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The Wołowski of Waliców: area, people and artefacts

Les Wołowski de Waliców: espace, individus, artifices

Marianna Agata Wołowska was born in Warsaw in 1789. Her laconic certificate of baptism provides information on her parents as well her godparents. Marianna Agata was the fourth child born to Franciszek Wołowski and Barbara Wołowska. Szymanowska's parents and grandparents were faithful followers of Jacob Frank, the Jewish charismatic leader of a religious and social movement. Her grandparents on both sides, maternal as well paternal, originated from Rohatyn in Podolia of Eastern Poland (now Ukraine). The pianist's father was a son of well-recognized Shlomo Schorr, a close associate of Jacob Frank. According to Paweł Maciejko, the historian and the author of a book on frankists, it was the Schorr family, who had a great impact on the successful spreading frankism in Podolia¹⁴⁴. Shlomo Schorr at his baptism took the name Franciszek Łukasz.

Franciszek Łukasz and Marianna Lanckorońska (Maria's paternal grandparents) had at least 6 children. The chronological order of their birth was:

Andrzej (1751 Rohatyn – 1808 Warsaw)

Marianna (1757 Rohatyn – Warsaw)

Franciszek (1759 Lviv – 1839 Warsaw)

Agata (1764 Warsaw – 1809 Warsaw)

Ludwik (1765 Warsaw – 1832 Warsaw)

Marcin (1772 Warsaw – 1810 Warsaw)

¹⁴⁴ P. Maciejko, *The Mixed Maltitude: Jacob Frank and the Frankist Movement, 1755 – 1816*, Philadelphia, 2011, ss. 39 i 40.

Although the family came from Rohatyn, Maria's father Franciszek was born in Lviv, very likely in 1759. Such information was provided by an informant reporting Franciszek's Wołowski death in 1839. Further, the presence of the Wołowski family in Lviv in 1759 is confirmed also by the list of Jews baptised in the city of Lviv which presents a child - Andreas/Andrzej Wołowski - Franciszek's older brother.

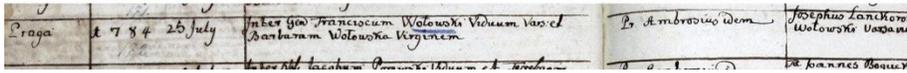
The Wołowski family had to settle in Warsaw before 1764, because their daughter Agata was born there on that year. But they did not arrive directly from Lviv. The family's prior destination was a small private town called Wojsławice, located about 90 km to the South East from Lublin. This is, where frankists came in the 50-ties of XVIII century. In June 1761 Frank was to give an enigmatic order to one of his close associates to make efforts for the city.¹⁴⁵ There were misunderstandings between new settled frankists and the Jewish community from the very beginning. In the context of later events, this information is particularly difficult. The culmination of the conflict among Jews and frankists occurred in 1761. A woman impersonating a rabbi's wife made a false accusation of murdering a Christian child by Jews. After a brutal investigation, the accused Jews were sentenced to death. The others were exiled from the city.

Another question I am unable to answer is how the family made its living in Warsaw. There is a story, which has not yet received confirmation, that Franciszek Łukasz (Shlomo Schorr) became a personal advisor of Stanisław II August - the last king of Poland. It might be only a story, but each story has a grain of the truth. It is worth paying attention to the fact that Franciszek Łukasz never provided information about his profession. Acting as a witness or as a person representing someone's interests, Franciszek Łukasz described himself as a person maintaining living costs through his own assets. The question is where were those funds came from. I know much more about professional preferences of the next generation. Two older sons, Andrzej and Franciszek, successfully ran a brewery and distillery. Of the two younger sons, Ludwik was a notary public and Marcin a merchant. In case of their daughters, the older one, Marianna, married Jakub Kapliński

¹⁴⁵ <http://blog.polona.pl/2014/12/dziecie-okrutnie-zamordowane/> dostęp 07.09.2019

who also ran a brewery. Agata's husband Franciszek Szymanowski was a prosperous tobacco merchant.

Maria's parents: Barbara and Franciszek Wołowski met and married in Warsaw in 1784. The ceremony took place in the parish of Our Lady of Loreto situated on the right bank of the Vistula river in Praga. As the marriage certificate indicates Franciszek was a widower.



