

The Wesenfeld Family

by

Dr. Albrecht Doerry

(Translated into English by Wulf T. Doerry)

Foreword:

Even though the author had left behind all his source material when the end of World War II forced him to leave his home before the arrival of the Russian Army in early March 1945 II. He started over, again, to collect the necessary background information for the Doerry family history. At that time, he had no idea of how much effort this would take. Because of the loss of some church record books, some of the information was no longer available and other information required much writing back and forth to archives. At other times, the author did not receive any answer at all to his enquiries. That he was able to finally gather this much information, he owes primarily to Dr. Hans Doerry (#D-8-2W-4-3-1) in Kleve and to Kurt Doerry in Hollfeld (#D-8-2W-). When he thought that he could start writing this chapter, questions arose about the Wesenfeld ancestors. In order to answer these questions, there were further delays in writing this chapter.

But now it is done and the chapter about Otto Doerry (#D-8-2W) and his descendants is before us. Even though there may be some minor errors that have crept into this report, relative to the entire project, these errors most likely do not significantly affect the conclusions of this chapter. If there was no attempt made to cover more details of the still living generation, then the reason for this is the short time-span between the lives of the individuals and the time when this chapter was actually written. This lack of detail prevents the forming of an incontestable judgment. It shall be left to the individuals to add to this chapter and to expand on it (as for example by a description of the escape from our homeland and the start of an existence or a new career). In order to stimulate the thinking of later generations, a family history should not be limited to only lifting the veil of the past; it should rather give a direction for the future. Otherwise, the family history has failed its purpose.

Uelzen in March 1972. Signed: Dr. Albrecht Doerry

(#D-1)

The Wesenfeld Family

In the description of the Doerry family branch living in the Neumark, we mentioned the oldest son of the Superintendent Johann Philipp Gottfried Doerry (#D-8) in Rossow, Pomerania. We then also first talked about the Wesenfeld family. There is a good reason for this. The mother of the later pastor in Groß Drensen and Lauchstaedt, Heinrich Otto Wilhelm Doerry (#D-8-2W), the first spouse of the Superintendent, came from the Wesenfeld family. Since in the story of her husband she was only briefly mentioned, we shall discuss her and her ancestors at this time.

Surprisingly, the Wesenfelds came from Bremen, just like the maternal ancestors of Johanna Charlotte Sophia Beda, whom the Pastor Johann Philipp Gottfried Doerry brought into his home in the Rossow parsonage on January 7, 1812 after the death of his first wife.

Even though we can trace the Wesenfeld family only to the year of 1611, we can assume that the Wesenfelds lived in the old Hanse City (an association of cities for free trade) for a while longer. There is still a street in Bremen with the old field name (Flurname) Fesenfeld. Fesenfeld was also the original name of the Wesenfeld family. Fesenfeld became Vesenfeld ("F" and "V" have a similar sound in German) until finally the "V" became a "W". This process of transition can be followed in the entries of the church book of St. Anegar in Bremen, at least as the transition of Fesenfeld to Vesenfeld is concerned. In a preserved funeral oration for Katharina von der Lith, née Wesenfeld, on May 25, 1687 in Frankfurt on the Oder River, the "W" had already replaced the "V". What this means, there is no doubt that this family name originated with the location of a place, i.e. the fieldname Wesenfeld.

The oldest known bearer of this name, as already indicated, lived in Bremen in 1611

Arend Wesenfeld

He pledged during this year to be a citizen of his hometown. In the already mentioned funeral oration for Katharina von der Lith, née Wesenfeld they also referred to Arend Wesenfeld as the grandfather of the deceased. At this occasion, they also talked about him as a very respected merchant in Bremen. If they use the first name Arnold at this time instead of Arend, there is really no difference between these names. Arend is the low-German form of the high-German name Arnold. This means that

these names are practically identical. Apparently, the educated clergyman who gave the funeral oration, considered the name Arnold as more appropriate for this respected citizen and merchant. The low-German Arend was used more by the common people.

The mentioned oratory also gives the name of Arend (Arnold) Wesenfeld's spouse. Her name was Catharina Barkhoffs, daughter of a citizen and merchant in the Hansa City.

Perhaps, some later interested family researcher is fortunate enough to come up with more data and persons of the Wesenfeld family history. Right now, because of lack of time, we refrain from doing this.

About the representative of the next generation Wesenfeld, probably the oldest son of the already mentioned couple,

Arend Wesenfeld, junior

We have about him already more source material than we have for his father. Like the father, the son, too, is called either Arend or Arnold in the existing documents. Since it was custom at that time that the oldest son received the first name of his father at the time of his baptism, we are justified to assume that Arend Wesenfeld, junior, was the oldest son of his parents. His exact date of birth is unknown, but could be assumed to be about 1615. His father became a citizen of Bremen in 1611. A little later he probably married **Catharina Barckhoffs**, so that the birth date of **Arend Wesenfeld jun.** in 1615 seems to be reasonable. According to this information, he was about 30 years old when he became a citizen of Bremen in 1646 in order to be accepted as a member of the merchant guild. About a year earlier, he may have brought home **Catharina Elisabeth Bergius** as his spouse, because the first child was already born in 1646. Unfortunately, we were unable to find out the exact date of their marriage.

