

Carl Friedrich Wenstrup (And the Emigration to America)

Carl Friedrich Wenstrup (b. 12/2/1860 – d. 2/17/1953)

Carl Friedrich Wenstrup was born the fifth child of Joannes Bernardus and Bernardina Wenstrup on December 2, of 1860. He was born on the small farm of Joannes Bernardus on the southernmost of the original Wenstrup farms near Nellinghof. At the time of his birth, he would have had 3 living siblings, a fourth sibling brother Heinrich having died only six months before Carl Friedrich arrived. He would have had an older brother Joannes Henricus Bernardus, age 8, a sister Catherine Lisette age 7, and brother August (assuming he drowned after 1860) who would have been 2 years old. Prior to his leaving the farm in 1892, Carl Friedrich would have witnessed the birth of an additional 6 siblings. Carl Friedrich was baptized on December 5, 1860; and his godparents were Carl Wenstrup, Heinrich Borgmann, and Maria Borgmann.

When Carl Friedrich was 27 years old, his father, Joannes Bernardus, died at the age of 72 years, (May 24, 1888). Still at the home were Carl Friedrich, his mother Bernardina, his sisters Maria, Maria Carolina and Maria Bernardina, his younger brother Johan Herman, and possibly his younger brother Johann Joseph. It is not know if Johann Joseph was still living at the family farm or another location nearby at the time. From the spring of 1888 until the spring of 1891, 2 years later, it is likely that much preparation was made to move the remainder of the Wenstrup family of this farmstead to the United States. There was already a very large contingent of brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles in the United States around the Cincinnati area; and the correspondence must have convinced the remaining family that a better life could be had in the United States. At some point, Carl Friedrich must have approached the family Pohlmann about purchasing the family farm to obtain funds to pay for the passage of such a large contingent, 6 including himself, his mother, three sisters and younger brother Herman.

Carl Friedrich being the oldest son and heir to the small farm near Nellinghoff, probably made the decision to sell the farm to the family Pohlmann in order to raise the monies needed for the emigration. For Carl Friedrich the monies required to emigrate 6 people would have been quite large, probably on the order of around \$200. It is also possible that Carl Friedrich may have helped his future wife Anna Priesshof, who would follow Carl Friedrich to the Cincinnati area only several months later. After the Pohlmann family purchase of this small Wenstrup farm they only got to operate the farm for a short time. In 1909 the main building would burn down, and the Pohlmann's decided to build a pub and inn. They believed this would be a good location because the train line had come through this area and passed directly beside the property by that time. The Nellinghoff stop was literally less than 400 meters from the old farmhouse. The Pohlmann's determined that an Inn and pub would thrive near the newly created train stop.



28. Current pub owned by the family Pohlmann at the location of the old Wenstrup farmhouse where Carl Friedrich lived.

In late March or early April of 1891 Carl Friedrich, his mother and siblings left the small farm and headed for the port town of Bremerhaven. They likely traveled by horse and wagon across the northern part of Germany to Bremen. It is from Bremen that purchase of a ticket across the Atlantic would be made, and they could then lodge in the accompanying Inns that were used for passengers prior to their trek just down river to the docks and ships headed to the United States out of the deep water dock town of Bremerhaven.

On Thursday April 9th, 1891, Carl Friedrich Wenstrup boarded a ship in 'BremerHafen' / Bremen Germany and set sail for the city of Baltimore, in the United States. Carl Friedrich was accompanied by his mother, Bernardina Borgmann Wenstrup, three of his sisters Maria (b-10/21/1865 and d---/--/--) 25 years old, Maria Carolina (Sister Mary Camille) 19 years old, and Maria Bernadina (Sister Mary Basil) 16 years old, and his younger brother Johan Herman who was 14 at the time.

museum Bremen
DEUTSCHE AUSWANDERUNGSGESCHICHTE

Result of search for: WENSTRUP, FRIEDR.

