

July 10, 2026

Dear members of the Brehmer family!

Friedemann Hellwig's announcement of July 7, 2026 cannot go unanswered.

For many years, Friedemann upheld the family legacy, organized regular meetings with interesting topics in Lübeck, managed, expanded, and updated the family archive. He maintained the website (www.brehmer-luebeck.de) and made a significant contribution to the cohesion of the large, extended family.

It is thanks to him that the importance of the Brehmer family in Lübeck repeatedly received attention and public interest.

Gisela Brehmer-Ziegenspeck and I supported him as best we could, most recently by having the historic gravestone of Nikolaus Heinrich Brehmer (1765–1822) restored and re-erected at its original location in the St. Lorenz Cemetery in Lübeck during a ceremony (and on Gisela's 80th birthday) through our initiative.

Certainly, Friedemann Hellwig had announced at the last family gathering in 2023 that, due to his age, he no longer felt able to host further family gatherings. However, this did not necessarily imply that there could be no more in the future.

On June 23, 2026, Friedemann handed over the extensive family documents he had collected and carefully archived to the Lübeck City Archives. He is happy to provide information about their contents upon request.

His announcement that he will now also close the homepage motivates us – Gisela and me – to make this appeal, because it cannot be right that this makes it more difficult to access a family that in the past not only did good things for the Hanseatic city of Lübeck, but whose members have also gone down in history books to this day as role models for enlightenment, community spirit and civic engagement.

Our appeal is therefore directed to the younger generation to preserve the legacy of their fathers and to ensure continued family cohesion. The future arises from the past – from this statement, responsibility can also be derived, to make a lasting contribution, out of pride in this family, to maintaining a strong sense of family.

Five tasks require active engagement and personal involvement:

1. Updating the homepage,
2. Updating of the family tree (including births, marriages, death dates),
3. Transfer of the relevant files,
4. Updating an address file,
5. Assumption of the care for the Brehmer's honorary grave of the Hanseatic City of Lübeck in the Burgtor Cemetery and the historical grave site of NH Brehmer in the St. Lorenz Cemetery.
6. In addition, concrete considerations should be given to how the family unit can be maintained in the coming years (e.g. finding topics for a future meeting).

We therefore appeal to the younger generation of Brehmers to take on this task and thus assume responsibility.

This would also reward Friedemann Hellwig's years of service, to whom we all owe thanks for the unity he has brought about in the spirit of the Brehmer family history.

And this question arises: Should what is stated at the end of our appeal under the subheading "Genealogical Research Today" really be over?

- No more family reunions?

- No website anymore?
- Never again a family day out in Lübeck or anywhere else?

Hopefully, this will give us food for thought and at the same time be a challenge for the younger generation!

With family greetings

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The Brehmer family

The Brehmer family is one of the most historically significant and best-documented bourgeois families of the Hanseatic city of Lübeck. Originally settled as farmers in Roggenstorf, Mecklenburg, they shaped Lübeck's political, medical, and cultural life for generations.

The extensive, historically valuable family archive was privately owned for a long time and was recently handed over to the archive of the Hanseatic city of Lübeck as part of its preservation efforts. The archive's holdings and finding aids were largely developed by Antjekathrin Graßmann in the past.

In a substantial collection of essays

Alken Bruns, on behalf of the Association for Lübeck History and Antiquities (ed.), *New Lübeck Biographies*, Neumünster (Wachholtz) 2009, 639 pp., ISBN 978-3-529-01338-6

The following articles (unfortunately all in German) by her were published, introduced by the editor of the anthology:

Aken Bruns, *The Brehmer Family*, pp. 95–97.

Antjekathrin Graßmann, *Heinrich Brehmer (June 22, 1800–September 18, 1872)*, pp. 97–101.

Antjekathrin Graßmann, *Hugo Brehmer (October 27, 1844–December 24, 1891)*, pp. 101–104.

Antjekathrin Graßmann, *Wilhelm Brehmer (19.05.1828–02.05.1905)*, pp. 104–107.

The progenitor in Lübeck

Nikolaus Heinrich Brehmer (1765–1822) is considered the genealogical ancestor of the Lübeck lines. He was a highly esteemed physician, humanist, and private scholar of the Enlightenment. His father, Hinrich Ulrich Brehmer, still bore the coat of arms of a farmer in 1784; the family coat of arms known to us today—which shapes the family's visual identity—can only be traced back to later times.

His grave is located in the St. Lorenz cemetery, where his restored gravestone was returned to its original place in 2023.

Leading figures of the family

The family produced influential figures in Lübeck's state and constitutional life during the 19th century:

- Heinrich Brehmer (1800–1872): Lawyer, diplomat, and senator of the Free Hanseatic City of Lübeck. He was a strong advocate for the historical research of the city and a co-founder of the Association for Lübeck History and Antiquities.
- Wilhelm Brehmer (1828–1905): Son of Heinrich Brehmer. He became a senator and eventually mayor of the Hanseatic city of Lübeck. He also researched Lübeck's history and wrote works on the city's architectural history and its fortifications.