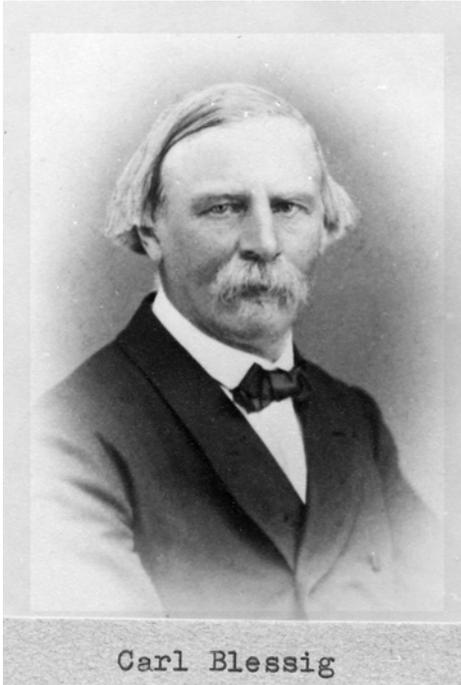


A History of the Blessig Family

Descendants of P.J. Blessig I and Emilie Charlotte Forsch.

As mentioned on p.13, P.J. BLESSIG I of St. Petersburg had nine children by his second wife, **EMILIE CHARLOTTE FORSCH**, b. 1791, died 1843. Following the children of his first marriage, these were:

(5) *Carl Blessig*



Carl Blessig

Born 1814 in St. Petersburg, died 1881 near Achern in Baden. He was educated at the Muralt private Academy in Petersburg, and then at the Classical School and University of Dorpat in Estonia. Later he studied Jurisprudence and Philology at the Universities in Petersburg and Berlin. In 1837 he went to Rome for further studies, and remained there until 1843. After a brief return to Petersburg he travelled in Italy and Germany, and then settled at Achern in Baden. He had considerable literary talent, and composed a dramatic poem entitled 'Cola di Rienzi' which was published at Nurnberg in 1839, and he later compiled an anthology of some 400 'Ritornelles', folk

songs of the Roman Campagna, which was published at Leipzig in 1860. Italian peasant women sang the Ritornelles, of which he collected more than 2000, as they worked in the fields. They were in the form of 3 line stanzas, and each singer or group of singers 'returned' the last line of the previous singer's stanza. During the 30 years of his life at Achern, Carl Blessig continued his literary work and devoted his leisure to shooting. In the Maiwald and other neighbouring forests he rented jointly with a friend, a Magistrate at Achern, the shooting rights, and their annual bag over many years averaged about 1000 head and included, roe deer, hares, pheasants, partridges, quail, snipe, woodcock, and duck. The shooting was not expensive, as the sale of game paid for the rent and game warden's fees, and the net cost seems to have been about £25 per annum. Carl Blessig apparently was a good shot, as the game record for several years show that he accounted for most of the bag. His brother P.J. Blessig of Liverpool stayed occasionally at Achern to shoot with him. Carl Blessig died of heart seizure in Dec. 1881, whilst shooting in the forest near Gamshurst a few miles from Achern. He was 67 and unmarried. At Gamshurst there is an old Inn which formerly was called the 'Russischer Hof', and it may have been patronised by Carl Blessig as lessee of the local shooting.

A History of the Blessig Family

(6) *Emilie Charlotte Blessig*

Born 1816 St. Petersburg, died in 1897 at Hamburg. She was educated at a 'Pension' in Petersburg with her cousins Kathinka and Minna Forsch (p.31), who were her lifelong friends. In 1844 she married in Petersburg, **Paul Gottfried Schinckel** (Pavlov Andreitch) who was



born in 1797 and died in 1881 at Hamburg. As mentioned on p.11 he came to St. Petersburg from Hamburg about 1818 and was appointed to the Moscow branch of Blessig & Co. That branch was closed a few years after the death of P.J Blessig (1852) and Schinckel then returned to business in Hamburg. But in 1837 he was invited by Friedrich Forsch to renew his partnership in Blessig & Co. in St. Petersburg, and he accepted that and continued in the Firm until 1849. During the earlier period in Moscow he had the misfortune to lose the sight of his left eye by an accident when he was shooting snipe with his game warden in a marsh near Moscow.

After their marriage in 1844 Emilie and Paul Schinckel lived in the back part of the big house on the English Quay, and there they boarded her brothers and unmarried sister, whilst her step-brother Wilhelm occupied the front part of the house with his numerous family In 1848, as mentioned earlier, the senior partners in the firm of Blessig & Co, Friedrich Forsch and Paul Schinckel, decided to retire, as their brother-in-law Wilhelm Blessig wished to become Head of the Firm. So in May of 1849 Emilie and Paul Schinckel left Petersburg for his native city of Hamburg, taking with them her unmarried sister Betsy Blessig. Like the Forsch family, who left Petersburg later in the year, they had some difficulty in obtaining passports to leave

A History of the Blessig Family

Russia, owing to the revolutionary state of Europe at that time, and passports were granted only on a formal undertaking that the holders would remain outside Russia. Although Paul Schinckel made a brief visit to St. Petersburg in 1853, his wife never returned there, much as she would have liked to see her old home. At Hamburg however they were not far distant from the Forsch family at Dresden, and the St. Petersburg relatives were able later to visit Hamburg frequently, and P.J. Blessig also went there each year on his way back to Liverpool from Carlsbad.

At Hamburg, Paul Schinckel purchased a house on what is now the Hansa Strasse, but which in the 1850's was a sandy lane in the N. outskirts of the city, where only a few houses had been built as summer villas, and it was many years before piped water and drainage were brought out to those houses. The Schinckel's house was however a well built one and it had a good garden. At Hamburg Schinckel did not undertake active business, as he had saved a considerable fortune from his many years in Blessig and Co. in Russia. Being an enthusiastic patron of music, he found scope at Hamburg to indulge that enthusiasm, and he financed the training of a young singer named **Therese Tietjens**, daughter of a Hamburg ship captain. This protégée in due course became the celebrated mezzo-soprano. After singing in Vienna in 1856-7, Tietjens went to London in 1858 and there became a permanent member of the Royal Opera Company in the Haymarket where Her Majesty's Theatre now stands, and her voice was much admired by Queen Victoria. She sang also in Paris and New York. Unspoilt by such fame, Tietjens made frequent visits to her native Hamburg in the 1860's, staying there with the Schinckels, and singing in oratorio at St. Michael's Church, and at the

Hamburg Theatre in token of gratitude to her early patrons. P.J. Blessig and his wife met her on several occasions at the Schinckels. She died in London 1877.

