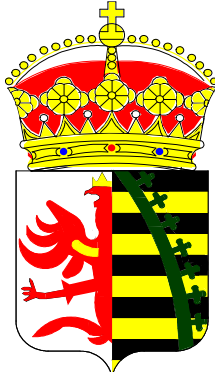


Anhalt



Description of Arms :

Per pale: Dexter, argent a demidated eagle gueule beaked and membered or; sinister, barry, sable and or, over all a wreath of rue in bend, vert. The shield is ensigned with a Royal Crown.

Principal Title : Duke of Anhalt.

Creation : Holy Roman Empire, 1218.

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Saxony (1180), of Engern and Westphalia, Count of Ascania.

Family Name : Anhalt.

Family History : (House of Ascania). The ruling house of the former sovereign Duchy of Anhalt traces its origins to a Count Esico who flourished in the Schwabengau and Hartgau 1039-59. His descendants acquired the county of Ballenstedt and, ca 1110, that of Ascania. In 1180, Bernhard, Count of Ascania and Anhalt obtained the title of Duke of Saxony with the territories of Lauenburg and Wittenberg, but lost the former to King Waldemar II of Denmark. Bernhard (?-1212) and his younger son Albert recovered Lauenburg in 1227. On his death in 1260 his two sons founded the ducal lines of Saxe-Lauenburg (extinct in 1689) and Saxe-Wittenberg (extinct 1422). Meanwhile, the descendants of Duke's Bernhard's elder son, Heinrich I, continued to reign in Anhalt and acquired the title of Prince in 1218. During the subsequent 350 years many divisions and sub-divisions of territory took place, but in 1570 all the possessions of the family were reunited in the person of Prince Joachim Ernst (1536-1586). In 1603 his son decided on a new partition and founded the lines of Anhalt-Dessau (the only one still extant), Anhalt-Bernburg (extinct 3 March 1793). The order of primogeniture was introduced into the principalities during the first quarter of the 18th century and confirmed 12 April 1729. The title of Duke was conferred on the line of Anhalt-Bernburg by Imperial Decree 8 April 1806, and assumed by the lines of Anhalt-Dessau and Anhalt-Köthen in 1807 (published June 1807). The Duchies were reunited into the Duchy of Anhalt in 1863. The dynasty ceased to reign 12 November 1918, when the Prince Regent Aribert abdicated in the name of Duke Joachim Ernst.

Members of the family bear the title of Prince or Princess of Anhalt with the qualification of Highness. The Princes also bear the additional titles of Duke of Saxony, Count of Ascania.

Anhalt

Joachim-Ernst (1536-1586),
Prince of Anhalt

Johann-Georges (1567-1618),
Prince of ANHALT-DESSAU

Christian Ier (1568-1630),
Prince of ANHALT-BERNBURG

lines of
ANHALT-KÖTHEN

lines of
ANHALT-ZERBST

Leopold I (1676-1747),
Prince of Anhalt-Dessau

Victor Amadeus
(?-1718)

extinct
(1665)

extinct
(1793)

Leopold II (1700-1751),
Prince of Anhalt-Dessau

Karl Friedrich (?-1721),
Prince of ANHALT-BERNBURG

Lebrecht (1669-1727),
Prince of ANH.-BERN.-SCHAUMBURG-HOYM

Leopold III (1740-1817),

Alexander Karl (1805-1863)

Viktor II (1767-1812),

Friedrich (?-1814),
Prince of Anhalt-Dessau

Leopold IV (1794-1871), Duke of Anhalt-Dessau, Duke of United Anhalt (1863)

Georges

Friedrich

Friedrich I (1831-1904), Duke of Anhalt-Dessau, ...
= (1854) Antoinette (1838-1908), Princess of Saxe-Altenburg 3 daughters

Leopold (1855-1886), Hereditary Prince
(1864-1933),

Friedrich II, Duke

Eduard (1861-1918), Duke

Aribert

Antoinette
(1885-1963)

