Navy also became known, albeit not in full. Meager newspaper reports did their part to "drag morale down to rock bottom." Officially nothing was announced: we received only the instruction that we were to come to terms with any soldiers' councils that might form, according to our best conscience!!! The conclusion of an armistice with very harsh conditions was said to be imminent. For the time being the troops were insensitive to all these rumors, due to the heavy fighting still in progress, the close proximity of the enemy, and physical and mental exhaustion. Only in the rear echelons and the line of communications did the consequences make themselves felt through the loosening of discipline, hoisting of red flags, unauthorized departures from units, and squandering of army materiel, while in the foremost lines there was still bloody fighting.

On 11. 11., 12 noon, the armistice came into force, after the enemy had attempted, on that very morning, by strong artillery preparation, to force the crossing of the Meuse. Actual cease-fire only set in at 1 o'clock! That was the end of the glorious war begun with enthusiasm! Not the brave army, but the homeland has lost it!

Retreat across the Rhine.

I had no time left to ponder the Fatherland's misfortune; for the harsh armistice conditions forced the immediate commencement of the retreat. The last act of leadership was at hand: to lead the group back across the Rhine in order! I moved the Gen-Kdo. to Neu Habich and at once set to the hard labor.

The 5th Army had assigned the group, for the four divisions 31st, 88th, 27th w., 236th, a withdrawal strip that led through the northern part of Luxembourg, the Eifel, to Alf/Moselle, through the Hunsrück to St. Goar/Rhine—Lahn valley to Limburg and from there via Runkel–Nauheim to Upper Hesse, where the group was to be relieved by rail transport of the divisions.

There was only one road available for all four divisions, since the given strip was very narrow. The crossing of the Rhine had to be executed over a bridge to be built by ourselves, and use of the railway, even for staffs, was not to be counted on. Rations had to be ensured by the corps itself and were not to be taken from the land. According to these guidelines the retreat was immediately arranged and set in motion. Thanks to the excellent, deliberate work of my chief of staff, Lt. Col. v. Hahnke, to whom I should like to express particular gratitude here, it proceeded entirely according to orders. About 30 kilometers were covered daily; time for rest days there was hardly any. The Gen-Kdo. accompanied the march by bounds. The Gen-Kdo. moved mostly in darkness, so as not to burden the already heavily occupied road still more by day.

On 17. 11. we crossed the Sauer near Dillingen, thus again reaching home soil, and that same evening occupied the first home billets in Bitburg. Here the full, tremendous misfortune of the Fatherland became known to us from the newspapers. The arduous march over the Hunsrück was, thanks to favorable weather, carried out smoothly, and the bridge-building at St. Goar also succeeded, by advance-detached pioneers with the help of the good, helpful Rhine boatmen, surprisingly well despite the unfavorable water level. On 7. 12. the corps was assembled in Upper Hesse around Ortenberg. The armistice conditions concerning evacuation of the right bank of the Rhine had been fulfilled!

During this retreat I saw the divisions and their parts almost daily. Their bearing was passable. The troops were decorated with black-white-red flags, kept good march order and discipline, and sang patriotic soldiers' songs. Soldiers' councils had indeed mostly been formed, but did not make themselves obstructively felt. Only from the Lahn valley on, where the great soldiers' council convened by O.H.L. met in Ems, did its influence become

noticeable. Conditions worsened.

If the retreat, despite all difficulties and in accordance with the provisions of the armistice, was carried out by us in passable order, this was, apart from the favor of the weather, due to the measures of the highest trained leadership, the ruthless deployment, to the utmost limits of capacity, of personalities, and above all to the sound bearing of the troops. Inherited soldierly spirit and selfless fulfillment of duty by the greater part of the officer corps made possible the corps' retreat from the great battle in the Argonne to the neutral zone east of the Rhine. It will ever remain a page of glory! The period of waiting now beginning for onward