This marriage casts an interesting light on the social standing of the Wesenfelds in Bremen. The young wife came from a very respectable family. The daughters of these families were not entrusted to the first best suitor. It, therefore, seems to be right to cast a brief glimpse on the ancestors of the bride. Her father, **Conrad Bergius**, was born in Stettin on July 25, 1592. He studied theology and in 1624 he moved to Frankfurt on the Oder River, where he married in St. Marien Church **Anna Sabina Scharlach** on August 9, 1624. She was the daughter of the Professor of Medicine D. **Samuel Scharlach**. The mother of the bride was most likely **Anna Chemnitz**. Five years after the wedding, the Professor Conrad Bergius moved with his young wife

to the reformed church St. Ansgar in Bremen, where he served from 1629 until his death on August 13, in 1642. Perhaps, he became here the successor to his father D. Conrad Bergius, pastor and dean (Dechant) at the St. Ansgar church. It was not a rarity at that time, that a son or son-in-law took over the office of a clergyman after he had passed away. The older Conrad Bergius may not have always served as Pastor in the Hanse City, but came, like his son, from Frankfurt on the Oder River to Bremen. Two things point at this. First of all, he had the title of a Professor, which he could not have gotten in Bremen, since this city had no university. Second: There is proof, that he had a daughter in Frankfurt on the Oder River. She is **Gertrud Hedwig Bergius** and was married to a Johann Risselmann. His father, Johann Risselmann sen., was too, a professor at the university. One can assume that Gertrud Hedwig Bergius did not meet her later husband anywhere else, but in the Brandenburg University City (Kurbrandenburg). This was at a time when her parents lived there and the father was a Professor at the University (Hochschule).

Those were quite respectable persons in whose circle **Arend Wesenfeld** entered by his marriage to **Catharina Elisabeth Bergius**. He would not have succeeded, if he had nothing to offer, too. This is a deduction, which is quite justified. People at that time were conscious of their social standing and marriages outside of their social class were very rare.

But let us return to the couple of Arend Wesenfeld and Catharina Elisabeth Bergius! This marriage, which lasted less than 20 years, produced 5 documented children, two sons and three daughters. Even though they did not contribute to the continuation of the father's name, the children should be briefly mentioned.

The first child was a son born in Bremen five days after Whitsunday (post trinitatem) in 1646. Unexplainably, he was not given the father's first name Arnold or Arend when he was baptized. Instead, he was named Conrad after his maternal grandfather. Perhaps, this was to predestine his later life. He did not become a merchant, but a scholar like his mother's ancestors. This supposition is definitely justified, since he did not become a merchant like his father, but he studied medicine after attending the gymnasium (high school) in his hometown. His studies took him first to Leiden, where he studied at the Dutch University in 1665. This university had been founded in 1575 by Wilhelm von Oranien. From there he went to Frankfurt on the Oder River in 1666, where he had very good connections through his mother's aunt, **Gertrud Hedwig Bergius**, married Risselmann. He received his M.D. on May 30, 1672 with a

dissertation on strokes (De Apoplexia). The university awarded him with a Professor of Medicine and a teaching assignment. But before he was able to start in this position, he died in January 1673. However, the church records of St. Marien parish show February 2 as the day when he deceased. This contradiction can be explained with the fact that **Conrad Wesenfeld** did die at the end of January, but was buried on February 2nd.

Conrad Wesenfeld's younger sister **Catharina Wesenfeld** found her last resting place, too, in Frankfurt on the Oder River. She was born in Bremen on Palm Sunday (Palmarum) 1649 and was given the first name of her mother when she was baptized. This was the custom at that time, even though they deviated knowingly from this when the brother was named Conrad after his maternal grandfather.

She married the Frankfurt professor **Tido Heinrich von der Lith** on April 22, 1677 when she was 28 years old. He was a son of Tido Heinrich von der Lith and his spouse Helene von Line and was born in Bremen on April 13, 1646. After he had finished his studies, he was called to the University in Frankfurt on the Oder River. He also held the office of town mayor (Bürgermeister) in Frankfurt, where he passed away on May 24, 1695 and was buried. His spouse Catharina Wesenfeld preceded him in death on May 25, 1687 and at the relatively young age of 38 years. The funeral oration given at her burial is like a gold mine for finding the relationships between members of the Wesenfeld family in that generation.

We can learn from it that the daughter **Anna Sabina**, born as the third child of the Wesenfeld-Bergius couple, too, married a theology professor in Frankfurt on the Oder River. His name was D. **Reichelt**. Further data out of her life could not be found out and may have little significance for the Wesenfeld Family History. Important is only that she had moved from Bremen to the university town on the Oder River.

