

Timeline

The fortunes of the Wiederholds were affected by events around them. This list presents some of them. References to the English Wikipedia are given although others were used as well. Names with a † appear in the Wiederhold genealogy.

(This is a draft: to edit use fullpage, go into table, then table options appear on top. Chose layout there)

9 AD	Battle near Osnabrück, Lower Saxony in the Teutoburger forest : Armenius, leader of a local tribe, the Chatten , with the help of other Germanic tribes, defeats the Romans and keep them out the areas to the east of the Rhine. That area is where early Wedderholds first appear.
402	The Roman legions leave England and later Northern Europe, enabling local tribes to assume power.
536-541	Darkness and cold leading to draughts, famines, plagues, and wars due to volcanic ash from volcanoes in Iceland, wiping out over half of the population of the Roman Empire.
550-750	Latin, and then French becomes the dominant language west of the Rhine river
749	Legend: St.Bonifacius slays the devil on the Stuffenberg in the Eichsfeld , the mountain splits and disappears. A chapel, St. Gehölffenberg is erected there (about 10km south of Heilbad Heiligenberg) and the population converts to Christianity [Duval:1845].
800	Charlemagne† (*747) becomes emperor of the Romans, unifying all Germanic-speaking regions and several adjoining states. He forced the Saxons (inhabitants of Sachsen) to become Christians. With 4 wives and 3 consorts he had over 13 children that inherited parts of his empire as kings and dukes. Some of them became electors, eligible to select the next Holy Roman Emperor (HRR†) in Frankfurt, an independent city.
1066	William the Conqueror†, a duke of Normandy in Northern France (*1027), conquers England, greatly changing the culture there to become Anglo-Saxon.
1095	Pope Urban II, born as Odo of Châtilion (1035-1099) initiated the crusades. Much travel of nobles ensued.
1220	First citation of the name Wedderold†, given to the son (*1210) of a judge and mayor in Marsberg, at the border of Westfalen and Hessen.
1292	Conflicts among sons of the counts of Hessen. Some Wiederholds follow them.
~1350	The Black death (Pestilence epidemic) killed 25Million people, a third of the population
1360	Heiligenberg in the Eichsfeld becomes a destination for annual pilgrimages. By 1443 three full-time priests are appointed to hear confessions. It becomes an important social event with much eating and beer-drinking [Duval:1845].
1439	Johannes Gutenberg develops the printing press in Mainz, Germany, enabling by 1500 rapid distribution of bibles and popular material and broad access to information.
1446-58	Ludwig <i>the peaceful</i> † of Hessen (*1402) splits Hessen into Lower (northern) and Upper (southern) Hessen, causing the Wiederhold branch to split, since several were employed by the counts. Following the rulers, the branch that moved to Homberg and Felsberg later became protestant. In 1500 Hessen was again united.
1492	Alahambra decree by king Ferdinand of Aragon† (*1492): All Jews must become Christians in 90 days or leave Spain, initiating Portugal's rise in trade and exploration of the world.
1519	Huldrych Zwingli attempts to reform the Catholic church, soon converting the French reformer John Calvin.

