



THE GERMAN MONARCHY
MERINO SHEEP
AND
A WOOL MERCHANT
A Four Part History About The
Origin Of A South African Sheep
Farming Family

By Magdalene Morse-Jones

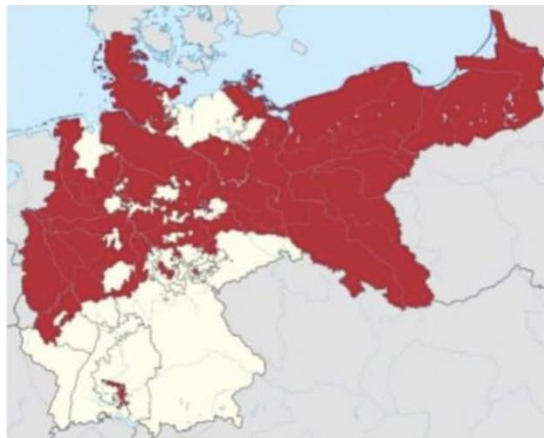
(Historian & Genealogist)

INTRODUCTION



Coat of Arms – Kingdom of Prussia – 1871–1918

The wild men are mythical figures that appear in the art and literature of medieval Europe. The image of wild men survived to appear as supporter for heraldic coat-of-arms, especially in Germany, well into the 16th century.



The Kingdom of Prussia was a German kingdom that constituted the state of Prussia between 1701 and 1918. It was the driving force behind the unification of Germany in 1871 and was the leading state of the German Empire until its dissolution in 1918.



Hohenzollern Castle is the ancestral seat of the imperial House of Hohenzollern. The third of three hilltop castles built on the site, it is located atop Mount Hohenzollern, above the edge of the Swabian Jura of central Baden-Württemberg, Germany.



Frederick William I (14 August 1688 – 31 May 1740), known as the “Soldier King”, was the king of Prussia and elector of Brandenburg from 1713 until his death in 1740, as well as prince of Neuchâtel. He was succeeded by his son, Frederick the Great.

PART 1 –HOHENZOLLERN CASTLE – A LEGENDARY GOTHIC FORTRESS

The first personal related reference of the Hohenzollern House dates back to 1061 ('Wezil et Burchardus de Zolorin'). First direct mention of the Castle complex ("CastroZolre") was in 1267. Appearance, size and furnishing of the original Castle are unknown, but presumably it was in the first decade of the 11th century. At that time it must have been a vast and artistically valuable furnished complex. Contemporary sources praised it as "Crown of all Castles in Swabia" and as "the most fortified House in Germany". However in 1423, the Castle was completely destroyed.

From 1454 the second Hohenzollern Castle was constructed bigger and even more fortified than before. Later, during the Thirty Years War, the Castle was converted into a fortress with repeatedly changing owners. Since the maintenance of the building was neglected, it became dilapidated and turned into ruins at the beginning of the 19th century.

In 1819 Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia decided to have the ancestral seat of the Hohenzollern House reconstructed. In 1844, being King Frederick William IV, he wrote in a letter: "The memories of the year 1819 are exceedingly dear to me and like a pleasant dream, it was especially the sunset we watched from one of the Castle bastions, ... now this adolescent dream turned into a wish to make the Hohenzollern Castle habitable again..."

From 1850 he put his long lasting dream into reality and created one of Germany's most imposing Castle complexes in a neo-Gothic style. With its many towers and fortifications, it is an acclaimed masterpiece of military architecture in the 19th century. Additional civil architectural elements make it a unique attraction. The location on the most beautiful mountain in Swabia, gives the Castle a picturesque appearance.

From 1952 Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia initiated to have the Castle furnished with valuable works of arts and significant history pertaining to Prussia and its Kings. In addition to paintings from renowned artist (Honthorst, Pesne, von Werner, von Lenbach and Laszlo), there is a display of gold and silversmith works from the 17th to the 19th century.

In 1970 and 1978, earthquakes caused immense damage to the Castle. Now and in the future all costs for maintenance, preservation and renovations have to be financed from the admission fees. The Castle complex presents itself to visitors from all over the world, being well maintained and in perfect structural condition.