The Wesenfeld parents in Bremen had a second son after Whitsunday in 1655 (June 17, 1655). He received the first name of his father Arend (Arnold). We were unable to establish what became of him. Apparently, he died at an early age, because when in the second marriage of his father another son was born in 1664, this boy, too, was named Arend (Arnold). This would not have happened, if the first son Arend was still alive.

Four years later, in 1659, **Catharina Elisabeth Bergius** gave her spouse a fifth child. The daughter Gertrud Hedwig was named after her grand aunt Gertrud Hedwig Bergius, married to Johann Risselmann jun. in Frankfurt on the Oder River. She later

married D. **Paul Volkmann** (born on March 18, 1669), who in 1694 was the principal (rector) of the Friedrichs School in Frankfurt on the Oder River. In 1701, he was the "reformed Superintendent" in Berge near Crossen. From 1701 until 1721, **Johann Risselmann** was principal (rector) at the Joachimsthal Gymnasium in Berlin, which had a special reputation. He passed away in Berlin on October 27, 1721. However, we were unable to expand on the information for Gertrud Hedwig Wesenfeld. But this is of no importance, since Gertrud Hedwig Wesenfeld does not enter into the ancestry of her family anyway.

There are really only two facts of importance in this generation of the Wesenfelds. In my opinion, they clearly show that Arend Wesenfeld jun. in his marriage with Catharina Wesenfeld was not the dominating part. Not he, but she determined which first name the children were given when they were baptized. Except for the fourth child Arent Wesenfeld, all children were named after members of the Bergius family. Conrad Wesenfeld, the first born, was named after his maternal grandfather and Catharina after her mother. Anna Sabina received the name of her grandmother Scharlach (Bergius) and Gertrud Hedwig was named after the grandaunt Bergius (Risselmann). Every time the father had to agree to the names. Also, the Wesenfelds were an old family of merchants. However, none of their children followed in the father's footsteps. They either became academicians or married one. Apparently, the mother of the children considered the profession of a merchant as not distinguished enough for her descendants, even though a royal merchant in an old trading city like Bremen stood, too, in high esteem. And again, the father Wesenfeld yielded to the wishes of his spouse and gave up on raising a successor for his business. Catharina Elisabeth Bergius was a woman with a very strong will. She knew how to employ this will even after her death, when it came to the last decisions to be made.

Then there was a second fact in this connection: Why was Frankfurt on the Oder River the destination of all the Wesenfeld children? One could easily be tempted to answer this by pointing out that the Bergius family had here the best connections, because the parents and grandparents of **Catharina Elisabeth Bergius** had lived there. Moreover, with her Aunt **Gertrud Hedwig's** marriage to **Johann Risselmann** jun. there was a new bridge built to this town. This was true, but there was something else. Besides relationships between Bremen and Frankfurt on the Oder River, there were also such of a religious kind. These can only be explained with the deep differences in the protestant camp during the second half of the 17th century. In this respect, these relationships were in the best harmony between Bremen and Brandenburg. Bremen was primarily "reformed"

and, therefore had no contact with its Lutheran neighbors, other than with the Mark Brandenburg (an autonomous region north of Berlin). Its ruler, the Duke, had converted for political reasons to the Calvinistic Faith, without demanding the same from his subjects. For this reason, the Calvinists in Bremen preferred to recruit their new pastors in the Mark Brandenburg, or at the University of Frankfurt on the Oder River, like for instance the Bergius father and son. On the other hand, the Bremen Lutherans sent their new students to Frankfurt, because they would not be corrupted by the Lutherans. The Frankfurt University was at that time still quite respectable. One can best see the differences between the two evangelical churches in the example of the Berlin composer of church songs, the Lutheran Pastor Paul Gerhardt, who rather resigned from his pastorate in 1669, than to sign his name to the back of the picture (revers) of the Great Elector (Große Kurfürst). Even after King Friedrich Wilhelm III created the Church of the Evangelical Union, there were a good number of Lutherans and Reformed Lutherans who were not willing to accept the new way. Even today are many places where the old conflicts still exist, but without the sharp forms of past times.

But after this not quite unimportant deviation, let us return to Arend Wesenfeld and his family!

Death took his spouse Catharina Elisabeth Bergius in 1662. Since his youngest daughter Gertrud Hedwig was at that time only three years old, **Arend Wesenfeld** was forced to look for a new companion to take care of the children and the household. He found this person in **Anna Wessels**, who became his wife in about 1663. She gave him already a son on July 10, 1664. During his baptism, he was named after his father Arend Wesenfeld in place of the already deceased younger son from the first marriage. We will talk about him at a later time, because Otto Doerry's mother is part of this ancestral family line.

We were unable to establish how long the Bremen citizen and merchant **Arnold Wesenfeld** lived and when he passed away. We only know that his second wife **Anna Wessels** survived him. Her interment took place on August 7, 1714, after they had moved to Frankfurt on the Oder River, where she had been taken into the home of her son Arend. Her funeral was in the Peace Church (Friedenskirche) of the reformed congregation. If one starts with the presumption that she was about 20 years old when she married in about 1663, (she probably was older than this, when she married her husband, who was a widower with at least four children). Her husband was at that time already quite a bit older than 50 years. For those times, she must have reached quite an old age. One more thing can be assumed: She probably

was not married for very long, or she would have had more children than only one when most families were large. But these are all suppositions, which match the facts, but may not be correct. Perhaps, more accurate data can be developed by chance at a later time, which then support the stated suppositions or they will correct these.

