

Descendants of Johann Henrich Riedesel

Generation 1

1. **JOHANN HENRICH¹ RIEDESEL** was born on June 14, 1772 in Berleburg. He died in America. He married Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler, daughter of Johann Heinrich Gäkler and Marie Katherine Herwig, 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)

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

Generation 1 (cont.)

from the church records. In the emigration record and American church records she is referred to as Marie Luise or just Luise (or Louise or Luisa).

Johann Henrich Riedesel and Johanna Henriette Marie Luise Gäkler had the following children:

- i. PHILIPPINE² RIEDESEL was born on February 02, 1818 in Berleburg.

Notes for Philippine Riedesel:
Immigrated.

2. ii. JOHANNES RIEDESEL was born on January 03, 1820 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on May 03, 1863 in Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married Amanda Lavinia Ott, daughter of Jesse Ott and Maria Lavinia Kempt, on June 17, 1851 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (First Presbyterian Church of Kensington, Philadelphia). She was born on September 14, 1832 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on January 30, 1922 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Generation 2

2. **JOHANNES² RIEDESEL** (Johann Henrich¹) was born on January 03, 1820 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on May 03, 1863 in Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania County, Virginia. He married Amanda Lavinia Ott, daughter of Jesse Ott and Maria Lavinia Kempt, on June 17, 1851 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (First Presbyterian Church of Kensington, Philadelphia). She was born on September 14, 1832 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on January 30, 1922 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Notes for Johannes Riedesel:

All evidence suggests that this Johannes Riedesel is identical with the John B. Riedesel whose later life and death are well-documented. It is likely that he is the John Redasel enumerated in the 1850 Census in Philadelphia. He was a cabinet maker living (singly) in a large household of unrelated persons--possibly a boarding house. His age is given as 31, which is close.

A John Riedesel starts to show up in 1850s city directories as a maker of "trimmings", which would also be a kind of woodworker. A John Riedesel was an undertaker in 1860 (who would need wooden coffins). I have yet to find John and/or his two sons in the 1860 Census. His ex-wife was back living with her parents. The marriage ended in divorce in 1859, but the details are under permanent seal.

John B. Riedesel enlisted in the 28th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment in 1861, and was declared missing in action during the Battle of Chancellorsville (May, 1863). No age can be found in the army pension records and there is no enlistment record, but when the company was mustered out at the end of the war, a notation was made of "age 40." That is not precisely correct for Johannes, but close enough.

His former father-in-law, Jesse Ott, spent a couple of years collecting the paperwork necessary to receive a pension for John's two minor children.

Notes for Amanda Lavinia Ott:

She married a William Ruckstool in 1860, after the divorce. It appears that she married a third time, to a Phillips. When her mother died in 1894, the probate records refer to "Amanda L. Phillips" of Clemmington, NJ, as one of the heirs. If she is the Amanda (Mrs. Thomas) Phillips of Camden, NJ, in 1900, then she bore a total of 12 children. Five were living in 1900.

Johannes Riedesel and Amanda Lavinia Ott had the following children:

- i. JESSE O.³ RIEDESEL was born in September 1851. He died on December 27, 1851 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
3. ii. JOHN HENRY RIEDESEL was born on November 11, 1852 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on July 30, 1921 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia Knorr, daughter of David Thompson Knorr and Elizabeth F. Shuck, about 1874. She was born on June 01, 1855 in

Generation 2 (cont.)

- Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on March 07, 1907 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Belvue Cemetery).
4. iii. JESSE OTT RIEDESEL was born on October 15, 1854 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died in November 1920 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Ellen Dytch, daughter of Michael Dych and Ellen Hamrick, about 1877. She was born on August 07, 1857 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on November 09, 1910 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (West Laurel Hill Cemetery).
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Generation 3

3. **JOHN HENRY³ RIEDESEL** (Johannes², Johann Henrich¹) was born on November 11, 1852 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on July 30, 1921 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia Knorr, daughter of David Thompson Knorr and Elizabeth F. Shuck, about 1874. She was born on June 01, 1855 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on March 07, 1907 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Belvue Cemetery).

