

Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

# Clues and Conjectures

An Attempt at a History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



Spurnal Manor 1894

G. Gnadeberg, Fortuna 2017

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## Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	2
Beginnings .....	4
The Livonian Crusade.....	6
The Livonian Brothers of the Sword .....	7
The English Spurnal .....	9
The Livonian Spurnal .....	13
1598-1633 v. Tiesenhausen, v. Patkul, v. Buddenrock, Proebstin.....	16
1633-1700 Proebsting, v. Cronstierna, Uncertain .....	24
1700-1740 v. Clueve, Uncertain, Schroeder .....	31
1740-1750 v. Zimmermann.....	33
1760-1806 v. Ceumern .....	35
1806-1832 v. Ramm .....	49
1831-1860 v. d. Sedeck, v. Querfeldt.....	52
1860-1876 v. Holst/Irmer .....	62
1876-1939 Blessig.....	64
Spurnal Arrangement of Rooms.....	73
The House and Garden .....	75
Life at Spurnal .....	77
Ramelshof.....	80
Constantin's Old Age .....	82
Juling.....	83
Ello.....	85
Jenny .....	86
1939: Expatriation.....	87
Afterwards:.....	89
The hidden cache under the Veranda .....	89
Sources .....	92
Personalialia: The Game Players.....	95
Spurnal Dependencies according to the 1795 Census .....	102

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

The Spurnal Dependencies within Papendorf parish:.....	102
as Spurnalsche Gehorch im Kirchspiel Roop:.....	102
Spurnal Manor Boundaries.....	103
Spurnal Manor Dependencies .....	104
Papendorff (Rubene) Church .....	106
Papendorff Parish Census 1795 – Spurnal Manor .....	109
Spurnal Manor Population Statistics.....	125
The Haken .....	134
Notes on Maps.....	137
Maps & Place Names Listing .....	138
Key Map, Central/Eastern Latvia .....	141
Map-1 .....	142
Map-2 .....	143
Map-3 .....	144
Map-4 .....	145
Map-5 .....	146
Map-6 .....	147
Map-7 .....	148
Map-8 .....	149

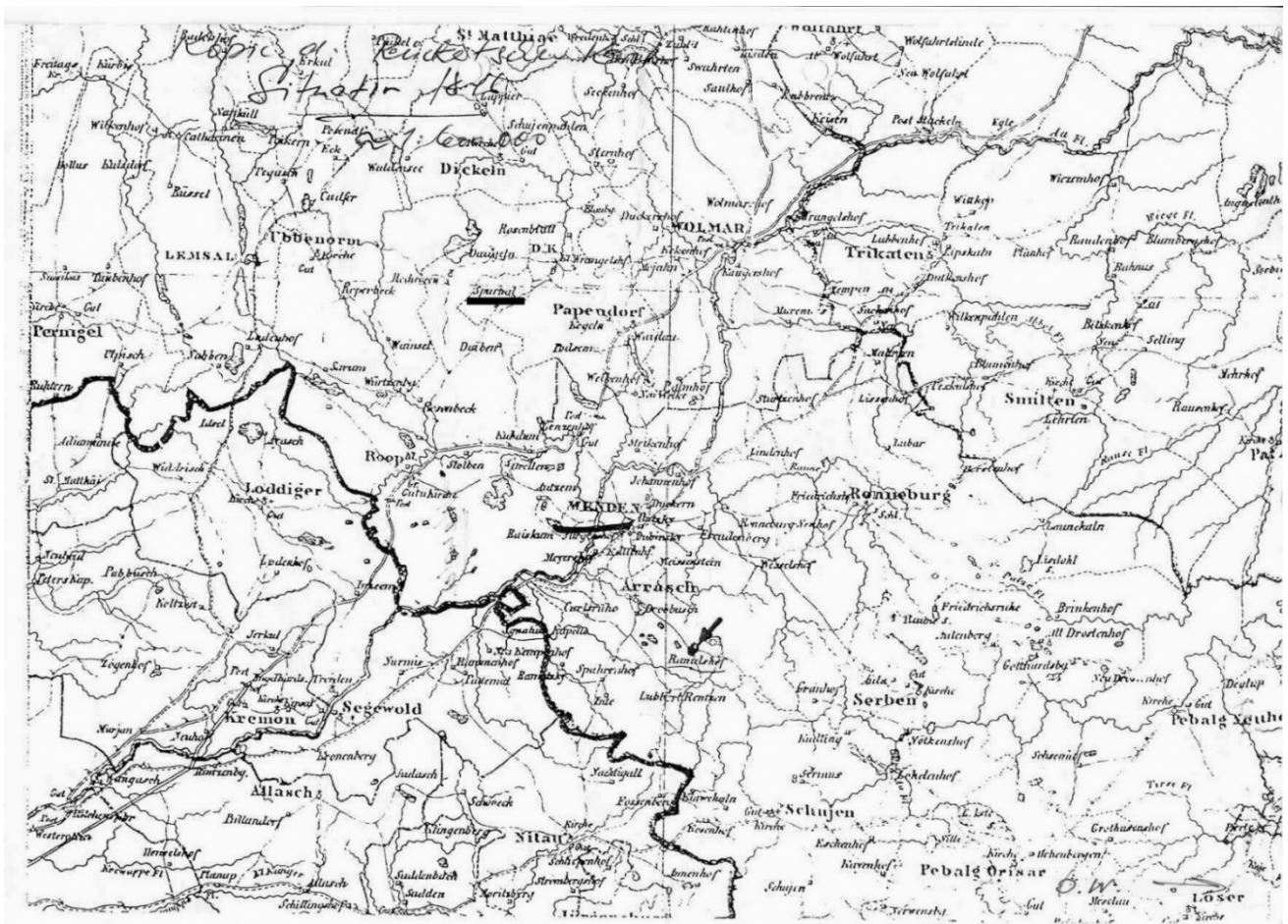
# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia Beginnings

Sources dealing with the probable time frame when Spurnal Manor came into being, are sparse and scant of words.

However, the following facts emerge:

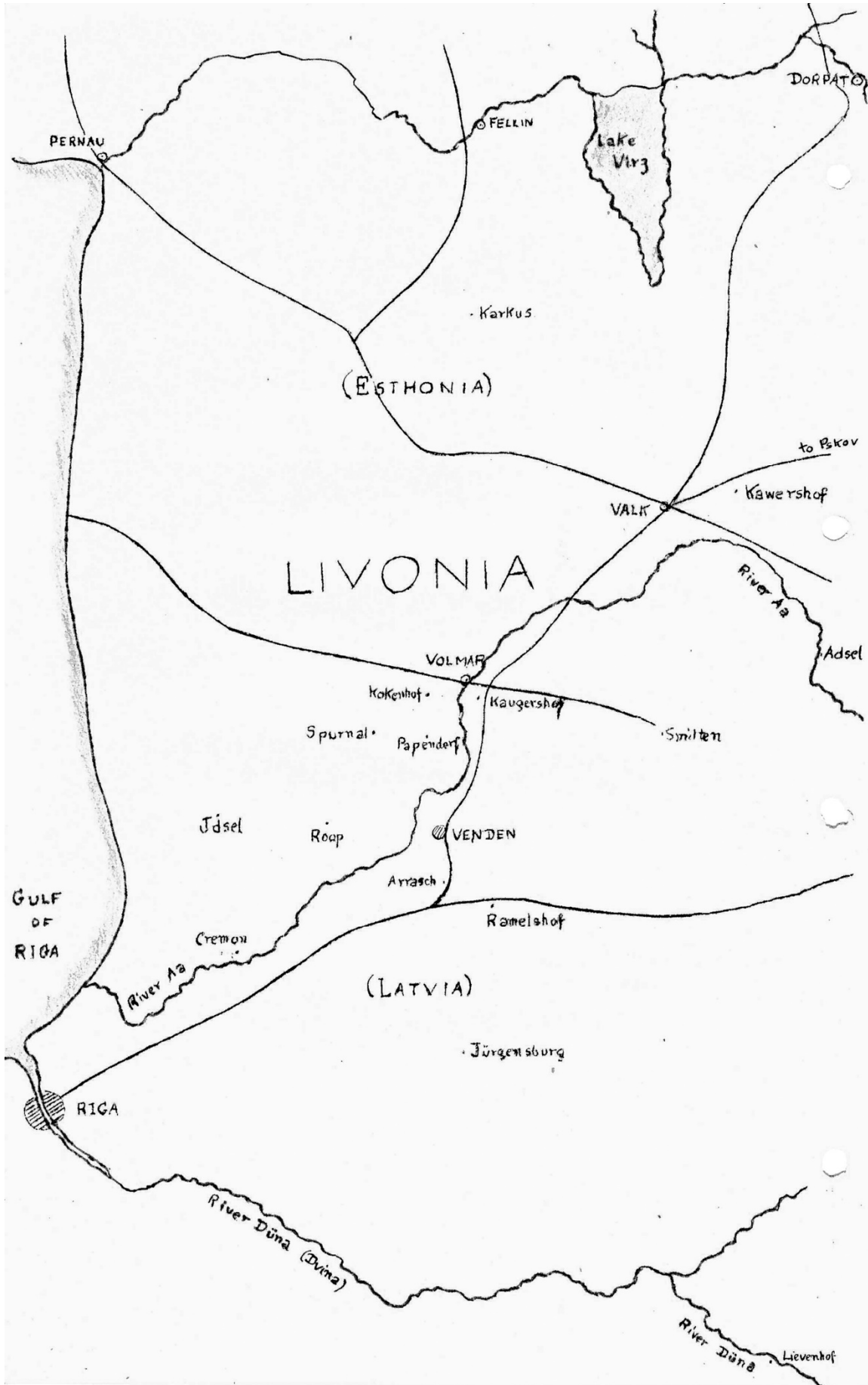
- The name ‘Spurnal’ is of English origin.
- The Blessig family believed that Spurnal Manor had English roots.
- Spurnal lands are enclosed by those of neighboring estates stemming from the Era of Conquest in Livonia,
- The Riga archbishopric vassal castle Hochrosen, 10 kilometers from Spurnal, was besieged by the Order of Knights in 1480.

Spurnal Manor was in Livonia (~today’s Latvia), at 57 29’ 25.73” N 25 05’ 31.51” E



That is, 19 km southwest of Wolmar, 22 km northwest of Wenden and 10 km east of Hochrosen. Situated between the Bay of Riga, and the Gauja (Livonian Aa) river in the east, this area was part of the old district Ydumea, and territory of the Riga Archbishopric.

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Livonian Crusade.

In 1193 Pope Celestine III called for a crusade against the pagan Northern Europeans. Bishop Berthold landed a large contingent of crusaders in 1198 but was killed and defeated by the Livonians.

In 1199 Pope Innocent III issued a bull declaring a crusade against the Livonians and Bishop Albert von Buxthoeven was appointed to Christianise the Baltic countries. Albert began his task by touring countries, preaching a Crusade against the Baltic countries, and was assisted in this by the papal bull which declared that fighting against the Baltic heathens was of the same rank as participating in a crusade to the Holy Land. Although he landed in the mouth of the Daugava in 1200 with only 23 ships and 500 soldiers, the bishop's efforts ensured that a constant flow of recruits followed.

No record has yet been found of English participation in the Livonian Crusade, but the Earls of Warwick (Overlords of the England Spurnal) and their kinsmen, associates and tenants have consistently been portrayed as crusaders and participated in the Lithuanian Crusades. In 1224-1227 Henry of Livonia wrote « The Chronicle of Henry of Livonia » in Papendorf, close to Spurnal, but he makes no mention of English Crusades or English Sword Brethren.

Aside from ongoing fighting during the conquest, in the 13<sup>th</sup> C. Livonia was subjected to incursions by marauding Estonian, Lithuanian, and Russian hordes. Named affected areas are around Wolmar, Wenden, and Roop. Spurnal Manor lay close enough to Roop, to be threatened as well by fire and sword, should the occasion have arisen.

It is quite possible that Spurnal came into being, as a manorial fief of the Riga archbishopric, during this very era of conquest in Livonia. Hupel says, in his 'Topographic News of Lief- & Ehistland, Vol. III, 1782,'  
'... Spurnal was left unscathed by the Reduction Commission, since it had been a Manor of the nobility already during the times of the Masters of the Order (1237-1562), and was sold between private persons ...'

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Livonian Brothers of the Sword

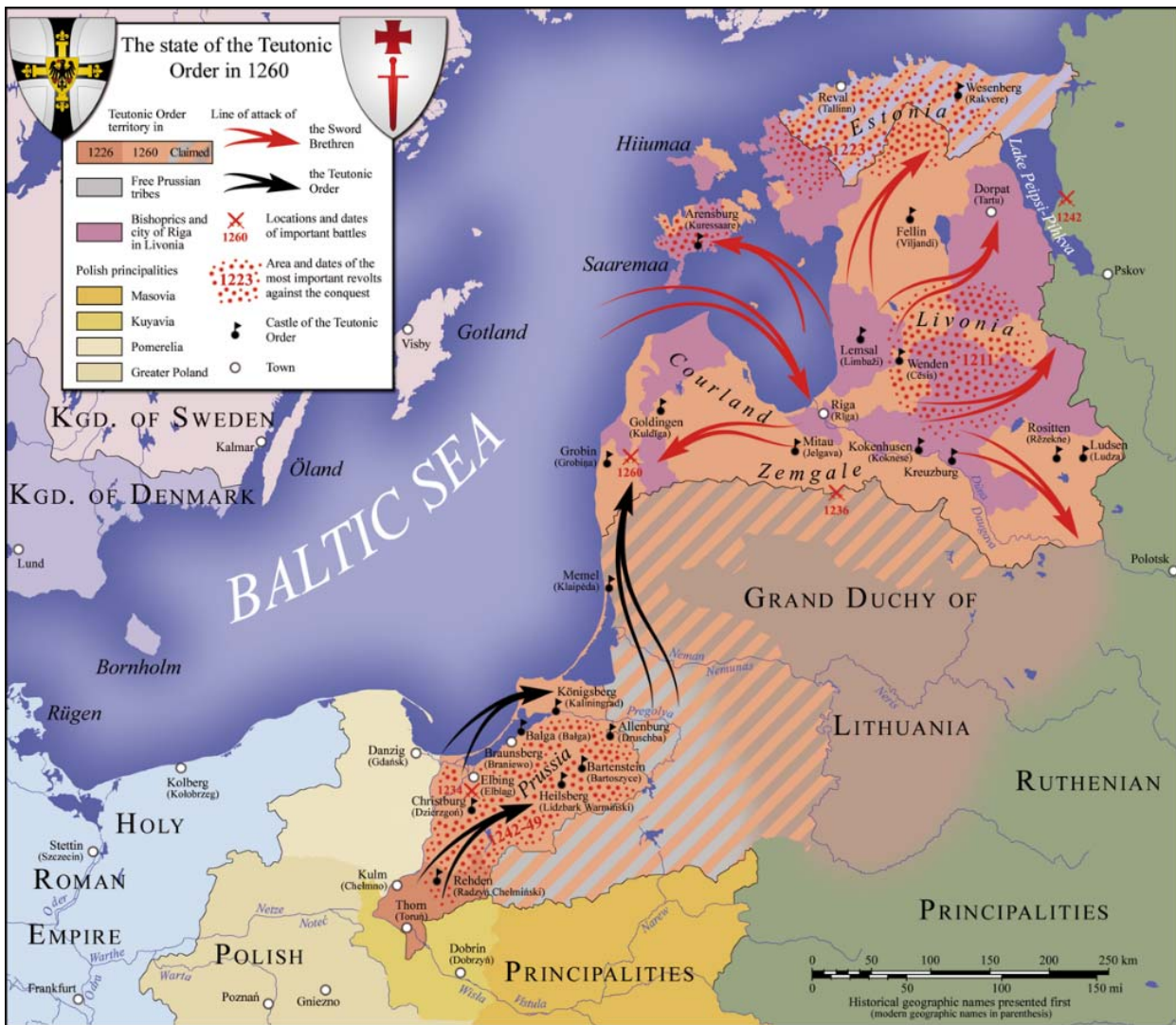
Albert, Bishop of Riga, soon realised that whilst he could use Crusaders to conquer Livonian territory, the Crusaders only stayed a short time before returning home: he need a standing army to hold the territory.

In 1202 he founded the Brotherhood with a set of rules adopted from the Knights Templar. The Sword Brothers were to build castles along the river Daugava and protect priests and missionaries. Albert established that one-third of any new territory conquered could be retained by the order, but two-thirds would be the bishop's. In 1236 the Brotherhood was decimated at the battle of Saule and were incorporated into the Teutonic Knights, becoming known as the Livonian Order of Knights.



*Left: Teutonic Knight – Right: Sword Brother*

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



Over time the Order became increasingly unruly and resented its supposed allegiance to the Bishop of Riga, culminating by 1480 in open warfare and the Siege of Hochrosen.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The English Spurnal

In Warwickshire, England, the name Spurnal occurs both as family name, as well as a name for some roads, or lanes. An estate there, dating back to Norman times, is named Spernal or Spernall or Spernore. Spernal/Spernore and Spurnal are phonetically alike. The 1086 Domesday book has Spernore with 11 households and its close neighbours Coughton with 13 households and Studley with 35 households. By the time of the Livonian crusades Spernore hosted a priory and deer park, Studley hosted a castle, a priory, and holdings of the Knights Templar (the local headquarters of the Knights Templar was 16 miles away in Temple Balsall). Spernall is 15 miles from Warwick Castle, the seat of the Earls of Warwick.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnall's population declined drastically at some stage during the 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably from disease, possibly the Black Death.

Spurnall was held by the Durvassal family from at least 1134.

In 1378 Rose, the widow of Nicholas Durvassal and then wife of Richard Mountford, disputed against a William Durvassal the right of her daughters, Eleanor and Elizabeth, to a tenement in Spurnall. This Eleanor married John Holt, to whose son Walter the manor later came. This William Durvassal (perhaps illegitimate) seems to be identical with William Spurnore, knight of the shire for Worcester in the Parliament of 1397, and obtained a life interest in the manor. In 1401 the manor of Spurnall, then held as half a fee, on the death of William Spurnore, reverted to Walter Holt, a minor, under the guardianship of his father John Holt. A year later (probably on the death of John Holt) a certain William Philips was given the custody of the manor, then worth 10 marks yearly. Dugdale says that Walter Holt came of age in 1402–3 and had livery of the manor, that he shortly afterwards enfeoffed John Reve, vicar of Coughton, on whose death it passed to his brother Thomas Reve, who in turn 'quitted all his right therein' to William Wybbe, esq., in 1428–9.

In 1441 John Throckmorton of Coughton acquired half the manor from Henry Beaumont and Joan his wife, and the other half two years later from William Vernon and Margaret his wife. Joan, according to Dugdale, was the granddaughter of William Durvassal.

The Earls of Warwick were the overlords of Spurnall, Coughton and Studley and were perhaps the most powerful men in England besides the King. In 1362, during a truce in the 100 years war with France, Thomas Beauchamp 3rd Earl of Warwick spent 3 years on a crusade against the Lithuanians. For the crusade Thomas is said to have taken 300 horses for his attendants and train which was made up of knights, esquires, archers, friends, and servants. At his return, Thomas brought with him the son of the Lithuanian king, whom he had baptized in London and, as his sponsor, gave him his own Christian name. Subsequently the Earl's three sons also crusaded in the Baltics, possibly accompanied by William Durvassal. Around 1378 William Durvassal, a high-ranking member of the Earl of Warwick's staff, changed his name to William Spurnore.

Lithuania blocks access to Livonia from the south. Fighting during the Lithuanian Crusade took place across the southern and central parts of Lithuania.

Livonia, already pacified for a century since the Livonian Crusade, could be accessed only by way of the Baltic Sea. It can be assumed, with a fair amount of confidence that neither the Earls of Warwick themselves, overlords of Spurnall Hall, nor their sons would have had cause to go to Livonia, and thus leave traces of their name there during

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

the Livonian or Lithuanian Crusades. All their manors lay in England. Besides they were involved in the volatile politics there.

Richard Beauchamp 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick, the grandson of Crusader Thomas Beauchamp, was the foremost chivalric knight of his day, reputed to have defeated at Joust most of the best knights of Europe. He was also an outstanding military leader and general, not to mention being the richest and most powerful man in England.

In 1408 he went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was challenged many times to fight in the sporting combat which was then popular. On the return trip he went through Russia and Eastern Europe, including Latvia/Lithuania. In 1410 he tried to join the Teutonic Order after the battle of Grunwald, not returning to England until later the same year.

Perhaps he visited Hochrosen during this voyage? 1410 is 20 years after the enfeoffment of the brothers Wolmar & Hennecke von Rosen with the House of Rosen (the vassal castle Hochrosen), and with other von Rosen lands, presumably including Spurnal.

Richard's effigy lies in the Beauchamp Chapel in St Mary's, Warwick.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Although, in everyday usage, the word 'Spurnal' has deteriorated to something like "Spurn'l' 'the actual spelling of 'Spurnal', ending in a double 'l', indicates that in it's pronunciation emphasis should rest on the last syllable, as also in 'Spornore'. Therefore, it is interesting to find that Spurnal, in some of the older parish records it has been written with the double 'l', as well, which hints that today's word Spurnal, with its emphasis on the first-, and the somewhat drawn out last syllable, originally may have been pronounced as 'Spurnall', strengthening the possibility of an earlier connection with 'Spurnal', the precise nature of which unfortunately has been lost.

Though no direct passing of the name Spurnal/Spurnal from England to Livonia is proven, logically it would have most likely occurred during the later Northern Crusades themselves, or through circumstances closely connected with them. The likelihood that the name Spurnal/Spurnal had found its way to Livonia already during the Livonian Crusade itself (13th century) is minimal, since at that time the participation of Crusaders from England consisted of only a few solitary knights, and was so insignificant, that only one of them is historically known (Robert Morley, + 1280), and the Chronicle of Henry of Livonia (1227) makes no mention of England or the English. Traces of possible English presence in Livonia during the conquest, find their echo in English sounding names like Sarum, Wainsel and Sahlis, all of them not too far from the Spurnal area.

In those crusading times, not only knights as such, but even more so, strong, militant pilgrims and Knights Templars took up the cross, to win 'Mary's Land' (Livonia) for the 'Blessed Virgin'. Mayhap one or the other hailed from English shores, distinguished himself, and was enfeoffed. Perhaps his name was Spurnal or Spornore. Perhaps he hailed from a place called Spurnal.

*But however much one conjectures, on balance the connection with the Spurnal/Spurnal village in England is at best unproven and at worst seems unlikely.*

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Livonian Spurnal

Spurnal lands are enclosed by those of its 6 neighbour estates which, almost without exception, came into being in the Era of Conquest. This gives rise to the thought, that Spurnal Manor, this estate in their midst, originated in that Era as well. In some odd cases, the vassal (or allodial owner), assumed the name of his estate, as in the case of the Uexkuells, whose actual name was Meyendorff. Patkul, as well, is the name of an estate; the original name is lost. But usually, an estate carried the name of its owner. The name Spurnal, according to my mother, was supposedly English; however, she could not recall which one of the old people in the family she had heard this from at the time.

*(According to Hugh Heyder, the English PJ Blessig 2 helped fund the purchase of Spurnal: this may be a more prosaic explanation of the Spurnal English connection.)*

Three sides of Spurnal lands border on estates owned by the von Rosens. Regarding von Rosen estates, the sources have this to say:

‘In the year 1350, Archbishop Vromhold von Vyffhusen, enfeoffed the brothers Wolmar & Hennecke von Rosen with the House of Rosen (the vassal castle Hochrosen), and with other lands, turned vacant, of the deceased Otto von Rosen.’

The manorial map of Spurnal conveys the impression, that the Manor was created through acquisition, by individuals unknown today, of the southerly part of Hochrosen lands, bordering on Kegeln Manor lands, and then, for more than 500 uninterrupted years, remained known under its name Spurnal. It appears the name Spurnal, at first, was valid also in Latvian; no Latvian translation of the word Spurnal is known. However, from 1633 on, when Christoph Proebsting acquired Spurnal, the Latvian designation for the Manor became variously Spriestini/Sprehtini/Sprehstes (a Latvianization of the word 'Proebsting'), both officially and popularly, until today.

Spurnal, although created by purchase, still must have been a fief of the Archbishop or the Order, since outright ownership of land did not exist until after 1792, when Catharina II abolished the granting of fiefs. Like other initial fiefs, the original fief of Spurnal Manor probably didn't encompass more than 1 Haken (about 97 ha, or roughly 200 acres) of useable land, though its actual extent would have been many times that size. In those times, only land that could be cultivated was counted.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

The piece-de-resistance were some cottages along the Roop-Kegeln road, which promised free labour and a tax source. The name of this small Latvian village is lost today, but it would have been noted in the document of enfeoffment. From the Roop-Kegeln road, the land rises gently to the northwest. There, about 100 m from the road, the first Spurnal manor house was likely built, probably just a rough log structure. Descriptions of living conditions during those very early times are not available. However, Gruber (1668) paints the following scenario for the middle of the 17th century:

‘Log construction for house, storage building, barns and other structures. Roofs consisted of straw, boards, or sods. Chimneys with wooden cowl, hearth and open fire. Nights were spent in one room, the floor compacted soil, spread with a layer of straw. Old and young slept mixed on the common straw.’ For the first while, boards, straw, cowed chimneys etc., would have been in short supply at Spurnal manor.

Sources from the 15th century mention an outbreak of plague in Livonia (1476), and the siege of the archbishopric's vassal castle Hochrosen by the Order of Knights (1480). The deeper reason for the siege rested in the more than 200 years of altercation between Church and Order. The current problem was whether the City of Riga was obliged to pay homage to the Archbishop or to the Master of the Order. In 1480, this altercation had heated up to the point where force of arms was seen as the only solution. Archbishop Sylvester Stodewaescher (1448-1490) felt he was militarily too weak to assert his will and asked Sweden for armed assistance. Enraged, that a foreign power was being called in, Master of the Order Bernd von der Barch (1472-1483) attacked. One castle of the Archbishop after the other fell almost uncontested, into the hands of the Order. A small detachment of Swedish soldiery which had landed at Sahlis, was routed by the Order. At Kokenhusen, the old Archbishop himself was taken prisoner. However, Hochrosen held out, and the host of the Order had to terminate the siege.

Faced with a similar situation, one hundred and twenty years on, Hochrosen Castle wasn't to get away that easily. The Spurnal Manor House is only 10 km removed from Hochrosen. There is the likelihood that roving soldiery from the siege camp of the Order, paid Spurnal Manor a visit. As vassal of the Archbishop, the sentiment of Spurnal's owner was never in any doubt; thus the Manor House may have become target for the soldiery, frustrated over the stubborn defence of Hochrosen Castle. Thus, the house may have been looted, perhaps burnt to the ground.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



Not until the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century does Spurnal Manor emerge into the light of recorded events. The personae of Spurnal's, probably several, owners over these 200 years remain unknown today.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1598-1633 v. Tiesenhausen, v. Patkul, v. Buddenrock, Proebstin

First mention of Spurnal Manor occurs in H. v. Hagemeister's 'Materials for a History of the Livonian Landed Estates', Riga 1836. Hagemeister's work is a first attempt at addressing the history of all Livonian Landed Estates.

In his work, the author relies heavily on his chance discovery of numerous documents ('thousands'), in the 'Archive of the Wenden Economy Administration'. The bulk of these, dating from the 17th century, constitutes copies from the files of the Swedish Commission for the Reduction of Landed Estates in Estonia and Livonia, both Provinces having been under Swedish rule from 1635 until the end of the Northern War, 1720.

We now know, that probably at some time in the 2nd half of the 16th century, Spurnal Manor passed into the hands of Ducal Curonian Counselor and Chancellor Georg v. Tiesenhausen of Odensee. Since a major part of original source documents of that period has been lost, a side effect of the numerous wars this era was then subjected to, the time span back to the origin of Spurnal Manor, the identities of earlier owners, is now obscure.

How Georg v. Tiesenhausen came into ownership of Spurnal Manor, whether through inheritance, through purchase, and whether he himself lived at Spurnal, is not recorded. He was Chancellor under Curonia's Duke Gotthart Kettler (1562-1587), and probably also under Friedrich Kettler (1587-1624). Nothing is known about his activities as Chancellor; however, he is mentioned in connection with the sale and re-sale of landed properties.

At some point in time, Georg v. Tiesenhausen borrowed 12,300 Marks rig. from his older brother Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen of Odensee and left him Spurnal as pawn. The date of this transaction, and whether and when Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen moved to Spurnal is not recorded. v. Hagemeister refers to him as 'Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen, of Odensee and Spurnal', indicating he probably did take up residence at Spurnal.

It is unlikely the initial manor house (probably a primitive log affair) would have lasted for 250-300 years, into the 16th century. It is probable, that the house was rebuilt more than once during that time. Not being the owner of the manor, merely holding it as a pawn, Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen is not likely to have built a new house. The building he moved into, could well have dated back to the time soon after the 1480 siege of Hochrosen Castle, when a new house would have been constructed, had the previous one been destroyed during that siege.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Assuming this building to be the second to last of the Spurnal Manor houses, there must have been some small cellar rooms beneath it, since the last manor house, presumed built by Christoph Proebsting in 1633, did have a cellar under its southerly end, the crude, rough construction of this cellar giving rise to the thought that its must have come into being as part of a previous much earlier house which had stood in the same location.

The normal entry to the cellar lay on the west side of this last house (which still stood in 1949). However, at the southeast corner of the building, a few crude stone steps led down to an old, heavy door, obviously the cellar entry of the previous building. This door would open only partially, and that with difficulty, as it was binding along the floor. The few cellar rooms were small, their layout haphazard, the walls of field stones and mortar, crudely put up, the openings between the rooms on the narrow side.

In much later times, a large clay pot with dill pickle cucumbers used to stand not far from this door. A small board, weighed down by a large stone, lay directly on top of the salt solution and dense mix of dill weed and the leaves of wild wine, among which, deep down, lurked the cucumbers. To sneak one of them, one had to push the hand deep into the cold, wet, leafy mix; but those cucumbers tasted so good, it was always worth it.

The second to last manor house may have had to face side effects of the storming of Hochrosen Castle by Polish and Tartar soldiery in July 1601. If then the house had been burned down, Christoph Proebsting, 32 years later, had unarguable reason to build a new manor house. On the other hand, had the old house survived, still serving the Buddenbrocks from before 1608 to 1633, it may have been in a state of neglect, encouraging Christoph Proebsting, for whom Spurnal was a new beginning, to put up a new manor house anyway.

Some time after the demise of his first wife, Dorothea v. Drolshagen (dates not known), Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen married one Adelheid v. Kruedener. Nothing is known about her origins, but it seems reasonable to assume, that she was a daughter from the first marriage of Frederick v. Kruedener of Rosenbeck, one time castle of the archbishop, and a neighbor estate of Spurnal. Only 10km distant from Spurnal Manor, Rosenbeck was the only v. Kruedener estate in the vicinity. The original estates of the v. Kruedeners were situated 70 km to the south, near Sissegal.

The then owner of Rosenbeck, Frederick v. Kruedener, was married firstly to Elisabeth v. Rosen. A son, George, is mentioned, however not so female offspring. After his first wife passed away, Frederick v. Kruedener married Anna v. Tiesenhausen, daughter of Heinrich v.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Tiesenhausen of Behrson, and Dorothea v. Rosen. A son, Heinrich, and a daughter, Gertrud are known.

