

WOLBERG Aleksander Adam (1869–1946), industrialist, city councillor, social, education and charity activist. He was born on 23rd October 1869 in Częstochowa, the son of → Paweł and Fryderyka née Kempner.

In 1891, he graduated from the Chemistry Department of the Zurich Polytechnic, specialising in dye chemistry. He later gained a doctorate in chemistry. Following his return to Częstochowa, from circa 1897, he was director of the Coloured Paper Factory. In 1899, together with → Józef Imich, he established a chemical plant, which was called the “Zawodzie” Dye Factory (later called the “Zawodzie” Częstochowa Dye Factory). From circa 1904, co-owner of the factory was → Ludwik Karpf. In 1909, during the Industry and Agriculture Exhibition in Częstochowa, the factory was awarded a silver medal for its products.

Wolberg was an education activist. He was a member of the School Committee which, in 1896, obtained permission to open a *Talmud Torah* school at ul. Garncarska 6/8. In 1906, he was a member of the Polish School Committee, which led to the establishment of the No.1 Polish Philological Gimnazjum in Częstochowa.

In 1908-1913, he was a member of the construction committee of the (TDdŻ Hospital in Zawodzie in Częstochowa – he also financially supported the construction. During this period, he was also a member of the TDdŻ board. He financially supported a shelter for those suffering from paralysis, as well as the Mina Werde Aged Care Home and Orphanage. In 1915-1918, he was a member of the Main Committee of Emergency Aid. From 1914, he supported Emergency Aid by systematically paying, through his taxes, certain amounts directed to it.

In the 1917 district elections, he won a seat on the City Council. There, he worked on the Food Committee, where he managed the office and accounts, as well as supervising the baking of bread in bakeries. In the 1930s, during the Council elections, he sat on the District Electoral Commission, having been nominated by the Governor of Kielce. From 1909, he served on the board, as secretary, of the “Lira” Music-Literary Society. In 1915, at the urging of his wife, he opened the “Apollo” summer theatre – in the back of the family’s tenement building at I Aleja 12.

He was a Polish patriot, as evidenced by his attitude during the wars fought by Poland in 1919-1921. In 1919, he took part in Polish recruitment and, during the war with the Bolsheviks, he made financial contributions to the Committee to Aid the Polish Soldier (which operated through the Jewish Community Council).

Wolberg supported the Częstochowa branch of the "Auxilium Academicum Judaicum" Committee to Aid Jewish Students. In 1923, during "Stamp Day", he donated 200 kg. of paint towards the construction of Academic House in Warsaw. During the economic crisis of the 1930s, from 1931, he allocated a certain monthly amount to supported the unemployed in Częstochowa.

In 1939, he lived at II Aleja 35 (previously at ul. Strażacka 13). He survived the German occupation. In 1945, he regained his factory, which had been taken over by the Germans in 1940. He ran the factory until his death. In 1950, it was nationalised. From 1945, he lived at ul. Dąbrowskiego 9.

Wolberg was the author of the book *I Blame the Polish Press! A History of the 1905-1907 "Revolution" and Commentary on the Country's Current Politics* (Lwów - Częstochowa 1910).

He died on 24th October 1946 in Częstochowa and was buried in the local Kule Cemetery (section 38, row 6, grave 1).

His wife was Zofia née Karpf (2th August 1880 Aleksandrów–), daughter of Karol and Karolin née Mor, the sister of → Ludwik Karpf, a social activist who, in 1927, of the list of the Independent Jewish Intelligentsia, stood for election to the City Council – but without success.

They had four children:

- Frydrych Juliusz (1909-1910),
- → Stanisław Józef,
- Aniela Franciszka married surname Konheim (1907-1937), a graduate of the Jagiellonian University, a chemical engineer, senior assistant at the Free Polish University in Warsaw,
- Paweł Karol (1918-), a graduate of the H. Sienkiewicz No.1 State Gimnazjum and Liceum in Częstochowa (matriculated in 1936).

Wolberg's granddaughter was Krystyna Kabzińska (1937-1998), a doctor.

Sętowski, *Cmentarz Kule*, pp. 341–342; *Sienkiewiczacy*, p. 236; Kulczykowski, *Żydzi – studenci UJ*, p. 696 (re: daughter, Aniela Franciszka); E. Wawrykiewicz, *Spis techników w guberniach Królestwa Polskiego*, Warszawa 1899, pp. 120–121. – *Przewodnik po Wystawie 1909*, p. 135. – Rędziniński, *Szkolnictwo żydowskie*, p. 36; Sobalski, *Przemysł częstochowski*, p. 153. – "Dziennik Częstochowski" 1906, No. 161, p. 2; "Gazeta Częstochowska" 1909 No. 142 p. 3, No. 186 p. 8, 1910, No. 136 p. 8; "Głos Narodu" 1946, No. 252, p. 6; "Głos Wolności" 1923, No. 6, p. 3; "Goniec Częstochowski" 1907, No. 231, p. 3, 1914, No. 268, p. 2, 1915, No. 128, p. 2, 166, p. 2, No. 217, p. 4, 1919, No. 88, p. 2, 1920, No. 304, p. 3, 1931, No. 245, p. 3; "Częstochower Cajtung" 1937, No. 42, p. 6; "Nasz Świat" 1958, No. 1, p. 17. – *Handlowiec. Kalendarz 1914*, p.

288; *Książka adresowa m. Częstochowy 1947*, p. 95; *Sprawozdanie Tow. Dobroczynności dla Żydów 1913*, p. 21. – APCz, AmCz 5412, p. 228, Mag Cz 5305, 5718, p. 32, Częstochowska Fabryka Farb “Zawodzie” 26; USC Częstochowa, death record No. 1324/1946. – materials (extracts from civil registers) in ODDC collections. – Information from great-granddaughter, Stanisława Kabzińska of Częstochowa and a portrait photo of A. Wolberg from his own collection; a copy of his tombstone inscription.

Juliusz Sętowski