

*A Brief Story of My Life*, by Gottfried J. B. Wegener, 1943  
Annotated by Norman D. Hellmers

as of 16 February 2023

## Introduction

Sometime in the early 1940s, Gottfried J. B. Wegener, then over 80 years of age, began to write his personal and family history, which he titled *A Brief Story of My Life*. It was published in late 1943. It was a remarkable effort, especially when one considers the brief period of time in which he accomplished this task and the general lack of records available to him. This narrative is an attempt to verify and expand those portions of the book that lacked the detail or specificity now possible with the luxury of time, better communications, and much improved access to records, both in Germany and the United States.

This annotated version of *A Brief Story of My Life* is organized and titled according to the original pagination. All dates are given in the now more accepted genealogical form of day-month-year.

In this document, to distinguish between the Reverend G. J. Wegener, and his father, both of whom have the same name, Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener, the Reverend G. J. Wegener will usually be referred to as “G. J. Wegener,” and his father as “Gottfried J. B. Wegener.”

## CHAPTER I

### MY GRANDPARENTS Paternal

(Wegener-Meyer Family)

#### Gerhard Heinrich Wegener

Born 14 October 1795, Bremen

Died 10 June 1883, Bremen

Notes: His parents were: Gerd Henrich Wegener and Anna Schultz. (Gerd is a shortened form of Gerhard.) They were married in the Evangelische Kirche Sankt Remberti (the Evangelical Church of Saint Rembert) in Bremen. The city of Bremen was, for much of its history, a “free city.” Only in the late 19th century was it part of Prussia, and then later within what became today’s Germany.

#### Anna Catharina Margaretha Meyer

Born 13 March 1800, Bremen

Died 4 December 1889, Bremen

Notes: Her parents were: Johann Hinrich Meyer and Catharina Heins. A record of their marriage, which presumably took place in Bremen, has not yet been found.

Married

On 9 June 1826, at the Evangelische Kirche Sankt Remberti, Bremen

Children

#### Gerhard Heinrich Wegener

Born 19 November 1827, Bremen; died 26 December 1898, Bremen.

Notes: Gerhard Wegener’s occupation at the time of his death was given as “Maurer” [mason]. He was married three times. One of Gerhard’s children by his second wife (Anna Marie Wilhelmine Engelken) was Gerhardine “Dina” Wegener, who emigrated to the United States and married her first cousin, Heinrich Wegener, a son of Gottfried J. B. Wegener [see Wegener, p. 8]. Another of his children, also named Gerhard Heinrich Wegener, was married in Bremen to Adelheid Friederika Voss. They had six children, all in Bremen.

#### Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener (“my father”)

Born 1 December 1832, Bremen; died 1 November 1929, Richmond Hill, New York.

Note: See Wegener, p. 6 for his information.

Heinrich Wegener

Born 15 April 1834, Bremen; died 27 February 1886, Bremen.

Notes: Heinrich's occupation at the time of his death was given as "Maurer" [mason]. He was married to Friederike Elise Hinze. They apparently had no children.

Metta Wegener

Born 19 January 1837, Bremen; the date of her death is not yet known.

Notes:

All of these dates and places are based on civil and church records made contemporaneously with the events. The civil records are from depositories in Bremen (Standesamt Bremen-Mitte and the Staatsarchiv Bremen). The church records are from the churchbooks (Kirchenbücher) of the Evangelische Kirche Dom Sankt Petri zu Bremen (Evangelical Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Bremen), and from the Evangelische Kirche Sankt Remberti, Bremen (Evangelical Church of St. Rembert in Bremen).

In 1832, when Gottfried J. B. Wegener (G. J. Wegener's father) was born, his family lived at No. 19 Am Punkendeich (known today as Osterdeich) in Bremen. The house dating to 1832 is no longer there. This street historically, and still today, parallels the dike or levee along the Weser River [see historical map of Bremen].

Bremen city directories show that Gerhard Heinrich Wegener's occupation (at least for the period from 1827-1837, when he was 32-42 years old) was that of "Arbeitsmann hinselbst," a self-employed workman. The 1858 marriage record of his son, Gottfried J. B. Wegener, lists the occupation of both parents as "Bleichers" or bleachers, who whitened linen cloth. At the time of his death (1883), Gerhard was listed as a "Privatmauer," a self-employed mason. By that time, he was living with his son, Heinrich, at Borchersweg No. 4, which still exists today (although extensively remodeled). Six years later (1889), Anna Meyer Wegener was also living at that address when she died, although her son Heinrich had already died.

Gerhard Heinrich Wegener apparently could not sign his name. On his own marriage record as well as that of his son Gottfried, he made three Xs. The same was true for Anna Meyer Wegener.

Nothing has been learned about the one known daughter, Metta. (The name Metta, or Meta, is a diminutive form of Margaretha.) There may have been another child, since there is a five-year gap between the first and second children listed.

## Maternal (Hadelers-Meyer Family)

### Christian Hinrich Bernhard Hadelers

Born 19 April 1801, Wesenstedt, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died 21 July 1846, Bremen.

Notes: His parents were Gerhard Hinrich Hadelers (born ca May 1760; died 1 July 1836, Wesenstedt), a “Heuerling” [tenant farmer] in Wesenstedt, and Margarethe Sophie Luers Hadelers (born ca 6 Jan 1774; died 10 Mar 1840, Wesenstedt).

### Johanna Eleonore Meyer [also spelled “Meier”]

Born 8 May 1799, Vilsen, Amt Bruchhausen, Hannover.

Died 31 March 1874, Brooklyn, New York.

Notes: Her parents were Johann Gerhardt Meier (born 10 May 1750, Vilsen, Amt Bruchhausen; died 24 Aug 1843), a Schustermeister [master shoemaker] in Vilsen, and Magdalena Sophie Catharina Helmers (born 2 June 1763, Vilsen, Amt Bruchhausen).

Widowed in 1846, and with two of her four surviving children having emigrated to America (circa 1864, 1871), Johanna emigrated herself in 1872. The other two children followed: Sophie, with her husband Hermann Wiese and their children in about 1875, and Gerhard, in about 1905. She is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York [Section 17, Lot 17245, Grave 1904].

