# **Samily History Newsletter**

# Issue #2: Wynekens in Stade in the 16th and 17th Centuries

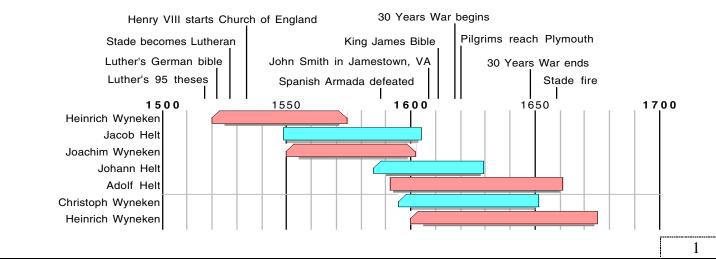
#### Christoph Wyneken, Swedish 'Landrentmeister', Died 1652

In December of 1877 Ernst Friedrich Wyneken, then director of the girl's school in Stade, northern Germany, wrote a letter<sup>1</sup>, addressed to the "members of the Wyneken family", announcing that he was about to prepare a comprehensive family tree (see Figure 1, page 2) to be distributed to anyone willing to help pay for the printing. I have in my possession two copies of this letter, one obtained from a person in the United States, the other from a relative in Germany. Ernst Friedrich was well aware of his American relatives, having personally met his first cousin, Henry C. Wyneken, in 1869 during the latter's first trip to Germany to visit the birthplace of his father, Friederich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken. Judging by the detailed information that the tree contained about many other branches of the family, Ernst Friedrich must have been in touch with a good number of his contemporary Wyneken relatives.

The tree was printed as a long scroll<sup>2</sup> and distributed to various members of the family. It, too, made its way across the Atlantic. In December of 1998 I was fortunate to make the acquaintance of Dick Wyneken in Ripon who very graciously donated to me his copy of the tree that had originally been sent to his grandfather, Herman Wyneken, by Ernst Friedrich's daughter, Luise. (A mere seven months later I was much saddened to hear of Dick's death. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to meet this congenial man.) Helen Felice Wyneken translated the tree into English in 1974. In the early 20th century Ernst Friedrich's tree also formed the basis for another tree compiled by Meta Felicitas Wilckens née Wyneken in Chile.

I consider this tree to be, directly or indirectly, the primary source for most of the information a good deal of us have about our family's history. At the top of the tree Ernst Friedrich wrote the name "Christoph Wyneken, Swedish 'Landrentmeister' in Stade, died 1652". Thanks to this tree we know that we are all descended from this Christoph Wyneken. Ever since the late 19th century this important piece of information has been passed down through the generations, letting us know where we come from.

However, this short line taken by itself also poses a number of questions: Was Christoph a Swede? What exactly is a "Landrentmeister"? What did he die of? How old was he? Is it possible to find out anything about other members of his family, siblings, parents, etc.? In the first edition of the Wyneken Newsletter I presented my answer to the question of whether our earliest forefather was Swedish. My continuing research since then has only made me more certain that no, he wasn't. I have also learned many things that can help answer some of the other questions and fill out the picture of this Rentmeister Christoph Wyneken in Stade. This issue will restrict itself to Christophs parents and siblings. ജ



Christoph Wynehen - Catharina Oelgardt Meier/s Ifwar? Inutrandinuifun gir Itade. (1674) Hittan Int Inutra Celgard V. > Jiffignaf V. Hallick gab. 1626 + 1623 Plan Pl.:..t. 1 mm Juiter (16 14) Hitton Jak Lunderschurifurd Redolf 1/2 Peter Ehristoph M. × anna Howching × 1401 X anna halfarina Klovehorn Carl Christoph I. ++(!)& Elemens Samuel Y. Garl Gustav H. × ? Leeder Umburn in finfagraf y Polle + 1441 Auguste Juliane Heinrich 12/ 1202 ntin Govelothe Heise : 1755 + 24/1 1807 Joachim Rug Friedrich Mauritius 4. 22/11/18 Obar flement with the som Jonne hol g gob. 2/x1 1/39 + 21/11 1819 Eleonor tugus to W. Sr. Leider August Lueder (Itimalie Ottilie Dorette Christine V. - Auguste Withelmine × Nessen - Juliane Louise Withelmine Leopoldine Chowygullation with got 2/21 1798 abe Chr. Hill. - Otto Christoph 1789+5 Jult pab. 1791++ July Obrean