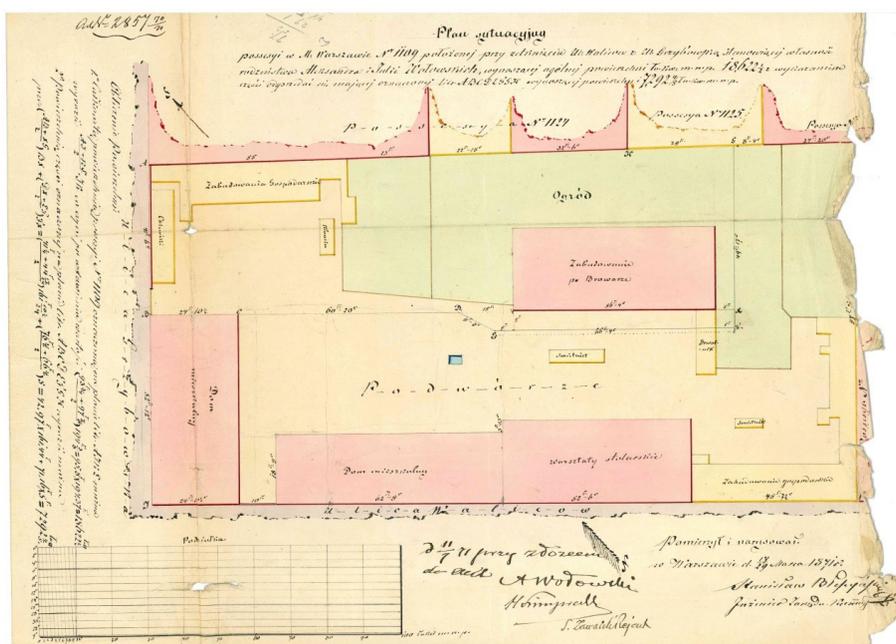
Marriage certificate of Franciszek Wołowski and Barbara Wołowska, Archiwum Diecezjalne Warszawsko – Praskie, Parafia Rzymskokatolicka Matki Bożej Loretańskiej, 1784, Małżeństwa, a. 172.

I am unable to answer the question who was his first wife, but I am quite sure that there were not any children from that marriage. I base my assumption on some information coming from notary records. Neither in the last will written by Franciszek himself nor in the inventory of his possession indexed after his death there were no indications that other children were born in his marriage with Barbara. The profession of a brewer was not eagerly continued by Franciszek's children. His sons who received good education, realized themselves as officials as well in the legal and medical professions. Without a doubt, among the Wołowski's children the most famous was Marianna Agata called shortly Maria. But equally interesting, though not artistically is the biography of Jan Ignacy Wołowski - the oldest of the siblings. As a twenty year old, he started working as a secretary and a translator to the French Commissioner in Duchy of Warsaw. Soon he was promoted to a capitan in 2nd Uhlan's regiment. After a short leave taken in 1810 to improve his health he returned as a capitan in the military service as an auxillary adjutant to Hieronim Bonaparte - a former king of Westphalia. Then he was an adjutant in the main Staff of the Napoleon's Polish army. Jan took part in wars conducted between 1809 – 1812. He fought in main battles at Mir, Smoleńsk, Możejask and under the river Berezyna. At Mir he was wounded in the leg and during a retreat of the Napoleonic troops from Vilna taken as a prisoner. After his release from captivity, and despite his

commitment to fighting against Russia, he continued his military career in the Kingdom of Poland controlled by the Russians and in 1830 he was even awarded for 15 years of spotless military service. Despite the loyalty oath he made to the Tsar in October 1831, he was dismissed from military service. During the November Uprising 1830 Jan Wołowski took the wrong side - the side of insurgents fighting against Russians.

Waliców

It is quite difficult to write about Waliców street where the family lived in Warsaw, since the street changed its topography after WWII. The Waliców street arose only in the second half of XVIII century due to Bazyli Walicki and had a completely different character while frankists were arriving to Warsaw.



Situational plan of the property No. 1109 located in Warsaw, 1871, Archiwum Państwowe w Warszawie, Oddział w Pułtusk, Hipoteka Warszawska, syg. 1554, s. 195.

In October 1805 Barbara and Franciszek Wołowski bought a property located at Waliców street. The previous owners Antoni and Petronella Ciećwierscy sold the property for the amount of 13 000,00 zloty. It is difficult to say what kind of buildings, except a bricked house, were located on the plot in the beginning of XIX century. But I may substantially describe the property in the 30-ties of XIX century. It was a quite big plot with an area of 18 622 m².

A rectangular plot was adjoined with a longer side to Waliców Street and a shorter one to Grzybowska Street. Although the property performed residential functions, this was largely an industrial area. The preserved map of the property and a list of immovables indexed for the purpose of an upcoming auction gives us a quite reliable description of it. The plot was fenced partly with a wall and partly with a wooden fence and the spacious entrance gate and wicket has always been in the same place. The property's courtyard was paved with field stones and wooden blocks. Based on provided information, I tried to find out the location of several buildings placed there.

The living house was always located in the corner of Grzybowska and Waliców streets. Along the shorter side of the plot was located a bricked and basemented distillery. Then also along the same side stood a "former", partly bricked stable. The document indicates that the distillery as well the stable were not used in the turn of 30 ties and 40 ties of XIX century. The other stable stood along a wall separating Wołowski's plot from the plot 1124. In front of stables were situated a wooden, roofed cloak with two toilets. The brewery occupied the central part of the plot. It was a very solid building in which it was located: a room for production on a ground floor and a room for storing beer in the basement. The other four living quarters were intended for a foreman. A malthouse and hop drayer were housed in a basement of a bricked building adjoining the wall on Waliców street and on the ground floor barley was stored. The extension of this building housed a mill and a smaller hop drayer. In the central part of the courtyard two wells with wooden pumps were located. The property's courtyard was paved with field stones and wooden blocks.

