

A Forgotten Grave

The unwritten Chapters of an extraordinary Family History

by

Ernst von Bressensdorf, Starnberg 1960

Translated from German by the late Dr. Bernard Standring

1. Many an inhabitant of the town of Warendorf in Westphalia will often have walked past the secluded path near the Bentheim Tower without noticing the four moss-covered gravestones which are to be found among the lilac and hazelnut bushes at the foot of this old building steeped in legend, and which proclaim that until many decades ago there was a burial ground here. And of the few who do remember these stones, it is not likely that there will be anyone who knows who found his last resting place in this quiet spot a few metres above the Ems. Only a handful of citizens, familiar with the history of the town, could still just remember that it was in fact the oldest burial ground of the once very considerable Jewish community of Warendorf.
2. Decades ago the land went into private hands on the understanding that the peace of the dead of this place was to be preserved. One inhabitant of the town acquired the 'Bog', as the land near the tower has traditionally been called. He turned this neglected corner into artistically landscaped park-land, which included a section of the old town moat transformed into a decorative pond.
3. Thus the stones stood and dreamed through the centuries, hidden by lilac in the summer, covered by snow in the winter. Thanks to the piety of the owners they survived the turbulent years of the recent regime without becoming victims of its anti-Semitic iconoclasm. No-one knew any longer who the particularly large stone facing East had been erected to, until one day in 1947 I sought out the owners and introduced myself with something like the following words: 'Excuse me, my name is Bressensdorf. I have a particular reason for contacting you. I am told by the Director of the Museum of Local History that there are still graves on your land. One of them must be that of my great-great-great-grandfather'.
4. I was taken out to the old graves, and in the grave with the large stone I recognised the resting place of our oldest forebear, the progenitor of our family, whose extraordinary and fascinating history I had been researching for years. As I had conducted this research with scientific precision and not a little success, it was for me an uplifting and moving experience, after all the detailed work I had put in, to see all my hopes exceeded, namely to find in Warendorf amongst other things this memorial to the early history of our family.

5. I have placed this event before the details which now follow about the individual branches and persons and the events which are connected with their destinies. This broad survey is designed to draw the attention of all descendants - and thus relatives in the broadest sense - to the development and assimilation of a significant, formerly Jewish family. Certain indications and events of recent times, which suggest that mankind does not yet seem to have overcome anti-Semitism, have led me to make public what is known about our family and its history, and place it in the service of historical truth within the family circle of all descendants.
6. Beneath this stone then rests Michael Meyer Breslau (or Bresslau or Bresselau), born 1712 in Breslau, died 18 July 1789 at Warendorf, in his day the most powerful and most successful personality amongst his people in the Münsterland. As a young man of no means he had come to Hildesheim with H J Oppenheimer, the Rabbi of the Land, where he had worked first as a secretary, then as a sub-agent, then as Oppenheimer's partner and finally as an independent businessman and coin dealer. After his marriage to Blume Würtzburg, daughter of the leader of the Hildesheim community, he himself soon became one of the leaders in Hildesheim. There were four sons and two daughters from this marriage. His work took him frequently to Münster where he rose to become supplier to the court and to the army. In particular he enjoyed the confidence of the Prince-Bishop Maximilian Friedrich Graf von Königsegg-Rothenfels. In the year 1771 because of his success and his reputation he was elected by the leaders of all the Jewish communities in the Münsterland to be the Rabbi of the Land and thus the leader of all Jewry in Münster, which the Prince-Bishop did not look upon unfavourably since he had newly created this office especially for him. He received broad powers, not simply as religious head, but also as the highest judicial authority over his communities. According to his certificate of appointment from the Prince-Bishop, Warendorf was designated as his official place of residence. Michael M Breslau moved there with his family. His place of work, the old Jewish synagogue, situated today in a courtyard in the Freckenhorster Straße, was not burned down in 1938 like most synagogues in Germany because of the density of the buildings; it was, however, altered in 1808 by his son and successor in office, David M Breslau, and then completely rebuilt about 1880-1890 when, unfortunately, valuable fittings were disposed of to finance the work. But the dwelling house in front of it, used today as a shop, has scarcely changed and remains essentially as it was in the days of Michael and his family.
7. One of Michael's first acts was to obtain the right to establish a burial ground in Warendorf. Until that time Jewish citizens had had to be buried in neighbouring towns. In the year 1772 the community, which was still very small, rented the land on the slope of the embankment near the Bentheim Tower for 1½ Talers a year, but the Chronicles tell us that it was only in 1789 that the Catholic population became aware of this fact, surprised at the apparently very grandiose funeral of Michael Breslau.
8. Breslau was considered a proud man, not intimidated by the diocesan authorities nor by those from within his own ranks who opposed or envied him. His ostentatious funeral was an appropriate recognition of his long and successful life. He did not experience the conversion to Christianity of one of his sons, Löb Michael, as Johann Leopold Michael. Totally and utterly immersed in the faith and the traditions of his people as he was, such an idea would never have occurred to him. His eldest son, David, who succeeded him in office, also remained true to the faith. David had only two daughters, one of whom

married her father's secretary, M B Hildesheimer, who was later a teacher in the school in Münster. Michael's youngest son, Israel Michael Bresselau, moved to Hamburg as a young scripture scholar, taking with him the library of the most famous Jewish bibliophile of the modern era, the Rabbi of the Land Bohemia, David Oppenheim. The library had come to Hildesheim with David Oppenheim's descendants. Israel Michael Bresselau made a reputation for himself by cataloguing and administering this specialised library, which to this day is still in the possession of the University of Oxford.

9. One of his sons, Meyer Israel Bresselau, is amongst the reformers of the Mosaic Rite. He was a co-founder of the 'New Temple Community' in Hamburg-Altona, which adapted its cult to a large extent to the German conditions. He introduced organ music, German sermons, German prayer books and hymns. Until the destruction of the liberal community his name was called out once a year as that of a benefactor. He and his father as well as his son, Dr A Breslau, have honorary graves in Hamburg. This branch has died out in the male line, that is to say that the trail of one son is lost in England, probably because of a change of name. In contrast the descendants of the branches of Leopold (formerly Löb) and Heinrich (formerly Hirsch) are flourishing.
10. Hirsch Michael moved to Ansbach and there married Friederike (formerly Fendel) Neuburger from Kriegshaber near Augsburg. She must have brought a gift for medicine into the family, for many of the descendants of this couple became well-known - and in some cases outstanding - doctors. Heinrich was a respected businessman at the Ansbach court. He owned and lived in the grand house of the former Minister von Benckendorf with its riding stables, riding arena, ballroom, fencing room, etc.. His fate was closely linked with that of the margrave's court. He supplied the court with weapons, uniforms, horses, theatre supplies, costumes, materials, provisions, in short, with everything. When the margrave left, however, his luck changed. His beautiful house was ruined by constant French occupation. He was forced to watch as his best rooms were used by Napoleon's troops for drinking parties and orgies. He dedicated his life above all to his children. Because they were extremely talented and hardworking, and thanks to the Stein-Hardenberg reforms (Ansbach belonged to Prussia at the time), his sons were the first sons of Jewish parents to attend the Grammar School. With a great deal of effort on his part he managed to enable them to go to university.
11. His son David Heinrich, who later called himself Heinrich, studied Medicine in Würzburg and Tübingen, where he made friends with Justinus Kerner, as the latter's published correspondence testifies. He then became a doctor for the poor in Munich, then regimental medical officer in the French army. He took part in the Russian campaign and almost reached Petersburg. During the campaign he amputated his own toes which had become frozen, and fled back across the Beresina hidden under manure in a peasant's cart. In 1824 he converted to Catholicism. He became professor of Pharmacology at the University of Munich. During his time in Russia he had been the personal physician to Napoleon's stepson, General Eugen Beauharnais, who was made Herzog von Leuchtenberg after his marriage to a Bavarian princess. It was thanks to this as well as to his remarkable ability that he was soon afterwards appointed personal physician to King Ludwig I and his family. This is confirmed by letters in the possession of the von Keller family. He had married Katharina (formerly Rebecca) Rüsselsheim from Frankfurt. She was much younger than he was, and her grandfather, the well-known Frankfurt banker Rüsselsheim, had 'financed' Goethe at the behest of Goethe's patron, Karl-August

