

# The Wyneken Family History Newsletter

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## Origins

The earliest known Wyneken that I have been able to confirm from diverse sources is Christoph Wyneken, a "Landrentmeister" for the Swedes in the town of Stade. Stade is a town just west of Hamburg on the Elbe river which was formerly a center of trade in the Hanseatic League. I am not sure what a "Landrentmeister" is or does, but he is some kind of official and sounds as if he had something to do with finances, possibly a customs officer. Christoph was buried in Stade on August 30, 1652 at the church of St. Cosimae. This church still exists but it seems that the old graveyard and crypts have long since been removed.

The above data on Christoph can be found in various accounts of the Wyneken family history that are circulating within the various branches of the family and seems to be common knowledge among the Wynekens who take interest in their heritage. This information is also found in an article from the 1920's or 1930's by Hans Kannengießer, also available in English (see bibliography). I presume that the original source for the meager information about our earliest ancestor is the death records that I have seen referred to in some references. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find

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## The Major Branches

One very simple, yet useful, way to categorize the descendants of our oldest known common ancestor, Christoph Wyneken, is suggested in the article by Hans Kannengießer (see bibliography). He divides the Wynekens into the "Rüstje" branch and the "pastor" branch.

The Rüstje branch derives its name from the fact that the sons of Christoph's younger son, David Heinrich, owned a manor or farmstead by that name. The only one of these sons to have offspring was named Joachim Wolf and thus I usually think of him as being the patriarch of the Rüstje branch. The property remained in the family's hands for one or two more generations until it had to be sold to pay for debts.

Kannengießer writes of the pastor branch as beginning with Heinrich Christoph Wyneken, but I would like to take it back a further generation to his father, Heinrich Moritz, who is the first Wyneken pastor in the family

tree that I know of. This line of the family produced quite a number of pastors, hence the name. Of course, not all of the members of this branch were or are pastors, but there is a certain logic to Kannengießer's terminology. Another possible name for this branch would be the Bederkesa

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## Editor's Corner

Welcome to the first issue of a newsletter that will certainly not appear on a regular basis, but I do hope that this inaugural edition will not be the last. I have been working on gathering information on the Wyneken family since the beginning of 1996 and in the course of this project have contacted many of the readers of this newsletter. After nearly two years on this project I thought it was time for me to start sharing my results and provide some feedback to the many persons who generously shared information with me.

Some of you might be wondering why I have undertaken this project. To tell the truth, sometimes I ask myself that very same question. Some people who do this kind of research seem to want to find all their relatives, living and dead, no matter how distantly related. They measure their success by the multiple tens of thousands of people they have in their database. I personally do not understand this approach. Biology and pure mathematics show that each of us is

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## What Does the Name Wyneken Mean?

I'm sure you have wondered at one point or other what our family name actually means. In discussing our common ancestor, Christoph Wyneken, we ascertained that the name is German, Low German or Plattdeutsch to be precise. We have also noted that the ending "-ken" is a diminutive suffix denoting "smallness", "familiarity" or "affection" and we mentioned the words "droplet" ("a little drop") and "birdy" ("cute little bird") as examples of English words with diminutive suffixes.

There are basically two possible interpretations for the "wyn-" part of the name, depending on whether the "i" sound was originally long or short. If it was long, it might derive from the stem for "wine", and certainly many people have subscribed to this theory. There are at least two Wyneken coats of arms that depict grapes, thus referring to this first meaning. (The connection between grapes and a family from the cold north remains to be explained,

however. Perhaps they were originally wine merchants?) The other possibility is a root with a short "i" meaning "friend". Names like "Edwin" and "Winfried" contain the same component.

The fact that Wyneken is spelled with a "y" would seem to indicate that the vowel was originally long, bringing us back to the "wine" option. However Kannengießer (see bibliography) notes that Christoph's name (presumably in the records of his burial) was spelled "Kristofer Wineke". Throughout the 17th, 18th and possibly even 19th centuries one can find various spellings: variations of "y" / "i" / "ie"; here a "k", there a "ck"; with or without the final "n". Often the very same person is spelled differently on various occasions. That is typical of the spelling of the time before some wise person invented spelling rules. The fact that we spell our names with a "y", a rather exotic vowel to be sure, might well have been a mere affectation of our

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## The Pastor/Bederkesa Branch

My database currently contains 109 members of the Rüstje branch (i.e. descendants of Joachim and Auguste Juliane Wyneken) that bear the Wyneken name, as compared to 258 in the pastor or Bederkesa branch (descendants of Heinrich Moritz). I presume that one reason for this imbalance is the fact that I am a member of the latter branch and, in particular, have had ready access to the numerous names in the prolific American branch of the family. There are many families in both branches for which my information terminates in the 19th century. It is possible that these lines died out, whether for lack of children or for lack of male heirs to carry on the name, but it is also

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## Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich is a name most, if not all Wynekens in the United States, are familiar with. He is, in fact, the ancestor of most of us. Still, there are other reasons why this name comes up so frequently when one talks about the America branch of the family. Since not all of the readers of this newsletter are from this particular branch, it would be appropriate to provide a short sketch of FCD, as he is reverently called by his descendants.

FCD was born on May 13, 1810 in Verden, a town close to Hanover. He was the tenth of eleven children. His father was pastor in Verden, but FCD would never really get to know his father because he died when FCD

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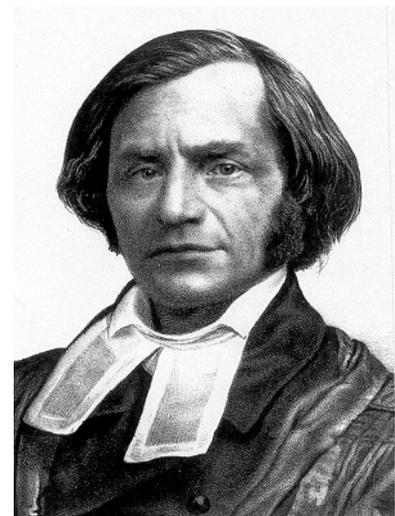
## The Rüstje Branch: Origins

The beginnings of the Rüstje branch were once shrouded in mystery. Various sources I came across at the beginning of my research seemed to be rather tentative concerning the first two generations following Christoph Wyneken of the Rüstje branch. One of these sources is a long scroll written in German depicting a rather exhaustive tree of Wynekens. The original entries run up to the end of the 19th century with later additions added in a different hand.

[I'm not sure who drew up the original tree, but the copy now in my possession ultimately came from the descendants of Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm Wyneken so perhaps this tree's origins must be sought for there. In any event, this tree has made it across the Atlantic at least twice, having been translated into a similar scroll in English and having also provided much of the information for a lovingly drawn German tree compiled in Chile at the beginning of the century.]

One thing that caught my attention the very first time I saw this

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Friedrich Conrad Dietrich  
Wyneken

## The Rüstje Branch: Chile

My first contact with contemporary members of the Rüstje branch was with the Chilean line of Wynekens. Interestingly enough, almost the whole process of finding and communicating with these distant relatives — distant for me in both senses of the word — revolved around the new electronic media.

At the time I came across the first signs of Wynekens in Chile I was under the impression that most, if not all, of the Wynekens in the world were to be found in the USA or Germany. Imagine my surprise when, at one point at the start of my research project, I started a search for the word "Wyneken" in the Internet, the global computer network, and discovered an advertisement for a brick and tile factory, "Ceramica Nacimiento Serra y Wyneken", in Chile. I immediately dashed off a note in English to the indicated address. Either my note never arrived, or nobody there understood English, or maybe they thought I was just crazy, but in any event I never did get a response.

A while later I did another Internet

search and this time discovered three mentions of Wynekens at the university in Santiago. This time there were no addresses to contact. Instead I consulted the Science Citations Index to see if I could come up with an address. The Science Citation Index is a regular publication that lists the titles and authors of scientific articles along with references to where they are cited by other articles. I figured with the "publish or die" mentality in the modern day academic world there would be a good chance of finding what I was looking for if the people behind the names I had found were active in their fields. I was right. I found an address for Ursula Wyneken, who is a biochemist and does research, if I'm not mistaken, on sleep.

I wrote her a letter in English thinking that that should be no problem since she publishes in English, and shortly thereafter I received a response from her by electronic mail on my computer. For the past two years Ulla, as she is

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## The Rüstje Branch: England & Spain

### England

In one of the various address lists of Wynekens I have I noticed several names listed in England. Shortly before Christmas of 1996 I rang up international information to ask for telephone numbers for the people listed. I then rang up one of the numbers and was greeted by a friendly voice that nevertheless sounded somewhat astonished to receive a phone call from someone who claimed to be a distant relative of hers. The person I was talking to was Elsie Wyneken. After a brief chat, in which I determined that Elsie would indeed be interested in hearing more from me and would be willing to help me in my endeavors, I hung up and in the next few days sent off a letter to her going into more detail about what I am doing.