Typically, records from those times noted female offspring only when they married, as nearly irrelevant adjunct to their husbands, but as important ties between the families of bride and groom. Normally the name of the bride was given with those of her parents, however all we know of Adelheid is that she was a v. Kruedener. Anything more must be conjecture.

Since we assume Adelheid to be a daughter of Frederick, she would have to have been an issue from his first marriage. As offspring from Frederick v. Kruedener's second marriage (1571), she would have been just 16 years old in 1587, the year her husband, Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen, passed away. She certainly would have been too young to have married him that much earlier, after the demise of his first wife.

Wilhelm v. Tiesenhausen died at the relatively early age of 51. His contemporaries frequently lived on to 70. The cause of his death is not known. He left Spurnal to his wife Adelheid. On 3rd February 1598, 11 years after her husband's death, she came to an agreement with her brother-in-law, George v. Tiesenhausen, in that he left her Spurnal Manor as pawn in lieu of the money he had borrowed from her husband.

It seems likely that Adelheid continued to attend to the agricultural aspects of Spurnal Manor, through the years after her husband's demise. She did so probably with the assistance of a steward. Less likely would be to assume that George v. Tiesenhausen had picked up the reins at Spurnal Manor. Adelheid, widowed v. Tiesenhausen had her own plans for the future: v. Hagemestere reports that in second marriage, she wedded Andreas Patkul of Jaunekalpen.

The farmstead Jaunekalpen (Germanized from the Latvian Jaunkalps = farm servant), then still the main estate of the v. Patkuls, was to later on lose this distinction to Kegel Manor. A former possession of the v. Uexkuell, Jaunekalpen had been v. Patkul property since 1453. Near the end of the 15th century, Jaunekalpen was owned by Johann III v. Patkul (killed in action 1601, at Hof-zum-Feld, in the Helmet area). Johann III v. Patkul was married to Marie Overlacker. Two sons, Juergen and Andreas are mentioned.

As the younger son, Andreas didn't stand a chance to inherit Jaunekalpen. However, widowed Adelheid v. Tiesenhausen had Spurnal. Jaunekalpen and Spurnal were separated by just a short 3.5 km cross-country ride. The lands of both estates border on each other. As close neighbors, Andreas and Adelheid, were doubtlessly acquainted with each other. In fact, Andreas v. Patkul

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

may well have been acting Steward on Spurnal Manor. Did personal or practical considerations lie at the bottom of the marriage plans? We may conjecture Adelheid to have been in her early 40s at that time. Perhaps Andreas v. Patkul courted the widowed lady owner of Spurnal, with one eye firmly fixed on the Manor. Perhaps, after 11 years in widow weeds, the chance to enter the security of the state of marriage again, persuaded Adelheid to marry Andreas v. Patkul. The date of their wedding has not been preserved.

Probably not long after the wedding, Andreas v. Patkul borrowed money on Spurnal from one Christoph Proebsting. More than 30 years were to pass before Christoph Proebsting recovered on that debt.

Andreas v. Patkul appears in the Review of Horses of the ‘Livonian Nobility and –Lands’, held 1599 at Oberpahlen. It is the last time he is mentioned anywhere.

At this review, Papendorf parish (here still within the Pernau District) is represented by Fabian v. Rosen, of Mojahn, and by 4 of the v. Patkuls. Hans Patkul shows up with 4 horses for Podsem. Andreas and Fromhold v. Patkul arrive with 3 horses each, and Johann III v. Patkul with 1 horse. The estates of the 3 last named are not given. Possibly Andreas, Johann, and perhaps Fromhold, with altogether 7 horses were appearing for Jaunekalpen with its huge area of 36 Haken. It is possible, that Andreas didn’t yet own Spurnal at that time. Spurnal, with its 1 ¼ Haken would have been liable for at most one horse.

This Review, doubtless a preparation for an expected war with Sweden, brought in 709 horses from the Germans liable to military service, out of the Wenden, Dorpat, and Pernau districts,

Hagemeister, whom we must thank for the following historical jewel, expounds in closing as follows:

‘As regards the Polish and Lithuanian Nation, they had their own banner, and had themselves reviewed separately, and had nearly 300 horses, so that from the Livonian nation, ex utraque gente, near 1,000 horses were mustered. However, it is well to note, that at that time no horses were sent for review from the Polish areas, and where the one or the other was mustered, it was not put under a banner, but they served the commander-in- chief as volunteers, did not go on forays, nor served guard duty, but left according to their liking. In summa: they plundered the land and took the booty to Lithuania.’

At that time, Livonia had been under Polish rule for a first 37 years. But already sentiment against the Poles was noticeable. Other chronicles from that era express alike sentiment, amounting to a generally poor certificate of conduct for the Polish occupiers.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

A.D. 1599, the Polish-Swedish War of Succession lay still a year in the future. But already a 30-year pall of silence descends over Spurnal, while Andreas and Adelheid v. Patkul fade from the scene forever.

1562, after the cessation of the rule of the Order in Livonia, Estonia was under Swedish, but Livonia under Polish rule. When Sigimund III, King of Poland as well as of Sweden, without any previous negotiations, on 12.3.1600, ‘incorporated’ Estonia under the Polish crown, his uncle, Duke Karl, (the later King Karl IX of Sweden), had already landed in Estonia with force of arms, to defend Sweden’s interests. Cleaning the castles there of their Polish defenders, he moved into Livonia. On 28. December it came to battle at Wenden, where, however, the Poles were victorious.

Afterwards, Duke Karl pulled out of Livonia, while the Poles went into their winter quarters, ‘where they indulged into the greatest cruelties against the population’.

With the outbreak of war, Andreas v. Patkul, as part of the landed gentry, was obliged to report to the Livonian Banner levy. But on 17 June 1601, in an engagement near Kokenhusen, the bravery of citizen soldiers proved no match for the professionalism of battle-hardened veterans: the levy under the Livonian banner was annihilated by the Swedish cavalry. Among those sabered down, was Johann von Tiesenhausen, Captain of the Knighthood. Perhaps, Andreas v. Patkuil shared his fate, as well as that of many others left on that field.

In this engagement as well, fell on the Swedish side Heinrich v. Tiesenhausen, brother of Anna v. Buddenbrock, nee v. Tiesenhausen. In recognition of this, her husband, Otto v. Buddenbrock (at that time already owner of Spurnal) was awarded Puickeln Manor by King Gustav Adolf.

The year 1601 brought the war closer to Spurnal. As Polish vassal, even Duke Wilhelm of Curonia lay in field camp at Papendorf with an army. Spurnal, only 12 km northwest from Papendorf, was well within the area combed by foraging parties from the Curonian camp. However, the sources are silent about any developments arising out of this.

10 km northwest of Spurnal, the archbishopric vassal castle Hochrosen (built 1278 on the steep banks of Hochrosen Lake by Florian v. Rosen and besieged unsuccessfully by the Order in 1480) now moved into the bright lights of events. The present owner, Heinrich v. Rosen, was infamous among the Poles for his Swedish sympathies. End of June/beginning of July, 2 weeks after the end of the Livonian levy at Kokenhusen, an army of Poles and Tartars under Olmstedt moved on Hochrosen. The castle was stormed, the whole garrison (among them Heinrich v.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Rosen), nobles and commoners, women and children massacred, the castle put to the torch, and the fortifications razed later.

It is entirely possible, that on this occasion, Spurnal was raided by marauding Tartar soldiery from the Polish camp at Hochrosen, the House plundered and put to the torch'. If, Adelheid had not moved to join her family at Rosenbeck in a timely manner, her end is left in no doubt. Andreas, at that time, may have fallen in the Kokenhusen engagement, or was involved in other areas of the fighting.

Due to misharvests in 1601, 1602, and 1603, caused by cold and wet summers, there was famine in Livonia. At the same time, the plague raged through Livonia, Poland, and even distant Sweden. In the winter of 1602 alone, 30,000 people in Livonia are reported to have either starved- or frozen to death. The Chronist Nyenstedt (1540-1622) states, that the peasants in the affected areas 'devoured each other'. At Spurnal Manor, too, the situation would have been depressing; the house, possibly burnt down in the taking of Hochrosen Castle. In the hovels, along the Roop-Kegeln road below, perhaps a few people were barely making ends meet.

The war in Livonia, with changing fortunes, did not go well for Sweden. In 1609, after military drawbacks, the Swedish troops pulled out of Livonia. But in 1621, Gustav Adolf, the son and successor of Karl IX, energetically took up the war again, which came to a standstill on the 16th of September 1629, with the armistice, signed at Altmark. However, only after another 6 years, on 16 September 1635, at Stumsdorf was peace finally made with Poland. Technically it was just an armistice for 26 years, but from then on Livonia remained in Swedish hands.

Even before the end of the war, details of the Livonian land estates were being entered into the Swedish administrative records of 1623-1630. Thus, Spurnal appears there as 'Spurnaldorff', the owner shown as Otto v. Buddenbrock. In the Buddenbrock Genealogy he appears as 'Otto v. Buddenbrock of Puickeln, Spurnal and Newe'. Since 1587 he had been married to Anna v. Tiesenhausen, daughter of Reinhold v. Tiesenhusen of Fehgen, and Anna Gutzleff. Reinhold was a cousin of the 3 v. Tiesenhausen brothers Wilhelm of Odensee and Spurnal, and George the Curonian chancellor, as well as Heinrich of Behrson, all 3 being brothers. A son of Otto v. Buddenbrock is noted in the v. Buddenbrock Genealogy as 'Johann v. Tiesenhausen, of Buddenbrockshof, Puickeln und Newe.'

For the year 1630, v. Hagemeister names the widowed spouse of Otto v. Bruddenbrock, Anna, as owner of Spurnal: 'She must have obtained it by heritage.' This is plausible: since King Gustav Adolph confirmed Puickeln to Otto v. Buddenbrock on 18 August 1626, but on June 9, 1630,

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

confirmed it to his spouse, Anna, widowed v. Buddenbrock, it is evident that Otto v. Buddenbrock had passed away before 9 June 1630. And since he was the owner of Spurnal, it reverted to his wife through heritage, after his demise.

Georg v. Tiesenhausen had remained the allodial owner of Spurnal. The question arises: how did the manor end up in the hands of Otto v. Buddenbrock? A tie to the v. Buddenbrocks can be found in the family of George v. Tiesenhausen's first wife, Barbara Schwarzkopf, whose mother was born a v. Buddenbrock. However, this tie seems too remote to play a part in a question of inheritance.

According to v. Hagemeister, as previously exemplified, on 3 February 1598, widowed Adelheid v. Patkul, came to an agreement with her brother-in-law, the Chancellor Georg v. Tiesenhausen, to leave her Spurnal as pawn, in lieu of the money he owed her husband. Thus, Georg v. Tiesenhausen remained actual Owner of Spurnal Manor. In 1591, then 54 years old, he married his second wife, Maye v. Tiesenhausen. He passed away in 1608, 70 years old.

Since, after 1598, widowed Adelheid v. Patkul, does not appear in the sources, the possibility is there, that she died without offspring (either in the war, or during the famine- and plague years 1601 through 1603), prior to the demise of George v. Tiesenhausen. This would have cancelled out the pawn status of Spurnal, leaving the owner, George v. Tiesenhausen a free hand, to dispose of the Manor as he saw fit. As he had the reputation of being involved in the purchase and sale of landed estates, it seems logical that, prior to his death on 7 December 1608, he sold Spurnal Manor to Otto v. Buddenbrock.

In 1633, widowed Anna v. Buddenbrock of Puickeln was already 74; she may still have managed Puickeln Manor, but probably had left taking care of Spurnal Manor to her son, Johann v. Buddenbrock. Spurnal Manor, at that time, can't have amounted to much, as the Swedish administrative lists for 1630, mention only 4 inhabitants for 'Spurnaldorff.' In the way of agricultural productivity that time, Spurnal was being assessed taxes on 1 ¼ Haken productive land, indicating that the land was being worked with 2 horses (2 plows). The name 'Spurnaldorff' obviously derives from the several hovels along the Roop-Kegeln road (site of the small original Latvian settlement, forming the nucleus of Spurnal Manor when it came into being as fief).

Assuming the Manor house was burnt down in 1601, Johann v. Buddenbrock may have chosen the roomiest of the huts for his residence. In terms of the 27 km bad road, one day's travel,

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

which separated Spurnal from Puickeln, a permanent place of stay in Spurnal would have been a necessity.

Since the day of his loan to Andreas v. Patkul, the sources had been silent about Christoph Proebsting. Now, more than 30 years later, he appears at Puickeln, intent on recouping this debt from widowed Anna v. Buddenbrock, current heiress to Spurnal Manor. In the meantime, the debt had grown, including accumulated interest, to 1,000 Thalers Specie, or 3,000 Polish Guilders.

It must have been an unpleasant surprise in Puickeln, when one day in 1633, Christoph Proebsting suddenly stood on the threshold, Andreas v. Patkul's promisory note in hand, and it developed, that Spurnal Manor, bought in good faith from Georg v. Tiesenhausen a quarter of a century ago, was burdened with a not inconsiderable old debt. However, after all the dealing was done, and Johann v. Buddenbrock had gained an extra 100 Thalers and a horse, Christoph Proebsting was the new owner of Spurnal Manor.

7 years earlier, Puickeln had been confirmed by Gustaf Adolph to widowed Anna v. Buddenbrock. At the time it had been an unexpected gain; perhaps in the light of that, the loss of Spurnal had to be lived with.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1633-1700 Proebsting, v. Cronstierna, Uncertain

The last manor house in Spurnal survived into 1949. According to my mother, it was built ‘during Swedish times’, thus <sup>ca</sup>1635-1700. The most likely builder would have been Christoph Proebsting, since it isn’t known if the owner after him, the War Commissioner Henrik v. Cronstierna, ever stayed in Spurnal. His second eldest son, Henrik, who after the demise of his father had brought Spurnal into his possession, seems even less likely as the builder of the manor house: he was chronically in debt, haunted by his creditors.

We know that in 1633 Christoph Proebsting took possession of the conceivably run-down Spurnal Manor. He would have had the means necessary to bring the estate back to normal status. He constructed the new manor house at the place where the previous building had stood. He built the house in ‘Swedish style’ then much in use throughout Livonia and Estonia: a simple, long, one story building, roofed with slate, or shingles, and with a verandah at each of the long sides. The house provided for a spacious attic with several small rooms. The old cellar, previously mentioned, lay under the southerly end of the building.

Here we digress, in the year 1604, cavalry captain Ernst Bandemirs pawned his estate ‘Die Cappen’, containing 3 haken land, to one Heinrich Proebsting, of Riga. For unknown reasons the captain did not retrieve the pawned estate, and thus, in 1630, ‘Die Cappen’ was still in Heinrich Proebsting’s hands. Over the years of his ownership, the name ‘Die Cappen’ faded out and was replaced with ‘Proebstinghof’

Proebstinghof lay on the left bank of the Duena River, about 35 km south of Riga, or 3 km south of Oger. Proebstinghof became known in Latvian as ‘Spriestini’, a bastardization of the name Proebsting. Later, after Christoph Proebsting moved into Spurnal, it also became known as ‘Spriestini’. Both Spriestini can be found in Latvia’s Road Atlas of 1940.

In the year 1646, the Swedish war commissioner Henrik v. Cronstierna became Land Marshal in Livonia. Born in Riga, in 1602, he had started his career plainly enough as Heinrich Struberg. 1633 he was called up by the Swedish military, ennobled in 1637, 1650 he became sub-prefect, 1653 raised to the status of baron, 1676 he was Colonel in the Livonian Levy. 76 years old, he died on 5 May 1678, in Riga (the sources say), but more probably Proebstinghof is meant, if that estate had not yet been confiscated at that time, by the Reduction Commission.

The War Commissioner was married with Ursula Proebsting ‘of Curonia’. The suffix ‘of Curonia’ indicates, that Ursula Proebsting hailed from the left bank of the Duena, which at the time lay



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

within Curonia. Going by her name, Ursula Proebsting was from Proebstinghof, which is located on the left Duena bank, that is, in Curonia. She might have been a daughter of Heinrich Proebsting, or a daughter or niece of Christoph Proebsting.

Though both Heinrich and Christoph carry the same family name, Proebsting, there is nothing in the sources pointing at family relation, or even acquaintanceship between the two men. However, it is not impossible that they were actually brothers.

In the registry of the Livonian Knighthood, one finds under Proebsting, one Harmsen Prowesting, he was listed as the original individual from which the branch of the noble Proebsting's derives.

<sup>Ca</sup>1650 he was registered as bone cutter, and burger of Riga. Could he have been the father of both Heinrich and Christoph Proebsting? Chronologically it would fit. Heinrich Proebsting is mentioned in the sources as burger of Riga, though the origin of Christoph Proebsting is not given.

Both men were already active in business at the turn of the century. Christoph Proebsting had lent money to Andreas v. Patkul. A few years later, Heinrich had acquired 'The Cappen', as pawn. At the time when the War Commissioner married Ursula Proebsting, both Heinrich and Christoph Proebsting must have been in, or close to their early sixties.

War Commissioner Henrik v. Cronstierna may have met Ursula Proebsting, his future wife, at Proebstinghof, her parental home. He might have lived there, as married man, with his growing family. His second son, the subsequent Colonel ret. Henrik v. Cronstierna of Spurnal, was born in 1634. We can assume the birth of the eldest son, Martin, as no later than 1632, which leaves 1631 as the not unlikely wedding year of the parents.

Ursula v. Cronstierna passed away in 1657. In the 26 years of her marriage, she gave birth to 3 sons and 4 daughters; the eldest born about 1654, 3 years before her mother's demise, if one takes an interval of 2 years between births.

One hears nothing of Heinrich Proebsting. Did he pass away? Was he living as a suffered guest in his own home? Christoph Proebsting, the future owner of Spurnal, must have been a very closely related to Ursula v. Cronstierna since he eventually left Spurnal to her. This in turn enabled her to pass on Spurnal to her husband, the War Commissioner, after her death. It is a recorded fact that she did so. It seems natural that Christoph Proebsting, as her father or uncle, should have lived in Proebstinghof at that time.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

It is assumed, the War Commissioner moved into Proebstinghof, after his wedding in 1631, motivating Christoph Proebsting to look for a residence of his own. He probably left Proebstinghof after the birth of the Commissioner's eldest son, Martin, in 1632. In 1633 he travelled to Puickeln, where he knew the present owner of Spurnal Manor to be: widowed Anna v. Buddenbrock.

Andreas Patkul's unpaid debt, was of secondary importance to him in terms of money. He saw it as the means to acquiring Spurnal Manor.

Landed gentry being notoriously pinched for funds, it is more than likely, that the sum of money needed to clear the debt was not available to widowed Anna v. Buddenbrock. The dealing that followed must have quickly come down to whether the von Buddenbrock's, mother, and son Johann, were prepared to let go of Spurnal purely against Andrea's outstanding debt of 1,000 Thalers rig. , that is, 3,000 Polish guilders. When Christoph Proebsting finally offered 100 Thalers cash to boot, plus a good horse, the deal was done.

Christoph Proebsting was now owner of Spurnal Manor. Johann v. Buddenbrock most likely had managed the estate for his mother. Having chronically lacked money and resources, he probably left Spurnal in a pretty run-down condition. Christoph Proebsting had the means to change this, and one of the first things he probably did, was to build a new manor house. As Spurnal's last manor house to be built, it was to outlast more than 300 years of changing times.

Nothing has been passed down about the end of Christoph Proebsting. In 1646, perhaps after Heinrich Proebsting had passed away, the Crown had awarded Proebstinghof to War Commissioner Henrik v. Cronstierna - probably at his personal request; it was also the year he was appointed Land Marshal of the Livonian nobility. Christoph Proebsting, by this time 13 years owner of Spurnal, must have heard about this. Perhaps suspecting devious designs on Spurnal by the War Commissioner, he may have applied to Queen Christina for confirmation of his ownership of Spurnal. At any rate, in 1647 it was granted. And that is the last time, the Proebsting's appear in the sources.

The lists of the Swedish Administration show that for 1637, as well as for 1630 when Spurnal was still owned by the v. Buddenbrock's, the cultivated area was still just 1 ¼ Haken. however, in 1641, after the management of Christoph Proebsting had taken a hold, this area had increased to 2 Haken, that is, there were now 4 horses available to work it.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Ursula v. Cronstierna, nee Proebsting, passed away on 3 August 1657, probably in Proebstinghof.

She bequeathed Spurnal to her spouse, the War Commissioner. From this it follows, that her supposed father, or uncle, Christoph Proebsting must have bequeathed Spurnal Manor to her, that is between 1647, the last mention of him, and 1657, the year of her death. It is not known who lived in Spurnal after Christoph Proebsting's demise. Likewise, it is not known whether Ursula v. Cronstierna and/or her husband ever occupied Spurnal.

On 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1678, 21 years after the demise of his wife Ursula, War Commissioner Henrik v. Cronstierna passed away, at 76 years of age. 'In Riga' according to the records. More likely, it was in Proebstinghof.

On 30 June 1678, a bare 2 months after his father's death, his second eldest son, Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna, was cashiered from the military. No reason is given. For the year 1682, the sources report, that he was owner of Spurnal Manor, and 'stayed there'.

Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna was born in 1634, probably in Proebstinghof. Like his father, the war commissioner, before him, he was ennobled, and received the title of baron. In 1664 he was a junior judge in Livonia. He married, but neither the date nor the name or origin of his wife have been preserved. 2 daughters were born to that marriage: the eldest was baptized Ursula, after his mother's first name. This affords a glimpse of a softer side to the Colonel's personality. According to the sources, the Colonel was not a pleasant person, nor exempt from violent behavior. For instance, between 1665 and 1681, a certain Johann Rehmann owed him money for a considerable time. When the Colonel learned that Johann Rehmann had acquired Zirst Manor, he put himself forcibly into possession of the estate, 'to safeguard his interests.' On another occasion, a Captain Adamkowitz accused him at the General Governor's of Livonia, 'for forcible entry into his fishing grounds' in the Duena River, below Riga. Besides such flare ups, the Colonel quarreled continuously with his elder brother Martin, and was involved in ongoing court processes.

In 1878, the Reduction of Landed Estates in Sweden, as well as in her colonies, Latvia and Estonia was already in progress. It was yet another attempt by the Swedish Crown, to bring additional funds into its coffers, in constant ebb tide because of the country's numerous wars. In the colonies, the Reduction was enforced with special harshness. Anyone who was unable to prove the acquisitions and sales of his properties over the years, right up to the original document of enfeoffment, had 5/6 of his estate confiscated by the state. Properties awarded by

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

the Crown, were confiscated out of hand; in addition, their hapless owners had to pay a stiff rent for all the years they had had the use of such property.

This attempt on the part of the Crown at creating more income for the state coffers, not only failed, but it basically led to the Northern War (1700-1720), which cost Sweden her supremacy in Europe, brought Russia to the shores of the Baltic Sea, and put her forever into the political forefront of Europe.

The Reduction had hit the landed estates of the v. Cronstiern's hard, those of the father as well as those of his sons. Most of the properties were lost, including Proepstinghof, which had been an award by the Crown. Thus, after having been cashiered out of the military, there was little that might have kept Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna (ret. ) in Riga. Hounded by his creditors, he would have left for Spurnal soon afterwards. Since Spurnal was left unscathed by the Reduction Commission, the original document of enfeoffment must still have existed at that time. Since those, able to prove all transactions over the years, concerning their landed estates, and present that original document of enfeoffment to the Commission, remained untouched.

It can be assumed, that the War Commissioner had intended to leave Spurnal to his eldest son Martin. Death may have intervened. Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna (ret. ), with inborn cunning and ruthlessness, would have known how to bring Spurnal Manor into his hands. In 1682 he is first mentioned as Spurnal's owner. In 1686, he became 'Landrat', a position commensurate with that of a sub-prefect, or a provincial junior judge, but of rather more importance in the Livonia of that time. His 2 daughters, Ursula and Catharina probably grew up in Spurnal.

A few kilometers to the east of Spurnal, lay Kegeln Manor. More than 80 years earlier, Andreas v. Patkul, from the Kegeln farmstead Jaunekalpen, had married widowed Adelheid v. Tiesnhausen, then owner of Spurnal Manor. The present owner of Kegeln, Johann Reinhold v. Patkul (1660-1707), had a temperament much like that of his neighbor in Spurnal: quarrelsome and vengeful, easily turned abrasive in dealing with others, he quarreled with more than one of his neighbors, and was involved in court battles. But much as their temperaments seemed made to cause mutual provocation, on one point they both agreed: the Reduction of Landed Estates had to be brought to an end. It was not difficult for Henrik v. Cronstierna, most of whose estates had been seized by the Reduction Commission, to fall in with v. Patkul's ideas.

The Livonian nobility seeing its existence threatened by the Reduction policy, decided on resistance, and Reinhold v. Patkul became the tireless champion of their cause.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

His opponent was the then Swedish General Governor of Livonia and Estonia, Johann Jacob Hastfer (1628-1698), who opposed the cause of the Livonian nobility with unyielding determination.

Between v. Patkul and Hastfer existed an unusually intensive personal enmity. It is said, that in their younger years, in Riga, both men had courted the same young lady, Gertrud Lindenster, who had preferred the attentions of v. Patkul to those of Hastfer. In one of the later reports about v. Patkul's execution, left by Hagen, the Swedish army field preacher, and v. Patkul's spiritual guide, the author quotes v. Patkul regarding Hastfer: 'since we became divided over a certain female person both of us loved, he (Hastfer) persecuted me from that time on, and became my bitterest enemy in the Livonian matter'. It appears ironic, that a temporary affair of the heart on the part of two young men, years later had so decisive an impact on the fate of two great European powers, Sweden and Russia.

When Reinhold v. Patkul persisted in championing the cause of the Livonian nobility, in spite of warnings by the Crown, King Karl XI condemned him to death in absentia. He fled to Dresden, where he had connections at the court of King August 'The Strong', of Saxony.

His vindictiveness aroused, v. Patkul now risked everything to involve Sweden in a war with Russia. In Dresden, as well as at the court of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg, he worked tirelessly on a coalition of Russia and Saxony against Russia. In March 1700, Saxon troops made a surprise attack against Riga. It was the start of the Nordic War, which was to last 20 years.

Though Duenamuende (a suburb at the mouth of the Duena River) was taken, the attempt against Riga as such ended in a fiasco for the Saxons. Soon thereafter, Peter the Great defeated the Swedes at Narwa. It was not an auspicious beginning for the coalition.

Meanwhile, v. Patkul's uncontrolled temper had turned the Saxon nobility against him. His antagonists finally succeeded in having him arrested and incarcerated. In the end, his erstwhile patron, King August the Strong', yielded to political pressure. V. Patkul was handed over to the Swedes. In 1707, he was executed in a village near Poznan.

In the meantime, years earlier, Reinhold v. Patkul and Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna (ret. ) were getting more intimately acquainted. There would have been visiting back and forth between Spurnal and Kegeln. The large drawing room in Spurnal must have been witness to seditious talk on more than one occasion. Soon the Colonel (ret. ) had himself involved in v. Patkul's intrigues deeply enough, to have stirred the interest of the Swedish authorities. The

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

records don't show whether Henrik v. Cronstierna was ordered to take himself to Stockholm, there to appear in court. It is known that he lost his office as sub-prefect but was pardoned by Karl XII in 1694. He is said to have died 'after 1685', though it seems he was alive enough in 1694 to receive the king's pardon.

An answer to the question as to when he left Spurnal, can probably be found in the 'Reichsarchiv', in Stockholm, where apparently a voluminous correspondence between the ex-Colonel, and the General Governor of the time, Magnus Gabriel de La Gardie, has been preserved.

About the various real estate dealings, and other financial affairs of the ex-Colonel, supposedly numerous documents are filed in the Kammerarchi v.

By 1700, when war broke out, the ex-Colonel would have been 66 years old. Whoever may have been his successor in Spurnal is not apparent in the sources.

Agriculturally, Spurnal Manor had advanced somewhat in the hands of ex-Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna. In 1688, 2 5/8 Haken were under cultivation, nearly 2/3 of a Haken more than in 1641. It seems 5, or more horses were available to do the work. Gabriel Abrahamson (\* 1663 + 16. 12. 1749), the Spurnal field manager, was then 25 years old. He would have been the soul and backbone of the agricultural effort in Spurnal.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1700-1740 v. Clueve, Uncertain, Schroeder

During the first 10 years of the Nordic War, the brunt of the fighting lay in Livonia. Peter the Great decreed: ‘Lay waste!’, and Scheremetjew, his Commander-in-Chief, took him by his word.. The 4 columns of his armies crossed and recrossed the land like fiery radii, leaving death and destruction in their wakes. Wolmar and Wenden were destroyed. By 1710, when the fighting finally moved out of Livonia, the land lay fallow. Scheremetjew is said to have boasted to the Tsar: ‘A more complete destruction is impossible to achieve.’ In some areas, one could travel for 3 days without meeting a human being, without seeing a single animal, or even come across a single edifice that had not been destroyed. In large areas, agriculture on the ruined, overgrown fields, didn’t start for 30 years. In the words of Julius Eckert: “Masters and peasants, both, had arrived at the lowest level of ruination, the Baltic Lands had ever sunk to”.

1720, with the peace accord at Nybo, the Nordic War came to an end. the Baltic nobility had achieved its goal: the Reduction of the Estates was no more. But the price paid was high: Livonia and Estonia became Russian provinces. Already, in the future, lay the end of a way of life, and, finally, exile.

Spurnal Manor House, as well as the houses of the neighbor estates, survived the war unscathed. No news of whatever else may have happened there, who survived the war, has not been preserved. It was out in the fields, the after effects of the war were noticeable. In 1725, Spurnal was cultivating a mere 1 1/8 Haken area, the smallest since 1630. Field manager Gabriel Abrahamson, by now already 62, did what he could, but what was one to do, if only 2 horses were available, when at east 3 were required.

In 1722, a Captain Johann v. Cluever passed away in Spurnal. In the v. Kruedener Genealogy there is a record of marriage between Lieutenant Otto Reinhold v. Kruedener of Rosenblatt ( 8 1700 +/-, + 12. 1. 1781) and Margrethe Elisabeth v. Cluever (\* 15. 11. 1713 + 18. 4. 1745), heiress of Lowenkuell & Ropenhof, daughter of Captain Johann v. Cluever of Spurnal (+ 1722), and Helene v. Rehbinder.

Except for this notice of marriage of his daughter, no other records exist for the Captain Johann v. Cluever.

Since it is not known until what point in time ex-Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna was in possession of Spurnal Manor, and when Captain Johann v. Cluever started his ownership, we have to make the choice between interposing an unknown owner between the ex-Colonel and

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Johann v. Cluever, or bridge this time interval with the assumption, that Johann v. Cluever acquired the Manor from the ex-Colonel. This Calls for additional theorizing:

Assuming Johann v. Cluever was 52 years old in 1722, when he passed away in Spurnal. That would make 1670 his year of birth. Assuming further, Henrik v. Cronstierna, plagued by his creditors, decided, after having received the King's pardon (1694), to sell Spurnal. Johann v. Cluever would have been 24 at that time, young, but not too young if endowed with the required means, to purchase the manor.

1700, at the start of the war, Johannes v. Cluever would have been 30, old enough to hold the rank of Captain. It seems he didn't marry, until after 1710, when the war had moved out of Livonia, since his daughter was not born until 1713; in that year, her father would have been 43 years old.

Perhaps Margaretha Elisabeth was not the only child in this marriage, but that she was the eldest is shown by the fact, that her maternal uncle, Christoph Rehbinder, for lack of other potential inheritors, bequeathed the estates Loewenkuell and Ropenhof to her, his sister's daughter.