Figure 1. Portion of Ernst Friedrich's handwritten Family Tree

# Christoph's Forebears and Siblings

#### **Cos** The Sattelmacherstraße: Heinrich and Joachim

The previous Wyneken Newsletter mentioned the names of two Wynekens in Stade prior to Christoph—his purported grandfather, Heinrich, and purported father, Joachim—as well as two siblings. These two names did not appear in the heretofore definitive family tree drawn up by Ernst Friedrich Wyneken. Further research has brought to light more details about this information and the pertinent sources.

The chief sources for the existence of Heinrich and Joachim Wyneken are records of house ownership in Stade. The reason the evidence is restricted to these ownership records is that the great fire of 1659 in Stade burned down a good half of the town, including most of the churches (Figure 2). All the birth, marriage and death records were written down by the pastors in the church books, which were stored in the churches themselves, and all the church books were lost when the buildings burned down. Since the primary source of information in genealogical research consists of church books, this is a catastrophic loss for family historians interested in Stade.

Presumably many other documents of potential importance to genealogical research were forever lost in 1659 as well, but apparently there are still records extant pertaining to house ownership. As of yet I have not been able to view these documents personally. The information I present here is taken from a 1940 article by Dr. Curt Wiesner in Stade entitled "Die Besitzverhältnisse der Sattelmacherstraße in

Stade in den letzten 400 Jahren" (roughly "House Ownership in the Saddlemaker Street in Stade

Note about name spellings: Throughout this text the reader may have noticed that the spelling of names is not consistent. This was common up until about the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, it wasn't until 1900 that a law was passed in Germany requiring a single spelling for a person's name.

during the Last 400 Years")<sup>3</sup> and from other notes<sup>4</sup> and collected correspondence of Dr. Wiesner's now stored in the Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv Stade (Lower Saxony State Archive, Stade).

house number 9. Back then houses had no numbers. Instead, every house was referred to by the name of its owner and the owners of the adjacent houses. (See map shown in Figure 3.)

According to these sources **Heinrich** 

"Hinrich Wineken", bought a house in the

Sattelmacherstraße in 1553 for 580 marks

Wyneken (ca. 1520 - before 1575), spelled

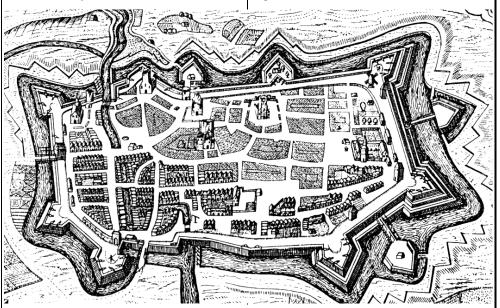


Figure 2. Map of Stade, ca. 1659: burned areas shown without buildings.

In 1575 and again in 1576 Heinrich's widow was mentioned as owning the same house. Based on this evidence Wiesner concludes that Heinrich must have died before 1575, otherwise his name would have appeared again. According to Wiesner, Heinrich's widow died in 1600, although his source is unclear. In 1594 and 1601 the house is listed as belonging to **Joachim Wyneken (ca. 1550 - after 1603)**, spelled "Jochim Winnecke". (Wiesner's notes state that Joachim was still alive in 1603, implying that he died at a later date.)

How are we to interpret this evidence? The farther back in time a genealogist goes, the more he is forced to resort to conjecture. In this case, for example, there is no way to prove the father/son relationship between Heinrich and Joachim with the known facts. Nevertheless it does not seem overly presumptuous, based on the ownership evidence and the identical last name, to claim that Joachim was Heinrich's son. This is what Wiesner does, and I see no reason not to do the same.