1524-25	A peasant revolt destroyed many catholic churches, mainly to the south and east of Hessen, including Eichsfeld, but the peasants did not receive support from the protestant clergy and the aristocracy defeated them, killing about 100,000.
1568	Protestants in the Netherlands, led by William the taciturn of Orange†, started fighting the imposition of Spanish catholic rule. The eighty-years ended when, in the final negotiations for the thirty-years' war, they gained independence.
1571	Martin Luther posits his 95 principles and hastens the reformation, leading to political conflicts among princes that adopt or reject Lutheranism.
1572	The St. Bartholomew's Day massacre drives many leaders and craftsmen out of France, including some Wiederhold ancestors.
1576	A Jesuit delegation settles at Heiligenberg in the Eichsfeld, an area with many Wiederholds, to counteract conversions to Lutheranism.
1602,70	Start of exploration of the Indies and North America. Some Wiederholds became soldiers for merchant companies as the Dutch VOC and the British Hudson Bay Company .
1618-	The Thirty-Years War started as conflict between states that adopted Protestantism, initially accepted in the Peace of Augsburg of 1555, and those that did not or were forced to revert under the pressure of emperor Ferdinand II. HRR†, elected in 1619. The initial conflicts started in Bohemia in 1618. Protestant forces rallied to the Netherlands in 1622, but lost battles in Germany. France felt threatened by all sides and a civil war. Denmark started to intervene in 1625, and Sweden in 1630, on opposite sides, moving the focus of the war to central Europe. Sweden, with help from France and the Netherlands, employing mainly German and Scottish mercenaries. The war caused at least 8 million fatalities in Europe, including about 25-50% of the population in German regions.
1626	Brutal occupation and rape by the catholic General Tilly and his soldiers of the city of Munden, 2600 inhabitants are killed on the first day, including 8 preachers – among them Johannes Wiederhold (1758-1626)† -- and their bodies thrown into the Werra river the next day. Some inhabitants are able to flee to Göttingen. Only 100 citizens survive [Lotze:1909].
1626-31	Witchcraft trials and purges in Germany, instigated by catholic bishops.
1633	Pope Urban VIII, born as Maffeo Barberini, (1568-1644) summons Galileo to recant his heliocentric views. As a visible defender of catholicism, the name Urban becomes popular. He had advised general Tilly to get rid of all protestants.
1642-44	Pestilence, but also outbreaks of typhus, exacerbated by the conditions during the war.
1644-48	Negotiations on establishing settling authority over lands involved in 30-years war started in 1644 and ended with the peace of Münster in 1648.
1648- - 1870	Alsace-Lorraine, the lands west of the Rhine river and south of the Mosel river, became French, but protestants remained numerous there. Some Wiederholds move from Hessen to its northern area there from Hessen, working as shepherds, using the name Wetterhold there. Several Wetterholds emigrate, as Johann Jacob Wetterhold (1726-1763)† in 1754, who has many descendants, also named Weatherholt in the US. Johannes Heinrich Wetterhold (1813-1869)† left for New York around 1844.
1652	The Dutch Cape Colony established in 1652 as re-supply and layover site for ships traveling to the Indies. From 1691 to 1795 it was controlled by the VOC . Dutch, German, and French Huguenots emigrate to the Cape colony. Wilhelm Ludwig Wiederhold (1638-1667)† settled there. An ancestor on Gio's mothers' side, Andreas Georg Heinrich Teubes (1746-1807)† came there as well. The British occupied the colony in 1795, referred to then as the Cape province. It was returned to the Dutch Napoleonic Batavia Republic in 1803 but reoccupied in 1806. A 1814 treaty formally turned it over to the British, with the Dutch getting rights to the Indies. In 1872 it became self-governing – by whites.

