

The Ranck Reporter

VOLUME XXXIII

MAY 2010

NUMBER 1

The Ranck Family Heritage Society

282nd Anniversary Reunion

Fri., Sat., Sun., July 16-18, 2010
Ranck's United Methodist Church
New Holland, PA



Much of our family history has been centered around Ranck's Church, from its beginnings in Long's Barn and the home of Christopher and Mary Ranck Grosh (d. of John Michael Ranck). But John Michael Ranck also had early and close association, perhaps even extending back into Europe, with the *Unitas Fratrum* (the Unity of the Brethren), also known as the Moravians. Two of John Michael's sons, George Michael (02.1) and Johannes (02.3) were among the first settlers sent by the Moravians to carve out a settlement in western North Carolina (current Winston-Salem) and John Michael's grandson, also John Michael (03.1) and wife Christina Hagerinn went as Moravian missionaries to the Indians in Gadenhutten, Ohio, the site where nearly one hundred Christian Indians were massacred by white settlers in 1782. Christopher Grosh's father, Valentine, was also associated with the Moravians. So our Moravian history runs deep and this year's program will center around the Moravian heritage of the Ranck family.

Our program this year has been underwritten, in part, by a generous memorial gift honoring the life of Mark H. Tice.

Fri., July 16	6:30 PM	Dinner at Yoder's Restaurant (New Holland)
Sat. July 17	9:00 AM	Gathering - coffee, donuts, conversation
	10:30 AM	Program: "Our Moravian Heritage"
	12:00 noon	Lunch served by "The Heavenly Hashers"
	2:00 PM	Lititz Moravian Church, Museum and Cemetery
	5:00 PM	Dinner at Family Cupboard (Lititz)
Sun. July 18	10:15 AM	Worship at Ranck's Church

The main program will be presented by Arthur Lawton and John Ranck. Art is a Moravian historian and scholar completing his doctorate at Indiana University. He has studied the migration of Moravians from the estate of Count Zinzendorf in Saxony to the port cities of the Netherlands (legend has it that the Rancks traveled the Rhine with them), the extensive supply and support network they provided for emigrants (they lost only one person at sea), information on what was called the "sea congregation," and many details of their settlement in Pennsylvania. John will follow Art's presentation with historical information and photographs relating John Michael Ranck's early contact with the Moravians in Pennsylvania and the part Rancks played in the settlement in North Carolina and in Ohio.

During the afternoon, we will travel to the nearby Lititz Moravian Church, one of the earliest of the Moravian congregations in America. There we will learn of denominational and local customs from members of the Lititz congregation, be treated to music on the Tannenber organ and (perhaps) by the Brass Choir, be led on tours of the church and grounds, and visit the museum with our guides to answer questions. We will also learn of the unusual Moravian burial customs, and visit some Ranck graves in "God's Acre."



Matthäuskirche
Neckarau



Moravian Church
Lititz



Ranck's Church
New Holland

A More Substantial Reunion Program

For many years, our reunion has centered around lunch together and then a formal program in the nave of the church, ending around 3:00 PM. The exception was the 275th anniversary reunion in 2003 when a concert, a bus tour, and other group dinners were included. These extra activities were very well received, especially by those coming from some distance, because they provided a more memorable experience and helped to justify the travel time. The local committee is unable to mount such an ambitious program every year, but we believe that some expansion might make the reunion more memorable for “out-of-towners” as well as attract more “locals” to participate by involving them as more than spectators (see below) and making each year a little different.

Those who come to our reunions from some distance often arrive the afternoon before – and then have nothing to do in the evening. Our plan now includes Friday evening dinner at a local restaurant for these “travelers” together with members of the Reunion Committee, the principal presenter(s) for the Saturday program, and others who wish to join us.

The main reunion program (as described on page 1 for this year) will begin at **10:30 AM** preceded (9:00 AM) by coffee, donuts and social time and followed by lunch together in the church social hall. (Note carefully this change in time so you are not disappointed if you arrive at the “regular” program time).