Marie (1898-1983)
2nd = (1929) Edda Marwitz von Stephani (1905-1986)

Joachim-Ernst (1901-1947), Duke

Eugen (1903-), = (1935)
Anastasia Jungmeier (1901-1970)

Wolfgang
(1912-1936)

Marie Antoinette
(1930-1993)

Anna Luise
(1933-)

Friedrich
(1938-1963)

Edda
(1940-)

EDWARD (1941-), Duke of Anhalt
= (1980) Corinna Würzburg (1961-)

Anastasia
(1940-)

Julia
(1980-)

Eilika
(1985-)

Felicitas
(1993-)

Like many of the older German dynasties, the House of Anhalt is one of some complexity and splits as follows:

Anhalt: The origins of this, the founding branch, go back to 940, when a small town was constructed on the Hare, between the Elbe and the Saale. This was in the time of the Margrave Gero (c.900-965). His descendant, Esico of Bellenstedt, was renowned for his fierce battles against the Slavs.

Otto (?-1123) was known as "the Rich" took the titles of Count of Ascania and Ascherleben, acquired through his wife, Eilika, daughter of the Duke Magnus of Saxe. From time to time he ruled, also, as Duke of Saxe.

His son, the most famous of the earlier members, was known as "the Bear", named for his courage in battle. His dates were 1106-1170. His title was King of the Forest of the North. It was after his reign that the House separated. On the death of Otto, his eldest son became the Margrave of Brandenburg. Bernard soon inherited the territory and, with his brothers, held much of the land around the Elbe. This was enlarged gradually, thanks to Henry the Lion.

On the death of Bernard, his eldest son, Henry, received the land which formed the Duchy of Anhalt. The second son, Albert, took Saxe and Luxemburg. Henry took the title of Duke of Anhalt and Ascania and is the real founder of the family, now known by that name. His territories included Ballenstedt, Dessau, Koethen, Bernberg and Asherleben (which later passed to Prussia. This state lasted until 1918.

At the death of Henry, in 1251, the land was subdivided between his five sons. However, in 1570, Joachim-Ernst of Anhalt-Serbst-Dessau reunited all the possessions of the Anhalt family.

Again, in 1603, the land was divided. This gave birth to the four branches of Dessau, Zerbst, Bernburg and Koethen.

Anhalt-Dessau: The first two rulers of this line have largely passed into obscurity. The third, John-George (1661-1693) is chiefly known for having built the Orianenbaum Castle.

Leopold was nick-named the "Alte Dessauer". He ruled as Prince from 1699-1747. He was a famous Prussian general, principally known for his victory at Hochstaedt but also for leading campaigns in Italy and the Low Countries. He reached the rank of Field-Marshal and was a councillor to King Frederick-William of Hohenzollern. He also gained the confidence of Frederick II of Hohenzollern and from that time on the history of the two families was closely entwined.

The four sons of Leopold were raised to the rank of prince in 1701. The eldest, Leopold-Maximilian, after several prominent campaigns resumed the rule of his land. He was known for his wise and effective rule; he introduced many reforms and was generally known as "Father Franz".

At various times, this branch of the family joined the Confederation of the Rhine (1807), the German Confederation (1814) and the Zollverein (1828).

The last was Edward, who ruled from 1861 to 1918, when he renounced all his claims. The present head of the House of Anhalt is his grandson, also Edward, who inherited on the premature death of his brother Frederick.

Anhalt-Bernburg: This branch was not really very remarkable and died out in 1863 with the death of Alexander-Charles, who had been born in 1834.

Anhalt-Köthen: Louis or Ludwig (1579-1650) served with the Protestants in the Thirty Years War. He was, though, of a literary bent and was involved in the translation of several works - some of which are still in existence.

This line died out with the death of Henry (1830-1847), when the lands were reunited with the Anhalt-Dessau branch.

Anhalt-Zerbst: This line is principally known for another Prussian general, Frederick-August, who died without posterity in 1793.