#### og The Helt Connection

Wiesner also provides further information about Joachim. In 1596 Joachim shows up in records as a *Bürge*,

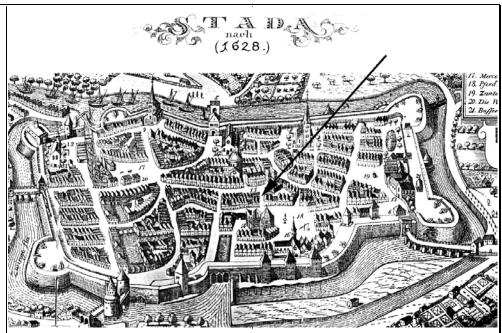
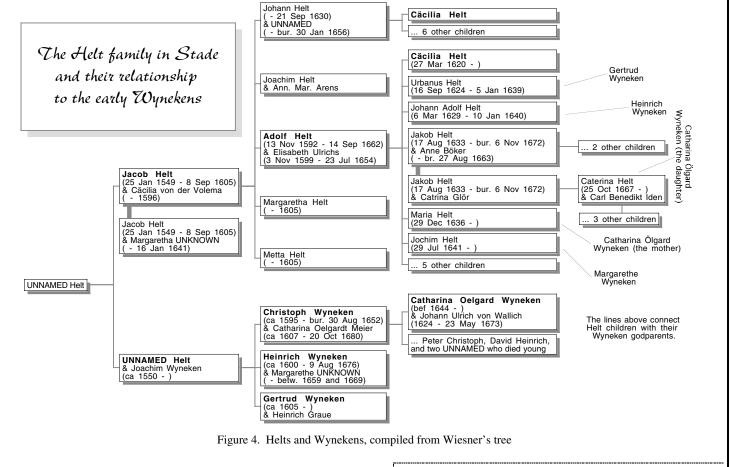


Figure 3. Stade in 1628. An arrow points to the Sattelmacherstrasse.

i.e. "guarantor". Wiesner's notes for this item state that Joachim's wife's maiden name was "Helt". I have not yet been able to consult the primary source for this information. However, the connection to the Helt family is very important for reconstructing the relationship between various Wynekens of this time. (Wiesner's handwritten notes<sup>4</sup> include a tree of the Helt family, among whom were three pastors in Stade and vicinity, a councilman in Stade, and a merchant in Hamburg – Figure 4).



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Wiesner cites a source that refers to Joachim as the brother-in-law of a Pastor Helt (see inset below). Based on this information, Joachim's wife, whose first name is not given, must have been a sister of this Pastor Helt. One important source pertaining to the Helts and Wynekens is the fragment of a document from the 17th century now in the State Archive in Hanover entitled Haus- und Familienbuch des Adolf Helt und seines Sohnes Jacob Helt, Advocaten und Ratsherren zu Stade ("House and Family Book of Adolf Helt and his Son, Advocate and City Councilman Jacob Helt")<sup>5</sup>. I have not been able to consult this document but I believe that Wiesner must have had access to it or to another source which was based on it. I

presume that this *House and Family Book* contains a list of names and dates for the children of the Helt family. In any event, Wiesner's notes make mention of a number of Wynekens who appear as godparents at the baptisms of various Helt children or are otherwise connected to the Helt family:

- In 1624 a Gertrud Wyneken is listed as a godmother and ...
- in 1629 a Heinrich Wyneken is a godfather. Wiesner says the two are referred to as siblings.
- In 1630 Heinrich is referred to as a first cousin of Adolf Helt.
- In 1637 Catharina Ölgard née Meier, Christoph Wyneken's wife, and then ...

- in 1641 Margarete, Heinrich Wyneken's wife, are mentioned as godmothers.
- In 1667 Catharina Ölgard Wyneken, Christoph and Catharina Ölgard's daughter, is a godmother.