Notes for John Henry Riedesel:

In 1880, he was living in Philadelphia though employed as a farm laborer. He and his son, William, were living in the same household and employed as stonecutters in 1920, and both were described as marble workers in 1900. Both of John's parents were born in Pennsylvania according to that Census, though his death certificate says his father was born in Germany. His father was almost 60 years dead by this time and may well have spoken German.

Buried in Lot 90, HB Lot 420 GR of the Belvue cemetery.

Notes for Lydia Knorr:

Known as Lidie.

John Henry Riedesel and Lydia Knorr had the following children:

- i. DAUGHTER⁴ RIEDESEL was born in 1872 in Pennsylvania. She died before 1880.
- Notes for Daughter Riedesel:
Not listed in 1880 Census.
5. ii. BERTHA MAY RIEDESEL was born on January 08, 1875 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on June 16, 1932 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Oakland Cemetery). She married Henry George Weimar, son of Heinrich Ludwig Weimar and Louisa ??, in 1894 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was born in October 1869 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died about 1932.
- iii. WILLIAM H. RIEDESEL was born on September 02, 1877 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on March 17, 1928 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Notes for William H. Riedesel:
Living in Philadelphia in 1910 and described as John's son. In 1920, he was still single and living with his father. At the time of his death he was single and a stone cutter by trade.
6. iv. CLARA E. RIEDESEL was born on June 08, 1882 in Philadelphia. She died in November 1971 in Yuma, Arizona. She married William L. Getty on September 16, 1903 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was born on March 06, 1871 in Pennsylvania. He died on July 10, 1944 in Stroud, Monroe, Pennsylvania.
- v. AMANDA RIEDESEL was born on June 16, 1885 in Philadelphia. She died on July 31, 1892 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- vi. ELIZA RIEDESEL was born on January 05, 1888 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on April 18, 1937 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She married William Peoples in 1909.

Notes for Eliza Riedesel:

Generation 3 (cont.)

Known as Lidie. She was baptized in 1906 at at Methodist church. Died in a home for the indigent though still married at the time.

4. **JESSE OTT³ RIEDESEL** (Johannes², Johann Henrich¹) was born on October 15, 1854 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died in November 1920 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Ellen Dytch, daughter of Michael Dych and Ellen Hamrick, about 1877. She was born on August 07, 1857 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on November 09, 1910 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (West Laurel Hill Cemetery).

Notes for Jesse Ott Riedesel:

After his parents' divorce, he was apparently raised by his Ott grandparents. Jesse Ott did eventually collect a veteran's pension on behalf of the two boys. There is no sign of the boys (or their father) in the 1860 Census that I can find; they were not in the Ott household, though their soon-to-be remarried mother was.

As of 1890 he was a salesman living in Philadelphia. He traveled to England in 1913 as there is a record of his return at Ellis Island on May 16, 1913. It gives his birth date as November, 1854. However, an affidavit filed by his mother gives his birth month as October. In the 1900 Census, his birth date is given as October 1855. Ach!

Notes for Ellen Dytch:

Named as Ellen in 1910 Census. That also shows that she had borne six children, only four of whom were alive at the time.

Jesse Ott Riedesel and Ellen Dytch had the following children:

- i. **WILLIAM⁴ RIEDESEL** was born in 1877 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on May 24, 1878 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Notes for William Riedesel:

Buried St. John's M.E. Church vault.

- ii. **MARIAH RIEDESEL** was born in 1879 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on May 26, 1882 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- iii. **FLORENCE V. RIEDESEL** was born on April 24, 1883 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on November 26, 1950 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She married John Hunter Shields in 1923. He was born on April 07, 1879 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on September 09, 1944.

Notes for Florence V. Riedesel:

Single and living with her father in 1920. Signed her marriage license application as Flora V. The 1900 Census lists her birth date as May of 1883 but the year 1884 appears in other documents.

- iv. **JESSE O. RIEDESEL JR.** was born on December 28, 1885 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on October 15, 1918 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Edith C. Trites, daughter of Harry Trites and Kate Carr, on June 22, 1917 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was born on July 09, 1886 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died in May 1968.

Notes for Jesse O. Riedesel Jr.:

The Philadelphia Public Ledger reported his death of pneumonia at the age of 33. Family members give the flu epidemic of 1918 as the cause.