Hohenzollern Castle Portal



The Prussian Crown Jewels is the royal regalia, consisting of two crowns, an orb and a sceptre, used during the coronation of the monarchs of Prussia from the House of Hohenzollern. After the King of Prussia became German Emperor of establishment of the German Empire on 18 January 1871, they were no longer used as the position of King of Prussia while still remaining, was a title of lesser importance compared to the new role as German Emperor. There was no crown for the German Empire, although a heraldic version existed.



Atop a foothold of the Swabian Alb mountain range, the House of Hohenzollern stands over the trees in an image that seems to have leapt from the pages of a fairy tale.

The castle has 140 rooms in total, with highlights including the library with its incredible murals, the King's bed chamber, a family tree room and the Queen's room known as the Blue Salon. The interior design is splendid with its gilded coffered ceiling, stunning marquetry flooring and portraits of Prussian royals.



Hohenzollern Castle Facade

PART 2 - ANCIENT SCHUMANN FAMILY HISTORY

The original Schumann families, owned large estates where they were mainly cattle farmers and hunters. They spoke a language belonging to the Baltic group of the Indo-European language family. The Schumann's and other Prussian families were related to the Latvians and Lithuanians, who lived in tribes in the then heavily forested region between the lower Vistula and Neman rivers. Their social organization was loose – although some elements of stratified society can be traced – and they were pagans. Early attempts to convert these Prussian clans to Christianity – notably those made by Saint Adalbert and Saint Bruno of Querfurt at the turn of the 11th century – were unsuccessful. In the 13th century, however, these Prussian tribes were conquered and Christianized by the German-speaking knights of the Teutonic Order, which had been awarded Prussian lands by the Polish duke Conrad of Mazovia for help against Prussian incursions. The Prussian countryside was subdued, castles were built for the nobility, and many German peasants were settled here to work on the Schumann and other families estates. By the middle of the 14th century, the majority of the inhabitants of Prussia were German-speaking, though the Old Prussian language did not die out until the 17th century. By the 17th century the indigenous population was thoroughly assimilated.



The Schumann Coat of Arms was used primarily to establish their identity in battle. It consists of a shield displaying charges (the emblem occupying its field), accompanied by a warriors helmet, the mantling which protects his neck from the sun (slashed fancifully to suggest having been worn in battle), the wreath which secures the mantling and crest to the helmet, and the crest (the device above the helmet). A family symbol which has been passed down through generations.



L – ERNEST SHUMAN (B-1901/D-1979)

R – WILLIAM SHUMAN (B-1904/ D-1952)

Son's of WILLIAM ARTHUR SHUMAN



WILLIAM ARTHUR SHUMAN (B-1871 / D-1937)

**Son of BARON WILHELM KARL von
SCHUMANN of PRUSSIA**

William Shuman was raised by his grandparents, Uriah and Johannah Dicks, who did not want a German surname for their grandson. In 1873, they omitted the preposition “von” as well as the “c” and second “n” in Schumann, now called Shuman. As a result of this change, the prestigious title of “Baron” became obsolete.



The House of Hohenzollern is a German royal dynasty whose members were variously princes, electors, kings and emperors of Hohenzollern Brandenburg, Prussia, the German Empire, and Romania. The family came from the area around the town of Hechingen Swabia during the late 11th century and took their name from Hohenzollern Castle. The first ancestors of the Hohenzollerns were mentioned in 1061.

Part 3 - THE SOUTH AFRICAN WOOL BOOM

Wool soon replaced wine as the Cape's staple product and its most important export – and in 1840 London wool brokers began to speak of “a large and valuable export” from the Cape. The value of the wool depended on such variables as quality and the ruling price at the quarterly sales on the London market, but apart from occasional setbacks, prices generally rose each year until 1860, earning an impressive £286000 by 1851 – 59 percent of the revenue from all Cape exports. Predictably, the boom attracted a new type of immigrant from England and elsewhere in Europe after 1840. He had plenty of money and was keen to invest it in sheep farms. In an effort to lure this wealth to their districts, towns and villages in the colony competed with one another in order to attract investment, and soon pamphlets and newspapers were trumpeting the appeal of one area over another.

Leading Wool Merchants

Among the most important of these merchants were German immigrants Maximilian Thalwitzer, the two Mosenthal brothers – Adolph and Joseph, as well as Wilhelm Schumann.

Thalwitzer provided an indirect spur to wool production in the early 1830's by acting as an itinerant wool buyer in the Western Cape's sheep country. He became more directly involved after 1840, when he hired a ship to import merino sheep.

