Biographical Sketch

Theodore Carl Otto Wolpers was born January 15, 1790, as the son of General States Auditor Paul Godfried Frantz Wolpers in Maelstricht, Prussia. He died December 21, 1868 in Germantown, Ohio. He bought cemetery lot #259, April 9, 1867 in Germantown Cemetery. Wolpers immigrated to the United States sometime around 1810-1812. The transcription of his naturalization papers in the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas on October 7, 1836 certificates that he had resided more than five years in the U.S. and also “having proven his residence in the United States since before the 17th of June 1812 by oath of Augustus J.B. Swarts” and renounced allegiance to the Duke of Brunswick. Swarts was Wolpers brother-in-law, with whom he was in business in Germantown. Swarts was also spelled – Schwartz. Where Wolpers was between his arrival in the U.S. in 1812 and his moving to Bellefontaine in 1817 is unclear. There is evidence that he was involved in business transactions in Cincinnati and Germantown. In 1820, Wolpers evidently arrived in Germantown, though one source says he did not get there until 1824. He stayed in Germantown until his death in 1868.
Series Description

**Series I**: Belleville (Present day Bellefontaine) Store Records, 1817-1819, Logan County, Ohio. This was a store in which Charles Wolpers was a partner from 1817 to 1820.

Vol. 1: *Journal* or Day Book for Belleville Store from May 4, 1817 to August 19, 1817. Entries for each day’s sales are given with the name of the purchaser, item or items purchased, how many of each, unit price for each item and the total price for the transaction. The name of Charles O. Wolpers appears among the purchasers’ names on the dates of May 14th, 30th, and June 4th and 10th; at least 40 names are readable. The journal is unbound and is 8” by 12 ½ “. (It is tattered around the edges and is slowly falling apart. Preservation techniques and a cover are needed to prevent further deterioration.)

Vol. 2: *Ledger* or Account Book which is dated on the top of each page or account, February 1, 1820, and is proceeded by the heading Logan County. Below this is the name of the debtor and is followed by “To Gluer and Wolpers.” Under this heading is the date that each debt occurred, the item or items purchased, how many of each, the unit price, and the total debt owed. The years involved are from 1817 to 1819. The earliest date is May 3, 1817; the same as the beginning date in the Day Journal. The latest date is July 14, 1819. The ledger contains fewer names than the journal. Some names appear in both sets of books; for example, George Blalock and John Workman. (The ledger is a hardback cover dated January 1941, which says “Journal” on its front. The ledger’s pages are tattered and in some cases torn. They could use preservation techniques.

**Series II**: Germantown, Ohio Store Records of Wolpers and Schwartze, 1846-1865.

Vol. 1: Ledger, bound 6” by 14 1/2” from Wolpers and Schwartze Store in Germantown with entries for years 1844-1855. The first section consists of 26 pages that is an alphabetical index of customers during a four-year period, 1846-1850. There are over 300 names in the index. The remainder of the ledger consists of the names of customers, what they bought, and the price. A few of the entries are dates: 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1854, and 1855. These last few years mark, I believe, the paying off of old debts from previous years. The last two pages in the ledger are dated 1852-1855 and contain the account with Unger and Groneweg (this may be Stoneweg; it is hard to tell from the writing). Customers were from Farmersville, Lebanon, Westville (?), and Greenville. Pages 14-15 contain the personal (not sure) account of C.O. Wolpers. Near the end of the ledger are three pages of “Notes registered, Sept. 26, 1846.” They are listed by name of town with the name of purchaser and amounts sold. The towns include Springborough, Miamisburg, Centerville, New Madison, West Alexandria, Paris, Westville, Eaton, New Baltimore, Lexington, Jacksonburgh, Richmond, Oxford, Cambridge, Mittenville, Camden (this is probably a misspelling of Camden), Winchester, and Lewisburgh.
Vol. 2: Bound day Book of Journal, 6 ½” by 8”, from Wolpers and Schwartz Store in Germantown. Front cover is inscribed “New Book.” This contains entries of individual transaction, purchases, name of customer, article, price, date, payments, and name of payee, amount, and credit by cash that was paid on delivery. First entry is on Nov. 10, 1851. Last entry in continuous series is Sept. 20, 1862. There are a number of entries after that; the last one is on March 4, 1865. Page 39 (1853) is a draft of a letter soliciting business and praising the quality of whiskey, gin, and vinegar. Page 230, May 25, 1861, by cash in Kentucky currency - $26.00; Page 255, October 12, 1863 and page 256, October 17, 1863, have reference to cash being paid to the First National Bank of Germantown. These would have been one of the First National Bank which was chartered in 1863. Several unnumbered pages near the back of the book contain a list of the amount of whiskey, vinegar, gin, and ether sold at various dates in 1856, 1857, and 1858. There are also several drafts of a letter dated June 12, 1854 that are unsigned and concern the appointment of a chemical inspector of a “chemical liquor inspector” for Montgomery County. Whoever wrote this seemed to be either recommending someone for the post and/or is declining the appointment himself.

Vol. 3: Ledger, 6” by 15”, from Wolpers and Schwartz Store or business is Germantown. Inscription on front cover”

Charles O. Wolpers
In Act
With
Wolpers & Schwartz
*************************
Extract
From
Old Day Book
&
New Day Book

These two books are marked as above on their front pages.

The first section is an alphabetical index to the accounts in the third section, giving the name of the individual and the page number where the account appears. The second section consists of four pages headed, Charles O. Wolpers account with purchases from various individuals. This may have been done by Wolpers as a traveling salesman. The first entry appears to give the total worth of Wolpers & Schwartz as of Oct. 5, 1850. The third section, pages 1-48, are cumulative accounts of 65 different individuals. On the left hand page are the charges or purchases; on the right hand page are the credits or payments. Dates range from 1850-1862, so it is a companion record of the New Day Book (with cross-referenced pages). There are also some page references to the Old Day
Book. Merchandise sold included chemicals, ammonia, ether, whiskey, wine, brandy, and vinegar.

Series III: Two letters from Germany in 1824 and 1825 from his brother, Wilhelm Wolpers. They are translated from German by Margaret Wilde.

Letter 1: From Wilhelm Wolpers to Charles Wolpers, dated March 12, 1824. Sent from the Principality of Lippe Detmold, town of Horn, Wilhelm writes of his and the entire family’s joy at finding out that Charles is alive and well in America. Wilhelm tells about how their brothers and their families and their aged mother are doing. Wilhelm tells about his own life, how he met his wife and married her and the number of children that they have. Wilhelm says that currently times are bad, but he believes that he and his wife will make it through them. He looks forward to correspondence with Charles and hopes to see him again someday, either in Germany or America.

Letter 2: Sept. 30, 1825, a letter from Wilhelm Wolpers to his brother Charles (whom he calls Otto). Wilhelm apologizes for not having written to him sooner because their brother Heinrich kept the letter in Bremen for several months. Wilhelm goes on to say that times are still hard for their family. Wilhelm’s father-in-law suffers badly from epilepsy, but otherwise everybody is in good health, including their 77 year old mother. All the family loves Charles and is anxiously waiting to hear from him.