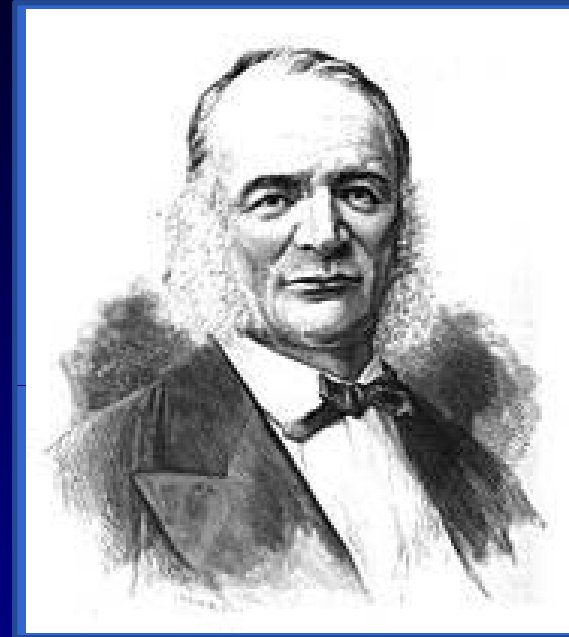


Tonight's 'History of Astronomy' topic is:

Otto Wilhelm von Struve



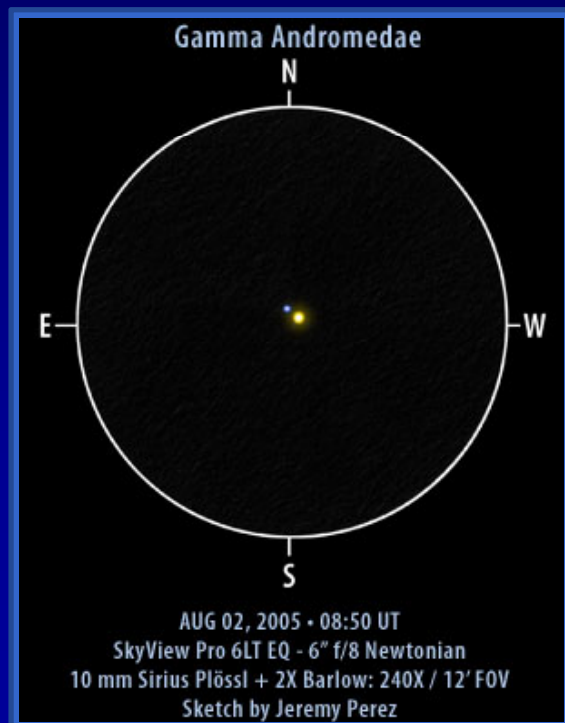
Second in an astronomical
family dynasty



Compiled by Jim Wessel
Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society

Otto Wilhelm von Struve

- Born May 7th, 1819 in Dorpat, Estonia.
- His father was Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve.
- Attended the University of Dorpat (now Tartu) in 1837, and graduated in 1839. Started working with his father at Pulkovo Observatory



- 1841 was the start of his independent research – testing William Herschel's theory of the solar system moving towards the constellation of Hercules.
- In 1842 he observed a solar eclipse, and started his work on Double Stars.

