

## **Benedikt Cramer, Director of the Russian-American Company**

From its foundation in 1799 to the sale of Alaska to the U.S.A. in 1867, the Russian-American Company (RAC) determined the fate of the Russian colony in America. As a commercial enterprise it was run by a Board consisting of two to four Directors, who were elected by majority vote at the general meeting of the company<sup>1</sup>. In connection with the RAC, Benedikt Cramer is mentioned in early publications<sup>2</sup> and is well documented by his signature as one of its Directors<sup>3</sup> varying in spelling from Benedict Cramer to Venedikt Kramer<sup>4</sup>.

The exact date when Cramer became a Director of the company is not known, but there are two strong indications for the end of 1807. Firstly, the American John D'Wolf noted him a Director of the RAC when he met Cramer on his return journey home in St. Petersburg, October 22, 1807<sup>5</sup>. Secondly, Cramer himself mentioned that he was asked to join the RAC by the end of 1807 in order "to observe accounting"<sup>6</sup>.

For a few years from 1807 onwards the RAC had only two Directors, M. M. Buldakov, acting as Chairman, and Benedikt Cramer. Two additional Directors, A. I. Severin and S. A. Shelikov, were elected at a General Meeting in 1812<sup>7</sup>. Cramer retired at the end of 1823 as Company Director of the RAC<sup>8</sup>. He had served the company for some 16 years.

The family history<sup>9</sup> begins with a certain Johann Cramer, a "Literatus" (literary man, man of letters; possibly writer or author) who lived from 1633 onwards in Stendal, a small town in Thirty-Years-War ridden Germany, some 60 miles west of Berlin. He was married to Regina Fassmann and died the same year their son, Benedikt, was born (January 20, 1656). This son is the first with the name *Benedikt* we know of. In the year 1682 when the Plague raged the town, killing 1205 people, Benedikt was appointed by the Swedish Government Notary to the High Court in far away Narva/Livland<sup>10</sup>.

Here Benedikt, who later in his career became a merchant<sup>11</sup>, married Gertrude Strahlborn<sup>12</sup> on June 30, 1687. The Strahlborns were at least the second generation living in Narva, as Gertrude's mother and her father married and were both buried here.

The town of Narva is known for having been the battleground of a victorious battle of the Swedish against Peter the Great's army at the beginning of the Great Northern Wars in November 1700. It was lost to the Russians in 1704 and reconquered in 1707. In 1710 Peter the Great gained almost the whole of the Baltic region after the Swedish King Charles XII turned down negotiations despite having lost the battle of Poltava in a decisive defeat the previous year.

It must have been during these turbulent years that this *first* Benedikt Cramer and probably his whole family, were taken prisoners and deported to the Russian town of Kazan where they died after 1712<sup>13</sup>. Benedikt's son Lorenz, also a merchant, was born in 1692 before the wars. If he was in Kazan as can be suggested, he was back in Narva by 1726<sup>14</sup> when he married the widow Sophia Habernicht. Her grandfather, Rudolf Steffen, was high ranking within the "Great Guild" in Narva. Lorenz died 1764 in Narva. His wife Sophia had already died the year after the birth of their child Benedikt (June 07, 1728 in Narva).

This *second* Benedikt we know of, also a merchant<sup>15</sup>, was the first Cramer in a political office as a Councillor of his home town. His marriage in 1763 probably helped to obtain this position as his wife Hedwig Dorothea Elisabeth Wolff (1747-1808) was the grandchild of two former Mayors of Narva. When this *second* Benedikt Cramer died on March 14, 1799 in Narva he had 8 children, 5 sons and 3 daughters, all born in Narva<sup>16</sup>.

