

R.D.2, Box 171
Red Hook, N.Y. 12571
October 27, 1982

Dear Mr. Davenport:

Your letter has been referred to me by the librarian at the Red Hook Public Library.

I have checked out the Wheeler line in Red Hook and vicinity and found some information which might be of use to you.

First of all, however, Dr. William Wheeler did not live at the old Thomas House in Upper Red Hook. Dr. William Wheeler lived at the corner where the Old Post Road turned into the village of Upper Red Hook..the house is still occupied. Dr. Gamaliel Wheeler lived, and practiced, at the Thomas House. My husband's grandfather, Dr. John E. Losee, and a cousin, Dr. Elmore Losee, were in practice with Dr. Gamaliel Wheeler prior to 1859. Dr. John E. Losee eventually took over Dr. Wheeler's practice and bought the Thomas House, which remained in the Losee family until it was sold in 1945. I have the early medical records of Dr. Wheeler and Dr. Losee.

Early records for Red Hook show Dr. William Wheeler at the same residence on the Post Road. I have a copy, from the Ancient Documents of Dutchess County, of a notice that Doctor William Wheeler of the Town of Rhynbeck has produced satisfactory evidence that he has practiced physic & surgery for the space of two years and is entitled to a certificate to practice in New York State. It is dated 23 March 1797. There is also a certificate for Doctor Elijah Wheeler dated 16 September 1797; apparently all doctors in the area were obliged to obtain certificates about this time. It would appear that both Dr. William and Dr. Elijah were in the Red Hook area..possibly together.

A check of the Surrogate records in Poughkeepsie shows a will filed for William Wheeler, Physcian, dated Feb. 10, 1806 and proved May 10, 1810. It lists his wife, Wilhelmenia, daughter Eliza, and mentions a son, whose name is not given. Dr. William Wheeler died April 14, 1810, age 56 years 8 mo. 2 days. He was married to Wilhelmenia Vreedenburgh, who died in Albany, January 23, 1813, in her 50th year.

It is quite possible that Dr. Gamaliel Wheeler is a son of Dr. William Wheeler, although I have not as yet found baptism records to prove this. Dr. Gamaliel Wheeler died March 20, 1859, age 72 years and 10 months and his will is on file at Poughkeepsie. He had a daughter, Eliza C., a son John P. Wheeler, a daughter Mary Imogene, and three children who died young..Agusta Maria, born 1822, Prudence Janette, born 1823, and a son William born 1826.

An item in the POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL, May 2, 1810 says: "Died at his house in Red Hook on the 14th ult., Dr. William Wheeler, in the 57th year of his age. Left widow and children. Was one of his country's 'firmest and earliest defenders'. His 'political career commenced under the banners of the immortal Washington'. (A check of military records might produce something)

I also checked out the Estate records of other Wheeler families and came up with the following:

ELIJAH WHEELER, Amenia Will dated Sept. 2, 1774 proved Sept. 22, 1774
mentions: Wife Sarah; daughters Elizabeth and Joanna
sons: Elijah, Cyrus M., William, Nathan A. &
Robert K.
Executors: wife, brother Eliphalet Wheeler

NATHAN WHEELER, Amenia will dated Jan. 6, 1766; proved
mentions: wife (not named)
daughters Mary Benton, Jerusha, Sarah
sons: Elijah, Eliphalet, Edward, Samuel
executors: Samuel and Eliphalet Wheeler

(Nathan is apparently the father of Elijah, mentioned in will above)

Note: Elijah Wheeler is quite possibly the father of William Wheeler in Red Hook, Physicians, Red Hook.

If you have any further information regarding William Wheeler in Red Hook, I would be pleased to have it. It might also give me some clue as to where to find further local information.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John Losee
Egbert Benson Historical Society
of Red Hook

*Also sent
1790, 1800 & 1810
Census*