Herzog von Weimar. Heinrich Breslau became so respected that, after heaping higher and higher honours on him, the king finally gave him a personal knighthood. After Heinrich's death the king had a larger than life-size memorial erected in the old Southern Cemetery in Munich with the words 'Heinrich, Ritter von Breslau'. As if by a miracle this memorial still towers above the ruins of the badly damaged cemetery today. Both Heinrich, Ritter von Breslau, and his only son, Professor Bernhard Breslau, are listed in the Lexicon of Famous Doctors. The latter was a pioneering gynaecologist who created in Zurich what was at the time the most up-to-date women's clinic in the world. He died of ptomaine poisoning whilst still a young man. He became known in specialist circles through the invention of a special medical instrument and also because, after years of laborious testing, he disproved certain traditional theories about sex determination.

12. Bernhard's oldest daughter, the artist Louise Catherine Breslau (1856-1927) is considered one of the co-founders of the French Impressionist School. Two books published about her testify to her work and to her friendship with leading figures in the French art world. From the age of 18 until her death she lived in Paris. Around the turn of the Century she was considered the best painter with pastels in France and the best portrait painter of ladies and children. Portraits of Anatole France and the sculptor Carrier made her famous. Her pictures are to be found in lots of museums in France, Switzerland, England, South America, Sweden, Ireland as well as the USA and North Africa. (See Larousse: Biographical Dictionary of Switzerland and various encyclopedias of artists). A rose bred by her bears her name 'Louise Breslau'.
13. Switzerland and France both claim the right to look upon Louise Breslau as one of their own. But in fact the artist was a child of Munich, born in 1856 of German-Jewish parents. Her mother was a von Brandenstein, and through her mother's mother, also the daughter of a baptized personal physician (von Loebel), she had ancestors who were successful medical doctors.
14. Henriette Breslau, a sister of the artist Louise-Catherine Breslau, married into the prominent Swiss family von Stockar-Scherer-Castell at Castle Castell in Thurgau. She had three sons by her husband, Armin von Stockar. Walther von Stockar-Scherer-Castell married Goldi, Freiin von Fabrice, daughter of the Chamberlain of the Elector of Hesse, Maximilian, Freiherr von Fabrice and the Gräfin Ilma Almasy von Zsady. Walther (1878-1938) left two sons, Maximilian von Stockar, Colonel on the Swiss General Staff, married to Louise de Meuron (2 children) and Walter, bank manager, born 1906 (one daughter from his first marriage to Renée Dürler) as well as a daughter, Elisabeth von Stockar, who married the dentist Dr Paul Felber and has two children (Julia and Urban). Armin von Stockar's second son, Erik von Stockar-Scherer-Castell (1880-1942), bachelor, was an architect at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Armin's third son, Clemens von Stockar-Scherer-Castell (1888-1951), an engineer in Zurich, had a daughter, Henriette, by his English wife, Margery.
15. The posthumously born fourth daughter of Dr Bernhard Breslau of Zurich and Catharina von Brandenstein, Bernhardine, known as Dina (1867-1951), married the Senior Customs Inspector Stanislaus Dobrosinski and lived in Hamburg. When she was an old lady her villa was completely destroyed in the bombing in the Second World War. The couple had a daughter and three sons. Gabriele Dobrosinski (born 1895) married a captain in the Merchant Navy, Hans Timmermann, who, as one of the few certified pilots in Hamburg, piloted all important ships in and out of Hamburg harbour for several decades. He died in

1956. A son of this marriage was Hans Timmermann (born 1931) who is at present continuing his training as an officer in the Merchant Navy on a foreign freighter. Gabriele's twin brother suffered a facial wound in the First World War. He was a tax adviser in Hamburg where he recently died. The younger sons, Lothar and Alfons Dobrosinski, died, one in infancy, the other just before he was 30.

16. The descendants of the only daughter of the Royal Bavarian personal physician Heinrich Ritter von Breslau are particularly important. She was called Ernestine (1827-1910) and married the landowner Maximilian von Auer (1821-1881) at Aufhausen. This marriage produced two daughters. Gabriele von Auer married Robert Landmann in 1878. Robert, the son of a senior forestry official, had a doctorate in Law and was a Senior Civil Servant in Bavaria and later minister, had the title 'Excellency', and in 1899, as a reward for his services as a state politician, was given a hereditary peerage and known from now on as 'Ritter von Landsmann'. The son of this marriage, Felix von Landsmann (1879-1931), had a successful career in the diplomatic service, as an Embassy Official and Consul General. During his career, which was unfortunately cut short by his untimely death, he served mainly in Switzerland (Sankt Gallen) and Sweden (Stockholm). His marriage with Angela, Gräfin von Westarp, produced a son, Stefan von Landmann, currently a senior civil servant (lawyer), married to Agathe Durrer-Ehrlich, daughter of Korvettenkapitän [a naval rank equivalent to Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Navy] H Ehrlich and his wife Martha, who was from the family of clock manufacturers, Kienzle, and a daughter, Ines, married to Hans-Joachim Seyd, owner of a shipping company. Stefan von Landmann has two children - Evelyn and Enno; Ines Seyd has one son - Erik-Endrik.
17. Robert Ritter von Landmann, Minister of State, and Gabriele von Auer also had a daughter, Irene von Landmann (born 1881), who married Friedrich von Keller in 1905. Friedrich, a lawyer, had an outstanding career as a diplomat. He represented Germany as an envoy in Belgrade, Brussels and Buenos Aires, then as an authorised representative at the League of Nations in Geneva and finally as ambassador in Ankara. This marriage produced three sons and a daughter. Robert von Keller, the eldest son (1906-1940), also a diplomat, died in an accident. As a Senior Civil Servant in the Ministry for Economic Affairs and with a doctorate in Law he had a promising career ahead of him. His marriage to Regina Ackermann produced one son, Thomas. The second son, Rupprecht von Keller, also a diplomat and a lawyer, was amongst other things part of the defence team for IG-Farben in the Nuremberg trials, when he will have been opposed by his distant cousin, Lord Goddard, who represented the English in Nuremberg, without being aware of the relationship. He is currently a councillor in Bonn responsible for concluding trade agreements with foreign countries. His marriage with Christa von Behr produced two children - Eugen (born 1951) and Cordula (born 1958). The third son, Theodor von Keller (born 1914), is a Professor of Engineering and is now a member of the Board of Directors of the Energy Supply Company East Bavaria Limited [Energieversorgung Ostbayern AG], which has its headquarters in Regensburg. His marriage to Annemarie von Bomhard, granddaughter of the famous Munich doctor Professor Decker, produced three children - Ursula, Franz and Stephanie. The ambassador's only daughter, Gabrielle von Keller, continued the family tradition by becoming a doctor like her great-great grandfather Heinrich Ritter von Breslau, and then married into the Dessauer family from Aschaffenburg, an industrial and academic family related by marriage 150 years earlier to

the Breslaus (as this research has shown), which included amongst others the famous physicist, Professor Friedrich Dessauer, and the philosopher, Max Dessoir. Gabrielle's husband, Guido Dessauer, originally a physicist, is director of the Aschaffenburg Coloured Paper Factory which was founded by his forefathers five generations ago. There are four children from this marriage - Irene (born 1950), Franziska (born 1952), Friederike (born 1953) and Gabriel (born 1955).