In the course of the following year

Elsie was kind enough to provide me with background information about her line of the family and I was able to incorporate it into the data I had already gathered. Elsie's grandfather, Franz, was one of seven children born

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Elsie Wyneken

## FCD Wyneken's Descendants

FCD and his wife, Sophie, had 13 children, two of whom died in infancy. I cannot go into detail about them all so I will just make a few remarks on the ones I know most about and on some of their descendants. In the following, his children are denoted in **bold underlined letters**, whereas other descendants appear underlined.

His first child, Louise, was born in Lesum, near Bremen, while he and his wife were visiting Germany. They were apparently staying with FCD's sister, Caroline, and her husband, Ernst Ruperti, who was the pastor at Lesum. Louise's baptism is recorded in the church records of Lesum and presumably it was her uncle who baptized her. Before the family embarked on the ship back to the States, FCD's brother, Gustav, commissioned a painting of Sophie and Louise which can, I believe, be seen at the seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Louise later married Jacob Buehler and moved with him to San Francisco, where he had been sent as a missionary to the fledgling state. I assume that this was the first member of the Wyneken family to make the momentous move out west. More Wynekens are currently living in or have lived in California than in any other state, with the possible exception of Indiana. I believe Pastor Buehler founded St. Paulus church in San Francisco, the inside of which I have heard has been seen by many Wynekens. This church unfortunately burned down several years ago, possibly destroying countless records of interest to our family.

Heinrich Christian or Henry C. was presumably the elder of FCD's twin sons since he is always listed first in lists of FCD's children. He grew up to be a pastor and seminary professor. At one point he had a congregation for African Americans in Springfield. When Henry was 25 he

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## Future Plans

Currently my activities are basically two-fold: gathering information others have collected before me, and contacting Wynekens for whom I have found addresses by any of various means. The latter includes letters, e-mail and phone calls. When I get new information I then enter it into my databank. This is not as easy as it might sound at first. In order for the databank to be useful I have to discipline myself to be consistent about how I enter information. I have to keep track of the sources of my information so that I can go back at any time to confirm that I have not made a mistake. This also means that I have to enforce some kind of order in the documents and letters I have collected so as to be able to locate them quickly should the need arise.

This "overhead" has consumed a good portion of my time in the last few months but I believe I have almost reached the point where I can devote more of my time to actual research and analysis of the data. I have accumulated quite a large backlog of material that I finally need to get into the database. While catching up on this, I try to contact new relatives as time allows. I have several lists of addresses for Wynekens in the United States and in Germany. Some of the names already appear in my database and all I need to do is confirm that I have identified them correctly. Others I have no idea where they fit in, so I look forward to extending the tree with their information.

As time progresses and the number of uncontacted persons decreases, I will probably be dealing more and more with archives and other sources of historical information. I would like to start by obtaining photocopies of birth, baptism, marriage, death and burial records of key figures in each of the family lines. I also know of a few gaps that I would like to fill. For example, FCD's father, had several siblings for whom I have no information whatsoever. Then it would be helpful to find confirmation

for the leads I have on the two generations before Christoph Wyneken (who died in 1652). And naturally it would be grand to be able to extend the family tree back at least one more generation.

This is all very time-consuming, which is one good reason why many people do not discover the joys of genealogy until they retire. If anybody would like to assist me in this project I would be very grateful. There are many things that could be done: writing letters or making phone calls to make new initial contacts; writing archives, libraries and government offices; writing short biographical sketches of relatives one knows or has known, or of oneself for that matter; sending recent or old photographs; etc.

This research can at times require that money be spent. There is always the cost of postage and phone calls, and responses to inquiries from archives and other institutions are very often accompanied by a bill. I do not want to give the impression that I am seeking someone to underwrite what I am doing. I intend to incur these costs whether or not I have to pay for everything myself or not. However, I would not turn down a small donation if anyone feels that what I am doing is important enough that he/she would like to assist me this way. ♦

## The Current Generation

I thought it would be interesting to provide a table listing the Wynekens under the age of 30 and their birth years. This is, so to speak, the future of the Wyneken family.

Christopher Scott	1968
Jordi	1968
Karla Diane	1968
Kathryn	1968
Kimberly Lane	1970
Anne Catherine	1971
Eva	1971
Heather Helen	1972
Mark David	1972
JonDavid Kenneth	1973
Monica	1973
Gina Marie	1974
Jaben Nicolai	1977
Leann Marie	1980
Heidi Ann	1984
Max	1985
Caitlin Claire Hansen	1986
Karolyn Louise	1987
Ina	1987
Daniela	1988
Henry Louis	1988
Marc	1988
Gerard	1992
Elizabeth Rebecca Louise	1994
Tyler Scott	1995
Russell Warren	1996
Caleb John	1997

## Bibliography

- Hans Kannengießer : "Die Wyneken", self-published in ca. 1930. An English translation is available.
- Otto Freiherr Grote: Meine Ahnen. In: Deutsches Familienarchiv, Vol. 12 & 18
- Dietlinde Hestermann, ed.: Ahnenliste von Martin und Thomas Hestermann. In: Deutsches Familienarchiv, Vol. 76.
- Heinrich Kupffer: Gustav Wyneken. Stuttgart: Klett Verlag, 1970.

### Information on FCD Wyneken:

- Bob Smith: "A Heart for the American Frontier", Lutheran Witness (226), pg. 10 ff. A short article on FCD Wyneken's career
- G.E. Hagemann: "Friedrich Konrad Dietrich Wyneken, Pioneer Lutheran Missionary of the Nineteenth Century" (Men and Missions III, ed. L. Fuerbringer). St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1926. A more detailed account of FCD's life.
- The Lutheran Witness. Vol. 116 No. 4 (April 1997). A whole issue of the Lutheran Witness dedicated to the founding of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Includes information on FCD's role.
- Emma Wyneken: "Memories of the Wyneken Household", Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly XIV (CHIQ Jan. 1942), pp. 106 ff. A more intimate look at FCD's family by his daughter Emma.

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additional original documents on Christoph Wyneken's life because Stade was ravaged by a great fire in the mid-17th century. Many of the town records were destroyed.

There is, however, an article from 1981 by Dietlinde Hestermann (see bibliography) that provides further information on Christoph. She writes that he is mentioned as member and treasurer of the Stade town council in 1640 and 1646 and that the date of his appointment as "Landrentmeister" was November 24, 1646. She also indicates that he worked as a "Wandschneider", which translates as "wall cutter" or possibly, if it stands for "Gewandschneider", "robe tailor". Again, we are left guessing for the time being as to what it was exactly that he did. Obviously, though, some of the earlier records did survive the fire and it could prove very enlightening to attempt to locate further references to Wynekens in Stade.

Mrs. Hestermann furthermore claims to know that Christoph's father was named Joachim, listed in 1594 as a house owner in Stade. I have one other source that makes reference to this Joachim Wyneken, also providing the names of two other children and even going back one more generation. However, I intend to look into the sources of this information before I am completely convinced of the veracity of these claims.

In his article, Kannengießer says that he believes the Wynekens, Christoph in particular, probably came from Sweden during the 30 Years War. Stade belonged to Sweden from 1648 to 1712, having officially come under the Swedish crown in the treaty that ended the Thirty Years War. Presumably it had been under de facto Swedish control already during the war. According to Kannengießer's reconstruction, Christoph was brought in to help administer the town. I have heard the theory of Swedish origin from several people and I am not sure whether Kannengießer's article started

it, or whether he and the others base the theory on an older family tradition.

I personally do not find the Swedish theory very likely, for several reasons: I mentioned earlier that Christoph was a member of the town council in 1640 and 1646. This was several years before Stade officially became Swedish. Granted, Christoph obtained his Swedish post in 1646 so perhaps the town had been occupied by the Swedes during this whole time. One would have to consult the annals of the town to be sure. However, the town council would have consisted of citizens of the town itself, and I doubt whether a member of the occupying forces would be a member. On the other hand, it was not at all uncommon — in fact it was often quite necessary — for occupying powers to employ local citizens in administrative positions. A further point is that Christoph is mentioned as being a tradesman in Stade, which one would not expect from someone imported to take care of administrative tasks. Yet I admit that this is all only conjecture on my part since I am not a historian. But there is one more historical point to consider: If Christoph's father was indeed the Joachim Wyneken mentioned in 1594, the family was present in the town long before the start of the Thirty Years War and of Swedish influence in Stade.