With the birth of the third

Arend Wesenfeld III

On July 10, 1664 in Bremen, the final break of the family with the merchant profession in the Hanse City was complete. Like his stepbrother Conrad, this **Arend Wesenfeld**, too, attended the top-rated (illustre) gymnasium (a high school) in his hometown. After graduating, he studied theology in Frankfurt on the Oder River. One could hardly be wrong, if one assumes that here too, the relationship with the Bergius family contributed to this, even if the mother was no Bergius but a **Wessels**. Finally, he was a Wesenfeld like his stepsiblings, whose mother had the maiden name Bergius. These too, are suppositions without the possibility to prove their correctness.

Arend Wesenfeld III seems to have spent his entire study time in Frankfurt. He also earned here his Ph.D. on April 17, 1691. Effective February 1, 1692, he was appointed to be Professor of Logic, Metaphysic and Ethics. On June 16, 1698, at the age of 34 years, he took over the office of the mayor of the University City. A year later, he married in Danzig the daughter **Cornelia** of the Deacon Stephan **Wolters**. The wedding took place on October 20, 1699.

The bride was at that time about 20 years old. We were unable to find out, whether she was born in Danzig. We also were unable to clear up how the Frankfurt University Professor Arend Wesenfeld happened to bring home a bride from Danzig. It would be a waste of time to speculate on this. The suppositions would never answer this question with a reasonable certainty.

From an addendum to the original report by the author:

Cornelia Wolters was most likely born in Danzig, where her father was Pastor at the St. Peter and Paul Church since 1674. The father came from Hamburg, where he probably was born in about 1645. This Stephanus Wolters married Barbara Meynen (Heyn?) after Whitsunday (25. P. Trin.) in 1679. She was the daughter of the Daniel Meynen (Heyn). According to this information, Cornelia Wolters was not born in 1678, but in 1680 at the earliest, so that

at the time of her marriage with Arend Wesenfeld from Frankfurt on the Oder River, she was not quite 20 years old. Her parents Stephanus Wolters and Barbara Meynen passed away in Danzig. The church book of St. Peter and Paul lists the father on April 15 1719 as deceased. The same church record book had the notation that the mother was interred on April 30, 1715.

Through a descendant of Otto Doerry, a Mrs. Margarethe Hennig, née Doerry, in Frankfurt on the Oder River, we succeeded to establish very good connections to this city. These helped us with finding out many things about the Professor Arend (Arnold) Wesenfeld and his spouse Cornelia Wolters, and about their two children respectively. Certainly, research done 40 years ago would have yielded more information. But since we missed this opportunity at that time, we must be content with what is still available.

Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld was most likely the oldest child of Professor Arend Wesenfeld. But, perhaps, he was just the oldest boy, as can be determined by his first name. The name Stephan comes from his Grandfather Wolters, while Arnold was the first name of his father and also of his Grandfather Wesenfeld. Since he was the only child with the first name Arnold, he must have been the first-born son, who according to custom received this name when he was baptized. We were unable to establish his exact date of birth, since the church record books of the reformed congregation in Frankfurt start at a later time. As calculated from dates in his later life, he most likely was born at the beginning of the 18th century, about 1701/1703.

The first documented child of the Professor Wesenfeld is **Anna Dorothea**. Pastor H. Hartmann in the Friedenskirche (Peace Church) baptized her on December 22, 1711. Anna Dorothea was soon laid to rest on the cemetery of the Friedensgemeinde (Peace Congregation) on March 11, 1714 and thus passed away when she was only a little over 2 years old. There were probably more children between her and Stephan Arnold, but they are unknown. Thus we can find in the death registry of the Peace Church for December 31, 1713, an entry about the interment of a child of the H. (honorable) town mayor Wesenfeld without showing its name or age. We can assume that this was an older brother or sister of Anna Dorothea.

The same Mr. Hartmann, who baptized Anna Dorothea in 1711, did this sacred act also for two more children of the town mayor Wesenfeld. This was on August 15, 1714 for his son **Carl Ludwig** and on August 18, 1715 for the daughter **Florentina**. She

probably is the Master Weiß, née Wesenfeld. Records of the Peace Congregation show that she died at the age of 43 years at 9 o'clock in the morning of November 18, 1758. She was interred in her vault below the Peace Church on November 21, 1758. The age would fit exactly to Florentina Wesenfeld.