18. Let us return to the second daughter of the couple von Auer-von Breslau. This second daughter, Wilhelmine von Auer (1856-1931), married Adolf Neuffer, who, as head of an administrative section of the Royal Bavarian Government (Regierungspräsident) with the title 'Excellency', was given the personal title of Ritter von Neuffer in 1900 and then a hereditary knighthood in 1918. The couple had a son, Wilhelm von Neuffer (born 1878), Doctor of Political Science, retired Major on the General Staff, who died without issue, and a daughter, Paula von Neuffer (born 1881), who lives with her sons on their vineyard in Wachenheim. Paula married Ludwig Bürklin, Prussian Cavalry Captain in the 20th Dragoon Regiment, who was killed on active service at Bethencourt in 1918. There were four children from this marriage. In 1941 Irene Bürklin (1906-1951) married Hubertus Freiherr von Nell zu Perl, owner of fruit farms and vineyards. Her eldest brother, Albert Bürklin, inherited the world famous vineyard Wachenheim from his uncle, His Excellency Dr Albert Bürklin. He recently married a divorcee (née von Hülsen) who had three children by her previous marriage to a Henkel from the well-known washing powder firm. In 1939 Wilhelm Bürklin, brother of the above, Colonel on the General Staff, married Gerda Heyers, daughter of a Solicitor, and has two children - Wolf (born 1940) and Heidi (born 1943).
19. The youngest brother, Fritz Bürklin (1916-1941) was killed in the Second World War near Wjasma. He was a lieutenant and squadron commander of a reconnaissance section.
20. Amongst the descendants of the sisters of the personal physician there are also some notable doctors. The son of Bertha Breslau who married the Venetian blind manufacturer, David Königshöfer, became a Bavarian regimental medical officer. His son, Oscar Königshöfer, Professor of Medicine and personal physician to the Württemberg Royal family, founded the Stuttgart Charlotten Institute for the Blind (See Lexicon of Famous Doctors). In addition he was for many years director of the Medical Support Society which brought him a great deal of credit. He earned himself a reputation after giving a lion an artificial eye. The King of Württemberg heaped honours on him.
21. His son, Friedrich Königshöfer, a government architect, was responsible for the electrification of all the railway stations in Württemberg and was thus at the forefront of technical development in Germany until the race laws of the Hitler regime forced him to emigrate to Switzerland where he died. Oskar Königshöfer's grandson, Heinz Königshöfer, a veterinary surgeon, has an academic position today with an international animal welfare organisation.
22. Dorothea Königshöfer (1880-1943), sister of the government architect Friedrich, married the Royal Württemberg financial administrator Major Hugo von Mauch and had three daughters - Dorothee von Mauch, a librarian, Silvia von Mauch, a fine art dealer, and Allix von Mauch, who married the Munich optician, Herder, by whom she had twins.
23. Dorothea von Mauch, née Königshöfer. was transported to Theresienstadt by the Nazis, where she died in 1943, a victim of the policies of racial hatred.

24. The youngest daughter of Bertha Königshöfer (née Breslau), Henriette Königshöfer, married the lead goods manufacturer August (previously Ahron) Rothenheim of Wallerstein. Of the four children from this marriage Siegfried, owner of a dye factory, died without issue. Maria married her uncle, Ignatz Drey, a businessman. Bertha Rothenheim married Jakob Neustätter, a businessman from Amsterdam, and Julius Rothenheim (1859-1931), the youngest son, who inherited the dye factory A Rothenheim in Munich, married Marie Drey. The only son of Ignatz Drey and Maria Rothenheim, Hermann Drey, was killed in the First World War in 1918. Of the two daughters Henriette died childless whilst Laura Drey married Paul Dobriner, a chemist with IG Farben. One of their sons, the chemist Conrad Drey, emigrated to New York, where he died in 1943. Another son, Georg Dobriner, is living today in the USA. Julius Rothenheim and Marie Drey had two sons: Karl (born 1891), married to Frances Brakl, daughter of the well-known Munich art dealer Brakl, is living in New York (childless) and Fritz Rothenheim (born 1892), engineer and inventor, owner of several German and US patents, is living (unmarried) in Montreal, Canada.
25. The youngest sister of the personal physician, Flora Breslau, has a large number of descendants, mostly in England. She married Markus Stern from Sommerhausen near Würzburg, a wine dealer. Some of her descendants are living today in the USA and in Australia. One of her grandsons, Max Stern, was a dermatologist in Munich. His son, Heinrich Stern, Professor of Fine Art, fled to France, where he is living with his family.
26. The most numerous and perhaps the most interesting descendants are those of Flora's son, Moritz, who went to Birmingham where he founded a business. One of his sons, Arthur L Stern, Doctor of Science and member of the Royal British Institute of Chemists, was for many years the chief chemist of the brewery Bass and Co. He left two sons and five daughters who all gained university degrees and who have all attained responsible positions - Ruth is the headmistress of a primary school; Lucy is an English teacher in a girls' school; Constance is a qualified librarian; Margaret is a chemist in the University Clinic in London; Babette is a physicist at the Marie Curie Hospital; Edward, a doctor of Medicine, is in charge of the Warwickshire General Hospital; and David is a leading gynaecologist at the West Middlesex Hospital.
27. The development of the family of Leopold (formerly Löb) Bresselau, the most successful son of the oldest known forebear Michael M Breslau of Warendorf, is particularly interesting, for, as a trader and supplier to the courts in a grand manner, he broke the shackles which his religion had put on him. His rise led him via Berlin, Warendorf, Prague and Vienna (where he was accepted into the Catholic Church in the Cathedral of St Stephan on 17 May 1796) to Munich.
28. With all his considerable fortune, which was partly inherited, partly earned, he acquired the Danube Marshes [Donauermoos] near Neuburg, a huge, undeveloped moorland, which made him at the time one of the largest landowners in Bavaria. He planned to drain the land along Prussian principles, reclaim it and prepare it for settlement, and planned to finance the project himself by exporting the peat to Hungary along the Danube. The whole project started well and the first settlers came from all directions to the newly created villages of Carlsruhe and Carlskron in the Danube Marshes, and he remained there for some years as the landowner. On this occasion and 'because of his consistent demonstration of loyalty to the imperial house' he was elevated to the nobility and granted the title 'von Bressensdorf' and the famous family royal coat of arms. This

happened on 25 November 1800. Shortly afterwards, however, the peat export business was in trouble, and, because of the ban on peat export as a result of the Napoleonic continental embargo, he was unable to finance his plans. He died in 1805 of a broken heart, because the war had destroyed his life's work. For years there were negotiations between his widow and the State of Bavaria which finally ended in a settlement. The Danube Marshes reverted to the state. No compensation was paid, but the widow received a maintenance payment for life.