The second born and eldest son of these eight children is "our" Benedikt Cramer, the *third* Benedikt known in the family history. All of the five sons but Heinrich became merchants according to family tradition and moved to nearby St. Petersburg at some stage in their lives (Benedikt, Sebastian and Georg even died there). This is also documented by the marriages of the three eldest sons, who married in St. Petersburg; more significantly Benedikt to Anna Maria Wessmann (1775-1819) and Sebastian to Anna Dorothea Smith and after her death in 1816 to her sister Henriette Dorothea Smith. Benedikt and Sebastian seemed to have been particularly close with their commercial enterprises as they and their main business are frequently referred to as the "Cramer Brothers" or "Brothers Cramer"<sup>17</sup>.

In 1800 Benedikt and Sebastian founded the wholesale firm "Cramers, Smith & Co." in St. Petersburg with the Englishman Edward James Smith, Sebastian's father-in-law<sup>18</sup>. The company is mentioned by D'Wolf on his 1807 stay in St. Petersburg. He states: "He [Benedikt Cramer] was the senior partner of the house of Cramer, Smith, & Co ... we walked together to his place of business [Cramers, Smith & Co.]"<sup>19</sup>.

The company, although mentioned as a wholesale firm, was also clearly operating as a financial institute<sup>20</sup> as was usual in those years. Both countries, Russia and the U.S.A., had not yet adequately developed the financial and banking sector for bilateral trade. The firm developed into an internationally recognised company in Russian-American trade<sup>21</sup>.

It seems that due to the importance of Cramers Smith & Co., Benedikt Cramer was an ideal Director for the RAC. However, Richard A. Pierce stated, that eventually his resignation was forced due to his urging the Emperor to prohibit trade by foreigners in Russian America, which brought the RAC close to bankruptcy. This is added by Cramer's unusual business behaviour, to say the least, in connection with the purchases of the ships *Elena* and *Elizaveta*. In the case of the *Elena*, Cramer had kept 6% of the purchase price and when the *Elizaveta* was acquired for 30,000 Rubles, he merely pocketed the whole sum because the vessel had belonged to an insolvent debtor of his<sup>22</sup>.

There might have been another contributing factor to Cramer's resignation. In 1819 the American consul in St. Petersburg, John Levett Harris (1816-1819), was accused of corruption by a certain William D. Lewis. Although at first sight hardly a sign for severe trouble, the Cramers must have known immediately, that this was potentially very damaging to their business. William Lewis was the younger brother of John D. Lewis, owner of one of the top import/export houses in St. Petersburg by the same name. Although a competitor for the Cramer brothers, any such severe accusations could not be beneficial for the trade as a whole. Still, probably the Cramers might not have been too concerned about this, was there not a very personal note for them attached to this distasteful Harris-Lewis dispute.

The accused John Levett Harris was the nephew of Levett Harris, America's first consul in Russia from 1803 to 1816. Upon becoming Chargé d'Affaires he appointed his nephew John as his successor in the office of consul in 1816. John Levett, the new consul, became a "dormant partner" of the firm of Cramer Brothers<sup>23</sup>.

The Harris-Lewis dispute eventually escalated and resulted in a duel between William D. Lewis and John Levett Harris (who was shot in the thigh) and into a law suit for slander which ultimately lasted for seven years. It became not entirely unbelievable, that John Levett Harris might have misused his position as consul partially for personal gain and partially to further the interests of Cramer Brothers<sup>24</sup>. Although John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State, did not start proceedings against Harris, but might have instead used this incidence to assert political pressure on the RAC to remove Benedikt Cramer, one of the supporters of the foreign trade prohibition in Russian America, and whose position due to the above mentioned allegations became altogether unsustainable by 1823<sup>25</sup>.

This affair, however, did not seem to have much effect on the businesses of the Cramers as a whole, whose commercial interests were versatile. Apart from the timber trade (see below) the Cramer brothers founded the "Narowa-Manufaktur-Compagnie AG"<sup>26</sup> in 1836. From 1830 to his death in 1849 Benedikt Cramer was a member of the Board of the "Erste Russische Feuerversicherungs-Gesellschaft von 1827" (First Russian Fire Insurance Company of 1827) and from 1832 to 1839 "Börsenattestor" (presumably member of the supervisory board of the St. Petersburg stock exchange)<sup>27</sup>. In 1835 Sebastian and Benedikt Cramer co-founded a company to build Russia's first railway<sup>28</sup>.