Otto Wilhelm von Struve

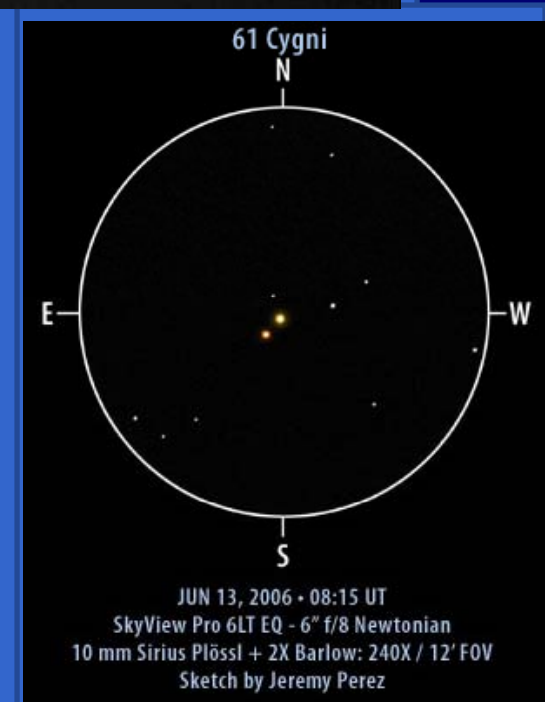
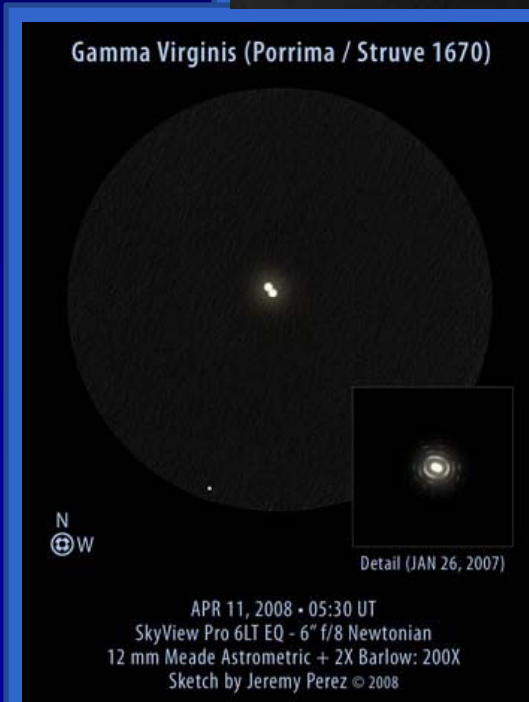
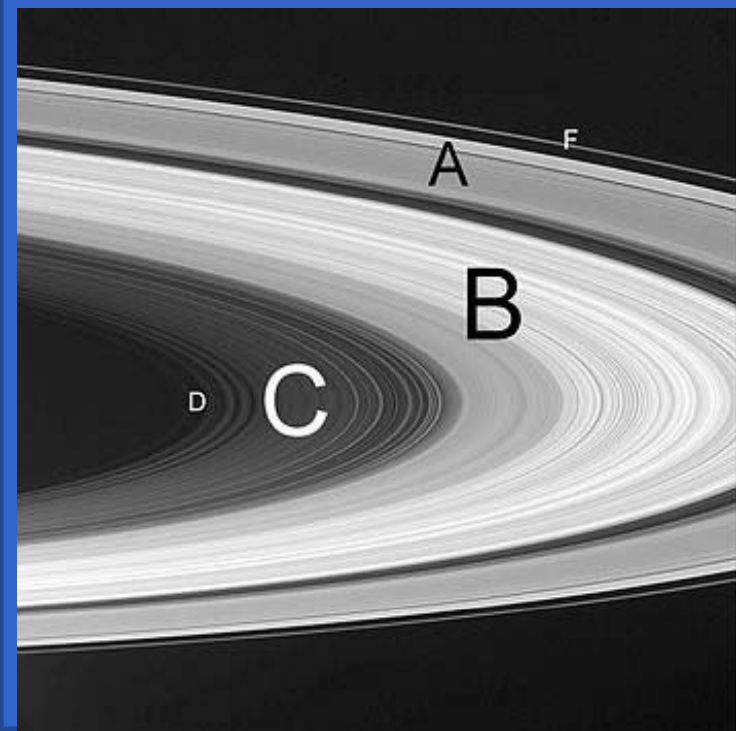


- 1847 – Otto Wilhelm observed Triton using the Pulkovo 15” refractor.
- In the same year, he co-discovered Uranus’ second Moon – Umbriel.
- In 1847, he became the Pulkovo Observatory’s assistant director, and was elected to the Royal Astronomical Society.
- He won the Gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1850.



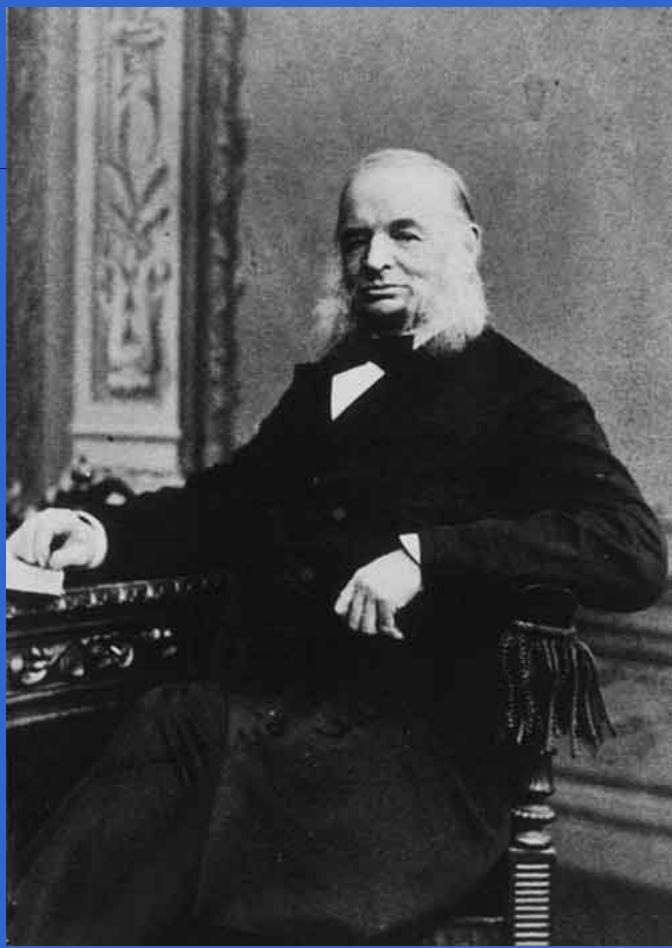
Otto Wilhelm von Struve

- 1851 – The controversy of Saturn's rings decaying? Otto also devised the ring naming system still used today. In this same year, he studied Gamma Virginis.
- In 1852 he made stellar parallax measurements of 61 Cygni – determined it was 40 billion miles away. Later in the 50ies, he examined additional stars' parallax.