Towards the end of his life, Paul Schinckel lost the sight of his remaining eye, and his death in 1881 was directly due to that misfortune; although he knew all the crossings and corners of the streets near his home, it happened that a cart backed out from a new exit from a garden and knocked him down with fatal injuries. He was 84. His wife Emilie survived him for 16 years and was devotedly cared for by her son Max, and she had the happiness of seeing many grandchildren growing up. In the 1890's her health began to fail, and she died in 1897, aged 81.



A History of the Blessig Family

The children were:

(i) Philipp Andreas Schinckel

Born 1845 in St. Petersburg. After six years of education at the Johanneum College in Hamburg he entered the office of Burmester & Stavenhagen. During 1863-8 he enlarged his experience in the office of his uncle and godfather Philip Blessig at Liverpool, and then he started a small business at Hamburg, in coffee and cotton.



Andreas Schinckel 1866



Marie and Andreas Schinckel
1873

In 1873 he married at Hamburg, **Marie Therese Baasch**, b.1854, daughter of a well-known merchant family. In the following year he became General Secretary of the Anglo-German Bank. There were no children by his marriage, and he and his wife adopted a girl named **Christine**, who married in 1892 a Mr. **Noeldechen**. In 1878 Andreas contracted typhus whilst staying at the seaside resort of Doberan, and he died in Hamburg. His widow married in 1882, her brother-in-law **Gustav A. Mestern**, b.1860 at Hamburg, and had no children by that marriage. She died in 1920, and Mestern died in 1925, at Hamburg.

(ii) Emilie Schinckel

born and died 1847 in St. Petersburg.

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(iii) Maximilian Heinrich v. Schinckel

Born in Hamburg in 1849, shortly after the arrival of his parents from St. Petersburg. He published his family memoirs at Hamburg in 1929. After the usual six years of education at the Johanneum College he entered the office of Burmester & Stavenhagen. In 1868-9 he did his military service as an Officer Candidate (Aspirant) in the 6th Magdeburg Dragoon Regiment stationed at Haderslaben in Schleswig-Holstein. In Oct. 1869 his father sent him to St. Petersburg to gain further business experience, and there he worked in the office of Moritz Ponfick, a Frankfort merchant who had a large agency for cotton and other imports from London, New York, and Berlin. In Petersburg he enjoyed much hospitality from his uncles, Excellencies Frederic and Robert Blessig, his aunt Jane Blessig ne'e Higginbotham, and other relatives. In July 1870 he was recalled to Germany for service in the Franco-Prussian War, rejoining the Magdeburg Dragoons as Lieutenant, and in December of that year he was awarded an Iron Cross for a daring reconnaissance patrol. In Aug. 1871 he returned to St. Petersburg and continued work in the office of M. Ponfick until Nov. 1872, when he returned to Hamburg and took up an appointment as a Director of the Nord-Deutsch Bank. Being of a sociable disposition he had a host of friends and acquaintances at Hamburg, among whom were the Willink brothers and the Brandts of Hamburg and London. After his sisters married in 1876 and 1877, he was the only remaining member of his family living with his parents, and shortly after his father died in 1881, he also got married.

In Oct. 1882 Max Schinckel married **Olga Clementine Berckemeyer**



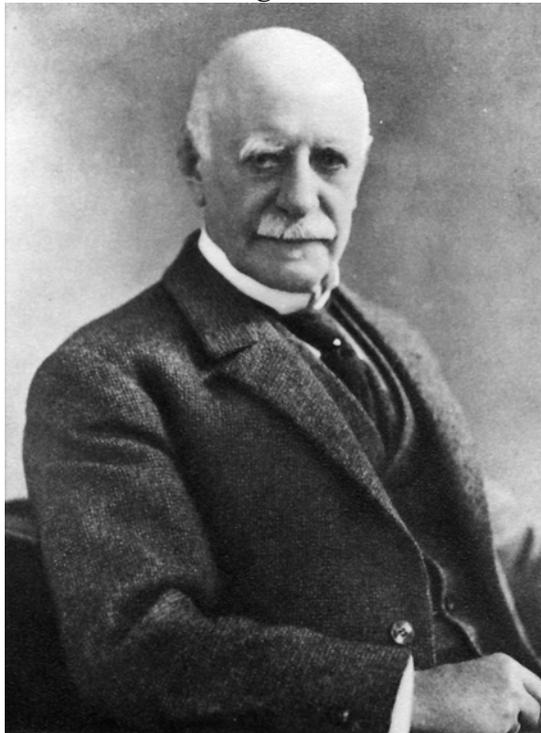
Olga and Max Schinckel. 1882.

who was born in 1862 at Hamburg. She was the youngest daughter of **Gustav Wilhelm Berckemeyer** and **Helena O'Swald**, patrician families of Hamburg. Max and his wife purchased a small house near his widowed mother in the Hansa Strasse. In 1888 he also bought a country villa with 30 acres of land among pines and heather on the hill above Blankenese, a summer resort on the river Elbe, 6 miles W. of Hamburg, and that property, which they named Villa Erica, gave lifelong enjoyment to them and to their children. In 1892 he gave his small town house to his mother in exchange for her house on the Hansa Strasse, and he pulled down the latter and rebuilt it on a

A History of the Blessig Family

larger scale, in Florentine style, and it stands today, almost undamaged by the bombs of 1943-45. With the improvement in his fortune Max Schinckel became a country landowner on a large scale. In 1900 he purchased the Setzin estate of about 2400 acres in the Hagenow district of Mecklenburg; and when his eldest son took up farming he purchased for him estates named Timkenberg and Sprengelshof which totalled about 1500 acres, near Boitzenburg in Mecklenburg. Finally in 1917 he purchased part of a property named Schwechow, which adjoined Setzin. He had intended that Setzin should be a hereditary possession for his family and he endowed it with a Trust Fund, but owing to the monetary inflation after the 1914-18 War the Trust Fund became valueless, and so he subsequently divided the estates between his children, retaining for the remainder of his life only the large town house in Hamburg and the country villa at Blankenese.