Very often godparents were chosen from siblings, uncles, aunts or cousins of the parents of the child being baptized so the fact that Wynekens and Wyneken wives show up as godparents for newly born Helt babies lends credence to the hypothesis that the two families were tied by marriage in the persons of Joachim Wyneken and his wife.

Please note that Christoph Wyneken's wife and daughter are listed as godparents. We will make use of this fact later on.

## Jacob or Adolf Helt?

There is some confusion as to which "Pastor Helt" was Joachim Wyneken's brother-in-law (see Figure 4, page 3):

Wiesner refers to Adolf Helt as Joachim's brother-in-law several times in his filing cards and in correspondence. However, in one of these very same letters he refers to Joachim's son, Heinrich, as Adolf Helt's cousin (Latin *consobrinus*), thus directly contradicting himself. In the Helt family trees Wiesner drew up he wrote "Wyneken?" at several spots, possibly indicating he didn't really know where to place the Wyneken marriage. Finally, in Wiesner's article on Sattelmacherstraße he only refers to "Pastor Helt", i.e. gives no first name.

Otto Freiherr Grote, an eminently trustworthy Wyneken researcher and one of Wiesner's correspondents, depicts in the family tree he compiled in 1960 *after* his correspondence with Wiesner that it was Jacob Helt's sister Joachim married.

I suspect that Wiesner must have mixed up his Helts. He might have been still organizing his evidence, or he might have just plain mixed up the first names in the correspondence. As far as I can see, the only thing that could point to Joachim's brother-in-law being Adolf Helt would be if Wiesner had a record of house

ownership that refers to him as such. Otherwise the mere ages of the persons involved seems to indicate that Jacob Helt was Joachim's brother-in-law:

- Joachim Wyneken (ca. 1550-after 1603)
- Jacob Helt (1549-1605)
- Adolf Helt (1592-1629)

It is possible that Adolf Helt was the person for whom the most information was available.  $^5$  Perhaps this would explain why Wiesner tended to think of his name.

It is interesting to note that the Helt family produced a number of pastors. The elder Jacob was adjunct pastor at St. Nicolai church in Stade from 1600 until his death in 1605. Prior to that he was also referred to as "cantor". He died of the plague. Johann Helt, seemingly Jacob's eldest son, was adjunct pastor at St. Wilhadi church in Stade from 1608 to 1627, at which time he was promoted to first pastor. He remained in that position until his death in 1630. Adolf Helt, another son of Jacob's, was first pastor in Grünendeich, a village near Stade, from 1618 to 1626. He then transferred to St. Nicolai in Stade as adjunct pastor until 1628. He was first pastor at St. Nicolai from 1628 until 1639, when he lost this post due to a disagreement concerning the catechism. From then on he is no longer listed as being a pastor.<sup>6</sup> He died 23 years later in Altona, now a part of Hamburg, i.e. relatively far away from Stade.

#### **Gertrud and Heinrich**

The Helt connection provides us with three further names of Wynekens, besides Joachim and Heinrich, that did not appear in Ernst Friedrich Wilhelm's tree: **Gertrud** (**born ca. 1605, thrived 1632**), her brother **Heinrich (ca. 1600 - 1676**), and his wife **Margarete (died betw. 1659 and 1669**).

Wiesner does not give us much information about Gertrud Wyneken. She is mentioned as being the sister of Heinrich Wyneken, and she was married to a pastor named Heinrich Graue/Grave/Grawe. There was a vicar named Heinrich Grawe who served up until 1629 in the village of Spieka, located near the coast of the North Sea. Of all the pastors listed in Meyer: *Die Pastoren etc.* ("The Pastors of the State Churches of Hannover and Schaumburg-Lippes since the Reformation")<sup>6</sup> by the name Graue/Grave/Grawe, this seems to be the most likely candidate for Gertrud's husband. Interestingly enough, around 130 years later Heinrich Moritz Wyneken was to become pastor in nearby Cappel and subsequently in Spieka itself. (*Personal* note: I visited this church with my wife and kids this past spring and was able to visit both of these churches!)