My primary objection to Christoph's posited Swedish origin, however, is the surname itself. I can assert with certainty from my university years as a student of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies that the name does not look at all Swedish. The suffix "-ke(n)" is very typical for Low German (Plattdeutsch) dialects, but is completely unknown in Swedish. In Low German it is used to create diminutive forms of nouns, i.e. forms that express "smallness", "familiarity" or "affection". Examples of diminutive suffixes in English are the "-let" in "droplet" ("a little drop")

or the "-y" in "birdy" (as in "look at the birdy", meaning "cute little bird"). Not only does the name look Low German, but it actually shows up in northern Germany, where Low German was/is spoken, in numerous documents from the 1200's to the 1600's. It is first used as a proper name and then later as a surname. Clearly the name has a good, solid German basis. I thus see very little reason to think that Christoph was the "old Swede" we thought he was.

Now, if our common ancestor was not a Swede, yet worked for them, does that make him a traitor? I don't think that is necessarily the case. One thing we should not forget is that, at that time, Germany was not a country but a loose confederation of duchies, principedoms and kingdoms. Nationalism as we know it today is basically a development of the 19th century. One did not owe one's allegiance to an abstract concept of a nation, but to an individual ruler, and, as far as the common people were concerned, one ruler was just as good — or, more likely than not, as bad — as the next. Whenever one kingdom was taken over by another it might be fair to say that the change in power was perceived by the subjects not so much as one nation taking over another, but as one ruler replacing the other. Often enough the ruler of one region would gain control over another region without violence simply by being in the line of succession. This did not mean that the other region ceased to exist as a political entity, just that the two regions were now subject to the same crown.

In short, since there was no nation to identify with, there was no nation to betray. In order to survive one had to deal with the existing powers. This is a very different way of looking at the world from what we are used to today, but, if I am not completely wrong in this analysis, I think it safe to say that one need not necessarily

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## Editor's Corner - continued from page 1

related to millions of people in the present and past, if not billions or more. What purpose can it serve to try to find them all? I concentrate for the most part on my personal ancestors and their immediate families, and people who bear the name Wyneken, together with their immediate families. The question, "For what purpose?", is still legitimate — but at least I've limited myself to something more manageable.

Other people seek to discover how great and glorious their ancestors were so as to prove somehow that they themselves are something special. Such people are happiest when they have finally succeeded in tracing their roots back to the likes of Charlemagne or King Henry VIII. I cannot deny that part of me is thrilled to find celebrities of some sort in our family, whether they be famous or infamous. Yet this is certainly not my primary motivation. Still others try to uncover typical character traits to explain why they and other members of their family are the way they are. This can be, admittedly, intriguing, but there is a great deal of speculation involved once one goes back further than three or four generations.

So what are my reasons? I have always been attracted to things of the past and to tradition. That probably helps explain several things about me: my musical tastes, some of my attitudes, my interest in historical linguistics, part of the reasons why I have settled in Germany instead of remaining in the USA. If there is any one well-defined reason why I am

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consider Christoph Wyneken to be a quisling. Since we do not know the exact details of his career, however, we do not know to what extent he might have been an opportunist. The fact is, we just do not know very much about him, and probably never will. ♦

doing this, then this is probably it. All I can really say, though, is that it is something I started to do, and it is something I am going to continue to do. I cannot claim that what I am doing is "meaningful" in any normal sense of the term, but I do find it fulfilling. Now there's a paradox for you.

This newsletter attempts to provide an overview of what I have found out in the last two years about the various Wyneken lines, as well as mentioning all the different people I have contacted during this time. It is my intention that everyone I have been in touch with in this period of time will receive a copy. All of this means that I have a great deal of material to cover, so I have endeavored to be as succinct as possible. Even so, the final product has turned out much longer than I had originally envisioned. Still, I am sure there are spots where you will miss some detail or other of what you know or what you would like to know.

As a conceptual aid when reading the body of the text I have included charts that illustrate the relationships among the persons I discuss. These, again, do not show everyone contained in my databank but are merely intended as a kind of road map. You may notice that I only provide a bare minimum of data in the charts: I only indicate the year of birth and even this information is withheld for certain generations. Similarly, the newsletter itself contains no addresses and only vague dates.

I have done this on purpose. People have entrusted me with facts that they normally would not hand out to just any person. Regardless of whether knowledge of these details can potentially be abused or not, I owe it to my informants not to disseminate information indiscriminately. Some people might think this policy overly cautious, especially in view of the fact that the newsletter has a very restricted audience, but there may be others who do not see it this way. I do not wish

to take any undue risks and I would like my informants to know that their data is in trustworthy hands. Individuals may feel free to contact me for more details about certain relatives but I do not intend to publish this kind of information without the consent of the persons concerned.

I realize it is inevitable that these pages contain errors, factual as well as formal, and I would like to apologize for them now. I would greatly appreciate receiving corrections to any factual errors I have made. Comments, suggestions, questions and critique are likewise welcome.

If the contents of these pages find the approval of the reader, please let me know and I will add his or her name to a permanent mailing list for possible future issues. Likewise, please inform me if you have no interest in receiving subsequent issues. It is of course not fitting to request reimbursement for an unsolicited document, however if you think the newsletter is worth it, a check for a small amount to defray the costs of production and mailing would be accepted with due thanks. ♦

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### Thanks

I would like to thank my parents, Gerald E. and Rose Marie Wyneken, and Christine Wegner-Schneider for proofreading this newsletter and for making countless corrections and good suggestions.

## What Does the Name Wyneken Mean? - continued from page 2

ancestors and reveals nothing about whether the vowel was long or short. Thus it is not possible to decide between "wine" and "friend" based on orthographic grounds. Nor is it possible to deduce from the modern pronunciation of the name which of the two alternatives is correct since there are so many factors that influence how language is changed as time goes by. So basically it could be either one.

"So you're saying the name either means 'little wine' or 'little friend', right?" Not necessarily. To my mind, the most plausible etymology that I have encountered in books on German surnames is the one that hypothesizes that "Wyneken" derives from a given name that contained one of the aforementioned root words. The article suggests that the name might be "Winhold", since examples can be found in old documents of a Winhold being referred to by the name "Wineke". In principle, it could be

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branch. Bederkesa is the name of the town in which Heinrich Moritz' father, Claus Heinrich Carl Christoph, worked — as a government official — and died, and in which Heinrich Moritz was born. I intend to use these two terms interchangeably.

This division into two segments of the family is actually an artificial construct. There are several Wyneken families who fall outside of these two groups, but, as I do not know much about these people other than their names and dates I as of yet have no way of characterizing them. Perhaps I will be able to do that as my research continues.

The Wynekens of both branches seem to have been solidly entrenched in the social middle class of their times. Judging by the names of some of the families they married into it would seem that they, at times, mingled in even higher social circles. A great number of the Wynekens were government officials ("Beamte") of some sort or other. Some were teachers, some judges, some

any first name that started with "Win-". What follows is an attempt to illustrate how the name Wyneken could have come about:

The form "Wineke/Wyneke" is a nickname created by using the first syllable of the name "Winhold" and adding the diminutive suffix mentioned above. This is similar to what my aunt does when she refers to my Uncle Martin as "Marty". As we have seen, in the early days of the name's existence the "-n" at the end was sometimes present and sometimes not. This was because it only had a secondary function and took a while to become established. The ending "-(e)n" is a German suffix that can denote possession, so once we have a person nicknamed "Wineke" (in English we could say "Winnie") then we could refer to his house as "Haus des Wyneken" ("Winnie's house" in English). We could also refer to his son, Christoph, as "Christoph (des/vom) Wyneken" ("Winnie's

administrative officials, some doctors. Some of the pastors assumed higher offices in the church hierarchy. There was also quite a number of Wynekens in the military, particularly within the Rüstje branch.

In case you were wondering which of the branches is the elder line, well it depends on how you look at it. Going by the old-fashioned male dominated system of inheritance, one would have to conclude that the pastor branch would be the heirs of the (non-existent) family jewels. However, as can be seen in the charts, Heinrich Moritz, the founder of the pastor branch, had an older sister, Auguste Juliane, who married Joachim Wolf, her second cousin once removed and at the same time the patriarch of the Rüstje branch. Thus, based on the female line, the Rüstje branch would be the senior of the two branches.

One other possible point of contention between the two parts of the family is the question of which one can lay claim to the "von Wynekens" one sometimes hears

Christoph"). A document from 1282 (see "Familiennamen in Ostfalen" in bibliography) does something very similar and makes reference to an "Arnoldus filius Wyneken" ("Arnold son of Wyneken"). This is, in fact, one way that last names were formed, by using the father's first name; just think of all the Johnsons, Petersons and Williamsons you know. The "son" is not necessary, however, especially with the possessive suffix "-n" — or "-s" in English, such as one finds in names like "Peters" and "Williams".

I am unsure as to when people started using last names regularly, but it certainly happened a long time before Christoph's time. Thus we will probably never know the identity of this person called Winhold, Winbert, Winfried or whatever.

