

The descendants of count Franz Folliot de Crenneville and contess Hermine, Née Choterek

The origin of the family Folliot de Crenneville extends into France, where during the French Revolution their property was confiscated. The family left to Austria, where their members have risen to become gradually a part of the higher level of the society and local aristocracy. After the fall of Napoleon, when France Louis XVIII came to the power, the Count Louis Folliot de Crenneville¹ was asked by the king to return to France. He was promised to get back his property and some compensation. The Count refused. He swore the allegiance to the Austrian Emperor afterwards: „*After the death of my king (Louis XVI) I became an Austrian.*”²

Countess Hermine Chotek from Dolna Krupa, born in March 1815 in Buda as a 29-years old on 14. May 1844 married Count Franz Folliot de Crenneville. He was born, as well as Hermine, in March 1815, but in Sopron.³ Gradually, the couple had five sons, but two of them died only few months later, after their birth.

The first son of Franz and Hermine – Count Hermann Folliot de Crenneville,⁴ was born on 12. July 1846 in Dolna Krupa. He was baptized the very next day (July 13). The countess Anna Brunswick, née Majthenyi (Hermine’s grandmoter of the mother’s side) and the Countess Henriette Chotek, née Brunswick (mother of Countess Hermine) became the newborn child’s godmothers.

¹ Louis Folliot de Crenneville (*1763 – †1840) was the father of Franz Folliot de Crenneville and father-in-law of Hermine, née Chotek.

² ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia. *The End and the Beginning. The Book of My Life*. Cambridge: Open Book Publishing, 2010, p. 273.

³ Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv Wien (next HHStA Wien), Familienarchiv Folliot – Crenneville (next FA F – C), Franz Maria Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 32, Nr. 230, p. 6, 7. Part of the work of Hermynia Zur Mühlen (see the note Nr. 2), concretely of this reprint from 2010 is also an introduction along with the notes of Lionel Gossman, who mistakenly introduced that *Korompa* is a slovak town Krompachy, which is located in eastern Slovakia. (*Korompa /Krompaki in Slovak/ is situated not far from the Eastern Slovakian town of Košice in an area with a substantial Hungarian population*). ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia, p. 192. But the truth is that *Korompa* – concretely Alsó *Korompa* is a village Dolna Krupa, which is located in western Slovakia near the town Trnava.

⁴ His full name was Hermann Anna Otto Heinrich Victor Franz Joseph Louis Folliot de Crenneville.

Henriette became a godmother instead of her son, Count Otto Chotek, who wasn't present at that time in Dolna Krupa.⁵ However Hermann lived only a short period of time. He died as a ten-months old baby on 13. May 1847 in Vienna – only two months before the birth of his brother Victor. As the cause of his death was falling sickness.⁶ Hermann's funeral was held two days later at the cemetery St. Marx in Vienna.⁷

As I mentioned, two months after Hermann's death Hermine gave birth her second son. Count Victor Folliot de Crenneville⁸ was born in Dolna Krupa on 12. July 1847. Three days later, on 15. July, he was baptized there. His uncle Count Rudolph Chotek, his grandmother Countess Victoria Folliot de Crenneville, née Baroness Poutet and his second grandmother Countess Henriette Chotek, née Brunschwick became the godparents.⁹ Count Victor was educated at a private school in Venice where he started his studies probably in 1854. According to the certificate from 7. March 1857 he completed subjects such as: catechism, sacred history, the gospel, reading, counting with fractions, penmanship, orthography and writing dictations, clear pronunciation, writing compositions, reading in Latin and writing dictations in Latin as well.

Clearly Victor belonged to the group of clever and diligent students. He was assessed as „*sehr gut*“ – very good in these subjects. His skills in penmanship and writing dictations were marked „only“ as *good*. After a short time later Victor started his first class in the private Catholic high school in Vienna.¹⁰ It was in July 1857.