In general it is difficult to discover detailed information about women in old records, as can plainly be seen by the scant information we have on Gertrud. The situation for her brother, Heinrich, on the other hand, is definitely better, albeit still not very satisfying. Wiesner says that Heinrich was a "German teacher" (*"deutscher Lehrer"*) from 1627 to his retirement in 1673. This term would normally not be taken to mean "a teacher of German" but what it does mean is unclear to me. Perhaps a teacher with German citizenship, as opposed to, say, Swedish citizenship? But there was no such thing as German citizenship at the time as there was no political entity "Germany" until the late 19th century. As was already mentioned, he was godfather to a Helt child in 1629. In 1663 we find him mentioned again as a godfather but for a different family so this reference only serves to prove that he was still alive at the time.

A letter of Wiesner's tells us that a sister of Heinrich's is still living in 1642, however there does not seem to be any indication as to whether this is Gertrud or another sister.

We now return to the Sattelmacherstraße. On July 21, 1637, Heinrich is listed as the owner of the house in the Sattelmacherstraße between those of Gerdt Meyer and Caspar Wick. According to Wiesner, this is

the same house that was last mentioned in 1601 as being the property of Joachim Wyneken. Because of the series of owners of this building that bore the same last name, it seems quite safe to conclude that ownership was passed through the hands of three generations of a single family.

There is no record of when Heinrich gained ownership, but this is not surprising. It was not usually explicitly mentioned when houses were passed on from father to son. As a rule, a family member who inherits a house does not appear in the records until

one of the neighboring houses is sold. When this happens, this other house is identified by listing the names of the current owners of its adjoining houses. Wiesner states that Heinrich sold the house to a man named Harm Eckhoff in 1653 for the amount of 600 Mlüb exactly 100 years after Heinrich's grandfather purchased it. Wiesner further claims that these two men are related. Presumably this information can be found in the records of the transaction.

Wiesner makes mention of Heinrich's wife, referring to her by the name of Margarethe, as being involved in 1642 in a quarrel (presumably of a legal nature) with a Cecilia Helt over a church pew. Keeping in mind that a church pew belonged to one particular family, and without knowing the details of the quarrel or even

The Earliest Known Wynekens in Stade (as of Spring 2002) Heinrich Wyneken (ca 1520 - bef 1575) Joachim Wyneken (ca 1550 - ) & UNNAMED Helt Christoph Wyneken (ca 1595 - bur. 30 Aug 1652) & Catharina Oelgardt Meier (ca 1607 - 20 Oct 1680) Heinrich Wyneken (ca 1600 - 9 Aug 1676) & Margarethe UNKNOWN ( - betw. 1659 and 1669) Gertrud Wyneken (ca 1605 - ) & Heinrich Graue Peter Christoph Wyneken (1644 - 1683/1684) & Anna Elisabeth von Werdenhoff ( - 1724) David Heinrich Wyneken Catharina Oelgard Wyneken (bef 1644 - ) & Johann Ulrich von Wallich (1624 - 23 May 1673) (abt 1648 - 1709) & Augusta Juliana von Böselager (abt 1660 - 1709/1716) Rüstje branch Bederkesa branch (The shield behind the title is the city emblem of Stade.) Figure 5. Reconstruction of the family from various clues

Wiesner's source, one can guess that perhaps each of the two was laying claim to the pew based on their being related to the owner. Perhaps the owner was recently deceased. Another possibility is that the pew used to belong to the family of Pastor Adolf Helt (see above) before he was forced to leave the pulpit at St. Nicolai. The

Years War, which lasted from 1618 through 1648. At 59, he was no longer a young man when he lost all he had in the great fire. His long teaching career lasted until he had reached the ripe age of 73 and he completed his life three years later at what was at the time a quite advanced age of 76.

both presumably named after their grandmother, Cäcilia von der Volema, wife of Jacob Helt. We also met Margarethe earlier as one of the Wyneken godmothers of Helt children.