I still haven't said whether the "win-" in Winhold comes from "wine" or "friend". Unfortunately the book containing this etymology doesn't, either. The second part of the name, however, means something like "guardian". It would be more typical of the Germanic naming scheme to talk about a "guardian of a friend" than a "guardian of wine". Even if the given name was something other than Winhold, I am not aware of any Germanic names that contain the word "wine", whereas "win-" / "friend" is a very common component of names. I therefore tend to think that we are dealing with the word for friend here, although by the time the name was coined the meaning was at most only secondary. What was important was the relationship to a person named Winhold.

As is the case with much in etymology, the explanation just given is a theory. There might be other people with good arguments in favor of another interpretation. It is likely that no one will ever be able to establish beyond the shadow of a doubt where the name came from, but the approach I have sketched seems highly plausible to me. ♦

⇒ Continued on next page

## The Rüstje Branch: Origins - continued from page 2

tree was that according to it, there were two David Heinrich Wynekens (see chart "Rüstje - Traditional"). One of them was Christoph's son, and the other was a grandson by a second son of Christoph's known only as "Intendant Wyneken", i.e. a title but no name. Moreover, each of these David Heinrichs is shown as having a son called Johann Christoph. As if that weren't enough, there were also supposedly two persons named Joachim Wolf/Wulf, one a brother of Johann Christoph and son of David Heinrich, the other a cousin of the other Johann Christoph and nephew of the other David Heinrich. As we have seen, Joachim Wolf can be considered the founder of the Rüstje branch of the Wyneken family, so what we are

### The Major Branches cont. from page 7

about. As luck would have it, both branches have produced their sets of "von Wynekens". As long as the Rüstje branch maintained their ownership of the Rüstje estate they were entitled to add the "von" to their last names. The pastor branch, on the other hand, was obliged to emigrate to Russia in order to add the coveted three letters to their name. Details of the Wynekens in Russia can be found in Kannengießer's article. In any event, it is safe to say that neither of these families of "von Wynekens" has any cause to assume high airs. Their titles were bestowed on them much the same way as was the case with Lady Margaret Thatcher and Sir Paul McCartney. These titles have nothing to do with "blue blood" — not that that concept is of any inherent significance, either, of course.

Fortunately, the intervening centuries — and possibly the lack of anything of value to inherit — has erased any sort of rivalry that might or might not have existed between the two lines because of seniority and prestige. At least I have not observed any enmity in my dealings with various members of the family branches. ♦

concerned with here is the beginnings of the Rüstje line.

I had noticed this oddity in another family tree I had run across many years before I started taking family history seriously, and through the years I had become more and more curious about it. Although it wasn't uncommon at that time for the same given name to show up at various places in one and the same family, the parallels and near parallels between the two David Heinrichs, Johann Christophs and Joachim Wolfs made me suspect that someone had found several different pieces to a puzzle but had failed to combine them correctly. This impression was underscored by various question marks appearing in exactly these segments of the tree. All in all there were far too many question marks for my liking and I told myself that, when I found the time, I would try to find out more about this section of the family tree.

Fortunately for me, someone else had noticed this peculiar corner of the family history and had researched it — quite thoroughly, as a matter of fact — long before I came around. I discovered this by following a lead to a man named Otto Freiherr Grote (a "Freiherr" is a kind of baron) who had done research on the Wyneken family. I discovered an address for a person by that name living in Berlin and wrote a letter to him. This person wrote back saying that it was his father I was looking for. He had passed away in 1993 but had published the results of his genealogical work in 1958. One of the major highlights of my family research during 1997 was checking out the volume of a German genealogical journal from the university library in Freiburg and reading the solution to the "mystery of the Rüstje roots" as provided by Otto Freiherr Grote, himself a descendant of the Rüstje line. Grote's breakthrough was finding the baptismal records for the persons in question.

The details of the first Wynekens to own Rüstje are shown in the accompanying chart entitled "Rüstje - Correct". Grote's reconstruction of

how things came about is as follows: Christoph Wyneken is granted Rüstje about 1646 when he enters Swedish service as an administrative official ("Landrentmeister"). Christoph dies in 1652 and his widow marries the new "Landrentmeister", Rudolf Wissing. Wissing dies around 1659 and the widow finds it difficult to keep Rüstje. She has to sell it probably around 1662, or possibly the Swedish crown took it back and gave it to someone else. It is likely that a Wyneken regained possession of Rüstje about 1715. This might have been the person known as "Intendant Wyneken", the son of magistrate David Heinrich. When Carl Claus dies without issue he is mentioned as the owner of Rüstje. Rüstje then passes to the hands of the last surviving brother, Joachim Wolf. The manor remains in the family possession until about 1800 and guaranteed the family's aristocratic standing.

The fact that Joachim Wolf succeeded Carl Claus at Rüstje is presumably the reason why the latter was held to be the former's father in the one branch of the incorrect tree. Another source of confusion was that the name Joachim Wolf was associated with two birth dates. Grote was able to show that there was in fact only one person by this name. It still remains unclear who the "Intendant Wyneken" might have been. Johann Christoph was the eldest son and his wife's last name was Schorr, the name provided for the Intendant's wife. However, Johann Christoph died after Carl Claus. Would he have handed over the estate to his younger brother before he died? We see that there are still a few mysteries left to solve about Rüstje, but thanks to Otto Freiherr Grote we do know a lot more than we used to.

By the way, Rüstje still appears on the map. I am not sure what exactly one would find were one to pay a visit there, but it is just to the east of a village called Helmste, about 7 km. due south of Stade. ♦

## The Pastor/Bederkesa Branch - continued from page 2

possible that there are descendants still living.

The current article deals with the larger half of my database. Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken certainly stands out as an important figure in the pastor branch, but far from the only one. It is conceivable that some of you from other branches of the family might not even be familiar with him. Nevertheless, the amount of information I have concerning FCD and his successors is so large that I have given him and his descendants separate sections in this newsletter.

One of Heinrich Moritz' sons, Carl Johann Conrad, as well as two generations of his descendants are treated in great detail in the article by Hans Kannengießer (see bibliography). This is not surprising, as this is Kannengießer's own corner of the family. There is no point in repeating everything that this article has to say, because Kannengießer has said it so well already, so I will restrict myself to a few remarks.

Carl Johann Conrad himself was a pastor who advanced quite far in the church hierarchy. His oldest grandson, Georg, was a very successful banker and financial entrepreneur in czarist Russia and is the Wyneken in the Bederkesa branch to gain the "von" title. This title was passed on to his children but the material success of his family was brought to a sudden halt by the Russian revolution. Of the other grandsons, Carl was a philosopher and Alexander was an influential newspaper man. I believe I have met a great-grandson of Alexander's in the person of Christoph Wyneken, who lives in Staufen, a town not far from Freiburg. Christoph teaches at the music conservatory in Freiburg and conducts the youth orchestra of Baden-Württemberg. At the time I met with Christoph Wyneken I was not yet actively doing family research, so I am not certain as to whether I have positioned him properly in the family tree. I plan to clarify this matter soon, though.

Carl Johann Conrad's brother was

the pastor, Heinrich Christoph Wyneken, who in turn was the father of FCD and his ten siblings. FCD's brothers, Carl Friedrich and Gustav Burchard were also pastors, as was Ernst Ruperti, the husband of FCD's sister, Caroline. Pastor Ruperti makes at least two other appearances in this family saga: he was the pastor at his brother-in-law Gustav's wedding and at the baptism of FCD's daughter, Louise. We know Gustav as the person who commissioned a painting of this very Louise as an infant standing in her mother's lap.

Ernst Ruperti's son by a first marriage, Justus Ruperti, was another pastor, who like FCD crossed the Atlantic to tend to the needs of the German immigrants. After serving in Hoboken from 1873 to 1876, however, he returned to Germany to continue his career there. Another of FCD's nephews, Heinrich Christian Schwan, the son of FCD's sister, Charlotte, was still another pastor who not only emigrated to the U.S. to stay, but who went on to become the third man to serve as president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, thus following in his uncle's footsteps here, as well. I have heard a story about H.C. Schwan that claims he was the first person in the United States to set up a Christmas tree in a public place. This supposedly took place in front of his church in Chicago and at first only reaped criticism from the general public. As we all know, the custom did eventually catch on.

A third nephew of FCD, Carl Friedrich's son, Heinrich Carl Friedrich, also landed in the New World; however, he was not a pastor but a banker. He settled in St. Louis and founded a line of Carl/Karl Wynekens: Karl Ernst August, Carl and Karl Henry. I talked to Karl Henry on the telephone once several years ago and still correspond with him. He lives in California and is a pastor, as was his grandfather, Karl Ernst August. Karl and his father have done work on the Wyneken family history

and I am in Karl's debt for passing this information on to me.