29. Johann Leopold Michael Bresselau von Bressendorf, as Löb was now called, had already married for the first time in Berlin in 1772 and had nine children, including three sons, by his first wife, Margane (or Marianne or Miriam) Berend, whose family, like his, were suppliers to the court. The eldest son became the progenitor of the Danish line which we shall look at later, another called Wilhelm (previously Wolf) married in Berlin and became the progenitor of the Berlin line which has now died out and which did not have any outstanding members. The third, Hermann, lived in Magdeburg where he died without issue.
30. On 6 November 1797 with a papal dispensation because of consanguinity Leopold married his cousin Henriette Ludowika Jacobi, who had been baptised on the same day, in the private chapel of the apostolic nuncio Graf von Zincci. The Latin baptismal certificate shows that the mothers of bride and groom were sisters. Blume Würzburg and Rosalie Würzburg were daughters of the head of the Hildesheim community, David Michael Würzburg. Their mother's ancestors can be traced back another four generations in Hildesheim.
31. The marriage between Leopold Bresselau von Bressendorf and Henriette Jacobi produced two daughters and a son.
32. Felix Johann Leopold Franz von Paula Sylvester Bresselau von Bressendorf, born in Munich on 31 December 1798 (the feast of St Sylvester) and baptised in the Cathedral of Our Lady, was five years old when his father died. He was educated in a cadet school at the expense of the Bavarian royal house. As a sixteen-year-old (his war diary of 1815, which is full of romantic landscape descriptions, tells us that he was already 2.05 metres tall) he volunteered to take part in the campaign against Napoleon and returned as a First Lieutenant with the Golden Medal for Bravery and other honours. After studying forestry he became a master forester in Günzburg on the Danube where he designed the town park. He is the progenitor of the well-known Bavarian officer family with branches in Saxony and the Tyrol. He was honoured by several German princes for his translation of a specialist work by Carnot on fortress warfare. The physical appearance and the achievements of this progenitor indicate the genetic health of the family, for he was, happily, the positive result of a marriage between two close relatives. His five sons and his illegitimate son, Friedrich Eugen Krebs, became Bavarian Officers. His wife, Auguste, was from the old Flemish noble family de Bary. She was widowed whilst still young, and it was her great pride and joy to walk along the Ludwigstraße in Munich at Carnival time arm in arm with her sons and wearing an army uniform herself.
33. Arthur, Felix's eldest son, the adventurer in the family, served briefly in the Bavarian army, his service ending after unlawful duels, made a 'guest appearance' in the Papal Army which brought him the medal 'pro Petri sede' and finally became Postmaster General in an English Crown Colony (Kimberley, South Africa) His son, Hanns, for a

time a newspaper editor in Philadelphia, died a bachelor in Merano. His beloved daughter died in Africa, victim of a tropical disease.

34. Adolar, second son of Felix Johann, became a Lieutenant General in the Bavarian Army and a Chamberlain. He married a Freiin von Bibra from an old Thuringian-Franconian noble family whose family seat (Irmelshausen) is still in the possession of the family. His only son, Ralf, earned the highest honours as a colonel in the 1914/18 war and after the war had the thankless task of sending the army home. Ralf's elder son, Hanns, cavalryman and colonel was amongst other things city commander of Trier and Prague. At the end of the wars both father and son were close to promotion to general. Ralf's second son is a Protestant clergyman in Sonthofen and father of six children. The Reichlin von Meldegg and Mann von Tischler families, amongst others, are linked with this branch. Ralf had been a page in the Royal Bavarian court and was also a Bavarian chamberlain.
35. Robert, the third son of Felix Johann, resigned his commission as a Bavarian Major for the sake of his sick wife, Stephanie von Hofstetten, and became a wine grower in the Tyrol. With the proceeds of the sale of the 'Altenburg' by Westerham near Rosenheim which had belonged to his wife's family, he acquired the Naif Valley near Merano and there built Vernaun Castle in the late 19th century German style. His sick wife recovered and lived there until she was nearly eighty. Of Robert's three sons Eugen, a writer and secretary of the Munich Racing Club, married into the old established Tyrolean family of the Freiherrn Unterrichter von Rechtenthal. He left a son, Otto, who made a name for himself as the author of scientific writings on the Indian theory of colour and on astrology. Otto remained the owner of the Castle and Estate of Rechtenthal until 1928, but was then unable to maintain the property because of the special taxes imposed on German nationals by Mussolini, after South Tyrol had been ceded to Italy. Full of enthusiasm for Germany's recovery he returned to Germany, but soon came into conflict with the authorities because of his religious views and his astrological interests and became a victim of the Gestapo in 1934. Otto's son, Otto II, founded a textile export and import business with his sister Liane in Munich after the last war.
36. Robert's son Erwin also lived on Vernaun as owner and wine grower until this property too became unsustainable for the same reason. When he opted for Germany he gave up a small farm in Cermes near Merano and exchanged it for a property of similar value in Luxembourg which the authorities of the Third Reich handed over to him. This farm in Luxembourg was lost in the last war.
37. Two of Erwin's sons live in Munich - Robert, a tax advisor, and Erwin, an advertising agent. The latter has become well-known because of his commitment to the European Union.
38. Robert's son Camill went to the USA as a young farmer, but because of homesickness returned with his savings to South Tyrol. He lost all he possessed after the First World War, and this forced him to lead a very modest existence at the expense of his family. He died in Austria after the Second World War in poverty. He remained unmarried.
39. The fourth son of the Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressensdorf, Camill, was killed in the war of 1870/71 as a young lieutenant in France. His body was brought to Augsburg after his mother discovered that his grave had been robbed and desecrated. His name is to be found on the war memorial in the Englischer Garten in Munich.

40. Erwin, the youngest of the five sons of the Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressendorf and the youngest of all nine children was to be a business man on the advice of his English in-laws, but he volunteered as soon as war broke out in 1870 and returned from this war with the Gold Medal for Bravery and other high honours. He became a businessman, owner of a world-famous textile import and export firm in Dresden, where his house was amongst the first which the Princes of Saxony used to visit. He was a co-founder and for many years president of the German Fleet Company in Saxony, and in this capacity had several meetings with some of the highest personalities in the navy (Turpitz, Köster and others) and audiences at court. After he left the firm he dedicated all his energy to this activity. The families von Kirchbach, von Schwartz and Klein-Walbeck became linked through his daughters. His son-in-law, Dr Walther Klein-Walbeck, master of Castle Walbeck in Geldern, was an officer in the First World War and Courier to the German Crown Prince. The Kirchbach grandchildren became linked with the Freiherren von Schlotheim and von Zimmermann.
41. The von Schwartz grandsons, Karl-Anton and Heinrich, were both killed in action in Russia in the Second World War, one as an officer, the other as an ordinary soldier.
42. Erwin's son, Felix II (1876-1955), a famous Leipzig publisher, trained as a printer and studied Photo-Chemistry and Art History. In 1908, together with Paul List, he founded the Geographical Publishing House List & von Bressendorf in Leipzig, which was still in existence when he died and which even today still has a shadowy existence. Felix studied in Vienna and lived for two years in Philadelphia, where he was the adopted son of his aunt Angela Semon (née von Bressendorf) who owned the 'Philadelphia Democrat'. He was a well-known aesthete with a wide range of talents especially for animal painting, literature and music. He spent the First World War as a Captain in the Artillery and was awarded the Royal Saxon Order of St Henry and The Iron Cross Class I and Class II. After being wounded twice he was made officer in charge of air defence in the city of Mainz which later made him an honorary curator. He was an honorary member of the Goethe Society, Secretary of the German Order of Falcons, Chairman of the German-Dutch Society, founder of the English-speaking Society in Leipzig, founder member of the Shakespeare Society, honorary member of the Leipzig Racing Club, chairman of the association of former Artillery Officers in Leipzig, etc.
43. His first marriage to Käthe Reissmann, who was from a Leipzig manufacturing family, produced three sons. Götz (1911-1945), industrial manager and publisher, died as a prisoner of war in Tiflis, Russia, after unspeakable deprivations. He left a son, Falk. Ralf (1914-1949) Publisher and Printer, was an excellent reserve officer throughout the Second World War only to be killed afterwards by a drunken driver. By the end of the war the third son, Ernst, the compiler of this report, was a Lieutenant in the reserve with a telephone unit; through this accursed war he lost eight years of his education. After being a POW in the USA he worked for five years as an adviser to the US administration for publishing and publication matters in Stuttgart. Since 1952 he has been an independent representative for seven book publishers and in addition since the end of the war has worked as a freelance writer for several newspapers and magazines. The war prevented him from following the profession which would have best suited his talents and interests, namely the study of history. Ralf and Ernst each have two daughters.
44. Two daughters of the Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressendorf settled in England after marriage. Angela's husband, Charles Semon, originally of German-Jewish

