

Descendants of Johann Henrich Riedesel

Generation No. 1

1. JOHANN HENRICH⁶ RIEDESEL (*JOHANN GEORG⁵, JOHANNES⁴, JOHANN MANNUS³, HEYRICH², HEYRICH¹*) was born June 14, 1772 in Berleburg, and died in America. He married (1) HENRIETTE GÄKLER February 18, 1817 in Berleburg. She was born February 11, 1784 in Schwarzenau, and died before 1819 probably in Europe. He married (2) MARIE LOUISE ?? after 1817. She was born about 1785, and died May 14, 1840 in Philadelphia, PA.

Notes for JOHANN HENRICH RIEDESEL:

Recorded as having come to Ronsdorf near what is now Wuppertal in 1791. He left for Holland June 18, 1792. He almost certainly came to America in 1819 with his brother on the brig Osgood (September 20). It had sailed from Amsterdam. German records show that he married Henriette Gäkler in Berleburg in 1817, and that they had a daughter the following year. A wife Louise and nameless child are on the ship's list.

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. This could well be the same Johann Heinrich.

Louisa died May 14, 1840 at about 55 years of age and is buried in the Salem's 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."

Child of JOHANN RIEDESEL and HENRIETTE GÄKLER is:

- i. PHILIPPINE⁷ RIEDESEL, b. February 02, 1818, Berleburg; d. before 1819, Probably Europe.

Notes for PHILIPPINE RIEDESEL:

Immigrated.

Child of JOHANN RIEDESEL and MARIE ?? is:

2. ii. JOHANNES⁷ RIEDESEL, b. January 03, 1820, Philadelphia, PA; d. May 1863, Chancellorsville, VA.

Generation No. 2

2. JOHANNES⁷ RIEDESEL (*JOHANN HENRICH⁶, JOHANN GEORG⁵, JOHANNES⁴, JOHANN MANNUS³, HEYRICH², HEYRICH¹*) was born January 03, 1820 in Philadelphia, PA, and died May 1863 in Chancellorsville, VA. He married AMANDA LAVINIA OTT July 17, 1851 in Philadelphia, daughter of JESSE OTT and MARIA ?. She was born about 1833 in Philadelphia, PA, and died after 1894 probably in New Jersey.

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, spend 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.

Children of JOHANNES RIEDESEL and AMANDA OTT are:

- i. JESSE O.⁸ RIEDESEL, b. September 1851; d. December 27, 1851, Philadelphia.
3. ii. JOHN HENRY RIEDESEL, b. November 11, 1852, Philadelphia, PA; d. after 1920.
4. iii. JESSE OTT RIEDESEL, b. October 15, 1854, Philadelphia; d. November 1920, Philadelphia, PA.

Generation No. 3

3. JOHN HENRY⁸ RIEDESEL (*JOHANNES⁷, JOHANN HENRICH⁶, JOHANN GEORG⁵, JOHANNES⁴, JOHANN MANNUS³, HEYRICH², HEYRICH¹*) was born November 11, 1852 in Philadelphia, PA, and died after 1920. He married ELIZA ?? about 1874. She was born June 1855 in Pennsylvania, and died before 1910 probably in Pennsylvania.

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 stonemasons in 1920, and both were described as marble workers in 1900. Both of John's parents were born in Pennsylvania, so he is at least third generation.

Notes for ELIZA ??:

The 1900 Census indicates that she had borne five children, but only four are listed.

Children of JOHN RIEDESEL and ELIZA ?? are:

- i. DAUGHTER⁹ RIEDESEL, b. 1872, Pennsylvania; d. before 1880.

Notes for DAUGHTER RIEDESEL:

Not listed in 1880 Census.

- ii. BERTHA MAY RIEDESEL, b. about 1875, Philadelphia; d. about 1931; m. HENRY GEORGE WEIMAR, 1894, Philadelphia; b. October 1869, Philadelphia; d. 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.

- iii. WILLIAM H. RIEDESEL, b. September 1877, Pennsylvania; d. after 1920.

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.

- iv. CLARA E. RIEDESEL, b. June 1882; m. WILLIAM L. GETTY, 1903, Philadelphia; b. about 1872, 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.

- v. ELIZA RIEDESEL, b. June 1888.

Notes for ELIZA RIEDESEL:

She could be the "Lidie T. Riedesel" who married William Peoples, Jr. in 1909.

4. JESSE OTT⁸ RIEDESEL (*JOHANNES⁷, JOHANN HENRICH⁶, JOHANN GEORG⁵, JOHANNES⁴, JOHANN MANNUS³, HEYRICH², HEYRICH¹*) was born October 15, 1854 in Philadelphia, and died November 1920 in Philadelphia, PA. He married ELLA DYTCH about 1877, daughter of ELLEN ?. She was born 1858 in Pennsylvania, and died before 1918.

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.

Notes for ELLA 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.

Children of JESSE RIEDESEL and ELLA DYTCH are:

- i. WILLIAM⁹ RIEDESEL, b. 1877, Philadelphia, PA; d. May 24, 1878, Philadelphia, PA.

Notes for WILLIAM RIEDESEL:

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

- ii. MARIA RIEDESEL, b. 1879, Pennsylvania; d. before 1910.
iii. FLORENCE V. RIEDESEL, b. April 24, 1883, Philadelphia, PA; d. November 26, 1950, Philadelphia, PA; m. JOHN H. SHIELDS, 1923; b. April 07, 1879, Philadelphia, PA.

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.

- iv. JESSE O. JR. RIEDESEL, b. December 28, 1885, Philadelphia, PA; d. October 15, 1918, Philadelphia, PA; m. EDITH TRITES, June 22, 1917, Philadelphia; b. July 09, 1886, Philadelphia; d. May 1968.

Notes for JESSE O. JR. RIEDESEL:

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.

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 TRITES:

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

- v. FRANCIS SPALDING RIEDESEL, b. December 06, 1890, Philadelphia, PA; d. December 1963; m. TILLIE SCHNELL, 1915, Philadelphia; b. June 08, 1896, Philadelphia.

Notes for FRANCIS SPALDING RIEDESEL:

In 1932 they traveled to Bermuda by ship. On the ship's immigration log, his birthdate is given as 1889 rather than 1890 that we have from other sources. They lived at 5235 Diamond Street in Philadelphia. At the age of over 50, he was required to register for the draft in 1942. 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.

- vi. HELEN RIEDESEL, b. November 19, 1896, Philadelphia, PA; d. April 28, 1971, Tarrant, TX; m. CLARENCE ISAAC HANSELMAN; b. January 04, 1894, Indiana; d. May 29, 1961.