During the social hour, we will connect “travelers” with “local hosts” and urge them to sit together and learn to know each other during lunch. Following lunch, we will travel to some location of family or local cultural interest, perhaps with a planned program at the remote location. (This year the afternoon program will be at the Lititz Moravian Church.) In 2003, we traveled by bus, but we are suggesting that “local hosts” transport “travelers” in their cars, giving time for conversation, pointing out local landmarks, sharing local history and customs, etc. etc. Families with children could “swap a child” for this travel, making the whole thing more interesting and memorable for children. Depending upon the remote location and the number of participants, we may arrange evening (restaurant) dining together.

For those coming from out of town, the weekend could conclude with attendance at the Sunday morning service at Ranck’s Church.

Your comments and reactions to this new format, together with ideas for future reunions, are welcomed.

Electronic edition of *The Ranck Reporter*

More than 120 subscribers to *The Ranck Reporter* now read their semi-annual edition “on-line.” They enjoy: (1) notification by e-mail before the second-class postal edition would reach them; (2) reading the newsletter in the new electronic format (which includes color which we cannot afford to print); (3) a link to the paper edition which they may print (also in color) on their own printer; (4) the knowledge that, collectively, they are saving our organization more than \$250 each year. We know that electronic delivery is not convenient for all but just imagine: if (a big and impossible if) everybody were able to receive the publication on-line, it would result in an annual saving of more than \$2,000, trips to the printer, and weeks of address forwarding and non-delivery notices from the Post Office.

To see what *The Ranck Reporter* looks like on-line, go to <http://ranck.org> and click on “The Ranck Reporter” in the menu on the left. You might also click on “Print Edition” and print your own copy (in color!).

If you would like to receive email notification of each new edition, in lieu of postal delivery, send an email to JPRanck@Ranck.org. (If email notification is not satisfactory, you can always go back to the regular postal delivery.)

The Ranck Reporter is a semi-annual newsletter published by the Ranck Family Heritage Society, Inc. (<http://Ranck.org>).

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(temporary vacancy)

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BIRTHS

Landen Mathias Ranck Lindstrand (011.47), 21 May 2008. Son of Lael and Aura Leigh Ranck (010.16) Lindstrand, grandson of Henry Allen Ranck (09.108) of Lakeland Florida, g-grandson of Hiram Ranck (08.50).

Dayne Asher Ranck Ross (011.48), 16 May 2007. Son of Marian and Lori Anne Ranck (010.15) Ross, grandson of Henry Allen Ranck (09.108) of Lakeland Florida, g-grandson of Hiram Ranck (08.50).

DEATHS

Ada Reba "Arbee" Buchwalter Bachman (7.936), age 85, of Lancaster died January 15th, 2010. She was the daughter of the late Omar Neff and Ada Ranck (6.33) Buchwalter. In addition to her husband John N. Bachman, Sr., with whom she celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on June 15, 2009, she is survived by three children: Joyce L., wife of Leon B. Hershey, Jr. of Narvon; John N. Jr., husband of Cynthia O. Bachman of Atlanta; and Lois I. Bachman of Lancaster, and sister, Verna B. Flower of Arlington, Virginia.

J. Edwin Rohrer (9.649), age 60, of Paradise Township, died at home on December 30, 2009. In addition to his wife, Linda (King) Rohrer, to whom he was married for 37 years, Ed is survived by his parents, F. Edwin and Marion Ranck (8.614) Rohrer of Strasburg Township, daughter, Kelly, married to Timothy D. Smith of Lancaster, and brother, Roger M. Rohrer of Strasburg.

Mary R. E. Jones (7.1133), 101, of Honeybrook, died January 12, 2008. She was the daughter of the late George (6.104) and Fannie Brunner Ranck and wife of the late Charles Emery and Harry L. Jones and was the last of her family.

Hulda Ranck Kline (7.1212), grand-daughter of Jacob Newton Ranck (5.637) died January 1, 2010.