extraction, had become Lord Mayor of Bradford [the original has 'Lord Major'] in the time of Disraeli. The walls of the huge castle which was provided for him to live in, were heated with coal so that the wine would mature even in the English fog - reflection of a care-free time. The couple died without issue. Irene married the merchant Edward Lassen. Fanny, one of their two daughters, married a Mr Stalker from an old Scottish family. Her daughter Irene is the wife of a retired British Colonel, Reginald Close, who had responsibility for the whole rail network of India during the second World War. He and his wife thus had to spend much of their time living in a Pullman coach whilst the older daughters were brought up with their grandmother in Scotland. The couple had five daughters. June, the eldest, studied Art. Patricia, the second daughter, married David Price, a scientist, who is at present in Cameroon, where he has been commissioned by the Belgian Government to carry out experiments in the propagation of bananas.

45. Another daughter of the Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressensdorf, Selma, married into the family of the Freiherren von Schleinitz, a family of civil servants. Through her children links were formed with the von Brandenstein and von Devivere families. Selma's son, Werner, Freiherr von Schleinitz, acquired a reputation not merely as a Prussian government official, but also as a preacher in a free religious community. Since he lived according to the principles of his strict religion he came into conflict with Hitler's Reich and suffered as a pacifist in the Second World War. The war cost his family their estate in Merseburg, a martyrdom which he did not survive. There are children and grandchildren living in Frankfurt and Hanau.
46. The Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressensdorf had an illegitimate son, Friedrich Eugen Krebs, by a Miss Anna Katharina Krebs whom he met while he was a forestry trainee in Regensburg. Considerations of class may have been responsible for his not marrying Anna Krebs. This natural son, who lost his mother in 1840 just before he was 15, was looked after by his father who provided him with a sound training in his maternal grandfather's trade. He became a glove manufacturer, and he also became an officer in the Bavarian territorial reserves. He married a lady from a good middle-class Regensburg family. Of his three sons the eldest, Friedrich Johann Krebs, became a glove manufacturer in Gloversville, USA. One of Friedrich Johann's daughters, 'Gretchen' married a landscape gardener there. The second son, Gottlieb Heinrich Krebs, set up a photo-chemical factory in Offenbach - the 'Geka Works' which still belongs to his descendants (all manufacturing families) today. The third son, Dr Nikodemus Krebs, became a Senior Medical Officer and became senior spa doctor in Bad Aibling. His only son and his only grandson were both killed as officers in the two wars. One of his daughters, Jakobine, married Dr Friedrich Meggendorfer, the director of the Nerve Clinic of the University of Erlangen. Of the four daughters of this marriage the eldest is a lecturer in geology at the University of Hamburg; the other three are all medical doctors and married to medical doctors who are directors of or soon to become directors of specialist clinics.
47. The Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressensdorf had an older sister, Rosalie. She married the Austrian naturalist, Kraft Ernst Hoffmann, and settled in England. Descendants of her only daughter, Henriette, who married the piano manufacturer, Friedrich E Rummel, and lived in Antwerp, are to be found in Bremen (piano maker Schellenberger), and Colombes, France (Henri Rummel, Engineer, and his family). A son

of the piano maker Schellenberger is an engineer in Stuttgart with Bosch, another is a concert violinist and violin teacher in Frankfurt.

48. The younger sister of the Master Forester Felix Johann von Bressensdorf, Aloysia (Louise) became the second of the three wives of the Senior Bavarian Civil Servant, Dr Ignaz von Rudhart, who went to Greece as minister-president under the far from happy King Otto of the House of Wittelsbach. Rudhart is looked upon as the father of Bavarian constitutionalism. It is partly due to him that in the 19th century the Bavarian Royal House voluntarily restricted its rights along the English model, and that in the last decades before the First World War, the Bavarian monarchs, despite the many opportunities, did not need to make themselves unpopular and in fact could not make themselves unpopular because they no longer had the power to do so.
49. The first memorial for Rudhart, a marble obelisk paid for from donations from the citizens of Passau, sank in the floods when the raft on which it was being transported along the Danube capsized, and was never recovered. A further collection produced a more modest memorial. It is made of sandstone and stands on the promenade in Passau. Unfortunately the inscriptions have been worn away by the weather.
50. Amongst the descendants of this couple are Irmgard Prestel (née Stoeger) who made a name for herself as the author of sentimental regional poems and stories as well as children's books (some published by Herder), and her daughter, the stage designer Irmgard Prestel, now wife of a director of AEG; also Georg Roth, author and actor who appeared in many Bavarian plays, who died about five years ago; also doctors, lawyers, and officers. One daughter of the minister-president's second marriage was Ernestine Rudhart who married the blacksmith on the family estate in the face of family opposition and was rewarded with twins for this 'misdeed'. In fact with the man of her choice she founded a large family which includes several Bavarian mountain farmers who in many cases have a noticeable penchant for Bavarian Schrammeln ensemble music and have appeared in Yodelling groups and groups wearing traditional national costume..
51. Let us return to the branch of the family from the first marriage of the ennobled Leopold von Bressensdorf. The three sons, Moritz (formerly Meyer), Wilhelm (formerly Wolf) and Hermann (formerly David) as legitimate offspring of their father, used the new family name, using the wording of the diploma conferring the title, without this being queried in Prussia and Denmark where they lived. Because of the age difference between the two half-brothers Moritz and Felix (26 years), the Danish Bressensdorfs, descendants of the four sons of Moritz, are 2-3 generations further on. Because of a certain recklessness on the part of the Danish forbear who is said to have squandered his wealth and his inheritance playing roulette with the Danish princes, the five sons had to learn trades and soon did not use the 'von' any longer. In some cases the spelling changed too. The lines from Moritz's four sons are sometimes written with one 'f', sometimes with two. None, however, are written with an 's' before the 'dorf'. This 's' was lost. Amongst them are representatives of all trades and professions. One family which is of historical interest now uses the 'von' again, although today there is no way of telling if this indicates nobility or is simply part of the name. Merchants, teachers, officers of the Copenhagen militia, clergymen, sailors, civil servants, artists, salaried staff, workers, farmers, inshore fishermen - all had no idea that they were the direct descendants of the Rabbi of the Land of Westphalia.