There is some documentary discrepancy about his birth date. Three suggest 1885, and one suggests 1886. 1) His birth date in the 1900 Census was given as July of 1885, and this is the document most contemporary with his birth that I have; 2) he was said to be 33 when he died in October of 1918, also fitting an 1885 birth.; 3) he gave his date of birth on his marriage application as December (sic) 28, 1886.

Generation 3 (cont.)

On the other hand, his stated age was 23 in the April 1910 Census (hence suggesting he would turn 24 that July, given an 1886 birth).

And why would it be July in one place and December another? My only interpretation is that exact age was simply not as relevant a piece of information in those times as it is in our time of age-regulated obligations and privileges.

Notes for Edith C. Trites:

1930 Census indicates that she was married at the age of 16.

- v. FRANCIS SPALDING RIEDESEL was born on December 06, 1889 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on December 10, 1963 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He married Tillie Schnell in 1915 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was born on June 08, 1896 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Notes for Francis Spalding Riedesel:

Francis' year of birth is given as 1890 in a few records, but more say 1889. In 1942 he had to register for the draft. On this document he gave his year of birth as 1890, and an address of 1902 Parrish Street in Philadelphia. His employer was the Newton Elkin Shoe Company at Tanney and Janney streets. He stood 5' 10 1/2" and weighed only 150 pounds.

- 7. vi. HELEN RIEDESEL was born on November 19, 1896 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on April 28, 1971 in Tarrant, Texas. She married CLARENCE ISAAC HANSELMAN. He was born on January 04, 1894 in Indiana. He died on May 29, 1961.

Generation 4

- 5. **BERTHA MAY⁴ RIEDESEL** (John Henry³, Johannes², Johann Henrich¹) was born on January 08, 1875 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on June 16, 1932 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Oakland Cemetery). She married Henry George Weimar, son of Heinrich Ludwig Weimar and Louisa ??, in 1894 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was born in October 1869 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died about 1932.

Notes for Henry George Weimar:

Henry worked as a "stonecutter" and then as a "leatherworker for sporting goods." He may have learned his trade as a stonecutter from his father-in-law John Riedesel who lived next door to him for at least 20 years. John was a marbleworker and stonecutter, as was his son William.

Henry George Weimar and Bertha May Riedesel had the following children:

- i. HENRY GEORGE⁵ WEIMAR was born on May 17, 1895 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died on March 17, 1963 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 - ii. JOHN H. WEIMAR was born in May 1897.
- 6. **CLARA E.⁴ RIEDESEL** (John Henry³, Johannes², Johann Henrich¹) was born on June 08, 1882 in Philadelphia. She died in November 1971 in Yuma, Arizona. She married William L. Getty on September 16, 1903 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was born on March 06, 1871 in Pennsylvania. He died on July 10, 1944 in Stroud, Monroe, Pennsylvania.

Notes for Clara E. Riedesel:

I know of her through a Philadelphia marriage record. The 1900 Census form is not very legible, but a daughter of this age appears and is very likely to be Clara. Thelma was probably her only child. I do not see them in the 1930 Census, so both may have been deceased.

William L. Getty and Clara E. Riedesel had the following child:

- i. THELMA FANNIE⁵ GETTY was born on December 09, 1907 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died in February 1975 in Yuma, Arizona. She married CHARLES BENJAMIN LINK. He was born on August 16, 1908 in Salem, New Jersey. He died on October 30, 1988 in Yuma, Arizona.

Generation 4 (cont.)

7. **HELEN⁴ RIEDESEL** (Jesse Ott³, Johannes², Johann Henrich¹) was born on November 19, 1896 in Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She died on April 28, 1971 in Tarrant, Texas. She married **CLARENCE ISAAC HANSELMAN**. He was born on January 04, 1894 in Indiana. He died on May 29, 1961.

Clarence Isaac Hanselman and Helen Riedesel had the following children:

- i. **ELMER CLARENCE⁵ HANSELMAN** was born on September 04, 1922. He died on January 08, 1983.
- ii. **KATHERINE HANSELMAN**.
- iii. **ROBERT HANSELMAN**.
- iv. **BABY HANSELMAN**.