

## Descendants of Elisabeth Gertraud Althaus

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### Generation 1

1. **ELISABETH GERTRAUD<sup>1</sup> ALTHAUS** was born on January 14, 1795 in Wunderthausen. She died between 1845-1850 in probably in Crawford County, Ohio. She had a relationship with **GEORG LUDWIG DÜRR**. He was born on January 19, 1799 in Wemlighausen. He died after 1826 in probably in Elberfeld. Notes for Elisabeth Gertraud Althaus:  
Born in Haase Haus in Wunderthausen and presumably lived there with the extended family. While the senior Ludwig Dürr never married her, there are records showing that he paid some kind of child support and was living in Elberfeld in the late 1820s (many young men from poor Wittgenstein did so, if only seasonally). She came with her son, Ludwig Dürr, and nephew, J. Ludwig Riedesel, to New York on the ship Lesmona out of Bremen. It debarked there on June 24, 1844. All were bound for Crawford County, Ohio. She is nowhere to be seen in later records so presumably died in her first few years in America.

Georg Ludwig Dürr and Elisabeth Gertraud Althaus had the following child:

- i. **GEORG LUDWIG<sup>2</sup> DÜRR** was born on May 28, 1823 in Wunderthausen. He died on September 07, 1888 in Wheatland, Clinton, Iowa. He married Anna Elisabeth Caroline Schneider, daughter of Johann Georg Schneider and Luise Florentine Wetter, on October 14, 1850 in Bucyrus, Crawford, Ohio. She was born on August 13, 1833 in Wunderthausen. She died on April 10, 1905 in Wheatland, Clinton, Iowa (St. Paul's Cemetery, Wheatland).

Notes for Georg Ludwig Dürr:

Known as Ludwig. Apparently raised in Haase Haus in Wunderthausen. With his first cousin, J. Ludwig Riedesel, and his mother he traveled to New York on the ship Lesmona out of Bremen, debarking on June 24, 1844. Their destination was Crawford County, Ohio, where the cousins' aunt and uncle (the Gerhardts) lived. Family legend has it that he built a barn for someone in exchange for his passage. Exactly where he lived is uncertain. It is likely that he and his family lived outside the towns of Galion and Bucyrus. Just prior to his marriage, the 1850 Crawford County Census found him living in the household of a German-born wagonmaker, John Miller.

While living in Ohio, he received some theological tutelage from the Rev. Max Stern of the German Reformed Church in Galion. The Dürres, the Riedesels, the Gerhardts and the Schneiders appear not to have been members of that congregation. Instead, they evidently met in homes and perhaps a rough meeting house for religious services. Reports differ on when he settled for good at Wheatland. The reported birth places of their children imply a move to Iowa between 1855-1857.

Their family scattered. Unlike many of the other Wunderthäuser, they had no "home place" (farm) to pass down to another generation.

Dürr was a carpenter, not a farmer, and lived in the town of Wheatland. He was a founder of St. Paul's Church in Wheatland and had served as a lay leader of worship services in Wheatland before a regular minister was available. Before the founding of St. Paul's in 1861, he is recorded as a founding member of a German Reformed congregation or community (Gemeinde) in 1857. He was an elder in the first Kirchenrat (Board) of St. Paul's church in 1861. He and Caroline are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery, but no marker exists.

Notes for Anna Elisabeth Caroline Schneider:

Known as Caroline. Born in Altehäusers Haus in Wunderthausen. The Schneider family arrived in New York on the ship Amazone out of Bremen on May 31, 1848. Some records (including her obituary in the local paper!) report that the wife of Ludwig Dürr was "Catherine Schneider", but this is totally incorrect. She was Caroline in her day; her sister, Catherine, married J. Ludwig Riedesel in 1845.

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### **Generation 1 (cont.)**

Four of her twelve children died in childhood. She is buried with Ludwig Dürr in St. Paul's Cemetery though there is no grave marker.