Spreading their interests across a variety of firms meant that none of their enterprises dominated any of the markets they were in. Nevertheless during their lifetime the Cramer brothers were a factor to be reckoned with in Russian trade<sup>29</sup>.

Benedikt Cramer received various honors. He was a member of the prestigious English Club (1800-1820), Deputy of the church community "St. Petri Gemeinde" (1827-1828 and 1834-1836) and received the honorary title "Kommerzienrat" [Commerce Counsellor]<sup>30</sup>.

Despite his success in St. Petersburg, Benedikt did not sever all connections to his birth town Narva, in fact quite the opposite. On June 6, 1821 he purchased the estate Joala near Narva for 177,000 Rubles from the assets of bankrupt Robert Thorley Bolton (1763-1818)<sup>31</sup>. This estate had a special meaning to the family.

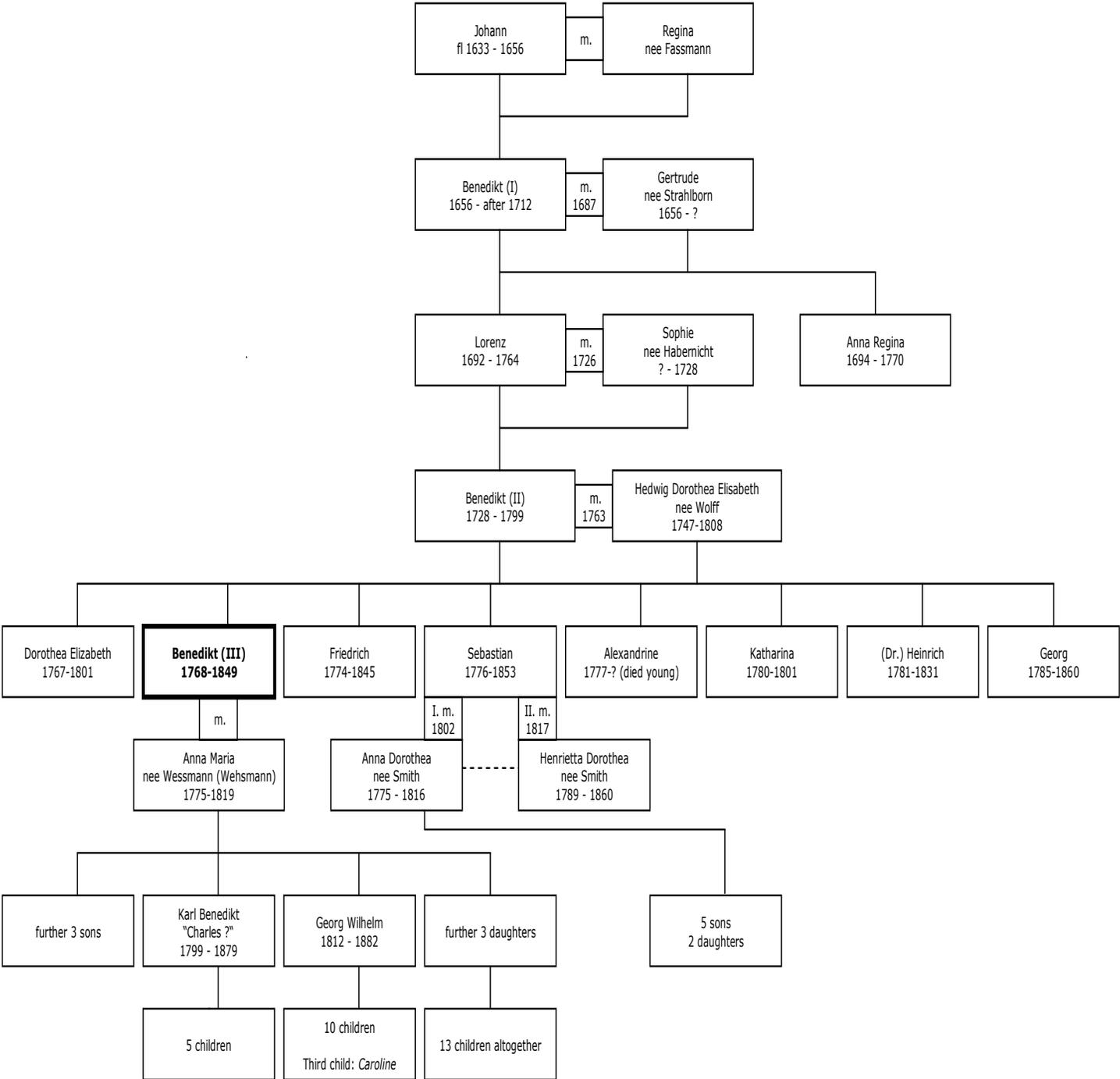
Anna Regina Cramer (1694-1770), who never married, was the sister of Benedikt's grandfather Lorenz. Because of her "beauty, intelligence and pleasant mannerism" she became the first lady's maid of the second wife of Peter the Great, Catherine (to become Empress Catherine I after his death). In 1718 Anna Regina obtained the influential position as Comptroller of the Court of Natalia, Daughter of Peter the Great and Catherine. After Natalia's death in 1725, Anna Regina moved back to her brothers<sup>32</sup> in Narva. There she received the estate Joala from Empress Anna and the privilege to fell 27,000 trees annually and to export them, thus laying the foundations of the blossoming timber trade of the Cramer family<sup>33</sup>. It is not known when and why the family lost the estate again, until Benedikt Cramer bought it back in 1821. However his son Georg, interestingly married to a granddaughter of the once owner Robert Thorley Bolton, bought out his siblings' share of the estate in 1850 for 120,000 Silver Rubles to become the sole owner<sup>34</sup>. Subsequently all of Georg's eleven children were born in Joala.