He took individual classes. He needed to complete religious education, Latin and German language, history and geography, mathematics and sciences. He started to learn Greek language in the third class and philosophical preparation in the seventh class. Wondering about the classification rationing of the Count Victor? He continued with the good study results. He had sufficient knowledge in foreign languages – not only in grammar or written form but also in reading and making sentences. His verbal speech were „*excellent*“, „*very good*“, but „*quite satisfactory*“, too. His last known certificate is dated to 17 January 1865 and shows his results in the first semester of the eighth class.¹¹

On 10. September 1882 was wedding in the family of Folliot de Crenneville. Count Victor married the Countess Isabella, née Wydenbruck.¹² The ceremony was held in the chapel in the castle Trpísty in Bohemia. Due to the recent death of the groom's mother, Countess Hermine, née Chotek, only a close family was invited to the wedding reception such as groom's father and bride's mother, Victor's two younger brothers – Count Heinrich and Count Franz, and Isabella's two older brothers – Count

⁵ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Hermann Anna Graf Folliot de Crenneville, box 34, Nr. 248A, p. 1, 2.

⁶ Falling sickness (otherwise: epilepsy) was an illness of little children, concretely it was referred to as a cause of their death. They were probably convulsions associated with unconsciousness, nowadays it is mainly epilepsy.

⁷ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Hermann Anna Graf Folliot de Crenneville, box 34, Nr. 248A, p. 4, 5.

⁸ His full name was Victor Louis Maria Heinrich Hermann Franz de Paula Rudolph Folliot de Crenneville.

⁹ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Viktor Ludwig Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 32, Nr. 225, p. 2, 4.

¹⁰ *Schottengymnasium* is a private gymnasium in Vienna, which was founded in 1807 and it performs to this day. By 2004 it was a last purely boys school in Vienna.

¹¹ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Schulzeugnisse und Impfzeugnis Viktor Ludwig Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 250, p. 1, 2-17.

¹² Countess Isabella Louise Alexandrina Maria von Wydenbruck (*6 May 1862, Wiesbaden – †21 February 1936, Salzburg) was a daughter of Count Ferdinand von Wydenbruck and his wife Isabella Louise Blacker.

Christoph von Wydenbruck and Count August von Wydenbruck, the owner of the county Trpisty, as well. The list of invited guests included the relatives from Dolna Krupa – Count Otto Chotek, Countess Marie Chotek, née Khevenhüller-Metsch, with her two daughters, cousins of the groom – Henriette and Gabriela who were the bridesmaids. Bride's wedding dress was made from heavy white satin with myrtle and orange blossom. The groom wore the uniform of the Order of Malta. There was a surprise prepared for the young bride. After the marriage the bride's father in law, Count Franz Folliot de Crenneville, on behalf of the Empress, handed over to her a diploma and insignia of the Order of the Starry Cross whereby she became the one of the ladies of this Order. Then the newly married couple traveled on their honeymoon to Italy.¹³

Victor's career as an envoy was really rich. Not only he became a chamberlain (18. January 1879) – k.u k. Kämmerer, he worked as a legation secretary of monarchy till 1888 in Brussels. By the end of the year 1888 he traveled to Washington to work in local embassy as a Secretary of Austria-Hungary. Later he accepted the position of the Consul General in Tunisia.¹⁴ Victor is also an author of smaller book about an ethnographic and economic conditions of the island of Cyprus.¹⁵ Count Victor was a proprietor of the Grand Cross of the Franz Joseph Order, medals for military merit with swords etc. Victor Folliot de Crenneville died on Tuesday 28. September 1920. The funeral notice posted: „*after a long and grave disease and receipt of the last rites.*” He died in the villa in Gmunden which was owned by his family for years. The funeral took place on Thursday 30. September at 3.15 pm in the chapel at the cemetery in Gmunden. It is not known whether the deceased or the bereaved family made a request not to organise the funeral procession. It was advised that guests would spend their Money on charitable purposes rather than wreaths.¹⁶ The Countess Isabella outlived her husband by sixteen years. She died on 21. February 1936 in Salzburg as the newspaper *Wiener Salonblatt* informed. They posted that her daughter Hermine (Hermynia) von Zur Mühlen mourned by the body of her mother.¹⁷

¹³ Wiener Salonblatt, XIII. volume, Nr. 38, 17 September 1882, p. 8.

