

John Riedesel.

Born Mar. 31, 1829. Died Dec. 9, '08.

Another pioneer passed to the Great Beyond, and his life remains but a dear memory to his family and many friends. Coming of sturdy stock, he had nearly reached the eightieth milestone, and was a daily visitor among his associates, when suddenly pneumonia had him low. Rallying his strength, he had nearly recovered when a second attack took him to the gates of the future, and he quietly bade his dear ones farewell and entered eternity.

John Riedesel was born in Wunderthausen, Westphalia, Germany, on March 31, 1829, from which place he emigrated with his parents in 1845 to Crawford county, Ohio. Seized with the call of the West in 1853, he came as far as Wheatland, but returned soon after to Ohio, coming here to settle in 1857. He was married July 7, 1859, to Miss Elizabeth Kuoche, and to this union eight children were born, namely Christena, Ferdinand, Emma, Kate, Anna, Emil, Otto, and an infant son who died soon after birth. The daughter Kate, wife of Ernest Rowald, has also gone before her father, but the other children survive him, as do also his wife, brother Ludwig, and sister, Mrs. Franz Homrighausen, both of this place.

He was an ardent member of the German Reformed church, and helped to build and maintain the first German church in Wheatland. Loving and kind to his family, honest and upright with all his fellow men, the truth of these words spoken by Rev. Link in a very befitting sermon, sinks into the heart of everyone who knew him, "Of the riches and wealth of earth he cared for but little, his chief aim in life being to prepare his soul with the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven." Peace be to him, and may his fullest desires have been filled.

The funeral services were held Friday afternoon, first at the home southwest of town, and then at the church, followed by interment in the High German cemetery.

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Unfortunately his death has been erroneously recorded elsewhere, including his grave marker.

Notes by Dr. Paul Riedesel