Apart from Joala, Benedikt and Sebastian Cramer owned the "Gut Cramer" (Cramer estate) in nearby county Jamburg (Estonian: Jaama)<sup>35</sup>. The Cramer name is also associated with the possession of the estates "Lagena" and "Haakhof" near Dorpat.

The information about Benedikt's children (5 sons and 3 daughters, amazingly the same number of sons and daughters as his parents) and other relatives is quite comprehensive and can be traced to the present. But none of them could quite match the commercial acumen of the first "St. Petersburg" generation of Cramers. In politics probably only one, Charles Cramer, was mentioned as a Russian consul in America in 1836<sup>36</sup>.

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# Cramer Family Tree



<sup>1</sup> One notable exception was granted during the incorporation process of the company by imperial decree to its main shareholder, Natalia Alekseevna Shelikova, who had the right to appoint one Director as "... a trustee of the interests of the Shelikov family". She nominated her son-in-law, Mikhail Matveevich Buldakov (see: **Tikhmenev, Petr Aleksandrovich**, *A History of the Russian-American Company*, translated and edited by Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly, Seattle and London, 1978, pp. 55, and also **Dmytryshyn, Basil**, *The Administrative Apparatus of the Russian-American Company, 1798-1867*, in: *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, 28, No. 1, Spring 1994, pp 1-52, of interest here are pp. 8, 10, 12)

<sup>2</sup> a) **D'Wolf, John**, *A Voyage to the North Pacific*, Fairfield, WA: Ya Galleon Press, 1968, [Reprint of the 1861 Cambridge, Mass. Original], pp. 137-138, 140, 143.

b) **Tikhmenev**, pp. 145, 215, 243.