Helt family tree shows two Cäcilia's, first cousins of each other,

Heinrich Wyneken died on August 9, 1676. His will, written seven years earlier on August 5, 1669, was opened on November 7,  $1676^7$ . In it Heinrich relates how he and his wife lost all their possessions in the great fire of 1659. Destitute, they were taken in by Harm Eckhoff, probably the man to whom he had sold the house in 1653.

> left alone when his wife died. Heinrich expresses his gratitude in his will for all the help hitherto shown him by Harm Eckhoff and wishes to repay him by bequeathing all his earthly goods to him. in return for the assurance that Heinrich will be allowed to stay in Harm's house and be taken care of there until his death. The will lists all of Heinrich's property and assets, including various debts

owed to him.

Heinrich was then

Wiesner estimates Heinrich's birth year at around 1600, possibly based on the information that he started his teaching career in 1627. He lived in very turbulent times. The Reformation was not much more than 80 years old at his birth. If we accept the birth year of 1600 he was merely a youth of 18 at the outbreak of the devastating Thirty

#### **vs** Tying the Generations Together

In summary, the evidence presented in the preceding sections gives a reasonably strong case for extending the top of the Wyneken family tree as depicted in Figure 5. The sequence of ownership of the Sattelmacherstraße house seems clearly to reveal a man (Heinrich), his son (Joachim) and his grandson (Heinrich). The Helt family baptismal information explicitly adds the younger Heinrich's sister, Gertrud, to the picture.

We possess no source that explicitly ties Rentmeister Christoph Wyneken to this family of Wynekens in Stade. On the other hand, the Helt baptismal records bring Christoph's wife and daughter into close proximity of the younger Heinrich and his sister, Gertrud.

Heinrich, Gertrud and Christoph's wife were godparents for several of Adolf Helt's children. Adolf Helt (1592 – 1662, see Figure 3 on page 3), pastor at St. Nicolai church in Stade, appears to have been a nephew of Joachim Wyneken's wife. That would make Adolf a first cousin of Heinrich and Gertrud's. Adolf's choice of Catharina Ölgard Wyneken (ca. 1607 - 1680) to be godmother to one of his other children would make perfect sense if Catharina Ölgard's husband, Christoph, were another cousin of Adolf's and thus Heinrich and Gertrud's brother. Later, Christoph and Catharina Ölgard's daughter, the younger Catharina Ölgard Wyneken (born prior to 1644), would be chosen by her second cousin, Adolf's son Jakob Helt (1633 - 1672), councilman in Stade, to be godmother and namesake for one of his daughters.

The whole case could be neatly tied up if we knew for certain who Joachim's wife was. Wiesner's notes about her being a Helt seem to indicate that there is solid evidence for this assertion, but it is unclear whether his information is based on primary or secondary sources. I hope to be able to do further research into this question some time so as to gain more certainty.



The author can, with a good conscience, state that the extension to the Wyneken family tree discussed in these pages, albeit a reconstruction, is as accurate a depiction as possible of the relationship between these earliest of known Wyneken ancestors. The next issue will contain details on Christoph's life.

# **Milestones**

Vital statistics of the Wyneken family since the last newsletter. This list is not guaranteed to be comprehensive.

