Andreas Vesalius’s Genealogy

Maurits Biesbrouck, 2014, Roeselare (Belgium)

Vesalius’s oldest known ancestor in Wezel was Evert Witing (+ 1451) who had two sons: Harman II (+ 1479), who stayed at Wezel, and Johannes, who moved to Leuven.

I. Jan Wijtinc, dictus de Wesalia (van Wesele in 1429), his great-grand-father.
Born in Wezel (Land van Kleef, Nordrhein-Westfalen) circa 1400 and died before 28 May 1476. Promotion as doctor in medicinis on 23 January 1427 at the university of Pavia (Italy), became professor of medicine in 1429 at the University of Leuven (founded in 1426), was also a mathematician and an astronomer and he was several times rector of the university. He received the family weapon with three weasels from Frederik III. He became later the physician of the city of Brussels and became the personal doctor of Ferdinand III, Charles the Bold and Mary of Burgundy.

He owned the manor Sweet Water in Oud-Heverlee, which he bought in 1474 from Willem of Spontin.

He was married a first time around 1436 with Mathilde (Machteld) van El(l)(i)ck (+ ca. 1467) and had five children with her:
- Everaert (° ca. 1436)
- Johanna, married with Roeland ‘t Seraerts
- Hendrik
- Paul
- Jan

He married a second time with Agnes Sweerts (ca. 1443- after 1517). They had one (possibly two) children:
- Agnes
- Barbe (Barbara)?

After his death Agnes Sweerts remarried (21-05-1477) with Jan de Coster son of Nicolas and a third time with Machiel Scribaens, whom she survived also.

II. Everaert Wijtinc de Wesalia, dictus van Wesele (Leuven, ca. 1436 – Brussels, 1484), his grand-father.
He immatriculated in 1449 in Leuven in the artes. He was a doctor in 1461 and inherited the Sweet Water, became the court physician of Archduke Maximillian of Austria, who married Mary of Burgundy. He died in Brussels but was burried in Leuven. Only on 19 July 1485 his brothers and sister sold the family possessions in Wesel, indicating that the bounds with their place of origin remained a long time after Joannes de Vesalia left there.

He had two natural sons with Margaretha ’s Winters, the second of which was Andreas, father of the anatomist.

III. Andreas van Wesele or Wytinck, father of the anatomist.
Born in 1479, died in 1544. He was a pharmacist to emperor Charles V.
He married Elisabeth (Lysebeth or Isabelle) Crabbe (1493- ca. 1554).
They had four children:
  Nicolas, who became a pharmacist too, in Brussels.
  Andreas, the later anatomist;
Franciscus, born in 1521?, immatriculated in Leuven on August 31st, 1536. He studied medicine in Italy (Ferrara) and became Magister Sanitatis in Vienna on the 2nd of July, 1552, died shortly afterwards as a victim of the plague and was buried there in the Minoritenkirche;
Anna (+ Zierikzee, 04-03-1585), married Nicolaus Bonart (+ Brussels, 25-12-1570) presumably before or in 1549, the year their daughter Charlotte was born, became lavander de corps of emperor Charles V on the 21st of October, 1551. They had four children:
  Charlotte (° ca. 1549) x Simon Goesman or Gousman, who died in Brussels on 27th February, 1574, whereafter she remarried with Nicolas de Pinder;
  Anna (° ca. 1552) x Philippe Hof(f)man(s) (+ in or before 1594), son of Nicolas.
  Chrétien or Christian x Jos(s)ine van Cuyck, single daughter of Charles, lord of Cauwestein and Jeanne d’Orlay;
  Nicolas (° Brussels, 1563), entered the S.J. in Trier 23th March, 1583, taught philosophy in Douai and theology in Leuven, and died 9th March, 1610, while returning from Spain to the Netherlands.

IV. Andreas Wesalius later Vesalius
He was born in Brussels on December 31st, 1514 and died at Zakynthos on October 15th, 1564. He was buried there in the church Santa Maria delle Gratia. His tomb had an epitaph. He married Anna van Hamme (+ after July 1600, in or before 1604) ca. 1544. Vesalius left no male descendants. They had only one child: Anna. After Vesalius’s death his widow married with Hendrik van der Meeren, son of Walter and Catharina van Nassau, in the Kapellekerk in Brussels on July 24th, 1565.

V. Anna Vesalius
Born in Brussels ca. 1545 and died ca. 1588. In 1561 (*) she married Jan de Mol (+ 1598), son of Martin and Anna van Olmen. They had five children:
  Henric (+ 1609)
  Jaspar
  Anna (+ 1641)
  Adrienne (+ 1629), married Hugo de Closers (1566-1630)
  Elisabeth (+ 1647), married Charles van Baussele (+ 1635)

Genealogical Tree of Andreas Vesalius

Jan Wijtinc, dictus de Wesalia (ca. 1400-1476)
  x Mathilde van Ellieck (+ ca. 1467)
    x Agnes Sweerts
      x Jan de Coster
      x Machiel Sibbaees
    x Agnes Barbe?
  x Roeland 't Seraets
    + Margaretha 's Winters
  Everaert, Johanna, Hendrik, Paul, Jan
Andreas (1479-1544)
  x Elisabeth Crabbe (1493- ca. 1554)

Nicolas
Andreas Vesalius (1514-1564)
  x Anna Van Hamme
    x Hendrik van der Meeren
Franciscus (1521?-1552)
  x Jan de Mol (+ 1398)
    x Simon Goesman (+ 1574)
      x Nicolas de Pinder
    x Charlotte (ca. 1549)
      x Simon Goesman (+ 1574)
Anna (ca. 1552)
  x Philippe Hofius
  x Nicolas Bonart (+ 1570)
Anna (ca. 1558)
  x Josine van Cuyck
  x Christien (1563-1610)
Nicolas S.J.

Henric (+ 1609)
Jaspar (+ 1641)
Anna (+ 1629)
Adriene (+ 1647)
  x Hugo de Croeser (1566-1630)
Elisabeth (+ 1635)
  x Charles van Baussele (+ 1635)
Epitaph of Andreas Vesalius in the church Santa Maria della Grazia at Zakynthos
[Reconstruction and correction by Dr. Theodoor Goddeeris, Kortrijk (Belgium), 2012]
The epitaph was seen by an eye-witness mentioned by Reiner Solenander in May 1566 and by Christoph Führer von Haimendorf in August 1565. It disappeared already in 1571, when it was stolen by the Turks; the church itself was destroyed by an earthquake in the mid-19th century, was rebuild, but destroyed again by an earthquake in 1893; this time it was not rebuild.
Literature


See also ‘genealogy’ in the register of the section Bibliography of <www.andreasvesalius.be>

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