

## GENEALOGICAL NOTES ON CHARLES FREDERICK WIESENTHAL

The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland recently received new material on Charles Frederick Wiesenthal (1726-1789), the most prominent Baltimore German in the eighteenth century.\* Up to the present the only facts concerning his early life were place and year of birth: Prussia, 1726. Eugene F. Cordell, an authority on medical history in Maryland, said "we possess no further details of his life in his native land." Now we can say a little more about the first twenty-five years of his life, i. e. before he emigrated to America.

The father, Johann Mattheus Wiesenthal, was a barber in the city of Pasewalk in Pomerania, a Prussian

province. Through a new Medical Regulation, issued in 1729, he was confirmed as a surgeon. Barber-surgeon was not an unusual professional combination in the eighteenth century. In this dual capacity, J. M. Wiesenthal was associated for several years with the Prussian regiment of the Ansbach-Bayreuth lancers. Due to this connection he was privileged to send his two sons Johann Christoph and Karl Friedrich (Charles Frederick) to the "regimental school" which was on a considerably higher level than the ordinary schools. Johann Mattheus Wiesenthal probably took part in the first and second Silesian campaigns of Frederick the

\* Eugene F. Cordell, "Charles Frederick Wiesenthal, Medicinæ Practicus, the Father of the Medical Profession in Baltimore," *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, nos. 112/113, 170-174. T. W. Griffith, *Annals of Baltimore*, (Baltimore, 1824), 59. J. R. Quinan, *Medical Annals of Baltimore*, (Baltimore 1884), 12 ff. E. F. Cordell, *Medical Annals of Baltimore*, (Baltimore, 1903), 13-18, 652, 656, 658, 659, 660, 662-665. Dieter Cunz, *The Maryland German*, (Princeton, 1948), 98, 106, 108-111, 120-121, 142-145, 181.

Great (1740/45). He met his death some time before 1747. His widow died in Pasewalk, in October 1767.

Johann Mattheus Wiesenthal had four children: Johann Christoph (born 1724);; Karl Friedrich (baptized August 12, 1726); Samuel Gottlieb (baptized September 11, 1729); Euphemia (baptized November 12, 1732). [See genealogy below.]

No material is available on Karl Friedrich Wiesenthal's schooling and medical training. Neither he nor his brother are mentioned in the roster of the Prussian Collegium Medico-Chirurgicum of Berlin, founded by Frederick the Great for the training of military surgeons. Thus it is not impossible that Wiesenthal never completed the official medical curriculum, in which case he would deserve all the more credit for his subsequent medical accomplishments in Baltimore. On July 4, 1747, he married Christina Regina Talcho, the daughter of a Berlin brewer. (Excerpt of the marriage register of the Protestant Jerusalem Church of Berlin, Procl. and Copul. 1747, Dom. 3, 4 and 5 p. Trin.). After the wedding the couple went briefly to Pasewalk where the wedding was recorded in the register of the Lutheran Church (July 27, 1747).

Some time before 1747, Wiesenthal must have moved to Strasburg in the Uckermark. Here he practiced surgery for a number of years, probably up to the time of his emigration. The scroll of citizens of Strasburg (Uckermark) records that on October 2, 1747 the surgeon Carl Friedrich Wiesenthal, after having paid one *Taler* and six *Groschen*, became a citizen of Strasburg. Seven months after the wedding, with inappropriate haste, the first child arrived: Carolina Friederica, born August 27, 1747 and baptized four days later in the Evangelical Church of St. Mary's at Strasburg. (Register of baptisms 1747, no. 49). A second daughter followed November 26, 1748: Florentine Amalie Louise. (Reg. of bapt. 1748, no. 70). However, the little girl died from

small pox a few months later, as recorded in the death register of St. Mary's Church (1749, July 22, no. 33). The first son was born in 1750: Johann Matthias Wiesenthal, whose baptism was recorded in the register of the Lutheran Church of Pasewalk. A second son followed two years later: Christian Friedrich Carl, born March 12, 1752 and baptized in Strasburg, March 16, 1752. The register of baptisms (1752, no. 12) added the revealing note that the boy was baptized in the absence of his father. It is possible that at that time the father had already left for the American colonies, however, there is no indication as to whether, when and why the father departed and why he may have left the family behind. Among the godparents of all the Wiesenthal children we find the names of people of considerable social standing: mayors, high officials, physicians and members of the aristocracy, which may justify some conclusions as to the social prestige of the Wiesenthals.

All this material has been collected by one of the descendants of Charles Frederick Wiesenthal's older brother, Mr. Karl Wiesenthal of Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany, who kindly put it at the disposal of our Society. The material was gathered long before the war and the present division of Germany and came from church and state archives which now are either destroyed or inaccessible to genealogists and researchers, such as the Prussian State Archives, the City Archives of Strasburg, Church archives of Pasewalk (Pomerania), Strasburg (Uckermark) and Berlin. All the more we appreciate Mr. Karl Wiesenthal's help. The copies of the various documents which were received from him in 1950/51 were deposited in the archives of Zion Church in Baltimore, since this is the congregation in whose early history Charles Frederick Wiesenthal played such a distinguished role.

Unfortunately, we cannot with certainty put down the Wiesenthal family history after the doctor's arrival

WIESENTHAL GENEALOGY

Johann Mattheus Wiesenthal  
 1729 als Chirurg in Pasewalk bestätigt,  
 vor 1747 verstorben,  
 Witwe gestorben in Pasewalk, 9. Oktober 1763.