The middle name of Johanna (or Johanne) Meyer Hadelers, was probably Eleonore, as that is the way she signed her name in 1851. According to Wegener, it was Johanne *Elisabeth*. However, according to the marriage records of her daughters Sophie and Elisabeth, and the baptism records of two of her other children, it is Johanne *Eleonore*. The name Meyer is also found as Meier and Mejer. In German, the letters “y” and “i” are sometimes used interchangeably, and occasionally the “y” has an umlaut, *ÿ*.

The communities in “Germany” in which these families lived (i.e., Wesenstedt and Vilsen) are located in what was at that time the Kingdom of Hannover.

### Marriage

On 18 October 1822, in Vilsen, Amt Bruchhausen, Hannover

### Children

[Question: Were any children born between 1823 and 1826?]

### Sophia Margaretha Johanna Hadelers

Born 6 Nov 1827, Twistringen, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died Date unknown; about 1900, according to Wegener; presumably in Brooklyn.

Johanna, as she apparently was known, was married to Hermann Heinrich Wiese on 23 January 1851 in Bremen. Some of their children, according to confirmation records at St. John's Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, and civil records were:

Johann Gerhard Wiese	b. 6 May 1851, Bremen
Hermann Hinrich Wiese	b. 7 April 1854, Bremen'
Sophie Conradine Elisabeth Wiese	b. 15 July 1856, Bremen
Friedrich Johann Wiese	b. 14 July 1859, Bremen
Anna Marie Wiese	b. 21 July 1861, Bremen
Friedrich Johann Wiese	b. 20 March 1865, Bremen
Hermine Johanne Wiese	b. 5 April 1869, Bremen

These were some of G. J. Wegener's first cousins.

Notes: The emigration of the Hermann and Johanna Wiese family to America needs investigation. Wegener says that they emigrated "about 1875." They were in Brooklyn by at least 11 October 1874, when they were sponsors at the baptism of their nephew, Friedrich Hermann Gerhard Wegener. Wegener refers in his book to this aunt as "Henriette." No record indicating that her name was Henriette has been found to date.

#### Gerhard Anton Hadelers

Born 27 March 1830, Twistringen, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died about 1910, Astoria, Long Island, New York. [Wegener, p. 5]

Notes: Among the few surviving Wegener family papers is a certified copy of the baptismal record of Gerhard Hadelers made in 1851. It is not known why this record was needed when he was aged 21. The immigration of Gerhard Wegener—in about 1905 according to Wegener—could be researched. If this was in about 1905, he would have entered through Ellis Island. His death record could also be sought.

[Note: There is a gap of six years at this point between the Hadelers children, which may indicate the possibility of other children who did not survive to adulthood.]

#### Anna Maria Hadelers

Born 1 Jun 1836, Twistringen, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died 13 Feb 1936, Brooklyn, New York.

Notes: Anna apparently emigrated to New York on her own in about 1864, when she was about the age of 18. Shortly thereafter, she married Frederick J. W. Bursch in Brooklyn. In the Brooklyn city directories from 1865 through at least 1881, F. J. W. Bursch was listed each year, in most cases as a "grocer." On page 35, Wegener notes that he (Wegener) was "just a poor grocery clerk" and that "on Saturdays and during vacations I worked in my uncle's grocery." Anna Wegener Bursch is buried in Green-Wood Cemetery with her husband and three of their children, Charles, Friedrich, and Gustavus.

Their known children were:

- Daniel Friedrich Bursch, b. 22 Feb 1865
- Charles William Bursch, b. ca 1866
- Friedrich Gerhardt Bursch, b. 29 Jan 1867
- Friedrich Charles Bursch, b. 8 Jul 1873
- Gustavus Augustus Bursch, b. 21 Jul 1876

Annie Elizabeth Bursch, b. 17 May 1880

Sophia Conradina Elisabeth Hadelers

Born 28 July 1838, Twistringen, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died 28 June 1917, Brooklyn, New York.

Note: See Wegener, page 6 for her information.

Rebecca Maria Henrica Hadelers

Born 10 January 1841, Neuenmarhorst, Hannover.

Died 24 September 1841, presumably in Neuenmarhorst, Hannover.

Notes: In the marriage records for two of his daughters, Christian Hadelers was listed as “the deceased shoemaker of Twistringen.” Why the last known child, Rebecca, was born in Neuenmarhorst is not known. All of the four known surviving Hadelers children emigrated to America, the only son and one daughter alone, and the two younger daughters with their families.

ca 1864 Anna Hadelers (who married Frederick J. W. Bursch in Brooklyn)

1871 Gottfried and Elisabeth Hadelers Wegener

ca 1875 Hermann and Johanna Henriette Hadelers Wiese

ca 1905 Gerhard Hadelers (who apparently remained unmarried)

The emigration of the Wegener-Hadelers family was, in fact, part of the *Hadelers* family’s migration, and not a Wegener migration, as only Gottfried Wegener and his family, and a niece, Gerhardine Wegener, are known to have emigrated to the United States.

MY PARENTS  
(The Wegener-Hadeler Family)

Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener

Born 1 December 1832, Bremen.

Died 1 November 1929, Richmond Hill, New York.

Sophia Conradina Elisabeth ("Lisette") Hadeler

Born 28 July 1838, Twistringen, Amt Ehrenburg, Hannover.

Died 28 June 1917, Brooklyn, New York.

Married

By the Rev. Merkel, pastor of the Evangelische Kirche Dom Sankt Petri zu Bremen  
(Evangelical Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Bremen), 28 October 1858.

Notes: A photocopy of the original record indicates that this marriage took place on  
28 October 1858. Wegener records the date as 21 October 1858.

Children

Anna Christine Johanne Wegener

Born 25 August 1859, Achim, Hannover.

Died 14 July 1905, apparently in Brooklyn, New York. [Wegener, p. 9]

Married Dietrich N. G. Bomhoff, 27 November 1879, Brooklyn, New York

[See Wegener, page 9, for their children.]

Note: Dietrich Bomhoff was a native of Meienburg, Hannover. [See baptism record of  
their first child and their marriage record.]

Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener

Born 10 April 1861, Bremen.

Died 25 November 1946, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Married<sub>1</sub> Juliane Caroline von Wittke, 19 June 1883, Brooklyn, New York.