Information about the passage	
Ship:	WEIMAR
Captain:	HEINCKE
Company:	UNKNOWN
Compartment:	STEERING - NO CABIN
Port of embarkation:	BREMEN
Port of debarkation:	BALTIMORE
Arrival:	22.04.1891
Information about the person	
Age:	30
Sex:	MALE
Calling / occupation:	LABORER
Ability to read and write:	UNKNOWN
Origin	
Last residence:	U
Last country:	GERMANY
Destination	
Final destination:	OH
Immigration note:	STAYING IN THE USA

Source: National Archives, USA Manifest Number: 16346

27. Document showing the emigration of Carl Friedrich Wenstrup to the United States in 1891 aboard the German Lloyd ship Weimar.

This Wenstrup family emigrating to the United States would have been part of the third and final wave of German immigrants which occurred from 1879 to the 1890's and was largely caused by religious persecution of the Catholics by the Prussians. In 1866 Prussia annexed states in Northern Germany and in 1871 Southern Germany Bavaria was united to form a New German Empire. Many people in the area of northern Germany, including Carl Friedrich Wenstrup, were opposed to the Prussian dominated government.

As related to his son Camillus Bernard Wenstrup, Carl Friedrich was forced to serve in the Prussian army in the 1880's and served in the area of Alsace-Lorraine. One of Carl Friedrich's desires was to emigrate to the United States so that none of his children would be forced to serve in the Prussian army for a cause he did not support. Carl and a woman by the name of Anna Priesshoff were contemplating marriage and Carl thought he would prefer raising his family in the United States.

When Carl Friedrich emigrated to the United States he was 30 years old. Two of his sisters that emigrated with him, Maria Carolina (Sister Mary Camille) 19 years old, and Maria Bernadina (Sister Mary Basil) 16 years old, would follow in their older sisters Maria Catharina Lisette's (Sister Mary Catherine) and Maria Catherine's (Sister Mary Bonaventure) footsteps and became nuns in the order of the Sisters of Notre Dame in Cincinnati, Ohio.

It is interesting to note that the closing of the American frontier and the United States depression of 1893 significantly reduced the emigration of Germans to the United States only a couple of years after Carl Friedrich and family emigrated.

Although Prussian oppression of the Catholic religion was a factor for emigration during this time it was not the only factor in Carl Friedrich's decision. The Neuenkirchen parish of St. Bonifacius was under control of the Duchy of Oldenburg and still under the influence of the Dutch Catholic regime at the time. For the most part the Prussian's left the Catholic's in this part of Germany alone with regards to their religious preference and thus the pressure on the Catholic Wenstrup family in the area of Neuenkirchen would have been less than in other locations.

Certainly other factors which would have led to Carl Friedrich's decision was the continued plight of the Heuermann, during these years. Although Carl Friedrich would have been the heir to the farmhouse and small farm, he must have made the decision that a better life could be had in the United States than he could forage on such a small parcel of land. Added to this was likely the information being related to him from his Uncles regarding the job opportunities in the United States and the relative wealth of said opportunities versus those that remained in Germany.

During the 19th century fully one half of the population of Neuenkirchen emigrated to the United States. There are numerous documents articulating the plight of the non-land owning Heuermann during this time and the difficulties they had in raising enough money to support a family. With many German families before them sending back word of the opportunities in the United States and the aggressive marketing emigration opportunities by shipping and trade companies in Northern Germany, including the one on which Carl Friedrich would book voyage, North German Lloyd; it is likely that Carl Friedrich identified that he could make a better life for his family in the Cincinnati area of The United States than he could in the Neuenkirchen area.

Emigrating to America ahead of Carl Friedrich and more than likely largely responsible for encouraging Carl, his mother, sisters and brother to emigrate were:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Relation</u>	<u>Date</u>
Johan Bernard Theodorus	Uncle	1842
Joannes Henricus	Uncle	10/21/1844
Anna Maria Gertrudis	Aunt	7/7/1845
Bernard Heinrich	Uncle	1856
Joannes Henricus Bernardus	Brother	???
Maria Catharina Lisette	Sister	4/25/1873
Marie Catharina	Sister	1882

29. Table documenting # German Immigrants to the U.S. 1850-1895

1851-55	1869-71	1871-80	1881-90	1891-95
647,273	331,821	1,096,253	2,412,990	436,410

Before 1850 the emigrants used three-masted sailing ships. These small boats held about 135 people and depending on the weather the voyage took anywhere from 6 weeks to 9 weeks. The conditions were so bad that on average about 10-15% died on board ship. By 1870 steamships carried over 90% of the emigrants. This ship held up to 350 passengers and the voyage was now only 2 weeks with a very low mortality rate. In Germany, Hamburg and Bremen were the major departure ports. Carl Friedrich departed out of Bremen as it was the major seaport closest to the family farm of Wenstrup. The steamship lines charged a \$60 fare to cross the Atlantic in the middle 1850's but by 1884 a \$18 fare could buy steerage passage to America. Of all the European ships crossing the Atlantic, the German ships were noted for having the best food and living conditions.