Wallace Gamber Ranck (8.1090), 64, of Lancaster, died April 8, 2010. He was the son of Walter M. and Edith Gamber Ranck (7.350). He is survived by his sister Arlene Zerr.

LOST FAMILY LINKS

From newspapers and other sources, we have gathered 192 family "fragments" - assemblages of family members one or more of whom bears the name Ranck, Rank, Ronk, or Runk or was reported by someone as connected to the Rancks. As far as we know, all persons in the US who spell their names in one of these ways, are descendants of John Michael and John Philip Ranck. We would love to connect these families to *The Ranks of the Rancks*, but the

information we have is too fragmentary. Beginning with this issue, we will publish a few of these fragments in each issue hoping that one of our readers can help us establish the connection. If you know how to connect one of these "lost" families, please contact archivist, John Ranck: jpranck@ranck.org, 717-367-5018.

X.1 Glenn Runk, m. **Nancy** ----, lived in Broad Top, PA in 2007. One known child: **Kenneth Charles**, m. **Sharon Ann Runkles**. Five known children: [i. **Kathy** (m. **Tony Angelo**); one known child: **Adrian**]; ii. **David**, lived in Saxton, PA; iii. **Kimberly Ann**, b. Jan. 31, 1981, McConnellsburg, PA. grad. Tussey Mtn. HS, d. Jan. 4, 2006; iv. **Erin**; v. **Adam**].

X.2 Jay Ranck, m. **Ruth** ----, two known children: 1. **John Robert, Sr.**, b. Dec. 30, 1919, Huntingdon Co., Huntingdon HS (1947), d. May 2, 1998, m. **Wilma Guinther**, four known children: [i. **Jay Arthur**, ii. **John Robert Jr.**, iii. **Jeffrey L.**, iv. **June Marie**, d. Oct. 27, 2004 in Ashburn, VA, m. ---- **Shrum**], 2. **Linda**, m. ---- **Peterson**.

X.3 Frederick Rank, b. ~1815, Miami Co., OH, m. Apr. 29 1847 to **Susan Schock** (b. Dayton, OH). Eight children: 1. **Mollie**, b. OH, bur. Anderson, IN, two children, names unknown; 2. **David**, b. OH, bur. OH, had children and grandchildren living near Dayton, OH in 1958; 3. **Michael** (twin of David), b. OH, bur. OH, had children and grandchildren living near Dayton, OH in 1958; 4. **Joseph**, b. OH, bur. Muncie, IN, children living in Muncie in 1958; 5. **William Morris**, b. Apr. 10, 1854, Miami Co., OH, moved to Indiana in 1872 to Iowa ~1875, back to Indiana ~ 1877, d. Oct. 13, 1938, bur. Anderson, IN, m1.. Mar. 20, 1875 in Anderson, IN to **Nancy Jane Kindle/Kendall**, b. Jul. 12, 1854, Madison Co., IN, d. Feb. 15, 1919, bur. Anderson, IN. seven children [i. **Mary Jane "Mollie"**, b ~1875, Iowa; ii. **Cedora Josephine "Josie"**, bur. Anderson, IN; iii. **William Henry "Little Willie"**; iv. **George Calvin**; v. **Bertha May**; vi **Margaret**; vii. **Frederick Wilford**] m2., Nov. 1920 to **Sarah** ----]; 6. **John**; 7. **Epheram**, d. in infancy; 8. **Samuel**, d. in infancy.

X.4 Carl "Tad" Ranck, b. 1910 or 1911 in Philadelphia, semi-pro baseball player from 1930 to 1935, lived in Drexel Hill, Delaware Co., (bef. 1972) and Somers Point, Atlantic Co., NJ (aft. 1972), d. Jun. 24, 1985.

X.5 Jane Lee Evans, lived in St. Petersburg, FL, d. Oct. 30, 1976.

X.6 Chester L. Dosch, b. 1921 or 1922, d. May 27, 1979. **M. Leona Biechtel**.

(continued on p. 4)

What are the “Ranck numbers”?