Max Schinckel enjoyed all forms of country life, and was a fine horseman and an excellent shot. In his stables he kept about a dozen saddle and harness horses. As early as 1877 he became a Committee Member of the Hamburg Jockey Club, and from 1892 to 1923 he was its President, and in that capacity he entertained Kaiser Wilhelm II at the Hamburg Races on several occasions prior to 1914. In 1901 he became a Director of the Hamburg-America Steamship Line and he was Chairman of it in 1924. Among his fellow Directors was Prince Philipp zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurst, who became his close friend and asked him frequently to shoot at Podegrad Castle in Bohemia, and there he met many good sportsmen, Prince Solms-Baruth who was also his good friend, and Princes Ypsilanti, Sayn-Wittgenstein,



Max v. Schinckel aged 80.

Trauttmannsdorff, and Count Kinsky. He was President of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce in 1907-10. During the 1914-18 War, being too old for Army service, he became Chairman of the Hamburg Branch of the German Red Cross. For his services in that capacity he was ennobled in 1917, and about the same time he was made an Honorary Doctor of Theology by Rostock University, for his strong support of the Lutheran Church during many years. He travelled abroad frequently in connection with his Directorships of the Nord-Deutsch Bank and the Hamburg-America Line, and on some of those tours he was accompanied by his wife or children.

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one notable journey of 5 months duration being made with his eldest son Ernst to South America in 1912. He visited London on many occasions, and in the 1890's he stayed frequently with his uncle P.J. Blessig at Liverpool, for whom he had much respect and affection.

Max v. Schinckel and his wife had the happiness of celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary. She died in 1936 at the age of 74, and he died in 1938 at the age of 89, at Blankenese. The family grave which he established is at Niendorf, a few miles NW of Hamburg.

The children of Max and Olga V. Schinckel were:

(a) **Helena v. Schinckel** b.1883 d.1953 at Hamburg. She married there in 1903, **Edmund v. Oesterreich**, b. 1870 d. 1946 at Hamburg, who was a Bank Director. He was son of **Constantin v. Oesterreich**, merchant in Hamburg, and of **Clara Dorothea**, daughter of **Wilhelm Brandt**, merchant in St. Petersburg. His grandfather Constantin Oesterreich who was born in Saxony, was a Director of the State Bank in St. Petersburg, and his grandfather Wilhelm Brandt was a Hereditary Honorary Russian Citizen and head of the great firm of W. Brandt & Co. in that city. Those grandparents were intimate friends of the Blessig family in Petersburg. Helena and Edmund v.

Oesterreich had 3 sons and 3 daughters. Of these, the second son, **Eberhard**, b. 1910, has a daughter **Isabella v. Oesterreich** b. 1941 by his 1st marriage, with **Angela Brugelmann**, and a son **Nicolaus v. Oesterreich** b.1947 by his 2nd marriage, with **Liselotte**, widow of **Baron v. Buchholz**.

(b) **Anna-Marie v. Schinckel** b. 1885 Hamburg. She married there in 1906, **Thassilo v. Studnitz** , b. 1880 at Buderose, whose ancestors were of ancient Moravian nobility. He was an Artillery Captain and he was killed in Oct. 1918 in the Argonne. His widow lives at Stuttgart.

Sons:

1. **Hans-Georg v. Studnitz** b. 1907 Potsdam. Chief Press Agent for the Lufthansa at Cologne. He married (I) in Berlin 1933, **Eveline Baroness v. Behr**; marriage dissolved 1938. (II) in Lippe 1938, **Marietta, Baroness v. Mengersen**; marriage dissolved 1949; one daughter, **Georgine v. Studnitz** b. 1939 (Cath.). He married (III) at Stuttgart in 1950, **Vera Schuler** b. 1925; one son, **Andreas v. Studnitz** b. 1954 Bonn.

2. **Dietrich Thassilo v. Studnitz** b. 1908 Potsdam. Infantry Captain. Killed 1939 in Poland.

3. **Ulrich Bogislav v. Studnitz** b. 1911 Berlin. Law student. Died in East Africa 1936.

4. **Thassilo Andreas v. Studnitz** b. 1915 Potsdam. Infantry Lieutenant. Killed 1939 in Poland.

5. **Rudiger Wenzel v. Studnitz** b, 1917 Potsdam. Infantry Captain. Killed 1942 in Russia.

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(c) **Ernst v. Schinckel** b. 1889 Hamburg. Infantry Captain 1914-18 War. He inherited the Setzin estate in Hagenow District, Mecklenburg, and later he owned an estate at Cartzitz in Rugen. He married at Blankenese in 1915, **Martha v. Allworden** who was b. 1893 at Rittershausen, Hanover. In May 1945 Ernst v. Schinckel, his wife Martha, and their daughter Barbara were killed by the Russians at Cartzitz.

The children were:

1. **Joachim Wilhelm Max v. Schinckel** b. 1916 Blankenese. He owns a furniture factory at Schwaikheim near Schorndorf (Wurt.). He married in 1954 at Baden-Baden, **Heidi Klesper**, and they have 2 daughters, **Katharina v. Schinckel** b. 1955 Stuttgart and **Christiane** b. 1956

2. **Eckhart v. Schinckel** b. 1917 Hamburg. Killed 1943 Stalingrad.

3. **Jurgen v. Schinckel** b. 1921 Schwechow. Died 1942 Dresden.

4. **Barbara v. Schinckel** b. 1924 Setzin. Killed 1945 Cartzitz.