I know very little about Gustav Burchard Wyneken himself, but I do know quite a bit about his descendants. He and his wife had nine children, only two or three of whom lived to reach the age of five. I have not been able to find out more about these family tragedies — if the children were sickly or were perhaps the victims of an epidemic — but it touches me to catch this glimpse of past suffering and sorrows.

The oldest of Gustav's surviving children was Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm. He studied theology, philosophy and history at Tübingen, Göttingen and Berlin and subsequently worked for a while as a teacher and private tutor, at one point for the royal family of Luxembourg. He then became the director of a girls' school in Stade. He lost this position as the result of a court case in which he was accused of insulting the king of Prussia. He had apparently made a public statement that the annexation of the kingdom of Hanover by Prussia broke the seventh commandment, i.e. constituted an act of theft. He was acquitted on the grounds that he had not directed his remark towards the king, but towards the action alone, and at the time of

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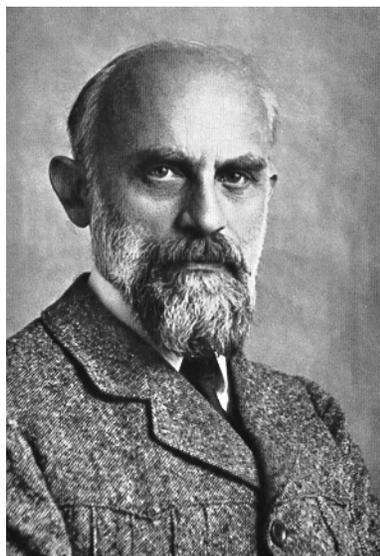


Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm  
Wyneken and wife, Charlotte

## Pastor/Bederkesa - continued from page 9

utterance had not realized that he was by imputation accusing the king of theft and thus insulting him. The court's decision is a masterpiece of legal reasoning. Just two years after his trial, however, Ernst Friedrich left the school to become a pastor. I do not know why he took this step, but it is possible that, despite the acquittal, his reputation had been so marred that it was no longer possible for him to retain his former public position. Ernst Friedrich also authored essays on philosophical, theological and social topics.

Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm had eight children, the oldest of whom was Gustav Adolph Wyneken. Gustav was a prominent educational reformer in the early 20th century, and I believe it is safe to say that he is the most renowned of the German Wyneken. To give a practical example, if one does an Internet search on the name "Wyneken" most of the German documents one will find will be about him, whereas most of the English documents will be about FCD. Gustav is best known for his work with the Freie Schulgemeinde Wickersdorf, an alternative school which he cofounded, and for his role in the German youth movement of the early 20th century. Gustav's opinions on education, philosophy, religion and



Gustav Adolph Wyneken

sexuality were at times revolutionary, unorthodox and perhaps extreme. He was quite influential and at one time served as the Minister of Education in the state of Prussia after World War I. He also had his share of scandals. There is at least one German biography of him (see bibliography). His niece, Barbara Mahn née Fimmen, is another source of information about him, since she used to be in charge of the Gustav Wyneken Society.

Gustav's sister, Luise, although not quite as flamboyant as her brother, was also a remarkable person. She was very active politically, a Social Democrat and much opposed to the Nazis. She was the head of a vocational school for girls in Nienburg until she was forced to resign by the Nazis. (Her siblings and in-laws also lost their jobs during this period.) She was the author of several books and had to watch as storm troopers burned them in a bonfire during the Nazi book burnings. She visited the U.S. during the depression, hitch-hiking and working as a cook. During this time she met various American Wyneken, among whom I believe were the members of Henry C.'s family. These American relatives later sent care packages back to Germany. I would not be surprised if it wasn't this transatlantic connection which was responsible for bringing over some of the genealogical information that is in the hands of several Wyneken families in the United States.

I am currently in touch with three members of this German part of the Bederkesa branch. Ruth Armitage née Wyneken lives in England, having married an Englishman after World War II. I met Ruth through my contact with Elsie Wyneken of the Rüstje branch. While my parents were visiting me this last September, they and I spent a very pleasant afternoon with Ruth and her husband, Michael, in Donaueschingen where they were on holiday from England (see picture on page 12). Ruth's father was Karl



Luise Wyneken

Wyneken, who was another son of Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm. Karl Wyneken did a great deal of research in the family history and at one time corresponded with Otto Freiherr Grote, the author of the article mentioned in conjunction with the beginnings of the Rüstje branch. As he gathered new information he added it to a detailed family tree in his possession. Elsie Wyneken later obtained a copy of this scroll-like tree and lent it to me to be copied. The ultimate source of the tree is unknown. There is also an English version of the tree in circulation in the States.

Ruth placed me in contact with her second cousin, Karl-Burghard, a retired apothecary who is descended from Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm's brother, Carl. He in turn provided me with the address of Ruth's cousin, Wyneken Fimmen, brother of the above-mentioned Barbara Mahn. Their mother was Ernst Friedrich's daughter, Adolphine. Wyneken Fimmen and his son Wyneken are two of three Wyneken descendants I know of who use the name as a given name. ♦

## Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken - continued from page 2

was five years old. FCD enrolled to study Theology at the university at Göttingen in 1828 and transferred to the university at Halle in 1830. He seems to have been a good student; in any event, his transcript from Göttingen concludes with the following remark, the first part of which was standard and printed on the transcript form: "With respect to his conduct, there have been no complaints about him". This probably reveals more about the German university system in the 19th century than it does about FCD. He passed his theological examination on April 10, 1837, with flying colors despite the fact that, according to one story about him, he argued with his examiners. For a while he traveled around and worked as a tutor; however I am uncertain as to whether this was before or after his examination or both before and after.

The major turning point in his life came within a year following his examination. He heard about the numerous German immigrants in North America and how there was a critical lack of pastors to tend to their

spiritual needs. He embarked on a ship in Bremen and landed in Baltimore in late 1838. There are numerous works that relate how he traveled around in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio doing mission work and how he served at various congregations in Fort Wayne, Baltimore, St. Louis and Cleveland. There are also numerous stories about particular episodes in his life. The bibliography for this newsletter contains a few references that provide more detailed information than I can give here.

In 1842 and 1843, FCD and his wife, Sophie Buuck, returned to Germany. The purpose of this journey was apparently two-fold. FCD had some kind of throat ailment that he wanted to have treated in Germany, and he wanted to gather support for his mission work. I have read numerous references to FCD's throat/lung problem but have never figured out exactly what it was. Nor do I have any idea whether the trip was successful in this respect. On the other hand, he did meet with great success in respect to the second reason for the trip. He traveled extensively in

Germany to relate his experiences in the New World. He also published a treatise, the so-called "Notruf", or "Distress of the Germany Lutherans in North America".

When he returned to the US he continued his work. In 1850 he became the second president of the newly constituted Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and served in that function during the American Civil War. He resigned from the presidency in 1863 and served a congregation in Cleveland, Ohio, where he remained for most of the rest of his life. In October of 1875 he traveled to San Francisco to stay with his daughter, Louise, and her husband, Jacob Buehler, as his doctors had suggested he take advantage of the California climate for health reasons. He was soon joined by his wife. On May 4, 1876, shortly before FCD and Sophie were planning to return to Cleveland, he died. His body was sent over the continent back to Cleveland, where he was buried. He was survived by eleven children, who proceeded to be fruitful and multiply. ♦

## FCD's Descendants - cont. from page 3

traveled to Germany and taught briefly at a seminary there. I recently heard from Henry's 3G granddaughter, [Tina Mather](#), that the family owns a journal that Henry kept during his trip to Germany. I have seen some pages of it and it looks like the material it contains is quite interesting. The family is in the process of having the journal translated into English.

My first contact with the Henry C. branch of the family was with [Fred Wyneken](#), who at the time was living in the San Francisco Bay area. Fred had had at least two dealings with members of my family before me. Fred told me that he had once been on the same trip to Israel that my grandmother was on. Shortly before Fred and I started corresponding, my father had chanced to discover Fred's name in the phone book and decided to give him a quick call. Fred's father had

taken an interest in family history and Fred has passed on large quantities of very useful information to me. Fred now lives in Idaho after having retired from the FBI and is trying to start a business of his own. He and I keep in touch by e-mail.

Fred told me about his cousin, [Robert Arthur](#), who has just retired from the mechanic business and immediately set off in his mobile home to tour the country. On the way he paid visits to various Wynekens. Robert is also a family historian and he has provided me with much new information about Henry C.'s descendants. I hope to hear more about his recent trip.

