

Notes on Maria Amalia Riedesel

Generation 1

1. **MARIA AMALIA¹ RIEDESEL** was born on June 16, 1822 in Wunderthausen. She died about 1848 in Crawford, Ohio. She married Ludwig Heinrich Riedesel, son of Ludwig Riedesel and Florentine Althaus, on August 08, 1841 in Wunderthausen. He was born on July 12, 1818 in Wunderthausen. He died on July 30, 1894 in Wheatland, Clinton, Iowa (St. Paul's Cemetery, Wheatland).

Notes for Maria Amalia Riedesel:

She was born in Wunderthausen in the house "Unter der Leye." Her parents did not marry, and it is unclear whether she was commonly known as Riedesel (e.g. the name recorded at the time of her marriage) or Beitzel. Her father's identity was acknowledged though what became of him is not known. She came with her husband, two children and the extended Riedesel family to New York, landing on June 7, 1845. We know only that she died in 1847-1848 in some kind of epidemic in Ohio.

Notes for Ludwig Heinrich Riedesel:

Known as L. Henry in America. Born in Haase Haus in Wunderthausen. Came to Crawford County, Ohio in 1845 with his parents, wife and two known children, three siblings, and the fiancée of his brother, J. Ludwig, who came here in 1844. They arrived in New York on June 7, 1845. The families lived first near Galion, Ohio. An epidemic (presumably cholera or influenza, and certainly not "the plague") claimed the lives of the older couple, Henry's wife Amalia, and their daughter Anna. As of the 1850 census, he was living with his older son in the household of Franz and Anna Homrighausen. 2-year old John was living with the Christian Gerhardt family. Henry and Franz are listed as farmers though with no stated real estate value (they didn't own the land).

In 1852 (later than previously believed), Henry and his brother, George, walked from Ohio to Iowa to purchase land. A Davenport-based land agent took them to the area that was to become Wheatland in the Spring Rock Township of Clinton County. Before returning to their families, they walked to Iowa City to register the deeds. The story is that the land cost less than they expected so they could afford to return by river boat rather than walking; this took them down the Mississippi and then up the Ohio River. Henry and his family actually moved to Wheatland in 1855. The 100-year anniversary history of St. Paul's Church says that L. Henry and Elisabeth came in 1852 but this seems incorrect since Crawford County marriages say the marriage took place on November 21, 1854, which we will take as authoritative. Henry was naturalized on the same date--November 21, 1854--at Galion.

Others in the family bought land and moved to Wheatland. The town was officially founded in 1858 when the railroad came through. Prior to this time, it was very much an open frontier with limited communications and transportation to the outside world. Life was tenuous. In 1863-1864, several children from the Riedesel and Dürr families (and probably others) died of diphtheria.

Henry was a founder of the German Reformed Church in Wheatland (St. Paul's) and served as one of the first Trustees in 1861. He donated the initial half acre for the cemetery of St. Paul's Church. His land was to the north and east of Wheatland, and most of it has remained in family hands. Before the founding of St. Paul's in 1861, he is recorded as a founding member of a German Reformed congregation or community (Gemeinde) in 1857. In 1878, Henry built a new house to replace the cabin in which they had lived since coming to the area. He bought and sold land over the years but the core of his farm was in Section 10 of the Spring Rock Township immediately adjacent to Wheatland. He and two of his brothers were the only Wunderthausen emigrants to receive "patents" on their land, meaning they were the first (white) owners.

Ludwig Heinrich Riedesel and Maria Amalia Riedesel had the following children:

- i. **LUDWIG² RIEDESEL** was born on December 10, 1841 in Wunderthausen. He died on October 23, 1923 in Hennepin, Minnesota (Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls). He married Emma Wirth, daughter of Jacob Wirth and Katherina Glass, on October 01, 1878 in Wheatland, Clinton, Iowa. She was born on October 28, 1858 in Lyons, Clinton, Iowa. She died on May 22, 1942 in Sioux Falls, Lincoln, South Dakota (Woodlawn Cemetery, Sioux Falls).

Notes for Ludwig Riedesel:

Generation 1 (cont.)

Baptised as Ludwig but known as J. Louis in the US. He was born in Haase Haus in Wunderthausen but was brought to America before his fourth birthday. The extended family arrived in New York on June 7, 1845 and settled immediately in Crawford County, Ohio. His mother died 2-3 years later. His father did eventually remarry but the boy was taken care of by relatives in the meantime. They came to Wheatland in 1855.

It is possible that he owned a small farm in Section 2 of Spring Rock Township in Clinton County as of 1874. Some "L. Riedesel" did, though it could have been his father's as well. He went on to live near Battle Creek, Iowa where he was Vice President of the bank and a member of the city council in 1897. By 1920, they were living in Minnehaha County, South Dakota with their daughter, Bernice. That 1920 Census erroneously gives his age as "88."

Notes for Emma Wirth:

She bore a total of six children.

- ii. ANNA ELISABETH RIEDESEL was born on May 10, 1844 in Wunderthausen. She died about 1847 in Galion, Crawford, Ohio.
- iii. JOHN ALBERT RIEDESEL was born on January 02, 1848 in Galion, Crawford, Ohio. He died on June 06, 1932 in Idalia, Yuma, Colorado. He married Katherine Strackbein, daughter of Johann Georg Strackbein and Maria Magdalena Homrighausen, on May 07, 1875 in Afton, Cherokee, Iowa. She was born on June 16, 1846 in Wunderthausen. She died on June 14, 1914 in Idalia, Yuma, Colorado.

Notes for John Albert Riedesel:

Lived near Tingley, Iowa, when first married but moved to Idalia, Colorado in 1887. At the time of the 1850 Census when he was a motherless 2-year old, John was living with the family of Christian Gerhardt (Frau Gerhardt was his father's aunt).

His son George's Social Security application (1936) gives John's middle name as Adolph rather than Albert. He also spelled his mother's name as Catherine rather than Katherine.

Notes for Katherine Strackbein:

Born in Hutheschäfers Haus in Wunderthausen. Arrived in New York on November 8, 1867 aboard the "Argonaut" out of Bremen. Others from Wunderthausen were aboard.