[See Wegener, page 15, for their children.]

Married<sub>2</sub> Anna Elizabeth Klein, 2 March 1905, New Orleans, Louisiana.

[See Wegener, page 25, for their children.]

Louise

Born 9 September 1863, Achim, Hannover.

Died 14 February 1953, [place?].

Married John Mayer, 3 April 1888, apparently in Brooklyn, New York.

[See Wegener, page 9, for their children.]

Margarethe “Meta” Elisabeth Antonie Wegener

Born 21 January 1866, Achim, Hannover.

Died 12 September 1958, [place?].

Married John Lotz, 2 November 1887, apparently in Brooklyn, New York.

[See Wegener, pages 9-10, for their children.]

Henriette Johanne Antonie Wegener

Born 30 January 1868, Achim, Hannover.

Died about 2 October 1871, Brooklyn, New York.

Note: As Wegener notes, Antonia “took seriously ill on board ship during ocean voyage and died shortly after arrival in our new American home.”

Heinrich “Henry” Gerhard Wegener

Born 4 March 1870, Bremen.

Died 16 September 1926, Woodhaven, New York [Wegener, p. 8]

Married Gerhardine Wegener, 5 September 1898, [place?] [Wegener, p. 10]

(See Wegener, page 10, for their children.)

Baby Girl Wegener

Born 6 May 1872, Brooklyn, New York.

Died 7 May 1872, Brooklyn, New York.

Note: This child was born over one month prematurely, while the mother had smallpox. The newborn child lived for about 20 hours.

Friedrich

Born 3 May 1873, Brooklyn, New York.

Died 4 September 1873, Brooklyn, New York.

Friedrich Hermann Gerhard Wegener

Born 1 May 1874, Brooklyn, New York.

Died 3 July 1896, Sullivan County, New York. [Wegener, pp. 6, 8]

Carl “Charles” Alfred Wegener

Born 17 August 1876, Brooklyn, New York.

Died 24 June 1880, Brooklyn, New York.

Note: Charles is listed in the 1880 federal census, taken 12 June 1880, as having “consumption” (i.e., tuberculosis). He died 12 days later.

Friederike (“Frieda”) Elisabeth Wegener

Born 8 March 1881, Brooklyn, New York.

Died 8 November 1956, [place ?].

Married Henry Essig, 18 November 1905, Brooklyn, New York [Wegener, p. 10]

[See Wegener, page 10, for their children.]



Notes:

The baptism records for Achim are in the churchbooks of der ev.-luth. Kirchengemeinde Achim. The civil birth records for Bremen are from the Standesamt Bremen-Mitte.

The church birth/baptism and death records in Brooklyn are from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 283 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn, New York (Volume A). The original records are housed in the church office; no copies (e.g., microfilms) had been made as of 1991. A 100-year history (1868-1968) of this congregation is available. The last page of this history notes: "Confirmed at the Altar of this Congregation and having entered the Gospel Ministry are the following. . . ." The first name on the list is "The Rev. G. J. Wegener, Deceased."

All of the Wegener children who died at an early age, Antonia (1871), "Baby Girl" (1872), Friedrich (1873), and Charles (1880), were buried in the same gravesite in Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery (Section 64, Lot 7774, Grave 86). The gravesite was either unmarked, or, if there had been a marker at one time in the past, it is not visible today.

Notes on "THE PARENTS":

All of the birth records, both those in Achim and in Bremen, for the children of Gottfried J. B. Wegener (G. J. Wegener's father) show his occupation to be that of "Cigarrenmacher" or "Zigarrenmacher" [cigar maker]. The city directories for Brooklyn, New York, for the years 1873 through at least 1883 (and possibly longer) indicate the same, as does the 1880 federal census.

Wegener says this about the emigration of his family from Bremen to America:

At the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian war in February, 1871, father emigrated to Brooklyn, N. Y. to establish a new home in this land of promise, and, after an ocean voyage of seventeen days (by an old German steamship) mother with her six children met father in the newly prepared home in the middle of September 1871.

According to passenger lists and related shipping records, Gottfried J. B. Wegener left Bremen via the steamship *Main* about 17 March 1871. After a voyage of about 15 days, he arrived in New York on 1 April 1871. The list recorded his name as "Gottf. Wegener" and indicated that he was a "Sigarmaker." [No image of the *Main* has been located.]

Regarding the mother and six children born in Germany, the immigration records show that they were passengers on board the steamship *Bremen*, which had travelled from Bremen to New York, and arrived there on 15 September 1871. [An illustration of the *Bremen* is available.] A comparison of the family in the passenger list to the actual Wegener family is given below. There are discrepancies of the kind frequently found in such records:

Passenger List

<u>Name on list</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Actual name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>
Wegner, Mathias	33	M	Wegener, Elizabeth	33	F

Anna	9	F	Anna	12	F
Gottfried	8	M	Gottfried	10	M
Louis	7	M	Louise	8	F
Meta	5	F	Meta	5	F
Antonie	3	F	Antonie	3	F
Bernhard	10 mos	M	H. Gerhard	6 mos	M

Despite the differences in these lists, this is almost certainly the correct family. The names, ages, and sexes of the children match well, making this the Wegener family that emigrated from Bremen to New York “in the middle of September, 1871.”

Notes on “The Children”:

All of the six *older* children were indeed baptized in Germany. Wegener says (p. 7) that “the other five [were baptized] in Brooklyn, N.Y., by the late Rev. J. H. Sommer. However, the records of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn appear to show that only the last three of the five *youngest* children were baptized at St. John’s. It is likely that the “Baby Girl” Wegener was not baptized at all, since this child lived only 20 hours. A record of the baptism of the second Wegener child born in the United States, Frederick (born 3 May 1873), has not yet been found.

None of the Wegener children were old enough to be confirmed before the family’s emigration to America. The four oldest children were confirmed at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn:

6 April 1873	Anna Christine Johanne Wegener [“Wegner” in the record]
21 March 1875	Gottfried Johann Berend Wegener
6 April 1879	Louise Wegener
21 March 1880	Margarethe Elisabeth Antonie Wegener

Confirmation at St. John’s was apparently customarily held on Palm Sunday each year.

