



HISTORY OF DERMATOLOGY

LITHUANIAN ORIGIN OF FRITZ SCHAUDINN

J Arasimavicius⁽¹⁾

Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics, Department Of Dermatovenerology, Vilnius, Lithuania⁽¹⁾

Background: Fritz Schaudinn is world-famous protozoologist that first discovered the *Spirochaeta pallida*, and together with dermatologist Erich Hoffmann proved its fault for syphilis. Encyclopedia Britannica present Schaudinn as German zoologist however, less known monograph about Fritz Schaudinn written in 1971 by Lithuanian Professor and patriarch of Lithuanian dermatovenerology, the founder of Lelis syndrome Jonas Lelis highlights facts about Schaudinn's Lithuanian origin.

Observation: Fricas Richardas Šaudinis (better known as Fritz Schaudinn) was born in 1871 September 19 at estate of Rėžininkai (Roesiningken) in a Darkiemio county in Prussia. His father Fridrikas (Pričkus) Šaudinis started as a stableman and later was a housekeeper at a manor of the landlord Neuman. Historical circumstances caused the variations of the scientist surname. Friend and colleague of F.Schaudinn professor Michał Marian Siedlecki wrote that surname of the scientist was Germanized and his father's Lithuanian surname was Šaudonis (Szaudonnys) however, in the list of Lithuanian names of 19th century Prussia published by Wilius Kalwaitis in 1914 there is no name Šaudonis (Szaudonnys), but there is a name Šaudinis. Scientist's grandfather Kristijonas (Krizas) Šaudinis was peasant in Ramoškienis in a Darkiemio county and his wife's maiden surname was Tubašiūtė. Scientist's great-grandfather was also called Kristijonas Šaudinis (1796-1882) and he was estate servant first in Išdagiai, later in Verdėliai (Werdeln) estate. Mother of Fritz Schaudinn was daughter of seaman from Piliava town (Seestadt Pillau). Her name was Darata Elzė Cimermanaitė (1841-1931). After her husband's death in 1891 she Germanized her surname and moved to her sister to Berlin. Schaudinn's Lithuanian origin was also confirmed by his son Hans who build family genealogy tables.

Key message: Lithuanian names and surnames, place-names, memoirs of friends of the scientist and finally genealogy tables show Lithuanian nationality of famous Schaudinn however, not nationality, but genius makes scientist immortal.