Whoever may have been the next owner of Spurnal, it seems certain, if not mentioned, that field manager Gabriel Adamsohn, now 71, continued to run the agricultural part of Spurnal Manor. By 1734, the cultivated area had started to recover from the war time slump, and increased to 1 5/8 Haken, and that figure held steady until 1744.

In 1739, the Riga city counselor, Diederich v. Zimmermann, as owner of Kegeln Manor, being the patron of Papendorf church, replaced the old wooden structure there with a stone built church.

Cut onto stone, above the entrance, was the coat of arms of the v. Zimmermann. A year later, the counselor went to his reward; probably in Riga. Ten years thereafter, his son, counselor of legation Diederich v. Zimmermann, was laid to rest at Papendorf church.

1740 Wilhelm Schroeder is known as owner of Spurnal, but it isn't known since when. Did he acquire the manor from Johann v. Cluever, or, after his demise, from his widowed wife, Helena, nee Rehbinder? Or was there yet another owner between him and Johann Cluever? The sources are silent.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1740-1750 v. Zimmermann

v. Hagemeister picks up the thread in 1740, when Wilhelm Schroeder is owner of Spurnal. With the name of Wilhelm Schroeder, the shadows of far away Proebstinghof, on the left bank of the Duena, appears. Thus v. Hagemeister: ‘In the year 1760, the heirs of Johann Wilhelm Schroeder, sold Proebstinghof for 9,000 Thlr. Alb. to the City of Riga. ’

Nothing further is known about Wilhelm Schroeder. Who did he acquire Proebstinghof from? How did Spurnal come into his hands? one can sense connections, but the sources are silent.

On 4 April 1734, Ensign Georg Andreas Kruedener sold his estate, Kruedenerhof/Inceem Manor, to the Riga City Councilor Diederich v. Zimmermann ( \*21. 1. 1681, + 13. 9. 1740). After his death, it was owned by his son Diederich, Counselor to the Brunswick-Lueneburg Legation, for the sources report, that he combined the part of Kruedenerhof/Inceem, Jaegel Muhrneek, located within Roop parish, with Spurnal Manor. The official name of Spurnal became Spurnal Muhrneek. Jaegel-Apping, the remaining part of Kruedenerhof, he sold to his brother-in-law the Confidential Counselor Johann Christoph v. Campenhausen, in 1648.

Almost of secondary importance, an entry in the ‘Official Website of the Latter Day Saints of the Church of Jesus Christ’ says, that in the year 1747 (that is during the time of the Legations Counselor there, a (later) ‘Mrs. Holtzhausen was born at Spurnal Manor in Livonia’. The parents of this child are not mentioned. Perhaps she was the daughter of someone of the Spurnal house personnel. Later on, this girl, in the sources held nameless, was to marry one Ephraim Holtzhausen. Their daughter, Charlotte Brbara, and her later husband, Ernst Conrad v. d. Sedeck, k. a. Querfeldt, constituted the basis of that branch of the Querfeldt’s, which was to own Spurnal for 29 years.

Nowhere is the Counselor of Legation named as owner of Spurnal Manor. Yet between 1740 and 1750 he combined Jaegel-Muhrneek with Spurnal, a clear indication that he owned the estate. He may have acquired Spurnal from Wilhelm Schroeder as early as 1740. He remained owner of Spurnal, until his demise on 5. 6. 1750. He was laid to rest in Papendorf church. As, with the demise of his father, the Riga City Counselor, the manors of Kegeln, Podsem, Waidau and Welckenhof had accrued to him, it his uncertain, whether he resided at Spurnal, or at one of the estates he had inherited.

According to an entry in the Papendorf parish Church Book, on 16. 9. 1649 passed away Gabriel Abrahamson, the Spurnal field manager, at age 86. He lived long enough to support the

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

supposition that he had already been Spurnal's field manager at the time of ex-Colonel Henrik v. Cronstierna, let alone during the tenure of Captain Johann v. Cluever. Gabriel Abrahamson had preceded the Counselor of Legation (the last of his several patrons), on his final journey by a scant year. He was laid to rest at Papendorf church.

The next, field manager at Spurnal was a Gustav Kaufmann. We learn this from the death notice of his little daughter, Christina Dorothea. 4 weeks old, she passed away in Spurnal on 17. 4. 1751. She, too, was laid to rest at Papendorf church.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1760-1806 v. Ceumern

Ebba Juliana v. Ceumern became the next owner of Spurnal Manor. After her demise, 1763, in Orgishof, it remains unclear until 1780, not only who actually owned Spurnal, but who lived there during those years. It is known that a Pastor Gottlieb Blanck resided there temporarily. Since a servant, belonging to Ebba Juliane (also referred to as the ‘Kegeln servant’) is mentioned several times in the Papendorf church books as staying in Spurnal, it may be assumed that Ebba Juliana had intended Spurnal for her younger son, the Brigadier Carl Ernst v. Ceumern and his family. However they appear to have lived there only temporarily, since their children were born at neighboring Kegeln Manor, owned by the v. Budbergs, parents of the Brigadieress Dorothea Elisabeth v. Ceumern. Between 1771 and 1777, the brigadiers moved to Dutkenshof. Although the Miss Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern, second oldest sister of the Brigadier, isn’t named owner of Spurnal until 1780, certain indications are, that she and her 2 sisters, the Misses Dorothea Sophia and Gerdrutha, had moved into Spurnal at a much earlier date.

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The name v. Ceumern originates in Sweden. Fianden Manor, 7 km north of Marienburg, on the east side of Marienburg Lake, was held by the v. Ceumerns 1674-1750. The Ensign Gustav v. Ceumern, son of the sub-prefect Kaspar Gustav v. Ceumern, in 1709, married 16-year-old Ebba Juliane v. Clodt-Juergensburg, daughter of Swedish Captain, Holstein courtier, and judge Carl Gustav Baron Clodt of Juergensburg. In the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Cornett and his numerous family lived in ‘Triakaten’, probably on one of the Knighthood estates (Dutkenshof?) donated by the Empress Katharina II. The name Triakaten signified the location of the church and the manse; aside from that, only the ruined old Castle of the Order of Knights existed there.

Until his demise, the Ensign was head of the Triakaten congregation. In 1747 he passed away; 58 years old. He was laid to rest in the vault of the church. Aside from the fact that he was head of the congregation at Triakaten church, nothing about him has survived. In his family he would have been the serene pole; Ebba Juliane, on the contrary, was the driving force.

Ebba Juliane, saw her family dwindle. The house in Triakaten was getting empty. In June 1757, her older son, Major of Artillery, Adam Burchard, acquired Orgishof Manor, and began to establish his numerous family there. Orgishof was located in Allendorf Parish, for those days, half an eternity removed from Triakaten.

By 1760, 6 of her 9 daughters were married. Her youngest son, the Brigadier Carl Ernst, was courting Dorothea Elisabeth v. Budberg in Kegeln. A wedding lay in the offing. There just

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

remained herself, and her 3 unmarried daughters, Ulrica Carolina 48, Dorothea Sophia 38, and Gerdrutha, 28 years old.

Kegeln was a neighbor estate of Spurnal. Ebba Juliana probably heard from her son, the Brigadier, that Spurnal had come up for sale.

Perhaps her eldest son's moving to Orgishof, made Ebba Juliane decide to acquire Spurnal Manor.

Orgishof was 41 km from Spurnal, but twice as far from Trikatén. Either in 1760, assumed as the year in which Major v. Megden left Spurnal, or 1761, after the wedding of the Brigadiers, Ebba Juliane probably bought Spurnal, at first impulse meant for herself and her 3 unmarried daughters, but perhaps on second thought, for the Brigadiers.

in the course of their relatively short stay in Spurnal, the v. Megdens had had to bury 3 of their little sons. Perhaps for that reason did the Brigadiers, shortly expecting their first child, regard Spurnal as an 'unhealthy' house. Spurnal stood available for them, but whatever the actual reason, they preferred to face lie-in, and child birth in familiar Kegeln, with the help of the Brigadieress' mother, the Baronne Helena, nee v. Campenhausen, always close at hand. Between 1762 and 1771, 4 of their 11 children were born in Kegeln.

Unfortunately, many of the entries in the Papendorf church book regarding Kegeln, show only name and year. Neither day, month, nor names of godparents are given. It seems these are copies from damaged original pages. With names and origin of the godparents known, a more complete picture of those times would emerge.

Spurnal, 1762, on 10<sup>th</sup> April, died Ebba Juliane, 1 year old, daughter of the Kegeln house servant Hans Esser (later on the Spurnal Butler), buried 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Little Ebba Juliane had been baptized with the name of Spurnal's mistress, Ebba Juliane v. Ceumern. the child's unfortunate demise must have served to reinforce the apprehension of the Brigadiers about the 'unhealthy' nature of Spurnal House. Their first child, Barbara Elisabeth, was born the same year. in Kegeln.

The presence, 1762, of the later Butler Johannes Esser in Spurnal, give substance to the assumption, that Ebba Juliane had already bought Spurnal at that time. The small question remains, whom did Johannes Esser serve, when the Brigadiers were not in Spurnal?

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1762, Balte Krug, 1<sup>st</sup> July, died the widow Elisabeth Birck (perhaps mother of the Factotum Leberecht Birck in Spurnal House), buried 6<sup>th</sup> July.

In 1762, Ebba Juliane had been invited to the baptism of her grandson Valentin Burchard v. Meyer, in Druwehn, however she arranged for a stand-in. Instead she left for an extended visit with her older son Adam Burchard at Orgishof, where the birth of her grand daughter Martha Juliane was imminent.

The next news of Ebba Juliane was her death notice:

Orgishof, 1763, on 7<sup>th</sup> September died Ebba Juliane v. Ceumern, nee Clodt-Juergensburg, Hereditary Lady of Spurnal. Laid to rest in the Spurnal family tomb, Papendorf Church

It is not known how unexpected she passed away, in how far she had been able to look to her legacy. A. o. , after her demise, the succession of inheritance for Spurnal was never clear.

Orgishof is 12 km north of Puickeln, all in all about 50 km from Papendorf. Transporting the earthly remains of Spurnal's Lady to Papendorf, over the atrocious roads, would have been a slow, arduous journey.

Spurnal, 1764, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, died Pastor Gottlieb Blanck, aged 41 years. He was preacher at Papendorf and Dickeln. Laid to rest 12<sup>th</sup> March, in front of the Altar, Spurnal hereditary tomb, Papendorf Church.

Conceivably, Ebba Juliane had planned for her 3 unmarried daughters to move into Spurnal. One reason for a delay, could have been the presence of Pastor Blanck there. It is not known how long he had lived in Spurnal, or whether he had wife and family. How he happened to take up residence in Spurnal, is explainable. Papendorf church didn't have a manse until 1772. Until then, the pastor loci stayed at Kegeln Manor, which was Patron to Papendorf Church. Since Pastor Blanck preached at both Papendorf and Dickeln, Spurnal was more advantageously located, than Kegeln: it was roughly equi-distant from both Papendorf (12 km) and from Dickeln (10 km). Perhaps the Dickeln Pastor had gone to his reward. Papendorf's Pastor Blanck had taken on the shepherd-less flock of his departed colleague, and on the journeys to both churches, through wind and weather, had finally caught his own death of cold.

It is not known, under which one of Spurnal's owners, the Pastor found acceptance there. At any rate, supposing he was a single man, it would have been 'unseemly' for three unmarried ladies to move into Spurnal, while he resided there.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1765, Bahlin Road House, on 19<sup>th</sup> January, died Catherine, daughter of publican Plautius. Buried 21<sup>st</sup> January

Spurnal 1767, Baltamuishe Road House, on 26 February, died son of publican Breitenstein, 12 years old. Buried 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Spurnal 1767, Bahlin Road House, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, died publican Plautius, 45 years old. buried 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Kegeln, 1769, on ?? died Carl Ernst, 8 hrs. old, son of. Laid to rest in the Spurnal family tomb, Papendorf Church.

Kegeln, 1769, on 10<sup>th</sup> September, died Helena Johanna, 3 years old, daughter of Brigadier Carl Ernst v. Ceumern, and his spouse Dorothea Elisabeth, nee v. Budberg

If the Brigadiers had been living in Spurnal, their daughter Helena probably fell ill there, then was taken to Kegeln to be cared for, and probably died there. This would have been more water on the mill of the idea that Spurnal was an ‘unhealthy’ house. After this double blow of fate, the loss of their first son and that of a daughter, it would be likely, the Brigadiers left Spurnal, and moved into Kegeln for good. This would support the conjecture, that Spurnal was still fully occupied by the Brigadiers and their children before winter 1770/71.

In the winter 1770/71, Papendorf pastor Christoph Harder (1747-1801) travelled by sleigh to all estates and farmsteads in his parish, to obtain an overview of his Latvian parishioners, and their status in matters religious, as well as in basic school education. He visited Spurnal manor, including its 15 dependencies within Papendorf parish, on 16/17 December 1770, listed names and family relationships, and tested all, men, women and youngsters as to proficiency not only in the ABC, but also with regard to Catechism and Bible. He also visited Spurnal’s 5 dependencies (Iskalneek), south of Daiben, located within Roop parish. Here he was less demanding in his probing, since, after all, they did not belong to his flock. The pastor’s report of these visits has been preserved.

Unfortunately, Pastor Harder omitted noting Spurnal’s German residents. Thus we don’t hear anything about the Butler Johannes Esser, and possibly the 3 v. Ceumern spinster sisters, if they were already living there at the time.

Based on the scanty numbers of the house personnel, reported by the pastor, one gets the added impression that the Brigadiers, should they have lived in Spurnal, must have moved out previous

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

to Pastor Harder's visit, since one of the two kitchen maids had already left for Roop, and of the 5 house maids, only 2 remained in Spurnal.

With the pastor's visit there, Spurnal's sub-estate, Annenhof, finds its earliest mention in his report. In other sources, Annenhof is not named in connection with Spurnal prior to 1826. It is not known, who previously owned Annenhof, and how it came to be part of Spurnal.

It is through the pastor's report (a census of his parish, actually) that we learn of Spurnal's altogether 20 dependencies. Nothing is known about how they became attached to the manor; not to mention dependencies in earlier times.

The possibility exists, that the 3 spinster sisters v. Ceumern, Ulrica Carolina, Dorothea Sophia and Gerdrutha had moved into Spurnal after the posited 1769 removal of the Brigadiers to Kegeln.

They would hardly have required much house personnel. Still present in Spurnal in 1770, were the cook Mickel, the coachman Marz, menial Otto, gardener Pridrick, and their families. In addition, there were 2 house maids, one kitchen maid, and one kitchen boy Johann, who (the pastor noted) 'belongs to the Mrs. Colonel v. Ceumern', i. e. Dorothea Elisabeth, nee v. Budberg, the spouse of the Brigadier.

As at the manor itself, the pastor found only a scant work force present at the dependency farmsteads. One gets the impression that the manor was only negligibly worked during the first 20 years under the v. Ceumern, probably because after the death of Ebba Juliane, ownership of Spurnal, in terms of which v. Ceumern was the actual Lord of the Manor, was vague, until in 1780, it became definite with Ulrica Carolina.

In his 'Contributions to the History of the Livonian Manors II', v. Stryk fails to list the number of Haken of the individual landed estates between 1757 and 1832. Therefore it is not possible to evaluate, how Spurnal stood agriculturally in that period.

Since field manager Gustav Kaufman was mentioned in 1751, nothing more is heard of him. It is not known if he worked in Spurnal under the v. Mengden, or perhaps still took care of the work on the manor, when the v. Ceumern took over.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

The Latvian population of Spurnal in the winter 1770/71, was as follows:

Manor: 6 male 8 female

Sub-estate: 1 “ 2 “

20 Dependencies: 94 “ 111 “

2 Road Houses: 8 “ 7 “

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In Toto: 109 male 128 female

Between 1771-77, the Brigadiers moved from Kegeln to Dutkenshof. Possibly, the Brigadier longed to be back in the region where he had grown up, the manors there, Lysohn, Druwehn, Loesern in the hands of family members. Dutkenshof was one of the knighthood estates in the Trikaten area. Possibly it was the very estate where the Brigadier, and all his siblings, were born, and had grown up. Later on, the Brigadier and his family would settle down in Tyrsen, in the Loesern area.

Spurnal, 1774, on 10<sup>th</sup> June, died Sophia Dorothea, 1 ½ years old, daughter of Johannes Esser, Spurnal butler. She had been baptized with the name of the 2<sup>nd</sup> youngest of the 3 v. Ceumern spinster sisters. She was buried in St. Catharine's cemetery.

This cemetery lay 2 km east of Spurnal manor house, on Spurnal land. It existed, together with a wooden chapel, called St. Catharine's, already since 1630, although at that time the manors in the area officially were part of Roop parish.

It can be conjectured that by naming his daughter Sophia Dorothea, Johann Esser intended to honor the move to Spurnal of the 3 Misses v. Ceumern. This provides another possible date for such a move: probably late in 1772. The first presumed date has already been considered as 'sometimes after the 1769 move of the Brigadiers from the house in Spurnal, to Kegeln.'

Over the years not a few children grew up in Spurnal. However, Spurnal was never a bright, or cheerful house. Even on sunny days, there prevailed a faintly melancholy, gentle twilight in the rooms. When one played in the house, one could get the disturbing feeling, that the high, old walls of the room were watching in grave silence.

An exception to this general, slightly gloomy atmosphere, was the so-called yellow room, on the west side of the house, where, 150 years later, Tante Jenny v. Hansen, from Hagensensberg, would spend the summers with her children. That room had a bright, cheerful aspect.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1777, on 14<sup>th</sup> March, born Carolina Beata, daughter of Johann Esser and his spouse Anna. Baptized 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Breslau, 1780, on 20<sup>th</sup> February, died the Mrs. Lieutenant Colonel Helene Sabine v. Weissmann, nee v. Ceumern, 63 years old.

Helene Sabine was the third eldest daughter of Ebba Juliane v. Ceumern, 5 ears younger than Ulrica Carolina, the eldest of the 3 spinster sisters in Spurnal. She had been married with Lieutenant Colonel Johann Adam v. Weissmann, who passed away before her. It is not known, how long before her demise she acquired Breslau Manor, previously owned by the Voelkersam heirs.

Breslau was only 5 km from Orgishof. Helene Sabine's brother, the Major Adam Burchard v. Ceumern of Orgishof, conscious of the fact that his 4 sons were growing up, perhaps saw the opportunity to bring Breslau Manor into the hands of his family. He acquired Breslau out of his sister's estate, for an agreed equivalent of 31,500 Reichsthalers.

Hagemeister in his 'Materials for a History of the Landed Estates in Livonia', names Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern owner of Spurnal, in 1780. One wonders, who had become the owner of Spurnal, right after Ebba Juliane, 'Hereditary Lady of Spurnal Manor' had passed away 17 years earlier. As the eldest of her two sons, Adam Burchard perhaps had taken the liberty to temporarily assume ownership of Spurnal, with future plans for his sons on his mind. The prospect of acquiring Breslau may have changed those thoughts, and he may have become mindful of his deceased mother's vague plans to live in Spurnal together with her 3 spinster daughters, or to leave the manor to the Brigadiers.

Since, with his move to Dutkenshof, his younger brother Carl Ernst, the Brigadier, had already indicated non-interest in Spurnal, Major Adam Burchard probably decided to place Spurnal in the hands of Ulrica Carolina, the eldest of his 3 unmarried sisters, who, as it was, had already lived in Spurnal at least for the past 8 years.

To take care of the curious fact, that Ulrica Carolina became owner of Spurnal in the very same year, 1780, in which her sister Helene Sabine's passed away at Breslau, here is another possible scenario: say, on her death, Ebba Juliane had bequeathed Spurnal to her daughter Helene Sabine, who, when feeling close to the end of her days, had then bequeathed Spurnal to her elder sister Ulrica Carolina (and with that, of course to all 3 sisters).

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

It seems the sisters, the Misses Ulrica Carolina, Dorothea Sophia, and Gerdrutha (in 1772 respectively aged 60, 50 and 40 years) living alone at Spurnal's manor house with the Butler Johannes Esser, the Factotum Leberecht Birck, and the house personnel, hardly ever moved away from Spurnal during the long years of their existence there. Initial formal visits to the neighbor estates, as there are Kegeln, Daiben, Hochrosen, Daugeln and Klein-Wrangelschhof, are not known, but were likely, as they were the norm in those days.

But visits to the baptisms among the many relatives are rare. Although invited, the sister usually asked for a stand-in. Certainly, a lot of it had to do with the long, arduous travelling, attendant to any such event. After all, one wasn't exactly young anymore, and many relatives lived far away from Spurnal's area, for instance around Marienburg and Schwanenburg in the outermost eastern corner of Walck District. However, one cannot but wonder if this strong reluctance to appear in public wasn't at least partly rooted in the fact that, in spite of one's years, one had remained single, and was not willing to expose oneself to unkind whisperings. Or, perhaps one or the other of the Misses v. Ceumern was physically (or mentally?) impaired, or possibly disfigured.

In 1761 Gerdrutha had attended a baptism at the Voelkersams at Klein-Wrangelschhof, very near Spurnal. Perhaps this occasion had left unkind memories. Subsequently she was invited to 4 more baptisms but did not attend.

Of the 5 baptisms she was invited to between 1750 and 1795, her next older sister Dorothea Sophia attended only one (in 1754); for each of the remaining 4 she asked to be substituted.

Ulrica Carolina, the eldest of the 3 sisters, was invited to 7 baptisms between 1750 and 1795, but attended just 3 of them.

Meanwhile, in Spurnal life went on.

1782, in his 'Topographica News from Estonia and Livonia', August Wilhelm Hupel has the following to say about Spurnal: "... only the Manor and about 5 Haken remain here. The remainder of the peasants taken into Roop parish. "

This confirms that not much was being done in Spurnal Manor during those times

Spurnal, 1782, on 27<sup>th</sup> February, died at age 65, the Factotum Leberecht Birck, right hand and main support of Johann Esser, the Butler.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1786, Balte Road House, on 28<sup>th</sup> October, died widowed lady publican Adler ('The old Adleress'), at the age of 60 years, 1 ½ weeks.

Buried 31<sup>st</sup> October

Spurnal, 1788, on 12<sup>th</sup> April, died Spurnal's Butler, Johann Esser, 53 years old. Buried 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The passing away of Johann Esser, would have been a hard blow for the spinster sisters. Aside from the personal loss of someone, on whom one had been able to rely for many years, now the running of the house lay in their own hands as well, for the butler position was not filled again; neither was that of the Factotum Leberecht Birck, who had passed on 6 years earlier.

It seems reasonable to assume, that by 1780, the year Miss Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern was officially named owner of Spurnal, the manor already had a field manager, probably arranged for by her brother Adam Burchard of Orgishof. Neither name nor origin of this field manager has been handed down. We only know, that in 1782, the first official census at Spurnal was carried out by a field manager. However in view of subsequent data, it seems probable that this manager already was Carl Bernard Gregorie, of whom we first become indirectly aware in 1789.

In the Russian Empire of those days, everyone, except members of the nobility, paid a head tax. And for this purpose, as well as for recruitment to the army, the Crown required an overview of the rural population. To acquire this overview, the Crown decreed, a census to be held periodically at each manor, where all residents were entered on lists, and new arrivals, as well as those departing noted as well.

The first unofficial census in Spurnal, carried out by the Papendorf pastor loci, took place in the winter of 1770/71, when the pastor travelled around in his sleigh, visiting all manors and dependencies in his parish, counted his Latvian parishioners, and sounded them out as to schooling and religious matters.

In 1782, Spurnal's first official census took place. It was run by the unknown field manager mentioned above. A direct record of this event has not been preserved. However, in the lists of following, 1795, census, which are preserved, a record in retrospect was kept of all those registered in 1782. In such a record we also learn more about Johann Esser, the Butler, deceased in 1788: In 1782, he was 47, his wife 45 years old. Their children were Adam Burchard 15, Johanna Catherine 18, and Caroline Beate, 5 years old. There is a note regarding

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Adam Burchard: 'In the year 1793, he travelled out of the country. ' – probably to avoid being recruited into the army.

Spurnal, 1789, (no date), died, Juliane Margarethe, 1 ½ years old. Daughter of field manager Bernhard Gregorie.

This new Spurnal field manager was 36 years old at the time, and had a 2-year old son, Alexander Reinhold. Nothing has survived about his background and origin. However, the death notice of his little daughter (above) indicates that he had already been at Spurnal for several years.

Spurnal, 1790, on 1<sup>st</sup> January, born, Ulrica Carolina, daughter of the field manager Bernhard Gregorie Baptized 7<sup>th</sup> January,, and Anna, nee Wagenseil.

Puickeln, 1791, on 5<sup>th</sup> October, baptism, Catharina Charlotta Amalia v. Klot. Godmother was a. o. Miss Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern.

After the demise, 1780, of his wife, Ebba Juliana, oldest daughter of Cornett Gustav v. Ceumern, and eldest sister of Ulrica Carolina, Johann Reinhold v. Klot had married Anna Margaretha v. Stackelberg. Catharina Charlotta was the first child of this marriage.

Spurnal, 1792, on 1<sup>st</sup> January, born Bernhard Christoph, son of miller Jacob Wiechmann and Maja Zieferson.

The parents had obviously named the boy 'Bernhard', to honor the field manager.

Spurnal, 1792, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, died Constantia Sophia v. Klot, 5 years old, of small pocks.

Thus the Allendorf church Book:

She was the daughter of Major Burchard v. Klot of Riga, and his spouse Ebba v. Klot, nee v. Klot, who had been visiting his brother-in-law

Captain Johann Reinhold v. Klot (in Puickeln) She died of small pocks in Spurnal, at her Aunts', the Misses v. Ceuemern, to where the above parents had taken her along for a visit, on Green Thursday, the 1<sup>st</sup> April, in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of her age. On 7<sup>th</sup> April laid to rest in the Puickeln family tomb.

For the v. Ceumern sisters, in their lonely existence, this must have been a hard to bear.

The next census in Spurnal, took place on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1795, carried out by field manager Carll Bernhard Gregorie.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

It is only through this census we learn directly, that not only the Miss Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern lived in Spurnal, but her two spinster sisters as well. The age of all registered persons is shown in the listing of residents, including that of the Misses v. Ceumern. Here we seem to encounter a trace of female vanity. One can picture it: the ladies at first outraged: ‘Well, I never! What an imputation! We are not going to tell this ‘person’ our ages! What does he think!’ Then, realizing there was way around it, they agreed to give their ages, but as 5 years younger than they actually were. It had to have happened that way, because their fictitious birth dates collide by 5 years with those of some of their sisters, which are given in the church books.

The 1795 census lists 165 males and 168 females, in Toto 331, comprising Spurnal Manor and its dependencies. In 1782, it had been 150 males and 151 females for a total of 301. By comparison, the unofficial census in 1770, shows only 109 males, 128 females, a total of 237.

It appears, in 1795, Ulrica Carolina travelled to Loesern (93 km south-east of Spurnal), to attend the baptism of her great niece Charlotta, daughter of Artillery Captain Leonhardt v. Schoulz and Ulrica Augusta, nee v. Funck, her grand daughter. If this trip actually took place, it probably represents her only journey of such length from Spurnal. At a baptism, only a few days later, in Ohlendorf, she had herself substituted. She had to catch her breath, as it were. After the tour de force from Spurnal to Loesern, and the imminent toilsome return journey, one could hardly blame the 83-year old lady for begging off.

However, in view of Ulrica Carolina’s advanced age, it might be doubtful this trip actually took place. It is much more likely she was substituted for at that Loesern baptism, and through absentmindedness of the pastor, this was not noted in the church book.

Spurnal , 1795, on 12<sup>th</sup> August, born Gustav Friedrich, son of miller Jakob Wichmann and Maja Zieferson. The child died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Buried on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Spurnal, 1797, on 12<sup>th</sup> August, married, field manager Bernhard Gregorie and Catharina Johanna Essert, eldest daughter of passed away Butler Johann Essert.

The field manager’s first spouse, Martha Wagenseil must have passed away prior to this. However there is no entry in the church book, attesting to this.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1798, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, died Miss Dorothea Sophia v. Ceumern, aged 75 years. Buried 19<sup>th</sup> March.

What reason was there for the 2 week delay of her burial? Was she laid to rest in Papendorf, or buried in the Catharines cemetery? Along with other names, her death notice appears on a clean page in the church book; probably copied from a damaged original page. The copiers of such pages typically omitted anything except the most necessary facts. There was probably more to the original death notice of Dorothea Sophia, than was copied over.

The 1811 census, taken under Spurnal's v. Ramm ownership, shows that the Spurnal cook passed away in 1797, and apparently was not replaced. In 1782, besides the cook and his wife, there had been 3 maids. By 1795, 2 of the maids had married outside, only the maid Masche, 63, remained.

Looking at these facts, one gets the feeling that life in the manor house was slowly disintegrating, the sisters left more and more to their own devices.

Spurnal, 1800, 15<sup>h</sup> February, born Ulrica Gerdrutha, daughter of field manager Bernhard Gregorie, and Johanna, nee Esser. Baptized 27<sup>th</sup> February.

Spurnal, 1801, on 10<sup>th</sup> March, born Ulrica Carolina Gerdrutha Amalia, daughter of Auditor Gantzen and spouse, nee Sander. Baptized 18<sup>th</sup> March.

In both foregoing birth notices, the respective child has been baptized with the names of the Misses Ulrica Carolins and Gerdrutha, in order to honor them. Gerdrutha didn't pass away until 1803, but these notices seem to imply that even Ulrica Carolina, eldest of the spinster sisters, was still alive then. In 1801 she would have been 89.

Auditor Gantzen and his family would have lived in the rooms of which were, much later, to become Spurnal's small rural convenience store. These were probably the very rooms Johannes Esser and his family had occupied during his days as Spurnal's Butler.

The presence of a Revisor at Spurnal indicates a survey of Spurnal in the offing, probably with a view to coming inheritance matters, and the great number of potential heirs from the houses of Loesern, Tyrsen, Puickeln and Orgishof.

Spurnal, 1802, on 24<sup>th</sup> May, wedded, Caroline Beate, youngest daughter of Johann Esser, and Lieutenant Jakob v. Wells, Post-commissair in Hilchenfehr.

Spurnal, 1803, on 27<sup>th</sup> June, died, Gerdrutha v. Ceumern, 71 years old. Buried on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

There probably is more to this notice. But the clean, white, copied page of the church book limits itself to the least necessary.

Since her possible (if not probable) trip to Loesern in 1795, nothing is heard anymore of Ulrica Carolina. No death notice appears in the sources. Perhaps such a notice was on one of the church book pages, damaged so severely, that not enough was left for the copyist to make sense of. In 1803, if still alive when her youngest sister Gerdrutha passed away, she would have been 91...

What transpired in Spurnal, during the 3 years between the demise of Miss Gerdrutha, and the sale of the manor? Did it take 3 years for the heirs to come to an agreement? Or did Ulrica Carolina, Lady of Spurnal Manor, live on to 1806? She would have been 94 by then.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1806, Spurnal was sold by all the heirs of Miss Ulrica Carolina v. Ceumern, of the Houses Loesern, Puickeln, Tyrsen and Orgishof, for 35,000 Reichsthalers, to the Dr. med. and Court Counselor Joachim, Noble v. Ramm, City Physicus of Riga.