(d) **Elisabeth v. Schinckel** (twin) b. 1895 Blankenese. She married at Hamburg Town 1918, **Gunnther Kurt Paul Christian, Baron v. Hammerstein-Loxten**, b. 1882 Metz, son of Hans, Baron v. H-L, a Minister of State, He farmed the Schinckel estate called Sprengelshof nr. Boizenburg, and later he inherited the Hammerstein estate at Steinhorst near Celle.

Children:

1. **Rosmarie Elisabeth, Baroness v. H-L**, b. 1919 Hamburg. Married in 1943 at Steinhorst, **Friedrich-Christian, Count v. Kielmansegg**, b. 1916, landowner at Seestermuhe nr, Elmshorn; they have 2 sons and 2 daughters.

2. **Engelgard Alice Clementine, Baroness v. H-L**, b. Blankenese 1920. Married in 1942 at Munich, **Viktor, Baron v. Wolff** b. 1914 Estonia, merchant in Munich; marriage dissolved 1954-; 1 son & 1 daughter.

3. **Hans-Christian Ernst Gunther, Baron v. H-L**, b. Hamburg 1922. Studied music; d.1953.

4. **Hans Detlev Wilhelm Gunther, Baron v. H-L**, b. Sprengelshof 1925. Married in 1955, **Ursula Simon** b. Hamburg 1925.

(e) **Joachim v. Schinckel** (twin) b. 1895 Blankenese. Cavalry Captain in 1914-18 War. He inherited the Schwechow estate adjoining Setzin, but later became a merchant in Hamburg, and now resides in the Villa Erica at Blankenese. He married (1) at The Hague in 1923, **Helen van der Velde** who was b. 1899 at Loosduinnen in Holland, and d.1935 at Hamburg.

Children:

1. **Cecil v. Schinckel** b. 1923 Schwechow. Married in Hamburg 1952, **Rudiger Burckhardt** b. 1923 Stuttgart: son, **Gotz B**, b. 1955, daughter: **Katrin B**, b 1956.

2. **Clemens v. Schinckel** b. 1927 Hamburg.

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Joachim v. Schinckel married (II) in Hamburg 1937, **Gabriele Auguste Marie Friederike, Princess v. Schoenaich-Carolath**, who was b. 1897 d 17.5.1964 at Haseldorf nr. Uetersen, and they have a son:
Peter-Christoph v. Schinkel b. 1938 Blankenese.

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(iv) Ernst Schinckel

Born 1851 at Hamburg. He served in the 1870/71 War as a Volunteer Trooper in his brother Max's Regiment, 6th Dragoons, and he died of typhus in a Field Hospital at Orleans in Dec. 1870, aged 19.

(v) Maria (Mimi) Charlotte Schinckel

Born 1853 at Hamburg. She married there in 1877, **Hermann Ferdinand Wilhelm Jacobj**, who was born in 1853 at Hamburg, and was a son



of H.D. Jacobj, a District Court Judge. Wilhelm Jacobj was a widower with an infant daughter. He owned an estate called **Klein-Königsförde**, near the Eider Canal in Holstein, where he bred cattle and horses. The Schinckel family frequently went there on visits from Hamburg. A short while before his death, which occurred suddenly at Kiel in Jan. 1910, W. Jacobj leased the Klein-Königsförde estate to a tenant and retired to live on another property which he had inherited, and which was situated between the Eider and the newly built Kiel Canal. After his death, his widow Mimi devised the Klein-Königsförde estate to her eldest son Paul, who continued to lease it to a tenant. Mimi Jacobj died after long and painful illness

in Nov. 1917, whilst three of her sons were serving in the War. She and her husband were buried in the Ohlsdorf Cemetery at Hamburg.

Their children were:

(a) **Magdalene Elisabeth Jacobj** b. 1878 at Klein-Königsförde. She married in India in 1907 **Friedrich Hübner**, who was a Missionary there and later became Pastor of Sieverstadt and Albersdorf in Holstein. He was b. 1881 at Linden nr. Hanover and d.1953 at Flensburg. His widow lives at Albersdorf. Children:

1. **Charlotte. Hübner** b. Kiel 1908 d. Altona 1929.

2. **Friedrich Hübner**, Member of the High Consistory Court, Hanover. b. Bangalore 1911; married in India 1939, **Christa Roos** b. 1911.

4 sons and 1 daughter.

3. **Ernst Hübner** b, 1914 in India, killed at Arnheim 1945. Married in

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1939, **Irmgard Rittscher** b. Kiel 1915. 1 son d, 2 daughters.

4. **Hans Martin Hübner** b. Bargum 1917, killed in Russia 1942.

5. **Heinrich Hübner** b. Bargum 1919, Pastor at Langenhorn near there.

Married at Hanover 1954, **Ruth Ivers** b, Kiel 1926.

(b) **Paul Ferdinand Wilhelm Jacobj** b. 1879 at Klein-Königsförde. He inherited his father estate there, and leased it to a tenant. He lived in Bremen, and now in Hamburg. Married in 1912 at Rantzau, **Elisabeth Jess**, b. 1887 at Stoss in Plon District. Children;

1. **Klaus Ferdinand Jacobj** b. 1913 Klein-Königsförde. Submarine Commander, killed in Bay of Biscay 1944. Married at Bremen 1941, **Friedel Wiese** b. 1917. Son: **Klaus-Gerhard Jacobj** b. 1942.

2. **Irmelin Jacobj** b. 1919 Klein-Königsförde. Married at Bremen in 1947, **Karl Loeck**. 2 sons and 1 daughter.

3. **Charlotte Jacobj** b. 1921 Klein-Königsförde. Married in 1950 at Eichtal, Holstein, **Kurt Wunscher**, Agricultural Advisor at Detmold, Lippe, 1 son.

(c) **Maximilian Johannes Heinrich Jacobj** b. 1881 at Klein-Königsförde. He was a Bank official in Japan, and later in Munich, and now he is an agent for the Ford Co. in Brunswick. Married in 1918 at Munich, **Alice von Haas**, b. 1879 at Ansbach. Sons:

1. **Ulrich Jacobj** b. 1919 Berlin, killed in France 1940.