From an addendum to the original report on Florentina Wesenfeld:

The assumption that she was the Mrs. Meister (Meisterin) Weiß continues to have much probability. She had passed away on November 18, 1758 in Frankfurt on the Oder River. But we need to add that the Master Weiß was not her first husband. In her first marriage, since July 9, 1737, she was married to the Court Preacher from Breslau Johann Ernst Vigilantius. He was a son of the Pastor Benjamin Vigilantius and was born on December 30, 1712 in Heinersdorf, Province of Posen. He attended the gymnasium in Lissa (the later Comenius gymnasium, a high school) and Berlin. He studied theology and in 1734 he became a deacon of the reformed church in Lissa. In 1737, Johann Ernst Vigilantius became Pastor in Laßwitz near Lissa and in 1742 he was Court Preacher in Breslau. He died here one year later in 1743. His widow was at that time not quite 28 years old. The supposition that she remarried later is justified. This time she married the Master Weiß.

These two additions do not change the picture of the Wesenfeld Family history in any way. They merely add additional data to what has been reported previously.

And there was another entry for a death in 1756. It says there: H. Doctor Wesenfeld died in the afternoon of June 3, 1756 between one and two o'clock, after he brought his age to 51 years, 17 weeks, and 2 days. According to this, he must have been born in 1705. He probably was a younger brother of Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld, whose first name is still unknown.

There probably were more children of the Professor Wesenfeld besides those mentioned here. Their names can just not be found in the record books of the Peace Congregation. Actually, these names are mentioned here only for the completeness, since they have little significance for the family history. For the Doerry family, only the oldest son is important. He may have been in his early 20s when his father passed away.

The H. Professor and **Town Mayor Wesenfeld** was laid to rest on the cemetery of the Peace Congregation on October 12, 1727. His spouse **Cornelia Wolters** followed him in death good 13 years later. She was buried in Frankfurt on January 28, 1741. By

today's standards, neither one reached an old age. But even when one ignores the very high mortality rate of children, the average age of people was at that time much lower than it is today. Men and Women at the age of 70 and more years were still a rarity in 1800.

The fourth generation in the sequence of Wesenfeld ancestors was represented by the already briefly mentioned oldest child, respectively son, of the city mayor Arend (Arnold) Wesenfeld and his wife from Danzig Cornelia Wolters.

Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld

Unfortunately, our knowledge about him is utmost sparse. It is limited primarily to what the book about evangelical pastors in the Mark Brandenburg says about him. This book mentions that he was born in Frankfurt on the Oder River as the son of the Professor Wesenfeld. However, it mentions no date for his birth. But this can be calculated with some degree of certainty as the beginning of the 18th century.

After attending the Gymnasium, he studied theology, probably at the University of his hometown Frankfurt on the Oder River. He was ordained as Pastor on July 29, 1728. After that he was a reformed clergyman for little over three years in Preußisch Holland, which is near Elbing in East Prussia. This, his first official position, was in a little town in a charming surrounding in the so-called Oberland. The area is known for the canal built in five steps, with one of these locks right near Preußisch Holland. The canal provided a connection between Elbing, through the Drausen Lake to Osterode in East Prussia. This arrangement of several locks can be found only in North America and it is, therefore, in some ways a curiosity.

Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld was called to Crossen on the Oder River in 1732, where he was a reformed clergyman and court preacher. He served in this position until his death on April 4, 1756.

Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld was married twice. He married his first spouse, **Charlotte von Bergen**, in the Peace Church at Frankfurt on the Oder River on August 23, 1729. She was the daughter of the University Professor Johann Georg von Bergen, M.D. and Professor (Ordinarius) of Medicine in Frankfurt. Von Bergen died there on April 27, 1738 at the age of 65 years and 6 months less 3 days. He was laid to rest on May 2nd in the vault of the Peace Church (Friedenskirche).

The mother of the young spouse had the name of Henriette Charlotte and her family name was Harsleben. She was laid to rest in the vault under the Peace Church in Frankfurt and next to her deceased husband **Johann Georg von Bergen** on August 14 1742. Death had closed her eyes forever on August 12th at 1 o'clock in the morning. He had passed away four years earlier.

Charlotte von Bergen was the second daughter of her parents, who must have enjoyed great respect. This is indicated by their burial in the vault of the Peace Church. The wedding of the daughter, too, which did not take place in the church, but in her parent's home and was consecrated by the Court Preacher (Hofprediger) Siegel, points to this conclusion. Weddings at home were at that time still a special act not available to everybody. Even the young groom could not have been just somebody. At that time, people still paid much attention to rank and social standing.

Unfortunately, we were unable to establish how long the marriage between **Stephan Arnold Wesenfeld** and **Charlotte von Bergen** lasted. Because of the conditions after the Second World War, it was impossible to obtain any documentation from Preußisch Holland in East Prussia, nor from Crossen (now Krosno Odrzańskie) in Pomerania. But we can say this much from the earlier cited book of pastors, the Court Preacher Wesenfeld survived his spouse. He married again after she passed on. She was **Anna Jacob**, née Verstech a widow from Danzig. Because all church records are missing, nothing can be determined with respect to the children of the court preacher and of Charlotte von Bergen. Only brief notations of his great-grandson and his niece **Johanna Doerry** shed some light into this darkness. We can glean from their notes that the oldest son of the court preacher was

Johann Arnold Wesenfeld

At that time he still may have been a simple pastor in Preußisch Holland. While his first name came from his grandfather von Bergen, the second name was an old Wesenfeld tradition. This name was always passed on from the father to the first-born son. This is noteworthy here, because it shows that only Charlotte von Bergen can have been his mother and not the later second spouse of his father, Anna Verstech.