Steerage passengers leaving Bremen received a daily ration of cooked meat or bacon; beans, peas, or sauerkraut; potatoes from Sunday through Thursday; rice soup, or groats (oats) could be substituted for meat on Friday. The Saturday menu included rice or barley with plums and bacon. In addition each passenger over the age of one received weekly portions of three pounds of brown, two pounds of white bread, and $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of butter. Coffee was available every morning, and tea and coffee every afternoon together with daily allowance of drink and washing water.

Since the completion of 'Bremer Hafen' as the seaport of the Hanseatic City of Bremen in 1830 until the 1960s the city was the place of embarkation for about 7 million European emigrants who left for the New World. The great majority of them went to the United States of America. Thus Bremerhaven was not only the place through which most Germans left their homeland for overseas but at the turn of the century it also became the most important emigration port on the European Continent.



30. Map depicting the location of Bremen and Bremerhaven along the Weser river.



31. Picture of the transfer station in Bremerhaven where Carl Friedrich would have transferred to the transatlantic ship.

Upon reaching the city of Bremen, Carl, his mother, sisters and brother were likely lodged at one of the emigrant hostels prior to the final journey up the Weser river to the ship at Bremerhaven. Bremerhaven was actually a separate subcity, essentially annexed into the city of Bremen. Because Bremerhaven was located further downriver than Bremen, it had deeper water access and would likely have taken much of the freight revenues away from Bremen as shipping vessel sizes increased. Bremen took the proactive step of annexing the city unto itself.



32. Boat slip in port of Bremerhaven. Modern day German Emigration museum is located here.



33. Last point of German Soil sailing up Weser River into the North Sea at Bremerhaven Port.

Carl Friedrich and family were aboard the first sailing of the newly constructed vessel owned by the German Lloyd Company, and called the Weimar. The ship was part of the North German Lloyd's fleet making runs between Germany and the United States cities of New York, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

Built - 1891 by Fairfield Shipbuilding and Eng. Co. Ltd.
In Glasgow Scotland

Owner - Norddeutscher Lloyd of Bremen Germany

Dimensions- 415ft x 48ft

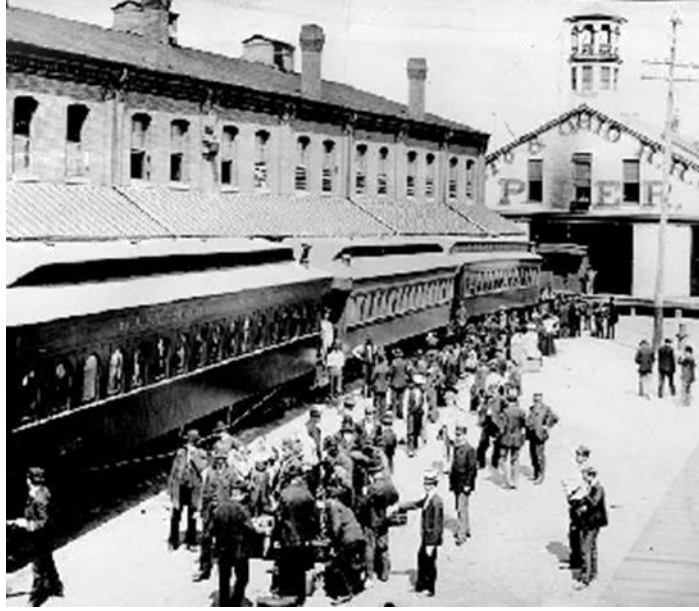
Burden - 4996 Gross

Known Sailings

<u>Year</u>	<u>Departure</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	
1891	Bremen	Baltimore	April 22
1891	Bremen	Baltimore	July 14
1891	Bremen	Baltimore	Oct 7
1892	Bremen	Baltimore	May 11
1892	Bremen	Baltimore	June 22
1892	Bremen	New York	Aug 1