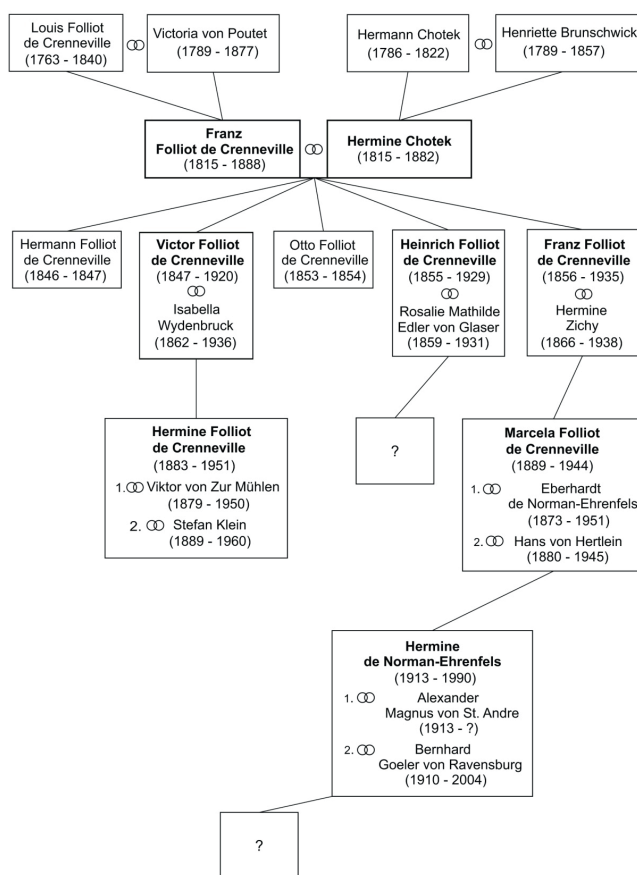
¹⁴ Prager Abendblatt, Nr. 231, 9 October 1888, p. 1.

¹⁵ FOLLIOT – CRENNVILLE, Viktor. *Die Insel Cypren in ihrer heutigen Gestalt, ihren ethnographischen und wirtschaftlichen Verhältnissen*. Wien: Faesy und Frick, 1879.

¹⁶ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Viktor Ludwig Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 32, Nr. 225, p. 14; Wiener Salonblatt, 51. volume, Nr. 21, 16 October 1920, p. 5.

¹⁷ Wiener Salonblatt, 67. volume, Nr. 5, 7 March 1936, p. 16.

Family tree Folliot de Crenneville



The single child of Victor and Isabella – Countess Hermine Isabella Marie Victoria Folliot de Crenneville-Poutet was born on 12. December 1883 in Vienna. She was a writer and she became famous as „*Red Countess*”.¹⁸ According to her own words Hermine later claimed she spent the happiest years of her childhood in Gmunden.¹⁹ Nevertheless, she accompanied her father on his foreign trips. She lived in Istanbul, Lisbon, Florence or in Milan for some period of time. As an aristocratic daughter, she received a quality private education. She was married twice. Unfortunately, her first marriage with Victor von Zur Mühlen²⁰ (*1879 – †1950) did not take such a long time.

¹⁸ Among the works, which Hermine wrote under the name Hermynia Zur Mühlen belonged e.g. *Das Schloß der Wahrheit. Ein Märchenbuch* (1924), novel *Das Riesenrad* (1932), novel *Nora hat eine famose Idee* (1933), novel *Ein Jahr im Schatten* (1935), one of her most famous novels – *Unsere Töchter, die Nazinen* (1938), novel *Als der Fremde kam* (1946), as well as her own biography – *Ende und Anfang. Ein Lebensbuch* (1929) etc.

¹⁹ ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia, p. 177.