French Huguenot Cross



Hut in which George Michael Ranck lived in Bethabara, NC



George Michael Ranck’s burial place, Bethabara, NC



House similar to Johannes Ranck home in Bethania, NC



Site of Indian massacre in Gnadenhutten, Ohio

When J. Allan Ranck gathered the information from which he published *The Ranks of the Rancks*, he recorded his data on “Family Group Sheets.” The use of Family Group Sheets (FGS), on which all the information pertaining to one couple and their children (*i.e.*, one family) is common genealogical practice. Allan organized his FGSs by generation of descent and within each generation, numbered the sheets sequentially as he created them. Persons with no descendants (*i.e.*, no family) were recorded only as part of their parents’ family and were not recorded on a separate FGS nor assigned a family number. Allan began with his own family, descended from John Philip, and used the generational numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. To distinguish descendants of John Michael, he used the generational numbers 01, 02, 03, etc. Thus, the number 6.30 designated the 30th recorded family in the 6th generation descended from John Philip and the number 04.27 designated the 27th recorded family in the 4th generation descended from John Michael. These are the numbers printed in *The Ranks of the Rancks* for each family.

Well, times have changed. *The Ranks of the Rancks* has more than doubled since Allan published his book and supplements in 1978 and 1980. Also, the information is now stored in a computerized data base rather than on (paper) Family Group Sheets. Children who did not have families in 1978 and, hence, were not assigned family numbers have grown up, married, and had families of their own so they needed to be numbered. To anticipate future growth of *The Ranks ...* and to simplify identification of particular individuals, **all descendants of John Philip and John Michael have now been assigned an individual Ranck number.** The numbers previously assigned for each family now designate the parent in that family (male or female) who is the direct Ranck descendant. Further, with the discovery of sister Susanna Margaretha Ranck, having emigrated with her husband Johann Christian Schnaeder in 1729 to the Ephrata area, a new line has been established using the generational numbers 001, 002, 003, etc. for Susanna and her descendants. Again, the number within each generation is arbitrary and usually indicates only the next sequential number available. Where later corrections in lineage are necessary, individual numbers will not be re-used, in order to avoid later confusion.

These new **Ranck numbers** are used for the first time in this publication and should appear in *The Ranks of the Rancks* on-line by the time this publication reaches you.

Now would be a good time to check that your family information in *The Ranks of the Rancks* is up-to-date. Information on living persons is not displayed in the on-line genealogy, so you need to send an e-mail to JPRanck@Ranck.org or a note to John P. Ranck, 1408 Sheaffer Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022. I will send you a copy of all the information in our database relating to your family, including the newly assigned “Ranck numbers”

Lost Family Links (continued)

X.7 James Dosch, one known son: Robin S. Dosch, b. 1966 or 1967, lived in Lancaster Co., d. May 1979.

X.8 John Rebman, m. Mary F. ----, b. 1891 or 1892, lived in Lancaster Co., d. Dec. 13, 1978.

X.9 George E. Ranck, m. Clara Correll, one known child: Margaret A., b. 1889 or 1890, lived in Reading, Berks Co., d. Jun. 21, 1979.

X.10 Kenneth R. Ranck, Sr. one known child: Linda J., m. Oct. 6, 1984 in Columbia, Lancaster Co., to Mitchell S. Rodkey, lived in York Co.

X.11 Levi M. Rittle, m Lillian Frank, one known child: Wayne R., lived in Lebanon Co., d. Oct. 16, 1984, m. Viola S. Houtz,

X.12 W. I. Ranck, m. Elizabeth Irwin. One known child: Sarah Elizabeth, b. Feb. 16 or 18, 1849, White Deer Twp., Union Co., d. Oct. 1932, m. on Oct. 6, 1870 in Lewisburg, Union Co., to John W. Harbster.