c) **Langsdorff, Georg Heinrich von**, *Remarks and Observations on a Voyage around the world from 1803 to 1807*, translated and annotated by Victoria Joan Moessner, edited by Richard A. Pierce, Kingston, Ontario and Fairbanks, 1993, p. 255 ("Mr. Bened. Cramer, Commercial Councilor, St. Petersburg", is mentioned as a subscriber of one copy in the appendix of the book).

d) **Khlebnikov, Kiril Timofeevich**, *The Khlebnikov Archive: Unpublished Journal (1800-1837) and Travel Notes (1820, 1822, and 1824)*, translated by John Bisk, edited with introduction and notes by Leonid Shur, The Rasmuson Library, Fairbanks, 1990, p. 86 (Suggestion of naming a ship "in honor of RAK Direktor Kramer").

<sup>3</sup> for documentary examples see: **Basil Dmytryshyn, E. A. P. Crownhart-Vaughan and Thomas Vaughan** (Editors and Translators), *The Russian American Colonies, 1798-1867, A Documentary Record, Volume Three: To Siberia and Russian America*, Portland, 1989, pp. 162, 211, 215, 221, 235, 290, 295, 302, 309, 315 (dating from 1808 to 1819).

<sup>4</sup> The different spelling originates mainly from the transliteration of the Cyrillic Alphabet. According to Russian naming conventions the first name of Benedikt Cramer sometimes appears as B. B. for Benedict Benedictovich or as a literal repetition of the pronunciation of the Russian letter "B" as Venedikt Venediktovich. American scholars prefer the Library of Congress system and its modifications. The author prefers "Benedikt Cramer" as this is the spelling most often found in genealogical sources.

<sup>5</sup> **D'Wolf**, pp. 137-138 (the next morning after his arrival on October 21, 1807).

<sup>6</sup> **Cramer, Benedikt**, MS, *To the General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Russian-American Company from Kramer, the Company's Director, Saint Petersburg, 22 August 1813*, Archive of Russian Geographical Society in Saint Petersburg (ARGO) F. 99, Op. 1, D. 6. L. 18-20, (A copy is located in the Archive of the Foreign Policy of Russian Empire (AVPRI) F. RAC. Op. 888. D. 222. L. 11-12).

Kushner provides confusing information, labeling Cramer as Benedict Kramer, jr., an American Director who supposedly was the representative in Russia of the American banking firm of Kramer, Smith and Co. According to Kushner Kramer served on the board of directors of the RAC for twenty years, 1805-1825, see: **Kushner, Howard I.**, *Conflict on the Northwest Coast*, Westport and London: Greenwood Press, 1975, p. 15 and 163 (Explanation of footnote 33).

<sup>7</sup> **Tikhmenev**, p. 145. On 20/04/1812 Andrej Severin co-signed the agreement with Astor's American Fur Company together with Mikhail Buldakov and Venedikt Kramer (see: **Bolkhovitinov, Nikolai N.**, *The Beginnings of Russian-American Relations, 1775-1815*, translated by Elena Levin, introduction by L. H. Butterfield, Cambridge, Mass. and London, 1975, p. 268).

<sup>8</sup> **Tikhmenev**, p. 243, **Khlebnikov**, p. 94 (Footnote 30 by Leonid Shur) and **Pierce, Richard A.**, *Russian America: A Biographical Dictionary*, Kingston, Ontario and Fairbanks, 1990, pp. 264-265 (under: Kramer, Venedikt Venediktovich). Chevigny, whose deductions sometimes came astonishingly close to the truth, incorrectly assumed that Cramer was American and stated his year of departure as 1825 (see: **Hector Chevigny**, *Russian America. The Great Alaskan Venture, 1741-1867*, Portland, Reprint 1998, pp. 177, 187).