Otto Wilhelm von Struve

- The end of the 1850ies saw FGW Struve's health fail, and Otto became the director for the Pulkovo Observatory . He was to remain the director for the next 28 years.
- Otto was an avid observer of the Orion Nebula and studied it intensely in the 1860ies.



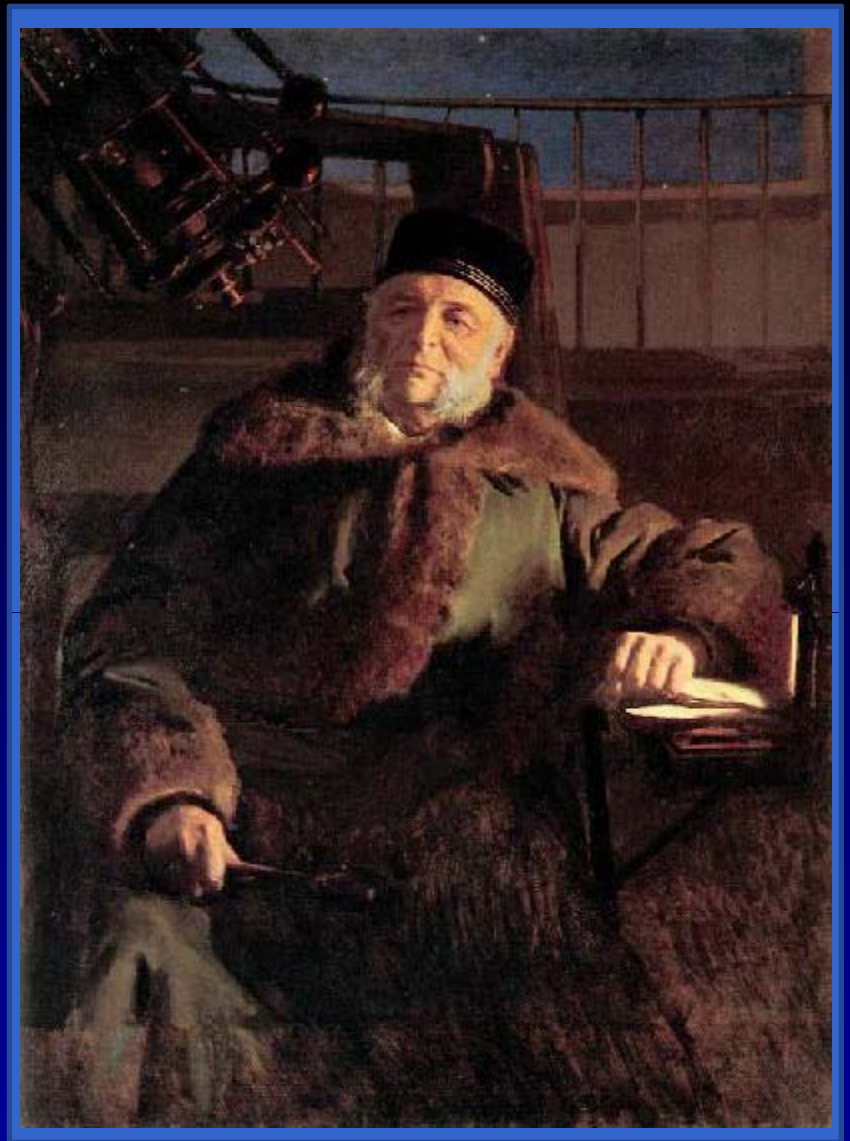
Otto Wilhelm von Struve

- 1873, Otto Wilhelm discovers Procyon B, ... or did he not?



- From 1879 through 1884, Otto works to upgrade the main telescope at Pulkovo Observatory.

- In 1889, Otto retired to Karlsruhe, Germany.
- Family –
married Emilie Dyrssen
they had Karl Hermann Struve (1854 – 1920) and
Gustav Ludwig Struve (1858 – 1933)
Second marriage to Emma Jankowsky
they had Emilie Nathalie
Wilhelmine Struve
- Otto died in 1905.



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- The Asteroid 768 Struveana is named in honor of Otto Wilhelm Struve and his father, Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von Struve.

Sources: Wikipedia, reOrbit.com, FreeDictionary.com, and *Astronomers of To-Day and their Work*, 1905, by Hector Macpherson, Jr., Gall and Inglis, publishers.