

## Ancestors of Johann Henrich Riedesel

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### Generation 1

1. **Johann Henrich Riedesel**, son of Johann Georg Riedesel and Elisabeth Belz, was born on June 14, 1772 in Berleburg. He died in Prob Philadelphia. He married **Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler** on February 18, 1817 in Berleburg. She was born on February 11, 1784 in Schwarzenau. She died in May 1840 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Buried 14 May 1840).

Notes for Johann Henrich Riedesel:

"Henrich" was a typical spelling at the time.

He was a great-grandson of the master builder Mannus Riedesel. His father, Johann Georg, had married Elisabeth Belz of Berleburg. This may have been a step up socially, but the Riedesels of his line in the hamlet of Melbach may also have maintained a closer connection to the ruling Sayn-Wittgensteins than their Riedesel kin in other villages. I only know of two children of this marriage, with both sons emigrating to Philadelphia.

German records show him as young man going to Rondorf (near Wuppertal) in 1791 then going to Holland in 1792. These were way stations for many America-bound religious dissenters. The next documented mention is of his marriage to Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler on February 18, 1817 back in Berleburg. She was from the village of Schwarzenau which was long a home to religious sectarians. Their daughter Philippine's birth in 1818 is recorded in Berleburg.

The princely archives in Berleburg include this document:

Der Johann Henr. Riedesel zu Berleburg hat die Emigrations Urkunde für sich, seine Frau und Tochter und für seinen Bruder Joh. Ludwig heute in Empfang genommen. Ich benachrichtige Sie hiervon.

Berleburg d[en] 17t[en] May 1819.

für den Landrath im Auftrag

(That is: Today, Johann Henr. Riedesel of Berleburg received emigration documents for himself, his wife and daughter, and for his brother Johann Ludwig. May 17, 1819)

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The next we hear of Johann Henrich and his brother is as passengers on the brig Osgood out of Amsterdam that landed in Philadelphia on September 20, 1819. With Johann Heinrich was a wife Louise and a child.

Records of a church in Philadelphia show the baptism of a Johannes Riedesel, son of "Dokt. Johann Hein. Riedesel" and his wife, Marie Louise. The child was born January 3, 1820, and was baptised on March 16, 1820. The "doctor" title was an honorific bestowed in some of the German religious sects to especially honored members. He almost certainly did not practice as a physician.

Louise died in May 1840 at about 55 years of age and is buried in the Salems Cemetery.

Other Wittgensteiners belonged to this church. At one point it was the "United High German Evangelical Calvinist Reformed Church. Later it was simply the "Salem German Reformed Church."

I am 95% certain that the boy Johannes born in 1820 was the John B. Riedesel who was Missing in Action after the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. The latter left progeny, with the Riedesel name surviving in Philadelphia until 1963.

Notes for Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler:

Known as (Marie) Luise. We believe her family lived in the village of Schwarzenau though the baptism is recorded in the parish church of Elsoff. That she had four personal names is clear from the church records. In the emigration record and American church records she is referred to

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as Marie Luise or just Luise (or Louise or Luisa).

The family name was Gäkler. You will see her or even her father referred to as "Gäklerin" but this is misleading. It was an old German convention to refer to an unmarried woman with -in added to her family name. It was a kind of diminutive. I doubt that this convention occurred in everyday speech, but you do see it in official records. Don't be misled.

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### Generation 2

2. **Johann Georg Riedesel**, son of Johannes Riedesel and Anna Catharina Schuppener, was born on June 21, 1728 in Melbach. He died on February 19, 1808 in Berleburg. He married **Elisabeth Belz** on June 17, 1771 in Berleburg.
3. **Elisabeth Belz**, daughter of Johann Georg Belz and Maria Henk, was born on August 28, 1739 in Berleburg. She died on June 15, 1817 in Berleburg.

Elisabeth Belz and Johann Georg Riedesel had the following children:

1.
  - i. Johann Henrich Riedesel was born on June 14, 1772 in Berleburg. He died in Prob Philadelphia. He married Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler on February 18, 1817 in Berleburg. She was born on February 11, 1784 in Schwarzenau. She died in May 1840 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Buried 14 May 1840).
  - ii. Johann Ludwig Riedesel was born on March 09, 1775 in Berleburg. He died in America.

Notes for Johann Ludwig Riedesel:

I have found no documentation for him after his arrival in America.