34. Some known history about the German ship Weimar and it sailings.

Carl Friedrich Wenstrup and family arrived in the United States at the port of Baltimore on April 22nd, 1891. The port of Baltimore figured prominently in the 2nd and 3rd wave of German immigrants. Most of the 2 million immigrants who came to Baltimore between 1820-1989 came during the period between 1865 – 1895. Why Baltimore? One might reasonably expect to find that, as in the first wave, natural disaster and hardship, akin to that evidenced in the Irish potato famine, played a major role. While this is certainly true--Jews fled Poland and Russia between 1880-1921 due to 3 series of potato famines, each worse than the last, economic factors between the two cities of Baltimore and Bremen also played a large role. Strong economic ties existed between Baltimore and the German port of Bremen due to Baltimore's exports of tobacco, cotton, and grain. In 1868, John W. Garrett, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O), executed an agreement with the North German Lloyd steamship line to provide regular service to Baltimore. Exports from Baltimore would go to Bremen, and immigrants would come to Baltimore on the return voyage disembarking at the B&O's newly built immigrant pier. Two-thirds of the immigrants arriving in this fashion purchased a single ticket which saw them across the ocean and to cities of the midwestern U.S. The pier was constructed so that, in many cases, immigrants proceeded directly from the pier to waiting trains. Baltimore became second only to New York in the number of immigrants received, and this service lasted until World War I.



35. Transfer station at the Baltimore docks where Carl Friedrich may have transferred to a Cincinnati bound train.

After making their way to the Cincinnati area, Carl Friedrich eventually settled in northern Kentucky. He married Anna Prieshoff on May 4, 1892. Carl Friedrich was able to gain employment almost immediately upon arrival at Verkamps, a tailor shop in downtown Cincinnati. He rented a house near St. Aloysius in Covington on Bakewell St., near where Hayden and Deloras Terry would later live with their children Fred and Janice. Later, Carl and Anna purchased a house at 224 East 12th Street in Covington Kentucky, where they raised their family and lived until they died. Upon their death the house was transferred to their youngest daughter Dorothy who had lived with them and taken care of them in their later years.



36. House at 224 E. 12th St. where Carl Friedrich and Anna lived. Later Dorothy would live in this house.

Carl and Anna would have 5 sons and then 2 daughters. The oldest son was Edward Wenstrup. Edward would join the priesthood as a Benedictine and later teach at St. Vincents College in Latrobe Pennsylvania. A biologist by education, Edward taught biology and genetics at St. Vincents. He was a large man and was often called “Big Ed.” He played pitcher on the baseball team at the college.

Carl and Anna’s second son was Lee. Lee after finishing elementary school would attend one year of business school before working for a company that would later transfer him to the Pennsylvania area as well.

Carl and Annas next two sons were Al and Larry. Like Lee Al and Larry completed elementary school and then a year of business school before entering business life. Al was a distributor of electronics for a major firm and later Larry worked for Al. Larry died at a relatively young age of Lung Cancer.

Carl and Annas fifth son was named Camillus. Camillus, known commonly as Cam, was a gifted athlete, marksman, musician, and all around Renaissance Man. Camillus worked much of his life in a dry goods shop in Cincinnati.

When asked about the reasons for his leaving Germany and bringing his family to America, Carl told his grandson David Lawrence Wenstrup that the major motivating factor was the forced servitude in the Prussian Army. Carl Friedrich had been forced to fight for a cause he did not believe in in the Alsace region of Germany against the French. He was forced to get a tattoo dog tag and in general disliked the army and the rule of Germany at the time very much. For this and reasons previously discussed the family came to the United States and after a couple years settled in at 224 E 12th St. on the east side Covington in a neighborhood known as Helentown to begin the US chapters of their lives.

Helentown was a largely German Catholic neighborhood formed in the 1820's by German immigrants. Constructed later in 1854-55, St. Joseph school and parish church would become the epicenter of Helentown. Helentown was essentially a subsection of Covington with 8th St. as its northern boundary, the Licking River as the eastern boundary, Madison Pike as the western boundary, and the railroad tracks as its southern boundary. The railroad tracks are part of the Covington -Lexington line constructed around 1853, and the spur separating Helentown from the neighborhood to its immediate south, Austinburg, was the Campbell County spur which crosses the Licking River just south of the 12th St. bridge. Austinburg would play prominently in future generations of the U.S. descendants of Carl Friedrich.