<sup>9</sup> The information on the genealogy of Benedikt Cramer and his family is partially based on material provided to the author by Mr. Ekkehard Brückner of Basle, Switzerland. This information forms part of the history of the Brückner family who is linked to the Cramers (Mr. Brückner's grandmother was Caroline Cramer (1844-1894), herself daughter of Georg Wilhelm Cramer and granddaughter of "our" Benedikt Cramer, see Appendix: Cramer Family Tree). Mr. Brückner relied on material provided to him by his cousin twice removed, Professor Dr. Erik Amburger (1907-2001), who was a renowned, St. Petersburg born, historian and genealogist. The history of the Brückner family was privately printed in two volumes in a very limited edition (2003).

The author wishes to thank Mr. Brückner for his kind cooperation.

<sup>10</sup> At that time Narva was Swedish territory with direct access to the Baltic Sea and a population of about 3.300 in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century (see: **Küing, Enn**, *Über die Grösse der Einwohnerschaft von Narva zu der Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts* [About the size of Narva's population at the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century], on [http://www.eha.ee/raamatud/toimetis2\\_zsmmn.htm](http://www.eha.ee/raamatud/toimetis2_zsmmn.htm), viewed July 17, 2002) Today Narva is an Estonian border town to Russia, just some 90 miles east of St. Petersburg.

<sup>11</sup> Another source provides his profession as "schwed. Kronfiskal", meaning a civil servant for the treasury of the Swedish crown (see: **Lenz, Wilhelm** (Editor), *Deutschbaltisches Biographisches Lexikon, 1710-1960* [Baltic German biographical dictionary, 1710-1960], started by Olaf Welding with participation of Erik Amburger and Georg von Krusenstjern, Köln and Wien, 1970, p. 151 (under: Cramer, Anna Regina)).

<sup>12</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> "In February 1708 Peter I ordered all Germans living in Dorpat [former German name of the Estonian town of Tartu, ca. 90 miles southwest of Narva], to be deported to Russia. First, all came to Vologda and from there to the Russian towns Kazan and Ustiug." (see: **Piirimäe, Helmut and Sommerhage, Claus** (Editors), *Zur Geschichte der Deutschen in Dorpat*, Univ. of Tartu, 1998, page 31 [Author's translation]).

Also Anna Regina Cramer, Benedict's and Gertrud's daughter is mentioned to have been deported to Vologda in 1708 and then to Kazan in 1710 (see: **Lenz**, p. 151 (under: Cramer, Anna Regina)).

<sup>14</sup> "From 1714 onwards the Deportees were allowed to return to the town [of Dorpat]." **Piirimäe et al.**, p. 62 [Author's translation].

<sup>15</sup> Lenz more precisely states him a timber merchant, which is credible in the light of the history of the Joala estate, (see: **Lenz**, p. 151 (under: Cramer, Benedikt)).

<sup>16</sup> see Appendix: Cramer Family Tree

<sup>17</sup> Two other sources for the possibility of the origins of the Cramers should be mentioned here. Firstly Kirchner mentions that the Brothers Cramer came from Hamburg, unfortunately without giving any source (see: **Walther Kirchner**, *Studies in Russian-*

*American Commerce, 1820-1860*, p. 201, footnote 80). Secondly Empress Catherine II mentioned in her memoirs that her husband, Peter III, in his youth, especially liked two of his elder valets, one of them a certain Kramer from Livland (see: **Katharina II., Memoiren**, [German translation], Erster Band, München, 1990. p. 6).

The name Cramer/Kramer is not an unusual one in Germany and is one of the derivatives of the word “Krämer”, meaning “small merchant or trader”. The 16<sup>th</sup> century Flemish/German geographer and mapmaker Gerard Kremer changed his name according to the customs of the time to *Mercator*, the latinised word for merchant. In fact for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century origins of several Cramer/Kramer families are traceable in Northern Germany, Hesse and Bavaria.

<sup>18</sup> **Lenz**, p. 151-152, (under: Cramer, Benedikt), for Sebastian’s involvement see “**Amburger Archive**”, University of Munich, Osteuropa Institut, Document-ID 2751.