²⁰ Victor von Zur Mühlen was born in today's Estonia to the local German landowner. He studied at the German high school, a military service he practised within the Russian army as a reserve officer of cavalry. In 1908 he brought the county Eigstfer, which adjoined with the county of his father. In the same year Victor's wedding was held. He liked farming, he loved horses, dogs and hunting. However but, according to his wife, „he had no passion for literature or art and at the time of her arrival were in the house only two books - the Bible and a pornographic novel.” ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia, p. 236.

They married in 1908 against the will of Hermine's parents. The marriage ended in year 1913 in divorce. Hermine traveled to swiss Davos, where she was recovering from tuberculosis. There she also met her future partner Stefan Isidor Klein (*1889 – †1960). He was a Jew from Vienna, who devoted to the translation of literature from Hungarian to German language. In the year 1919 Hermine with Stefan moved to Frankfurt in Germany, but they lived in the exile in Great Britain in the period from 1939 to 1951. Even though she came from aristocratic layer, she did not regret a fall of the „old regime”. She was a socialist and she was a member of the Communist Party for some time, too. Regarding of their political opinions and that Klein was a Jew, when Adolf Hitler came into power, they had to leave the country and they returned to Austria. When Germany proceeded to the Anschluss of Austria in 1938 Hermine and Stefan Klein headed to Bratislava where they decided to get married. However, when in March 1939 Czechoslovakia was separated, they fled together to Great Britain, where they lived until their death in rather poor conditions. Hermine died in 1951 in British county Hertfordshire, probably of a heart attack.²¹ Hermine had no children, Victor's branch died out by her.

The other child of Franz and Hermine was the son Otto Folliot de Crenneville,²² who was born on 31. October 1853 in Dolna Krupa. He was baptized on 3. November. Count Otto Chotek, brother of Hermine, and Countess Henriette Chotek, née Brunswick, Hermine's mother, became his godparents. As well as his eldest brother Hermann, Otto died after a few months after his birth, concretely on 6. March 1854. The cause of his death was stomach problem. The funeral took place on 8 March and the mass was celebrated by Frantisek Jalovecky – priest in Dolna Krupa. The Mausoleum of Chotek family did not exist at that time. Little Otto was buried in the crypt of the family Brunswick which is located under the oratory in church in Dolna Krupa.²³

Victor had two younger brothers, who lived longer – to the adulthood. The first of them was Count Heinrich Folliot de Crenneville.²⁴ We did not possess much of information about him, his wife or his family. Heinrich was not born in Dolna Krupa as his older siblings, he was born in Florence on 9. February 1855. He was baptized on 17. February and Heinrich's godparents were Count Otto Chotek, Hermine's and Otto's mother Countess Henriette Chotek, née Brunswick and also Baron Moritz Lederer – major general.²⁵

Heinrich Folliot de Crenneville attended private primary school of St. Anne in Vienna. Based on well-preserved certificates dated from 1863 – 1865 (which document only his results in the second, the third and the fourth class) we can prove he belonged to the clever students. He passed following subjects: German language, counting, calligraphy and religious education, part of which was since the fourth class ethics, sacred history and the gospel. The results he achieved were always „*sehr gut*” – very good.²⁶ In later years Heinrich graduated a naval academy.

²¹ ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia, p. 273, 279, 282, 286, 291.

²² His full name was Otto Heinrich Maria Hermann Folliot de Crenneville.

²³ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Otto Heinrich Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 248B, p. 1, 3.

²⁴ His full name was Heinrich Otto Franz Maria Folliot de Crenneville.

²⁵ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Heinrich Otto Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 254, p. 1.

²⁶ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Heinrich Otto Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 254, p. 41-45.

Rosalie Mathilde, née Edler von Glaser²⁷ (*1859 – †1931) became Heinrich's wife. The wedding took place in the year 1888.²⁸ Rosalie Mathilde lived in Vienna where she died as 72-years old. More information about Rosalie Mathilde or about if the couple had children, unfortunately, we were not able to find.