Both Fred and Robert, as well as Tina Mather are descended from Henry's eldest son, [Frederick George Alexander](#) or Fred for short. It would

— Continued on next page —



Henry C. Wyneken

## FCD Wyneken's Descendants - continued from page 11

seem that there was quite a bit of inter-family contact between Fred's family and other Wyneken families in California. I have heard this, for example, from my great-uncle, Edmund, and from Karl Wyneken in Fresno, who is descended from FCD's brother, Carl Friedrich. If you ever run into a Wichmann, McKim or Hahn who claims FCD as an ancestor, you are dealing with a descendant of one of Frederick's daughters — not to mention the Bells, Mathers, Schwantes and numerous other families.

Another contact I made with the Henry C. branch was Jeanette Wyneken, a marine biologist in Florida. This is another person I met after doing an Internet search on the name Wyneken. I have also corresponded briefly with her brother, Stuart, and more extensively with her cousin Carol Hardy McFadden, who teaches biology at Cornell. Their grandfather was Henry C.'s son, Gerhardt (Jerry). Jerry was a doctor in Chicago who got involved with "the Mob". He also had affairs and eventually left his family — or perhaps was kicked out — for California. His wife, Anne MacKenzie, a Canadian proud of her Scottish extraction and a devout Presbyterian, divorced him and disavowed him completely. Jeanette

says that her grandmother always told people she was a widow, divorcee being practically unheard of at the time. Carol describes her grandmother as a true lady, intelligent and liberal, demonstrating for civil rights at the age of 80.

My 2G grandfather, Martin Luther, was FCD's other twin son. Like his father and brother he became a pastor. He had congregations in Fort Smith, Arkansas and Cincinnati until he contracted tuberculosis and moved to California for the climate. When his health permitted he did mission work in Los Angeles but died a few years later about two months before he would have turned 40. At his death, his four children were between eleven and three years old. His youngest, Arthur, also became a pastor. My great-grandfather, Martin Luther II, was a surveyor and draftsman and designed the track layout at the Los Angeles train station. His sister, Clara (known to my father's generation as "Tante Clara") was one of several Wyneken women who chose to break with tradition and remain single. This at a time when it was much more difficult to do so than it is today. My great-uncle Ed describes her as "a real character, lively and fun". She earned her living as a dressmaker and saleslady and lived together for a while with her unmarried cousin, Emma

Schmidt, who was a daughter of FCD's daughter Maria Wyneken Schmidt.

My grandfather, Martin Luther Wyneken III, was a missionary in India for almost 26 years. When he returned to the US he took a congregation in South San Francisco — and grew artichokes in his backyard. I have already mentioned his brother, my great-uncle, Ed. My father, Gerald E. Wyneken, was a missionary to the Philippines for 16 years and my two brothers, one sister and I were all born there. My father later took congregations in Oklahoma, Hawaii and California and retired just this last summer. I have too many uncles, cousins and an aunt to be able to go into detail about them here, and I hope they and my siblings will pardon me for not mentioning them by name.

In going through some material that Fred Wyneken sent me quite a while back, I noticed that he has a second cousin who was born in India. This interested me and I took a closer look at the information that Fred had given me and asked my father about the India connection. What I found out was a typical tangle of interrelations that comes up occasionally when one deals with family history: Fred's grandfather, Frederick Wyneken, married a woman named Frieda Daib. A daughter of Frieda's oldest sister married Frederick's younger brother Theodore. Another of Frieda's sisters married William Meinzen, whose son, Erwin, would later be my father's boarding house parent at school in India. The Meinzens were friends of my grandparents, and Erwin's son, Luther, still writes my parents at Christmas. It also seems that I probably even met the Meinzens one time when I was a child. It is interesting to see how small the world of American Lutheran pastors of German descent can be.

For the most part I know little more than a couple names and dates for the Ferdinand Johannes

— Continued on page 15 —



Matthew P. (the editor) and Gerald E. Wyneken with Ruth (Wyneken) Armitage in Donaueschingen, Germany, Sept. 1997

## Rüstje: England & Spain - cont. from page 3

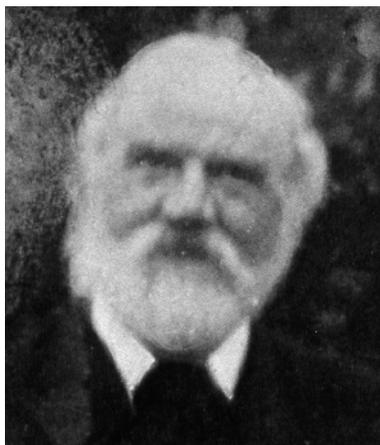
to a government or court official in Germany. Elsie informed me that three of the four sons emigrated to other countries because they were not pleased with the rising militarism in Germany at the time. Franz settled in England whereas the other two brothers that left, Fritz and Richard, went to the United States and Spain, although Elsie did not know which one went where.

Franz worked as a foreign correspondent in England, was fluent in six languages and started learning Russian at the age of 60. Elsie was a mere infant when Franz died so she has no memories of him, but her family described him to her as being a portly, jovial man who was very friendly and easy to get along with.

Franz had a daughter, Lily, and a son, Ricardo Franz Otto Paul, who preferred to be called Dick. When they were young, the family maintained contact with relatives in Germany. Lily spent several years there and they were visited in England by an aunt. Later, shortly before World War II and then again afterwards, they were in touch with Anna (Anny) Wyneken Schulte, a granddaughter of Franz' third brother, Arthur, who remained in Germany. Her husband, Dr. Schulte, was an eye doctor in Essen and Elsie has heard a story that he once saved a Jewish woman from being deported by the Nazis. Lily began training as a singer but she was forced to stop for lack of funds. Instead, she became a nurse. She remained single all her life. Dick was, like his father, a very friendly man and quite popular with friends and family. He worked in the cotton trade, became a mill manager but ran into difficult times during the war when cotton trade declined drastically. He had to struggle to support his family and they greatly admired and appreciated his spirit in doing so. Fortunately, life later became less difficult for him.

Dick had three children, Elsie and her two elder siblings, Herbert and Dorothy. Bert worked for a company that made brushes. Early in his life he

joined the Society of Friends, i.e. the Quakers. This step was, of course, well in keeping with his grandfather's anti-military sentiments. Dorothy and Elsie trained to be teachers, were both headteachers at various schools and did very well in their profession. Like their Aunt Lily, Dorothy and Elsie did not marry but forged their own lives and retained their independence. Most of the time Dorothy and Elsie lived together and upon their retirement they bought a nice bungalow in a town close to the Lake District region in north-central England. Sad to say,



Franz Wyneken

the last two years have deprived Elsie of both her brother and sister, as well as her sister-in-law. Bert is survived by two daughters.

This last September, my parents came over to Europe for a visit and we saw a bit of England together. Elsie very graciously invited us to come visit her and to use her home as a starting point to explore the natural beauty of the Lake District. I believe that Elsie considers the Lake District to be an integral part of the identity of the British Wynekens, and my parents and I can only confirm that that is indeed a marvelous region. We were very glad for the opportunity to meet this very kind and gracious person, willing to put up "shirt tail" colonial relatives in her house, decorated with many of her own paintings and with a splendid flower garden out in the back yard.

## Spain

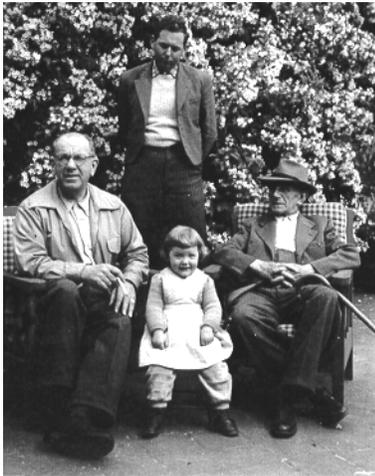
After I returned home from our visit to England, I decided it was time to try to find out if the addresses I have of Wynekens in Barcelona, Spain, are indeed for persons descended from one of Franz' two other brothers. I was lucky to have the support of several people. A native Barcelonan who is a frequent guest where I work looked up the name Wyneken in the local telephone book and confirmed that some of the addresses I had obtained by other means were still current. I then enlisted Ulla's help to translate a letter of introduction for me. I sent off two letters and after a week I received a response by electronic mail from Xavier Wyneken.

Xavier wrote that he found it interesting to hear from another person of the same name and he gave me the names of the ancestors he knows about. He told me that his great-grandfather's name was Ricardo Wyneken Lichtemberg. "Eureka", I said to myself. The name Ricardo matches perfectly since the name of one of Franz' brothers was Richard. That would also explain why Franz chose the Spanish form of the name when christening his son, Dick. Furthermore, the name Lichtemberg fits in exactly, since from other sources I knew that the maiden name of the mother of these men was Lichtenberg! As I remarked in the article about the Chilean branch, the Spanish custom of incorporating the matronymic, that is the mother's name, into the surname can have some very nice side effects. Xavier's father's name is Antonio and he also has an uncle, Ricard. Ricard has three daughters, and Antonio has three daughters and a second son. Xavier himself also has two young sons.

