

Wiederhold Name Changes

While the individuals with name Wiederhold are the focus of this genealogy, other names are also related to this family. Many are single instances, where a name was transcribed differently. Those are often just shown in the Also-Known-As entries in the Wiederhold Tree. Some preachers (5?) latinized the name Wiederhold to Antiphilus ('against beauty'?!), not considering the actual origin of the name; I show them as Wiederhold. Other changes persisted. Some significant ones are listed here.

Counts for name occurrences in the current working tree are also given in the page providing general [Wiederhold Genealogy Information](#). I also maintain a [webpage for US immigrant from Alsatia \(Elsass\)](#) and from the [Eichsfeld Region and individual entries](#).

Alternate family name spellings

In early days naming was much more ad hoc than it is now. Before say 1500 people were often named based on their origin or profession. An example is Ludwig van Beethoven, whose ancestors came from the [beet-fields](#) in the Netherlands. Common German names are Bauer (farmer) and Schmidt (smith). First and last names were also used interchangeably. The name Wiederhold is unusual, in that it does not have such a derivation. An early spelling found by Alfred Wiederold dating from [827 and 838 is Uiderolt](#). But I was not able to link to any ancestry of that name and time.

In the Netherlands, Finland, and Scandinavian the given name of the father, say "Jan" would be the basis for the family name, say "Evert Jansen" and a son of this "Evert" would be "Peter Evertson". Variations of this rule applied to daughters, but after marriages they become hard to trace. Since such patronyms are optional when used with family names, I spell them in lowercase.

The imposition of a civil registry by Napoleon to support the drafting of soldiers for his military campaigns, led to a formalization of family and given name, initially in continental Europe.

In the early years US immigrants often spelled names inconsistently. That means that the same person can appear as a Wiederhold in a German source, and as Weatherhold, Wetherhold, Weatherholt, and as Wetherholt in US documents. Such multiple spellings also occur for descendants for many generations. I have tried to eliminate duplicate entries and will continue to do so. These inconsistencies cause genealogy software that tries to automate matching, as "*Smart Matches*" to create yet more duplicates. Often duplicate entries are created because of alternate spellings of first names, especially when dates are uncertain. And, when names are similar, individuals may be merged when distinct. In published Wiederhold genealogies that has happened with common names, as Nicolaus and Henrich.

Wedderold (before 1500)

The earliest entries use the name Wedderold, after the earliest male ancestor, Volland (1185-1248) named one of his 3 sons Wedderold. There are about 150 Wedderolds shown in the Wiederhold tree. The name was also used as a given first name; at least 12 distinct Wedderold Wedderhold appear in those documents. When names occur too frequently genealogists added roman numerals to distinguish them. I use the same convention, avoiding adding a `.' to the number – that is only used when it is part of a formal name. In the Felsberg and Homberg branches the name changed around 1500, but there are instances as late 1750. These Wiederholds also used an earlier version of the [Wiederhold coat of arms](#), just three clovers.

Von Wiederhold (1644, 1649)

In Germany nobility assumes the prefix `von'. There are several such instances. After the `von' nobility may use the name of the area they controlled. An alternative to `von' was the term `zu', having here the meaning `at'. Where both terms appear I chose the term `von', since the Ancestry software does not recognize `zu' as a prefix. To what extent successors can continue that name was regulated, but those regulations differed over time and by area, so some descendants reverted to the name Wiederhold. After the first World War Germany discontinued recognizing nobility formally, but some people continued using a prefix to impress people. The Dutch version is `van', but not necessarily associated with nobility. A French, Spanish, and Portuguese prefix is `de', the Italian `di'. Other prefixes, as the Danish `af', The Swedish `av', and the English `of' are not recognized by Ancestry software. Some genealogical software handles prefixes of any spelling distinctly.

Konrad Wiederhold (1598-1667), after his defense of the Hohentwiel castle (1634-1644), received lands in Württemberg from the duke and then was known as Konrad Wiederhold von und zu Neidlingen.

Johann Georg Wiederhold (1600-1677), also having been involved in the defense of the Hohentwiel, adopted the title Johann Georg Wiederhold von Weydenhofen. His second wife, married in 1646, Anna Sabina von und zu Karpfen (1608-1675), had become nobility already.