Heinrich worked as a Consul General for foreign countries in a government Office. Not only he was successful in civil sector he held a rank of a lieutenant. From February 1897 he lived in Venice, where he worked as a vice-consul.²⁹ At the turn of 19th and 20th century he was also a vice-consul in a town Syra. In the period of time before the outbreak of the First World War Heinrich worked as a Consul General in British Liverpool. He and his wife had to return back to their homeland in August 1914 due to the beginning of the war.³⁰ By the end of March 1919, after 35 years of service, Count Heinrich Folliot de Crenneville retired to the pension. His annual pension amounted to 9.640 crowns and he received the first payment in early April 1919.³¹

Count Heinrich died on 4. November 1929 at the age of 74 years in his house at the Lobkowitz square 1 in Vienna. The cause of his death was so-called *marasmus senilis*.³² The funeral was held on 7. November at the cemetery Hietzinger (Hietzing) in Vienna.³³

The youngest of the siblings was Count Franz Folliot de Crenneville,³⁴ who was born in Parma on 2. May 1856. Count Franz was, as well as his brother Heinrich, a student of the private primary school of St. Anne in Vienna, which he as Heinrich in the years 1863 to 1865 attended from the second to the fourth class. Inasmuch as Franz with Heinrich were the classmates, they had the same subjects and even the same „very good” results. Then followed his studies at the Schotten high school in Vienna, where in the year 1866 he got on to the first class, where he also achieved excellent results. During the school year 1866/67 Count Franz transferred to the Institute for cadets in St. Pölten. Thanks to assessment reports from this Institute we are able to know something more about the Count Franz. He was healthy, spoke German and French fluently, his personality was described as very decent, ambitious, he was active and his behaviour was perfect and flawless. Subjects which he had to complete in this school were: religion and sacred history, German and French, arithmetic with the algebra, geography, history, natural science, calligraphy, sketching, physical education, dance and swimming as well. Franz's results from individual subjects were excellent.³⁵

²⁷ Rosalie Mathilde was a daughter of Wilhelm Edler von Glaser and his wife Eugenie, née Teitelbaum.

²⁸ ZUR MÜHLEN, Hermynia, p. 211.

²⁹ Wiener Salonblatt, XXVIII. volume, Nr. 7, 14 February 1897, p. 8.

³⁰ Sport und Salon, 17. volume, Nr. 35, 29 August 1914, p. 4.

³¹ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Heinrich Otto Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 254, p. 56.

³² *Marasmus senilis* = physical and mental weakening of old age or also result of some exhausting illnesses.

³³ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Heinrich Otto Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 254, p. 58.

³⁴ His full name was Franz Seraphicus Maria Severin Ludwig Folliot de Crenneville.

³⁵ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Franz Seraphicus Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutet, box 34, Nr. 253, p. 24-34.