We now know that Franz Wyneken went to England, Richard went to Spain and Arthur remained in Germany. This means that it must have been Fritz (Friedrich) Wyneken who emigrated to the United States.

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## The Rüstje Branch: Chile - continued from page 3



Four generations of Chilean Wynekens: Bruno, Gustav, Marianne, Gustav (l. to r.)

called, and I have been corresponding regularly by e-mail, once or twice a week. Her family still speaks German at home so we quickly changed the language we corresponded in. She finds it much easier to speak and write scientific English since that's a tool of the trade for her, but for informal discussion she prefers German — since my Spanish is not worthy of mention, as she can confirm.

Obviously we also discuss other things aside from family history, but Ulla has been more than generous

### Rüstje Branch: England & Spain - cont. from page 13

As of yet I have found no trace of him but I hope to track him down in the further course of my research. Up to now the only Wynekens I have discovered in the United States have been descended from my great-great-great-grandfather, Friedrich Conrad Dietrich, or his older brother, Carl Friedrich. However, there were several other Wynekens who ventured across the Atlantic and someday I hope to ascertain what happened to them and their descendants. ♦

with information about the Chilean side of the family. One of the first things she provided me with was a detailed family tree, compiled and nicely drawn in the semblance of a real tree by her great-aunt, Meta Wilckens née Wyneken. This was the first version I received of the material in the German tree in scroll form referred to in the article "Rüstje Branch, Part 1", and it gave me a very large amount of information that I had not had before.

It was Ulla's great-grandfather, Gustav Eduard Amallo Wyneken, who emigrated to Chile around the turn of the century and founded her branch of the Chilean line of Wynekens. At least three of Gustav's brothers also emigrated to Chile at or around the same time, two of whom had children. The brothers had been left orphans at a relatively early age and some of the siblings were brought up by their mother's sister. At some point, several of the brothers decided to go to Chile to make their fortune. Gustav became a merchant or businessman and was soon quite successful.

He was known as "der eiserne Gustav" ("eisern" meaning "made of

iron") due to his will of iron. He lived to be about 98 years old, but he suffered a stroke when he was about 80. Ulla told me that he was determined to recover from the stroke and did the necessary exercises so conscientiously — crumpling up paper into a ball with his hands, doing this all day long — that he was later able to swim across the river on the family property. Gustav had a son, Bruno, and three daughters, one of whom was Meta, who was responsible for the Chilean family tree.

Bruno purchased a piece of land in Nacimiento, 500 km. south of Santiago, and he farmed this property all of his life. The property is called Tambillo and it occupies a very special place in the hearts of Ulla's family. The members of the family that do not live in Tambillo are always welcome to drop in and stay there a while when they need to get away from the stress of modern life. All I have to go by is Ulla's description and a few pictures, but aside from the cultivated land I understand there are wooded areas, a

— Continued on next page —



Chilean patriarch Gustav Wyneken with friends and relations

## The Rüstje Branch: Chile - continued from page 14

river, and according to one picture that particularly impressed me, a magnificent view of the Andes off on the distant horizon. Of course, an agricultural life style is not as idyllic as it might seem at first. A farm does not take care of itself and there are chores to be done. There are also risks to be faced. A few years ago a good part of the property was wiped out by

### FCD's Descendants – cont. from page 12

Louis branch of FCD descendants. In conjunction with this branch, however, I did make a sobering discovery, to wit that I am not the



Matthew Fair Wyneken

only Matthew Wyneken on this earth. I discovered this other Matthew in the course of yet another Internet search. Matthew Fair Wyneken (as distinguished from Matthew Paul) is a mathematician in Michigan. Matthew put me in touch with his parents, Warren William and Patricia, who live in Fort Wayne. Warren is a retired attorney and has two other children.

The only person in the Herman Claus Dietrich branch that I have been able to contact is Jeff Wyneken in Arizona. I am hoping to obtain more details on this side of the family from him and his father, Richard James, in California. Otherwise I have received some pointers from Fred Wyneken about another grandson of Herman's, Robert Joseph, and his brother Roy in California, but have yet to track them down.

Emma Wyneken ("Tante Emma") was one of FCD's youngest daughters and like my 2G aunt, Clara,

a fire and I believe the family is still in the process of recovering from this disaster. The rapid spreading of the fire was aided by the high flammability of the eucalyptus trees they had just recently planted (a phenomenon that my cousin Jeanine and her family can confirm only too well after the fire several years ago that devastated a good part of the Oakland hills in the

chose to remain unmarried. This must have taken even more determination on Emma's part, though, because she was a generation earlier, when people were even less accustomed to independent women. Emma was a school teacher and nurse, and lived in Orange, California. Her house seems to have been a common meeting place for the Wyneken relatives in southern California. Her ghost-written article about life in the Wyneken family (see bibliography) is well worth reading for the insights into the private life of the family, although FCD himself does not play a very big role in the article.

FCD's youngest son was named Theodore Toenjes, but he went by the name of "Pete". Pete not only had an unusual middle name, the origin of which would interest me greatly, but he also had a rather unusual occupation, at least for someone from a family of pastors. Pete was a prospector in Nevada. I find that fact alone very intriguing and I wish I knew more about him. My great-uncle, Ed, reports that he used to see Pete when Pete visited his sister, Emma, in Orange, California. When Pete died my great-grandfather (Pete's nephew) and Emma drove up to Tonopah, Nevada and attended the burial, officiated by an Episcopal minister in a snow storm. Pete's death certificate lists dropsy and silicosis, a lung disease caused probably by his mining activities, as the principal causes of death. It must be the glimpse of the American days of yore that attracts my interest to this 3G uncle of mine. ♦

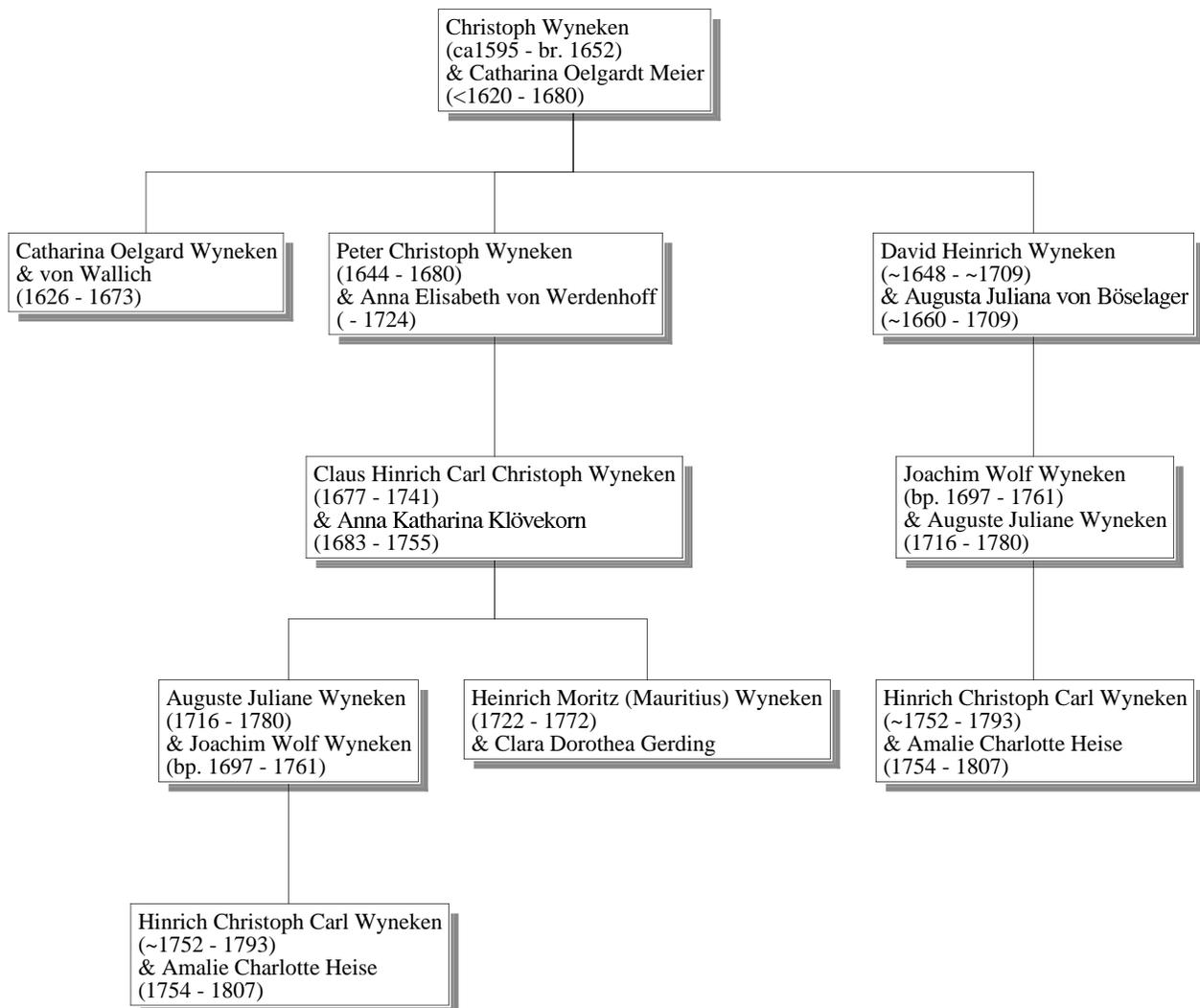
San Francisco Bay area).

