

Zirndorf near Fuerth in Bavaria
Nov. 16, 1945

Very Honorable Baron,

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I learned your address through First Lieutenant a/D, Hans von Imhoff, presently at Castle Pommersfelden. I take the liberty of turning to you for information in the hope that you have that information.

I have made the acquaintance of an American army chaplain who is stationed at Stein, and who comes here on Sundays to celebrate Mass. He is of German extraction, knows something of his grandfather who left Germany about 120-150 years ago, to follow his brother, who went to America as a missionary priest. Since then, that branch of the family has resided in America. The chaplain's name is Imhoff, and he knows that his grandfather was promised a title, probably as a civic honor. I was able to find the name Imhoff in the Nuremberg telephone directory. A few days ago I was in Pommersfelden and met Lt. Hans von Imhoff and spoke with him briefly about the relationship of the Imhoff family. He gave me your address and told me that Chaplain Imhoff would be able to get the best possible information of the Catholic branch of the Imhoff family from you. The chaplain was with me recently and requested me to accompany him on a short visit to you because he would be most happy if he could renew family ties with his relatives in Germany, and especially he would like to visit the home of his forebears. Baron Hans von Imhoff told me that the family home is around Untermeitige, (SEE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE) near Augsburg. Chaplain Imhoff very sincerely wishes to visit you at Untermeessen and perhaps from there, to reach farther to his ancestors in Upper Bavaria. On Wednesday of next week, he will accept the invitation of Baron Hans von Imhoff to go to Pommersfelden, and then perhaps, in one of the following weeks, to visit Untermeessen. He has asked me to inquire if you would find such a visit agreeable. He is most anxious to re-establish relationships between the family in Germany and the family in America. You, perhaps, may have some information about the emigration of his grandfather about 120-150 years ago. He knows only that his father lived to be 90 years old and so did his grandfather. He doesn't exactly remember the first name of his grandfather but he thinks it was Otto Ludwig. You may be in a position to let me know in advance of any relevant information you have. Chaplain Imhoff is somewhat reluctant to visit you alone because he feels that he has not sufficiently mastered the German language to discuss the situation. I put his mind at rest by telling him that all would go well.

I look forward to your gracious answer and, if his visit is agreeable to you, will inform you of the day and time of his arrival. I ask, also, for my own part of the arrangement, to be informed about where and when he is to meet you, Baron, so that the chaplain will not have made this journey in search of his ancestors in vain.

With respectful greetings,

Friedrich Doerfler, Parish priest.