transport by rail was not pleasant. The troops grew impatient; Christmas was at the door and all were pressing for home. In general, those units that could reach their demobilization stations by a 200-kilometer march were to march; all further distances were to be covered by rail. Since the railways could provide only few transport trains, the operation dragged on. By 16. 12., however, all transports were arranged. The divisions were on their way to their demobilization stations. Lastly, on 17. 12., the general command was loaded at Stockheim in order to reach its demobilization station, Tilsit. I personally left the transport upon passing through my peacetime garrison, Brandenburg (Havel), on 19. 12. at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Here it was time to bid farewell to my faithful staff, which, in incomparable work, with the commitment of all its strength, self-sacrificing and loyal, supported me during the last difficult weeks. The joint work in this grave need of the Fatherland binds us for life! A liquidation detachment continued on to Tilsit and there carried out the demobilization of Gen-Kdo. z. b. V. No. 58. Date of dissolution: 27. 12. 1918.

The commander-in-chief of the 5th Army, Gen. of Cav. v. d. Marwitz, sent me the following telegram upon dissolution of the corps: "The Gen.-Kdo. departs the army's area on 17. 12., into which it had only entered during the hard days of the concluding battles before Verdun. Not long, but times full of import link the Gen.-Kdo. with A.O.K. Victory was not granted us in our joint work, but the honor of the arms of the troops that fought under the command of the Gen.-Kdo. against the overwhelming superiority remained untouched; exemplarily, under the most difficult conditions, they were led by the Gen.-Kdo. from the battlefield across the Rhine and home. The activity of Your Excellency and of the entire staff is a shining example of most faithful soldierly fulfillment of duty, for which, in this gloomy hour, I express my thanks and that of the Fatherland. Only the future will cause the merit of Group Kleist to shine in the deserved bright light for the public." signed v. d. Marwitz.

Charged with the command of the 4th Army Corps

1919. After a short period of rest I was appointed on 14. 1. 1919 to commander of the 6th Reserve Corps (later Corps Count v. d. Goltz). To my great regret, due to a serious acute illness I could not assume this honorable command. Hardly recovered, on 8. 2. 19 I was charged with the command of the 4th Army Corps with effect for peacetime status. In setting aside serious misgivings rooted in the tradition of the Prussian officer sworn to his king, I held it my duty toward the Fatherland's plight to answer this call. In the position offered me I could deploy my last strength left after five years of war for the reestablishment of peace and order in the country, make useful, during the army's dissolution, the experience gained in 43 years of service, and mitigate many a personal hardship.

In Magdeburg I stood at the focal point of the internal political events. It was among the hardest times I have lived through. Unleashed by strike unrest, the industrially rich province was in flames at every corner. In all garrisons the soldiers' councils ruled arbitrarily. Only calm and unbending energy could bring change. The arrest of a leader of the Independents, carried out by order of the government, triggered in Magdeburg on 7. 4. a political putsch with the end goal of proclaiming, from there, the soviet republic. In the afternoon I was taken hostage by a wild soldiers' council and held until evening. With the help of the Corps Märker, now placed at my disposal, it soon proved possible to restore peace and order, so that by early May the entire province was largely sanitized. After signature of the shameful peace terms I requested my discharge. It was granted, with placement at the disposition; order of 7 July 1919.

A brief note of thanks "for the services rendered to the Fatherland in war and peace" accompanied the order.

Brandenburg (Havel), November 1919.

Alfred von Kleist.

War and Revolution Reminiscences 1914–1919

By Alexandra Kück, née Baroness von Kleist

One heard the most varied rumors, did not know what was true, what was invented. From the brothers, from Barbara and the little one we had heard nothing, and were therefore not a little concerned about them.

Christmas 1917 we spent very beautifully and harmoniously in Libau with Mama. Robert came for a week from Mitau, Horst for a few days from the Eastern Front to visit Margarete. Together we went to the liturgical Christmas service in our old Trinity Church, in which, as always, two very large Christmas trees stood to the right and left of the altar, the old Christmas carols were sung, and the message of peace on earth and the good will toward men was heard. How far we were from peace! Not good will, but hatred, blood and death ruled among men! How long yet? One longed for peace which, despite all the heroic deeds of individuals and entire units, despite countless brilliant victories, was farther away than ever; indeed America, with its immeasurable resources, had joined the hostile pack that wanted to hunt Germany to death, inexorable and pitiless. Where were the siblings this Christmas?

