

From the Glidden Graphic Newspaper, January 1910
Obituary of J. Ludwig Riedesel

It hath pleased almighty God, in his wise providence, to take out of this world our beloved elder, J. Ludwig Riedesel, at the age of 87 years, 5 months, and seven days. Father Riedesel was born August 5, 1822 in Wunderthausen, Germany. Born to a Christian family, he was instructed in the fundamental truths of the Christian religion and was brought up accordingly.

At the age of 22 he came to America, locating in Crawford County, Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Kate Schneider in 1845. In the year 1855 they came west, crossing the Mississippi and becoming among the early pioneers in Clinton County. In 1881 the family moved to Carroll County, locating near Glidden, where his wife died on the 22nd of September 1894. Since this time, Mr. Riedesel made his home with his children, 8 surviving him and 4 having preceded him to the great beyond.

The following children survive the parents: Franz Riedesel, Charter Oak; John C. and Louis A. Riedesel, Glidden; Phillip Riedesel, Laramie, Wyoming; George Riedesel, Guthrie Center; Miss Susie Riedesel, Laramie, Wyoming; Mrs. Diedrich Beckman, Wheatland; and Mrs. Henry Wetter, Glidden. Besides these, 45 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren, a host of friends, yea, the whole congregation of which he was a faithful member and a serving elder for the last year, are mourning his demise. But nevertheless we still rejoice in the prophecy of Isaiah: "The Ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

The above article was prepared and read at the church in Wheatland, Iowa.

Mr. Riedesel's death followed an operation for the relief of a trouble which came upon him, largely as the result of his advancing years. The remains were brought to Glidden Saturday morning and funeral services were held at the Presbyterian Church. Saturday afternoon, Dr. George Booth conducting the service. Following this service, the remains were gently laid to rest beside those of his wife who death occurred as noted above. A large company of sorrowing relatives and friends were present to pay their last respects to this kindly old gentleman who had reached the end of life's journey.

J. Ludwig Riedesel was of the salt of the earth. He was quiet in his way of living. He never pushed himself forward in any direction. He never sought to pose in the limelight of public gaze. On the contrary, his modest nature impelled him rather to withdraw from any point where public gaze was likely to be focused. To be honest with him was so natural and so logical that whenever thought of any other course. In the life of more than four score years, this man never had a lawsuit. As a boy, under the christian tutelage of his parents, he grew up in in the way he should go and never departed from this way. In the hurry and bustle of this world, in the scramble for wealth and power and place, in the noise and the dust and confusion stirred up by those who seek to attract attention, we sometimes forget these more quiet and more modest individuals, and yet the real progress of mankind is dependent on men of this kind and character. Thou art the rock, it was said of Peter, and so these men of character who are content to live modestly and serve others, are the solid and sure rock on which our civilization shall securely rest as the superstructure grows and expands ever onward and upward toward higher and better ideals.

The things uppermost in the mind of this man, as he passed along life's journey, were his family, his friends, his church, and his God. He was a charter member of the German Evangelical Reformed Church of Wheatland where his death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Diedrich Beckman. To these objects he was as true as the everlasting hills. Through example and through service, he has passed to his children a heritage of character which will endure as a lasting monument to the worth of his service throughout all the ages that are to come.