He arrived on the brig Osgood in Philadelphia on September 20, 1819. It had sailed from Amsterdam.

The princely archives in Berleburg include this document:

Der Johann Henr. Riedesel zu Berleburg hat die Emigrations Urkunde für sich, seine Frau und Tochter und für seinen Bruder Joh. Ludwig heute in Empfang genommen. Ich benachrichtige Sie hiervon.

Berleburg d[en] 17t[en] May 1819.

für den Landrath im Auftrag

(That is: Today, Johann Henr. Riedesel of Berleburg received emigration documents for himself, his wife and daughter, and for his brother Johann Ludwig. May 17, 1819)

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### Generation 3

4. **Johannes Riedesel**, son of Johann Mannus Riedesel and Anna Katharine Grund, was born on April 23, 1697 in Melbach. He died on December 02, 1758 in Melbach. He married **Anna Catharina Schuppener** on August 25, 1719 in Raumland.
5. **Anna Catharina Schuppener**, daughter of Ludwig Schuppener and Anna Katharina Stenger, was born on March 13, 1696 in Bernshausen. She died on July 10, 1769 in Melbach.

Notes for Johannes Riedesel:

Born in and tenant in Herjes Haus, Melbach.

Anna Catharina Schuppener and Johannes Riedesel had the following children:

- i. Johann Henrich Riedesel was born on December 08, 1720 in Melbach. He died on August 01, 1773 in Melbach. He married Anna Catharina Mengel on June 04, 1751 in Raumland. She was born about August 1724 in Beddelhausen. She died on February 03, 1796 in Melbach.

Notes for Johann Henrich Riedesel:

Tenant in Herjes Haus, Melbach.

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- ii. Anna Catharina Riedesel was born on March 14, 1723 in Melbach. She married Johannes Born on February 26, 1740 in Raumland. He was born on March 05, 1712 in Berghausen. He died on January 18, 1773 in Berghausen. She married Johannes Prätorius on February 13, 1753 in Feudingen. He was born about 1718. He died in March 1759 in Banfe.
  - iii. Anna Elisabeth Riedesel was born on March 09, 1726 in Melbach. She died on January 22, 1792 in Diedenshausen. She married Johann Franz Spies on November 04, 1746 in Diedenshausen. He was born on April 14, 1726 in Diedenshausen. He died on March 11, 1790 in Diedenshausen.

Notes for Johann Franz Spies:

Born in and tenant in Schreiners Haus, Diedenshausen. According to local tradition, he personally carried a complaint from the peasants of Diedenshausen to the German Emperor in Vienna about the heavy burden of taxation and other duties imposed by the Count. Nothing was ever done about it.

- 2.
  - iv. Johann Georg Riedesel was born on June 21, 1728 in Melbach. He died on February 19, 1808 in Berleburg. He married Elisabeth Belz on June 17, 1771 in Berleburg. She was born on August 28, 1739 in Berleburg. She died on June 15, 1817 in Berleburg.
  - v. Anna Maria Riedesel was born on October 17, 1730 in Melbach. She died in June 1791 in Berleburg. She married Georg Ludwig Bald on January 28, 1751 in Berleburg. He was born in July 1715 in Berleburg. He died in April 1769 in Berleburg. She married Ludwig Franz Koch on April 29, 1772 in Berleburg. He was born on February 07, 1735 in Berleburg.
  - vi. Johannes Riedesel was born on April 11, 1733 in Melbach. He died on May 28, 1733 in Melbach.
  - vii. Löysa Riedesel was born on August 17, 1734 in Melbach. She died on June 24, 1781 in Wingshausen. She married Daniel Schulz on February 24, 1758 in Wingshausen. He was born on March 30, 1738 in Wingshausen. He died on April 17, 1797 in Wingshausen.

6. **Johann Georg Belz.** He married **Maria Henk.**

7. **Maria Henk.**

Maria Henk and Johann Georg Belz had the following child:

- 3.
  - i. Elisabeth Belz was born on August 28, 1739 in Berleburg. She died on June 15, 1817 in Berleburg. She married Johann Georg Riedesel on June 17, 1771 in Berleburg. He was born on June 21, 1728 in Melbach. He died on February 19, 1808 in Berleburg.