If one starts out with what has just been said and one considers the wedding year of his parents as 1729, then the birth of Johann Arnold Wesenfeld can be assumed as the beginning of the 1730s. The parents lived then either in Preußisch Holland or in

Crossen on the Oder River. But this must have been right in the beginning of their residency in Crossen.

It is unlikely that more accurate information can be developed on this.

His school training, too, is shrouded in darkness. We only know that he did not study like his ancestors, but became a farmer. When his grandson called him a magistrate (*Amtmann*), he actually meant that he was a manager of a large farm estate (*Rittergut*) or of farm holdings belonging to a community, monastery, or similar ownership (*Domäne*). This is also indicated by the names of towns or villages mentioned by Otto Doerry, like Wutzig near Woldenberg and Himmelstädt near Landsberg on the Warthe River. Both localities in the Neumark were not towns, but villages. The position of an agricultural manager was by no means a minor one. It granted its owner a wide array of authorities. He was only accountable to the owner. Otherwise, he was pretty much on his own with respect to how he managed the farm and how he used his coworkers.

We also do not know when, where, and whom he married. We only know through Otto Doerry that his grandmother came from a French family. He calls her a *Refugiée*. But he is wrong in this. Only those French people are called *Refugiée* who escaped to Germany during the French Revolution. Most of them remained in the western part of Germany, i.e. in the Rheinland, so that they were able to quickly return home. According to his own words, his grandmother did not belong to this French group. She was a Huguenot, whose ancestors came as religious refugees to the Mark Brandenburg (north and east of Berlin) and had spread from there. Still until far into the 19th century, they spoke their old French mother tongue besides the German language and used the French language for religious services in the French Dom (Cathedral) in Berlin. That they joined the Reformed Church was only natural for the expelled Calvinists. This is only mentioned here on the side.

Unfortunately it is nowhere mentioned to which Huguenot family Otto Doerry's grandmother belonged. But only a lucky chance would help here to establish this.

The marriage of the *Amtmann* (farm manager) Wesenfeld with his bride could be assumed to have taken place around 1760 till 1765, because at about 1765 was born the later first spouse of the Superintendent Doerry in Rossow, as will be shown later on.

We can only guess when the Wesenfeld couple passed on. Since his grandson never mentioned this, it can be assumed that they

were already dead when he was born or when his parents got married. The time for their passing from this earth can be assumed for the years between 1790 and 1795. But these are only guesses, since there is no proof for this. Some of this proof would have been easy to get about 40 years ago.

The same applies to the daughter of the Wesenfeld couple

Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld

She was the mother of Otto Doerry. His notes provide only few references regarding his mother. The reason for this was probably the fact that he himself was only a child when his mother closed her eyes forever. There were hardly any personal memories of her. When the new mother started to care for him, she knew how to provide him with enough warmth in the nest that he did not miss his real mother. In his report about the second marriage of his father, Otto emphasizes explicitly: The choice (made by my father) was in every aspect for me, too, a happy one, because she had been for me a true stepmother... Of course, he also thinks that this second marriage gave him some disadvantages. However, Otto Doerry did not mention what these disadvantages were. One can only guess these. He, who after the early death of his older sister Friederike - called Fritzchen - was the only child in the house, received now siblings and he had to learn to give up for them many favorite privileges. But that is the way as it is: The mother always gives the most love to the youngest child, because it needs it more than the others and the older children must step back. It would be totally wrong to derive a value judgment from Otto's remarks about his first mother and second mother respectively.

Therefore, it is very little what **Otto Doerry** has to say about his real mother and her personality. He was only 8 years old and still too young when she passed away. We could find out from him only that the ancestors on her mother's side belonged to a Huguenot family and belonged to the reformed church. These are two facts we already talked about in our report about her parents. Also, that she seems to have lost her parents early in her life was noted in this connection. She only comes into the foreground when she meets her later spouse **Johann Philipp Gottfried Doerry** (#D-8) at the home of the Mr. von Schoening on the farm estate Ueckerhof near Stargard in Pomerania. While he was the private teacher for the boys, she was the governess for the girls.

At that time it was still common that the better families, especially in rural areas, employed home teachers and governesses for their children. Schools, especially for the

younger children, were in many ways not very good. Whoever wanted his children to leave home later on with a better education had no other choice, but to hire a home teacher or a governess. For the home teacher, such a position was very often a springboard to a pastorate, as it was for Otto Doerry's father. The governess had with the best case scenario a chance to become the spouse of a rural pastor, as it was the fate of **Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld**. When the governess did not succeed, the future for the approaching old age looked rather bleak.

Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld may not have been anymore in the prime of her life when she took care of the district president (Landrat) von Schoening's daughters on the Ückerhof. To the contrary, she seems to have been at the same age as her later spouse, which means that she was in her mid thirty years. The following thinking led to this judgment: Her marriage to **Johann Philipp Gottfried Doerry**, which occurred soon after his appointment to the pastorate in Schellin and Verchland on July 28, 1798 produced only two children: the daughter Friederike (born about 1799) and the son Otto (born on January 4, 1802). In the following years and until her death in 1810 she had no more children. Since they did not have any means for birth control and a pastor would not have used these anyway, there is only one explanation for the sterility of the Mrs. Pastor Doerry: She was already in the menopause and further pregnancies were prevented. This was verified with a pencil note in the genealogical passport (Ahnenpaß) of Dr. Hans Doerry in Kleve. According to this note, Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld was born on February 15, 1759 in Wutzig near Woldenberg in the Neumark.

That she did not learn a profession like young girls in our time and was satisfied with working as a governess, is based on the attitudes existing in her time. The purpose and training of young women was for their natural task as wife and mother. If they failed to make the jump to a secure marriage, then they were condemned to be an old maid.

Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld was spared of this fate and one could rightfully say, in the last moment when she followed the freshly made Pastor Doerry as his wife to his meager pastorate in Schellin. The first years may have been quite difficult for them. Neither he, nor she owned anything of value so that they could use it to acquire the most necessary things for their household. They helped themselves by taking in young ladies of nobility and by teaching them languages and music to prepare them for their future position in social life. Knowledge with respect to housework was of only secondary importance. For that they had domestic hired help.

The boarding house for young ladies in the pastorate of Rossow, to where the couple Doerry-Wesenfeld had moved to in the year 1801 after they received a call (Vokation) from the sponsor (patron) of the congregation, Captain von Walde, enjoyed much popularity. The wealth of the couple grew from year to year until the unfortunate ending of the War 1806/1807 (between France under Napoleon and Prussia) forced the payment of high retributions to France.

But the Pastor suffered the most severe blow in 1810 when an epidemic of dysentery (or was it typhus?) hit the village of Rossow. Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld was one of the victims. Shortly before she deceased, she had her only child called to her bed so that she could say *goodbye* to him. The later **Pastor Otto Doerry** (#D-8-2W) was at that time 8 years old. As he wrote in his autobiography, this experience remained written in his heart until his old age.

According to a note from Dr. Hans Doerry from Kleve, a great-great-grandson of the deceased, she found her last resting place on August 24, 1810 on the village cemetery of Rossow, where her husband was laid to rest, too. She was at that time over 51 years old.

With Johanna Philippine Wesenfeld end about 200 years of history of the Wesenfeld family. It started in Bremen and after a detour to Frankfurt on the Oder River, this history found its ending in the Neumark in Pomerania. That this history had gaps and will always remain full of gaps, is a consequence of the unfortunate ending of the Second World War and the loss of many valuable documents. Despite of this, this part of the family history is important as an introduction to the history of the Neumark Branch of the Doerry Family history founded by Otto Doerry, the son of the last Wesenfeld.

Descendants of
Heinrich Otto Wilhelm Doerry
 (January 4, 1802 - March 24, 1871) (#D-8-2W)
 Married on July 12, 1830 to
 Wife: **Auguste Modesta Franziska Sartorius**
 (March 30, 1805 - March 13, 1883)

Auguste Modesta Franziska Sartorius: Wife of Otto Wilhelm Doerry

Emil Doerry (1831-1833) (#D-8-2W-1) deceased as child
Rudolph Doerry (1833-1835) (#D-8-2W-2) deceased as child
Maximilian Doerry (1834-1873) (No Descendants) (#D-8-2W-3)
Carl August Franz **Doerry sen.** (1836-1896) (#D-8-2W-4)
Hugo Otto Doerry (1838-1894) (#D-8-2W-5)
Johannes Doerry (1842-?) (No Descendants) (#D-8-2W-6)

Descendants of
Carl August Franz **Doerry**, sen.
 (March 3, 1836 - (#D-8-2W-4)
 Married on May 19, 1865 to
Amélie Friederike Nicoline Margarethe Ebolé
 (January 8, 1843 - February 21, 1928) (married on May 19, 1865).

Otto (May 6, 1866 - March 7, 1871) (#D-8-2W-4-1)
Hans Friedrich Carl (November 10, 1867-?) (#D-8-2W-4-2)
 Married Helene Lindenberg in 1904 in Bockenem, (1883-1984)
Ursula (Havemann) (1907-?) (#D-8-2W-4-2-1)
Ilse (Beste) (1910-?) (#D-8-2W-4-2-2)
Hans-Jürgen (1920-1944) (#D-8-2W-4-2-3)

