

# OUR VON PRESSENTIN ANCESTORS IN GERMANY

## NICOLAUS OTTO VON PRESSENTIN 1671-1732

The fourth son of Bernd and his wife Anna Dorothea nee von Pressentin, **Nicolaus Otto**, is the founder of the thriving Stieten House, which very soon split again with his own sons and continued in three Houses, those of Stieten-Gross-Kussewitz, Stieten-Sternberger Rittersitz and Stieten-Jesendorf. **Nicolaus** is the second generation in the succession of our German von Pressentin ancestors.

**Nicolaus' Birthplace:** Born at Prestin on September 29, 1671.

**His occupation:** He dedicated himself to the soldier's life and entered service with the Royal Swedish Army where he was promoted to captain. He was stationed in Greifswald in 1699 and in Anklam in 1700. (Both towns are on the Baltic in Western Pomerania, east of Mecklenburg. Then he participated in the campaign in Poland and afterwards was posted in Gartz (on the Oder River--now just inside the Polish border) and Stettin. Stettin was a major city when it was part of Pomerania and today it is an important Polish city, renamed Szczecin.

**Marriage:** Nicolaus Otto was married on June 13, 1695 to Katharina Juliana von Wulffen, a daughter of the Royal Swedish Rittmeister Hermann Wiegand von Wulffen, lord of the manor of Pempeln in Liefland and of Juliane von Wussow of the house of Karow. Katharina was born on July 1, 1678 and died at Stieten on June 1736.

**Children:** 10 children were born to this marriage:

1. Dorothea Sophia, born June 15, 1696 at Prestin, died young.
2. Elisabeth Juliane, born in 1698, was married in 1723 to Royal Swedish Captain Johann Otto von Stuard, who fell as a volunteer in the Holland service at the siege of Bergen op Zoom in 1747. She died a widow in 1750.
3. Bernd Wiegand, b. 1701
4. **Georg Karl**, b. 2. December 1705. He is the founder of the Stieten-Gross-Kussewitz House.
5. **Claus Otto**, b. in June 1707. He is the founder of the Stieten-Sternberger-Rittersitz House.
6. Gustav Friedrich, b. 1709, d. 1710
7. Sophie Charlotte, b. 1711, was married on February 3, 1736 to Reimar Joachim von Below of Klein-Niendorf, knightly district Crivitz, and died after 1778, after she was widowed on August 7, 1741.
8. Dorothea Luise, born in 1713, was the wife of Major General Karl Wilhelm von Bohlen at Braunschweig, where she died in 1774, one year after her husband.
9. **Gustav Friedrich**, b. 27. November 1715. He is the founder of the Stieten-Jesendorf House.
10. Christian Ludwig, b. 1717

Additional information on one of Nicolaus' military posts—

**From the online *Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition*:**

[Stettin](#) (Szczecin in Polish) is now the capital city of a Polish province in northwest Poland. Before 1945 it was the capital of Pomerania. It is located on the Oder River, and is Poland's largest port complex. It is also an industrial center with shipyards, ironworks and industries producing foodstuffs, fertilizers and chemicals. A fortress and the largest Pomeranian town as early as the 12th century, it was the residence of the dukes of Pomerania until 1637 and an important member of the "Hanseatic League" of Baltic seaports.

The construction (1914) of a canal to Berlin greatly enhanced the city as a commercial port, and its present harbor installations are very extensive. During World War II the city suffered heavy damage from repeated bombings. Although four fifths of Szczecin, including the old section, are on the left (western) bank of the Oder River, the Potsdam agreement of 1945 transferring Pomerania east of the Oder to Polish administration was interpreted to include the city in the transfer. The German population was expelled and replaced by Poles.



*Stettin before World War II*

# The Stieten Estate

In the division of property after his father's death, **Nicolaus Otto** received the Stieten Estate in about 1712, where, after he took his discharge, he lived until the end of his life on January 28, 1732.



## The Description of the Stieten Estate from *The History of the Family von Pressentin Book II, 1935*

*Stieten was in the hands of von Pressentins from 1506 to 1807. It originally consisted of two estates, Gross-Stieten on the south, and Klein-Stieten in the north. In 1630 Stieten had been laid waste in the Thirty Years' War, and it was only in 1652 that the property was developed again. Both estates were joined into a single estate before 1700.*

*After his father **Bernd's** death in 1709, **Nicolaus Otto** received Stieten. There is still a reminder of him in an old beam from an earlier rye-barn, which was reverently saved by the present owner of Stieten, and on which the following inscription is engraved: "Nicolaus Otto v. Pressentin – Katharina v. Wulffen, June 13, 1723."*

*In 1768, the last owner in our family, Klaus Otto III, built the strong, two-story half-timbered residence still in use today, whose massive frontage was made at the end of the last century. Next to the residence lies an old one-story outbuilding, also half-timbered, which could have taken its whole composition from the earlier estate house. Behind the house there is a lake, between the two and on the west side of the house stretches a beautiful well-cared for park which finally turns into forest.*

*In old times when there was not yet a railroad, Stieten had a more favorable traffic location than today. While today it lies 5 kilometers away from the railroad and 6 kilometers (4 miles) from Sternberg, earlier two important country roads, namely that from Schwerin to Güstrow and that from Sternberg to Parchim, crossed each other in its area. At the crossroads of these routes there is said to have been a hostel, and because Stieten was almost midway from Schwerin to Güstrow, the carters with their grain wagons and other cargo stayed overnight here and supposedly -- as people still tell today -- it often got very lively with the "Fipspiel" game. [Whatever that was!!]*



## STIETEN

(Red star on map)

**Stieten (1)** was about equidistant between **Prestin (2)** to the south, and **Sternberg (3)** to the north.

It would have been about five miles to either place from Stieten.

Do any remnants of the Stieten estate exist today? I have no information about it.