Count Franz Folliot de Crenneville was married to Countess Hermine Zichy (*1866 – †1938) from the year 1895.³⁶ At the time of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy she was one of the ladies-in-waiting and also she belonged to the ladies of the Order of the Starry Cross. There was a soirée organised the evening before their wedding which was also attended by Archduke Ferdinand, Duke of Teschen with his wife Archduchess Isabella, Duchess of Teschen.³⁷ The bride's dress was made from pink and white striped silk. She wore a diadem, emerald set and a pearl riviére, too.³⁸ The catholic wedding ceremony of Franz and Hermine took place on Sunday 8 December 1895 in a private chapel in the palace of the bride's parents in Bratislava. The civil ceremony of a young couple was held the previous day – Saturday 7. December at Civil Registration Office in Bratislava. A priest, who married them, was a bride's distant relative – Count Julius Zichy. The countesses Berta, Paula, Elsa, Gabriela, Louise, Victoria and Livia Zichy as well as the countess Irma Palfy and countess Gabriela Chotek were the bridesmaids. The groomsmen were Counts Rafael, Ferdinand (Nándor), Heinrich und Edmund Zichy, then Counts Tomas Nadasdy, Ladislav Cziraky, Franz Schönborn and the princes Georg Schwarzenberg and Lorant Odescalchi, too. The bride's wedding witnesses were Counts Ferdinand Zichy, Franz Zichy, Jan Zichy and Wilhelm Redern, the witnesses of bridegroom were prince Clary, Count Uerfüll-Gyllenbandt and lieutenant colonel Baron von Goumoëns. Wedding breakfast was served after ceremony and was attended by the newlyweds, bride's parents, couples witnesses, bridesmaids and groomsmen of course, following by other guests such as: Counts Edmund Zichy, Heinrich Folliot de Crenneville, Georg Majlath, Emil d'Orsay, Albert Apponyi, Anton and Quido Zichy, Baron von Wezlenyi, first lieutenant Count Franz von Meran, Baron Nyary, Count Rudolph Chotek with wife, Countess Henriette Chotek, lady-in-waiting Countess Sophie Chotek, Countesses Livia, Maria and Anna Zichy, Countess Redern, Countess Crenneville, née Wydenbruck, Countess Charlotte (Šarlota) Majlath, Princess von Thurn und Taxis, Countess Bombelles as well as Countess d'Orsay with Felice. In the afternoon, Franz with Hermine traveled on their honeymoon to Italy.³⁹

Franz, as well as his older siblings, worked as a chamberlains. Along with Heinrich, he was appointed for a chamberlain from the 1. January 1881.⁴⁰ Franz was also a sergeant in the dragoon regiment (Emperor Ferdinand Nr. 4). He died in Nördlingen on 17. October 1935 at the age of 79 years. Countess Hermine outlived her husband by less than three years. She died in Salzburg on 17. February 1938.⁴¹

³⁶ Countess Hermine Zichy was a daughter of chamberlain Count Eugen Zichy and his wife Countess Hermine von Redern, who belonged to the ladies of the Order of the Starry Cross and she was also one of the ladies-in-waiting of the Empress.

³⁷ Among the other guests were, for example Count Wollenstein, Baron von Steininger, sergeant Baron von Schell, lady-in-waiting Countess Szecsen, Countess Palfy and many other.

³⁸ Riviére = necklace from several series of gems, in this case pearls.

³⁹ Wiener Salonblatt, XXVI. volume, Nr. 49, 8 December 1895, p. 8; Wiener Salonblatt, XXVI. volume, Nr. 50, 15 December 1895, p. 6, 7.

⁴⁰ HHStA Wien, FA F – C, Aufnahme Victor Ludwig Graf Folliot de Crenneville – Poutets in den Johaniten-Orden, box 32, Nr. 235, p. 4.

⁴¹ Wiener Salonblatt, 69. volume, Nr. 5, 6 March 1938, p. 18.

Franz and Hermine had one daughter – Countess Marcela.⁴² We were able to gather only some information about her. She was born on 8. July 1889 in Prague. She was married twice. Marcela's first husband was Count Eberhard von Normann – Ehrenfels (*1873 – †1951), with who she had only one child – daughter Hermine. The second husband of Countess Marcela was Hans von Hertlein (*1880 – †1945). Marcela died on 26. August 1944 in Starnberg in Germany.

As Countess Marcela was the single daughter of her parents, she was also mother of one daughter – Countess Hermine Gabriela Gizela Stefania Elvira Maria Eberhardine von Norman – Ehrenfels, who was born on 24. June 1913. She was married twice, her first husband was Baron Alexander - Magnus von Saint – André (*1911 – † ?). Baron Bernhard - Dietrich Goeler von Ravensburg (*1910 – †2004) became her second husband in 1950.

It is not known to us if Hermine had some children or if the descendants of Count Franz Folliot de Crenneville and Countess Hermine, née Chotek are still living today. However we can say that Franz with Hermine, so their descendants, enriched the history with their activities and work – whether diplomatic or writerly.

⁴² Her full name was Marcela Franciska Gabriela Maria Folliot de Crenneville.