The heirs were:

In Loesern, the surviving fourth youngest sister Christine Charlotte v. Funck

In Puickeln, 3 offspring of Ebba Juliane v. Klodt, her eldest sister, deceased in 1780

In Tyrsen, 6 offspring of her younger brother, Brigadier Carl Ernst, deceased 1791

In Orgishof, 9 offspring of her older brother Adam Burchard, deceased 1789

In the Census of 28 September 1811, the first of Spurnal in v. Ramm ownership, echoes of v. Ceumern times remain:

Field manager Carl Bernhard Gregorie, went from here in 1806, is staying at Ulpisch Manor, and is reported registered for the Head Tax in Wolmar.

The gardener Piddricks was given his freedom by the Misses v. Ceumern and is in Riga registered for the Head tax.

His oldest son Otte: presently in charge of Lapain Dependency

The sons Mickels and Jurre: both given their freedom by the Misses v. Ceumern

The coachman Jurris died 1804.

His sons, Willem and Marz both received their freedom from the Misses v. Ceumern

It is significant, that the v. Ceumern Misses showed their generosity in awarding freedom to

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

gardener Piddricks and his sons, as well as to those of the coachman Jurris, but to no one else of the People at Spurnal. Coachman and gardener were the ones the Misses felt close to. They had diversified their lonely stay at the manor house.

So, here was garden work: for the sisters a welcome break from life in the twilight rooms of the House. One can imagine them on their way to the garden: resolutely leading up front, Ulrica Carolina, in animated conversation with old Piddricks, dutifully by her side, her two sisters, under their parasols, tripping along awkwardly in her wake.

It is also not hard to imagine that Ulrica Carolina was on war footing with maids and other house personnel. One by one they had left.

The sisters were close to the coachman, their ‘Coachy’, which indicates coach rides, perhaps even to one or the other of the neighbor estates.

Coachman Jurre’s demise took place in 1804, after the two younger v. Ceumern sisters had already passed away. Thus, they were spared the painful impact of this event. In the case of Ulrica Carolina, one cannot say. Her date of death remains unknown.

With the sale of Spurnal, 46 years of v. Ceumern ownership of the manor came to an end. Only the Blessigs held out longer there: 63 years, from 1876 to 1939.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### 1806-1832 v. Ramm

Dr. med & Court Counselor, Joachim Noble v. Ramm was 43 years old, and 1<sup>st</sup> director of the Hospital for the Poor, in Riga, when he bought Spurnal Manor. Later on he was Physicus of the City of Riga until his demise on 25 June 1825. In 1803, on his commencement at the Hospital for the Poor, he acquired a small farmstead, 3 Werst (slightly more than 3 m) distant from the Hospital.

In Johann Christoph Brotze's 'Drawings and their Descriptions, Vol. II, The Suburbs and the Environs of Riga', on page 200, one finds a view of the 'Rammsche Hoefchen'. After the acquisition of Spurnal, this small farmstead was sold.

As the First Physicus of the City, the Noble v. Ramm would hardly have had sufficient personal time for the running of a manor. The acquisition of the manor would have been based rather on representative needs, than on practical considerations; as First Physicus of the City of Riga, one was manorial owner.

Nothing has been handed down, regarding any stay of the doctor's at Spurnal. Entrusted with the management of the estate, was a secretarius, Johann Herrmann Schramm. One wonders how many years previous experience as manager of a landed estate he had brought with him to Spurnal. Since a field manager is not mentioned, his hands must have been full, not only with the administration, but also with the actual day to day running of the manor.

With the exit, 1806, of the v. Ceumerns from the stage, an era had come to an end at Spurnal. The v. Ramm census of 1811 and 1816, show that the long-standing old order in Spurnal was being rigorously altered. Families on the dependencies were moved about from their home places to different farmsteads. It is hard to understand the reason behind this policy. It must have created great resentment among the manor population.

Perhaps Joachim v. Ramm had sheep raising in mind when he bought the manor. At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many landed estates, went into sheep raising to profit from the then high prices paid for merino wool. However continuing damp weather made for diseases among the sheep herds, and sheep raising on a big scale came to an end.

The 1860/75 manor plan of Spurnal shows sheep cotes, 2 long buildings, parallel to each other. One doesn't know who to ascribe the buildings to: the City Physicus, or the later Querfelds. Remnants of one of these stables, could still be seen in 2003.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1808, on 24<sup>th</sup> September, born Catharina Carolina, daughter of secretarius Herrmann Schramm and Charlotte Gottlieb, nee Rosenberger.

Baptized 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Spurnal, 1814, on 20<sup>th</sup> April, wedded the servant Georg Bernau & Maria Dorothea Engelbrecht  
Spurnal 1814, on 13<sup>th</sup> May, born Julie Auguste, daughter of secretarius Herrmann Schramm & Charlotte Gottlieb, nee Rosenberger.

Baptized 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Spurnal, 1815, (no date), Bahlin Road House, died publican and carpenter Michael Ziferson.

Spurnal, 1817, on 12<sup>th</sup> Juli, at the Mill, born Anna Pauline, daughter of the unwed miller's daughter there. Baptized 29 Juli.

Spurnal, 1819, on 1<sup>st</sup> May, at the Mill, died miller Joseph Meyer. Buried 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Spurnal, 1822, on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, born Anna Dorothea Christine, daughter of Inspector Weitzler and Elisabeth, nee Schulz, baptized 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Spurnal, 1822, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, died Anna Dorothea Christine, daughter of Inspector Weitzler & Elisabeth, nee Schulz.. 20 days old. Buried 26<sup>th</sup> April

The above church book entries indicate, that an Inspector was present at the Manor, a professional man, as it were. Since 1814 there has been no more mention of the Secretarius. Perhaps his métier had been other than that of managing a Manor.

Spurnal, 1824, on 6<sup>th</sup> March, Bahlin Road House, born Anna Louise Agnese, daughter of the road house lessee Otto Fahlberg & Louise (unreadable). Baptized 24<sup>th</sup> March.

Spurnal ,1824, on 27<sup>th</sup> July, born Auguste, Caroline Juliane Amalia, daughter of Inspector Ludwig Weitzler & Elisabeth, nee Schulz. Baptized 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Riga, 1825, on 26<sup>th</sup> June, died City Physicus & Counselor Joachim, Noble v. Ramm. 62 years old.

1826, H. v. Bienenstamm: Geographical Notes on the three German Baltic Sea Provinces, resp. the Governments Estonia, Livonia and Curonia:

Roop parish is said to have a branch, which is frequented by the manors Hochrosen and Daugeln, and a number of peasants from Spurnal Manor in Papendorf parish.

Spurnal (lat v. Spreestes or Spreestines), 7 3/8 Haken, and sub-estate Annenhof.

208 female sous, 159 male

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Spurnal, 1827, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, born Charlotte Johanna Ehrenstreit, supposed father Carl Koehlert. Baptized 31<sup>st</sup> December

Sometime after the demise of Joachim v. Ramm, Spurnal was placed on lease. At what point in time lessee Gaetchens takes up the reins in Spurnal is not known, however the church book records additions to his family:

Spurnal, 1828, on 14<sup>th</sup> March, born Peter Wilhelm, son of lessee Wilhelm Simon Gaetchens & Julie Catharine, nee Bidder. Baptized 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Spurnal, 1829, on 6<sup>th</sup> November, born Herrmann Friedrich, son of lessee Wilhelm Simon Gaetchens & Catharine, nee Bidder. Baptized 26<sup>th</sup> December.

On 26<sup>th</sup> June, 1831, six years after his death, the heirs of Joachim v. Ramm voted to have Margaretha Julie v. Ramm take over Spurnal for 27,000 Ruble. Her grade of relationship to the departed City Physicus is not given, but conceivably it was his wife or daughter. More detailed information about the v. Ramm family apparently was contained in a report of the 95th meeting of the section for genealogical Heraldic and Sphragistic in Mitau, 12th November 1904. This report has been lost.

It is possible, that Wilhelm Simon Gaethgens had given notice to end his lease of Spurnal. At any rate, a next applicant already stood in the wings: one week after she had the disposition over Spurnal in her hand, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1831, Margaretha Julie v. Ramm pawned Spurnal for 31,000 Ruble S. to Ernst Conrad k. a. Sedeck, for 10 years.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1831-1860 v. d. Sedeck, v. Querfeldt

Ernst Conrad v. d. Sedeck (\* 3. 8. 1765, + 23. 4. 1854), came from Amboten in the southwest corner of Curonia. He later became known as ‘The Old Querfeldt’. 1799, in Segewold, he married Charlotte Barbara Holtzhausen (\* 6. 10. 1766, + 14. 3. 1837), whose mother had been born in Spurnal in 1747, of now unknown parents, during the time of the Counselor of Legations, Diederich v. Zimmermann. The newly-weds apparently remained in Segewold, for on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1799, still in the year of their wedding, their eldest son, Gottfried Conrad, was born there. Also in Segewold, on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1801 their son August Conrad came into the world. According to an entry in the ‘Album of the members of the Fraternitas Rigensis’, Conrad August Querfeldt v. d. Sedeck (No. 8) studied law there, in 1824.

Nothing further is known of the Querfeldts, until, on 3<sup>rd</sup> July (corroborated on 19<sup>th</sup> September) 1831, Margaretha Julie v. Ramm, pawned Spurnal for 10 years to Ernst Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt. 5 days later, on 24<sup>th</sup> September, his son Conrad August married Caroline Henriette Stied (\*25. 4. 1812, + 15. 6. 1871), 11 years younger than he. She came from a well-known Riga family. August Conrad must have been a man of charm, to convince her to trade the life in Riga she had been accustomed to, for an existence, simple by comparison, on a landed estate in Livonia.

Be that as it may, between 1832 and 1851 they raised 9 children, 2 of which, however, succumbed to sicknesses. The family was socially very popular, as witnessed by the many sponsors at practically every Spurnal baptism.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Christian Stieda of Vancouver, B. C. , Canada, the v. d. Sedeck photographs, are the only likenesses in this history, relating to owner families in Spurnal, prior to 1876. Caroline Henriette Stied, was the sister of Mr. Christian Stead’s great-grandfather Joh. J. Christian Stied.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



The photos were taken in Riga, 1866, six years after Spurnal was sold, and 6 years after the demise of Conad August v. d. Sadecki. They show Caroline Henriette, nee Stied, and 4 of her charming daughters. Their father must have been a good-looking man; one can nearly sense him in the faces of his daughters. Unfortunately, no likeness of him exists, as neither does one of his

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

father, 'Old Querfeld'. The photo of Caroline Henriette shows a strong personality, a lady, whose life had not been easy, but who would have met life's vicissitudes with unbending resolve. Nothing is reported of her husband. It is easy to imagine that she was the one who managed life in Spurnal. Unbeknownst to her, she had her pendant in Ebba Juliana v. Ceumern, 100 years before.

Just one year after moving into Spurnal Caroline Henriette has her first baby:

Spurnal, 1832, on 7<sup>th</sup> August, born Auguste Elisabeth; baptized 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Daughter of the Manor owner August Conrad v. d. Sedeck known as Querfeldt & Caroline Henriette, nee Stieda

No sponsors mentioned.

In 1832, according to v. Stryk, Spurnal's land under cultivation is 6.8 Haken, a minus of ½ Haken since 1757. One is tempted to blame this on the past 25 years of v. Ramm management in Spurnal.

In all of the Papendorf church book entries, August Conrad v. d. Sedeck is mentioned as owner of Spurnal, yet it was his father, Ernst Conrad, who was given Spurnal in pawn.

1834, Spurnal Manor, 13th December, evening, born Ernst Conrad Ludwig, baptized 30<sup>th</sup> January 1835

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor

Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda

Luth. Confess.

Sponsors:

Hon. Ernst v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt.

Hon. District Accountant Heinrich Wim

Hon Engineer Ensign Edward Preuss

Hon. v. Huebenett (= Lieut. Jacob Anton v. H. of Podsem)

Hon. Candidate Friedrich Scnell

Mrs. Consulant Amalie Stieda

Mrs. Natalie v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, nee v. Wittorf

The above child was baptized at the residence of its parents by the local Pastor

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1836, Spurnal Manor, 15<sup>th</sup> September, evening, born Carl Herrmann, baptized 5<sup>th</sup> November in Spurnal

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor

Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda

Luth. Confess.

Sponsors:

Hon. Consulant, Carl Stieda, who held the child

1837, Spurnal Manor, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10 mornings, died Carl Herrmann of Influenza, 5 months old. Buried 12<sup>th</sup> March

1837, Spurnal Manor, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10 mornings, died Charlotte Barbara, nee Holtzhausen, of tuberculosis, 17y, 5m, 8d old, buried 20March

Charlotte Barbara, nee Holtzhausen, passed away only 6 days after he demise of her grandson Herrmann. One senses a close relationship between the grand mother and her grandson, whose death may have hastened her own.

Likewise, it is possible, the boy didn't die of influenza, but of the malaise caught from his grandmother, whose tuberculosis, being in the final, open stage would have been highly infectious, dangerous to the already weakened immune system of the boy.

In 1839, Margaretha Julia v. Ramm, for whatever reason, suddenly cancelled the pawning contract of Spurnal, 2 years early. Perhaps it was a money matter, and at that the v. d. Sedecks may have found the funds to buy Spurnal outright. At any rate, they continued living there uninterrupted.

1839, Spurnal Manor, 28<sup>th</sup> April, born Anna Amalie Mathilde, baptized 16<sup>th</sup> June

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedcck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor

Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda

Sponsors:

Hon Conrad Gottfried v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld

Hon Court Counselor & Knight, Dr. Peterson, from Lemsal

Hon Collegial Assessor, S. Richter

Mrs. Marnitz, from Lemsal



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Hon District Court, Sauretius

Hon G. Baron Delwig, from Lemsal

Hon Dr. Erdmann, from Wolmar

Hon Captain v. Kade, from Welckenhof

Hon K. Drachenhauer, from Podsem, substitute for his spouse

Mrs. Lieutenant Colonel D. v. Wittorf, from Castle Schujen

Demoiselle J. Helmsing, from Waidau

Miss Marie Natalie v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld.

The above child was baptized in the residence of their parents, by the local Pastor

1840, Port of Riga Gottfried Conrad v. Querfeld, \* 26<sup>th</sup> November 1799, in Segewold

Captain and eldest son of the later temporary Spurnal pawn lessor, Ernst Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld died 13<sup>th</sup> November, 40 y, 11 m, 17 d old, together with all persons on board of a wrecked ship of the Riga merchant Mr. Philips. Only after 10 months was his body recovered, taken to Spurnal, and buried there.

1840, Spurnal Manor, 15<sup>th</sup> November, born Alexandra Carolina, baptized 4<sup>th</sup> January 1841

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor

Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda

Luth. Confess.

Sponsors:

Mrs. District Accountant, Counselor charlotte Wilm, nee Stieda, from Riga

Mrs. Emma v. Hahk, from Daiben

Demoiselle Elise Birkenfeldt,

Demoiselle Henriette Mueller, from Spurnal

Riga Aeltermann Hon Johann Herrmann Querfeldt, from Riga Witkowski

Hon Edward Stugas, from Klein-Wrangelshof

Perhaps unimportant in itself: the ship's accident in Riga Harbour occurred on a 13<sup>th</sup>, just two days before the birth of Alexandra Carolina. Was it perhaps a Friday, too?

1841, Spurnal Manor, on 30<sup>th</sup> September, found in Riga harbor, the body of Commercial Ships Captain, Gottfried Conrad v. Querfeldt. son of the erstwhile pawn owner of Spurnal, Enst Conrad v. d. Sedeck. He was moved to Spurnal and buried there.

He had died in a ship's accident (see 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1840).

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

The church book entry leaves unclear, whether the internment took place on Manor terrain, or in Catharine's cemetery, which also lay in Spurnal land.

1842, Spurnal Manor, on 27<sup>th</sup> September, mornings, born Herrmann Adolph, baptized 17<sup>th</sup> November

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor  
Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda, L. C.

Sponsors:

Hon. Hwrrmann Queerfeldt-Witowsky, from Riga

Hon. E. v. Querfeldt

Hon. Merchant Kimmel, from Ayasch

Hon Heerwagen, lessee of Klein-Roop (= Leonhard Hohann Karl Heerwagen)

Madame A. Stieda, from Ayaysch

Demoiselle v. Schroeter

1844, Spurnal Manor, on 1<sup>st</sup> September, noon, born Alexandra Wilhelmine, baptized 29<sup>th</sup> October

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor  
Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda, L. C.

Sponsors:

Mrs. Dochmannin, Wilhelmine Stieda, from Riga

Hon. Druggist Fredricks, from Riga

Hon Birkenfeldt, Cand. jur.

Hon. Eugen Neander

Miss Kuierion

Demoiselle Schroeter

Hon. Notary Lemcke

Hon. Carl v. Querfeldt, from Schujen and Buddenbrock,  
with spouse

1849, Spurnal Manor, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, mornings, born Conrad August Alexander, baptized 24<sup>th</sup> April

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeld, owner of Spurnal Manor  
Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda, L. C.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Sponsors:

Hon. Aelterman Alexander Stieda from Riga

with spouse Wilhelmine Stieda.

Hon. v. Wittorf, from Adjanuende

Hon. Revisor C. Schulz

Hon. Moritz Berck

with spouse

1851, Spurnal Manor, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, evenings, born Auguste Elise, baptized: 23<sup>rd</sup> October

Father: HE August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt, owner of Spurnal Manor

Mother: Carolina Henriette, nee Stieda, L. C.

Sponsors:

Mrs. v. Huhn, from Daiben

Mrs. Pastor Charnitz

Miss Ludwig

Miss Haase

Miss Johanson

Madame Charsohnen, from Wolmar

Hon. Prahm, from Wolmar

Hon. Witte, from Welckenhof

The lists of sponsors provide a lively cross section of the social ties enjoyed by the von Querfeldts at Spurnal Manor.

1854, Spurnal Manor, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, evenings, died ‘The Old Querfeldt’, widower, of old age, at 88y, 7m, 20d. Buried 30<sup>th</sup> April

‘The Old Querfeldt’ (Ernst Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt) had the reputation of a Character. Of the ‘many’ stories about him, said to have been in circulation, only the following one has remained in family memory. The event must have taken place before the Querfeldts left Spurnal, because children are involved in this story, and after the Querfeldts left, there were no children in the manor house until 20 years later. Those were the little daughters of Constantin Blessig, who didn’t remember anything unusual happening in the attic of Spurnal house in their day.

So, what did happen to some of the Querfeldt children?

There were 3 of them 10 years old or younger, when Old Querfeldt died, old enough to

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

remember him: Alexandra Wilhelmine 10, Conrad August 6, and Auguste Elise 3, are the most likely candidates for the story.

The attic in the manor house, was a silent, roomy place, on rainy days preferred as play area by the children. Daylight, entering through some roof lights, created a soft twilight in the attic, in which heavy support beams lost themselves in the darker shadows towards the top of the roof.

The children, noisily playing their games, suddenly noticed a small, old man, perched high on one of the support beams, idly dangling his legs, maliciously looking down on them. The children froze. And in the sudden silence, the old man said loud and clear: ‘Go ahead and Laugh! Laugh! Bad times are coming!’ In a panic, the children clattered down the steep attic stairs, to excitedly blurt out their story. According to their description, it had been Old Querfeldt they had seen. Old Querfeldt had been short of stature.

How things stood with Spurnal’s agricultural effort under the Querfeldts is not known. Nothing is heard of a manager, field manager or lessee during their tenure at the manor. This indicates that it was probably Carolina Henriette herself running Spurnal Manor. It seems, her husband’s health was precarious, and as parish sub-judge, he would have been occupied with things other than managing the work at the manor.

As with many landed estates in those times, Spurnal had its own money concerns. In the New Wuerzburg Newspaper, 1859, among the 4/16 May matured mortgage bonds against Livonian landed estates, there are 2 obligations @ 1,000 Rbl. S. each, noted against Spurnal (mortgage bonds No. 7868 and 7869).

A year later, in 1860, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, August Conrad v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt, sold Spurnal Manor to Charlotte v. Holst, widowed v. Holst, nee v. Reussner, for 160,000 Rbl S.

There is little doubt the 2 matured mortgage bonds for 1,000 Rbl. S. each, were a concern to August Conrad, but the real reason for the sale, probably was his state of health, now grown critical. The sale of Spurnal made funds available for serious medical treatment. It seems without delay, August Conrad travelled to Franzensbad, the new Health-Spa in Bohemia, where the first treatment center had opened in 1793. Treated were diseases of the blood, nervous complaints, female sexual diseases, and heart problems. It can be assumed that August Conrad was suffering from acute heart disease. He passed away on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1860, in Franzensbad. His wife and family moved to Riga.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

That same year, 1860, an ordinance released by His Most Imperial Majesty, Tsar of all the Russias, decreed, that the name 'v. d. Sedeck, known as Querfeldt', was henceforth to be 'von Querfeldt-Sedeck'.

### Afterwards:

Caroline Henriette, nee Stieda: + 15. 6. 1871 at Bilderlingshof.

Charlotte Auguste: her fate is unknown.

Ernst Conrad Ludwig: + 18. 10. 1892, in Riga

Fraternitas Rigensis (433), studied medicine. 1866, civil servant in the Livonian Government. Then free lancing in Riga. Next, lessee of the landed estate Pabbasch (Pabbash Estate lay in a bend of the Peteruppe, 13 km east of today's town Pabbasch).

Anna Amalie Mathilde: + 8. 12. 1825

married to Herrmann Stieda, Aeltermann, The Great Guild of Riga

Johanna Caroline, wedded Doebler: + 1917

Herrmann Adolph: + 5. 4. 1885, St. Petersburg

Alexandra Wilhelmine, wedded v. Brehm: + 1929

Conrad August Alexander: + 2. 12. 1855

Auguste Elise, wedded Brehm: 13. 6. 1923

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1860-1876 v. Holst/Irmer

1860. After 29 years, Spurnal had yet another owner. The Querfeldts were no more. Once again, the people on the manor had to adjust to a new owner, a different set of rules.

The next 16 years Spurnal's, in possession of the buyer, Charlotte, widowed v. Holst, nee Reussner, and her son-in-law Julius Irmer, Assessor of Council, and head of Papendorf church congregation, denote a low period in the history of the manor. In order to offset the high purchase price, she had paid for Spurnal, Charlotte, widowed v. Holst, sold 16 of the Spurnal dependencies, with a total area of more than 1,000 ha.

Since Charlotte, widowed v. Holst and her son-in-law already were pawn owners of the manors Kegeln and Rosenblatt and probably resided in Kegeln, Spurnal's manor house, more than likely stood empty and abandoned. According to my mother, the house in Spurnal, stood empty for many years, and was used to house sheep. This would fit well into the tenure of widowed Charlotte v. Holst.

1862, Spurnal Manor, on 19<sup>th</sup> March, evenings, born Edward Gross. Father Starost (field supervisor) Mickel, mother Anna.

Sponsor: Auditor Kroenberg

The above reveals the presence of an auditor in Spurnal; probably in connection with the sale of the 16 dependencies.

1864, Spurnal Manor, on 1<sup>st</sup> October, mornings, born Carl Bernhard Gross (Preuss?). Father Starost (Field Supervisor) Mickel, mother Anna.

Sponsors: Estate Manager Wilhelm Schwartz & Anna Schwartz

It appears, Spurnal had a manager, at least in that year. Prospective buyers would have been in need of him, as he, rather than the owners would be the one familiar with the workings and status of the manor.

1869, Kegeln Manor, August, died Julius Irmer, Chairman of Papendorf Parish, owner of Kegeln, Rosenblatt and Spurnal. Buried in Riga.

Widowed Charlotte v. Holst sold Kegeln and Rosenblatt in 1873. Where did she reside over the next 3 years, until Constantin Ernst Blessig acquired Spurnal from her? Did she move from

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Kegeln to Spurnal, and had the neglected house brought back into a livable condition? Her home was the landed estates Lemskuell and Kulsdorf (separated from Spurnal by 60 km of difficult roads), which she had shared as common property with her daughter Wilhelmine-Louise, and her son-in-law, Julius Irmer, since 1837. It seems reasonable to assume widowed Charlotte v. Holst decided to stay in Spurnal until an eventual sale of the manor materialized.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia 1876-1939 Blessig

Constantin Ernst Blessig became the next owner of Spurnal. After his death, in 1911, the manor was run by his spouse ‘Juling’ (Julia Therese). After her demise in 1926, his eldest daughter ‘Ello’ (Elfriede) took over Spurnal until her death, 1933. After that his youngest daughter, ‘Jenny’ (Johanna), my grandmother became owner of Spurnal Manor, which she remained, until the expatriation to Germany of the German Balts in 1939, and World War II, sounded the death knell to what there was left of the manorial way of life.

Spurnal had been in Blessig hands for a continuous 63 years. the longest time span in which the manor, since <sup>ca</sup>1550 owned successively by 13 different families, had been in the hands of one and the same family.

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There are only two of the St. Petersburg Blessigs who took up manor life in preference to becoming part of the Blessig family trading enterprise, Blessig & Co.

We are talking here about Constantin Ernst Blessig, known later after his manor as ‘The Spurnal One’, and about his nephew Georg ‘Griescha’ Blessig, ‘The Ramelshof One.’

Through genealogical circumstances, Griescha was just 2 years younger than his uncle Constantin. The agricultural beginnings of both are knit together; thus, it might not be uninteresting to go a little deeper into the early beginnings of these in their time well known manor owners.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Uncle:

Constantin Ernst Blessig, son of Philipp Jacob Blessig, founder of the trading firm Blessig & Co.

\* 9. 10. 1928, St. Petersburg, + 24. 5. 1911, Spurnal.

1848-52 Zoology @ Dorpat University; 1853-57 Stay in Australia

1863 Mag. Zool, St. Petersburg University.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Nephew:

Georg Griescha Blessig

\*3. 11. 1830, St. Petersburg, + 19. 1. 1884, Ramelshof

1849-53 Medicine @ Dorpat University

Instead of pursuing a career in medicine, he went to Livonia.

On 4. 9. 1856, in Kokenhof, he married Kassandra Julia Balding, \* 5. 10. 1836, Kaugershof, + 22. 3. 1918, Wenden



Her father, Reinhold Balding was lessee of Jdsel Manor. There Griescha had the opportunity to get familiar with the management of a manor before he made himself independent. From 1856 to 1863, he and his family stayed in Jdsel with his in-laws.

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

On 10. 8. 1863, Griescha leased Ramelshof Manor, 12 km south-south-east of Wenden, from Johann Bertsa v. Blankenhagen, a wedded v. Grunewaldt, for 75,000 Rbl. S.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Presumably, Griescha's interest in country life stemmed from his student days in Dorpat. There he encountered the sons of manor owners, young, self-confident gentlemen, probably was invited out to a manor here or there, during semester breaks. For Griescha, the free, more natural manor life, would have contrasted positively with the rather formal, not to say stiff, family and social life among the great St. Petersburg mercantile houses.

Since Constantin and Griescha were about the same age, they attended Dorpat University at virtually the same time. Perhaps it was here, that the decision had ripened for both, to look for their respective futures elsewhere than at Blessig & Co.

As part of Blessig & Co, one could look forward to a secure existence. It was looked at favorably (not to say expected), if as a Blessig, after completed academic training, one joined Blessig & Co. but for those, who preferred personal independence, it was a gilded cage.

It was probably expected of Griescha to enter the medical field. It must have been a disappointment to the senior members of the firm, to see him choose agriculture instead.

Right after completing his studies at Dorpat University, 1852, Constantin demonstrated his independence, and at the same time the enterprising spirit of his father, who, 25 years old, had come to St. Petersburg from revolutionary France: in 1853, as well 25 years of age, Constantin went to Australia (a most unorthodox move for a St. Petersburg Blessig), where, in 1851, in the Balarat area gold had been discovered in sufficient quantities to cause an international gold rush into that region. Constantin invested in a hotel in Balarat; he also acquired some parcels of land, not far from today's Sydney (shortly before the outbreak of WW I, these parcels were still registered in his name, and the Sydney tax authorities were indignantly searching for his address). Constantin dealt in tools and supplies used in the gold fields. For various reasons he was mentioned a few times in the newspapers of the day. When, after 4 years, he left Balarat and returned to St. Petersburg, he knew he was no merchant. Cheated by his business partner, an international swindler, who absconded with his savings, all Constantin had to show for the time he had spent in Australia, was a small quantity of raw gold, and an extensive collection of insects and butterflies.

V. J. Meerikalla reports in his family history, 'Die Familie Grubert in Livland' 2008, that Constantin and Griescha had jointly leased the estate Kaugershof 1857-58. If that is so, Constantin would have had to go to Kaugershof immediately after his return from Australia, perhaps to free his mind from the unpleasant years just past. However, this Kaugershof enterprise seems doubtful in terms of time, since after his return from Australia, 1857, Constantin was obliged to repay the return fare, which his Australian creditors had advanced

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

him; in addition, a court process against his onetime business partner awaited him. According to a write up in an Australian newspaper, this business partner was already under lock and key in Hannover, Germany. In the Blessig sources, however, one hears neither of his difficulties in Australia, nor of a court process in Hannover.

Realistically turning his back on the past 4 years, Constantin proceeded to bring his zoological studies to completion. In 1863, 6 years after his return from Australia, he received his Mag. Zool. at the University of St. Petersburg.

Soon thereafter, in 1863, he would have travelled to Ramelshof. It appears, he worked there together with Griescha, until the end of Griescha's lease on Ramelshof. On 24. 10. 1866, a new lease on Ramelshof manor, for 60,000 Rbl. S. took effect. However, instead of Griescha, this time the lessee was 'the Honorary Citizen, Constantin Ernst Blessig'. It seems Griescha's funds had been exhausted.

Constantin quickly decided to leave Ramelshof Manor to his nephew. It was time he started thinking about his own future. In 1866, he leased Kawershof Manor (15 km east of Walck), for 9 years from Friedrich Grote. How he made the acquaintance of the Heerwagens in Klein-Roop, has not been passed down; but on 12. 6. of the same year, Constantin, and Johanna (Jenny) Wilhelmine Heerwagen, were married in Arrasch church.

Constantin had the wedding bands made from the raw gold, which he had brought home in 1857.

One of the rings was hollow: visible in a narrow slot on the outside of the ring, was a braided strand of the bride's hair.

It is unlikely, that Constantin had washed out the gold (as little of it as it was) himself. There exists no proof that he had staked a gold claim for himself. In the gold fields, purchases were paid for in raw gold, either nuggets or dust. Every business establishment there, would have had its own gold scale. The raw gold Constantin had brought home, probably came from the cash drawer of his Balarat store.

Griescha was chairman of Arrasch parish. There is little doubt that the wedding of his uncle Constantin was celebrated at Ramelshof. Perhaps at this occasion, Constantin met his sister-in-law, Julie Therese Louise ('Juling'), youngest sister of Kassandra, Griescha's spouse. Neither Constantin, nor Juling could have guessed then, that 11 years later, they would be married.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

On 5. 12. 1869, the Ramelshof lease, signed in 1866, came to an end. Griescha was financially not in a position to renew it. On a moment's decision, Constantin bought Ramelshof (except for those peasant lands, which had previously been sold by the owner for 61,300 Rbl. S), for 18,000 Rbls. S. and left the Manor to Griescha.



*The Ramelshof Griescha*

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Constantin was now fully occupied in Kawershof.

In Kawershof Constantin's 2 daughters were born:

Emilie (Ello) Nancy Elfriede \* 21. 5. 1870; + 20. 4. 1933, Stackeln

Leontine (Jenny) Johanna \* 12. 2. 1872, + 2. 5. 1949, Berlin (My grandmother)

Unfortunately, Johanna Wilhelmine did not survive the aftereffects of the second birth.