<sup>19</sup> **D’Wolf**, p. 138.

<sup>20</sup> D’Wolf sold the ship *Juno* and his cargo to Rezanov in Novo-Arkhangelsk in 1805 for some \$65,000, see: **Pierce**, p. 130 (Note: On this page only all references referring to the years 1804 and 1805 seem to be “short” by one year). D’Wolf, enquiring about this deal in 1807, was told by Cramer, that: “... the business has been transacted through his house [Cramer, Smith & Co.]”, (see: **D’Wolf**, p. 138).

<sup>21</sup> The earliest known proof of the Cramers being involved in the Russian-American trade is mentioned by **Kirchner**, p. 187 (letter by Judah Paddock mentioning “Cramers Smith & Co.”, dated June 4, 1804). Further details on the firms trading dealings are given on pages 199, 201, 202, 213 and 216.

<sup>22</sup> **Pierce**, p. 265, but also **Khlebnikov, Kiril Timofeevich, Notes on Russian America, Part I: Novo-Arkhangelsk**, compiled, with an Introduction and Commentaries by Svetlana G. Fedorova, translated by Serge LeComte and Richard Pierce, edited by Richard Pierce, Kingston, Ontario and Fairbanks, 1994, p. 275.

<sup>23</sup> D’Wolf hints to an even earlier connection when he met Levett Harris in 1807 stating that: “He [Benedikt Cramer] introduced me to his brother [Sebastian] and Mr. L. Harris, the American Consul, who was connected with his firm ...”, see: **D’Wolf**, pp. 138, 139.

<sup>24</sup> The allegations extended to Levett Harris himself. The **Bryn Mawr College Library**, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, holds the 39 pages handwritten draft of Levett Harris’s “Exposé” in which he defends himself against corruption allegations (Collection No. 17 [Dr. Mavis Kelsey Collection of Adams-Harris Papers], Series II, Box 1, Folder 4, dated May 20, 1820).

<sup>25</sup> For the Lewis-Harris affair see: **Kirchner**, p. 191.

<sup>26</sup> **Lenz**, p. 152. The brothers bought the company from P. Momma who had founded the cloth factory in 1820. It was apparently sold off again in 1845 and renamed “Stieglitz u. Peltzer” thereafter. This cloth factory is the same as “Obsc. Narvskoj manuf.” mentioned in the “**Amburger Archive**” (see Document-IDs 2750 and 2751).

According to **A. V. Petrov, Город Нарва. Его прошлое и достопримечательности. 1223-1900** [The town of Narva: its Past and Sights, 1223-1900], СПб, 1901, p. 432, the factory was built by “Narva merchant Pavel Momma on land that belonged to Narva merchant Benedikt Kramer”, and further: “On April 1, 1836, merchant Momma sold the factory to the stock-company, that was formed as *Narvskaja Manufactory Company*. The founders were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Nasselrode, aide-de-camp to the Emperor, Count Benkendorf, Commerce Councils Benedikt Kramer, Karl Meisner, and merchants Sebastian Cramer, Bekker, Nosov and the former owner of the factory Momma.”

Sebastian Cramer owned the “Zuckerfabrik [Sugar Factory] Ponomarev und Cramer” in 1852 (see: “**Amburger Archive**” Document-ID 2751. The youngest of the Cramer brothers, Georg, was a merchant with “G. Cramer & Wessmann” from 1811 onwards (see: **Lenz**, p. 152). This company was otherwise called “G. Cramer u. Wehsmann, Pbg” [St. Petersburg], founded October 1, 1811 by Georg Cramer and Johann Ernst Wehsmann (1783-1866). Wehsmann became a member of the St. Petersburg stock exchange committee and was a brother of Anna Maria Wessmann, wife of Benedikt Cramer, and therefore his brother-in-law. It seems that this company was renamed from “J. E. Wehsmann” when Georg was taken on as a partner in 1811. “J. E. Wehsmann” was founded by Benedikt’s father-in-law, Johann Ernst Wehsmann (1736-1812), (see “**Amburger Archive**”, Document-IDs 2747, 81847 and 81848).