Heinrich, G. J. Wegener’s younger brother, was confirmed by the Rev. G. J. Wegener himself while he was serving as pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Bishop Township, Effingham County, Illinois. This took place on Palm Sunday, 29 March 1885. Apparently Heinrich (“Henry”) was living with his older brother at the time.

Records for the other children who reached confirmation age—Frederick and Frieda—have not yet been found.

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[Note: Wegener continues with “My First Wife’s Parents.” Since information is now available on *their* parents, this section continues with Wegener’s first wife’s grandparents.]

## CHAPTER II

### MY FIRST WIFE’S GRANDPARENTS

#### Paternal (von Wittke-Lindemann Family)

Franz Albrecht von Wittke

Born 25 February 1775, Jezow, Kreis Lauenburg, Pommern.

Died 8 February 1852, Stolp, Kreis Stolp, Pommern.

Notes: Franz Albrecht von Wittke’s father was Christian Ernst von Wittke (born 11 August 1740, Jezow; died 21 June 1809, Zakrzewo). His mother was Sofie Henriette Köhn von Jaski (born 22 June 1745, Karwenhoff; died 20 June 1795, Poppow).

Pommern [Pommerania] was then a part of Preußen [Prussia], but is today part of Poland. All of these communities now have Polish names: Jezow is Rozlazino, Gdańsk; Stolp is Słupsk, Słupsk.

Anna Katharina Karolina Lindemann

Born 6 June 1789, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen.

Died 10 April 1874, Stolp, Kreis Stolp, Pommern.

Notes: Nothing is yet known about the parents of Anna Katharina Lindemann, but a search of the churchbooks of Klein-Golmkau, her birthplace, could be made. Westpreußen [West Prussia] was then a part of Preußen [Prussia], but is today part of Poland. Klein-Golmkau is known today in Poland as Gołębiewko, Tczew.

#### Married

17 April 1805, in Klein-Golmkau, Provinz Westpreußen, Preußen.

#### Children

Adeline Henriette Sofie von Wittke

Born 11 March 1806, Zakrzewo; died 18 November 1834, Danzig, Westpreußen.

Eduard Adolf von Wittke

Born 22 April 1808, Zakrzewo; died 24 July 1811, Zernitz, Pommern.

Auguste Louise Amalie von Wittke

Born 31 March 1810, Zakrzewo; died 24 July 1811, Zernitz, Pommern.

Dorothea Henriette Auguste von Wittke

Born 21 May 1812, Zernitz, Pommern; died (buried) 8 January 1892, Stolp, Pommern.

Eduard Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 8 April 1814, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; date and place of death unknown.

Gustav Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 18 May 1815, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 21 May 1843, Insterburg.

Julius von Wittke

Born 1816, place unknown; died 3 March 1817, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen.

Ludwig Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 7 June 1817, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 1831, Berlin.

Dorothea Friederike Emilie von Wittke

Born 5 June 1818, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; date and place of death unknown.

Elisabeth Amalie Mathilde von Wittke

Born 16 June 1819, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; date and place of death unknown.

Karl Friedrich Ernst Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 9 October 1820, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 9 November 1889, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Note: There are numerous descendants of Karl and his second wife living in South Carolina.

Julius Wilhelm Karl Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 27 December 1821, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 31 July 1822, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen

Emma Louise Henriette Mathilde von Wittke

Born 2 January 1823, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 14 July 1836, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen.

Friedrich Wilhelm Karl Adolf Alexander

Born 13 April 1824, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 26 July 1878, Stolp, Pommern.

Marie Friederike Wilhelmine Louise Amalie von Wittke

Born 4 August 1825, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen. Emigrated to New York; died 1 March 1902, Stolp, Pommern.

Emigrated to New York where she was married twice, but apparently returned to Germany.

Eugen Friedrich Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 15 January 1827, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 26 April 1832, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen.

Hermann Richard August Adolf Alexander von Wittke

Born 4 February 1828, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 14 April 1850, Stolp, Pommern.

Julius Theodor Maximillian (Alexander) von Wittke

Born 18 March 1829, Klein-Golmkau, Westpreußen; died 9 September 1873, Brooklyn, New York.

Notes:

The von Wittke family can apparently be traced to Hans Wittke, found in the earliest records (1553) of Jezow, Pommern, in Prussia. The von Wittkes were an “Adeligen Häuser,” an aristocratic family in das Königreich Preußen [the Kingdom of Prussia]. After World War II, Pommern [Pomerania] and Westpreußen [West Prussia] became part of present-day Poland. The former German place names now have Polish names; for example, Klein-Golmkau is now known as Gołębiewko.

Julius von Wittke was the last of 18 children! His father, Franz Albrecht von Wittke, was a Major (retired as a Major) in the royal Prussian army. He was born in Jezow, Pommern, but lived in various locations, perhaps because of his military career: Zakrzewo, Zernitz, and Klein-Golmkau, where most of the children were born. Klein-Golmkau was the birthplace of his wife, Anna Katharina Lindemann, and was where they were married. They both died in Stolp in Pommern [Pomerania].

The churchbooks at St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York, originally recorded Julius von Wittke’s birthplace as “Gollengau, Provinz Posen, Preussen.” Presumably this was from a misunderstanding of his birthplace by either widow von Wittke or the Pastor, who recorded “Gollengau” instead of “Golmkau,” and placed it in Poznan (Posen), instead of Westpreußen (West Prussia). This mistake was repeated on transcriptions of the baptism records of the two daughters made in 1873 in support of widow von Wittke’s Civil War pension claim. An examination of the original records [personally checked by Norman and Jeffrey Hellmers in 1991] show that the records had been changed to show von Wittke’s birthplace as “Klein-Golmkau.” The change was obviously made by someone who had the correct information, but when and by whom this correction was made is not known. It had to have been between 1873 (when the transcriptions were made) and 1991, when the records were checked.

Others in the von Wittke family are known to have emigrated to the United States, including Julius’s brother, Karl Friedrich Ernst Adolf Alexander von Wittke, and his sister, Marie Friederike Wilhelmine Louise Amalie von Wittke.

An 1866 New York city directory includes an advertisement for J. Wittke and G. Bruder, Cabinet Manufacturers, located at No. 93 Mercer Street. The ad notes: “All kinds of Furniture of the

latest patterns made to order.”