52. For the most part the Danish members of the family were unaware that they were all descended from a single progenitor - namely Moritz (formerly Meyer), the eldest son from his first marriage of the man who was elevated to the nobility. In 1952 it was the exciting task of the writer of this report on the occasion of a visit to cousins to introduce the members of the individual branches of the family to one another.
53. Moritz's eldest son, Michael (1794-1860), at first an NCO in the Copenhagen Militia, then Second Lieutenant and finally Senior War Commissioner, became a Christian in 1827 in Copenhagen. He was a Post Office official in Wandsbeck during the Danish time, where he married a German, but died without issue.
54. The second son, Isaak Moritz Bresselau von Bressendorf (1794-1850), landowner at Bregneröd, had two sons and a daughter from his two marriages to Marie Ogelvie and Karen Madsdatter. His son, Peter Bressendorf, was a haulage contractor in Copenhagen; his son, Jacob Leopold (from the second marriage) was a Master Printer and had numerous children by his wife Wilhelmine Jacobsen-Jensen. His sons Carl and Lauritz founded new family branches and there are three more sons by the illegitimate son of his daughter Dagmar Bressendorff. Ejnar Leopold Bressendorff was the manager of a bread factory, son Emil has a jam factory, Helge a textile firm and Orla is a representative for an office equipment factory.
55. Three grandsons of Carl Bressendorff (1852-1888) are still alive, Karl as a skilled worker in Lille Viby near Kerteminde with three sons- Svend, Hans and Knud; Harald in Hostrup near Stauby, Jutland, with five children - Tove, Verner, Aase, Børge, Bjarne.
56. Lauritz Bressendorff (1858-1936), Blacksmith, has a lot of descendants through his ten children. One of his sons, Peter, was a mechanic. Peter's daughter, Ruth, twice married, is an interior decorator with the leading Copenhagen furniture store. Max was a master shoemaker. Of Max's children Erling is an office assistant, Irene, married to Svend Björn Hansen, is a fashion model. Lauritzen's third son was a master mechanic. The fourth son, Kai Herman, was a captain in the Danish Merchant Navy. His ship sank after the Second World War when it struck a German mine in the Great Belt, and he swam for eight hours in the sea in the winter before he was rescued. His children, Anne-Lise, Kirsten and Eiwind, all have the name of their mother (Hansen), who has remarried.
57. Of Lauritz's daughters Thekla married Fredrik Lindseth, a director, in Oslo, and Ragnhild, a photographer, first married Arthur Ericson, director of General Motors, USA, who was killed in a road accident in 1938, then married Myles J Sweeney.
58. Oskar Bressendorf, third son of Isaak (Master Locksmith, 1859-1936) had eleven children. His son Jakob founded a family of businessmen. Jakob's sons are called Eigil and Björn. Harold has sons called Arthur and Conny, Conny's children are called Ib, Svend, Finn and Bente. Oskar's youngest son, Svend Hubert Bressendorf, a Danish pilot, was killed when his plane crashed over the Baltic in 1930. It was only when reports of this accident appeared in the newspapers that the German Bressendorfs discovered that there are relatives in Denmark.
59. The third son of the oldest Danish Bressendorf, named Bernhard, Trade Commissioner in Copenhagen (1795-1855) had three daughters and three sons from two marriages. Thorwald, Master Butcher in Frederiksborg (1836-1915) died childless. Camillus, a Master Glazier in Copenhagen, had one daughter and three sons from two marriages. Cecilie married Edvard Gad, an Engineer, Sophus became a master Glazier, Camillus a travelling salesman, and William a Civil Servant with the Copenhagen Inspectorate for

Children's Education. William, who was the only Danish Bressendorf who still used (or again used) the 'von', was also a Staff Paymaster in the Reserve. His marriage to Magda Nielsen produced two sons, Kurt and Fritz. Kurt is an engineer, Fritz is about to become a secondary teacher for German, Music, History and P.E. It is not possible to list all the members of the Danish line individually.

60. The fourth son of the oldest Danish Bressendorf, named David, became a Captain in the Artillery in the Copenhagen Militia. His first marriage to Charlotte Rassmussen produced just one daughter, Williamdine, who married the merchant, Christian August Kaysen, in Vejle. Their descendants are mainly in business and include the merchant Orla Jantzen-Holst, who runs a Fruit Import shop in the Town Hall square in Copenhagen and owns the Hamburg branch of an English Electrical firm. His sister Ellen Jantzen-Holst married William de Svanenskjold-Hoff, a doctor. Moritz's youngest son, Vilhelm, was a language teacher in Copenhagen. His only son, Valdemar Breslau von Bressendorff, merchant in Copenhagen, died without any male heir. One of his three daughters, Laura, married Gotfred Berggreen, barrister to all the courts in Copenhagen.
61. As already mentioned, the first Danish Bressendorf came to Copenhagen through his aunt Jacobine (formerly Jacobbet). Jacobine, one of the two daughters of the Land rabbi Michael M Breslau, i.e. sister of the ennobled Leopold, was born in Hildesheim about 1743, and in about 1765 married Jakob J Moisling, a banker born in Moisling near Lübeck. Moisling was very wealthy and had a high reputation. He left a legacy in his will which today still finances the studies of two Jewish scholars every year in Denmark. On a list of benefactors of the Copenhagen theatre his name was second only to that of the King of Denmark. Amongst the nine children of this couple is the daughter Pauline who married her cousin Moritz Br von Bressendorf. Jacobine's gravestone is still standing in the old Jewish cemetery. She died in 1822.
62. One of her descendants, Vilhelm Steffensen, member of the teaching staff of Herlufsholm, the most exclusive boarding school in Denmark which is under the patronage of the King of Denmark and is comparable to Eton in England, had this gravestone restored. The following words are to be found on it:
63. 'My heart and my soul rejoice because my body too is now safely at rest.' 'Below lies a woman distinguished by her virtue and good qualities. She was the crown of her husband. All her deeds were only good ones. In all her days she had a helping hand for the unfortunate. Her body was buried, but her soul sped up into the heights, where she shall enjoy her well-deserved reward until the end of her days.'
64. Each of the sons of Jakob Moisling and Jacobine Breslau took on a different surname. One branch, descendants of the eldest son, called themselves 'Meyer', another 'Muzelius', a third 'Jacobsen'. Amongst the many, many descendants, the dead and the living, there are primarily businessmen of all kinds, but also academics, artists, scientists, as well as tradesmen and craftsmen. Members of many families married into the family - Schottländer, Levison, Zadig, von Mauchenheim (known as Bechtolsheim), Piora, Michaelsen, Blatt, including Franz Blatt, Professor of Philology at the University of Aarhus.
65. Research into the descendants of Michael von Breslau's daughter Gütle produced some surprising results. Gütle was born about 1743, and in 1765 she married the Frankfurt cloth merchant Jacob E Halle, whose family had come to Frankfurt from Halle via Hamburg. This union produced two sons and two daughters. The marriage of the eldest

son, Enoch (1766-1820), remained childless. The second son, Mayer J Halle (1770-1839), presumably named after his Breslau great-grandfather, married Golde Goldschmidt from a Frankfurt banking family. Amongst the descendants of this son are the families Henle (an old family of court suppliers with nobility in several branches), Falkenberg, Masbach, Ochs, Auerbach and others.