Georg Reinhard Wiederhold (1599-1648) became a commander in the Dutch forces during the 80-years war, used the name Georg Reinhard de Widerhold by 1636. Later he also adopted the name Georg Reinhard Wiederhold von Weidenhofen. I have no record of a formal enobling, but he worked closely with the reigning families in the Netherlands,

A Johann David Wiederhold (abt 1603-after 1650) became an officer Swedish, Dutch, and Hessian armies, and Legatus supremus Militaris; and was ennobled in 1649, becoming Johann (or Hans) David Wiederhold von Weidenhofen. His male children took on the name Wiederhold von Weidenhofen, but I have no records of further male descendants. However an older brother, [Georg Reinhard Wiederhold](#), (1599-1643), mercenary commander also used the name. It appears that he and his wife had 20 children and the known surviving ones are distributed all over Europe. A son Wilhem Ludwig Wiederhold von Weidenhofen (1638-1667) wound up in South Africa, but later descendants reverted to using just Wiederhold.

Some immigrants that went to the USA just adopted name "von Wiederhold" as their name, as John H. von Wiederhold (Oct 1867) oo Dora (not Dorothea Jageman 1869; Dorothea Otto 1877, no match found).

A branch in the Netherlands East Indies changed their name, to honor a maternal branch, formally to [Hedrich von Wiederhold](#).

Widerhold (~1624)

Reinhold Widerhold (~1624), a son of [Georg Reinhard Wiederhold \(1599-1648\)](#), a well-travelled mercenary commander, appears to have settled in state of Württemberg. his descendants use that spelling, although occasional genealogical references revert to the Wiederhold spelling.

However, the majority of occurrences of Widerhold in genealogical records appear to be misspellings, often obvious since alternative sources or relatives use the name Wiederhold. To gain consistency in matching I enter them as Wiederhold, with the Widerhold name in the Also-Known-As box.

Wetterhold (~1698)

Johann Wiederhold was born 1667 in Neukirchen, Hessen as the son of Nikolaus Wiederhold, (*1641) but moved by 1698 to the Lotharigen or Lorraine region across the Rhine river. That region is now part of the Bas-Rhin region of France. He was a shepherd. In Lorraine he is known as Johann Nicolaus Wetterhold and had over 120 descendants. At least 3 children of [Hans Niklaus Wetterhold \(1700-1728\) and Anne Marie Urban \(1695-1728\) emigrated to Pennsylvania](#). One of the three children is Johann Nicolas Wetterhold (1722-1791) who arrived 22 October 1754 on the ship Halifax via Rotterdam. In 1755 he is listed as a Captain, likely in the local militia. More detail about [US Wetterhold and Weatherholt](#) immigrants.

Since this branch reused the same given names over and over, the records shown on Internet genealogies are quite confusing. Some listings show Anne Marie Urban having children at age 60. I put much effort into having this part of the [tree presented here](#) as trustworthy as possible.

A family Wetterholt also appears in Sweden starting around 1725 around 1870, but the relationships are spotty. I have found no linkage to German Wetterholds or Wiederholds.

Widerholt and Witterholt (~1690, ~1800))

Johann Jakob Wiederhold (1635-1643), the keeper of the count's stables, also used the name Wiederholdt. He is located both in Frankfurt and in Limburg, where the counts had residences. Records about his whereabouts are uncertain, and I don't have a death date or place. A son from his first marriage, Johann Albrecht Wiederhold (1674), is shown living in the area of Limburg, Hessen and his son used the name Phillip Wiederhold (1720), also for 4 of their 5 children. His youngest son used the name Peter Witterholt (1771-1843), also for his two children. Further descendants used the spelling Witterholt as well. A Johann Heinrich Witterholt (born about 1676-1690), living in the same area is likely also a son of Johann Jakob Wiederhold, and has been entered as such. His son and two of his children used the spelling Wiederholt.

Another branch of Witterholt's started when Nicolaas jans Wiederhold (1780-1846), born in Amsterdam to Wilhelm Johannes Wiederhold (1737-1788) while enlisted as soldier of the [VOC](#). He married in 1792 , using the spelling Witterholt, Margien hindriks Braak (1760-1847) from Groningen, in the North of the Netherlands, and they have many descendants there.

As far as I know, Alfred Wiederhold did not search for the name Witterholt. There are likely more descendants to be added to the Wiederhold genealogy.

