



Information Sheet

Origin, Development, Tasks and Activities of the Deutsch-Baltische Genealogische Gesellschaft e.V. (DBGG) (Baltic-German Genealogical Association)

After the end of the Second World War, the Baltic genealogists and those interested in genealogy not only continued their work in close cooperation but also repeatedly called upon their compatriots to cooperate with them. Above all Robert A. Lemm, Olaf Welding and Georg von Krusenstjern again and again pointed out the reason for, the possibilities of and the tasks of the Baltic family research. This way they succeeded to revive the „Baltische familiengeschichtliche Mitteilungen“ (Baltic Genealogical Announcements), first in the form of the „Baltische Briefe“ (Baltic Letters) (1951), then the „Baltische Rundschau“ (Baltic Circular) (1952/53) and since 1954 in the „Baltische Hefte“ (Baltic Booklets).

In 1957, Gerhard von Pantzer (†) established the „Baltische Ahnen- und Stammtafeln“ (BAST) (Baltic Genealogical Tables), as an annually-appearing magazine. Another organ of the Baltic genealogists is the „Ostdeutsche Familienkunde“ (Eastern-European Family Research). In 1962, Dr. Roland Seeberg-Elverfeldt took over the editorship of this magazine, which has since 2010 been published by the „Arbeitsgemeinschaft Ostdeutscher Familienforscher e. V.“ (AGoFF) (Association of Eastern-European Family Researchers) under the new title „Zeitschrift für Ostdeutsche Familiengeschichte“ (Magazine for Eastern-European Family History) and under the editorship of Dr. Ulrich Schmilewski and in which numerous essays on Baltic family history have been published. The DBGG is a member of the AGoFF (Association of Eastern-European Family Researchers) and has taken over the function of a „Forschungsstelle Baltikum“ (Research Centre Baltic States) there.

As early as in the 1950s, some Baltic genealogists considered founding a fixed form of organisation for their genealogical cooperation. However, as a result of the urgent existential problems, a realisation of this project was quite out of the question at that time. In 1983, when the Deutsch-Baltische Landsmannschaft (Baltic-German Territorial Association) received the building which later became the „Haus der Deutsch-Balten“ (House of the Baltic Germans) in Darmstadt, Georg von Krusenstjern (†) and Dr. Bernt von zur Mühlen (†) took up the thought of a genealogical association again, as then suitable premises for an archive and for a specialist library were available. Dr. von zur Mühlen, who had already cooperated in the „Deutsche Genealogische Gesellschaft“ (German Genealogical Association) in Dorpat, invited all persons interested in genealogy to come together in Darmstadt on January 12, 1985, where the foundation of the independent „Deutsch-Baltische Genealogische Gesellschaft (DBGG)“ with its seat in Darmstadt was decided. The organs of the association are the general assembly, which as a rule meets once a year, the five members of the board of directors, the accounts committee and the advisory board for special questions. Bernt von zur Mühlen took over the post of the manager, which he held till 1993.

In accordance with its rules, the association serves the purpose of stimulating and supporting the Baltic-German genealogical research by means of

- a) the stocktaking of genealogical sources,
- b) the collection of estates which can be used for genealogical purposes,
- c) special advice to and promotion of its members,
- d) the provision of genealogical information,
- e) the establishing of contacts with other archives and institutions,
- f) the publishing of the results of genealogical research and
- g) the organization of genealogical conferences.

Since its foundation, the DBGG has pursued the aims of the association as follows:

1. As early as in 1986, the members were provided with a register of the most important Baltic-German genealogical literature published until then. For every general assembly, an up-to-date register of the association's members is prepared.
2. An extensive library with more than 2,000 books, collections and documents has been created from estates and donations as well as through the collection and purchase of documents. In this library, the members and other interested persons have access to – among other things – church register documents and lists of names, biographical encyclopaedias, books containing data on the pupils and students of certain schools or universities, commemorative books, address books, maps, periodicals and much more for their research. It is not possible to borrow the books; the library and the archive are accessible by arrangement.
3. The DBGG is represented in the general management of the Deutsch-Baltische Gesellschaft (DBGes; formerly DBLiB) (Baltic-German Association) and is in contact with the Deutsche Zentralstelle für Genealogie (German Centre for Genealogy) in

the Sächsische Staatsarchiv (Saxon State Archives) in Leipzig, with the state archives of Estonia in Dorpat/Tartu, with the Latvian historical state archives in Riga and with the historical-genealogical society in Moscow. Furthermore, contact is maintained with the Herder-Institut in Marburg, the Carl-Schirren-Gesellschaft in Lüneburg, the Baltische Historische Kommission (Baltic Historic Commission) in Göttingen and the Deutsch-Baltische Landeskundliche Sammlung (Baltic-German Library) in Darmstadt. An exchange of literature takes place with well-known genealogical associations.

4. In connection with the annual general meeting, meetings for Baltic family researchers have been organised on a regular basis since 1986. On these meetings, the Baltic-German family research is reported on, stimulated and continued with the help of lectures, work reports and discussions. Immediately after the foundation of the DBGG, the setting up of a family archive was started, which already contains documents on about 20,000 Baltic families. All families are asked to let the DBGG have any available material regarding family research (e.g. as a copy) to make it available to other family researchers as well.

5. The DBGG publishes the annual magazine „Baltische Ahnen- und Stammtafeln (BAST)“ (Baltic Genealogical Tables), which reports – among other things – on the meetings for Baltic family researchers and the lectures held there and which includes publications of genealogical tables. The fee for the receipt of the BAST is included in the membership fee. Furthermore, extensive special publications on genealogical topics are published from time to time as well as a newsletter for the members of the DBGG (the “DBGG – Genealogen – ECHO”), which is currently published twice a year.

The above-mentioned activities of the DBGG would not have been possible without the diverse non-material and financial help of its members and compatriots as well as the Baltic-German organisations and the government. However, much remains to be done.

All persons interested in the work of the DBGG are invited to become members. The annual membership fee is € 40.00. . Please send applications of membership to our office or via e-mail to one of the following addresses:

Office, Library and Archive:

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The DBGG was granted a charitable status by the tax office of Darmstadt, which entitles the DBGG to write receipts for donations.

For donations up to an amount of € 200.00, the cash deposit slip or the transfer slip together with the statement of account of your bank is accepted by the tax office as a receipt for donation.

The DBGG on the Internet: www.dbgg.de

(As of April 2017) (The various publications mentioned in this information sheet were only published in German. The English titles given in brackets are only provided to inform the English-speaking reader what these publications were about.)