<sup>27</sup> “**Amburger Archive**”, Document-ID 2750. Lenz titles Benedikt Cramer as “Ält. d. St. Petersburg Börse” [Eldest, maybe Chairman, of the St. Petersburg stock exchange], an even more elevated position, see: **Lenz**, p. 152.

<sup>28</sup> **Pierce**, p. 265 (Benedikt is also known as a Director of the firm). According to the web site <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/tsarskoe/historysix.html> (viewed July 18, 2002): “The constructor of the railway, Gerstner, succeeded with difficulty in obtaining the necessary funds. Count Novosiltzev, the president of the Council of State, thought it [the matter of constructing a railway] urgent, informing the Architect of the Imperial permission to form a company”, and further (<http://www.alexanderpalace.org/tsarskoe/train.html>, viewed July 18, 2002): “The railway company had for members the master of the ceremonies, the Count Alexis Bobrinsky; the merchants, Benedict Cramer, Ivan Conrad Plit, and an Austrian nobleman Gerstner; they collected a capital of three million Rubles.”

<sup>29</sup> for examples of the importance of the Cramers, see **Kirchner**, p. 142 (“... one of the leading Russian merchants, S. Cramer ...”), p. 184 (“... Cramer Brothers, whose businesses were ... very substantial” [referring to the year 1820]) and p. 186 (“... the over-all importance particularly of Cramer Brothers ...”). To illustrate how far reaching the activities of the Cramer Brothers were, Golder states the existence of a document dated 1808 which is a request by the Cramers asking for authorization to send two ships under Brazilian flag to South America laden with Russian merchandise, see: **F. A. Golder, Guide to Materials for American History in Russian Archives**, Washington, D.C., 1917, p. 138. It can be assumed that this is a business connection resulting from the first Russian circumnavigation by Krusenstern, partially financed by the RAC, who touched Brazil on his outward bound voyage. Bartley traced the document (Ivan Kremer to Rumiantsev, June 4, 1808, VPR, IV, 272-273) stating, that the court approved Kremer’s proposal to outfit the *Prinzessin* and the *Östergotland* for the voyage. The outcome of this venture is not known, see **Russell H. Bartley, The Inception of Russo-Brazilian Relations (1808-1828)**, in: *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 56, No. 2 (May), 1976, pp. 217-240, here p. 224. It also demonstrates how immediate and extended the possible business advantages for the Cramers were deriving from Benedikt’s directorship.

<sup>30</sup> “**Amburger Archive**”, Document-ID 2750

<sup>31</sup> **Hansen, Heinrich Johann, Geschichte der Stadt Narva** [History of the town of Narva], Dorpat, 1858, p. 331.

<sup>32</sup> only her brother Lorenz is known.

<sup>33</sup> **Lenz**, p. 151 (under: Cramer, Anna Regina).

<sup>34</sup> **Hansen**, p. 345.

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<sup>35</sup> “**Amburger Archive**”, Document-ID’s 2750 and 2751, possibly identical with “Cramersmühl b. Narva” [Cramer’s mill near Narva] mentioned by Lenz (see **Lenz**, p. 152).

<sup>36</sup> **Kirchner**, p. 28, overpaging footnote 55. A Charles Cramer is otherwise known as the author of the following book: *Etwas ueber die Natur-Wunder in Nord-Amerika, zusammengetragen von Charles Cramer* [About the natural wonders of North America, compiled by Charles Cramer], St. Petersburg: Russisch-Kaiserliche Mineralogische Gesellschaft, 1840. Maybe this “Charles Cramer” is Karl Benedikt Cramer (1799-1879), son of “our” Benedikt.