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#### Generation 4

- 8. **Johann Mannus Riedesel**, son of Hederich Riedesel and Gerthrut Dickel, was born on June 06, 1662 in Melbach. He died on November 04, 1726 in Melbach. He married **Anna Katharine Grund** on November 09, 1693 in Melbach.
- 9. **Anna Katharine Grund**, daughter of Hieronymus Grund and Elisabeth Stenger, was born in 1661 in Bermershausen. She died on January 26, 1729 in Melbach.

Notes for Johann Mannus Riedesel:

Tenant in Herjes Haus at Melbach/Balde. He was known as Mannus Riedesel, and is still regarded as a master builder. When and where he learned his craft is not known, but he was in demand throughout Wittgenstein and neighboring areas such as Siegen. Ten structures he built are known to exist today though there were many others. The most spectacular is the "Ludwigsburg" in the town of Berleburg. It was built for a brother of Graf Casimir between 1707-1709. Another was the forester's lodge at the site of the defunct village of Dambach; it is now a Pension. The well-known chapel/school in Sassenhausen was originally built just as a church, but was later modified to accommodate a (small) school room. They are gems of Fachwerk (half-timbered) construction, often with ornately carved corner posts, inscriptions, and other decorations.

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Anna Katharine Grund and Johann Mannus Riedesel had the following children:

- i. Anna Elisabeth Riedesel was born on December 17, 1694 in Melbach. She died in 1750 in Womelsdorf. She married Johann Ludwig Schmidt on May 10, 1715 in Birkelbach. He was born on January 10, 1681 in Womelsdorf. He died on August 16, 1731 in Womelsdorf. She married Ludwig Klotz on March 06, 1733 in Birkelbach. He was born on May 14, 1700 in Womelsdorf. He died on April 07, 1761 in Womelsdorf. She married Elias Hederich. He was born on January 08, 1696 in Birkelbach. He died on August 31, 1732 in Womelsdorf.
4. ii. Johannes Riedesel was born on April 23, 1697 in Melbach. He died on December 02, 1758 in Melbach. He married Anna Catharina Schuppener on August 25, 1719 in Raumland. She was born on March 13, 1696 in Bernshausen. She died on July 10, 1769 in Melbach.
- iii. Johann Gilbert Riedesel was born in March 1704 in Melbach. He died in April 1704 in Melbach.

10. **Ludwig Schuppener.** He married **Anna Katharina Stenger.**

11. **Anna Katharina Stenger**, daughter of Georg Stenger and Lucie Schaumann, was born on March 23, 1668 in Bernshausen. She died on May 01, 1738 in Bernshausen.

Anna Katharina Stenger and Ludwig Schuppener had the following child:

5. i. Anna Catharina Schuppener was born on March 13, 1696 in Bernshausen. She died on July 10, 1769 in Melbach. She married Johannes Riedesel on August 25, 1719 in Raumland. He was born on April 23, 1697 in Melbach. He died on December 02, 1758 in Melbach.

12. **Johannes Belz.** He married **Maria Kroh.**

13. **Maria Kroh.**

Maria Kroh and Johannes Belz had the following child:

6. i. Johann Georg Belz. He married Maria Henk.

14. **Georg Wilhelm Henk.** He married **Agnes Schuppert.**

15. **Agnes Schuppert.**

Agnes Schuppert and Georg Wilhelm Henk had the following child:

7. i. Maria Henk. She married Johann Georg Belz.

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#### Generation 5

16. **Hederich Riedesel**, son of Henrich Riedesel, was born about 1615 in Melbach. He died on December 12, 1680 in Melbach. He married **Gerthrut Dickel** on May 14, 1661 in Melbach.

17. **Gerthrut Dickel**, daughter of Johannes Dickel, was born about 1640 in Girkhausen. She died on April 29, 1703 in Melbach.

Notes for Hederich Riedesel:

He is the earliest verifiable ancestor of all the Riedesels of Wittgenstein and of almost all American Riedesels. His name is sometimes rendered as Heyrich or Henrich, but local experts affirm that it was not "Heinrich." He was the tenant in the house called "Herjes" in the small hamlet of Melbach. He served for several years as a coachman to the Count in Berleburg during the 30 Years War (1618-1648) and documents say that his house stood empty for five years. He had returned by 1642. While he was a commoner subject to the Count, various signs suggest that the family was of somewhat higher status than most. It is not certain that his father "Heyrich Riedesel" preceded him at Herjes, but it is very likely.