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|---|--|---|--|
| <p>1. Johann Christoph,<br/>                 geb. etwa 1724,<br/>                 Eskadronfelscher und Chirurg<br/>                 ∞ I vor 1752,<br/>                 Dorothea Elisabeth Friederich<br/>                 2 Söhne, 1 Tochter<br/>                 (Nachkommen noch heute<br/>                 in Deutschland).<br/>                 ∞ II Auguste Christine<br/>                 Gottliebin Blankmeister,<br/>                 in Treptow/Tollensee<br/>                 am 16. Dezember 1765,<br/>                 3 Söhne, 1 Tochter</p> | <p>2. Karl Friedrich,<br/>                 getauft 12. August 1726,<br/>                 Chirurg in Strasburg, Uckermark;<br/>                 zwischen 1752 und 1755<br/>                 nach Amerika ausgewandert.<br/>                 ∞ Christina Regina Talcho,<br/>                 Tochter des Bürgers und<br/>                 Brauers Johann Christian<br/>                 Talcho; copul. Berlin,<br/>                 am 4. Juli 1747.</p> | <p>3. Samuel Gottlieb,<br/>                 get. in Pasewalk<br/>                 11. September 1729;<br/>                 ∞ Dorothea Groth,<br/>                 Pasewalk, am<br/>                 25. Oktober 1747.</p> | <p>4. Euphemia,<br/>                 getauft in Pasewalk,<br/>                 12. November 1732.</p>                                |
| <p>1. Carolina Friederica,<br/>                 * Strasburg, 27. Aug. 1747.</p>   | <p>2. Florentine Amalie Louise,<br/>                 * Strasburg, 26. Nov. 1748,<br/>                 † Strasburg, 22. Juli 1749.</p>  | <p>3. Johann Mathias,<br/>                 getauft in Pasewalk,<br/>                 2. Juli 1750.</p>  | <p>4. Christian Friedrich Karl,<br/>                 * Strasburg, 12. März 1752,<br/>                 in Abwesenheit des Vaters.</p> |

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(This chart was compiled by Mr. Karl Wiesenthal of Stuttgart-Vaihingen)

in Baltimore. Zion Church, the German Lutheran congregation with which he associated himself, kept no records before 1786; its records after that date are extremely brief and uninformative. Charles Frederick Wiesenthal's death is recorded on June 1, 1789, the death of a "Frau Wiesenthal" (without first name) on July 3, 1805.

We never hear of the Wiesenthal children born in Germany between 1747 and 1752. There is a great deal of information about a son, Dr. Andrew Wiesenthal, evidently born in Baltimore in 1762. He studied medicine in Philadelphia and London (1786-1789). After his return to Baltimore he regularly delivered lectures on anatomy, pathology and surgery. His return from England, says Cordell, "infused new life into the profession of Baltimore." (Cordell, *Medical Annals*, 17, 18, 171, 173, 664, 665, 668, 669; *Maryland Gazette*, March 16, 19, 30, 1790). When in November 1789 the Medical Society was reorganized Andrew Wiesenthal became secretary-treasurer and librarian. In the same year he was appointed attending physician at the almshouse, in 1796 he became Judge of the Orphans' Court. He also figured prominently in the history of the Masonic lodge. A British periodical reported his discovery of the parasite of trachero-bronchitis in fowls. (*London Medical and Physical Journal*, October 1799).

Andrew Wiesenthal's family history is very scanty. Cordell says that after his return from Europe he married (1789) Sarah Van Dyke of the Eastern Shore. Their offspring apparently was Thomas Van Dyke Wiesenthal, who was born in Chestertown, Maryland in 1790, became a surgeon in the United States Navy and died in Portsmouth, Virginia, March 21, 1833. (Cordell, *Annals*, 621.)

The records of Zion Church report that two sons were born to Andrew Wiesenthal: Carl Frederic on January 3, 1797 and Andrew Haworth on January 25, 1798. Since a Mr. Andrew Haworth appears occasionally

on the pages of the Zion records it is not impossible that Andrew Wiesenthal married a second time, this time the daughter of Andrew Haworth. The two children did not live long: "Dr. Wiesenthal's Kind" (no name) died June 20, 1797; little Andreas (Andrew) Wiesenthal, 15 months old, passed away on April 27, 1799. A few months before that date, December 2, 1798, Zion Church recorded the death of their father, Dr. Andrew Wiesenthal. The church record gives his age as 27 years instead of 36, obviously an error since this is incompatible with Cordell's remark about his return from England and its effect on the medical profession in Baltimore. The fact that during the concluding years of the century yellow fever raged in Baltimore may account for the fact that within three years there were three crosses in the family history.

The Wiesenthal family history is one of the stories which becomes more contradictory and confused the more material we get. Cordell mentions (p. 171) a young medical student Frederick Dalcho, born in London 1770, according to Cordell the son of Elizabeth Wiesenthal, a sister of Charles Frederick Wiesenthal. The Wiesenthal genealogy shows no sister Elizabeth. However, C. F. Wiesenthal's wife (first wife?) was Christina Regina Talcho, a name which also appears as Dalcho and Telchow. Frederick Dalcho came to Baltimore in 1789 at the invitation of his uncle, yet it may be that the family relationship was not as simple as Cordell thought. He may have been a nephew of Charles Frederick Wiesenthal, not a son of Wiesenthal's sister, but probably a son of a brother-in-law through his marriage to Christina Regina Dalcho (Talcho).

Whether there are still descendants with the name of Wiesenthal we do not know. Eugene Cordell, almost fifty years ago, mentioned a "late Miss Wiesenthal of Boston." (*Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*, 1905, XVI, no. 177). If our readers know of Wiesenthal descendants, we would appreciate information.  
D. C.