It can be assumed, that Constantin left his little daughters in Ramelshof, with Griescha and Cassandra, while he continued to run Kawershof.

Since the unfortunate demise of his spouse in Kawershof, Constantin probably had taken a dislike to the Manor. Through past experiences in Ramelshof, he also had become tired of the business of leasing. He was looking for a manor he could buy outright, and with that, call it his own. Leonhardt Karl Ludwig Heerwagen, his former father-in-law in Klein Roop, may have suggested to Constantin, to move closer to his vicinity. During his years as lessee, Leonhardt Karl Ludwig had worked on several manors. He was familiar with the status of the manors in the area. It is certain he would have known, that Spurnal was for sale.

Constantin took the bait. It is not known what he found in Spurnal. But that negotiations with the then owner, widowed Charlotte v. Holst, were soon under way, is indicated by the fact, that already in 1875, the manorial plan drawn in 1860, was being amended by E. Behber, the Knighthood auditor. The individual boundary lines of the 16 dependencies, sold by widowed Charlotte v. Holst in 1860, were kept on the plan, however, all detail inside those boundaries erased as not applicable anymore.

The lease on Kawershof didn't expire until 1877. But already on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1876, Constantin Ernst Blessig acquired Spurnal Manor from widowed Charlotte v. Holst, nee Reussner, with exclusion of those 16 dependencies, already sold by her. The Deed of Sale was officially corroborated on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1876.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



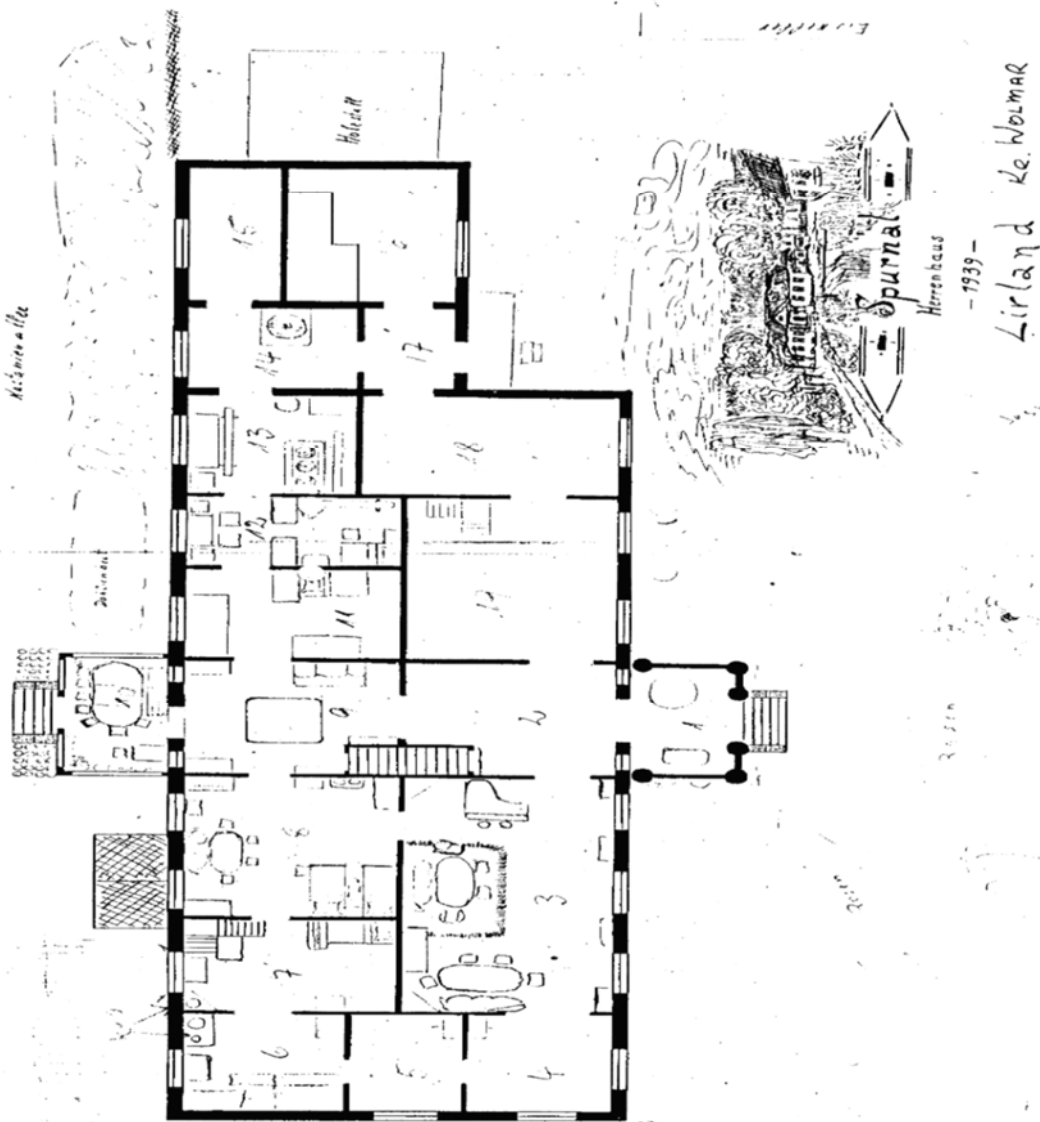
*The Spurnal Constantin*

It goes without saying that Constantin had the house renovated.



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Spurnal Arrangement of Rooms



- 1 Front (open) Verandah
- 2 Entry Hall, with Stairs to the Attic (cellar stairs underneath)
- 3 Drawing Room
- 4 Green Room
- 5 Blue Room (Tante Ello's Room, later Omama's Room)
- 6 So-called Corner Room (with Wardrobe Type Toilet)
- 7 Laundry Room (with Wardrobe Type Toilet), and Stairs to the Attic
- 8 Yellow-, or 'Hansen' Room
- 9 Dining Room
- 10 Glassed-in Garden Verandah (dining Room during the Summer Months)

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

- 11 Dinner Preparation Room
- 12 Maids' Room
- 13 Kitchen
- 14 Feed Kitchen with Baking Oven
- 15 Old Christine's Room
- 16 Room with Milk Centrifuge
- 17 Small Hall Way
- 18 Leased out as Rural Convenience Store
- 19 Living Quarters of the Store Lessee.

Rooms 14 through 17 in the Addition (which was still intact in 1993), were used by the post war owners of part of the Manor House area. In the years following, the Addition was destroyed by lightning strike.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The House and Garden



*Spurnal 1894, from the North-West.*

It is known that he laid out a large vegetable garden, and an orchard, and improved and beautified the terrain on the west side of the house. He laid out 2 avenues, broad enough for horse and carriage to pass: the Chestnut Avenue, which, starting at the northwest corner of the house ran in north easterly direction; and the Linden Avenue, which from the southwest house corner took a south westerly course. At intervals along the avenues, Linden Bowers were created, circular areas, surrounded by smaller Linden trees, their leafy canopies soon arching over the tables and seating arrangement placed there, thus providing a cool area for inhabitants as well as guests on hot mid-summer days.

Constantin also had trees planted, not native to the area. In the so-called Park, one could find trees found in New Zealand.

The park in Spurnal was different from manorial parks in the customary sense. It consisted of 3 wooded hills, which had largely been left in their natural state. The central hill traditionally had pagan significance for the Latvian population. Every spring ‘Salum Ballis) (the Green Ball) was

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

held there. People came from far and wide to participate. It was a lively, very noisy event, where liquid stimulants flowed freely. The ball lasted into the early hours of the morning, spoiling the sleep of visiting old aunties Lottchen and Mia, which was indignantly brought up later, at breakfast on the garden verandah.

At the northeast, and the southeast corners of the house, Constantin had 1 each Silver Maple planted. These trees, also non-native in the Baltics, became huge, and survived until long after the expatriation of the Baltic Germans in 1939. In the fall of 1949, during a windstorm, the Silver Maple at the south-east corner of the Manor house, crashed into the southerly gable, causing massive damage, initiating an accelerated end to the 300-year-old house. By contrast, the silver maple at the northeast house corner, survived, and in 2005, was declared a 'Noble Tree' among the Natural Monuments of Latvia.' It was registered as 'Spriestini Maple' (Circumference 5. 5m, Height 20. 5m, Length of branches, to 12. 2m, and a Spread of 300 m<sup>2</sup>).

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Life at Spurnal

In 1878, Christine Davidson (\* 22. 2. 1866, + 29. 10. 1939) came to stay in Spurnal. 12 years old at the time, she later became known as ‘Old Christine’. She was completely devoted to the family, though in her old days, she could be an irritant, not always easy to endure, for my grandmother Jenny. She stayed in Spurnal, until, with the end of the Blessigs there and the following expatriation to Germany of the Baltic Germans, her world collapsed. 3 days after my grandmother left Spurnal forever, Old Christine passed away.

No doubt, Constantin himself had concerns about the future with regard to his two, motherless little girls. Even more so did Griescha’s spouse Cassandra, when she contemplated, that with the approaching end of renovation work in Spurnal, the little girls would move out of her care into a motherless house.

In her parental home, Jdsel Manor, lived her still unmarried youngest sister ‘Juling’ (Julia Therese Louise Balding, \* 10. 6. 1842, Kokenhof, + 17. 8. 1926, Spurnal). As a friendly, warm-hearted person, Tante Juling, on her visits to Ramelshof, had probably won the hearts of Constantins daughters already. Constantin and Juling had gotten to know each other during his previous visits to his children in Ramelshof. They were married in the Loddiger church, the regular church of Jdsel Manor, on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1879. Jdsel is 7 km northwest of the church. Undoubtedly, the wedding was celebrated at the parents of the bride, in Jdsel.

The wedding date probably indicates completion of renovation and beautification works at Spurnal. The manor stood ready to welcome Constantin’s wife and children, who moved in soon afterwards.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage produced no offspring. Constantin was only too conscious of the fact, that the demise of his first wife, Johanna (Jenny) Wilhelmine Heerwagen, had been caused by complications arising from the birth of his second daughter Jenny. He was not about to risk this again.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

The Owners of Spurnal, 1876 – 1939

Konstantin Blessig & his Family, 1884



Konstantin Blessig

Owner: 1876-1911

Jenny Blessig

Owner: 1933-1939

Julia Blessig

Owner: 1911-1926

Elly Blessig

Owner: 1926-1933

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Nothing has been passed down about life in Spurnal during the next 15 years. There would have been the obligatory initial visits to the neighbor estates, but whether these were reciprocated, and more permanent social ties developed is left to conjecture. It seems, Constantin was a friendly enough man, though perhaps not a particularly sociable one.

Below, the families living on the neighbor manors:

Daiben: Balthasar, Baron Camoenhausen

Hochrosen & Daugel: The v. Gersdorffs

Podesem: Rudolf Heerwagen

Klein-Wrangelshof: Nikolai v. Hagen

Kegeln & Rosenblatt: Alexander v. Vegesack

Rosenbeck: Balthasar, Baron Campenhausen.

In Spurnal, life went on:

Spurnal, 1890, Mill, on 21<sup>st</sup> February, evenings, born Leontine Emma, baptized 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Father: The miller Alexander Krueger: Mother: his wife Emerline, nee Settler, both of the Lutheran faith

Sponsors:

Demoiselle Emma Stall

Hon. Richard Stall, merchant

Hon. Johann Transiht

Baptized in the church, by the pastor

The daughter had been named after my grandmother, Leontine, Johanna Blessig, now 18 years old.

4 years later, there is a new miller in Spurnal:

Spurnal, 1894, Mill, on 24<sup>th</sup> March, evenings, Santamarie Pauline. Father, miller Karl Davidson,

Mother: Lotte, nee Zigger.

Perhaps Karl Davidson was a brother, or an uncle to Christine Davidson at the manor house.

Christine was now 28 years old and had been at Spurnal for 16 years.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Ramelshof

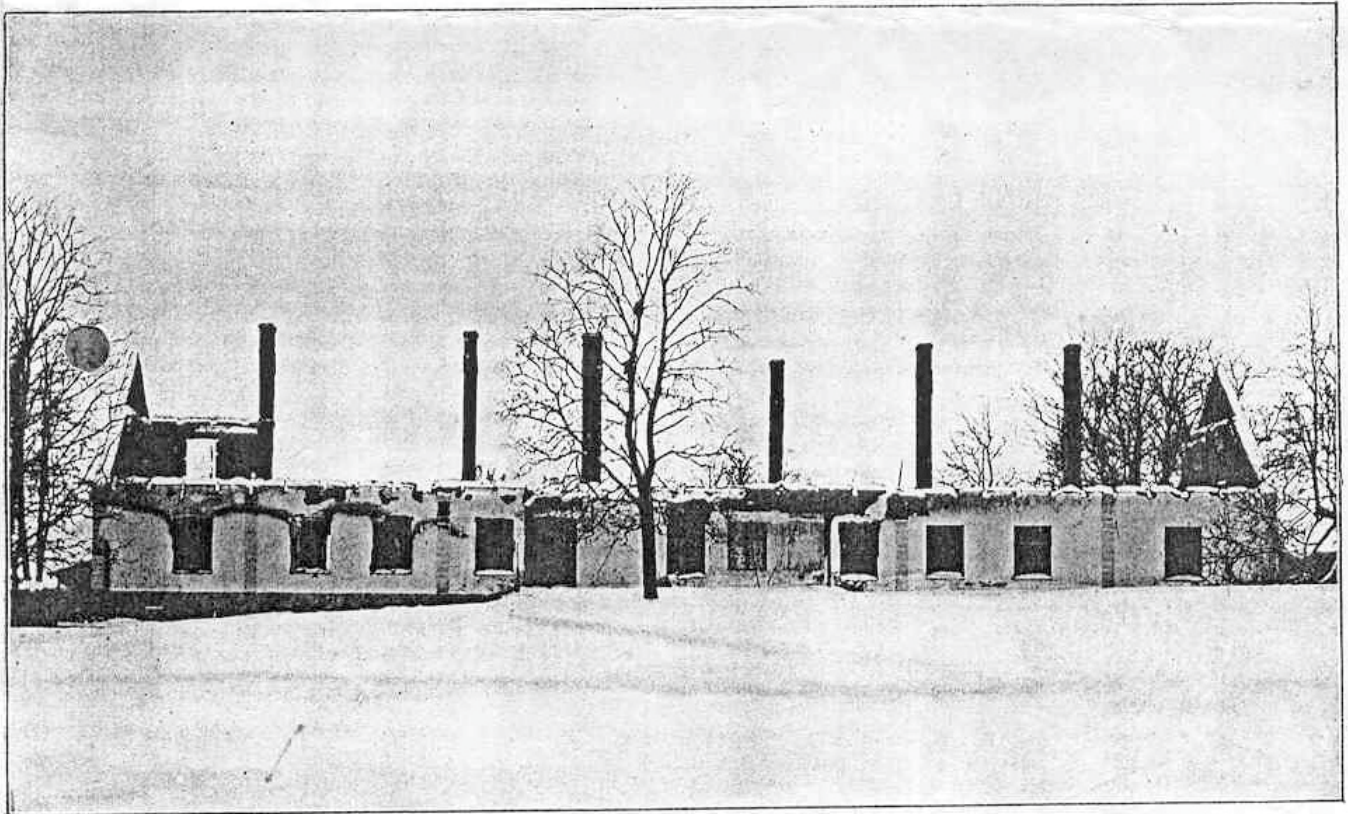
Meanwhile, my grandmother Jenny (Johanna Leontine) had become engaged to her cousin Alexander Blessig, of Ramelshof, Griescha's son. They were married in Spurnal, on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1894. Unfortunately, nothing but the date has been preserved of this notable event.

The newly-weds, moved to the forestry Tscheremykino, south of St. Petersburg, where Alexander oversaw the extensive forested areas of the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. They had 7 children of whom 2 died before their first birthday. While travelling on inspection, Alexander had the misfortune to be kicked in the stomach by a horse. As part of the drawn-out aftereffects, cancer developed. Forced to abandon his work, he moved back to Ramelshof with his family, where he died in 1904. His youngest daughter Edith, my mother, was less than a year old when he passed away. Thus she didn't have a memory of her father. It is assumed, Jenny, my grandmother, and her 5 children moved to Spurnal, joining her father Constantin, and her stepmother Juling, soon after the demise of her husband Alexander.

In the winter of 1905, the first Russian revolution broke out. In the Baltic Provinces, 184 manor houses were burnt down, 94 manor owners murdered. Manor owners, in self defense, formed 'Baltic Self-protection' units to fight the terror. The Tsar sent Dragoons and Cossacks to quell the uprising. Some dragoon units based themselves at Ramelshof. After demands by the revolutionaries to have the dragoons moved out, were ignored twice, Ramelshof manor was burnt down on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1905. However, in the Spurnal area apparently all remained calm.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



Ramelshof — Wendischer Kreis.  
Frontansicht.

Besitzerin: Frau Blessig.  
Eingeäschert 4. Dezember 1905.

Those from Ramelshof, and others went to Finland until the Cossacks of the Tsar had subdued the uprising. There is little doubt but that the Spurnal Blessigs left the manor, however it isn't handed down, where they weathered the crisis; perhaps in Wenden, where the family owned a house.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Constantin's Old Age

With advancing age, Constantin developed growing weakness in his legs. I remember an old chair being necessary. Now the one-time green cover of the seat pad was faded and threadbare. When the chair was pushed at speed over the old wooden floorboards of the room, the casters made a terrible racket. When children played 'Locomotive' with that chair, however, soon my grandmother, or my mother, soon stood in the door, a strained look on their faces, urgently motioning for us to stop.

Doctor's instructions for Constantin were, to do as much walking as possible, Constantin followed them in his own way. My mother, who remembered him as a kindly, quiet old gentleman, told of his walking exercises: Constantin carried a number of small white beans in his vest pocket, walking with short, tripping steps up and down in his small bedroom (all the bedrooms in Spurnal were small). At one end of the room stood a chest of drawers. Every time he passed it, he placed one white bean from his vest pocket onto the top of that chest of drawers. Once his vest pocket was empty, Constantin considered walking exercises finished with for the day.

Constantin reached the age of 83. He died in Spurnal on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1911. His coffin was transported to Wenden cemetery where he was laid to rest in the family plot. The reins of Spurnal Manor now passed into the capable hands of Juling. Actually, the reins had been in Juling's hands more or less all along. As Ilse v. Mengden tells in her memories, Constantin at that time was not concerned with the work on the manor. He had sequestered himself in one of the attic rooms, preparing his huge collection of insects and butterflies to bequeath it to his Alma Mater, the University of Dorpat.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Juling

As daughter of a veteran lessee of several manors over time, Juling was fully up to the task of managing Spurnal. hand. In addition, her kind heartedness, gave her the trust and affection of the people working on the manor, as well as those on Spurnal's 20 dependencies. She was always available for them. Instead of approaching Constantin, they came to the kitchen back door after dark, to shyly bare their problems or requests before the 'Lielkundze' ('Great Mistress'), and probably in most cases, they got a sympathetic hearing.

With the start of WW I, as for all manors, Spurnal's horses were requisitioned by the military. Later a Sotnie (about 100) Cossacks set up camp on the large open area between the House and the Kegeln-Roop road. With commencement of the war, all German manor owners, although loyal Russian subjects, were suspected of being spies, German agents. What better way to keep an eye on them, than to quarter some Cossacks practically on their doorsteps. The Cossacks were polite and caused no problems – except at night, when they drove their horses into the grain fields. What the horses ate was one thing. The real problem was the large areas of grain they left trampled down. After some time, probably having concluded that no collusion with the enemy was going on at Spurnal Manor, the Cossacks left.

With the end of the war, the last hours of Imperial Russia were at hand. Early in 1919, when roving bands of Red Militia, turned life on the open land dangerous for Manor owners, the family moved to Riga, where it was thought easier to remain inconspicuous. There was Juling 76, her elder stepdaughter Ello 49, and her younger stepdaughter Jenny 47, my grandmother, with her daughters, Else 22, Jenny 21, and Edith 16, my mother. Jenny's son Georg (Onkel Schorsch), 24, had quit his medical studies in Dorpat, and had joined the 'Landeswehr' (home defense), made up of Baltic German volunteers throughout Livonia and Estonia. This was not talked about; if it leaked out, it meant the death sentence for the whole family. Jenny's daughter Louise, 19, had already left the country with her fiancé Kasimir v. Wenzlawowicz, who had acquired a dark reputation with the Latvian population in 1905, when he had been a member of the 'Baltic Defense Force' (Selbstschutz). He would have been a death candidate, should he have fallen into the hands of the Reds.

Christine Davidson, completely loyal to the family, remained behind Spurnal. She was now 52, and well on her way to becoming known as "Old Christine". She was small, had an olive tint to her skin, and had black, piercing eyes. In her later years, she became humpbacked. She was hated by the other house personnel. Overestimating the depth of favor in which she stood with Juling, she had assumed virtual authority over the maids. She was safe from acts of revenge, since the people feared her: she was believed to be a witch, and to possess the evil eye.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Certainly, her appearance and mannerisms were right in line with this reputation. This reputation served Spurnal Manor well, during the time the Blessigs were away.

In Riga, the family was denounced to the Reds. With other Germans, manor owners, pastors, merchants, or simply intellectuals, they were jailed for 6 weeks in Riga's Central Jail. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1919, the Landeswehr, together with volunteer units of the regular German army, stormed one of the bridges across the Duena River, freed those incarcerated in the Central Jail, but came too late to do any good at the Citadel: here the Reds had had time to march off all the inmates.

With her daughters in mind, Jenny decided, after the liberation, to make her way to Misdroy in Mecklenburg, Germany, where a school for Baltic German refugees had been sponsored by public spirited people. Juling, Else and Ello returned to Spurnal. Except for Old Christine, a cat and a dog, they found Spurnal completely empty of any living thing. Red Militia bands had visited Spurnal during their absence, but thanks to Old Christine's fearlessness, her vituperative tongue, and the reputation having the evil eye, the house had been left untouched.

In Spurnal began a very difficult, slow return towards a modicum of normalcy. After word got around, that the 'Lielkundze' had returned, some loyal manor people returned by and by, even though they didn't have to, under the changed political situation; accordingly, they suffered from the hate and derision of their former fellow workers. No details of this difficult time have been handed down.

Thanks to Juling's reputation for fairness and good heartedness among the people, which, years ago, she also had shown to the political agitator of the area, 'Red Seisums', the local committee of liberated farmers, discussing the disposition of the Spurnal Manor house, decided that the Blessig ladies should be allowed to stay in the house for the remainder of their lives.

In 1924, Jenny's youngest daughter, Edith, graduated from high school in the 'Baltenschule' in Misdroy. She had been increasingly homesick for Spurnal and returned home that same year. A few years later, Jenny (my grandmother) herself, who had been running a small pension in Misdroy, finally returned. Her daughter Jenny had met and married Reinhardt v. Hansen, a bank employee in Misdroy. The v. Hansens took up residence in the Riga suburb Hagensberg. They and their children became regular summer guests at Spurnal. Tante Jenny, always lively, always happy, was our favorite auntie.

Edith took over the dairy work in Spurnal; she also worked in the barns and on the fields, earning the liking and respect of the people there.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Ello

In 1926, 15 years after Constantin, Juling passed away. Spurnal's reins changed into the hands of Ello, her older stepdaughter. Ello was a different nature from Juling. Managing the work in the house, in the fields and barns, even though it had become much less after the 1922 land reform, was almost too great a burden for her. Spurnal's land had been reduced from about 3,000 ha to a paltry 45 ha. Even at that, most of that land was leased out, since Spurnal could not afford to work all of it. There was only 1 old horse, a few cows and pigs, and some chickens. The animals occupying the barns were stock of the new settlers. Spurnal had income from the contract with the dairy at Daiben, collecting, testing, cream separating, the milk from all new settlers on former Spurnal lands, and transporting it to Daiben. Some money came from pigs, raised to a specific weight, then sold for export. There was also a special type of apple, which was collected and boxed with care (all bruising had to be avoided) then shipped to the German consulate in Riga. Finally, there was a small regular interest from the investment of an uncle. The money was hardly enough to supplement what was derived from the place. Most of it went to pay for work. The old system, in which all work performed on the manor was free, had died when Latvia became independent.

In 1928, Edith married the forestry civil servant Walter Gnadeberg. He was a restless man. As soon as the work in his district lost its challenging aspects, he had himself transferred to a new district. Thus, between 1930 and 1939, our family had lived in 7 different forestry stations.

With Edith moving out, the sisters Ello and Jenny, now 58 and 56, had lost their main help and support.

Summer in Spurnal was a time, when Ello often didn't know how to make do with the little money available. Every year members of the family installed themselves as summer guests in Spurnal, without a thought given to the extra burden this placed on Ello. Jenny and Ello discussed these problems between them, but, of course, nothing was mentioned to the guests. In those days, this just wasn't done. But it is clear, that the additional burden, on top of the many daily worries in the house and out in the fields, served to hasten the onset Ello's break down and subsequent demise. She was 63, when she passed away on 20. 4. 1933.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Jenny

Jenny, my grandmother, now took over Spurnal. Though lacking the experience of her sister Ello, she was by nature a more circumspect, relaxed person than older nervous, highly tense Ello had been. She was on good terms with the woman on the neighbor farmstead Sihmanen (a former Spurnal dependency), a kilometer west of Spurnal, on the Roop-Kegeln Road. When Jenny had problems with the work at Spurnal, she walked over to Sihmanen for advice.

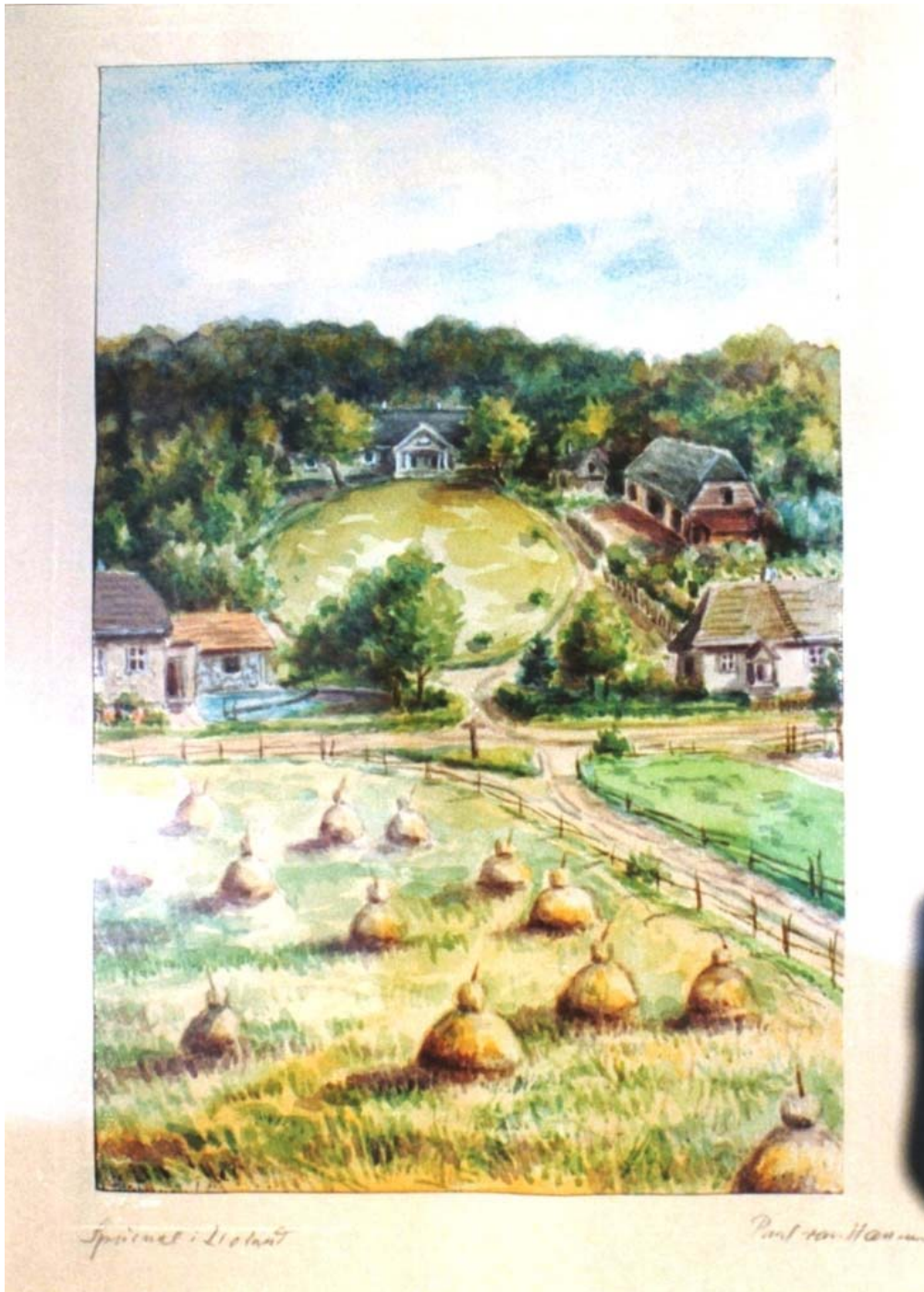
One permanent guest of late had been Tante Toni (Antonie Balding), a sister of Juling. Tante Toni, a frail, silent old lady, suffered from a heart condition, spending most of her days resting on a couchette. When Tante Toni passed away in September 1934, Jenny took in her spinster friend Erna Bluhm, to have company in the empty manor house. Tante Erna was a reticent very fragile old lady, nervous and easily hurt. As she spoke almost soundlessly, she was difficult to understand, but when one asked her to repeat what she had said she was liable to hurry out of the room, hurt. Tante Erna remained in Spurnal to the expatriation in 1939, accompanied Jenny to Germany, and then lived on Jenny's estate Ineshof in the Warthegau (Occupied Poland).

1936, 4. 7, Jenny's oldest daughter Else passed away in Riga, 39 years old.

In 1938, Jenny gave up whatever little had remained of her agricultural effort at Spurnal. She was 66. She leased the last of Spurnal's remaining land to Jehkabs Gaischais, an honest, reliable lessee of some Spurnal lands already in pre-war days. Old Hans, the last horse, and the two remaining cows, 'Cilla' and 'Smuidra' and a few chickens, she sent out to us, at 'Allasch' Forestry Station.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1939: Expatriation



Spurnal 1939, by Onkel Paul

In the fall of 1939, when the idea of expatriation to Germany became acute, my mother (Edith, youngest of Jenny's children) travelled to Spurnal to help her mother pack up and prepare to move out. Tante Erna, nervous, and disconcerted by the coming events, was of no help. My mother said, the familiar rooms in the 300-year-old house had an uneasy air about them, as if sensing the coming end of an era.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Old Christine lay dying in her room. She had firmly believed that Jenny would take her to Germany. When she finally understood that this was not to be, she told Jenny: 'Lielmate (grandmother) when you go, I will die.' She went to bed, turned her face to the wall, refused food and drink, and wouldn't talk to anyone anymore. The loss of face in front of the other maids, their spiteful leers, now that the hated self-proclaimed favorite, who had lorded it over them for so long, had finally been cast down into the dust, must have been hard to bear. My grandmother left Spurnal on 26th October 1939. On 29<sup>th</sup> October, Old Christine passed away in her room, aged 73. She is buried in St. Catharines cemetery, 2 km from the house, where she had served so faithfully for 61 long years.

In the first week of November 1939, my grandmother and Erna Bluhm, my parents and our family, Tante Jenny v. Hansen and hers, together with many others on the cruise ship 'General Steuben', left our home country forever.