Other, perhaps unrelated, von Wittkes in New York include a Frederick A. Wittke, a butcher in New York City and later in Brooklyn. There was also a younger Julius Wittke, a “hairdresser” (barber), who lived in Brooklyn.

Two of Julius von Wittke’s siblings, Auguste, born in 1812, and Friedrich, born in 1824, married into the von Puttkamer family. As noted by Wegener [p. 12], Otto von Bismarck was married to a von Puttkamer. See “Relatives of the von Wittke-Tullius Family” for an explanation of this connection.

## Maternal (Tullius-Laudert Family)

Franz Peter Tullius

Born ca 1791

Died [Unknown]

Notes: The father of Franz Peter Tullius was Peter Tullius, a “Hofmann” [a farmer, or administrator of an estate] from Münchwald, not far from Stromberg [see church marriage of Franz Peter Tullius in 1817]. Stromberg was in Kreis Kreuznach, Rheinbaiern, Baiern. Rheinbaiern is the Rheinland portion of Baiern (also known as Rhenish Bavaria).

Franz Peter Tullius was recorded in the Stromberg churchbooks as living in Kapstadt (Cape Town) in Sudafrika (South Africa). This was at least between the years of 1843 through 31 December 1848 (when his wife died). Why he was in South Africa, whether he returned, and where and when he died are not known at this time.

Juliana Laudert

Born 24 March 1792, Stromberg, Kreis Kreuznach, Rheinbaiern, Baiern.

Died 31 December 1848, Stromberg, Kreis Kreuznach, Rheinbaiern, Baiern.

Notes: Juliana Laudert’s father was Friedrich Laudert, a “Schuhmachermeister” [master shoemaker], born 10 January 1756. Her mother was Johanna Maria Mayer, who was born 1 March 1757, and died 25 December 1813.

Married

17 July 1817, Stromberg, Kreis Kreuznach, Rheinbaiern, Baiern.

Children

Heinrich Tullius

Born circa March 1818, Stromberg; died 1898, Wawarsing (Ulster County) New York.

Johann Tullius

Born circa April 1820, Stromberg; date and place of death unknown.

Friedrich Tullius

Born circa February 1822, Stromberg; date and place of death unknown.

Margaretha Tullius

Born circa June 1825, Stromberg; died 16 November 1847, Stromberg.

Elisabetha Tullius

Born 30 January 1827, Stromberg; died 6 January 1834, Stromberg.

Jacob Tullius

Born 30 June 1829, Stromberg; date and place of death unknown.

Margarethe Juliane Tullius [Juliane Tullius von Wittke's mother]

Born 11 February 1831, Stromberg; died 6 November 1893, Brooklyn, New York.

Friedrike Tullius

Born 27 July 1832, Stromberg; date and place of death unknown.

Notes:

The birth dates for the Tullius children, with the exception of the two youngest, Juliane and Friederike, were identified through the confirmation records of the Evangelisch-Reformierte Kirche Stromberg. The baptism records for the other children have not yet been located. The birth record for Elisabetha, who only lived to be 6 years old and was therefore not confirmed, is based on her death record.



## MY FIRST WIFE'S PARENTS

### The von Wittke-Tullius Family

Julius Alexander Theodor Maximilian von Wittke

Born 18 March 1829, Klein-Golmkau, Kreis Dirschau, Provinz Westpreußen, Preußen

Died 9 September 1873, Brooklyn, New York

Margarethe Juliane Tullius

Born 11 February 1831, Stromberg, Kreis Kreuznach, Rheinbaiern, Baiern.

Died 6 November 1893, Brooklyn, New York

#### Married

Julius von Wittke and Juliane Tullius were married on 7 January 1854, in New York, New York. They were married by a Notary Public. The residence of both was given as 7 Avenue A.

#### Children

Juliane Caroline von Wittke

Born 8 August 1863, New York, New York

Died 14 October 1903, New Orleans, Louisiana

Note: See the history of the Wegener-von Wittke Family for the marriage record and children of Gottfried and Juliane von Wittke Wegener.

Auguste Adeline von Wittke

Born 6 August 1866, New York, New York

Died 28 February 1904, Brooklyn, New York

Notes: See Wegener, pages 12-13, for the story of Auguste (von Wittke) Gartner. In 1897, Auguste Gartner was living in Newark (Essex County) New Jersey, according to the Civil War pension records of her father, Julius von Wittke. In the 1900 U.S. Census, she is listed in Orange (Essex County) New Jersey with her husband, Ernest Gartner, and their two-year-old daughter, Clara. Apparently after the death of Auguste, Ernest Gartner remarried, as he is listed in the 1920 U.S. Census in Union [County?], New Jersey, with a wife, Mary, and three children. Clara Gartner at that time was now apparently living alone in Brooklyn, and working there as a nurse at the Lutheran Hospital. Her whereabouts after that are unknown, but she was still living in 1943 when G. J. Wegener prepared his autobiography.

Notes: It appears that both Julius von Wittke and Juliane Tullius came to America in their early lives. This all needs investigation. Records of their immigration have not been sought to date. The death record of Juliane Tullius von Wittke (in 1893) notes that she had lived in the U.S. for 44 years. That would mean that she came to the United States about 1849 at the age of about 18.

No record has yet been found of any affiliation Julius von Wittke may have had with a church. According to a friend of his, who gave an affidavit at the time von Wittke's widow, Auguste von Wittke, applied for a Civil War veteran's widow's pension, he and Julius von Wittke were both members of a Masonic Lodge (German Union Lodge No. 5, F. & A. M.). At the time of his death, Julius von Wittke was buried from his residence, No. 351 20th Street, Brooklyn, New York. No record of his death was found in the churchbooks of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Exactly two months after the death of Julius von Wittke, on 9 November 1873, his widow, Juliane Tullius von Wittke, had her two daughters—Juliane then 10, and Auguste then 7—baptized at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Brooklyn, New York. Both girls were later confirmed there:

Confirmed 25 March 1877:

Juliane Caroline von Wittke Mth.28,20 [Born] 8 August 1863 in New York

Confirmed 21 March 1880:

Auguste Adeline von Wittke Mth. 5,16 [Born] 6 August 1866 in New York

Juliane Tullius von Wittke was living at 21 Webster Place when her daughter Juliane was married to G. J. Wegener on 19 June 1883. Widow von Wittke was still living there when she died on 6 November 1893. No record of her death was found at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Notes on “**Relatives of the von Wittke-Tullius Family**”:

Wegener wrote:

**Julius von Wittke’s** sister Augusta was married to a von Puttkammer and the great Otto von Bismarck married von Puttkammer’s sister, thus establishing a close relationship between the von Bismarck and the von Wittke families! I have this information directly from Mrs. Julia Tullius-von Wittke and her two daughter’s Juliane and Augusta, who at the time regularly corresponded with their sister in law and aunt, Augusta von Puttkammer. Historically certain facts are: 1. Julius von Wittke’s sister Augusta was married to a von Puttkammer. 2. Von Bismarck married a von Puttkammer.