2. **Hans Hennig Jacobj** b. 1920 Berlin. Became blind after 1939-45 war; employed near Osnabruck.

Married in 1954 at Hanover, **Irene Jahn**

(d) **Olga Jacobj**, b 1882 at Klein-Königsförde. Lives in Hamburg, and is the chief authority on genealogy of the Jacobj family.

(e) **Ernst Daniel Heinrich Jacobj** b. 1884 at Klein-Königsförde, He was a merchant in Manila, and later in Addis Ababa, and now he is with the Ford Co. in Brunswick. Married in 1923 at Neu-Ulm, **Ella Michahelles** b. 1892 Nurnberg, daughter of Lt. Gen. G. Michahelles and Marianne von Haas of Eichstadt. Son: **Wilhelm Daniel Georg Jacobj** b. Manila 1930; studying chemistry in Brunswick.

(f) **Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Jacobj** b. 1885 at Klein-Königsförde, died in 1948 at Eichtal, Rendsburg District, Holstein, where he owned a farm. He married in 1912 at Rantzau, **Annie Jess**, born 1888 at Stoss in Plon District, Holstein. No children. (His wife was a sister of Paul Jacobj's wife (above).

(g) **Maria Jacobj**, b.1888 at Klein-Königsförde, died 1949 at Hamburg. She married at Kiel in 1911, **Joachim Rathjens**, Dr -Eng, b. 1883 at Malmod, Sweden. He is a constructional engineer for underground buildings and has a large business, formerly at Burg, Dithmarschen, later at Naumburg, and now in Hamburg-Altona. Children:

1. **Hans-Helmut Rathjens** b. 1912 Neu-Königsförde. Underground

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Construct -ional engineer at Kiel. Married in 1939 at Naumburg, **Maria Reinhard**, b.1915 at Aschaffenburg. 5 sons and 2 daughters.

2. **Wolfgang Rathjens**, b. 1913 Neu-Königsförde, died 1954 at Bidburg in the Eiffel. Engineer. Married (I) in 1941 **Doris Maria Koch**, b.1921 at Lubeck; 2 sons. He married (II) in 1948 at Hamburg, **Thekla Hertle** nee Rauert, b. 1914. 1 son and 1 daughter.

3. **Harald Rathjens**, b.1914 at Kiel. Major. Killed 1944 in Italy.

4. **Helgo Rathjens**, b. 1916 at Burg, Ditmarschen. Underground constructional engineer at Hamburg. Married (I) 1944 at Breslau. **Eleonore Ullmann**, b.1915 Breslau; 2 daughters. He married (II) in 1953 at Hamburg, **Gertrud Kransslach nee Meier**, b.1914 at Hamburg.

5. **Dieter Rathjens**, b.1918 at Halle. Lieutenant. Killed 1942 Russia-

6. **Eberhard Rathjens**, b.1919 at Halle. Underground constructional Engineer at Bruhl nr. Cologne. Married in 1943 at Naumburg, **Aennchen Wolf**, b.1917 at Naumburg; 3 daughters.

7. **Edelgard Rathjens**, b.1920 at Halle. Married 1942 at Naumburg, **Werner Guercke**, Naval Lieut, now engineer in Brazil, b.1919 at Wilhelmshaven; 1 son and 1 daughter.

8. **Horst Rathjens** b, 1924 at Naumburg. Landscape gardener.

9. **Ellen Rathjens** b. 1929 at Naumburg. Married in 1953 at Hamburg, **Walter Deest**, underground constructional engineer at Hamburg, b. 1919 Hamburg; 1 son and 1 daughter.

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(vi) Martha Schinckel

Born 1854 at Hamburg, died in 1931 at Stuttgart. She married in 1876 at Hamburg, **Heinrich Gunther Roemer** who



was born in 1846 at Stuttgart and died in 1926 at Naumburg. He was the son of G.H. Roemer, Director of the Department of Church and School Education in the Wurttemberg Government at Stuttgart, and of Elisabeth (Elise) ne'e Baroness v. Gemmingen-Steinegg. The Roemer family have a long and distinguished record of men who have served in the Church and in the learned professions. Heinrich Gunther Roemer was Pastor of Pfrondorf near Tubingen, and of Gross-Heppach near Stuttgart. He retired from parish work in 1895 and then busied himself with Home Mission work at Stuttgart. Shortly before his death in 1926 the Golden Anniversary of his marriage with Martha Schinckel was celebrated at Stuttgart. Their children were:

(a) **Hans Roemer** b.1878 at Pfrondorf, died 1947 at Carlsruhe. He was a Dr (Med.) and Director of the Mental Institution at Illenau near Achern in Baden. He married in 1907 at Stuttgart, **Hedwig Buschle**, who was born in 1883 at Stuttgart. Children:

1. **Hans Roemer** b.1907 at Illenau. Dr (Med.) and Professor at Giessen University. Married in 1937 at Giessen, **Elisabeth Pinkeser**, Dr (Med.), b.1904 in Munich.

2. **Werner Roemer** b. 1909 at Illenau. Dr (Sc.) & Dipl Agriculture, Toronto, Canada. Married in 1940 at Hamburg, **Bertha Thiessen**; marriage dissolved 1951; 2 daughters.

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(b) **Hermann Roemer** b.1880 at Pfrondorf. Dr (Phil.) & Professor (retd)
He resides at Markgroningen near Stuttgart. Married in 1911 at Stuttgart,
Elisabeth Schuz, b. 1887 at Oberjesingen. Children:

1. **Helmut Roemer** b. 1913 at Bietigheim. Engineer at Markgroningen.
Married 1944 in Berlin, **Ilse Domehl**, b 1918 Berlin; 4 daughters

2. **Gerhard Roemer** b.1915 Bietigheim. Dipl. Eng. Carlsruhe. Married
1944 at Markleeburg, **Friederun Loofs**, b.1921; 2 sons, 2 das.

3. **Oskar Roemer**, b.1917 Bietigheim. Studied teaching at Tübingen.
He was killed on service as Lieutenant, at Novorossisk in 1942

4. **Heinz Roemer**, b.1918 at Stuttgart. He studied Agriculture at Halle
University, and was killed in 1941 on service as a Panzer gunner, near Narva
in Russia.