Mosenthal brothers opened a branch at Port Elizabeth in 1842 as part of a rapidly spreading network designed to eliminate the collection problems resulting from poor communications. They established a chain of stores and agencies throughout the eastern districts to which farmers could bring their wool.

Wilhelm Schumann – Eastern Cape – 1850's

In his capacity as nobleman, he encouraged German investment in Cape Wool, and it was through him that the Hamburg brokers “Lippert and Co”, built up a lucrative connection as wool importers.

Not all merchants confined themselves to the role of middlemen: they also became financiers and bankers to the first generation of Eastern Cape wool farmers. When times were tough, they provided the credit without which their clients would have gone under. So secure were they that their notes began to circulate (these were drawn on their Cape Town offices). When this practice was abandoned, the merchants joined the board of banks. There was a mutually beneficial relationship between farmer and merchant that had a major impact on the area's economy.



Merchants issued bank notes –

The “golden fleece” revitalised the Cape’s sagging economy in the 1840’s and 1850’s. Merchants fanned out across the Eastern Cape, selling bloodstock and buying wool clips for shipment to the textile mills of northern England.



At the forefront of importation were the merchants who introduced French merino sheep to South Africa in 1852. The new blood brought great advantages, leading them to play an extensive role in improving the quality of the product and ensuring better prices.



Wool being sorted into grades at Mosenthal's by individuals who had developed a keen sense of touch. The same quality wool obtained from the fleeces of a large number of sheep, were then mixed together in preparation for the export trade.



Mosenthal Brothers signalled ships –

The world's demand for wool was growing rapidly. From 1840 to 1860, shipments from the offices of Mosenthal's in Port Elizabeth increased twentyfold, largely as a result of their efforts. They will always be credited for the creation of South Africa's wool export industry.

PART 4 - A PIONEERING WOOL BARON

Baron Wilhelm Karl von Schumann is the great ancestor of the Shuman families, who today farm in the Queenstown district. He was a nobleman who emigrated from the German Kingdom of Prussia to South Africa in 1855.

Wilhelm purchased the farm "Wasche-Erdwall" (named by him) in the Wodehouse district between Dordrecht and Elliot in the Eastern Cape. It was here that he became a cattle and sheep farmer as well as a merchant and washer. His merchandising firm was known as "Shumann & Co" and dealt mainly with wool from the Orange Free State. The origin of the name of his farm is very interesting. He set up a wool washing plant as a means of getting the wool into a fit condition for export. This led him to name his farm "Wasche-Erdwall". The German words "Wasche" meaning to wash and "Erdwall" meaning a bank, referring to the wool washing plant on the river bank. Today his farm, the river and the surrounding area are known by the name "Waschbank", the word "Wasche" has been retained, however the letter "e" has been dropped and "Erdwall" replaced by its English translation "bank".

Wilhelm encouraged German investment in Cape Wool, and it was through him that the Hamburg brokers "Lippert and Co", built up a lucrative connection as wool importers. As a pioneer he developed new techniques when it came to sheep and wool farming. He was also an authority with recognised expertise, teaching farmers on how to tend and shear their flocks. In 1863, Wilhelm together with a group of farmers and businessmen launched a joint stock company in Queenstown to import pure bred Merino stock from Germany. The imported rams and ewes were sold to Eastern Cape farmers, significantly improving local flocks.

With a courageous spirit, Baron Wilhelm Karl von Schumann played a major role in the development of agriculture in South Africa.



BARON WILHELM KARL von SCHUMANN

(Portrait – Monochrome Style – 1865)



“Head Of A Merino Ram”

This sketch is reputed to have been brought from Germany to South Africa by Wilhelm Schumann.



Wilhelm Schumann's official Coat of Arms. It appeared on all correspondence related to "Schumann & Co", his wool merchandising firm.

**WILHELM SCHUMANN
GENERAL DEALER.
WASCHBANK**

N.B. The Highest price given for
WOOL,
and all other kinds of Colonial Pro-
duce, either in Cash or Barter.

Waschbank,
Jan. 17, 1859

WILHELM SCHUMANN

CATTLE and SHEEP FARMER

(Vieh/ Schaf Bauer)

WOOL MERCHANT and WASHER

(Wolle Kaufmann/ Waschen)

An advert from the "Free Press", Queenstown's first newspaper.