1667-69	Heiligenberg in the Eichsfeld recognized as devotional site by local rulers (Johann Philipp Sachsen or Hessen†?) [Duval].
1727	The bishop of Salzburg decrees that all protestants have to leave the area. Through intervention by King Frederick Wilhelm I. of Prussia† many are received in Hessen and Westfalen. <check intermarriages, Lotze 1909, Chap.16.
~ 1736	Around 1700 the countess of Hessen had received as wedding present the Duchy of Zweibrücken, in the southern region of Alsace Lorraine. Johann Kaspar Wiederhold (1703-1768)† gets a job as a process-server there, using the name Jean Caspar Wiederhold. He marries Anne Eve Still there. Many descendants now live in what is now the Bas-Rhin region of France, and in other parts of the country. Some emigrated to the US.
1744-35	Conflicts regarding the inheritance of Augustus II. the Strong<+> (*1670), elected king of Poland in 1887 led to the War of the Polish Succession.
1738	Potatoes, first brought from the Americas to Spain in 1570, started to be planted in Prussia and 10 years later in Saxony and Westfalen, greatly changing the German diet.
1740-48	War of the Austrian Succession, initiated by Frederik II, the Great of Prussia (*1712) based on claims that a woman, Maria Theresia V (*1717)† was not eligible to inherit Austria. One result was that Silezia (Schlesien) became part of Prussia (after 1945 part of Poland), and some Wiederhold ancestors moved there.
1775-83	American Revolutionary War. King George III.† of the now United Kingdom (*1738) hires 30,000 Hessian mercenaries, supplied by his <cousin> Frederik II. of Hessen-Kassel†, to fight the insurrection. Two officers (Andreas† and Bernard Wilhelm†) are Wiederholds, there were certainly many more, since the ratio of officers to privates was about 1:5. A Jost Henrich Wiederhold (1754)† deserted and stayed in Pennsylvania, changing his name to Wetherhold. About 6,000 of the Hessians remained in the U.S., but few of the officers.
1792- - 1815	Wars of the Coalitions , by various combinations of central and southern European states against Napoleon Bonaparte†. Some German territories initially accepted control by French, liberating, forces, while being overrun by French refugees. The 4 th war (1806-1807) affected Hessen the most, about 700,000 soldiers and civilians died (That does not include Napoleon's 1812 Russia campaign).
1811	The Netherlands, now parts of France, introduces civil registries to support of military conscription and taxation, requiring family names, replacing patronyms.
1814- 1815	The Congress of Vienna allocates areas conquered by Napoleon to the winning parties. Beethoven writes Cantata op.139 to celebrate "The Glorious Moment". The Eichsfeld region is split between Hanover and Prussia; most Wiederholds find themselves in Prussia.
1815	The Mt.Tambora volcano in north-central Indonesia explodes, creating global dust clouds that lead to a cold summer, crop failures and starvation all over Europe. At that time an ancestor of Gio Wiederhold, on his mother's side, Adriaan Melchior Tuybens (1790-1840)† lived in Ternate , a volcanic island about a 1200km to the north-east.
1830-95	Cholera epidemics in various European areas. 1831 Prussia; 1849 Netherlands & Belgium; 1866 Belgium; 1892 Hamburg.
1835-40	First trains in Germany, plain people can travel beyond walking overland. Descendants become harder to trace.
1842	The invention of the Lancashire loom caused mechanical weaving to replace home-spun spinning and cloth-making, greatly reducing incomes in the Eichsfeld area. Many Eichsfeld Wiederholds emigrate to the Americas †.
1848	German democratic movement, suppressed soon after by Prussia. Many German democrats leave, as Franz Schmidt (1818-1853)†, some to the U.S.

1850	Chile encourages immigration of German settlers in its southern region. At least two Wiederholds who were not closely related, Christian Friedrich Klaus Wiederhold (1831)† and Heinrich Wilhelm Wiederhold (1836)† settle there.
1860	Crop failures in Finland, motivating massive emigration via Norway, later Sweden, many continuing to the US.
1861-65	US Civil war, many Wiederholds fought on both sides, more on the Union side. A topic for a future story.
1871- - 1918	After France lost a war with Germany Alsace-Lorraine becomes a territory assigned to the German Emperor. The central-eastern area where most Wiederholds lived is now called the Unterelsaß. Some residents left for France, as Marie Madeleine Wiederhold (1811-1880) with her family, but most stayed. The area changed ownership 4 times, it became part of France after the First World War and is now its Bas-Rhin (lower Rhine) region.
1883	The Volcano of the Krakatoa between Sumatra and Java erupts, generating spectacular sunsets, but also lowering temperatures in Europe by 1.2 °C (2.2 °F), causing famines.
1902	The Cape settlements by the Dutch (Cape colony) in South Africa become independent, are lost to the British by 1902 and become part of South Africa in 1910.
1910	Union of South Africa formed
1914-18	First World War.
1930-85	Alfred Wiederholdt (*1918) creates a comprehensive Wiederhold genealogy .
1939-45	Second World War. Massive dislocations as many men are in military service.
1945-89	Germany is split and loses possessions to the East.
1969-90	ARPA develops the ARPAnet, predecessor of the Internet, enabling global access to information.
1970ies	Containerized shipping makes location of production of goods nearly irrelevant.
1990ies	The Internet and its technology provides world-wide, low-cost sharing of information.
2019	The Wiederhold genealogy is published on-line.
2020	The effects of global warming, mainly due to fossil-fuel emissions, are starting to be felt.

† entries in the on-line Wiederhold genealogy; * year born

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