Weatherhold (~1750)

The records have many Weatherhold entries also shown with the spelling Weatherholt, and vice versa. A grandson of Hans Niklaus Wetterhold (1700-1728) and Anne Marie Urban (1695-1728), Johan Jacob Wetterhold (1726-1763), also born in the Lorraine region of France, emigrated around 1750, also to Pennsylvania. He was killed in a battle with Indians in 1763 and his wife remarried a Dutch immigrant and they moved with the children to West Virginia. The oldest son, Jacob (1760-1937) moved to the Ohio territory, near the Ohio river and there was known as Jacob Weatherhold. That area became Kentucky. There are about 800 Weatherholt descendants shown in the Wiederhold tree. They warrant a [separate story, focusing on US immigrant](#)s. The Weatherholt genealogy is documented in a copyrighted document by Gary Dewayne Weatherholt: *The family of Jacob Weatherholt, 1760-1837*; 1994, 419pp, on [file at the family History Library in Salt Lake City](#) and several other libraries, as the New York Public Library.

A descendant, Charles Alrah Wetherholt (1868-1952) and one of his 7 children, and his descendants switched to the spelling Weatherholt.

Wetherhold (1781)

The spelling Wetherholt appeared various times. Jost Henrich Wiederhold (1759–aft 1810), a Hessian mercenary in the revolutionary war, deserted and remained in the US. He married, likely the daughter of the farmer where he was quartered in Pennsylvania. There he adopted the name Joseph Henrich Wetherhold. They had 5 sons. There are now over 250 Wetherholt descendants in the Wiederhold genealogy.

Wetherhold (1875)

Leonard Weatherhold (1875-1954), born in Kentucky, changed his name to Wetherhold, likely when working in Indiana. But that name was not used by his 4 children and their descendants.

There are also some Wetherholds in England, around York. I have not been able to trace their ancestry.

I have to thank Carina Wetherhold for collecting much of the Wetherhold and Weatherhold data, placing it on Ancestry, and pointing me to relevant genealogy sources. As noted above, those two spellings are often alternates for the same person, but they will appear only once in the counts listed below.

Wetherholt (1787)

There are also multiple adoptions of the spelling Wetherholt. John Weatherholt (1787) born in Virginia, changed his name to Wetherholt when he moved to Ohio after military service in the Union army. At least 6 of his 15 children adopted that spelling. I have about 20 Wetherholt descendants for him in the Wiederhold genealogy.

Wiederholz (1789, 1843, 1851)

Johann Friedrich Wiederhold (1764-1810) was a miner in Bransrode, Hessen. Three sons from his first marriage, Paul Christian W. (abt 1789), Johann Christian Wiederholz (abt 1790), and Heinrich August Wiederholz (abt 1791) used the name Wiederholz for their children. Heinrich August Wiederholz' (abt 1791) and Elizabeth Stamman (1789-1823) had a son, also named Heinrich August Wiederholz (1818-1866) and so is easily confused with his father. Elizabeth Stamman (1789-1823) also had an earlier relationship with Paul Christian Wiederholz (1816), their son was short-lived. Such events could be a motivation for moving and changing names. Many in this family were miners and moved to Clausthal, in the Harz mountains, about 50 miles south and worked in the mines there. Heinrich August Wiederhold (1818-1866) married Henrika Friederke Justina Gropp (1823) and their 9 children are all named Wiederholz. had 9 children and is the ancestor of many Wiederholz' descendants. I only have a substantial subtree for Wilhelm Karl Ludwig Friedrich Wiederholz (1856-abt 1890). Many live in the Harz area or a bit west, in Westfalen.

Several emigrated to the United States. Johann Herman Wiederhold (1843-1899) and his wife, Christina Otto (1854-1940) emigrated between 1882-1884 with 3 of his children to New York, had 2 children there, and 2 more after 1890 in Iowa. He not only used the name Wiederholz in the US, but also gave his age as being about 10 years younger. Karl Wiederhold (1851) emigrated in 1886 with 3 of his children to Chicago, Illinois, and had 4 more children there. A Georg August Wiede(r)holz, is shown as having been married in

Wisconsin before 1893, but no descendants are shown there. A grandson, Wilhelm Albert Siegfried Erich Wiederholz (1903) is reported to have died in the USA.