66. Members of the Ochs family include the Fratelli Ochs, owners of the Milan silk spinning mill, Lüttich Jacques Ochs, Artist and Professor of the Academy, and also Elsa Ochs, director of the Montessori School in Berlin.
67. The descendants of Gütle's daughter Berta Halle (1775-1852) are perhaps the most influential. She married the Frankfurt cloth merchant, Israel Reiss in 1796. Their six children forged links with some equally important German families - Schuster, Flersheim, Oppenheim, Gerson and Getz. Together they formed the nucleus of the prominent Jewish community in Frankfurt, who in the 19th Century finally mixed with established patricians and immigrant noble families, like de Neufville, de Bary, von Metzler, von Seutter, Hauck, Lindheimer, Diehl, etc.
68. One of the five sons of Israel Reiss and Berta Halle, Dr Michael Reiss (1805-1869) (See General German Biography), was a well-known mathematician and a contemporary of Gauss. He concerned himself primarily with parallel curves and surfaces and with the theory of determinants. Two of his brothers, Christoph (converted) and Anton (converted) became highly respected Frankfurt citizens and business advisers to the Herzog von Nassau, whilst two other brothers, Leopold and Jacques sought and found their fortunes in the British Empire in the Disraeli era.
69. Jacques' descendants have not yet been traced. Leopold became Head of the firm of Reiss Brothers in Manchester. Christoph's eldest son, Adolf, was a merchant and manufacturer first in Manchester and then in Shanghai. Adolf's son, Otto, married a granddaughter of the Venerable Arthur Palmer, Archbishop of Toronto. Christoph's second son, Alfred, married into the Mathée family of Aachen and his name is in Martin's Handbook of Millionaires. The name of one of his grandsons, Walter Hasenclever (1890-1941) has gone into literary history as a member of the avant-garde of German expressionism. His works (drama and lyric poetry), which are controversial not because of their niveau but because of their trend, have to be understood in the context of their time, as also has the decision of his sister, the millionaire's granddaughter, to become a gardener, thus indicating rejection of an exaggerated valuation of wealth. Walter Hasenclever took his own life as an emigrant in a French internment camp in 1941. (See entries in Meyer's Konversationslexikon and in Soergel, Literaturgeschichte...)
70. Christoph Reiss's daughter Anna married into the famous Frankfurt banking family Hauck, whose members today are again in leading positions in Frankfurt's economy. Her son, Georg Hauck, married Mathilde von Metzler, daughter of the banker G A von Metzler, member of the Prussian Upper Chamber. Their son, Alexander Hauck, is married to Käthe Osswalt, daughter of Dr Henry Osswalt, privy councillor (lawyer), member of the Reichstag. The line of Christoph's youngest son in Switzerland has not yet been researched.
71. Back to Leopold Reiss in Manchester. One of the children from his marriage to his first cousin Karoline Gerson was a daughter, Emilie, who married Sir George O Morgan, Barrister, First Baronet, member of the Privy Council of the British Government (Liberal)

and Secretary of the Foreign Office (see British National Biography III, Suppl. Pages 192-195.)

72. In 1888 Annie Emily Reiss, daughter of Leopold's son Emil L Reiss, married Major General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Marshall of the Dept. Corps [sic], Private Secretary of the British Minister of War, then military adviser to the Governor General of Canada 1904-1909, Head of the British Military Mission in Russia 1914-1917, and finally Special Envoy in The Hague and Bern 1917-1919. The elder of the two sons from this marriage was killed on active service on the English side, whilst the younger, Sir (1950) John Coldbrook Hanbury-Williams, Industrialist, became Director of the Bank of England as well as having the following offices or titles: 'Chairman of Courtaulds, Ltd' [original has 'Courtraulds'], 'High Sheriff and His Majesty's Lieutenant of the City of London', and 'Gentleman usher to the King'. Since 1928 he has been married to Princess Zenaida Cantakuzenos and has three children, whilst his sister Gladys [original has 'Gwladys'] Frances is married to Claude Arthur Lucas, Director of the Imperial Continental Gas Association. Leopold's youngest sons, Charles A Reiss and Frederic Reiss, also lived in London, the one as a respected trader, the other as a respected lawyer, and both married daughters of Members of Parliament. Frederic's son Alec (1871-1932), a Lieutenant Colonel, had a leading function in the control of British air weaponry.
73. The mathematician Michael Reiss, whom we have already mentioned, surely had his forename from his great-grandfather Michael Bresselau. From his marriage to a distant cousin he had only one daughter, Elisabeth Charlotte, whose husband, Dr Maximilian Getz, was a co-founder of the Medical Support Society. Their eldest daughter, Fanny Getz, married the Chief Engineer of the City of Frankfurt, 'Sir' William H Lindley (1853-1917), who emigrated to England and was elevated to the nobility in 1911 for his services as an advisory civil engineer. Fanny's sister, Emma, married Sir Frederic d'Abernon, 15th Baronet of Stoke d'Abernon (1852-1936), Deputy Conservator of the Department of India, British ambassador etc. Another sister married the Frankfurt Civil Servant Panthel.
74. Gütle Halle (née Breslau)'s grandson, Anton Reiss (1807-1887) was a Frankfurt personality who was well-known outside his home city. He was so rich that there was a popular joke about him 'Who has the most expensive shoemaker?' 'Old Reiss of course, he pays 100,000 Taler for a single Stiebel'. Stiebel was the name of his son-in-law - Julius Stiebel, who was a medical doctor, admired at the time as a poet and patron. [Stiebel is a regional word for the standard German word Stiefel = boot]. Anton Reiss may well have given his favourite daughter, who as a beautiful young woman was painted by Anselm Feuerbach in Rome, a dowry of such value, but the number of children which this union produced puts it beyond doubt that this was a love marriage.
75. Anton Reiss was the owner of a piece of park-land which was to play a role in the history of the German Empire, since it was on the foundation walls of the Reiss villa that Friedrichsruh Castle was built, from where the Empress Friedrich [i.e. Victoria, wife of Friedrich], daughter of Queen Victoria and mother of Kaiser Wilhelm II kept in touch with her motherland.
76. Friedrich Julius Stiebel and Maria Reiss had seven children. Whilst their only son died childless, three daughters entered into interesting marriages. Sophie Pauline Stiebel married a descendant of the Lindheimer family made famous by Goethe's forebears. Anna Stiebel became the wife of Professor Johann Diehl, Head Chemist of I G Farben at

- Hoechst. Charlotte Gabriel Stiebel married Julius Neubronner in Kronberg in the Taunus, a dispensing chemist who became famous for an invention in the field of photography.
77. Anton's sons Emil and Friedrich emigrated to England. His son Ferdinand became a farmer and married Gabriele Seutter von Lötzen, the daughter of a Master Forester from an old Allgäu family. Of their children Paula married Professor Luckenbach, headmaster of a Grammar School, Maria married Mr Obkircher, director of the Land court and member of the Reichstag, Emma married the president of the Land court, Freiherr von Babo, and Mathilde married Dr Helbing, a General Practitioner.
 78. Emma's son, Dr Fritz Freiherr von Babo, is a Government director in Karlsruhe, her daughter Hertha is married to Dr Dagobert Moericke, Secretary of State and President of the Senate at the Federal Court.
 79. Paula's daughter Gertrud is the widow of Professor Klingenstein, Hedwig's husband is Karl Franke, Professor of medicine; Ilse, a trained opera singer, is the widow of a dentist named Zimmer, and has a son, Ortwin, who is an architect.
 80. Of the sons of Ferdinand Reiss and Gabriele von Seutter, Emil, a First Lieutenant, was killed in the Herero Uprising in South West Africa in 1904, whilst Fritz, a Kapitän zur See [a naval rank equivalent to Captain in the Royal Navy] and Captain of the 'Wiesbaden', went down with his ship in the battle of Jutland in 1916.
 81. Rudolf (1875-1929) was a Professor of Photo-Chemistry, and Carl Reiss (1880-1945) was a Lieutenant Colonel. Hans Reiss, an active Cavalry Captain before and during the first World War, became an artist after the war.
 82. Adelheid, the only daughter of the Reiss-Halle couple and sister of the five brothers Christoph, Leopold, Michael, Anton and Jacques, married Joseph M Schuster, a trader, and had two children by him, Henriette and Franz Joseph. Henriette (1821-1892) married Eduard Flersheim, a banker. Only two of their four children married - the eldest son, Robert, heir of the banking house, and the youngest daughter, Anne-Marie. Anne-Marie married the banker Johann de Neufville, who was from an old-established Frankfurt patrician family of Belgian origin.
 83. Franz-Joseph Schuster (1823-1906) became a Christian in 1847 and founded a second banking house in London, Schuster, Son & Co. His wife was the daughter of M Pfeiffer, a Senior Civil servant in Wurttemberg. His eldest son, Ernst, later Ernest Anton (1850-1935), doctor of Law, Queen's Council, barrister, partner in the banking house then writer on economic matters and president of the Atheneum in London, married the daughter of the doctor at the German Embassy, Sir Hermann D Weber, who was from the family of Max Weber. One of Ernst Schuster's sons, Sir George E Schuster (born 1881, see Who's Who, 1952) director of all manner of world famous banks in the British Commonwealth, was a department head in the Organisation for International Credit of the League of Nations, Financial Adviser to the Foreign Office, Finance Minister of the Sudan Government 1927-1929, and was on the executive Council for India. His wife is the daughter of the first Lord Parker of Waddington. One son from this marriage, John Barkley Schuster, Major in the Second World War, is married to the daughter of the second Lord Wyfold of Accrington [original has 'Acrington'], another son, a Captain, was killed in action in 1941.
 84. Ernest Schuster's daughter, Violet Hilda, married the author and liberal politician, chief editor of the Daily News, Edward Harold Spender (born 1864). A son of this couple is the