Question: Were the two von Puttkammers brother and sister or in any way related?

**Julius von Wittke’s** sister, Auguste, was indeed “married to a von Puttkamer.” Auguste, born in 1812, married Rudolph Hermann Adolf Robert von Puttkamer on 25 February 1842 in Stolp, Pommern. (One of Julius von Wittke’s brothers, Friedrich, born in 1824, was also married to a von Puttkamer. He married Marie Laurette Juliane Constantia Viktoria von Puttkamer, Rudolph’s sister, on 28 August 1851 in Bartin.) Otto von Bismarck (1815-1898), the first Chancellor of the German Empire, was married to Johanna Friederike Charlotte Eleonore Dorothee von Puttkamer (1824-1894). However, Auguste von Wittke’s husband, Rudolph von Puttkamer, and Otto von Bismarck’s wife, Johanna von Puttkamer, were *not* brother and sister, and were only distantly related—ninth cousins, twice removed! Their von Puttkamer ancestor in common was Lorenz von Puttkamer, born in 1428. At the time Otto von Bismarck became Chancellor of Germany, the von Wittke family would have known that there was *some* connection between these families, but even then, were probably unaware of the exact relationship.

Wegener wrote:

Only a few years ago I received a letter from an elderly lady seeking information concerning a von Wittke relative who came to New York and died there. She claimed and showed that she was a cousin of my daughter, Juliane, and she, living in New York, succeeded in getting the desired information through Pastor A. Wismar of St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in New York. The information was wanted to prove to the German government that the writer and her ancestors were not Jews.

There were indeed other von Wittkes who immigrated to America, including the city of New York. It is possible that the correction in the Lutheran church records in Brooklyn—referred to elsewhere—may have been made at the time of this inquiry.

Wegener wrote:

Mrs. Julius Tullius-von Wittke’s only relative, as far as I know, was a brother who, with his family, lived in Stamford, Conn. Correspondence with the von Wittkes was kept up through a married daughter, Mrs. Rogers.

Juliane Tullius von Wittke had a number of brothers and sisters. At least one, her oldest brother, Heinrich (or Henry), emigrated to America in 1842, when he was about 24 years old. A declaration of his intent to be naturalized was made in 1844, and he was naturalized in 1847. He married Jane Shayer (1824-1892), a native of Holland, in about 1851. He was apparently married in Wawarsing (Ulster County), New York, as that is where he lived until his death in 1898. Both of them are buried in the Wawarsing Reformed Church Ground. They had at least seven children.

It is this brother, Henry, who is apparently referred to by Wegener on page 12. It seems that he did not live in Stamford, Connecticut, however, at least three of his children did live at one time or another in Stamford, including Henry's daughter, Mrs. George Rogers, the "Mrs. Rogers" referred to by Wegener. [Her first name was either Ellen or Ella.] The others were a son, Julius Tullius (born in 1857, and perhaps named for his aunt's husband, Julius von Wittke) and Rachel Tullius (born in 1867, and apparently never married).

Notes on "Notes," Wegener pp. 12-13.

Wegener wrote:

Julius von Wittke in civil life was an artist-woodcarver. Several beautiful specimens of his craftsmanship remain in the Wegener-von Wittke, the Wegener-Klein, and the Hellmers-Wegener families.

Julius von Wittke was, as Wegener refers to him, an "artist-woodcarver." He could be described as a furniture-maker, as well. The New York and Brooklyn city directories record him as "carver" and "cabinetmaker," or furniture maker. A document in Julius von Wittke's Civil War pension file includes a statement from a friend of von Wittke, who notes: " he was a sound & able bodied man, of good habits, a wood carver by trade & as I was informed & believed, a first-class mechanic at his trade. . . ."

The whereabouts of the specimens of von Wittke's craftsmanship mentioned in Wegener, with the exception of the third, are unclear. The third—a child's rocker—was once in the Hellmers-Wegener Family household, but was given to the Dunlap-Kliemand Family many years ago. It is likely that a matching, four-piece set of parlor furniture, which was in the parsonage of St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans, was constructed/carved by Julius von Wittke. These matching pieces were made by hand and feature a large amount of carving. Three of these pieces (sofa, loveseat, and chair) are now in the Hellmers-Wegener family. The fourth (a platform rocker) was last known to be in the Kretzmann-Gabriel family. Whether there are other pieces being referred to here is not known.

Wegener wrote:

During the Civil War (1861-1865) von Wittke served as a Captain in the Northern army under General McClellan.

During the U.S. Civil War, Julius von Wittke did serve in the Union Army, and in the broadest possible sense, served, at least part of the time, while General George McClellan was in

command of the Union Army. The record of von Wittke's service can be found in two sets of records—civil war military service records and civil war pension records—maintained at the National Archives, Washington, D. C. This information is also summarized in the records of the 4th New York Cavalry in *New York in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865*, pp.807, 809, and 821. The Civil War service of Julius von Wittke can be summarized in the following chronology:

23 Jun 1861	Enlisted in New York State Militia Lt., Co. C, 3rd Reg't.
9 Dec 1861	1st Lt., Co. I, 4th Reg't. N. Y. Cavalry
Spring 1862	General Hospital, Washington, D. C.
19 May 1862	Capt., Co. A, 4th Reg't. N. Y. Cavalry
Jun-Sep 1862	Cumberland Hospital, Baltimore, Md.
20 Oct 1862	Resigned
2 Dec 1862	Reappointed, Capt., Co. A, 4th Reg't. N. Y. Cavalry
2 Apr 1863	Resigned
9 Apr 1863	Honorably discharged

A further elaboration of the Civil War service of Julius von Wittke is available in a separate narrative.

