

## *Descendants of Johannes Riedesel*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL (*JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 15, 1787 in Wunderthausen, and died November 03, 1855 in Littlestown, Adams, Pennsylvania. He married CATHERINE ELISABETH POTT About 1815, daughter of JOHANNES POTT and MARIA KLINE. She was born November 28, 1793 in Wunderthausen, and died 1866 in Prob. Pennsylvania.

Notes for JOHANNES RIEDESEL:

Born in Wetzels Haus, Wunderthausen. Came to Pennsylvania between 1814 and 1815 where he was known as John Rittase. He is buried at Christ Church near Littlestown, PA, in Adams County with the following inscription:

In memory of  
JOHN RITTASE  
born Sept. 15, 1787  
in the canton of  
Wittgenstein in the  
kingdom of Prussia  
and being a citizen  
of America for the  
last 40 years  
died Nov. 3, 1855

It appears that the family eventually agreed on "Rittase" and used that spelling consistently thereafter. Church records when their children were young used some variation on "Riedes." It was a German-speaking congregation and one might have expected the proper name to have endured, but that was not the case. "Rittase" sounds very much like the Wittgenstein pronunciation of "Riedesel" except for dropping the final "L". Everyone with this name appears to trace back to John.

Children of JOHANNES RIEDESEL and CATHERINE POTT are:

- i. JOHANN GEORG<sup>8</sup> POTT, b. March 09, 1812, Wunderthausen; d. May 05, 1812, Wunderthausen.
- ii. JOHANNES RIEDESEL, b. December 04, 1814, Wunderthausen; d. September 13, 1831, Adams County, PA.

Notes for JOHANNES RIEDESEL:

Abstracts from the Republican Compiler Adams County, Pennsylvania 1831-1851 by Robert Stover c1976 ; page 1, very first entry "Died September 13, 1831 John, son of Mr. John Redis, Germany Township, this county, aged 17 years."

2. iii. HENRY JACOB RITTASE, b. April 14, 1819, Adams County, PA; d. 1878, Pennsylvania.
3. iv. CHRISTENA DEANNE RITTASE, b. 1822, Adams County, PA.
4. v. WILLIAM RITTASE, b. September 12, 1823, Adams County, PA; d. September 29, 1892, Pennsylvania.  
vi. SUSANNA RITTASE, b. About 1826.
5. vii. MARIA ELISABETH RITTASE, b. March 27, 1828, Adams County, PA.
6. viii. ISHMAEL RITTASE, b. March 29, 1832, Adams County, PA; d. February 24, 1886, Adams County, PA.  
ix. MARY ANN RITTASE, b. 1834; m. AMOS JESSE HILBERT, November 13, 1856.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. HENRY JACOB<sup>8</sup> RITTASE (*JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born April 14, 1819 in Adams County, PA, and died 1878 in Pennsylvania. He married RACHEL/FREDERIKA WERNTZ. She was born About 1820 in Bavaria, and died After 1880.

Notes for HENRY JACOB RITTASE:

Christ Reformed Church (birth?) records lists him as Henry Jacob Riedess. He was a shoemaker in 1870.

Notes for RACHEL/FREDERIKA WERTZ:

The 1870 Census lists the wife of Jacob as Frederica, but all other indications are that his wife was Rachel, and that she was his only spouse.

Children of HENRY RITTASE and RACHEL/FREDERIKA WERTZ are:

- i. JOHN WILLIAM<sup>9</sup> RITTASE, b. August 28, 1847, Adams County, PA; d. Before 1860.

Notes for JOHN WILLIAM RITTASE:

He is not found in the 1860 Census, so may be presumed to have died young.

- ii. CHARLES H. RITTASE, b. August 1853, Maryland; m. MARY??, About 1885; b. May 1850, Maryland.

Notes for MARY??:

Walter was her only child.

- iii. FRANKLIN RITTASE, b. About 1854, Pennsylvania; d. 1932.

Notes for FRANKLIN RITTASE:

Rachel may be his mother. Census records are inconsistent.

**3.** CHRISTENA DEANNE<sup>8</sup> RITTASE (*JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born 1822 in Adams County, PA. She married FREDERICK W. BALD December 19, 1844. He was born 1823 in Germany.

Children of CHRISTENA RITTASE and FREDERICK BALD are:

- i. WILL<sup>9</sup> BALD, b. 1853.
- ii. TILLIE BALD, b. 1855.
- iii. DANNY BALD, b. 1858.
- iv. CARRIE BALD, b. 1861.
- v. FREDDY BALD, b. 1867.
- vi. LOUISA BALD, b. 1871.

**4.** WILLIAM<sup>8</sup> RITTASE (*JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 12, 1823 in Adams County, PA, and died September 29, 1892 in Pennsylvania. He married (1) MARGARET SECHLER/SLIFER. She was born About 1830, and died Before 1875. He married (2) MARY BITTLE MAY 1851. He married (3) MARGARET BITTLE 1875.

Children of WILLIAM RITTASE and MARGARET SECHLER/SLIFER are:

- i. WILLIAM FRANK/FRANCIS<sup>9</sup> RITTASE, b. January 27, 1855, Pennsylvania; d. About 1930; m. SOPHIA BELINDA YANTIS, April 19, 1882; b. December 1858, Maryland; d. After 1930.