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Afterwards:

In June 1992, Brigitte Leibbrand, nee v. Hansen (my cousin), and her brother Jobst v. Hansen visited Spurnal. According to the Blessig heritage sequence, Jobst v. H. would now have been owner of Spurnal, had the manor still existed as Blessig property. My cousin Brigitte had invited me to join her and Jobst on this visit.

Over the years since 1939, time had not been kind to Spurnal. Since 1949, the house didn't exist anymore. Young birch trees were growing in its former location, interspersed with unsightly piles of building materials of the new settlers. Potato fields crowded against the foundation remnants of the old cow barn and storage rooms. Barbed wire crossed hither and yon. Of the apple orchard, only a few gnarled trees survived. The workers' houses at the Roop-Kegeln road were crumbling to pieces. A sad picture. A depressing feeling.

My cousins struck up a conversation with Jekab Gaischais long time lessee of Spurnal lands, now 80 years old. Since I had forgotten my Latvian, my cousin, every so often, kept me up to date with the run of the conversation. Jekabs related that the Spurnal people for many years expected to hear from the Blessigs. They were ignorant of the fact that neither mail exchange with nor travel to Soviet Latvia was possible.

### The hidden cache under the Veranda

When one day in 1958 several men in a car appeared in Spurnal, the people first assumed they were Blessigs. 'They weren't Russians', Jekabs said. For a car to show up in the area was a rarity in itself and one viewed with apprehension, since with a car usually came official unpleasantness of one kind or another.

It seems those men, without talking to anybody, made straight for the remnants of the front verandah foundations. From a place in the foundations, seemingly already familiar to them, they removed 'many rolls of paper (Parchment? Among them perhaps the original deed of enfeoffment?) and much money.' I would have liked to hear more detail, for instance, whether the money was Tsarist paper money, or coins, silver or otherwise, which would have given a clue as to the time this cache had been established. However, this didn't seem to interest Cousin Jobst, who changed the conversation to another subject. The talk went on endlessly, without a chance to ask more questions.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Our visit to Latvia was only of short duration. The hope to talk more fully on the subject with Jekab on a next visit to Latvia came to naught. Before it came to that ‘next visit’, Jekabs and his wife Alwine, were murdered in their home during a robbery.

My interest in this story goes back to a remark my mother had made years ago, in a conversation about the old days in Spurnal. She mentioned that the grandfather (Constantin) had ‘hidden some papers at that time.’ There was only one time during Constantin’s tenure in Spurnal, when it might have made sense to hide something really well: that was during the 1905 Revolution. My mother must have heard about these ‘hidden papers’ much later, since she was just 2 years old in 1905. When Constantin died in 1911, she was 8.

Assuming Constantin to be the one to hide those items, the question arises, why he didn’t retrieve the contents of this hide-away, once times had normalized? Or had he already forgotten about it 6 years later, when he passed away. Since it was a matter of documents and much money, this is hard to imagine.

To establish the cache, Constantin must have chosen someone among his workers he highly trusted.

Perhaps this man, possibly on his death bed, betrayed the trust Constantin had placed in him, and passed the secret on to a son, who eventually shared it with others, so that the story eventually reached the ears of the authorities, which then came to investigate.

Who else could have been the originator of this cache? Neither Christoph Proebsting, who had built the manor house, nor the von Ceumerns, or the Querfeldts, appear to have had good reason to establish such a cache.

If we assume that, at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, ex-Colonel v. Cronstierna had secreted something away in Spurnal, perhaps his family in Sweden knew about it. Sweden was a neutral country during WW II. Is it possible, the Soviet secret service apparatus might have made an exception, and allowed descendants of the v. Cronstiernas into Latvia? Highly improbable. But if the cache was made by the ex-Colonel, the contents could hardly have been anything but documents relating to the ‘v. Patkul intrigues’, and hardly money, from the lack of which the ex-Colonel had suffered all his days.

There is another possibility: disregarding Jekab’s story, perhaps the Spurnal people, salvaging timbers and boards from the house (terminally damaged in 1949, by that old Silver Maple crashing into the south gable), perhaps they themselves had hit on the cache. This makes more

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

sense, than some strangers arriving in a car. Of course, it doesn't solve the intriguing question of who the originator of this hiding place and its contents was. If the money found consisted of coins, surely the finders would have helped themselves, leaving the (parchment?) rolls to the elements.

*Whatever it was, whoever placed it there: Gone with the wind. Gone forever.*

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

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## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Anna Blessig, 3.1.1947, letter to 'Toenchen'

Sophie Heerwagen, 6.6.1920, letter to Ida Gaethgens

Elsa Heerwagen, 20.4.1933 letter to Helena Herwagen

Sabine Roeder, geb. Frein v. Tiesenhausen, 2004, letter to Gustav Gnadeberg

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Edith Ursula Gnadeberg, geb. Blessig, \* 1903 + 1982

Brigitte Lebrandt, geb. v. Hansen

Bernd Leibbrandt

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# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Personalalia: The Game Players

**Blessig, Constantin Ernst**, \* 9.10.1828, St.Petersburg, + 24.5.1911, Spurnal

Mag.Zool. Arrendator von Kawershof 1868-1877. Besitzer von Spurnal 1876-1911

Papendorf Kirchenvorsteher, 1886-1892

oo 1. 12.6.1868 Johanna Wilhelmine Heerwagen, \* 29.6.1837, Klein Roop, + 22.5.1872, Kawershof

1 Emilie (Elli) Nancy Elfriede, \* 21.5.1870, Kawershof, + 20.4.1933 Stackeln

Besitzerin von Spurnal 1926-1933

2 Leontine (Jenny) Johanna, 18.2.1872, Kawershof, + 2.5.1949, Berlin

Besitzerin von Spurnal 1933-1939

oo 26.9.1894 Alexander Blessig, \* 23.2.1859, Jdsel, + 8.9. 1904, Ramelshof

1 Georg Philipp Jacob, \* 30.8.1895, Tscheremykino + 7.10.1919, Riga

2 Elsbeth (Else) Elfriede, \* 27.12.1897, Tscheremykino, + 4.7.1936, Riga

3 Jenny Sophie, 27.6.1898, Tscheremykino, + 7.6.1978, Bielefeld

oo 4.2.1924 Reinhard v.Hansen, \* 17.9.1892, + 1945, Posen

4 Louise Cassandra, \* 6.1.1900, Tscheremykino, + 2.10.1984

oo 19.1.1919 Kasimir v.Wenzlawowicz, \* 12.3.1880, Riga, + 1.8.1959

5 Edith Ursula, \* 1.11.1903, Tscheremykino, + 26.3.1982, Maple Ridge, Canada

oo 15.7.1928 Erwin Walter Gnadeberg, \* 29.9.1893, Port Kunda, + 17.6.1960, Klein Buensdorf

(Vorher: oo ? 9.1919 Tatjans Akaschewa, 5.1.1901, + 1983, Adelaide

Geschieden 3.7.1924

1 Margarita Irene (Rita), \* 7.7.1920, + 24.5.2002 Adelaide

2 Olga Hedwig Waltraut (Traute), \* 23.12.1921, + 5.12.1978 Wittmund

oo 2. 15.2.1879 Julie Therese Louise Balding, 10.6.1842, Kokenhof, + 17.8.1926, Spurnal

Besitzerin von Spurnal 1911-1926

**Blessig, Georg**, \* 3.11.1830, St.Petersburg, + 19.1.1884, Ramelshof

Gutsbesitzer, Kirchspielsgericht, Assessor Wenden-Walk Kreisgericht, Arrasch Kirchspielvorsteher

oo 4.9.1856 Cassandra Julie Balding, 5.10.1836, Kokenhof, + 22.3.1918, Wenden

1 Natalie Charlotte Amalie, 31.7.1857, + 7.6.1898

2 Alexander, \* 23.2.1859, Jdsel, + 8.9.1904, Ramelshof

3 Jenny Reinholda, \* 4.9.1860, Jdsel

4 Elsbeth, \* 18.11.1862, Jdsel, + 31.1.1926, Zittau

5 Sophie, \* 2.1.1865, Ramelshof, + 30.1.1929, Zittau

6 Wilhelm, \* 7.8.1866, Ramelshof, + 7.4.1939, Guestrow

7 Edith, \* 13.12.1869, Ramelshof

**Buddenbrock** Anna v., geb. v.Tiesenhausen, \* 1559 + bevor 1654

Vater: Reinhold v.Tiesenhausen Mutter: Anna Gutzleff

oo 1587, Otto v.Buddenbrock, auf Puickeln, Spurnal & Newe, \* 1555 + after 1625

Sohn: Johann v.Buddenbrock auf Buddenbrockshof, Puickeln & Newe, \* ? + vor 15.11.1670

**Campenhausen**, Johann Christoph v., auf Randen \* 5.3.1716, Koenigsberg + 3.12.1782, Riga

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Ritter, Regierungsrath, nachmalig Wirklicher Geheimrath

1 oo Catharina Elisabeth v.Zimmermann, \* betw. 1684 & 1744, + ????.1755, in ?

1 Barbara Helene, \* ????.????, + ????.????, in ?

oo Budberg, Otto Friedrich, Baron, \* 2.1.1700, + 2.4.1755, in ?

Ordnungsrichter zu Treyden

1 Otto Christoph, \* ????.????, + ????.????

Landrichter

2 Dorothea Elisabeth, 26.7.1742, + 20.3.1806, in Tirsen

oo 26.3.1761 Ceumern, Carl Ernst v. \* 4.7.1734, + 13.4.1791, in Tirsen

Brigadier

2 oo Sophie Elisabeth v.Mengden

1 Catharina Dorothea

oo Berg, Friedrich v., auf Erlaa

2 Sophie Elisabeth Therese

oo Budberg, Woldemar Diedrich v., auf Kegeln

**Ceumern** Caspar Gustav v. \* ?? , + 1.2.1754, bestattet im Nachtigall Begraebnis

Landrath

oo ??

1.Gustav \* ca.1689 + 10.7.1747, in Trikaten

Cornett. Kirchenvorsteher in Trikaten

oo ca. 1709, Ebba Juliane v.Clodt- Juergensburg, \* 25.7.1693 + 7.9.1763, in Orgishof

Cornettin, Erbfrau auf Spurnal

Begraben im spurnalschen Erbbegraebnis, Papendorf Kirche

Vater: Schwedischer Capitain & holsteinscher Kammerjunker, Ordnungsrichter Carl Gustav Baron

Clodt auf Juergensburg.

1 **Ebba Juliane**, \* ca. 1710 + 1780 in Puickeln

oo 14.4.1747 Ernst Reinhold v.Klodt, + 1777 in Puickeln

Lieutenant

1 Gustav Wilhelm, getauft 16.2.1749, Eckhof, + 17.7.1754, an Pocken, begr. Trikaten

Gewoelbe

2 Catharine Elisabeth Emma, getauft 3.2.1750, Eckhof, + 17.7.1754, an Pocken, begr.

Trikaten Gewoelbe

3 Ebba Agneta, getauft 10.1.1751, Eckhof

4 Burchard Ernst, getauft 1.2.1752, Eckhof

Kind war sehr schwach; begraben, Loesern Kirche

5 Burchard Johann Reinhold, getauft 3.3.1754, Eckhof

6 Helena Juliane, getauft 7.4.1757, Puickeln

Paten:

Helena Sabine v.Weissmann, geb.v.Ceumern

Frl.Ebba aus Weissensee (Tochter von Helena Sabine v.Weissmann)

2 **Ulrica Carolina Frl.**, \* ca. 1712, + Todesdatum fehlt

Besitzerin von Spurnal 1780-1806(?)



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### 3 **Helena Sabine**, \* 1717, + 20.2.1780, in Breslau

oo Adam Johann v.Weissmann, \* 1696

Oberstlieutenant

- 1 Otto Adolph, General
- 2 Gustav Emmanuel, Oberst
- 3 Frank Gotthardt, Major
- 4 Ebba

Die Namen sind nicht in der Reihenfolge des Alters. Alter dieser Personen sind nicht bekannt

### 4 **Louise Gertruda**, \* 1720 ?

oo Wilhelm Johann v.Klot auf Laitzen-Neuhof

Assessor

- 1 Carl Valentin, \* 30.6.1743 + 7.7.1743
- 2 Johann Adam, \* 29.12.1744 + 6.1.1745
- 3 Christer Wilhelm, \* 16.4.1746 + 16.4.1746
- 4 Burchard Ernst, \* 29.9.1747 + 4.10.1747

### 5 **Dorothea Sophia Frl.**, \* 1722, + 1798, Spurnal

### 6 **Christine Charlotte**, \* 9.5.1723 + 5.4.1824

oo 7.10.1758, Rembert v.Funcke auf Loesern, Eckhof & Ohlenhof, \* 1685 + 30.8.1752, Lysohn

Ordnungsrichter

- 1 Juliana Margaretha, \* 26.12.1761, Loesern
- 2 Ebba Catharina, \* 19.12.1762, Loesern; + 15.10.1770, Loesern
- 3 Gsstav Rembert, \* 20.5.1768, Loesern; + 15.10.1770, Loesern
- 4 Wilhelm Johann, \* 23.10.1771, Loesern; + 9.9.1769, Loesern (Zwilling)
- 5 Otto Johann, \* 23.10.1771, Loesern; + 29.11.1771, Loesern (Zwilling)
- 6 Johanna, \* 1771, Loesern; + 1771, Loesern
- 7 Johanna Auguste, \* 29.1.1773, Loesern
- 8 Ulrica Augusta, \* 20.1.1774, Loesern

### 7 **Adam Burchard**, \* 19.6.1727 + 8.5.1789, Orgishof

Major der Artillerie

oo Sophia Elisabeth v.Lindenstjern, + 5.11.1795

- 1 Anna Sophia, \* 24.10.1757, Orgishof
- 2 Barbara Lucia, \* 4.12.1758, Orgishof
- 3 Johanna Elisabeth, \* 15.12.1759, Orgishof
- 4 Caspar August, \* 17.6.1761, Orgishof
- 5 Martha Juliane, \* 29.7.1762, Orgishof
- 6 Maria Carolina, \* 31.7.1763, Orgishof ( nicht Maria, Ulrica ?)
- 7 Adam Burchard, \* 28.9.1764, Orgishof
- 8 Carl Emmanuel, \* 13.12.1766, Orgishof
- 9 Gustav Conrad, \* 28.6.1768, Orgishof

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

8 **Johanna Auguste**, \* 1730, + 1.6.1780, Druwehn

oo 7.6.1760 Wilhelm v.Meyer (2. Ehe), \* 1725 + 1.4.1779, Druwehn

Assessor

1 Valentin Burchard, \* 2.6.1762, Druwehn; + 5.5.1781, Druwehn/Lysohn, (Jagdunglueck)

2 Juliane Ulrica, \* 24.10.1765, Druwehn; + 23.12.1766, in Druwehn

9 **Gerdrutha Frl.**, \* 20.3.1732 + 27.6.1803, Spurnal

10 **Christiana**, \* 1733 + 27.8.1756, Druwehn (Starb nach der Geburt eines Sohnes,

bestattet in Wellan Kirche, im v.meyerschen Erbbegraebnis.

oo 25.2.1753 Wilhelm v.Meyer (1. Ehe), \* 1725 + 1.4.1779, Druwehn

Assessor

1 Ebba Agneta Juliane, \* 17.9.1754, Druwehn; + 29.1.1755, Druwehn

11 **Carl Ernst**, \* 4.7.1734 + 13.4.1791, Tirsen

Brigadier

oo 26.3.1761, Dorothea Elisabeth v.Budberg, \* 26.7.1742 + 20.3.1806, Tirsen

1 Barbara Elisabeth, \* 1762, Kegeln

2 Carolina, \* 1764, Kegeln

3 Helena, \* 1766, Kegeln; + 10.9.1769, Kegeln

4 Carl Ernst, \* 1769 Kegeln; + 1769, 8 Stunden alt, Kegeln. Begraben im spurnalschen Erbbegraebnis, Papendorf Kirche

5 Alexander Woldemar, \* 22.11.1771, Kegeln, + 11.1.1799, Erlaa. Begraben im Tirsen Erbbegraebnis

6 Helena Johanna, \* ????.1775

7 Carl Adam Wilhelm, \* 16.4.1777, Dutkenschof

8 Gustav Otto, \* 27.4.1778, Dutkenschof

9 Sophia Charlotte, \* 18.8.1780, Dutkenschof; + 24.11.1782 Dutkenschof

10 Louisa Johanna, \* 19.6.1782, Dutkenschof

11 Alexander Rembert, \* 2.12.1789, Loesern (?)

2. **Johanna Juliane v.** \* ???.1.1694, + 17.4.1769

Schwester des Cornett's Gustav v.Ceumern

oo Valentin v.Meyer, \* ????.1695, + 30.8.1752, Lysohn

Ordnungsrichter

1 Valentin, 16.5.1733, Tirsen (?)

**Cronstierna** – siehe **Proebsting** Ursula

**Kluever** Johann v. auf Spurnal, \* ?, + 1722

Capitain. Besitzer von Spurnal. Daten sind nicht ueberliefert.

oo Helene v.Rehbinder

Tochter: Margaretha Elisabeeth, Erbin von Loewenkuell & Ropenhof, \* 15.11.1713, + 18.4.1745

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

oo Otto Reinhold Kruedener auf Rosenblatt, \* ca. 1700, + 12.1.1781

1 Heinrich Johann, \* ??, + ??

2 Sohn, Fehlgeburt, 18.4.1747. Mutter starb nach der Geburt

**Kruedener** Friedrich v. auf Rosenbeck, bekannt 1559-1596, + vor 1598

1.oo Elisabeth v.Rosen, + nach 1567

Vater: Juergen v.Rosen auf Mojahn, Mutter: Gertrud v.Tiesenhausen

2.oo 15.1.1571, Anna v.Tiesenhausen

Vater: Heinrich v.Tiesenhausen auf Bersohn ( + 1600), Mutter: Dorothea v.Rosen

Es ist angenommen, dass Adelheid v.Kruedener aus der ersten Ehe von Friedrich v.Kruedener stammte

**Mengden** Friedrich Baron,

Major & Erbherr auf Spurnal.

oo Anna Catherina Wolff

1 Magnus Reinhold, + 16.8.1755, 1 Jr. alt, in Spurnal. Beigesetzt 19.8. im voelkersamschen Erbbegraebnis (Aeltester Sohn)

2 Leonhard Magnus, + 29.8.1757, 1 Jr. alt, in Spurnal. Begraben 2.9.

3 Carl Friedrich, + 28.6.1758, auf Sinohlen. 2 ½ Jr. alt. Am 4.2. begraben, Papendorf Kirche, Patkulsches Erbbegraebnis

**Patkul** Andreas v. auf Jaunekalpen, \* ? + ?

Vater; Johann v.Patkull III, \* ? + 1601, Mutter: Maria Overlacker

oo Adelheid verw.v.Tiesenhausen, geb.v.Kruedener

**Patkull** Johann Reinhold v., \* 24.7.1660 + 9.9.1707

Besitzer v.Kegeln. Intrigierte gegen die Gueter Reduktion Schwedens in Livland

Mit ein Urheber des Nordischen Krieges, 1700-1720

**Proebsting** Christoph, \* ? + nach 1647

Besitzer von Spurnal 1633-nach 1647

Vererbt Spurnal an Ursula v.Cronstierna, geb.Proebsting

**Proebsting** Heinrich

Rigischer Buerger

Pfandbesitzer von Proebstinghof, 1604-1630

**Proebsting** Ursula, \* ? + 3.8.1657

Besitzerin v.Spurnal ? – 1657; vererbt Spurnal an ihren Gemahl

oo ca.1631, Henrik v.Cronstierna, \* 1602 + 5.5.1678

Kriegskommissar

Livlnd. Landmarschall 1646-1678

Besitzer von Proebstinghof 1646-5.5.1678

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Besitzer von Spurnal 3.8.1657 – 5.5.1678

1 Marten, \* ??, + 1689

Obrist

oo 1671 Gertrud Berendes, \* 1643, + 1696

1 Carl Henrik, \* 1673, + 1.6.1717

Obrist

oo 11.11.1716 Maria Beata Posse

2 Marten, \* 1682, + 1752

Generalmajor

00 Margareta Elisabet v.Sturtz, + 17.1756

3 Catharina Juliana, + 14.3.1756

oo 1700 Otto Johann Stiernhielm, + 1713

Capitain

2 Henrik v., \*1634 + nach 1694

Obrist, Landrat 1686, Besitzer von Spurnal 1682-nach 1694.

oo Unbekannt

1 Ursula

oo Ernst Johann v.Mengden, \* 1651

2 Anna Catharina

oo Erik Stiernhielm

Capitain

3 Abraham

Obrist

4 Maria Catarina, + 1695

oo Henrik Nassokin, + 1690

Oberstlieutenant

5 Margareta

oo Carl Friedrich Schultz von Ascheraden, \* 1656, + 1728

Freiherr, Oberstlieutenant, Landrat

6 Tochter

oo Engelbrecht Vilhelm Meck

Obrist

7 Tochter

oo Jakob Scott

Obrist

**Sedeck, gen.Querfeld, Ernst Conrad v.d.** \* 3.8.1765, + 23.4.1854

oo 1799, Charlotte Barbara Holtzhausen, \* 7.10.1766, + 14.3.1837

1 Gottfried Conrad, \* 26.11.1799, + 13.11.1840

2 August Conrad, \* 9.7.1801, + 16.7.1860

oo 24.9.1831, Caroline Henriette Stieda, \* 25.4.1812, + 15.6.1871

1 Charlotte Auguste Elisabeth, \* 7.8.1832, + ??

2 Ernst Conrad Ludwig, 13.12.1834, + 18.10.1892

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

- 3 Carl Herrmann, \* 15.9.1836, + 8.3.1837
- 4 Anna Amalie Mathilde, \* 28.4.1839, + 8.12.1825
- 5 Johanna Carolina, \* 15.11.1840, + 1917
- 6 Herrmann Adolphh, \* 27.9.1842, + 5.4.1885
- 7 Alexandra Wilhelmine, \* 1.9.1844, + 1929
- 8 Conrad August Alexander, \* 3.1.1849, + 2.12.1855
- 9 Aluguste Elise, \* 2.9.1851, + 13.6.1923

### **Schroeder** Wilhelm

Besitzer von Spurnal 1740

Besitzer von Proebstinhof von ? bis ?

1760. Die Erben von Johann Wilhelm Schroeder verkaufen Proebstinghof an die Stadt Riga.

### **Tiesenhausen** Georg (Juergen) v., Hrzgl.kurlaend.Rat&Kanzler, \*1537 + 16.12.1608,

1.oo Barbara v.Schwarzhoff (Mutter eine geb.v.Buddenbrock)

2.oo 1591, Margarete (Maye) v.Tiesenhausen

### **Tiesenhausen** Wilhelm v. zu Odensee&Spurnal \*1536 + 1587

1.oo Dorothea v.Drolshagen

2.oo Adelheid v. Kruedener, \* ? + ?

Vater: angenommen Friedrich v.Kruedener, Mutter: angenommen Elisabeth v.Rosen

### **Zimmermann** Diedrich, \* 22.1.1681 + 13.9.1740

Rathsherr zu Riga

Besitzer von Kruedenershof

oo Anna Dorothea v. Rauert

1 Diedrich, \* , + 5.6.1750.

Braunschweig-Lueneburgscher Legationsath.

Besitzer von Spurnal, 13.9.1740 – 5.6.1750.

2 Tochter, Catharina Elisabeth, oo Geheimrat Johann Christoph v.Campenhausen -1760

Erbte Kegeln, wahrscheinlich auch Spurnal, von ihrem Bruder Diedrich.

3 Tochter, Martha Johanna, oo Johann Georg v. Albedyll

Erbte Podsem, Waidau & Welckenhof von ihrem Bruder Diedrich

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Spurnal Dependencies according to the 1795 Census

Compiled by the then Spurnal field manager, Carl Bernhard Gregory.

Owner of the Manor, 1780-1806: the Miss Ulrika Carolina von Ceumern, and her sisters Dorothea Sophia and Gerdrutha von Ceumern

### The Spurnal Dependencies within Papendorf parish:

i. e. Spurnal Manor dependent farmsteads situated within Papendorf Parish, and sub-estate and 2 nebst 2 Kruegen, und einer Hoflage:

Hoflage Annenhof

1. Sihman
2. Wannag
3. Waitschak
4. Lappain
5. Pakundsen
6. Smilten
7. Baike
8. Kurpnieks (Lage auf 1798 & 1927 Karten nicht zu ermitteln;)
9. Kohwaren
10. Krauten
11. Kausche
12. Ihben
13. Yukkan
14. Daukschen
15. Ohlektin
- Bahlin Krug (1927 heisst der Ort Kunnis)
- Balte Krug

### as Spurnalsche Gehorch im Kirchspiel Roop:

I. e. m Kirchspiel Roop gelegene, Spurnal zugehoerige Gesinde:

16. Muhrnek
17. Pitzull
18. Kewing
19. Biesel
20. Yokkum

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**Nota bene:** Die Gesinde No. 16 bis 20 sind einer von 2 Teilen des einstigen Gutes Kruedenershof/Inzeem, der ca. zwischen 1740 und 1750 von Diederich v. Zimmermann, Lueneburg-Braunschweiger Legationsrat, damaliger Eigentüemer von Spurnal, dem Gut Spurnal als Jaegel-Muhrnek angegliedert wurde. Seitdem ist Spurnal-Muhrnek der korrekte Titel von Spurnal.

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Spurnal Manor Boundaries

### Boundaries according to 1860 Manor Plan

Total Area: 3,197 ha

Main Manor Area: Perimeter: 23,133 m Area: 2,422 ha

#### Isolated Parcels:

Total Area: 775 ha

#### Within Roop Parish:

‘Uskalneek’ (7 Farmsteads): 562 ha

#### Rosenbeck Area:

Muhrneek 86 ha Erglukaln: 27 ha Bahlin Roadhouse: 40 ha

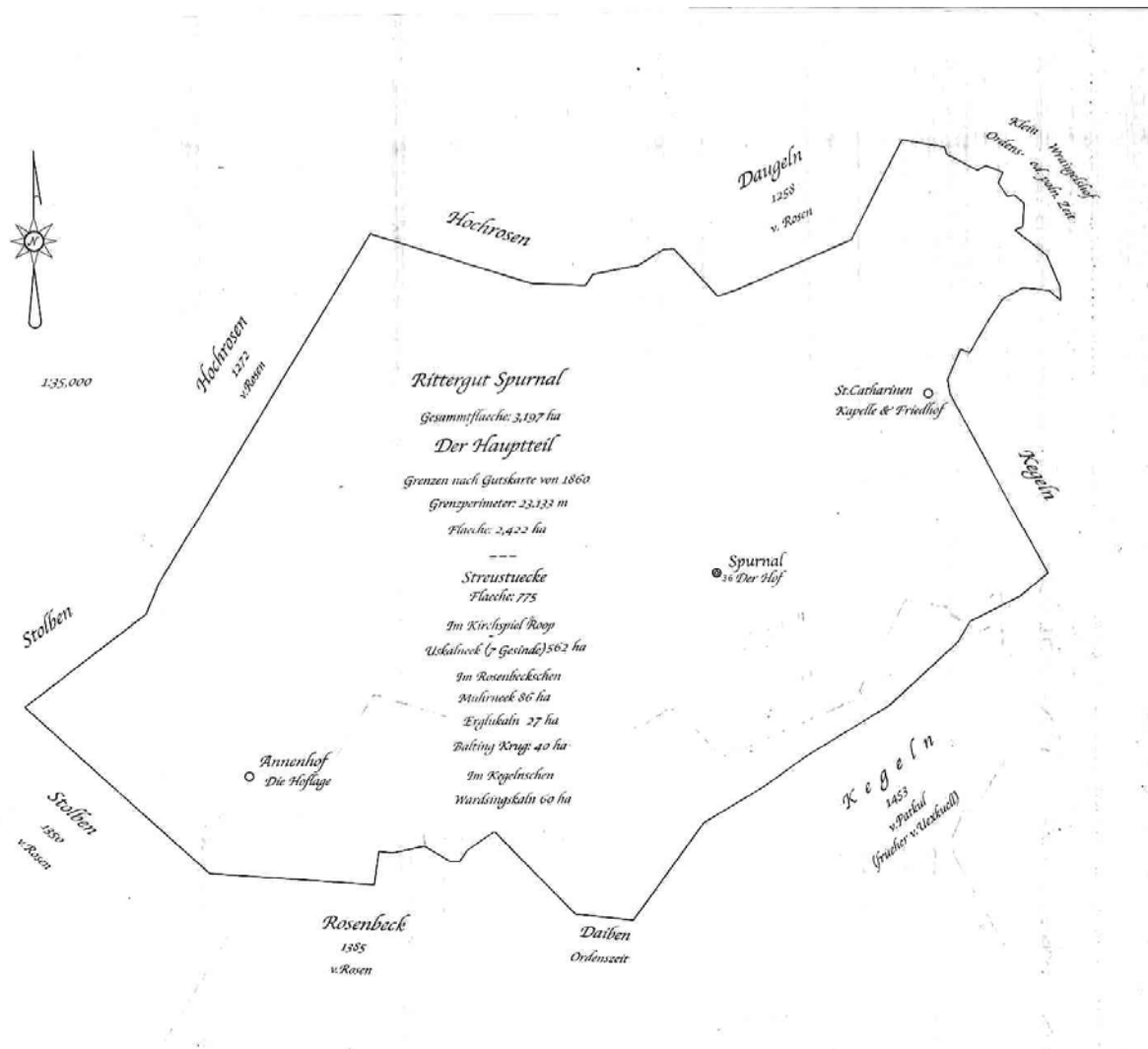
#### Kegeln Area:

Wardsingskaln: 60 ha

#### Shown on Map:

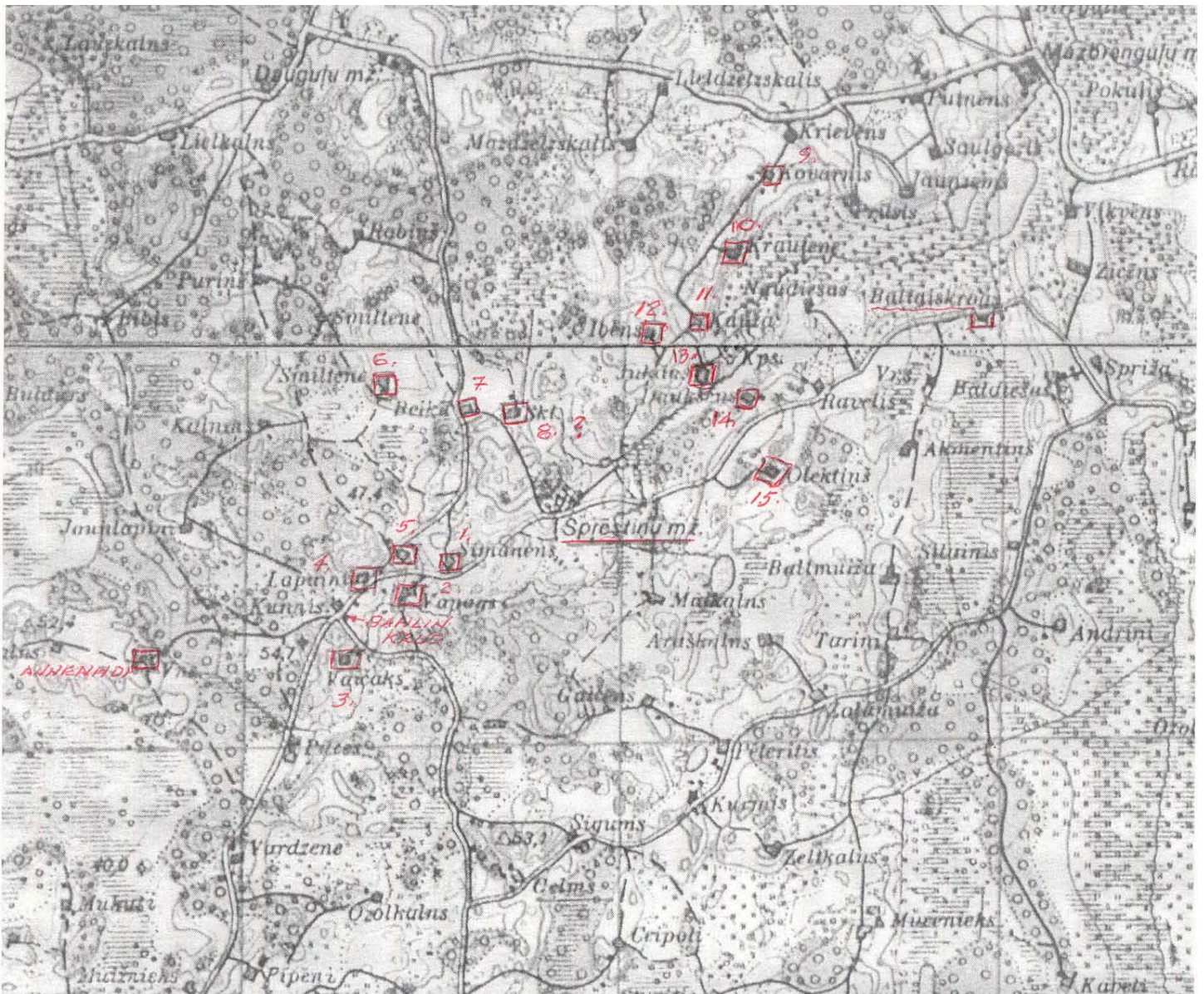
Spurnal, Manor House Area St. Catharines, Chapel & cemetery (1630) Annenhof, Sub-Estate

**Main Area extents: approx 8km long, 5km wide**



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

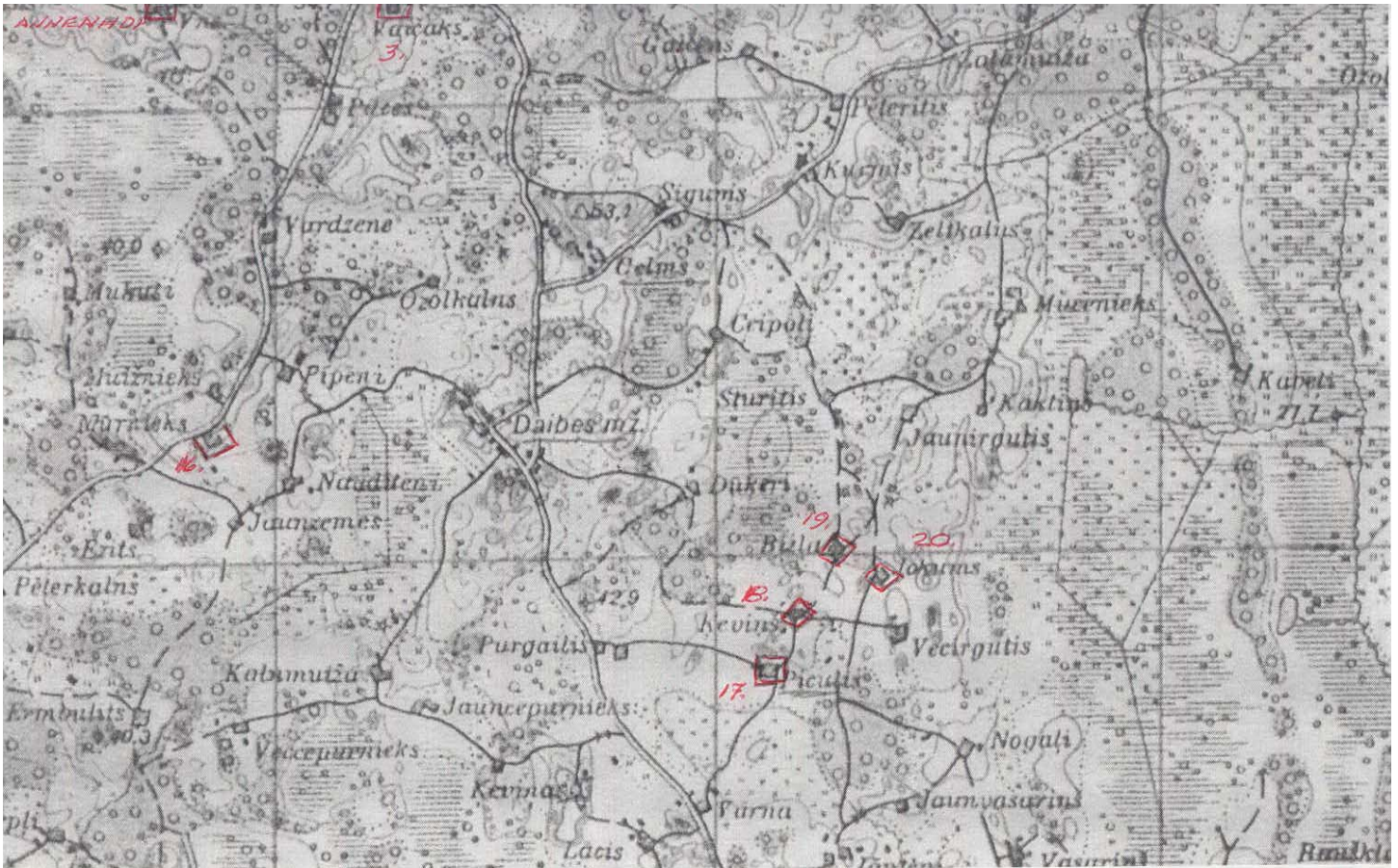
## Spurnal Manor Dependencies



Papendorff Dependencies



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



1 KM = 27 mm

GESINDE 1-15 IM KIRCHSPIEL PÄPENDERF (LAGE VON \*8 (KURDNIERS) NICHTSICHER)  
 GEBIRDE 16-20 \* \* \* \* \* GROSS-ROOP.  
 BAHN KRUG & BALTAIS KRUG GEBÖREN ZU SPURNAL

DIE KARTE IST JAHRGANG 1927.

Roop Dependencies

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Papendorff (Rubene) Church

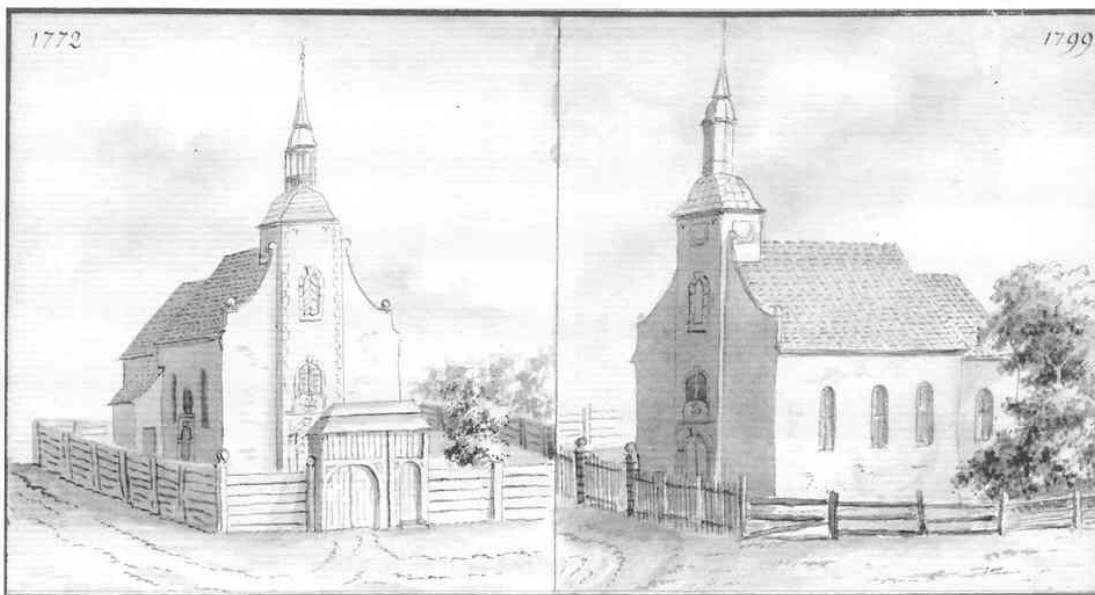
In 1208, the priest and later author of the Livonian Chronicle, Henry of Latvia, gathered Latgalian in the ancient Ymera municipality, which is the origin of the Christian congregation tradition in Rubene.

The present-day church dates from 1739 but includes a 14<sup>th</sup> century altar.

Patron of the church was Kegeln Manor. The owner, Riga City Councillor Diederich v. Zimmermann had the stone church built.

- Chairman of congregation: Julius Irmer/Kegeln, Rosenblatt & Spurnal ( + 1869).

- Constantin Ernst Blessig/Spurnal was chairman 1886-1892



241  
VIII, 105

#### Die Papendorfsche Kirche. 1772, 1799.

Man siehet hier diese 93 Werst von Riga am Wolmarschen Wege gelegne Kirche von 2 Seiten zu verschiedenen Zeiten gezeichnet, nemlich 1772 und 1799. Diese Kirche, welche vorher von Holz war, ist Anno 1739 von Stein erbaut worden. Ueber der Hauptthüre

ist das Zimmermannsche Wapen zu sehen; daher ich vermuthete, daß der Legationsrath von Zimmermann, welcher Podsen und Waidau besaß, sie aus eignen Mitteln habe erbauen lassen.

Dubeneck, Beschreibung 1772, um 1799, S. 15

Papendorf Church, 1772, 1799

One sees this church, sketched from 2 sides, at 2 different times (namely, 1772 and 1799), situated on the Wolmar Road, 93 Verst from Riga. This church, previously made of wood, was in stone Anno 1739. Above the main entrance, the Zimmermann coat of arms can be seen, from which it is assumed, that Counselor of Legations von Zimmermann, who owned Podsen and Waidau, had the church built with his own resources.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



242  
VIII, 163

### **Prospect der Papendorfschen Kirche, 93 Werst von Riga. 1799.**

Diese Kirche ist 1739 von einem Hr. von Zimmermann erbaut, deßen Wapen auch über der Hauptthüre in Stein gehauen zu sehen ist. Sie war ehemals ganz mit schwarz glasierten Dachpfannen gedeckt; jetzt ist

aber nur die hier zu sehende Seite des Dachs schwarz, die andre Seite aber aus Mangel an schwarzen Dachpfannen roth gedeckt. Die hier zu sehenden Gebäude gehören zum Pastorat, welches von Holz ist.

View of Papendorf Church, 93 Verst from Riga, 1799.

This church was built in 1739 by a Mr. v. Zimmeermann, whose coat of arms, chiseled in stone, can be seen above the main entrance. The church was formerly roofed with black glazed roof tiles. however, now only the here visible side of the roof is black; the other side is roofed red, because of lack of black tiles. The buildings (in the background), are part of the Manse, which is made of wood.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia



**Rubene (Papendorff) Church today.**

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia Papendorff Parish Census 1795 – Spurnal Manor

Anno 1795, 20th April, I the undersigned, Field Manager of the Hereditary Manor Spurnall, of the sibling sisters Misses von Ceumern, which is situated partly in Papendorff Parish and partly in Roop Parish; in the District of Wolmar and under Riga Governorship; pursuant to the order of His Imperial Majesty of 23rd Junius 1794, issued to the attention of everyone, this task of the above Manor Spurnall, at the last Census of 1782 for the Head Tax registered persons and peasants drawn up, and those who have left for various reasons, as well as listed those born or moved to the Manor after the Census, most faithfully and without any dissimulation. Should someone in future prove me as untrue, or, after investigation, it should be found that I have dissembled, I will subject myself unsparingly to the punishment prescribed under the law.

Carll Bernhard Gregorie

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks.
<hr/>			
<hr/>			

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

<u>Nobility</u>		
Miss Ulrica Carolina von Ceumern	65	78
Miss Dorothea Sophie von Ceumern	54	67
Miss Gerdrutha von Ceumern	45	58
<u>Germans and Free Persons</u>		
The Butler Johann Essert	47	Died 1788
His wife Anna	45	58
His children		
Son Adam Burchardt	15	Left the country in 1793
Daughters 1. Johanna Catrine	18	31
2. Caroline Beathe	3	18
Leberecht Birck	60	Died 1782
Field Manager Carll Bernhard Gregorie		36
his son Alexander Reinhold		2
<u>Servants</u>		
The Gardener Piddrick	48	61
His wife Mareth	42	55
Their children		
Sons 1. Otto	4	17
2. Mickell		12
3. Jures		9
Daughter 1. Trutha		Currently in Krauten, married to Johann
2. Triene	2	15
Coachman Jurris	38	51
His wife Triene	32	45
Their children		
Sons 1. Willum	3	16
2. Mart		7
Daughter 1. Anne	1	14
2. Sappe	32	45
3. Dahrte		2 1/2
Cook Mickell	32	45
His wife Lehne	37	50
Sons 1. Jahnne	7	Ran away in 1792
2. Indrik	5	18
3. Karls	3	16
4. Piddrick	1	14
Cowherd Jacob	62	Died 1783
His wife Ilse	54	Died 1784
One daughter		Went to Yukkans dependency, married to Otto
One widow Masche	65	Died 1786
Maid Masche	50	63

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Maid Tiege			Presently in Kurpnik dependency, married to Jahn
Maid Katsche			Presently to Pakkundsens dependency, married to Krische
Miller Jahn	39		Died 1795
His wife Sappe	34	47	
Sons 1. Jurris	1 1/2	14 1/2	
2. Jahns		10	
One daughter Anne		8	
The miller's mother, Liese	68		Died 1795
Children nurse Triene			Presently in Watzug dependency, married to Ansch

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
In Manor Spurnal, insofar as it belongs to Papendorfer Parish, there are the following Dependencies			
<u>1. In Siemans Dependency</u>			
Head of household Peter	58	71	
His wife Kadsche	53	66	
Their sons 1. Juris	19		Ran away in 1795
His wife Triene	13	26	
One son Jurre		3	
One daughter Marie		1	
Maid Triene	17		To Rosenbeck Parish, married to Jahn
Perer's Mother Anne	84		Died 1784
One son Jacobs	14	27	
<u>Servants</u>			
One menial Marts	27	40	
His wife Kathrien	26		Died 1790n
Their Children:			
One son Ansch		3	
Daughters 1. Edde		4 1/2	
2. Triene		1	
Menial Jahn	60		Died 1785
His wife Anne			Remarried to Peter at Daukschen Dependency.
One maid Liese	12	25	
<u>2. In Wannags Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Juris	30	43	
His wife Liese	33		Died 1784
His wife Katsche		50	Is from the Rosenveck area.
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahnn	9		Died 1793
2. Peter	3	16	
Juris' Mother Gretha	58		Died 1791
<u>Servants</u>			
One menial Adam	33	46	
His wife Katsche	36	49	
Their children			
Toechter 1. Liese	3		Died 1790
2. Anne		8	
3. Marie		3	



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

One menial Peter	19		Died 1783
The Maid Gretha			Presently at Bahlingd Roadhouse, married to Gurka

### 3. In Waitschacks Dependency

Head of household Ansch	63	76	
His wife Liese	44		Died 1788
Their children			
One son Ansch	15	29	
Marrie, his wife		40	Is from Lentzenhof Area
Their children			

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
1. Mickell		6	
2. Jacob		1	
One daughter Triene		4	
Daughters 1. Triene	9	22	
2. Anna	5	18	
<u>Servants</u>			
The menial Simon	47		Died 1794
His wife Kadsche	45	58	
One menial Ansch	18	31	
His wife Triene	12	25	
One daughter Marie		1	
Maid Greta	17	30	An hermaphrodite
Her son Mickell		3	
Second maid Triene	16	29	
<u>4. In Lapain Dependency</u>			
The head of household Ansch	48		Died 1787
His wife Mareth	46		Dies 1787
Their children			
His son Jahns	21	34	
Son's wife Lehna	23	36	
Their daughter Marie		1	
Daughters 1. Anna	18		Died 1790
2. Marrie			Presntly at Sihmanen dependency, married to Martz
Ansch's Mother Ilse	87		Died 1787
Adoptee Jahnn	8		Ran away in 1792
<u>Servants</u>			

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

One menaal Jahnn	46	59	
His wife Marrie			Died 1787
His wife Marrie	17	30	
Their children			
One son Ansch	6	19	
Daughters 1. Triene	1/2		Died 1784
2. Truthe		2	
<u>5. In Pakkundsens Dependency</u>			
The head of Household Peter	60		Died 1783
His wife Lehne	52	65	
Their children			
Sons 1. Krisch	12	25	
His wife Kabsche	9	22	
2. Jahns	6		Ist im jahr 1788 gestorben
Daughter 1. Marrie			Presently at Lapain Dependency, married to Jahb
2. Masche	17		Died 1790
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Marting	59		Died 1790
His wife Madde	48	61	
One daughter Ewa	5	18	

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
Pakkundsens (contd.)			
Menial Pawell	32		Died 1789
His wife Anne	45	61	
One son Jurris	6	19	
Menial Piddrick	26	39	
His wife Masche	28	33	
One son Jahnn		5	
One daughter Sappe		9	
One widow Ewa	58		Died 1788
<u>6. In Smiltens Dependency</u>			
Head of household Mickels	34	47	
His wife Katsche	18	31	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jacob		11	
2. Jhaan		8	
3. Peter		5	
4. Luckas		2	
Daughters 1. Mareth	5		Died 1782

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

2. Anne	1	14	
Mickels' Mother Triene	70		Died 1790
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Mickels	28	41	
His wife Anne	24		Died 1790
Second wife Weib Katsche	19	32	
Sons 1. Jhanne		7	
2. Ansche		1	
One daughter Anne		3	
Menial Rein	65		Died 1789
His wife Anne	38		Died 1787
Menial Krische	19	32	
His wife Sappe			From the TRosenbeck area, in Roop Parish
One son Mickell		1/2	
Daughters 1. Dahrte		8	
2. Triene		5	
Menial Andres	21	34	
His wife Mareth	16	29	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahns		3	
Maid Anne	15	28	An hermaphrodite
One son Mickell		3	
One daughter Madde		14	
Adopted Ansche	8		Died 1795
<u>7. In Baicke Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Marts	45	58	
His wife Marets	38	51	
Sons 1. Dawid	12	25	
His wife Liese			From DaugeIn area, in Roop Parish
Ein Sohn Toennis		3	
Eine Tochter Truhte		2	
	Age	Age	
	1782	1795	Remarks
Baicke Dependency (contd.)			
2. Peeter	8	21	
3. Jahna	2	15	
Dughters 1. Marrie		5	
2. Dahrte		3	
<u>Servants</u>			

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Menial Jahnn	34	47	
His wife Gretha	26	39	
Daughters 1. Masche	1	14	
2. Liese		4	
3. Gretha		3	
Menial Jurris	32	45	
His wife Kattrin	28	41	
Their children			
Sons 1. Mahrz	4	17	
2. Jacob	1	14	
Menial Peter	25		Died 1787
His wife Lasche			From Kegeln area. Ran away in 1787
A maid Liese	18	31	
A widow Marie	37	50	
1778 Deren Kinder			
Sons 1. Tobias	11	24	
2. Jahns	6	19	
On charity, Matsch	64		Died 1785
<u>8. In Kurpnek Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Jahne	63		Died 1790
His wife Triene	58	71	
Their children			
Son 1. Jacob	25	38	
His wife Marie		33	From Palmhof area, Wenden Parish
A son Marts		9	
A daughter Triene		2	
2. Jahns	15	28	
His wife Tiese	17	30	
A son Jacob		2	
Daughter 1. Marie			Presently in Olecting Dependency, married to Piddrick
2. Liese		18	In Daugeln area, Roop Parish, married to Jahn
Adopted Lehne	5	18	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Jhann	33	46	
His wife Katsche	32	47	
Sons 1. Jurrie		8	
2. Jacobs		1	
Menial Matsoh	22	35	
His wife Marrie	32	45	
Their children			
Daughters 1. Sappe	3	14	
2. Gretha	1/4	13 1/2	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
<u>9. In Kowarn Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Jacob	28	41	
His wife Marrie	25	38	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahnn		10	
2. Ansch		8	
3. Mickell		5	
Daughters 1. Mareth	2	15	
2. Babbe		13	
3. Edde		1 1/2	
Jacob's Mother Babbe	87		Died 1787
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Jahnn	60	73	
His wife Ann	26	39	
Their children			
Sons 1. Adam		8	
2. Jhann		4	
3. Jacob		1	
Menial Jhann	15	28	
His wife Babbe		25	From Kegeln area
A son Jacob		1/2	
Adopted, Mickell	8	21	
Maid Babbe			Prsently at Murnek Dependency, married to Jahn
Grehta	13	26	
<u>10. In Krauten Dependency</u>			
Head of household Pidrick	38		Died 1789
His wife Marrie	33	46	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahns	4	17	
2. Ansche	1	14	
3. Indrick		10	
Daughters 1. Dahrte	15		Present in Klein-Wrangelshofschen area, married to Willum
2. Triene			Presently at Siman Dependency, married to Jahn
Pidrick's motherr Mareth	66		Died 1888
<u>Servants</u>			

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Menial Peter	33	46	
His wife Mareth	28		Died 1789
His second wife Lasche` `		25	From Dickeln area
Sons 1. Jahns	1 1/2		Died 1786
2. Ansh		4	
3. Mickell		1 1/2	

Menial Jahns	19	32	
His wife Truthe	10	23	
Ein Sohn Juri		3	
A daughter Truthe		1	

### 11. In Kauschen Dependency

Head of Househol Mickell	36	49	
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	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
Kauschen Dependency (contd.)			
Wife Triene	30	43	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahn	1	14	
2. Ansch		11	
3. Triene	6	19	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Mickell	47	60	
His wife Marrie	45	58	
Menial Jahnn	32		Died 1783
His wife Maize	49		Died 1789
His son Otte	14	27	
Menial Mickell	15	28	
Herdsmen boy Piddrick	10	23	
Maid Anne	17		Died 1790
<u>12. In Ibahn Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Jahne	48		Died 1790
His wife Marose	43		Died 1790
Their children			
Sons 1. Ansh	17	30	
His wife Masche		25	From Orellen area, Roop Parish
A son Marts		5	
Daughter 1. Anne		2 1/2	
Sons 2. Marrie		1/2	
3. Mickell	1	14	Died 1790
4. Dawid	11	24	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

His wife Dahrte		19	From Rosenbeck area, Roop Parish
Son 5. Behrtull	1	14	
A daughter Marrie	6	19	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Ans	28	41	
His wife Triene	24	37	
Sons 1. Indrick		9	
2. Jacob		5	
3. Krische		2 1/2	
Adaughter Katsche		7	
Maid Lehne			Ist gegenwaertig nach Lapain Gesinde verheiratet
A widow Marrie	42	55	
Her children			
Sons 1. Andres	6	19	
2. Jacob	1		Died 1788
A dsughter Liese		4	
<u>13. In Juckan Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Jahnn	38		
His wife Dahrte	34	47	
Their children			
A son Jahnn	5	18	
Daughters 1. Marrie			Presently at Pitzul dependency, married to Jacob
2. Triene		8	
	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
<u>Juckan Dependency (contd.)</u>			
3. Liese		6	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Otto	52		Died 1785
His wife Babbe	47		Died 1780
Menial Otto	25	38	
His wife Dahrte	26	39	
Deren Kinder			
A son Adam		3 1/2	
A daughter Truthe		1	
Maid Madde	18		Died 1786
The old deaf and dumb disturbed Triene	64		Died 1790

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### 14. In Daukschen Deoendency

Head of Hiusehold Pidrick	38		Died 1791
His wife Marrie	34	47	
Their children			
sons 1. Jacob	4		Died 1785
2. Karls		12	
Pidrick's Mother Anne	60		Died 1784

#### Servants

Menial Jurris	28	41	
His wife Trine	22	35	
Their children			
Sons 1. Pedder		9	
2. Peter		1	
Daughters 1. Lehne		12	
2. Marrie		3	
Menial Peter	42	55	
His wife Madde	40		Died 1791
His second wife Anne	30	43	
His son Jurris	6	19	
Menial Simon	28		Died 1788
Sappe his wife	26	39	
Their children			
Sons 1. Jahnn		11	
2. Martz		3	
4. Jurris		1 1/2	
Maidds Masche	26	39	
Dahrte	13	29	

### 15. In Oleckting Dependency

Head of Household Peter	45	58	
His wife Gretha	40	53	
Son 1. Pidrick	18	31	
His wife Marrie	21	34	
A son Jacob		2 1/2	
A daughter Triene		5	
Sons 2. Ansh	14		Ran away in 1788
3. Jahnn	10		Ran away in 1793

Age 1782	Age 1795
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Remarks

### Oleckting Dependency (contd.)

4. Mickell	7	20	
5. Karls	2		Died 1790



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

6. Peter	54	12	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Rein	54		Died 1791
His wife Marrie	45	58	
Their children			
Sons 1. Pidrick	6	19	
2. Mickell	2	15	
A daughter Marie		12	
 Maid Liese	 24		 1784 sold into Lemsal area
 On charity, Jahn	 60		 Died 1791
His wife Liese	58		Died 1789
 In Spurnal Manor, insofar as it belongs to Roop Parish, there are of peasants:			
<u>16. In Murnek Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Jurris	70		Died 1783
His wife Liese	62		died 1787
Their children			
Son Mickell	30	43	
His wife Marrie	27		Died 1787
Gretha his second wife	25		Had run away, but returned in 1786, and then got married
 Their children			
Son Pidrick	1/2		Died 1787
2. Martz		12	
Daughters 1. Anna	6		Died 1783
2. Madde	3	16	
3. Triene		3	
4. Anne		1	
5. Dahrte		1	Anne and Dahrte are twins
2. Karls	22	35	
His wife Dahrte		19	
Daughters 1. Katsche			Presently at Smilten dependency, married to Mickel
2. Dahrte			Presently at Jokkum Dependency, married to Karls.
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Jahnn	34	47	
His wife Liese	28		Died 1792
His second wife Babbe	20	33	
Their children			
Sons 1. Mickell	4	17	
2. Ansh	2	15	
Daughters 1. Triene		12	
2. Dahrte		6	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
3. Kadsche		4	
Maid Anne	20		Had run away, returned in 1786
<u>17. In Pitzul Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Mickell	40	53	
his wife Triene	40	53	
Their children			
Daughters 1. Marrie			Presently at Smilten dependency, married to Andres
2. Triene	9		Died 1784
3. Edde	7	20	
4. Sappe	2	15	
Mickell's Mother Mareth	68		Died 1786
<u>Seervants</u>			
Menial Spritze	30		Died 1786
His wife Katsche	28		Prssently in Kokenhof area, married to Jahn (her second marriage)
Their children Kinder			
A son Mickell	8	13	
A daughter Mareth	Wch.	11	
Menial Jacob	16	39	
His wife Marrie	10	23	
A son Jahnn		2	
A daughter Triene		Wch. 3	
Maid Katsche	24	37	
<u>18. In Kewwing Dependency</u>			
Heas od Household Peter	48		Died 1788
His wife Babbe	40	53	
Their			
Soehn children 1. Karll	14	27	
His wife Marrie	23	36	
A son Piddrick		5	
A daughter Anne		1/2	
2. Piddrick	12	25	
His wife Anne		25	From Rosenbeck area
Of which:			
A daughter Triene		1	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

3. Willum	4	17	Twins?
4. Gentos ????	4	17	Twins?
Of which a Tochter Dahrte			Presently at Murnek Dependency, married to Karll
2. Triene	6	19	
<u>Servants</u>			
Menial Jahns	25	38	
His wife Liese	26	39	
A son Jurri		8	
Menial Marts	30	43	
His wife Anne	33	46	
Sons 1. Mickell	4	17	
2. Marts		1 1/2	
Daughtewrs 1. Triene	1 1/2	15	
2. Dahrte		12	
3. Marrie		5	
Widow Kadsche		33	In Podsem area, married to Jacob

	Age 1782	Age 1795	Remarks
<u>19. In Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Karll	40	53	
His wife Julia	33	46	
Sons 1. Mickell	8	21	
2. Jahns		6	
3. Peter	1	14	
Daughter Anne	3	16	
Mwnial Jacob	40	53	
His wife Anne	40	53	
A daughter Ilse	3	16	
Menial Peter	16		Ran awy in 1788
Maid Marrie			Presently in Klein-Wrangelhof area, married to Spritze.
<u>20. In Jockum Dependency</u>			
Head of Household Ehrman	46	59	
His wife Ilse	29	42	
Their children			
Sons 1. Marts	22		Ran away in 1788
2. Karll	12	25	
His wife Dahrte	12	25	
A son Mahrts		1 1/2	
3. Mickells	5	18	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

4. Jahns	3	16
5. Marts		9

### Servants

Menial Mickells	35	48
His wife Triene	22	35
Their children		
Sons		
1. Erman	3	16
2. Jahnn	1	
3. Martz		10
4. Mickell		8
5. Karll		2
A daughter Dahrte	10	23
2. Triene	7	20
A daughter Marrie		5

Ist im Jahr 1786 gestorben

Maid Sappe

Presntly in Daueln area, married to Simeon

Souls	1782	1795
Male	150	165
Female	151	168
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>333</b>

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Spurnal Manor Population Statistics

Latvian Population:

Manor, Sub-Estate Annenhof & 20 Farmsteads within the manor Dependency area = ca. 330 Souls

1834 incl. - 1837 incl. & 1875 incl. – 1891 incl. = 21 Years

Passe away within those 21 years: 306 Persons, of which 187 were Children

### Deaths in Months and in Years:

	1834	35	36	37	1875	76	77	78	79	1880	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	1890	91	
Januar	1	1	3	2	1	0	3	7	0	3	2	2	1	0	4	2	2	0	3	1	1	= 39
Februar	1	0	0	2	0	6	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	0	2	1	3	1	2	= 29
Maerz	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	4	0	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	= 23
April	4	3	2	0	3	0	1	4	3	1	1	0	0	1	4	1	3	2	1	1	1	= 35
Mai	5	3	3	1	1	1	4	2	1	2	3	0	1	0	2	4	4	1	2	0	4	= 44
Juni	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	3	= 23
Juli	2	x	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	= 15
August	0	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	2	0	= 8
September	0	x	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	2	1	3	1	1	0	= 15
Oktober	0	x	2	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	4	0	1	0	3	1	0	= 25
November	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	= 18
Dezember	3	3	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	5	2	= 28
-----																						
	19	13	14	11	8	15	14	28	8	19	11	11	5	11	30	14	18	13	17	14	13	= 306

x = Data not available

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1837 – 1874 Cause of Death not given

1892 and following: Data in Russian, later in Latvian

1834-37 & 1875-91 = 21 Years

Cause of Death	Adults	Children
Old Age weakness	19	0
‘Fell on the Head’	2	0
Swollen up	0	1
Consumption	14	0
Heartstroke	1	0
Diphtheria	0	19
Brenzbad (?)	1	0
‘Water Well’ fever	1	0
Chest Inflammation	4	0
Chest Parapneumonia	1	0
Chest Malady	0	1
Chest Complaints	3	0
Diarrhoe	0	8
Weakness	1	0
Drowned	0	1
Inflammation	7	1
Ex-rem (?)	1	0
Fever	4	3
Joint Rheumatism	0	1
Abscess	0	1
Swelling	0	1
Heart Complaint	3	0
Cough	0	7
Jatenas Uebel (?)	1	0
Localized Absc	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	6
Knolfanzug (?)	2	0
Cancer of Bone Marrow	1	0
Head inflammation	2	0
Cramps	0	37
Lallens Sucht(?)	1	0
Pneumonia	2	1

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Stomach complaints	5	1
Measles	0	21
Nervous Fever	3	1
Small Pocks	0	1
Dysintery	0	1
Ruyfanz (?)	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	6
Stroke	3	0
Weakness	0	42
Childbed Weakness	3	0
Schwaemmade ?	0	1
TBC	2	0
Sticky Cough	0	14
Born dead	0	6
Triefel ?	0	2
Typhus	1	0
Abdominal Complaints	2	0
Dro psy	23	2
Childbed	6	0
Worms	0	1
-----		
	119	187

For the time prior 1834, no data for the Latvian Manor population was available  
 For the time after 1891, death data was available either in Russian or in Latian; their equivalent in English is not known.