But when the early spring drew into the land, Arthur returned first with his family. Besides Friedrich Georg he brought along little Janina, who had been born in the town of Janina in the Crimea. After very difficult travels he had succeeded in uniting with his family and coming to Courland. For Barbara was, with the children, in the Crimea, Arthur somewhere in the north; added to this the revolution throughout the land, disorder, insecurity, foreshadowed still far worse times. Arthur sent his faithful batman to the Crimea to fetch the family and, if possible, bring them to Finland. The Russian country lad could neither read nor write and had not the faintest notion of geography! On a slip of paper the town names were written down for him which he had to memorize and where he had to change trains, as well as the destination in the Crimea. He set off at a venture through half Russia, actually found Barbara and brought her and the two children to Petersburg. Along the way soldiers sprawled in all classes, made a racket and sought out the best seats. Then the brave batman passed Barbara off as his wife, cleared space for her with his fists and encouraging words to the comrades, and brought her unharmed to the border. From there it went to Finland, and when revolution also began to spread there, to Sweden, to Stockholm. There it was a matter of waiting for Arthur. That was an anxious wait! Arthur was still in the lion's den, surrounded by a thousand dangers, among people who grew ever wilder, more unbridled and more demanding. So long as the Tsar ruled, our Baltic gentlemen felt themselves bound by their oath of allegiance and disdained to come over as defectors to the Germans, in contrast to the Austrian Slavs, who deserted in masses over to Russia, betraying their fatherland and their emperor. For us an oath counted for more.

But when the Tsar was forced to abdicate and the course of events pointed ever more unrestrainedly toward general chaos, when whole units left the front and hurried home, our Balts, too, felt themselves free and released from their obligations, and attempted to reach the border, in order, after years, finally to get to their homeland. What adventures and dangers this involved can scarcely be described. The accounts of these journeys sound like fairy tales. Arthur chose, with a comrade, the route via northern Finland. Over human-empty stretches it went, by sleigh and on skis, unobserved by the Russian border guards, over into Sweden, to wife and children, and thence, after dealing with many formalities, at last to the old homeland!

Much was, to be sure, changed, but one was, after 3½ years, again on one's soil, in one's house, on one's inherited property, which now, after our father's death, belonged wholly to Arthur.

Now one could devote oneself again to peaceful work, could rebuild, devote oneself to one's family, from whom one had been separated so long. — Good that at that time, in all your confident joy, you did not suspect how short your stay at home would be! In scarcely 10 months it would again be a matter of packing one's things and setting off, as a homeless refugee!

51.

From Georg there was no sign of life. But one morning, when Mama and I were sitting over coffee, we suddenly heard a loud man's voice and agitated women's voices in the kitchen, the door to the dining room flies open, on the threshold stands a tall and stately man in a Russian cavalry coat with high "papakha" (fur cap), a hand-case in one hand, a large album under his arm—Georg! Can it be! We spring up, we fall into each other's arms, we ask, we tell, we exult, all at once in unexpected, strong joy and surprise at the reunion! "Where do you come from?! how have

you fared?! tell us! tell us! Do you know that Papa died already in 1915? that I am married? that I have a splendid husband?! that Arthur is back? that Bratto has also arrived?" and so forth and so on.

Gradually we grow calmer. Trudchen and Anna press in, greet and rejoice. The bell rings. Major Oehrl, chief of the secret police, sends to ask who the two "Bolsheviks" are who have arrived in Libau, and of whom one has come to us? Acquaintances ask to be announced. Like wildfire the news has spread that Lt. Col. Baron v. Kleist and Rittmeister Egon v. Rautenfeld of the 39th Narva Hussars have escaped safe and sound from the Bolshevik den of murder and arrived in Libau!

Now it was time to tell the tale. When the western front in Russia began to disintegrate, officers were dismissed, men appointed as commanders—among our hussars, for example, a Jewish tailor who had the biggest and sauciest mouth—Georg and Rautenfeld decided to go over the border to the German troops. There was a moving farewell from the brave hussars; weeping and embracing their superiors, they took their leave. With others, a short process was already made at that time.