Wegener wrote:

Widow Julia Tullius von Wittke and her two daughters, Juliane and Augusta, were active members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, New York.

It is not clear how active the von Wittke family was at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church after the family moved to Brooklyn in the late 1860s. As noted earlier, Widow Julia (Tullius) von Wittke had her daughters baptized there after the father's death in 1873. Both daughters were confirmed there, and Widow von Wittke and her daughters are listed occasionally in the church's communion records, including Easter Sunday, 9 April 1882.

Wegener wrote:

Of the von Wittke-Tullius family, there are no surviving members except Clara Gartner, the father having died in 1873, the mother in 1893, Juliane in 1903, and Augusta in 1904.

Presumably Clara Gartner did not marry. Had there been any living descendants, Wegener would likely have known about them. A record of Clara's death has not been found.

**Requiescant in Pace!**

CHAPTER IV

THE WEGENER-KLEIN FAMILY

MY SECOND WIFE'S GRANDPARENTS

Paternal (The Klein-Dickert Family)

Johann Matthäus "John Matthew" Klein

Born 14 August 1815, Enszweihingen, Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Died 7 September 1867, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Anna Elizabeth "Lisette" Dickert

Born 18 April 1825, Hessen-Cassel.

Died 28 February 1907, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Notes: Nothing is currently known of the exact birth place of Lisette Dickert. Available records show that she was a native of the Principality of Hessen-Cassel. Wegener records her name as Dierkert; however, the one signature known for her, most of the civil birth and baptism records of her children, and a number of other records show her name as "Dickert."

Marriage

Married on 5 March 1850 by Alexander Derbes, Fourth Justice of the Peace of the Parish and City of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Children

Johann Friedrich "John Frederick" Klein

Born 26 December 1850, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 26 November 1901, New Orleans, Louisiana

Johann "John" Matthäus Klein

Born 30 June 1852, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 8 September 1867, New Orleans, Louisiana

Wilhelm Heinrich "William Henry" Klein

Born 15 November 1853, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died in childhood" before 1860.

Louise Frederika Klein

Born 24 June 1855, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 4 January 1924, New Orleans, Louisiana

Maria Elisabeth Klein

Born 23 February 1858, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 1 April 1943, New Orleans, Louisiana

Philipp Heinrich Klein

Born 8 April 1860, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 15 September 1936, New Orleans, Louisiana

Theresia Josephine Klein

Born 10 June 1862, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 15 January 1942, New Orleans, Louisiana

Joseph Gottlieb Klein

Born 15 September 1864, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 29 November 1931, New Orleans, Louisiana

Georg Peter Klein

Born 18 December 1866, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 28 April 1942, New Orleans, Louisiana

Notes:

Johann Matthäus Klein (who signed his marriage record as “Matthäus Klein”) was born 14 August 1815, in Enzweihingen, Ludwigsburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. Passenger lists indicate that a “Joh Klein,” age 21, arrived in New Orleans on 26 June 1840 on the ship *Marcia Cleaves*, which had embarked from LeHavre, France. This person was a baker, the occupation of Johann Matthäus Klein, and was listed as being from “Württemberg.” The only difference between this record and the information known at this time about Johann Matthäus Klein is the age; in 1840, Matthäus Klein would have been about 25 years old, not 21.

Matthäus Klein pursued his occupation of baker in downtown New Orleans. In the 1850 federal census and in several city directories his occupation is listed as “baker.” In the 1860 census he is listed as the “hospital baker” for the Marine Hospital, a hospital operated by the federal government to serve the numerous international seamen who came and went in New Orleans. Following the closure of the hospital at the outbreak of the Civil War, Matthäus Klein opened his own bakery at what was then 102 Desire Street, at the riverside, uptown corner of Love and Desire Streets. [Love Street was later renamed Rampart.]

Matthäus Klein died at the relatively young age of 55 on 7 September 1867. The family’s tragedy was compounded the following day, when Matthäus Klein’s second son and namesake, Johann Matthäus Klein, died at the age of 15.

According to her death record, Anna Elisabeth “Lisette” (Dickert) Klein died on 28 February 1907, at the age of 81 years, 10 months, and 10 days. This calculates to a birth date of 18 April 1825, which is the birth date inscribed on the Klein family tomb in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. Her obituary reported that she had been a resident of New Orleans for 59 years, meaning that she immigrated in about 1848. The 1900 U.S. Census also indicates that she immigrated in 1848.

#### Maternal (The Härer-Rapp Family)

Johannes Härer

Born 12 November 1815, Unterschlechtbach, Württemberg

Died after 1880, New Orleans, Louisiana

Margaretha Rapp

Born 12 January 1820, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 23 November 1849, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Married

On 27 April 1841, in Rudersberg, Württemberg.

#### Children

Sara Catharina Haerer

Born 19 September 1840, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 14 September 1896, New Orleans, Louisiana

Johann Gottlob Haerer

Born 23 January 1842, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 16 May 1891, New Orleans, Louisiana

Catharina Haerer

Born 1 February 1844, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 10 February 1865, New Orleans, Louisiana

Christina Haerer

Born 26 January 1847, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 17 September 1907, New Orleans, Louisiana

Johann Christian Haerer

Born 25 December 1848, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 26 May 1879, New Orleans, Louisiana



Notes:

Johannes Härer, the son of Christoph Härer and Christina Schaal, was the immigrant ancestor of the Härer family in New Orleans, Louisiana. His family had lived for generations in the small village of Unterschlechtbach (northeast of Stuttgart) in Württemberg, Germany. This area is known for its vineyards, and many members of his family were vine-dressers (people who prune, train, and cultivate vines). Johannes' occupation was apparently that of "Weber" (weaver).

In 1841, when Johannes was 25 years old, he married Margaretha Rapp of the nearby village of Oberndorf. She was the daughter of Michael Rapp and Catharina Niess. By the end of 1848, they had a family of five children. Within a year after the birth of her last child, Margaretha died. Johannes, left alone with five young children, remarried about a year later. His second wife was Catharina Schmid of Oberndorf, the daughter of Michael Schmid and Barbara Rapp. They were married 3 November 1850 in Rudersburg, Württemberg.