Hof = Manor; Gehorch = Dependency Area  
 Marriage = oo, Birth = \* , Death = +

-----  
 1834 Hof oo 2; \* 1; + Adults 1 Children 1  
 Gehorch oo 5; \* 17; + “ 3 “ 14

1835 Hof oo 1; \* 3; + “ 0 “ 2

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

	Gehorch	oo 2; * 20; +	“	3	“	7
1836	Hof	oo 1; * 2; +	“	1	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 19; +	“	8	“	5
1837	Hof	oo 2; * 2; +	“	1	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 19; +	“	8	“	5
1838	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 5; * 15; +	“	8	“	9
1839	Hof	oo 1; * 0; +	“	1	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 4; * 20; +	“	4	“	11
1840	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 1; * 17; +	“	3	“	4
1841	Hof	oo 0; * 0; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 7; * 15; +	“	4	“	7
1842	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 7; * 14; +	“	4	“	11
1843	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	0	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 6; * 15; +	“	6	“	4
1844	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 6; * 17; +	“	4	“	3
1845	Hof	oo 0; * 0; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 6; * 17; +	“	6	“	4
1846	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 8; * 13; +	“	6	“	6
1847	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“	2	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 6; * 26; +	“	7	“	12



## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1848 Hof    oo 2; \* 0; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 3; \* 20; +    “    7    “    12

1849 Hof    oo 1; \* 1; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 12; \* 27; +    “    3    “    10

1850 Hof    oo 0; \* 1; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 8; \* 19; +    “    4    “    6

1851 Hof    oo 0; \* 0; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 2; \* 20; +    “    3    “    6

Hof = Manor; Gehorch = Dependency Area

Marriage = oo, Birth = \*, Death = +

-----

1852 Hof    oo 0; \* 2; +    Adults    0    Children 1  
           Gehorch oo 5; \* 28; +    “    3    “    10

1853 Hof    oo 0; \* 0; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 7; \* 19; +    “    4    “    9

1854 Hof    oo 0; \* 1; +    “    1    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 2; \* 21; +    “    7    “    5

1855 Hof    oo 1; \* 1; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 4; \* 19; +    “    11    “    8

1856 Hof    oo 1; \* 0; +    “    1    “    1  
           Gehorch oo 8; \* 15; +    “    6    “    4

1857 Hof    oo 0; \* 1; +    “    0    “    0  
           Gehorch oo 7; \* 22; +    “    6    “    2

1858 Hof    oo 1; \* 1; +    “    1    “    3

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

	Gehorch	oo 3; * 15; +	“ 3	“ 21
1859	Hof	oo 2; * 0; +	“ 0	“ 0
	Gehorch	oo 2; * 21; +	“ 6	“ 5
<b>1860</b>	Hof	oo 0; * 3; +	“ 0	“ 0
	Gehorch	oo 5; * 1; +	“ 4	“ 12
1861	Hof	oo 1; * 0; +	“ 1	“ 1
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 20; +	“ 8	“ 6
1862	Hof	oo 1; * 6; +	“ 0	“ 2
	Gehorch	oo 11; * 17; +	“ 8	“ 9
1863	Hof	oo 0; * 3; +	“ 1	“ 2
	Gehorch	oo 5; * 23; +	“ 1	“ 6
1864	Hof	oo 1; * 4; +	“ 0	“ 0
	Gehorch	oo 6; * 24; +	“ 2	“ 7
1865	Hof	oo 1; * 3; +	“ 0	“ 0
	Gehorch	oo 5; * 16; +	“ 2	“ 7
1866	Hof	oo 0; * 5; +	“ 0	“ 2
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 19; +	“ 6	“ 8
1867	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“ 2	“ 0
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 20; +	“ 5	“ 3
1868	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“ 1	“ 1
	Gehorch	oo 1; * 21; +	“ 0	“ 6
1869	Hof	oo 1; * 5; +	“ 1	“ 1
	Gehorch	oo 2; * 16; +	“ 1	“ 1
<b>1870</b>	Hof	oo 1; * 2; +	“ 1	“ 1
	Gehorch	oo 10; * 12; +	“ 5	“ 9

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Hof = Manor; Gehorch = Dependency Area

Hochzeit = oo, Geburt = \*, Sterbefall = +

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1871	Hof	oo 0; * 0; +	Adults	0	Children	0
	Gehorch	oo 2; * 14; +	“	6	“	5
1872	Hof	oo 1; * 1; +	“	0	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 7; * 15; +	“	2	“	5
1873	Hof	oo 3; * 0; +	“	2	“	2
	Gehorch	oo 4; * 18; +	“	6	“	15
1874	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“	0	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 7; * 19; +	“	4	“	4
1875	Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“	2	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 2; * 19; +	“	1	“	3
1876	Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“	1	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 5; * 20; +	“	3	“	8
1877	Hof	oo 1; * 3; +	“	1	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 8; * 13; +	“	5	“	7
1878	Hof	oo 1; * 1; +	“	2	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 7; * 18; +	“	9	“	10
1879	Hof	oo 3; * 3; +	“	1	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 9; * 23; +	“	2	“	5
1880	Hof	oo 2; * 0; +	“	2	“	1
	Gehorch	oo 2; * 16; +	“	8	“	7
1881	Hof	oo 1; * 6; +	“	0	“	0
	Gehorch	oo 3; * 19; +	“	2	“	4

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1882 Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“ 0	“ 0
Gehorch	oo 7; * 15; +	“ 4	“ 3
1883 Hof	oo 2; * 2; +	“ 0	“ 0
Gehorch	oo 7; * 16; +	“ 2	“ 1
1884 Hof	oo 0; * 3; +	“ 1	“ 0
Gehorch	oo 5; * 13; +	“ 3	“ 4
1885 Hof	oo 0; * 3; +	“ 3	“ 5
Gehorch	oo 3; * 15; +	“ 5	“ 10
1886 Hof	oo 0; * 1; +	“ 1	“ 0
1887 Hof	oo 1; * 2; +	“ 1	“ 0
Gehorch	oo 2; * 9; +	“ 8	“ 5
1888 Hof	oo 1; * 4; +	“ 2	“ 0
Gehorch	oo 6; * 10; +	“ 5	“ 4
1889 Hof	oo 0; * 2; +	“ 1	“ 2
Gehorch	oo 9; * 19; +	“ 6	“ 6
1890 Hof	oo 1; * 4; +	“ 1	“ 1
Gehorch	oo 3; * 10; +	“ 2	“ 8

Hof = Manor; Gehorch = Dependency Area  
 Hochzeit = oo, Geburt = \*, Sterbefall = +

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1891 Hof	oo 1; * 2; +	Adults 1	Children 4
Gehorch	oo 6; * 5; +	“ 1	“ 5
1892 Hof	oo 0; * 7; +	“ ?	“ ?
Gehorch	oo 3; * 13; +	“ ?	“ ?

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

1893 Hof oo 1; \* 3; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 3; \* 7; + “ ? “ ?

1894 Hof oo 1; \* 5; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 2; \* 7; + “ ? “ ?

1895 Hof oo 1; \* 3; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 6; \* 10; + “ ? “ ?

1896 Hof oo 1; \* 3; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 6; \* 10; + “ ? “ ?

1897 Hof oo 1; \* 3; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 5; \* 15; + “ ? “ ?

1898 Hof oo 0; \* 1; + “ ? “ ?

Gehorch oo 2; \* 16; + “ ? “ ?

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### The Haken

The Haken was a unit of measurement, used to express the area of a piece of land under cultivation, for the purpose of determining the amount of tax, or tribute, to be levied against it. Nobody was interested in the potentially non-productive areas, which may have been contained within the boundaries of a Manor. Therefore, Haken values given for a Manor did not refer to its total areal extents.

Up to the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Haken values for the Manors in Livonia and Estonia, periodically noted by v. Hagemeister and v. Stryk, indicate only cultivated areas, from which grazing- and hay meadows, wet small woods, swamp land, even the areas of pathways have been excluded. Oscillations from year to year in the published Haken values, usually indicate increased or lesser use made of cultivated areas, because of changing climatic conditions in the region. Only on very rare occasions, would differences in the annual Haken values be attributable to acquisition or sale of Manor lands.

The Livonian Haken constituted not only a unit of area measurement, it was also utilized, and sometimes more frequently so, as indicator of production levels, achievable on an area of land.

For instance, the work accomplished in a week, by 2 horses (plows), represented the nominal equivalent of one Haken. Eventually, a farmstead which worked with 2 horses, was regarded as working 1 Haken of cultivated land.

In like manner, an area was regarded as being the size of one Haken, if 4 ‘Last’, 12 ‘Riga Loof’ Rye could be seeded out on it. The equivalents for these and other old measurements cannot anymore be determined, even though they were in normal use in the rural areas of Baltic Provinces as late as 1939.

The actual area of a Livonian Haken is arrived at as follows:

1 Livonian or Swedish Elle = 0.6219 m  
1 Tonnstelle = 14,000 Ellen<sup>2</sup> = 0.542 ha  
180 Tonnstellen = 1 Haken  
1 Haken = 97.35 ha

The ‘Tonnstelle’ as such doesn’t hold any meaning today.

Hier, (freely translated) H. v. Hagemeister (himself owner of a Manor, and of the nobility), on the several differing values assigned as Haken, during the rule of the Order of Knights:

‘Even though the size of a ‘working Haken’ may have been established through age old use and Right, it must be understood, that: in an age when only the right of the stronger was valid, and the serf, in the strictest sense, was owned by his master, and had to be satisfied with the amount of land, allotted for use to him by his master, and for which he was held to perform services wick his master demanded. In such situation a matter of Right did not exist, since all resistance had been broken (in the period of conquest), and the individual tyrant, as regards treatment of his serfs, was not reined in (as there was no higher instance to do so).

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

Depending in how far the Manor Lord was tinged by feelings of fairness, or the greater or lesser fertility of the soil permitted the serf to expand, despotism or happenstance appear to have governed the size of a Haken in those times. Thus, at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, the following sizes for a Haken could be found in our Province (Livonia):

The Lord Master Haken of 177 Tonnen land, the Plettenberg Haken of 96 Tonnen, the Archbishop Haken of of 66 Riga Tonnen, the Polish large Haken at 120, and the small German Haken of 130- Tonnen.

Tax free had been the properties of the Nobility, and there was no need for a standard to review teir relative sizes.

The size of the Haken was not standardized until after the demise of the Order, and the commencement of Polish rule. That is, established on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1561, in the Privilegio Sigismundi Augusti, as that Livonian haken of 180 Tonnstellen, at 14,000<sup>2</sup> Swedish Ells per Tonnstelle.

Further, based on v. Hagemeister:

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Russian Crown changed the definition of the Haken. A precise survey and estimation of all peasant lands in the Provice was ordered. Not only cultivated-, but also the simply usable land belonging to the peasant farmsteads, was to be was to be divided into 4 grades according to their individual quality, and the following to be rated for taxation at 1 Thaler and 90 Goschen tribute

Of 1.Quality: 1 Tonstelle Garden or Field, 3 Tonnstellen Bush land, 5 1/2 Tonnstellen Meadow;

“ 2. “ : 1 1/5 “ “ , 3 3/5 Tnst. “ , 8 Tnst. Meadow;

“ 3. “ : 1 1/2 “ “ , 4 Tnst. “ , 10 2/3 Tnst. Meadow.

‘ 4. “ : 2 “ “ , 6 Tnst. “ , 16 Tnst. Meadow.

Based on the above, it may be understandable, that in all of Livonia, there probably were no 2 Haken which agreed with each other in area, since the quantity of the soil now was also dependent on its Quality, and to which of the different Grades it had been assigned.

In order to visualize how much area such a Haken would occupy, assuming it were located in the most commonly encountered medium soil found in the Latvian District, v.Hagemeister provides the following example, with regard to the proportion in which every one of the 4 listed soil qualities may be encountered there:

2 Tnst. Garden @ 1. Grade, Tax vakue 2 Thaler

36 “ Field @ 3. “ , “ 24 “





# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Notes on Maps

Maps are best viewed and manipulated on the computer, as printing will give unsatisfactory results in terms of detail, because of the small map scales. Map files open in 'Windows Photo Viewer'. To facilitate manipulation, next click on 'Open', then click on 'Microsoft Office Picture Manager' and use the toolbar.

Area maps, taken from Count. v. Mellin's mapping in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, consist of 8 map sections, covering part of Central and Eastern Latvia. They contain the graphic locations of the many places, names of which are cited in the texts, and are cross referenced in the Listing of place Names and Maps. The key map indicates the relative location of the individual map sections.

Dependency location maps, show marked on enlarged parts of 1:75,000 topographic mapping (1927), the 20 farmsteads of Spurnal's Dependency Areas. One map each is provided for farmsteads within Papendorf- as well as for those in Roop Parish. In addition, one overall map shows all 20 farmsteads.

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

### Maps & Place Names Listing

Refers to Map Sections 1-8 as indicated on the Key Map

Allendorf	1	
Alt-Adlehn	5, 7	
Alt-Laitzen	8	
Alt-Schwanenburg	7, 8	
Arrasch		3, 4
Ayasch	1, 3	
Bersohn	4,5	
Breslau	1	
Daiben	1	
Daugeln	1, 2	
Dickeln		1
Drobbusch	4	
Druwehn	7	
Durenhof	2, 7	
Dutkenshof	6	
Fehteln	4	
Festen	4	
Fianden,	7, 8	
Golgowsky	5, 7	
Gross-Roop	1	
Grundsahl	7, 8	
Hochrosen	1	
Jdsel	1, 3	
Juergensburg	4	
Karlsruhe	1, 4	
Kegeln	6	
Kegeln	2	
Kl.-Wrangelshof	1, 2	
Klein-Roop	1	
Kokenhusen	4	
Kruedenershof	1, 3	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

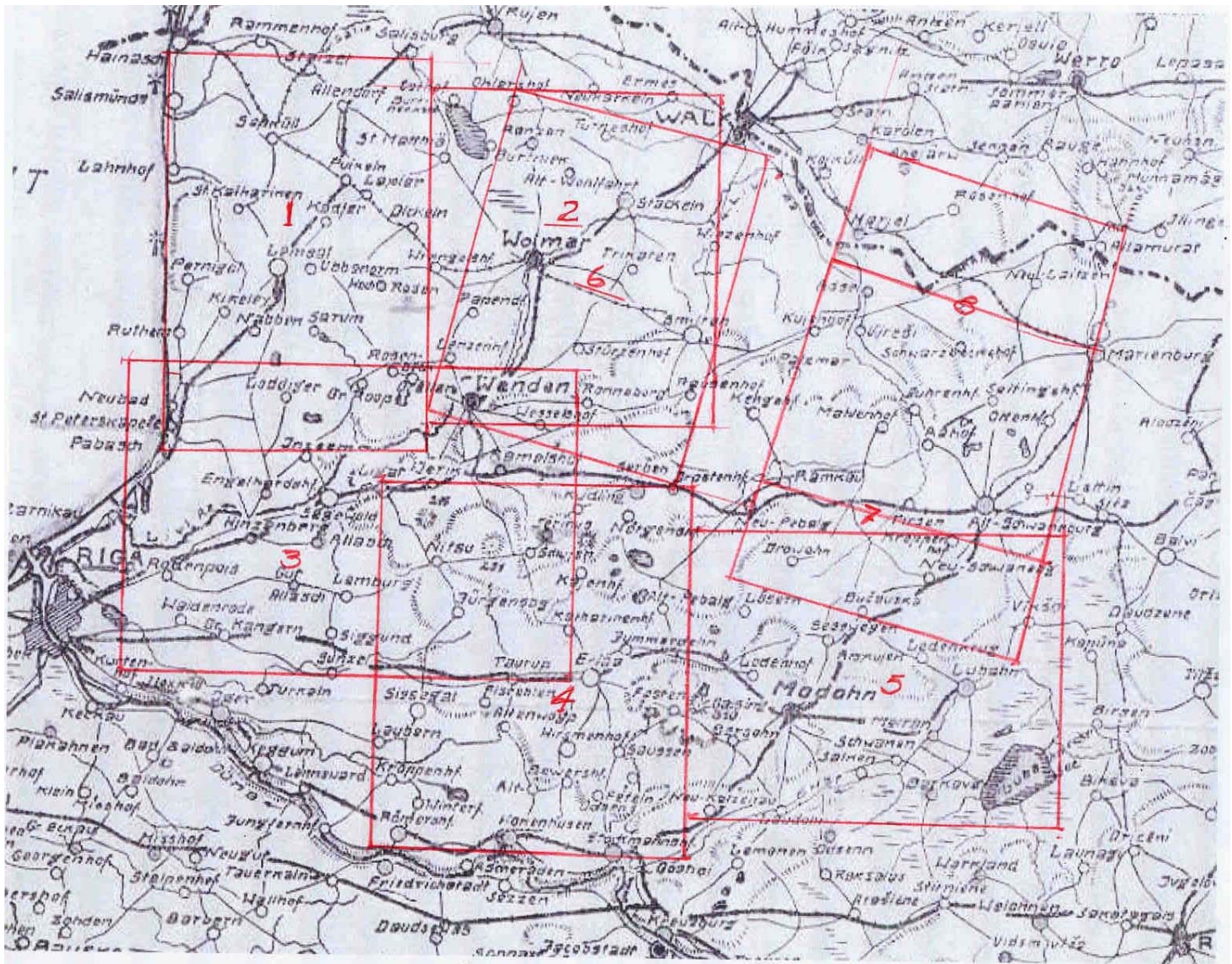
Kudum	1	
Lapier	1	
Lenskuell	3	
Linden	4	
Lisohn (Welland)	5,7, 8	
Loddiger	1, 3	
Loesern		5
Lysohn	5,7, 8	
Marienburg	7, 8	
Meselau	5	
Mojahn	2, 6	
Nachtigal	4	
Neu-Laitzen	8	
Nietau	3, 4	
Odensee	4	
Oppekaln	8	
Orgishof	1	
Pabbasch	3	
Palzmar	7, 8	
Papendorf	2, 6	
Planhof	6	
Planup	3	
Podsem		2, 6
Puickeln	1	
Raiskum	1	
Ramelshof	3, 4	
Ropenhof	1	
Rosenbeck	1	
Rosenblatt	1, 2	
Sackenhof	6	
Schoeneck	4	
Schujenpahlen	1	
Schulland	1	
Schwanenburg	7, 8	
Sinohlen	5, 8	
Smilten	6	
Spurnal	1	

## Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

St.Matthiae	2	
Stolben	1	
Tirsen	5, 7	
Treiden		1
Trikaten	6	
Wainsel	1	
Weissensein	4	
Wenden	2, 3, 6	
Wesselshof	3,4	
Wiesenhof	7	
Wirtzenberg	1	
Wolmar	2, 6	
Wolmarshof	2,6	
Zempen	6	

# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Key Map, Central/Eastern Latvia



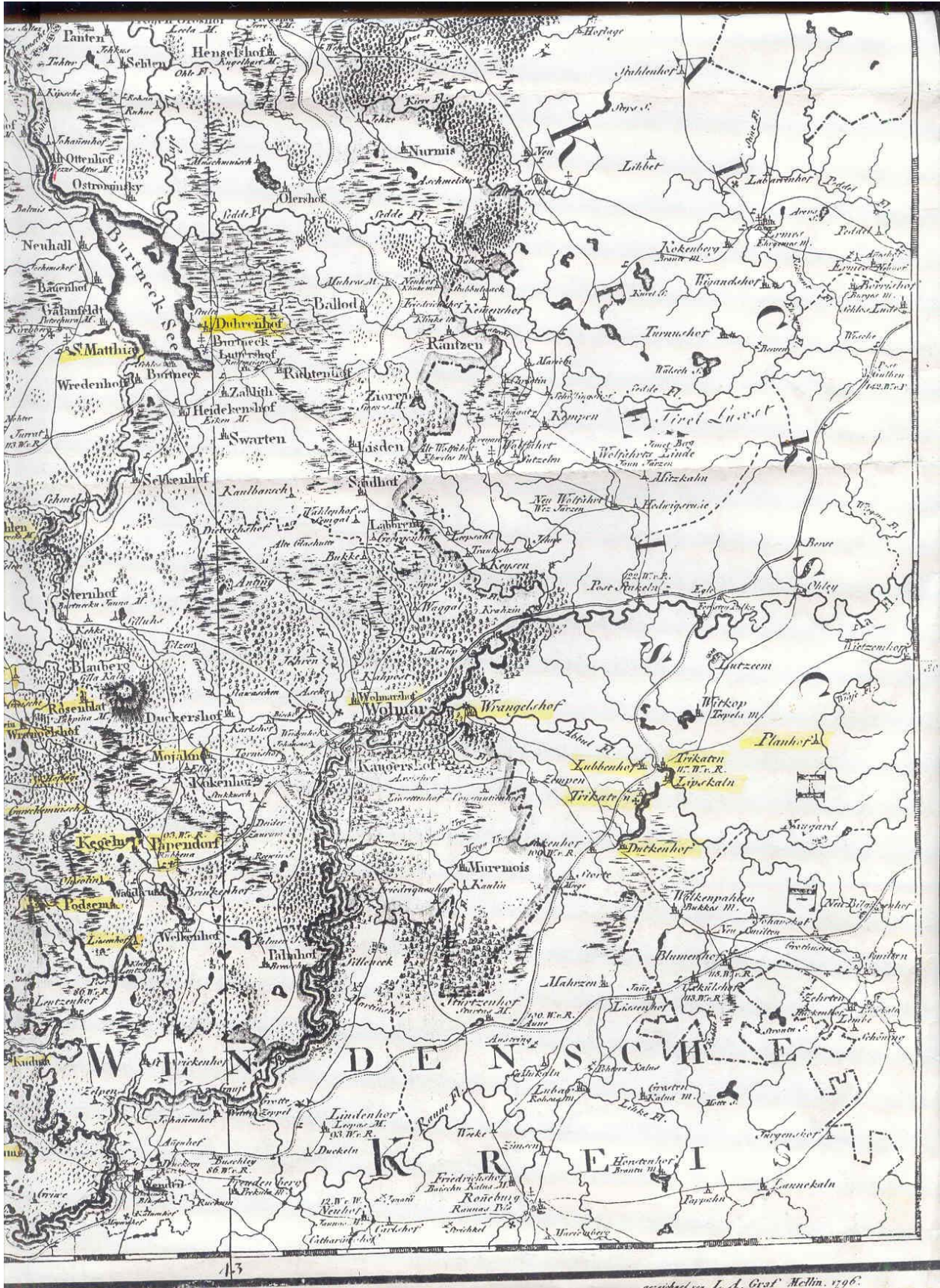
# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-1



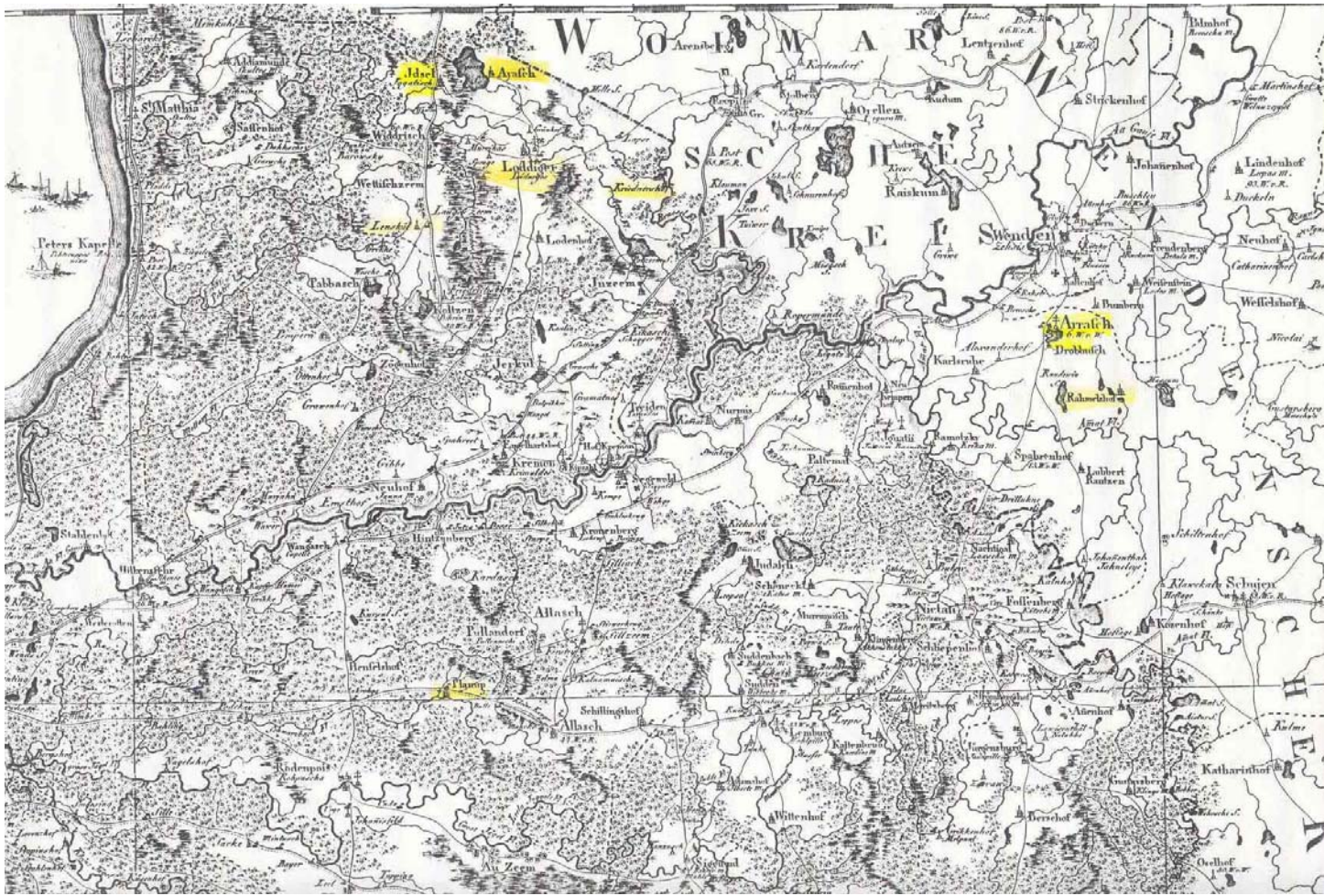
# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-2



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-3







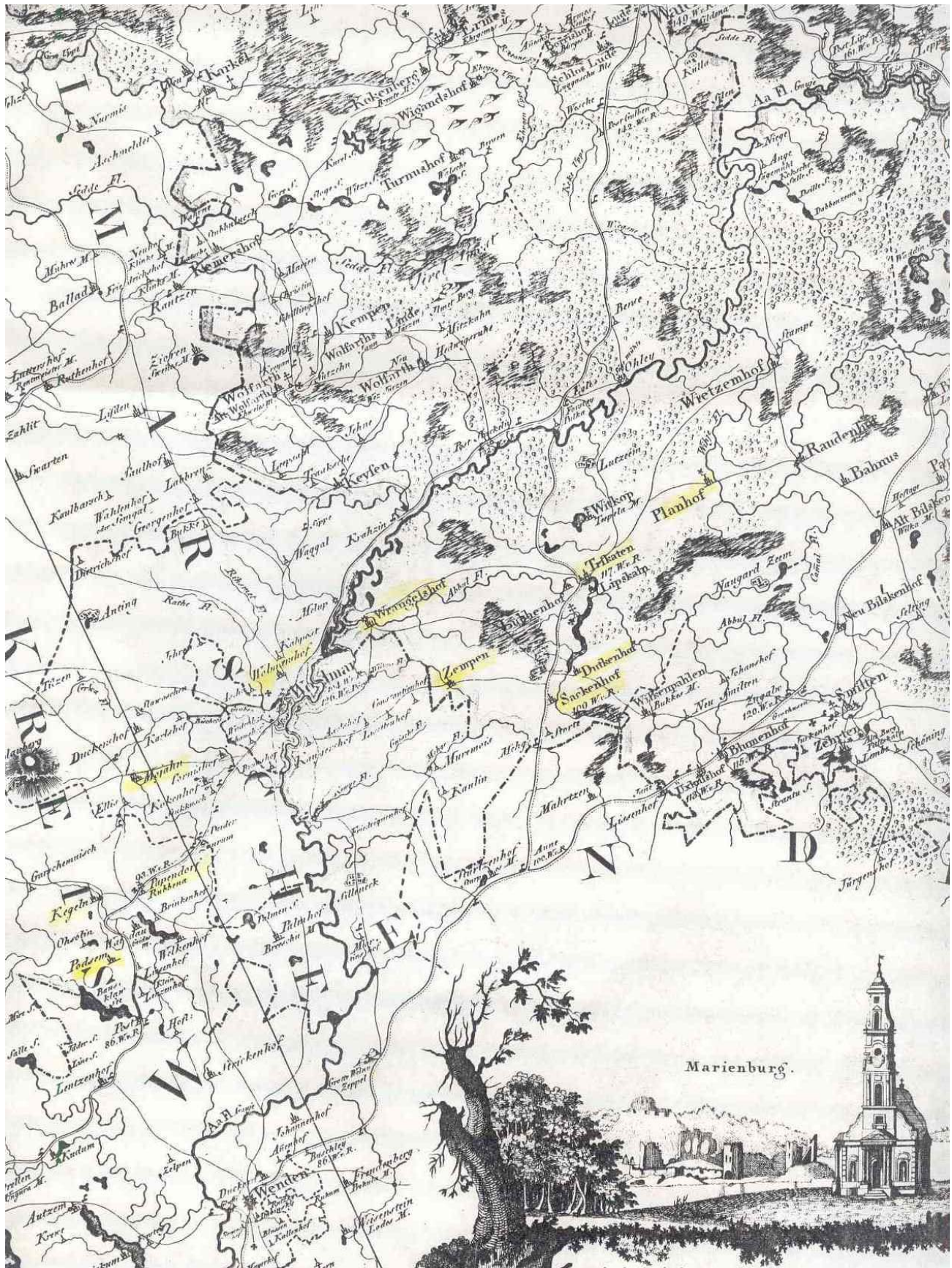
# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-5



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-6



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-7



# Clues and Conjectures – A History of Spurnal Manor in Livonia

## Map-8