Notes for WILLIAM FRANK/FRANCIS RITTASE:

As of the 1880 Census, he is listed as being a widower. He was 25 and working as a retail grocer, living with his cousins Henry and Alice Slifer.

Notes for SOPHIA BELINDA YANTIS:

By 1900 she had borne 6 children, of whom 5 were living.

- ii. DAUGHTER RITTASE, b. 1857; d. 1858.
- iii. ADOLPHUS SECHLER RITTASE, b. September 02, 1859, Pennsylvania; d. May 11, 1943; m. LYDIA MUMMERT, October 11, 1894; b. 1866, Pennsylvania.
- iv. EMMA MARIAH RITTASE, b. April 07, 1862, Adams County, PA; m. J. A. ROSER, February 18, 1880.

Notes for EMMA MARIAH RITTASE:

In 1880 she was married, but living with her parents.

- v. EPHRAIM NELSON RITTASE, b. March 1864, Pennsylvania; d. April 06, 1945, Maryland; m. MARGARET ??, 1886; b. November 1861, Maryland.

Notes for EPHRAIM NELSON RITTASE:  
Known as Nelson.

- vi. ELMER HORACE RITTASE, b. About 1866; d. 1890.
- vii. ALVERTA V. RITTASE, b. March 15, 1868, Littlestown, Adams County, PA; d. August 17, 1897, Littlestown, Adams County, PA; m. GEORGE MILTON STUDY, December 23, 1888; b. February 1868.
- viii. HARVEY WILLIS RITTASE, b. October 11, 1870, Pennsylvania; d. 1944; m. SUSAN VIRGINIA SCHULDT; b. About 1883.

Notes for HARVEY WILLIS RITTASE:  
Single and living with three sisters as of the 1900 Census.

- ix. LILLIAN MARGARET RITTASE, b. March 07, 1873, York, PA; d. July 26, 1912, Pennsylvania; m. MARTIN WILDASIN, March 21, 1905.

Notes for LILLIAN MARGARET RITTASE:  
Single and living with her brother Harvey in 1900. That Census gives her birth month and year.

Child of WILLIAM RITTASE and MARAGARET BITTLE is:

- x. SARAH MINNIE<sup>9</sup> RITTASE, b. October 24, 1876; m. OLIVER SENTZ, About 1915.

Notes for SARAH MINNIE RITTASE:  
Single and living with her brother Harvey in 1900.

**5.** MARIA ELISABETH<sup>8</sup> RITTASE (*JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born March 27, 1828 in Adams County, PA. She married WILLIAM BOGAN January 29, 1856.

Notes for MARIA ELISABETH RITTASE:  
Christ Reformed Church record refers to her as Maria Elisabeth Riedes.

Child of MARIA RITTASE and WILLIAM BOGAN is:

- i. LOUISE<sup>9</sup> BOGAN, b. 1856; d. 1938; m. GEORGE LEESE.

**6.** ISHMAEL<sup>8</sup> RITTASE (*JOHANNES<sup>7</sup> RIEDESEL, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>6</sup>, JOHANN LUDWIG<sup>5</sup>, WILHELM<sup>4</sup>, JOHANNES<sup>3</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>2</sup>, HEYRICH<sup>1</sup>*) was born March 29, 1832 in Adams County, PA, and died February 24, 1886 in Adams County, PA. He married MARY ANN BART October 14, 1856. She was born About 1835 in Pennsylvania, and died 1879 in Pennsylvania.

Notes for ISHMAEL RITTASE:  
Christ Reformed Church record refers to him as Reetes.

Children of ISHMAEL RITTASE and MARY BART are:

- i. MARY<sup>9</sup> RITTASE, b. 1858; d. 1858.
- ii. JOHN AUGUSTUS RITTASE, b. August 1860, Pennsylvania; d. After 1930; m. LEAH RACHEL SELLERS, December 11, 1883; b. August 1862, Pennsylvania; d. 1927.

Notes for JOHN AUGUSTUS RITTASE:  
Living in Baltimore in 1930.

Notes for LEAH RACHEL SELLERS:  
By 1900 she had borne 7 children, of whom 6 were living. As of 1910, she reported 9 children, of whom 8 were living.

- iii. ELLEN JOSEPHINE LYDIA RITTASE, b. About 1862, Pennsylvania; d. 1945, Indiana; m. EMANUEL UNGER, January 04, 1887, Adams County, PA; b. 1852; d. 1931.

- iv. WILLIAM FRANKLIN RITTASE, b. October 20, 1865, Pennsylvania; d. 1949; m. ALICE VIRGINIA SENTZ, 1893; b. February 1866, Maryland; d. 1944.

Notes for WILLIAM FRANKLIN RITTASE:

Living in Iroquois, Indiana, in 1900, but was back in Maryland in 1910.

- v. ANNA ALVERTA VIRGINIA RITTASE, b. About 1868; d. 1958, Indiana; m. SAMUEL BAIR, April 26, 1891; b. 1861; d. 1894.
- vi. CHARLES EDWARD RITTASE, b. About 1873; d. 1950, Michigan; m. EVA V. ??; b. 1873; d. 1957, Michigan.