Carl Max Gustav, M.D. (May 31, 1869-1942) (#D-8-2W-4-3)
 Married Luise Ernestine Sabine **Helene Boehm**
 on Nov. 27 1900 in Berlin. (July, 1876 - 1954)
Hans Friedrich Walter (1901-?) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1)
 Married Johanna Beate Böning in 1930 in Bremen.
Helga Regina (1932-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-1)
Karl-Wilhelm (1939-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-2)
 Ekehard (1965-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-2-1)
 Markus Hans (1966-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-2-2)
 Renate (1971-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-2-3)
Hartmann (1942-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-1-3)

Rudolf Kurt Wilhelm (1903-?) (#D-8-2W-4-3-2)
 Married to Eva Fromm on October 3, 1931 in Berlin
 Brigitte (1932-) (#D-8-2W-4-3-2-1)
Ernst Adolf (1904-November 2, 1956) (#D-8-2W-4-3-3)

Married to Hertha Plamann; no children

Amélie (1871- April 18, 1947) (#D-8-2W-4-4)

Kurt Wilhelm (1874- January 4, 1947) (#D-8-2W-4-5)

Married Alice Maud Cooper.

Edith Alice Doerry (1900-?) (#D-8-2W-4-5-1)

Married Leslie Roseveare in 1925 (2 children)

Iris Ethel Amélie Roseveare (#D-8-2W-4-5-1-1)

(August 3, 1926 - May 16, 2001)

Henry Godfrey (Dec. 23, 1933 -) (#D-8-2W-4-5-1-2)

Married to Irena Maria Samorska in 1962 (no children)

Hans Doerry (August 23, 1901-?) (#D-8-2W-4-5-2)

Married to Erna Huppertz (1 son) on May 17, 1927.

Gerd Doerry, Ph.D., born on May 2, 1929 in Berlin

(#D-8-2W-4-5-2-1)

Married Hannelore Krabs on January 8, 1971.

Kurt Karl Doerry (March 9, 1903 - ?) (#D-8-2W-4-5-3)

Married (third time) to Rose-Marie Haag on April 8, 1942

Alice Barbara Carola (July 1946) (#D-8-2W-4-5-3-1)

Thomas Alfred (June 1968) (#D-8-2W-4-5-3-2)

Maud Doerry (June 16, 1906 - ?) (#D-8-2W-4-5-4)

Married to Fritz Holzbock, M.D.

Margarethe (1876) born and deceased (#D-8-2W-4-6)

Walter (1880-1963) (not married) (#D-8-2W-4-7)

Descendants of Hugo Otto Doerry (Apr 1838-1894) (#D-8-2W-5)

Married in 1865 Friederike Dorothee Adelheid Luise Behmer

Paul Georg (Aug. 10, 1866-Apr. 2, 1940) (#D-8-2W-5-1)

Married Emma Luise Lerche on December 26, 1897

(July 23, 1876 - August 31, 1966)

7 children (5 sons and 2 daughters)

Walter Viktor Doerry, (1898-1945) (#D-8-2W-5-1-1)

Married Berta Luise Marie Heiber on Nov 14, 1932

Rosemarie (Sept 1932): (#D-8-2W-5-1-1-1)

married Karlhans Dülberg

Ingrid (June 5 1937): (#D-8-2W-5-1-1-2)

married Helmut (?) Dülberg

Arthur (deceased as child) (#D-8-2W-5-1-2)

Charlotte Erna Emma (July 1901-?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-3)

Kurt Johannes (March 1903 -?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-4)

Married **Clara Schöpe** on Febr. 18, 1910
 Kurt Joachim Dietrich Doerry deceased as infant in 1945
Max Doerry (March 1904 -?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5)
 Married **Margarete Reimann** on Dec. 26, 1936
Doris Doerry (Oct. 3, 1937 -?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5-1)
 Married Siegfried Lange (November 27, 1958)
 Sabine Lange (Twin) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5-1-1)
 Christine Lange (Twin) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5-1-2)
Otmar Doerry (Sept 12, 1939 -?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5-2)
 Married **Ursula Brakemeier** on December 15, 1971
 Janine (May 1972) (#D-8-2W-5-1-5-2-1)
Gertrud Luise **Doerry** (August 1905 -?) (#D-8-2W-5-1-6)
 Married Karl Dreischer on November 25, 1936
 Twins Karl and Gertrud (July 27, 1937, still-born)
Otto (April 1909-August 15, 1934) (#D-8-2W-5-1-7)

Max Johann Doerry (1877 - 1944) (#D-8-2W-5-4)
 Married Meta Alma Chorinde Hantke on May 6, 1909
Annerose Ruth Adelheid Doerry (1911 -) (#D-8-2W-5-4-1)
Margarete Doerry (1913 -) (#D-8-2W-5-4-2)
 André Rappich (1941 - ?) (#D-8-2W-5-4-2-1)
 Sabine (1947) deceased as infant (#D-8-2W-5-4-2-2)
 Angelika Hennig (1953) (#D-8-2W-5-4-2-3)
Barbara Doerry (1914 -.) (#D-8-2W-5-4-3)
 Married Wilhelm Mende on Oct. 19, 1937 (Divorced 1958)
 Ute Bursch, **Jürgen** Mende, and **Uwe** Mende.