Alfred Wiederhold did not collect information for Wiederholz', it seems he was unsure about their ancestry.

Witherhold (1846)

The last son from the second marriage of William Weatherholt (1810-1880) and Sophia Anna Kohler (*1812) used the name George Witherholt (1846-after 1870). While born in Pennsylvania it appears that he was a member of the 18th Illinois battalion during the civil war. There is cite with the same spouse of a French sea captain, living in New York; I have to check if that is an error. He died in Illinois. His 3 children use the name Witherhold as well. There is cite with the same I have little information about them. George's sister, Ella (1844) who used that spelling at times as well. The spelling also occurs as an alternate for Wetherhold.

The name was also used, primarily in Wisconsin and Minnesota as an alternative to Wiederhold.

Wiederholt (1855)

Joseph Bernard Wiederhold (1835-1910) emigrated from the [Eichsfeld region](#) to the US in 1855 with his first wife, Maria Anna Kessler (1829-1879) and her 3 children. They lived first in Illinois but by 1862 moved to south-east Wisconsin, near Dubuque, Iowa. They had 9 more children and 11 of them spelled the family name as Wiederholt. Joseph Bernard used that spelling sometimes as well. After Maria Anna died, he remarried, had 10 more children. The 6 later ones also used the spelling Wiederholt. A large number of descendants, using the spelling Wiederholt, live in the area

Hedrich von Wiederhold (1861)

Johan Edward Wiederhold (1843-1919), living then in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) requested a name change to keep the family name of his mother, Johanna Petronella Hedrich (1806-1868) alive. That change was authorized by a Dutch royal order on 19 November 1890. The Wiederhold Genealogy now contains about 40 Hedrich von Wiederhold entries. A few descendants, as Tomas Willem Gerard Hedrich von Wiederhold (1870-1945) actually called themselves "Hedrich von Wiederhold von und zu Naidlingen zum Hohentwiel", but that overly fancy name did not stick.

Wiederholdt

The spelling Wiederholdt when Johannes Wiederhold (1768-1947) moved with Regina Barbera Meyrin from Bavaria to the Netherlands and got married there in 1768. A motivation may be that it would have been a mixed marriage, protestant and catholic, There they used the spelling Wiederholdt and Meijrin, and all their children are Wiederholdts as well.

Ferdinand Wiederholdt and his wife Hedwig Schmidt (1949—1923) emigrated from Germany to Saint Louis, Missouri. I have not yet been able to connect them to their ancestors.

Wedderhold or Wedderholt

Those spelling of the name occur occasionally in the US, but did not persist over generations so they are not used for genealogy entries, but are only listed as Also-Known-As (AKAs).

[Weiderhold, Widerhold, Wiederhoff](#)

These spellings seem to always due to poor recordings, as by census takers, transcription errors, or scanner failures. A common misspelling in the US is using “ei” for “ie”, which violates the popular rule for English “i before e, except after c”, although there exceptions, as “weird” in English as well. A number of Gio’s scientific papers are also miscited that way. That spelling should not occur in the Wiederhold genealogy.

[Wiedholt](#)

The name Wiedholt occurs in the area of Hessen where may Wiederholds lived since 1698. It is likely a shortening of Wiederhold, but I have not been able to make a connection. I have about 40 related entries with that name in the Wiederhold genealogy.

[Wenderholt](#)

The children of a Georg Wiederhold (1532-1582) used the spelling Wenderholt. There only a few now in the genealogy, but since I have not searched for that name, there may well be more. There are also 17 Wenderhold’s in the Wiederhold genealogy, but as far as known, only related by the marriage in 1807 of Anna Elizabeth Wiederhold (1787) to Valentin Wenderhold (1782-1825).

[Wiederhold/Weber](#)

It appears that Christianus Wiederhold (born in Kefferhausen in 1794, died 1864 in Sinsinawa, Grant county, Wisconsin) also used the name Christianus Weber. He emigrated from Germany in 1846. The 8 children that emigrated with him, that I have now in the genealogy, use the name Wiederhold.

[Wiederhold/Thompson \(1877-1948\)](#)

The father of Charles August Wiederhold (1877-1948) died soon after his son’s birth in Pioche, Nevada. His mother, Wilhelmina Kirchner (-1921) remarried in 1880. Her second husband, Alexander Sharp Thompson (1842-1905) adopted Charles August, so that he, and his son, Charles Edward Thompson (1905), use the surname Thompson. I have not tracked further descendants.