Gerthrut Dickel and Hederich Riedesel had the following children:

8. i. Johann Mannus Riedesel was born on June 06, 1662 in Melbach. He died on November 04, 1726 in Melbach. He married Anna Ursula Dreisbach on November 04, 1687 in Melbach. She was born about 1653 in Prob. Balde. She died on May 04, 1693 in Melbach. He married Anna Katharine Grund on November 09, 1693 in Melbach. She was born in 1661 in Bernershausen. She died on January 26, 1729 in Melbach.

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- ii. Johann Jost Riedesel was born on January 25, 1664 in Melbach. He died in September 1738 in Aue. He married Anna Elisabeth Walter before 1700 in Raumland. She was born about 1673 in Aue. She died on October 20, 1734 in Aue.
  - iii. Georg Heinrich Riedesel was born in January 1666 in Melbach. He married Elisabeth ??.
  - iv. Anna Gertraud Riedesel was born on February 06, 1669 in Melbach. She died after 1741 in Weidenhausen. She married Johann Simon Spies on September 25, 1690 in Raumland. He was born on December 27, 1663 in Bermershausen. He died after 1741 in Weidenhausen.
  - v. Johann Gilbert Riedesel was born on September 17, 1671 in Melbach. He died on December 01, 1737 in Wingshausen. He married Anna Maria Beuter before 1708. She was born in 1676 in Wingshausen?. She died on August 15, 1742 in Wingshausen.
18. **Hieronymus Grund**, son of Paul Grund, was born about 1622 in Prob. Arfeld. He married **Elisabeth Stenger** on January 08, 1652 in Fischelbach.
19. **Elisabeth Stenger**, daughter of Peter Stenger, was born about 1627.  
Elisabeth Stenger and Hieronymus Grund had the following child:
- 9. i. Anna Katharine Grund was born in 1661 in Bermershausen. She died on January 26, 1729 in Melbach. She married Johann Mannus Riedesel on November 09, 1693 in Melbach. He was born on June 06, 1662 in Melbach. He died on November 04, 1726 in Melbach.
20. **Gerlach Schuppener** was born about 1620. He married **Katharina Hoffman**.
21. **Katharina Hoffman**.  
Katharina Hoffman and Gerlach Schuppener had the following child:
- 10. i. Ludwig Schuppener. He married Anna Katharina Stenger. She was born on March 23, 1668 in Bernshausen. She died on May 01, 1738 in Bernshausen.
22. **Georg Stenger** was born about 1629. He married **Lucie Schaumann**.
23. **Lucie Schaumann** was born about 1634. She died on October 15, 1714 in Bernshausen.  
Lucie Schaumann and Georg Stenger had the following child:
- 11. i. Anna Katharina Stenger was born on March 23, 1668 in Bernshausen. She died on May 01, 1738 in Bernshausen. She married Ludwig Schuppener.

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#### Generation 6

32. **Henrich Riedesel** was born about 1580 in Melbach.  
Henrich Riedesel had the following children:
- i. Dorothea/Dechen Riedesel was born about 1610 in Melbach. She died on February 05, 1686 in Bermershausen. She married Johannes Konrad. He was born about 1605. He died on June 21, 1670 in Bermershausen.  
  
Notes for Johannes Konrad:  
He was a miller and sometimes referred to as "Schmidt" but later records consistently use the Konrad family name.
  - 16. ii. Hederich Riedesel was born about 1615 in Melbach. He died on December 12, 1680 in Melbach. He married ??. He married Gerthrut Dickel on May 14, 1661 in Melbach. She was born about 1640 in Girkhausen. She died on April 29, 1703 in Melbach.
34. **Johannes Dickel** was born about 1590 in Girkhausen. He died before 1632 in Girkhausen ?.  
Johannes Dickel had the following child:
- 17. i. Gerthrut Dickel was born about 1640 in Girkhausen. She died on April 29, 1703 in Melbach. She married Hederich Riedesel on May 14, 1661 in Melbach. He was born about 1615 in Melbach. He died on December 12, 1680 in Melbach.

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36. **Paul Grund** was born about 1592.

Paul Grund had the following child:

18. i. Hieronymus Grund was born about 1622 in Prob. Arfeld. He married Elisabeth Stenger on January 08, 1652 in Fischelbach. She was born about 1627.

38. **Peter Stenger** was born in 1602 in Banfe.

Peter Stenger had the following child:

19. i. Elisabeth Stenger was born about 1627. She married Hieronymus Grund on January 08, 1652 in Fischelbach. He was born about 1622 in Prob. Arfeld.