| Key -<br>∞ - marriage<br>* - birth<br>† - death<br><i>British branch</i><br>† - Elsie Wyneken<br><i>Chilean branch</i><br>† - Wulf Wyneken<br><i>Spanish branch</i><br>† - Antonio Wyneken<br><i>German branch from Essen</i><br>* - Sophie Derya Kolbusch<br><i>German branch descended</i><br><i>from Ernst Friedrich Wyneken</i><br>† - Renate Gerischer née<br>Gersdorf, Ilse Herrmann<br>née Wyneken | American branch descended<br>from Carl Wyneken         * - Jacob Carl Slater,<br>Christiana Lela Slater,<br>Megan Noelle Wyneken,<br>Ruger James Wyneken         † - Carl Wyneken         American branches descended<br>from the following children of<br>FCD Wyneken         Louise         * - Molly Fitzsimmons,<br>Patrick O'Henry Purser         † - Tisha Rinehart (two days<br>after marrying John Mark<br>Graham)         Henry         ∞ - Wilfred Falcon & Kathryn<br>Anne Reynolds, David<br>Peters & Kimberly Lynn<br>Meyer, Jason James<br>Wickman & Amy Mitchell | <ul> <li>* - Andrew Allen Arthur<br/>Butts, Garrison Peters,<br/>Sidney Kay Petersen,<br/>Angela Rose Tabak</li> <li>† - the brothers Alvin John and<br/>Edwin William Hahn<br/>(husbands of sisters Harriet<br/>and Hildegard née<br/>Wyneken), James Nuffer<br/>(husband of Mildred née<br/>Wyneken), Olivia Ulbrich<br/>née Kossmann and her<br/>husband Armand Ulbrich</li> <li>Martin<br/>∞ - Matthew Paul Wyneken<br/>(yes, the author of this<br/>newsletter) &amp; Cynthia<br/>Montgomery</li> <li>* - Alyson Jo Fitzgerald, Noah<br/>Scott Fitzgerald, Abigail<br/>Anne Foster, Cheyenne<br/>Tanner Marques, Andrew<br/>Leland Wells, Donovan</li> </ul> | Travis Wells, Hannah<br>Michelle Wyneken         † - Edmund Wyneken, Elinor<br>Caroline Wyneken (my<br>newborn daughter)         Sophie         † - Vera Johnston née Craemer         Ferdinand         ∞ - Chris Gullion & Sara<br>Colleen Wyneken         * - Benjamin Craig Yaney         † - Betty Mader née<br>Strassmeyer, James David<br>Wyneken         Herman         ∞ - Thomas Joseph Wyneken<br>& Stacy         * - Chase Thomas Wyneken         † - Richard Wyneken |
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### A further note from Matthew Wyneken

It has been over four years since I completed the first issue of the Wyneken Family History Newsletter. I never thought it would be so long before a second issue came out but a few things have happened in the interim (marriage, birth, death, among other things).

I conceived the outline for what you now have before you in the middle of 2001. I thought I would have it out by the end of that year, but things did not work out as I had planned. The current newsletter represents only a fraction of what I jotted down in the outline. I decided, however, that what I have written here is complete in and of itself and the size of the newsletter would be much more daunting if I chose to continue. I will continue to use the same outline for further issues, so with any luck the next numbers will appear at more frequent intervals than in the past.

Since the last newsletter came out much has happened in the world, in your and my personal lives, and in my family history activities and research. I would like to take this opportunity to share a few of my research highlights.

• I have discovered a number of ties to famous persons. For example, the mother of the second wife of the eminent German mathema tician, Carl Friedrich Gauss, was a Wyneken. (Mrs. Feeor Wilhelmine Gauss, nee Waldeck, was a second cousin of FCD Wyneken's.) Then there is Carl Louis Theodor Müldner von Mülnheim, another child of a Wyneken mother, who was personal adjutant to Crown Prince Wilhelm of Germany, the eldest son of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Müldner von Mülnheim's mother, Natalie, was the sister of Georg (banker in Moscow), Carl (philosopher in Freiburg) and Alexander (newspaper publisher in Königsberg) Wyneken mentioned in the first issue of the newsletter.

• I have extended my research to my non-Wyneken lines, starting with information about my mother's family,

the Krekelers. I branched off to the families of other female ancestors and have been able to track down: Kleins in San Antonio, Texas; a family of theologian Zahns in Thuringia, Germany; a von Wurmb missionary to South Africa, whom legend claims was eaten either by Hottentots or by a lion (most likely untrue but a great story nonetheless!); a Biltz who was smuggled out of Germany to join the Saxon Emigration, which was later to form the core of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, etc. Through my reading about the Saxon Emigration I discovered just how intertwined the old families of the Missouri Synod, including the Wynekens, are with each other through marriage! • While going through the von Wurmb family tree I found out that the German poet Schiller was married to Charlotte, nee von Lengefeld, a first cousin of my gggg-grandfather's, the one who in reality was not eaten in South Africa. As a matter of fact, Schiller wrote a short story based on an unhappy love story involving this gggg-grandfather's father and uncle.

