

CAPTAIN JOHANN HERMANN WEIDEMEYER

*"I the heir of all the ages
in the foremost files of time"*

--Alfred Tennyson

(Contributed by Lloyd H. Weidemeyer, Clearwater, FL)

Hauptmann (Military Captain) JOHANN HERMANN WEIDEMEYER was born circa 1665. The exact date and place of his birth have yet to be determined, although it is believed that he was raised in the area of Kassel. Parish records also spell his name as WEYDENMEYER, WEIDEMEIER, WEYDEMEIER and WEIDENMEIER.

Captain Weidemeyer was assigned to the Ziegenhainisch Ausnahms Company in Neukirchen, Hesse sometime between 1706 and 1710. He came to Neukirchen with his first wife, name unknown and at least two sons, LEOPOLD and ANTON FELIX. A third son was born of this marriage on 7 January 1710/11 in Neukirchen.

Although his Company and regiment are known, the archives at Marburg do not have any surviving rosters or description rolls for this regiment. Captain Weidemeyer served the balance of his military career in Neukirchen.

Neukirchen Confirmation records disclose that Leopold, the eldest son was confirmed in 1715 at age 15 and Anton Felix was confirmed in 1720 at age of 14. No further reference was found as to those two sons in Neukirchen Parish. Perhaps they too entered the military and served elsewhere.

JOHANN WALLRAB, the third son of Captain Weidemeyer by his first marriage was born on 7 January 1711 and died only four days later. The sponsor at his christening was a friend of his father, Lt. Johann Wallrabe von Reckerodt, Burg von der Hessian Artillery, Junker zur Salzungen.

The death of the first wife of Captain Herman Weidemeyer occurred on 12 January 1713/14. Curiously, Parish records do not provide her given name but state only that she was the Captain's wife, age about 40. If Parish records are correct Frau Weidemeyer was born circa 1674 about nine years after the birth of her husband.

Captain Weidemeyer married again on 4 August 1719 to ANNA CATHARINA REID a local girl from Neukirchen. By her, four children were born. Of Captain Weidemeyer's six sons, the descendants in Neukirchen all stem from JOHAN JACOB born in 1721. Two sons died young, JOHANN WALLRAB and GEORG WILHELM. The second son by the second marriage JOHANN CHRISTOFFEL was living in Neukirchen as late as 1748 when he served as Godfather at the birth of JACOB'S son CHRISTOFFEL, after which he disappears from the records. Perhaps he also entered the military and served elsewhere.

The funeral records for Captain Weidemeyer indicate that he and a baby grandson died the same day and were buried together:

*Died 21 April, buried 24 April, Herr Johann Hermann Weidemeyer,
former Captain with the Royal Land Militia after ceremonial removal
of the body, led by his relatives and the community. His age 88 years.
Same day, his grandson, son of Johann Jacob Weidemeyer,
named Johann Heinrich, aged 1 year 3 months, 11 days.*