Church records in Rudersberg, Württemberg, indicate that the family intended to emigrate to America as early as Christmas of 1852. (A marginal note by his name says: "1852 an Weihnachten nach Amerika.") Johannes Härer apparently emigrated by himself to New Orleans, perhaps with the purpose of establishing a home before he sent for his family.

Catharina Härer and her five step-children embarked from LeHavre (France) on the ship *Granite State* and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 5 December 1854. There were 357 passengers on board. The passenger manifest lists the Härer family as follows:

290	Härer	Catharine	40	f	Wurtemberg [Württemberg]
1		Sara	12	"	
2		Gottlieb	9	m	
3		Catharine	8	f	
4		Christina	6	m	
5		Christian	5	m	

This family's name was Härer in Germany, but came to be spelled Haerer in the United States, although even in Germany, "ae" can be substituted for "ä."

The Haerer family settled in the 7th Ward of New Orleans on the Bayou Sauvage (Gentilly) ridge, where they followed the agricultural vocations of their forebears. Johannes and his son Johann Gottlob were listed in the federal censuses as "gardener" and "farmer." The Haerers joined other German-Lutherans at the downtown Lutheran church, St. Paul. Two of the children, Johann Gottlob and Christina, were both in the 1860 confirmation class. All of the children eventually married. Notes on each of them are given below:

Sara Haerer married Pankraz [after St. Pankraz] Wicker, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 7 April 1861. The Wickers had seven children. Sarah Haerer Wicker died in 1896; Pankraz Wicker died in 1900. They are buried in the Wicker family tomb in St. Louis Cemetery, No. 3, (on Esplanade Avenue) in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Johann Gottlob Haerer, was married twice. He was first married to Josephina Burlet from which marriage there were at least six children. After the death of Josephina, Gottlob married Christina Gerlinger, from which marriage there were at least seven children. (Both of these marriages took place at St. Paul Lutheran Church, M-889 and M-1937.)

Catharina Haerer married Gerhardt [?] Burlet, who was likely a brother to Josephina Burlet, first wife of Gottlob Haerer. They apparently had at least one child, Catherine. Catharina died at the age of 21 (on 10 February 1865). [Gerhardt Burlet apparently was remarried on 11 August 1867 to Anna E. Cyrus [M-1290]. "G. Härer," presumably Gottlob Haerer, was a witness.

Christina Haerer married Johann Friedrich Klein. They had seven children. The oldest of their children was Anna Elizabeth, who in 1905 married G. J. Wegener.

Johann Christian Haerer married Helena Gerlinger (the sister of Christina Gerlinger, second wife of Johann Gottlob Haerer). Christian died at the age of 30, after only 6½ years of marriage. They had two known children: Christina Haerer, born 25 December 1873, and, Helena Haerer, born 17 January 1877.

MY SECOND WIFE'S PARENTS

The Klein-Haerer Family

John Frederick Klein

Born 26 December 1850, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 26 November 1901, New Orleans, Louisiana

Christina Haerer

Born 26 January 1847, Oberndorf, Württemberg

Died 17 September 1907, New Orleans, Louisiana

Married

23 May 1872, by the Rev. C. G. Moedinger at Evangelical  
Lutheran St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Anna Elisabeth

Born 25 April 1873, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 1 March 1948, New Orleans, Louisiana

Georg "George" Friedrich

Born 6 December 1875, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 5 June 1894, New Orleans, Louisiana

Maria "Mary" Elisabethe

Born 27 March 1878, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 26 December 1948, New Orleans, Louisiana

Joseph Gottlieb

Born 19 November 1880, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 10 June 1927, New Orleans, Louisiana

Johann Friedrich "Fred"

Born 29 April 1883, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 15 November 1937, Harvey [?], Louisiana

Arnold Christian

Born 3 September 1886, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 1 January 1952, New Orleans, Louisiana

Christian Gottlieb

Born 31 March 1891, New Orleans, Louisiana

Died 28 February 1929, Monroe, Louisiana

Notes:

John Frederick Klein (baptized as Johann Friedrich Klein) was a cooper or barrel-maker by trade.

Miscellaneous notes:

Shortly after he accepted the call to become pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans, and before he left Illinois, G. J. Wegener took the appropriate legal steps to become a citizen of the United States. Since he came to America as a minor, he was able to submit his "petition" to become a citizen, and take the "final oath" on the same day. On Monday, 24 October 1887, he appeared before S. F. Gilmore, Judge of Effingham County, Illinois, before whom he swore "to support the Constitution of the United States" and to particularly "renounce and abjure" allegiance to "the Emperor of Prussia," Bremen being at that time a part of the Kingdom of Prussia. In the 1920 U.S. Federal Census, G. J. Wegener indicated that he was naturalized in 1887. [See naturalization records, Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois 61920.]

G. J. Wegener was installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church on 13 November 1887. He performed his first baptism there on 16 November 1887.

Epilogue:

According to Meta Wegener Hellmers:

As G. J. Wegener's health failed during the last year of his life, his eldest daughter, Julia Wegener, came from Brooklyn, New York, to be with him. Another daughter, Gertrude (Wegener) Gabriel, after dropping off her daughter Arlene at St. Paul's school, would then stay with him during the day. On Monday, 25 November 1946, G. J. Wegener died in his bed in the parsonage of St. Paul Lutheran Church at 824 Port Street.

After the death of her husband, Anna (Klein) Wegener lived in the homes of her daughter Louise (Wegener) Randolph at 1319 France Street, her son Carl Wegener, and her daughter, Gertrude (Wegener) Gabriel (the Rev. Mrs. Henry Gabriel) at 1326 Feliciana Street, where she died on Monday, 1 March 1948.

Both are buried in the Wegener family tomb, purchased by St. Paul Lutheran Church for the family's use, in St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery, No. 1, in New Orleans.

[Note: This is a draft document and is for informational purposes only. The data are available for anyone's use. Questions, corrections, and comments for its improvement are welcome, and should be sent to norm.hellmers (at) gmail.com.]