• In the past years I have corresponded with and met numerous relatives. Many e-mail messages crossed the Atlantic between Ulla Wyneken in Chile and myself in Germany. When Ulla was offered the chance to do research in Germany we made a point to get together. We arranged for one of our meetings to take place in Northern Germany. We planned a trip to Stade, our common ancestral home town, and were both thrilled to discover that nowadays there is a telephone at Rüstje! On the site of what used to be a Wyneken farm or estate now stands a building that serves as home and office to a forestry official. A mere stone's throw away from this building is a field containing the foundations of a

much older building brought to light in excavations. This is presumably the house in which the children of the Rüstje branch of the Wyneken family, from whom Ulla is descended, were born and grew up.

• I have also exchanged e-mail and letters with numerous other Wynekens and Wyneken descendants on both sides of the Berlin Atlantic. Ruth Wyneken, whom I had written while she was still living in Moscow, visited me in Freiburg after she returned to her native country of Germany. In a trip to northern Germany with my family we mixed pleasure with genealogy by visiting various sites that have something to do with the family. On this trip also we were the Stade guests of Katja and Wyneken Fimmen, whom I had met previously at a reunion of Wyneken's cousins. I have been corresponding extensively with Karl Wyneken and Ruth Tietjen Councell, both American relatives who have been of great assistance to me by providing me with material and helping me puzzle over and solve seemingly unsolvable mysteries that arose from time to time. I had a chance to meet Karl while visiting my parents in California, and Ruth when she was visiting Germany with her husband and oldest daughter.

Although there are more people and events I ought to mention here, lack of space forces me to stop. I hope that everyone else with whom I have had dealings in the past years will please forgive me for this and accept once more my heartfelt thanks for your assistance and time taken to write and/or meet me.

Sincerely,

München

Hamburo

Elbe River

Bederkesa

Beverstedt

Spieka

Bremerhaven

Verden

Hannover

Neset

Rive

Bremen

Frankfurt

Matthe 1. Wymlan

Matthew Wyneken

#### Content: Matthew Wyneken

Editing and layout: Cynthia Wyneken (Thanks Cindy!!!)

Brombergstr. 30 79102 Freiburg Germany

Tel.: +49-(0)761-7071626 E-mail: wyneken@physik.uni-freiburg.de Web: http://top10.physik.uni-freiburg.de/~mpw/Genealogy

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Notes:

- <sup>4</sup> Dr. Curt Wiesner: *Wiesner Familiennamen-Kartei*. Handwritten note cards (German), Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv Stade.
- <sup>5</sup> Haus- und Familienbuch des Adolf Helt und seines Sohnes Jacob Helt, Advocaten und Ratsherren zu Stade (Fragment), Staatsarchiv Hannover, Ms.B. 172. 17th century.
- <sup>6</sup> Philipp Meyer, ed.: *Die Pastoren der Landeskirchen Hannovers und Schaumburg-Lippes seit der Reformation*. 3 vols. 1942.
   <sup>7</sup> Heinrich Wyneken: Last will and testament, 5 Aug 1669. Niedersächsisches Staatsarchiv Stade, Rep 72/172 Stade, Fach 93, Fasc. V,
- Nr. 242. Opened on Nov. 7, 1676.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ernst Friedrich Wyneken: Letter to various Wyneken relatives. Dec. 1877. Photocopy in Matthew Wyneken's possession.
 <sup>2</sup> Ernst Friedrich Wyneken: *Nachkommen des Christoph Wyneken*. Handwritten family tree scroll in German. Late 1800's. Copy in Matthew Wyneken's possession.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dr. Curt Wiesner: "Die Besitzverhältnisse der Sattelmacherstraße in Stade in den letzten 400 Jahren". *Archiv für Sippenforschung und alle verwandten Gebiete*, Vol. 17, Heft 12 (Dezember 1940).