37. Map depicting the eastern neighborhood of Covington known as Helentown.

Located in the heart of Helentown, Carl Friedrich's house was about a half block from the parish church of St. Joseph, which was located on the north western corner of 12th and Greenup Streets in Covington Ky.. Only one block further from that was the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption on the north eastern corner of 12th and Madison and between the two churches was the parish school of St. Joseph. The combination church and school of St. Joseph was dedicated in 1855, and the Bishop at the time George A. Carroll arranged for Benedictine Priests of Latrobe Pennsylvania to establish a priory there and care for the parish. The fact that Carl's son Ed would later become a Benedictine Priest and serve in Latrobe at the Benedictine College Saint Vincents shows that the parish of St. Josephs played a very important role in the family life.



38. *St. Joseph Church located on the North West corner of 12th Street and Greenup St. in Covington Kentucky.*

St. Joseph church and school was completed and a healthy functioning parish before the construction of the Cathedral even started. By 1877 the church steeple of St. Josephs' rose 305 feet into the sky and was the tallest building in all of Covington. The steeple contained two bells purchased back in 1863, the larger bell 2200lbs was named St. Maria, and the smaller bell 1600lbs was named St. Joseph. The church was so vibrant that in 1879 the parish would undertake the formation of a sister parish in the adjacent Austinburg neighborhood to the south. Pastor at the time, Father Aegidius, would purchase a parcel of land on E16th St. for \$3000 and work on the new church began in 1884. The inspiration for the name of the new parish was obviously linked to the Benedictine roots of St. Joseph parish. Completed in 1885 the initial parish consisted of 80 families and the building acted as a combination church and school. St. Benedicts would be an important parish and church to the Wenstrup family; with the next 3 generations all going to church, refereeing volleyball, and attending church festivals at this location.

On the evening of July 7, 1915 a tornado swept through Northern Kentucky and the tower of St. Joseph fell through the house at the corner of 12th and Greenup. This house would have been only 4 houses away from Carl Friedrichs house. Carl Friedrichs son Camillus remembers sleeping through the tornado but seeing bricks from the steeple in the yard across the street the next morning. By 1916 a new steeple had been erected and it was surrounded by an elegant cupola, this tower is represented in the photo of St. Joseph Church above.

St. Josephs parish continued to grow in the early 20th century and the parish decided to purchase land for a new school immediately after the First World War. This

school was constructed on the North Eastern corner of 12th and Scott St.. It was this building that Carl Friedrichs son Camillus and grandson David Lawrence would attend school.



39. *St. Benedicts Church on E. 16th St. Covington Ky.*



40. *Old St. Josephs School where Camillus and David Lawrence would attend.*

After World War 2, the neighborhood of Helentown entered into a prolonged decline as more and more families moved to the suburbs. In 1967, the parish school was merged with the nearby Cathedral school to form Bishop Howard Elementary. Bishop Howard Elementary would continue to use the St. Joseph elementary school building partly because of its location between the Cathedral and St. Joseph church. In 1970 Bishop Ackerman announced the closing of St. Joseph church, the last mass was celebrated in the old church on July 5, 1970. The church was demolished in the fall of 1970, and the remaining families transferred to either the Cathedral or St. Benedicts parish.

It is worthwhile here to review the history of the Cathedral, and how the Cathedral church of the diocese of Covington would come to be located so close to St. Josephs church and how in some ways would ultimately lead to the closing of St. Josephs. Early in the history of Covington Kentucky a Catholic church was established in 1837. This church was to be called St. Mary parish and occupied a small brick chapel on 5th street. Initially St. Mary parish served all Catholics in Covington; however, in 1841 the German speaking Catholics decided to form a new parish on 6th street called Mother of God parish. St. Mary parish became associated with the Irish Catholic residents of Covington and Mother of God with the German contingent. In 1853 the Diocese of Covington was established with the first bishop Reverend George Aloysius Carrell (Jesuit). This raised St. Mary parish to the status of Cathedral.