- world famous English poet and critic Stephen H Spender (born 1909). (See Who's Who, International 1952. Author of 'The Edge of Being').
85. The second son of Franz-Joseph Schuster, F Arthur Schuster (1851-1934) achieved outstanding results as a scientist and researcher in the field of electricity and earth magnetism or its connection with solar activity. (See Knauer, Meyers Konversationslexikon. Enc. Britannica etc.) He was professor of Applied Mathematics at Manchester and had a doctorate and three honorary doctorates. Two of his daughters are married to well-known scientists and two others to British officers. He himself was knighted in 1920 and became Sir Arthur Schuster.
 86. Franz-Joseph Schuster's third son, Felix O Ph Schuster (1854-1936) was created First Baronet of Collingham Road in 1906 (Who's Who, Enc. Brit.) Included in his personal details are: Director of the National Provincial Bank, Member of the Council of Secretaries of State for India, Member of the Royal London Traffic Commission, Member of the Special Committee for India, Chairman of the Central Organisation of British Bankers, vice-president of the Alpine Club, Writer on Economic Affairs, Music Lover and Patron as well as a series of other honorary offices which are difficult to translate. He too married a daughter of the doctor at the German Embassy, Dr Weber.
 87. One of his daughters, Mary Linda Schuster of the family of the baronets of Collingham Road, is married to the long-time Lord Chief Justice of the British Empire, Sir Rayner Goddard (born 1877). Sir Rayner Goddard made a great impression at the Nuremberg Trials, where he represented England, with his unshakeable sense of justice and objectivity. Further alliances with members of the leading British political, economic and scientific circles complete the picture of the Schuster descendants.
 88. The descendants of Gütle Halle-Bresselau's youngest daughter Regine Halle (1788-1856) are no less remarkable. She married the Frankfurt Cloth Merchant Josua Gerson. Of their ten children (whose descendants are not yet by any means fully researched) the oldest daughter married the trader Daniel Sylvester Sichel. One of their daughters, Caroline Amalie Sichel (1834-1909) married the South African businessman and mine owner Louis Goldmann at Burgersdorp, Cape Colony. One son of this marriage, Charles S Goldmann, British major and mine owner in Burgersdorp, was the father of John Monck Goldmann (since 1938 only Monck) who was born in 1908 and who in 1934 married the daughter of Frederic John Napier Thesiger, Third Lord and First Viscount of Chelmsford, Privy Councillor, Viceroy of India, First Lord of the Admiralty, and his wife Frances Charl. Guest from the family of the Lords Wimborne, a granddaughter of the Seventh Duke of Marlborough.
 89. Regine Gerson's seventh child, Jakob Gerson (1821-1903) married Regine Schuster of the Frankfurt banking family, became Saxony-Coburg-Gotha Consul and was elevated to the nobility by Herzog Ernst von Sachsen-Coburg-Gotha as Freiherr Gerson von Ghersburg. The 'Ghersburg', a family property in Bad Aibling, is now used as a sanatorium. Various families became linked by marriage with the Gerson von Ghersburg family - the Freiherren von Münster, the Freiherren von Tautphoeus, which includes the author 'Franz Taut', the family von Trentini, the family von Radowitz. A branch of the family of the Grafen von Bethusy-Huc also married into this line.
 90. Finally the descendants of the youngest daughter of Regine Gerson, née Halle, should not remain unmentioned. She married a Mr Holland. A number of prominent families are descended from the children of this couple, the most prominent one being the Frankfurt

banking family Andreä. Fritz Andreä, banker, partner in the banking house Hardy & Co., chairman of the board of directors of the Dresdner Bank, etc., married Edith Rathenau, sister of Walter Rathenau. A daughter from this marriage married into the old established Saxon noble family Mangoldt-Reiboldt and is very active as a writer in the area of sociology.

91. All these families then originate from the one daughter of the oldest progenitor Michael Meyer Bresselau who was called Gütle and who settled in Frankfurt after she married. Over 400 direct descendants of hers are now known although not all branches have been researched, and perhaps never will be since many lines lead abroad. The results of this research serve to illustrate the cultural, economic and political influence of the Bresselau descendants at least as much as do the descendants in the male lines.
92. To demonstrate clearly the absurdity of Hitler's racial madness another branch of the family should be mentioned. Its connection with the family of the Land rabbi of Warendorf, Michael M Breslau, cannot be proved with absolute certainty, but in the view of two competent specialist genealogists it very probably is connected. It is the branch of Hirsch J Bresslau of Hamburg, forefather of the famous historian Professor Harry Bresslau, who is the author of works on sources for the German Middle Ages and who has an international reputation in History circles. Harry Breslau, until 1918 Professor of History at the University of Strasbourg, was expelled by the French at the end of the war as a 'German Nationalist'. His son, the equally famous zoologist and South America researcher, Dr Ernst Bresslau, Professor at the University of Cologne, author of the most important and most comprehensive zoological encyclopaedia in German, was obliged to emigrate to South America, where he died. His widow, Luise Bresslau-Hoff, dedicated herself tirelessly after the Second World War to charitable work for the 'Other Germany'. Ernst Bresslau's children are living in Brazil today. One daughter is a historian.
93. Harry Bresslau's sister, Clara, married to a merchant from Hamburg, sacrificed two sons in the First World War who both died in Russia. She too was only able to save herself by fleeing to England to her daughter, who had been living there for a long time as a pianist, composer and concert singer, and who has now moved to Switzerland.
94. Harry Breslau was co-founder of the 'Monumenta Germanica', the most important source collection for the history of the German Middle Ages. For many years he was the editor. The Nazis did not find it appropriate that his remains should rest in a Christian cemetery in Heidelberg, but they did find it appropriate to deprive his daughter, Mrs Helene Schweitzer Bresslau, wife of Albert Schweitzer, of her German nationality and so rob her of her homeland.
95. What a long report an old gravestone like this can lead to when you have tried to get to the bottom of the connections. May the stones whose inscriptions have long since been obliterated by the weather continue their Sleeping Beauty sleep. All over Germany and in many places in the rest of the world, even in the Antilles, there are people living whose thoughts and deeds would not exist if it were not for the people who rest beneath these stones.

Starnberg am See, Summer 1960 Ernst von Bressensdorf