Barbara's Wołowska death did not bring serious changes in ownership relations. Pursuant to the principles - of the civil law - any movables

and immovables owned by spouses were their joint property. Due to the binding law, the estate was inherited by the children and the husband of deceased. In fact, it was only Franciszek's death that made the Wołowski siblings think about the future of the real estate at Waliców street. None of the Wołowski's children or their descendants made a living from the brewery. This industrial property therefor was completely unsuitable for heirs. The auction of the property for which several bidders stood took place on October 3rd 1842. As a result, the property was purchased by the Wołowski's siblings: Julia and Aleksander. The new owners decided to change the nature of the property. One of the industrial buildings was rebuilt and intended for residential purposes. Others were transformed into carpentry workshops. A part of the property, including garden and building of a former brewery, was purchased in 1871. Finally, in 1876 Kazimiera Wołowska, as the only owner, sold the property to Nathan Machenbaum.

Marriage

On June 21st 1810 in Saint Andrew church in Warsaw a marriage ceremony was concluded between Marianna Agata Wołowska and Józef Franciszek Szymanowski. Although the future spouses were of legal age they were assisted: Marianna Agata by both parents; Józef Franciszek, whose parents were deceased, by his grandfather – Franciszek. The bride side was also represented by her older brother – Jan Ignacy Wołowski who served in the IX regiment of as a quartermaster.

Due to analysis of various vital records, comparing age, names and addresses of several members of the Wołowski and the Szymanowski family, it is clear that Maria Agata Wołowska married her first cousin Józef Szymanowski. (Maria's father Franciszek and Józef's mother Agata were siblings).

They young couple moved into Szymanowski's family house at Biełańska st. and quite quickly became parents. The twins Helena and Romuald were born in 1811. Then in the next year came Celina and then on August 1st, 1813, there was born another child named Aleksy Karol Jan, who died in March 1815.

In publications about Maria Szymanowska, there is sometimes repeated information that her husband came from nobility and owned land property. It is not the truth, because in the marriage certificate, Józef Szymanowski presents himself as a merchant. In other documents issued a bit later, he appears as a merchant and producer of snuff and tobacco. Szymanowski became a land leaseholder only in the end of 1819. The fact Maria had to move to Otwock far from the city and city life was the last straw that broke the camel's back and led her to file for divorce. The Szymanowski marriage lasted 10 years and ended in July 1820.

Józef Szymanowski is an almost unknown character. Stanisław Morawski, who considered himself a friend of Maria's, in his memoirs, briefly describes her husband. He does not openly blame Józef about the divorce, but in very kind words speaks about a mismatch of spouses. Morawski accuses Szymanowski of many faults for his wife. First of all, he considers him a *mari - monster*, who does not understand Maria's needs and who forces her to lead country life, to which she was not created. Morawski complains that the ex-husband does not guarantee sufficient funds to support children after divorce¹⁴⁶.

I disagree with negative opinions on Szymanowski. Based on results on my research, I can say he was not only an open-minded, intelligent and well prosperous entrepreneur, but also a responsible father. It is not true that Szymanowski "gave some money to raise children". Civil law regulated not only the issue of childcare, but also placed on the father an obligation to pay alimony¹⁴⁷. It is worth to mention that the list of liabilities in Szymanowski's posthumous inventory indicates the amount of 2300,00 zloty. The funds probably were an annual deposit for Celinia's living expenses. I want to emphasize Józef Szymanowski managed to maintain cordial relationships between children from his first and second marriage. Very touching to me was studying the file in which Aniela's Leszczyńska (former Szymanowska – the oldest child of Józef's second marriage) was making a request directed to the viceroy of the Kingdom of Poland for permission for her two nieces to come and visit

¹⁴⁶ *Rękopis znaleziony w Paryżu. Wspomnienia Stanisława Morawskiego o Marii Szymanowskiej*, Warszawa 2013, s. 60.

¹⁴⁷ *Kodex Napoleona*, Warszawa, 1810, t. 1 s. 74 -76.

her in Warsaw for a year. Aniela in her request dated on 1857 describes the situation of her nieces occurred after the death of both their parents Adam Mickiewicz and Celina Szymanowska.

Although Józef Szymanowski did not have the soul of the poet, he was sensitive person. He paid a lot of attention to the children's musical development. Music making was an integral part of everyday life in the Szymanowski house. Among various movables in Józef's inventory are listed 4 instruments: a Nederman harp, a violin, a viola, a grand piano and two hundred pieces of different scores for violin, grandpiano as well for singing. Both Maria and Józef were musically gifted. Maria who was a strong live and artistic personality was encouraged to go her own way. During her life, she achieved fame, popularity and even recognition of the tzarist ruling family. In 1827 in Warsaw at the request of Aleksandra Romanowa, the Russian empress, she was recognized as the first grand-pianist and awarded with a diamond clasp. It is worth to mention, that Maria realized her artistic ambitions also thanks to her husband, who removed himself from her life.