The congregation quickly outgrew the chapel on 5th St. and on June 11, 1854 a new church was consecrated on the north side of 8th St. between Scott and Greenup. This was a Tudor style brick church and already moving closer to the location of St. Josephs.



41. Cathedral Church of St. Marys on 8th St. between Scott and Greenup.

In 1885 Belgian native Reverend Camillus Maes was appointed the new Bishop of the Diocese of Covington. As early as 1890, Bishop Maes began planning for the construction of a new Cathedral. Later in 1890 a large lot and adjacent home at the corner of Madison and 12th St. were purchased for the construction of a new Gothic Cathedral. St. Marys and the proposed Cathedral would now be less than 2 blocks from the existing St. Joseph parish. Despite the poverty of the Diocese and an economic depression, Bishop Maes broke ground for the new Cathedral in April 1894 exactly 3

years to the month of Carl Friedrich arriving in the United States. Construction of this massive Cathedral only two and a half blocks away from Carl Friedrichs house would go on for the next 16 years. On September 8, 1865 more than 20,000 people, including many from across the river in Cincinnati, flocked to the corner of 12th and Madison to see the laying of the cornerstone for the new Cathedral. The Cathedral was to be built in Gothic style with a look to be similar to Notre Dame in Paris. Lack of sufficient funds delayed work on the Cathedral over the years but in 1900 the work on the Naïve and Sanctuary of the Cathedral were complete. The first mass celebrated at the new Cathedral occurred on New Years eve Dec 31, 1900 at midnight. At the time it was considered the most beautiful Catholic Cathedral in the western United States.

Although largely completed in 1910, there were still additional works inside and out to be completed on the Cathedral. Bishop Camillus Maes, however, would not live to see the completion of these items. In 1914, Bishop Maes returned to his boyhood home in Belgium to visit old friends. He arrived in his hometown, just in time to see his boyhood home demolished for the construction of military defenses. This was the beginning of the First World War. Bishop Maes returned to Covington in great despair, fell ill in the spring of 1915, and died on May 11, 1915. After originally being buried at St. Mary cemetery in Fort Mitchell, Bishop Maes remains were moved inside the Cathedral in 2019. The final resting place inside the Cathedral is in the Baptistry on the main floor of the church because a Crypt originally started during Maes time still to this day was never completed. The two predecessor bishops before Maes remain buried at St. Marys in Fort Mitchell.



42. *Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. 12th and Madison Covington Kentucky.*

Carl Friedrich died on February 17, 1953 and was buried at Mother of God cemetery in Covington Kentucky on February 20, 1953. Mother of God cemetery would become the resting place for the next several generations of Wenstrup descendants and their loved ones.

Mother of God cemetery was founded in 1887, when Saint Joseph cemetery, also known as Buena Vista cemetery or Old Mother of God cemetery, on West 26th Street in Covington Kentucky became too small to accommodate the growing German Roman Catholic population. It was formed when Father William Tappert requested from the third Bishop of Covington Reverend Camillus Maes to purchase land and form a joint graveyard for the Covington parishes of Saint Aloysius, Saint Augustine, Mother of God, Saint Benedict, and Saint Joseph. Later after its construction Holy Cross church in Latonia would join the other 5 churches to form the 6 church governing body of the cemetery. A 43 acre farm lying between Independence Pike (Hwy 17 or 3L Hwy) and the old Latonia Race Course Avenue (Latonia Avenue) was purchased. Additional purchases have grown the size of the cemetery to its current 55 acres.

At the center of the cemetery and largely visible throughout is a large sculpture of the crucifixion by noted Cincinnati artist Clement Barnhorn. The inscription at the bottom reads "Ich Bin Die Auferstehung / und das Leben + + Jon - 11 - 25." Translation is "I am the Resurrection / and the Life." The fact it is in German speaks to the German influence and largely German language spoken at the time.



43. *Large sculpture at the center of Mother of God cemetery.*



44. Carl Friedrich Wenstrup in 1946 at Mammoth Cave with son Al and daughter Dorothy.



45. Tombstone of Carl Friedrich Wenstrup. Mother of God Cemetery, Covington Ky.



46. Lyda's mom Hammond with Granddaughter Susan in front of house at East 18th Street in Covington Kentucky in 1957.