Bruno in turn had two daughters and one son, to whom he passed on his grandfather's name, Gustav Eduard Amallo. Gustav started out on the farm but later also started a brick factory, the very same Ceramica Nacimiento Serray Wyneken I wrote to in my first attempt to contact the Chilean Wynekens. The husband of one of Gustav's four daughters now works for the factory, but I'm not sure if the factory is still in the family's hands or not. There are a large number of Gustav's grandchildren growing up in Chile right now, two of whom I have had the pleasure of talking with briefly on the phone when they stayed in Germany for a few months this last year. There are also numerous other descendants of Gustav's sisters and aunts. However, the family name will soon disappear in Chile since there were very few sons born to carry on the name. On the other hand, thanks to the Spanish custom of giving children double surnames, the second of which is the mother's family name, the word Wyneken will be present in Chile longer than it would be in other cultural circles. For example, Ulla's three year old nephew, Gustavo Hernán Labarca Wyneken, not only bears the given names of his grandfather, great-great-grandfather and even great-great-great-grandfather, but also their surnames.

Earlier I mentioned that the Chilean immigrants in the Wyneken family consisted of several brothers. With Ulla's help I was able to locate a descendant of one of these other Chilean branches. He, like several others of the Chilean Wynekens, returned to Germany at one point. Shortly before Christmas of 1996 I called up the Munich telephone number I had found and had a nice chat with Inge and Wulf Wyneken. Wulf is a nephew of the "eiserner Gustav" and thus the son of one of the other brothers who moved to Chile around the same time Gustav did. I'm sorry to report that Inge Wyneken called me up a few months later to inform me that her husband was doing very poorly. ♦

## Wynekens - Origins

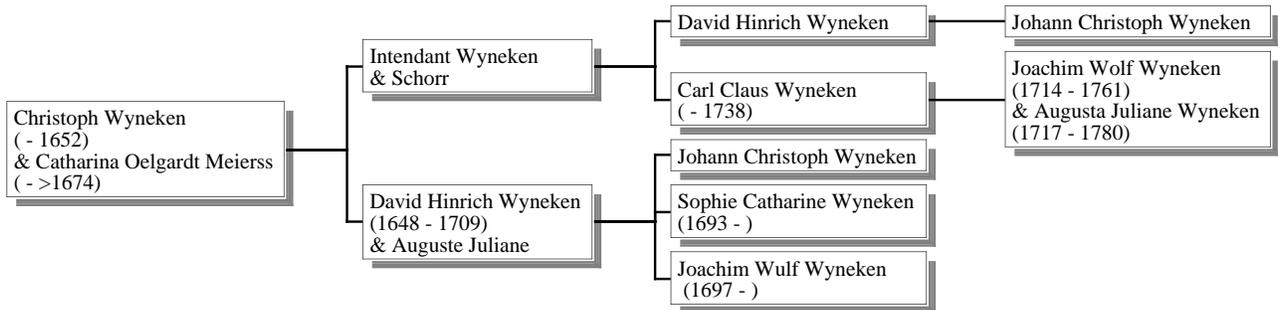
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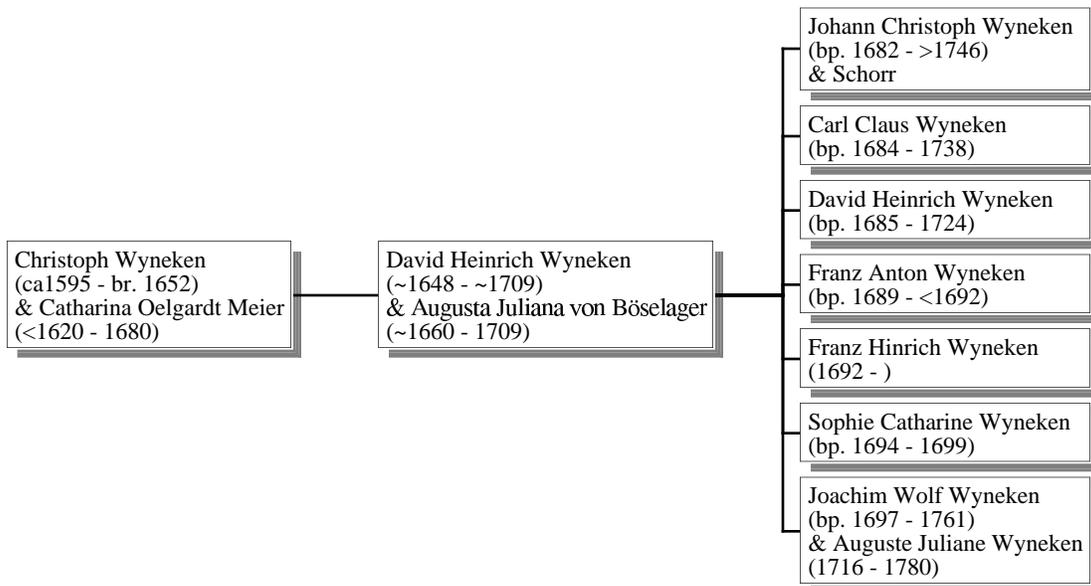
# Beginnings of the Rüstje Branch of the Wyneken Family

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## Traditional view of the beginnings of the Rüstje branch.



## Corrected view of the beginnings of the Rüstje branch as worked out by Otto Freiherr Grote



Joachim Wolf Wyneken  
(bp. 1697 - 1761)  
& Auguste Juliane Wyneken  
(1716 - 1780)

Hinrich Christoph Carl Wyneken  
(~1752 - 1793)  
& Amalie Charlotte Heise  
(1754 - 1807)

August Wilhelm Carl\* Joachim Otto Wyneken  
(1778 - 1834)  
& Sophia Elisabeth von Bestenborstel  
(1782 - 1808)

August Wilhelm Carl\* Joachim Otto Wyneken  
(1778 - 1834)  
& Henriette Eleonore von Plessen

Juliane\* Henriette Ulrike Wyneken  
(1780 - 1867)  
& David\* August Louis Martin  
(1764 - 1829)

Friedrich\* Heindr.Christ.Wilh. Joh. Ernst Wyneken  
(1782 - 1871)  
& Ann Halkett

Christian\* Wilhelm August Johann Ernst Wyneken  
(1783 - 1853)  
& Charlotte Louise\* Baring  
(1798 - 1833)

Christian\* Wilhelm August Johann Ernst Wyneken  
(1783 - 1853)  
& Auguste\* Juliane Martin  
(1800 - 1886)

Georg Ludwig Wilhelm\* Gustav Wyneken  
(1785 - 1847)  
& Eleonore Beek

Ernst Claus\* Heinrich Wyneken  
(1787 - 1818)  
& Sophie Eleonore Auguste Caroline Schlichthorst

Wilhelmine Henriette Caroline Wyneken  
(1788 - 1865)  
& Lüder

Otto Gabriel Christoph Wilhelm Wyneken  
(1789 - ~1794)

Otto Christoph Wyneken  
(1791 - ~1795)

Elsie Wyneken

Ricardo Franz Otto Paul Wyneken  
& Amy McKellen

Franz Wyneken  
(~1850 - 1912)  
& Elizabeth Honey

Friedrich Otto Ludwig Wyneken  
(1805 - )  
& Mathilde Lichtenberg

Richard Wyneken  
& Antonia Segimon Rodés

Ricard Wyneken Segimon  
& Teresa Juncosa Valls

Antonio Wyneken Juncosa  
& Dolors Arasa Dauden

Xavier Wyneken Arasa

## Excerpt from the Rüstje Branch of the Wyneken Family

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Gustav Eduard Amallo Wulf Wyneken  
(1808 - 1877)  
& Meta Eggers  
(1838 - 1875)

Gustav\* Eduard Amallo Wulf Wyneken  
(1866 - 1964)  
& Elsa Finger  
(1872 - 1946)

Bruno Hermann Karl Wyneken Finger  
& Norah Clara Helene Gutschke Lange

Gustav Eduard Amallo Wulf Wyneken  
& Clementine Gertrud Hempel

Inge Ursula Wyneken Hempel