5. **Georg Roemer**, b. 1921 at Markgroningen. He is a schoolmaster in
Stuttgart. Married in 1947 at Markgroningen, **Christiane Fue** b.1928 at
Hanau; 2 sons and 1 daughter,

6. **Annemarie Roemer**, b.1924 at Markgroningen. Social Welfare
Worker. She married in 1953 at Upfingen, **Heinz Griesinger**, Youth Probation
Officer at Markgroningen, b. 1929 at Upfingen.

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(7) *Frederic (Fritz) Johann Blessig.*



Called Feodor Philipovitch in Russian nomenclature, he was born in 1816 and died in 1887 in St. Petersburg. He was educated at the Muralt private Academy, and then studied Classical Philology at the University, obtaining a Degree in 1838. He entered the Foreign Office in 1839 as a Translator, and in 1841 became an Executive Officer in the First Bureau, which ciphered and deciphered secret documents passing through the Chancellery. By 1860 he had become an Assistant Director, with the honorary rank of State Counsellor, and by 1873 he was Director of the Bureau with the rank of Actual State Counsellor. That appointment placed him in the grade of Hereditary Nobility with the style of Excellency

(Prevoskhoditelstvo), and gave certain privileges to his sons. He was awarded successively the Orders of St. Anne, St. Stanislaus, and St. Vladimir, and periodically at Easter he received advancement in the grades of those Orders, but as he had to pay the cost of the insignia on each occasion, out of his very modest salary, he used to describe that caustically as a typically Russian arrangement.

Frederic Blessig was a very able and well-read man, and he had a reputation for lively wit and 'bons mots'. He was an excellent pianist, and was of course fluent in several languages. He was a Churchwarden of the Lutheran Church in Petersburg, and he lived in the 3rd Line on Vassili Ostrov.

As mentioned above, he built a small villa on the Blessig estate near Ligovo, with financial aid from his brother Philip, of Liverpool.

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1884
P. J. Blessig of Liverpool and his 2 surviving brothers from Russia with their families.
Erni & Bobka
 sons of F. B.
Frederic B. & wife Minna
 b. 1816
P. J. Blessig
 b. 1821
Constantin B. Elly, da. of C. B.
 b. 1828 by 1st wife
Julie,
 2nd wife of C. B.
Jenny, da. of C. B. by 1st wife

A History of the Blessig Family

Frederic Blessig married in Petersburg in 1852, **Wilhelmina (Minna) Amburger** who was born in 1822 and died in 1898 in Petersburg; **her sister Henrietta** married his brother **Dr Robert Blessig**. Frederic and Minna Blessig had two sons:

(i) Robert (Bobka) Blessig

Born 1856 in St. Petersburg, died 1925 at Dorpat in Estonia. He was educated at C. May's private school in Petersburg, and in 1875-6 he studied mathematics and in 1877 Civil Engineering, at St. Petersburg University. In 1878 he did his military service as an Officer Candidate (Aspirant) in the Imperial Horse Guards, and at the end of that year he entered the office of the First Russian Assurance Company (founded 1827) of which his cousin Edward Blessig was a Director. During 1883 to 1885 he worked with an Insurance Company at Liverpool to gain further experience. From 1890 to 1895 he was Inspector of the First Russian Assurance Co, and from 1895 to 1908 Assistant Manager, and from 1908 to 1914, Manager, of that Company. He was also a Director from 1909 of the Russian Reinsurance Company. He lived in the 2nd Line on Vassili Ostrov and was unmarried. After his father's death in 1887 he inherited jointly with his brother Dr Ernst Blessig his father's villa at Ligovo, although his uncle P.J. Blessig of Liverpool still held shares in the family estate there, and to the latter he rendered an annual report of the income and expenditure of the property (p.18). He made occasional visits to his uncle and other relatives in England. In 1905 a revolutionary movement began in Russia following the defeat in the Japanese War, and there were general strikes throughout the country. On 17th October 1906 the Tsar issued a manifesto granting legislative power to the First Duma (Parliament). Conservative elements who favoured reform on moderate lines then formed the "17th October League". In 1906 Bobka Blessig was made Vice-President, and in the following year President, of a German Branch of that League in Petersburg. In 1907-8 he was also Treasurer of the Lutheran Field Hospital, and of the German Educational and Benevolent Society in Petersburg. From 1914 he was President of the Alexander German Hospital Trust, and also committee member of the Alexandra Hospital Trust. But by December 1918 Bobka Blessig was in danger of his life from the Bolshevik regime, and he left Petrograd for Finland. In 1919 he went from there to Stolpmunde in Pomerania, where no doubt he met his cousin Wilhelm III Blessig, who was also a refugee there (p.36). Later he lived for a time at the castle of Remplin near Stavenhagen in Mecklenburg, and in 1924 he joined his brother Ernst at Dorpat in Estonia, where he died in the following year.

A History of the Blessig Family

(ii) Ernst Friedrich Blessig

Born 1859 in St. Petersburg, died 23.04.1940 at Dorpat in Estonia. He was educated at C. May's private school in Petersburg, and then during 1877-85 he studied Medicine at Dorpat University, after which he became Probationer at the Imperial Ophthalmic Hospital in Petersburg. In 1887-88 he continued medical studies abroad, at the Universities of Berlin, Gottingen, Erlangen, and Heidelberg, and he passed his final examinations at Giessen University. In 1888 he was appointed as Assistant Surgeon at the Imperial Ophthalmic Hospital in Petersburg, and in 1900 he became Senior Surgeon and Director of that Hospital, thus following in the footsteps of his uncle Dr Robert Blessig, who had been Director from 1863 to 1878. As Director, Ernst Blessig had the honorary rank of State Counsellor in the grade of Hereditary Nobility, with the style of Excellency. During the years 1889-94 he was Secretary, in 1904 Vice-President, and in 1905-10 President, of the German Medical Association in St. Petersburg. From 1897 he was Treasurer, and from 1907 Vice-President of the St. Petersburg Ophthalmological Society.