[Wiederhold/Woodrow \(1914\)](#)

Philip Edward Wiederhold (1883-1967) changed his family name to Philip Edward Woodrow, likely as a reaction to events during World War I. I have not followed his descendants.

[Wiederhold/Fischer \(~1950\)](#)

David Roger Weatherholt (1948), son of David Owen Weatherholt (1927) was adopted by his stepfather after his mother, Betty John Quisenberry (1928) remarried, and took on the name James Roger Fischer.

[Walter Kreiser \(1898-1959\)](#)

[Walter Kreiser](#), a German aircraft and helicopter engineer and journalist used the name [Konrad Wiederhold](#) (and Widerhold) for his publications. I assume the name was in honor of the local hero, the [defender of the Hohentwiel](#) castle. Walter was arrested in 1931 for revealing that a Lufthansa base was secretly being used for the development of military aircraft technology and convicted of treason. He escaped from jail, first to France, then to Switzerland, and in 1941 to Brazil where he participated in an anti-Nazi-group of exiled Germans. I don’t know if the name Wiederhold was used by any of his descendants there. I plan to check [[Izabela Maria Furtado Kestler](#): *Die Exilliteratur und das Exil der deutschsprachigen Schriftsteller und Publizisten in Brasilien*. Peter Lang Verlag, Frankfurt am Main 1992].

Mispellings.

When names were obviously misspelled, they were entered under the most likely version, typically the name of a father. To help in locating records, alternate spellings used are shown in A(Iso)K(nown(A)s field, often with multiple entries. Not all combinations of Given and Family names are listed, there often an excessive number of combination.

Census takers are especially bad in spelling, they just had to make sure that every member in a household was listed, and was uniquely identified.

Count of entries

The counts change with every edit. As of June 2021 my working genealogy file contained primary entries for over 10,000 likely Wiederhold relatives, with a family name distribution as shown here.

147	Wedderold (the earliest spelling)
7,656	Wiederhold
15	von Wiederhold
39	Hedrich von Wiederhold
8	Weatherhold
729	Weatherholt
48	Weatherholtz
1	Wedderolt
1	Wederholdt
1	Wederhold
1	Wederhoud
7	Wederhout
1	Weederhoud
1	Weederhout
4	Wenderholt
312	Wetherhold

116	Wetherholt
171	Wetterhold
36	Wetterholt
8	Wetterold
21	Widerhold
35	Wiederholdt
180	Wiederholt
4	Wiederholtz
99	Wiederholz
7	Wiedholt
5	Witherholt
98	Wiederholz
43	Wiedholt
5	Witherholt
3	Witterhold
56	Witterholt

Alternate given name spellings

Here only some general guidance can be provided. There are many spellings for common given names, as Caspar, Elizabeth, Heinrich, and especially Johannes. In church records Johannes may be written as Jo'es. Alfred Wiederhold generally used the modern German spellings as Kaspar, where the original documents used Caspar. I have in general retained Alfred's spelling, augmented in the Also-Known-As (AKA) field when complementary spellings came from alternate sources. When there were many, say more than 3, not all combination of given and last name spellings seen in the sources are shown.

The name Johannes is especially problematical. Its [meaning, God is gracious](#), caused it to be used in a baptism as a first of multiple given names very frequently, but not always subsequently. It is by far the most frequent name in the Wiederhold genealogy. I counted the variety of primary entries in September 2020, while validating Wiederholds born before 1800. There were no Ian or Ivan W.'s then. This table only shows males. There are many Johanna and there is a Giovy as well.

First given name	Instances
Johann	609
Johannes*	299
Hans	105
Joannes	40
John	30
Jan	13
Jean	12

First given name	Instances
Joannis	9
Johan	8
Evan	2
Shawn	2
Hannes	1
Sean	1
Gio (Giovanni)	1

* When in a record the abbreviation Jo'es was used I expanded it to Johannes.

(I am glad I was born in Italy and have a unique name.)

Those counts will change as the [Wiederhold Tree](#) is updated.

A story about [confusing John Wiederholds](#) is told by Alwin Wiederhold.



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This page last updated by Gio Wiederhold on 1 September 2022.

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