The History and the Future of Ranck Family Heritage

In 1928, in observance of the 200th anniversary of John Michael Ranck's arrival in America, the Ranck Family began the tradition of annual reunions to draw together all Ranck descendants, no matter where they might live. In 1978, in connection with the 250th anniversary, J. Allan Ranck published the family genealogy under the title *The Ranks of the Rancks*. Also in 1978, J. Allan and Harriet Ranck began publishing this semi-annual newsletter, *The Ranck Reporter*, which is now received by more than 1100 families in 42 states. To keep Ranck family history vital and alive for coming generations, we have more recently:

- incorporated the Ranck Family Heritage Society as a tax-exempt educational foundation;
- joined with the New Holland Historical Society in an effort to establish a Ranck Family Heritage Center as part of a New Holland Museum;
- established a web presence at <http://Ranck.org>;
- transferred *The Ranks of the Rancks* to an electronic data base available from our home page and more than doubled its size;
- presented *The Ranck Reporter* on-line;
- expanded (this year) the format of the annual reunion.

There has always been a small number of dedicated people in and around the ancestral homes in New Holland to organize, plan, and execute these functions. As in families, individuals age and traditions must be carried on by the next generation. With these expanded programs, **we could use some new hands**, especially younger hands, to nurture and carry on these traditions and help them to grow appropriately for the generations to come.

If you feel that it is time for you to step up and take a part in preserving and enhancing our heritage, please call or write our president, Don Ranck, 429 Strasburg Rd., Paradise, PA 17562; (717) 687-7353; don@verdantview.com.

“Stringers” needed

The Ranck Reporter depends upon stringers for its content. According to Wikipedia, a stringer is a type of freelance journalist or photographer who contributes reports or photos to a news organization on an on-going basis but is paid individually for each piece of published or broadcast work.

We need two classes of stringer: First we need all readers to send notices of births, marriages, deaths, and significant accomplishments of members of their immediate families. Second, we need persons in different geographical regions who read the newspapers of that area to clip and send on published information related to Ranck/Rank/Ronk/Runk family members and others known to be connected to the Ranck family. Several family members in Utah have been constant in their correspondence, but we need correspondents/stringers who take a personal responsibility to send on clippings from newspapers in **Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Snyder, Northumberland, Union, and Lycoming** Counties in Pennsylvania where Ranck families and their descendants exist in substantial number. Other areas of Ranck concentration include **Tuscarawas, Wayne, Muskingum, Licking, and Franklin** Counties in **Ohio**; **Franklin, Miami, and Jay** Counties in **Indiana**; **Benton County Missouri**; **Botetourt County Virginia**, and, indeed, all over the country.

Most useful are “clippings” from local newspapers. Please be sure to write in the margin (or on an attached “post-it” note) the name of the newspaper and the date of publication. You may send clippings (scanned images are fine): and/or other information to reporter@Ranck.org or, pending the naming of a new editor of *The Ranck Reporter*, to John P. Ranck, 1408 Sheaffer Rd., Elizabethtown, PA 17022; telephone: 717-367-5018.

The Wikipedia definition stipulates that stringers are paid; your compensation for this service will be the enduring gratitude of all your relatives who receive and are enlightened and warmed by the news you have provided.

TREASURER'S REPORT

5 April 2010

Checking account - General Fund	\$1,632.67
Newsletter Fund	\$4,272.61
Cemetery Fund	\$511.75
Mark Tice Memorial Fund	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$6,917.03
Reunion CD - matures 11/07/10	\$8,852.37
Cemetery CD - matures 09/07/10	\$5,614.88
Fall newsletter cost was	\$1,028.99
Elizabeth Buckwalter Treasurer	

REPRINTS AVAILABLE

The Family History Section of
The Ranks of the Rancks

The book, *The Ranks of the Rancks*, published by J. Allan Ranck in 1978 has long been unavailable. We have reprinted the family history section (excluding the genealogy, which is out of date). Reprints are available for \$10.00 (postpaid) from:

Stephen Loewen
331 E. Main Street
New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-2200
loewen58@yahoo.com



THANK YOU

Thank you to all persons who have provided financial support for our organization. Your contributions help support all our activities -- but especially printing and mailing costs for *The Ranck Reporter*.