During 1890-1907, and in 1914-16, he was Consulting Surgeon to the Alexander German Hospital. From 1903 he was President of the "Blessig Memorial Institute for the Blind", which had been founded in 1880 in St. Petersburg to commemorate his uncle Dr Robert Blessig, who died in 1878. In 1917 Ernst Blessig became Vice-President of a temporary Union of Russian Citizens of German Origin. In 1918 he was also President of the United Lutheran Parishes Committee. In that year he left Petrograd and went to Dorpat in Estonia, where he was appointed as Professor of Ophthalmology in the University. During 1923-5 he was also President of the Dorpat Branch of the Baltic Germans Party.

During his life in St. Petersburg, Ernst Blessig lived in the 2nd Line on Vassili Ostrov, next door to his brother Bobka. He married twice; firstly in 1891, with **Elise Augusta Moritz**, a daughter of Dr. F. Moritz of St. Petersburg; she was b. in 1869 and died in 1914 from tuberculosis, at Zurich in Switzerland. He married secondly, at Dorpat in 1927, his distant cousin **Dagmar Amalie Koch**, who was b. 1890 in Petersburg and was the younger daughter of Dr Carl Koch and Amalie Clelia Blessig (p.35). There were no children by those marriages.

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(8) Robert Blessig

Born 1819, died 1821, St. Petersburg.

(9) Philip Jacob II Blessig

Born 1821 in St. Petersburg, who founded the family at Liverpool

(10) Sophia Caroline Blessig

Born 1823 in St. Petersburg, died in 1856 at Liverpool. She married in Petersburg in 1842, **Alex Boehtlingkh**, who was



born there in 1813, son of Nikolaus Boehtlingkh, whose family was of Dutch origin and long been settled in Petersburg. About 1852 Alex Boehtlingkh went to Liverpool with his wife and children, and started a business there as a Commission Merchant, with his nephew Vassi Blessig. He lived in the Kensington district of Liverpool. In March 1856, shortly after his wife*s death, his firm of Boehtlingkh & Co. became bankrupt, but his brother-in-law P.J. Blessig helped him to obtain a discharge. He then returned to Petersburg with his children, and in 1857 made a second marriage there, with **Mathilde Julie Ortmann**, aged 21. He had some kind of business in Petersburg until about 1869, when he left Russia again and purchased a villa at Godesberg on the Rhine. Finally he settled at Achern in Baden, near his son Arthur, and his sister Sophie van Harder. He died at Achern in 1889.

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Children, of Alexander Boehlingkh and Sophia Blessig were:

(i) Alfred Wilhelm Boehlingkh,

Born 1843 St. Petersburg. He was in business there with several Firms, and died in 1896.

(ii) Alexander (Sascha) Boehlingkh

Born 1847 St. Petersburg. He was in business there until about 1904, when he went to Germany.

(iii) Arthur Heinrich Boehlingkh

Born 1849 St. Petersburg. He became a Professor at Strasbourg University after it had been reopened by the Germans about 1872. He married in 1887 **Natalie Buisson**, nee Oesterreich, widow of a University Professor, and they settled at Obersasbach near Achern in Baden, where he died in 1929.

(iv) Robert Ernst Boehlingkh

Born 1850 St. Petersburg. He was with Blessig, Braun & Co. in Liverpool from about 1870 to 1880, and then with cotton brokers. He died in N. Wales in 1918.

(v) Edmund Otto Boehlingkh

Born 1851 St. Petersburg. He was in business in the Argentine from about 1875, and married there. He had a property called Estancia Clara at Las Rosas in Cordova Province. His son **George Boehlingkh** married at Rosario in 1904.

(vi) Olga Marie Emilie Sophie Boehlingkh

Born 1853 at Liverpool. She lived with her father in St. Petersburg and Baden.

(vii) Wilhelm Lewis Boehlingkh

Born 1854 at Liverpool, He went into business with his brother Edmund in the Argentine.

By his second marriage in 1857 in St. Petersburg in 1857 with **Mathilde Julie Ortmann**, Alexander Boehlingkh had a daughter; **Julie Alexandrine Marie Emilie Boehlingkh**, b.1858 St. Petersburg.

A History of the Blessig Family

(11) Elisabeth (Betsy) Blessig

Born 1827 in St. Petersburg, died 1860 at Bergdorf near Hamburg. She left Petersburg in 1849 for Hamburg with her sister and brother-in-law Emilie and Paul Schinckel, and lived with them until 1851 when she married at Hamburg, **Friedrich Emil Stoffert**,



Emil and Betsy Stoffert



Nina Stoffert

who was born on Hamburg in 1817. He was in the Hamburg firm of Burmester & Stavenhagen, import and export merchants. The Stofferts lived at Bergdorf, 10 m. SE of Hamburg, and had two children:

(i) Robert Stoffert

Born 1853, and

(ii) Nina Stoffert

Born 1857, d.1933.

After his wife's death in 1860, Emil Stoffert married 2ndly in Berlin, **Helena Nagel**, b.1841, d. 1917. He died in 1910 in Wilmersdorf, Berlin and is buried with his wives and daughter Nina at Bergdorf.

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(12) Constantin Ernst Blessig

Born 1828 in St. Petersburg, died 1911 at Spurnal in Livonia. He was educated at the Hirst Church School and St. Petri Church School in Petersburg. During 1848-52 he studied Zoology at Dorpat University in Estonia, and from 1853 to 1857 he was in Australia learning farming. In 1863 he took a Degree as M. in Zoology at Petersburg University. Then he went to Livonia, where with financial aid from his brother P.J. Blessig of Liverpool, he bought a farm called Ramelshof, near Venden, in partnership with his nephew Griescha Blessig (p.35). Later, he made that farm over to Griescha, and rented another farm called Kawershofs near Valk in Livonia. In 1876 with further aid from his brother P.J. Blessig, he purchased a farm called Spurnal, 12 m. SE of Volmar in Livonia, and settled there for the rest of his life. After his nephew Griescha died in 1884 leaving a widow with 7 children, Constantin became their guardian and supervised their Ramelshof farm in addition to working his own property at Spurnal. He married twice. Firstly in 1868, with **Johanna (Jenny) Heerwagen**, who was b. 1837 at Klein-Roop near Venden, and died in 1872 at Kawershof, in Livonia.