They were simply killed.

Each now took his most necessary things in a hand-case. The hard way to the enemy was begun.

On the German side they were received, as Balts, with courtesy, provided with food and sent home, where they wished to look in on their apartments and their belongings. Georg, to be sure, found his apartment plundered. Only his large regimental album, with many memories of a merry hussar time, was still there! Seizing all his possessions—hand-case and album—he returned to his parents' house. But he was glad to have saved life and limb from the war and from the beginnings of the Bolshevik period.

Now a new life had to be begun.

52.

Easter 1918 I spent with Georg in Groß-Dselden with Eduard and Lucie, who had the great joy of having their most sorely missed little Bratto with them again after almost three years' separation. Robert, too, came for a few days, and so there prevailed joy, jubilation, and thanks for so much recovering and being-together in kinship. What was there not to tell each other! How much heavy and serious, but also great and beautiful, had we not experienced! Much, much too short were the days, those beautiful, unforgettable Easter days of 1918 in Groß-Dselden!

Lucie had again made it particularly charming for us two; we had at our disposal a large bedroom and a small sitting room; in the morning a plentiful and tasty breakfast was brought to us; we ourselves were expected only at noon, and until then could do and leave undone what we liked, go for walks or remain chatting in our rooms and so truly enjoy the few days of the precious, oh so rare being-together. It was, after all, harder than we had imagined, this compulsory, unnatural separation of two loving spouses!

On Easter Sunday we were awakened by the solemn, sustained singing of a chorale. The Dselden Latvian men's quartet, which Eduard had brought into being and vigorously supported, had taken up position noiselessly on the fore-porch and sang to the master and mistress as a morning serenade a few chorales, which had been rehearsed purely and well and were performed with much feeling.

For Lucie the Easter Sunday was in any case a very strenuous day. After the serenade the diligent early-riser went down with the singers to the spacious servants' hall, where many farm people, craftsmen and workers with their wives, as well as Latvian-speaking servants had assembled. With them Lucie held the festival service, since the people, because of the great distance, could only very seldom go to church.

With the help of the choir singers, the singing went quite well. The nasal, dragging tones, the many verses sung one after another, sounded up to us. We were glad not to have to be present.

Then Lucie read aloud a long Latvian sermon, which she had already read the day before to her maid, in order to get the right intonation and faultless pronunciation. Quite heated, she came upstairs after the closing hymn and the prayer. But there was still no rest for the little, energetic housewife. Now the household members and German-speaking people were called into the sitting room and a German morning devotion was held for them. Meanwhile it had become lunchtime. The good things were enjoyed, especially the Gawesen sweet festival dish piously adopted by Dselden, "waffles with sauce," a delicious Russian dish consisting of a layer of waffles, a layer of bilberry compote, etc., until a broad, imposing tower arose. Over this the "sauce" was then poured: 1 liter of

sweet sour-cream thick-boiled with 1 pound of sugar and vanilla. The whole, cooled, was brought to table and tasted like a veritable ambrosia! With what high enjoyment we ate it in the lean war years, anyone can imagine.

After dinner we went into the garden to hide Easter eggs. Lucie meanwhile had assembled her 25–35 Sunday school children in the servants' hall, catechized with them, sung, and read them a devotion—all in Latvian—then the children were to search for eggs with Bratto and so have a very merry Easter day.

It was a day for rejoicing and being merry! The sun shone warm, violets and other spring flowers bloomed in sheltered places, birds poured forth their song; everything was so peaceful and harmonious, so festive-cheerful and carefree. Lucie had dyed and donated a full 300 eggs! In the war year 1918! She must have saved up diligently for a long time to bring together such a number. But when the expectant throng of delighted children, Bratto at the fore with his radiant shouts of joy and eager helping of little children, stormed into the garden, searched in hollow trees, in moss and bushes for the hidden glories, when many happy, thankful eyes gazed at the treasures found, the many colorful eggs, when one after another stepped up and kissed the kind mistress's hand in thanks—then it was indeed a fair reward for all the effort and frugality.

(To be continued.)