

Published January 19, 1910 in the Wheatland Gazette. This was a generous amount of space for someone who had moved away 30 years earlier, but J. Ludwig was obviously much loved.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel (great-great grandson)

Death of Ludwig Riedesel.

Ludwig Riedesel died at Agatha hospital, Clinton, Ia., Wednesday night, January 12th, following an operation for rupture of the bowels. He withstood the operation and was apparently recovering when the final summons came and the end was peaceful.

His sons John and Louis, of Glidden, Ia., and his daughter, Mrs. D. Beckmann, of this place were there and took charge of the remains, which were brought here Friday. Services were held in the German Reformed church by Rev. J. Gatermann, and a late train the same night took the remains to Glidden, Ia., where final services were held Saturday afternoon and where they were laid to rest beside those of his wife who died some years ago. Mrs. Beckmann and daughter Lydia, went from here to Glidden.

The following brief sketch of his life was submitted to us by the relatives of the deceased:

"It has pleased Almighty God in His wise providence to take out of this world our beloved elder, Ludwig Riedesel at the age of 87 years, 5 months and 7 days. Father Riedesel was born Aug. 5th 1822 in Wunderthausen, Germany.

Born in a Christian family he was instructed in the fundamental truths of the Christian religion and brought up accordingly.

At the age of 22 he came to America locating in Crawford Co., Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Katherine Schneider in 1845.

In the year of 1855 they came west, crossing the Mississippi and were one of the pioneers of this country. In 1881 he moved to the western part of this state, locating at Glidden, where his wife died on the 23rd of Sept. 1894, since when he made his home with his children, 8 surviving, 4 having preceded him in death.

The names of the surviving are as follows: Miss Susie Riedesel, of Laramie, Wyo, Mrs. D. Beckman, of Wheatland, Ia; Mrs. Henry Wetter, of Glidden, Ia; Frank, of Charter Oak, Ia, Louis, of Glidden, Ia; Philip of Laramie, Wyo; George, of Guthrie Center, Ia; and John of Glidden, Iowa.

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 decease.

But nevertheless we still rejoice in the prophesy 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."

Ludwig Riedesel was the last survivor of a family of longlived children, and it comes as rather a coincidence that he passed away on the same day of the same month as his brother George, who died Jan. 12th, 1901, who would have been 70 years old had he lived a few hours longer. "Grandpa" Riedesel, as the deceased was familiarly known by the younger generation, was hale and strong for a man of his years, physically and mentally stronger than many younger men, and few days passed that he was not down town among his old associates. Since the death of his wife he has divided his time between the home of his daughter, Mrs. Beckmann here and the homes of his sons at Glidden.

Possessing the true character of an honest, industrious, upright man, it is no small wonder that all who knew him mourn his death, and that at the last sad rites held here, the huge concourse of friends that filled the church to overflowing was mute testimony of the esteem in which he was held by both young and old.