By that marriage he had 2 daughters:



Constantin Blessig & daughters
Elly and Jenny. 1875.

(i) Emilie Nancy Elfriede (Elly) Blessig

Born 1870 at Kawershof. She did not marry and she lived with her stepmother (below) on the Spurnal farm until the latter died in 1926. Her subsequent fate is unknown.

(ii) Leontine Johanna (Jenny) Blessig

Born 1872 at Kawershof. In 1894 she married in St. Petersburg her cousin **Alexander II Blessig**, who inherited the farm at Ramelshof when his father Griescha Blessig died, but who held Forestry appointments elsewhere in Russia, as mentioned on p.35. When her husband died in 1904 Jenny Blessig took up residence on the Ramelshof farm. In 1919 the greater part of it was confiscated by the newly formed Latvian Republic, and apparently she

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then moved to Schwerin in Brandenburg, near the Polish frontier. In the later stages of the 1939-45 War she became a refugee, together with two of her daughters, Else and Jenny, and the latter's husband Reinhard v. Hansen. In 1949 they had a smallholding near Dresden, but moved later into Western Germany, and she died near Berlin during that move, in 1950, aged 77.

Constantin Blessig married secondly in 1879, **Julie Therese Balding**, who was b.1842 at Kokenhof farm near Volmar in Livonia; she was a younger sister of his nephew Griescha Blessig's wife. He had no children by that marriage, and he died on his Spurnal farm in 1911. His widow remained on the farm, the greater part of which was confiscated in 1919, with her unmarried stepdaughter Elly Blessig (above), and she died there in 1926.

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(13) Robert Blessig

Born 1830, died 1878, in St. Petersburg. He was educated at the St. Petri Church School with his brother Constantin, and from 1848 to 1854 he



studied Medicine at Dorpat University and took his Doctor's Degree in 1855. He then travelled abroad, and in 1856 he was in Rome, where he undertook the duty of Executor to his relative Alexander I Blessig the artist, arranging with the widow for the education of the daughter Amalia Clelia, in St. Petersburg. (p. 34). He then continued medical study at the Universities of Wurzburg, Berlin, and Vienna. On his return to St. Petersburg in 1858 he was appointed as Assistant Surgeon at the Imperial Ophthalmic Hospital. In 1863 he became Senior Surgeon and Director of that Hospital, which was situated in the Gorochovaya, one of the main streets in St. Petersburg. As Director of the Hospital he became an honorary State

Counsellor in the grade of Hereditary Nobility, with the style of Excellency (Prevoskhoditelstvo). He was consulting Ophthalmist to the Empress Marie Fedorovna Hospital, and to the Maximilian Hospital. He was successively a member, Secretary, and Vice-President of the St. Petersburg Medical Association. In 1861 he married **Henrietta (Jetuscha) Amburger**, who was born in 1858 at Archangel, and died in 1921 at Reval. As mentioned above she was a sister of his brother Frederic's wife. They lived in a Flat over the Ophthalmic Hospital, and they also had the main house on the Villa Blessig estate at Ligovo near Petersburg. As mentioned that house was rebuilt in 1865-8 with financial aid from his brother P.J. Blessig of Liverpool. As Robert and Henriette Blessig had no children, they become guardians of Amalia Clelia Blessig, child of the deceased artist Alexander I Blessig. Robert Blessig was a Churchwarden of the Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg.

He died in Petersburg in March 1878, in his 48th year, of typhus contracted from soldiers in the Petersburg hospitals during the Russo-Turkish War of that year, and his outstanding career as the foremost eye surgeon of his day in St. Petersburg was thus prematurely ended. He was buried in the Polkhovo cemetery in the southern outskirts of St. Petersburg.

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After his death, his widow moved to a small Flat in Petersburg and was allowed also to continue the use of the main house on the Villa Blessig estate. Robert's nephew, Edward Blessig, took over the guardianship of the young Amalia Clelia, then aged 22, and in 1879 she married in Petersburg, Dr Carl Koch, as mentioned. About 1920 Henriette Blessig was able to leave Petrograd to live with Amalia Koch at Reval, and she died there in 1921.

In commemoration of the outstanding work done by Robert Blessig as an eye surgeon in Petersburg, the Blessig Institute for Blind Adults was founded in 1880. His brother P.J. Blessig of Liverpool gave a large endowment toward the founding of that memorial, and he continued thereafter to subscribe 120 guineas (1000 roubles) annually, until his death in 1904. The Institute was well supported by the nobility in St. Petersburg, headed by the Grand Duchess Alexandra Yossifovna, and by the professional and business classes. By 1904 the capital funds amounted to more than 100,000 roubles (£13,500 approx) and the annual subscriptions averaged about £5000. The Institute maintained a house in the city that accommodated 25 blind paupers, who were lodged and boarded and trained in basket weaving, and brush making, for three years. At the end of that period they were returned to their homes and were able to live on the output of their industry, and the Institute collected and marketed the manufactured articles for them. A small house was also maintained for blind girls trained in the Institute and who had no homes to go to. During the first 20 years of its existence the Institute had to rent buildings for its purposes, but in 1902 it was able to buy for £6,670 a large building in the Lesnaya (street), near the Finland Railway Station, in the Viborg Quarter of the city.

From its foundation in 1880, until 1900, the President of the Institute was Count J. Magawley MD, a distinguished St. Petersburg eye surgeon, of Irish descent. From 1900 to 1902 his son-in-law Dr Theodor v. Schroder, also an eminent ophthalmist, was President, and from 1902 until 1917 the President was Dr Ernst Blessig, Director of the Imperial Ophthalmic Hospital, who was a nephew of the late Dr Robert Blessig. (p.49). There was a Committee of four or five members, amongst whom was Henriette, widow of Dr Robert Blessig; they appointed a salaried manager to take charge of the Institute. With the establishment of the Revolution in 1917, this excellent private charity came to an end.