We are now an incorporated, tax-exempt (501.c.3) organization and all contributions are deductible from your income tax. A receipt will be sent to all who contribute via check.

Checks may be made payable to **Ranck Family Heritage Society** and should be sent to:

Treasurer - **Elizabeth Buckwalter**
247 Kimberly Lane
Ephrata, PA 17522

LODGING IN/NEAR NEW HOLLAND

Motels:

- Comfort Inn Amish Country
www.comfortinn.com 717-355-9900
- Country Squire Motor Inn
www.countrysquiremotorinn.com 717-354-4166
- The Hollander Hotel 717-354-4377

Bed & Breakfast:

(including two Ranck Family establishments)

- Verdant View Farm (hosts: Don & Ginny Ranck)
www.verdantview.com 717-687-7353
- Rayba Acres Farm (hosts: Ray and Reba Ranck)
www.raybaacres.com 717-687-6729
- Harvest Moon B&B
www.harvestmoonbandb.com 717-354-0213
- Richmond House B&B 717-355-0450
- Rocking Horse B&B 717-354-8674
- Smucker's Guest House 717-354-6879

More information relating to all these establishments is available on the web. For those without specific web addresses, just Google "Lodging New Holland Pa".

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please advise us of changes in addresses and provide new addresses so that we may be spared the extra costs which the Post Office charges to return newsletters with incorrect addresses. New addresses may be sent to John Ranck, circulation manager, whose address is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Please return this form **no later than July 6** to register for the reunion and be included in the Huguenot cross drawing. As a courtesy to the "Heavenly Hashers," the men and women of Ranck's Church, who prepare and serve our meal, please register in advance. It becomes a problem to "stretch" the food if you show up for the meal and haven't registered. **Meals at Yoder's Restaurant and the Family Cupboard are paid at the restaurant**, but pre-registration insures that the restaurant will be prepared to receive our group.

REGISTRATION FOR THE RANCK FAMILY REUNION - JULY 16-18, 2010

Please reserve:

_____ places for dinner at Yoder's Restaurant on Friday, July 16 at 6:30 PM
(East Main Street, New Holland, one block east of Ranck Avenue)

_____ places for the reunion lunch at Ranck's Church on Saturday, July 17 at noon

_____ Adults and Youth @ \$11.00 each Total \$ _____

_____ Children 3 to 12 @ \$5.00 each Total \$ _____

_____ Children under 3 free

Total number: _____ Total cost \$ _____

_____ places for dinner at the Family Cupboard on Saturday July 17, at 5:00 PM
North edge of Lititz: Rte. 501 (North Broad St.) at Newport Road

Please make checks payable to: **Ranck Reunion Fund** and mail to:

Martha Buckwalter
452 S. Kinzer Avenue
New Holland, PA 17557
(717) 354-5692

Names and addresses of those attending:

_____ I (my family) will act as local hosts for out-of-town guests.

_____ I (my family) am/is coming from out-of-town and would like to connect with a local family.

The Ranck Reporter

John P. Ranck, Circulation Manager
1408 Sheaffer Rd.
Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022

Address Service Requested

Did You Know?

Bonnie Gardner Molloy (8.61) has published a new book, [Ms. Flitter-Flutter](#). It is a children's learning book about a hummingbird. There are interactive sentences in red print to stimulate a closeness with the reader. Bonnie's granddaughter, Isabelle, who helped her present [The Big Duck](#) at the 2008 Ranck Reunion, is a star character in this book. Take a look at Bonnie's new website bonniesnotes.smartmutt.com to view her angel notecards and all of her books.

Aaron Ranck (10.347), son of Don and Ginny Ranck, was selected for the Spring Congressional Fellowship Program at the [Partnership for a Secure America](#), a centrist, security-minded policy organization in Washington. PSA, which is advised by former Democratic national security advisors **Zbigniew Brzezinski** and **Samuel Berger**, as well as former GOP Senators **Howard Baker** and **Slade Gorton**, has been putting out policy statements on issues ranging from [climate change](#) to [nonproliferation](#). Aaron is serving in the office of Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL).