

Trip of a Lifetime

*Rasnick - Rührschneck Family
Heritage Tour to
Germany and Austria
October 12 - 23, 2012*



*Celebrating the 400th anniversary of the birth of
Andreas Rierschneckh (1612 ~ 2012)*



Sponsored by the Descendants of

Jacob Rasnick

Hessian Soldier

and

The Jacob Rasnick Project



Jacob Rasnick Project

“RASNICK—RÜHRSCNECK FAMILY HERITAGE TOUR”

Trip Total 12 Days



Trip Includes
Overnight Stays in the
Following Cities:

Munich: (1)

Rappottenstein: (2)

Gunzenhausen: (2)

Ansbach: (2)

Selbitz: (2)

Munich: (1)

Hotels to be announced

Munich, Salzburg, Melk, Rappottenstein, Gunzenhausen, Markt Berolzheim, Sausenhofen, Heidenheim, Ostheim, Auhausen, Irisingen, Aufkirchen, Deffersdorf, Ansbach, Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Stein, Selbitz.

Your Trip Includes:

- Carefully designed itinerary and family history excursions
- 10 nights accommodations in 3 star plus and 4 star hotels
- Service charges and hotel taxes
- Full breakfasts daily; six dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinner
- Transportation in modern, private, air-conditioned tour bus
- Full time professional tour director and expert on German history, culture and migration studies, **Dr. Wolfgang Grams**
- Accompaniment of Rührschneck Family researcher, history and genealogy expert, **Sabine Schleichert** and Rührschneck cousin, **Christian Rührschneck**
- Local excursions, receptions, meetings
- Luggage handling in hotels (1 pc. Per person)
- Sightseeing tours Munich, Salzburg, Rappottenstein, Ansbach, Rothenburg and local guides per itinerary

Not included: Airfare; transfers to/from hotel (can be arranged); lunches; four dinners; drinks with meals (with breakfast of course included); tips for waiters, tour guides and bus driver.

Day – By- Day Itinerary: (Some details may change as plans are still being formalized.)**

Day 1 – Friday – Oct 12 Depart from USA

Depart in the afternoon for an overnight flight to Munich, Germany. Dinner on the plane.

Day 2 – Saturday – Oct 13 Arrive in Munich

Upon arrival at around 7am, group or individual transfers to our hotel will be arranged. Our tour will begin at the hotel at 2pm when we will meet with our guides Dr. Wolfgang Grams and Sabine Schleichert for a one hour tour orientation, followed by a walking tour of Old Town Munich. Included will be the Glockenspiel at the Townhall, the Mariensquare, and a Welcome dinner at our hotel or nearby restaurant.

Day 3 – Sunday – Oct 14 Munich – Salzburg – Rappottenstein

We leave Munich this morning by private motor coach and start our genealogy trip in earnest. We travel east and cross into Austria and the Alpine city of Salzburg. Salzburg has one of the best preserved city centers north of the Alps and was the location for the filming of parts of the movie *“The Sound of Music”*. Its Castle is the mightiest fortress of Central Europe and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. After individual lunch and free time, we continue on to Rappottenstein, the 12th century market town on the Kamp River where our earliest known ancestors lived, and where we will spend the next two nights - sleeping in the castle that guarded our ancestors four hundred years ago! Please note that in a historic structure room setups may not all be hotel standard.



Day 4 – Monday – Oct 15 Rappottenstein – Melk - Rappottenstein

This morning we wake up in the Waldviertel, our family’s ancestral homeland! After breakfast we tour the beautiful town of Rappottenstein. The castle’s imposing fortress is particularly well preserved, and because of its architecture, is considered of great historical importance. In the afternoon we visit the nearby city of Melk and tour the beautiful Benedictine Melk Abbey (*c.1089*), located on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Danube River and the Wachau Valley. Afterwards we return to Rappottenstein for dinner and a restful evening.

Day 5 – Tuesday – Oct 16 Rappottenstein - Weißenburg - Gunzenhausen

We leave Rappottenstein via the towns of Arbesbach and Grein, and along the Danube River, following the same route as the Protestant exiles Andreas and Magdalena Rierschneckh would have taken as they fled Austria into Franconia.



Depending on schedule of ship: cruising on the Danube River approx 2 hrs. After a long drive through the countryside, we’ll arrive at Weißenburg, Bavaria for a short tour. Its history can be traced back to Roman times, and there are in fact many Roman ruins there, including one of the finest remains of a Roman bath that has been turned into a museum. Only 1 mile away is Wülzburg, one of the best preserved Renaissance fortresses in Germany. Most of the town wall survived the 13th and 14th century, with wooden sentry walks and 38 watch towers. For overnight we’ll arrive at the Sea District Altmühlsee and the town of Gunzenhausen, the Rührschneck “Hot Spot” where our research targeted for years. In Gunzenhausen, too, ancient Roman remains can be seen in the Limes, a defense border marking the boundary of the Roman Empire. This will be our home for the next two evenings, and will serve as the starting off point for our tour of the Rührschneck villages tomorrow.

Day 6 – Wednesday – Oct 17 Excursions: Gunzenhausen – Markt Berolzheim – Sausenhofen – Ostheim – Heidenheim - Gunzenhausen

Today, Sabine Schleichert guides our local excursions in the Gunzenhausen area, including visits to churches, cemeteries, historic structures, ancestral places and possibly meeting with German cousins. We will start at the beginning, in **Markt Berolzheim**, the Franconian market village where the first Rierschneckhs settled after being expelled from Austria. We will walk the streets that Andreas and Magdalena Rierschneckh walked. We will take pictures of their village and view early family documents there. About six miles to the northwest is **Sausenhofen**, the tiny village that was the home and burial place of our ancestors Andreas and Margaretha Rierschneckh. A little to the southwest is **Ostheim**, the place where our ancestors Georg Rierschneck and Anna Schwanzer worked as a farm hand and maid servant before marrying in nearby **Heidenheim**. In Heidenheim we will view family records and visit the old monastery. Afterwards, we return to Gunzenhausen for the evening.

Day 7 – Thursday – Oct 18 Excursions: Gunzenhausen – Auhausen – Irsingen – Aufkirchen – Deffersdorf – Forndorf - Ansbach

Today is a most exciting day, beginning with Sabine guiding us to **Auhausen**, the location of the marriage and burial place of our Hessian ancestor’s grandparents, Johann Matthias and Eva Rührschneck. Here we will view the birth and confirmation records of his father, Georg Rierschneck, then visit the remains of the monastery, Kloster Auhausen. And finally, after many

generations of searching and waiting, we at last set eyes on **Irsingen**, the tiny farming village that is the birthplace of our Hessian Soldier, Jacob Rierschneck (Jacob Rasnick)! We continue on to **Aufkirchen**, a tiny village about a mile away, where we will go inside St. Johannis Church (c. 1514), and see where Jacob was actually christened on December 17, 1752, and view its “oldest precious and magnificent Baroque organ known from 1663”. Then we will travel about 12 miles north to **Deffersdorf** which is in the **Waizendorf District**. This is where Georg was a farmer, and where young Jacob would have been living with his parents when he was nabbed by the Ansbach Army in 1777. Anna Rierschneck, either Jacob’s natural or step-mother, died here in 1796. A mile away is **Forndorf** where Jacob’s brother Michael worked at the brick kiln, and where their father, Georg, died and was buried in 1807. Afterwards we drive on to Ansbach to spend the night.

**Day 8 – Friday – Oct 19 Ansbach -
Rothenburg ob der Tauber**

Today we explore Ansbach, the capital of Middle Franconia. We will see the same buildings and walk the very streets as our Hessian soldier marched down on March 3, 1777, when he and the Ansbach Regiment left on their journey to America. We will also view the Ansbach Palace. In the afternoon, we’ll enjoy a guided tour of Rothenburg, the romantic walled city less than an hour’s drive from Ansbach. Situated on a plateau overlooking the Tauber River, it is a famous tourist destination because of its well preserved medieval old town. Most of the buildings you will see here were in place by 1400. Afterwards we return to Ansbach for overnight.



Day 9 – Saturday – Oct 20 Ansbach - Stein – Selbitz



We leave Ansbach today and travel 20 miles east to Stein for a visit with our Rührschneck cousins, including Robert Rührschneck, scissors grinder, who helped us in our research early on. Stopover at Nuremberg with activities to be decided., e.g. the historic marketplace or former Nazi Party Rally Grounds. Then we travel north to Selbitz, near the Czech border, where we’ll spend the next two nights.

Day 10 – Sunday – Oct 21 Selbitz

Christian will introduce us to our Rührschneck cousins in Selbitz today, and we

will tour the area, where Rührschnecks have been making shoes since at least the year 1722. Church service at ancestral church This place will be of special interest to American Rührschnecks from Indiana and Pennsylvania, as this is where there most recent ancestors came from. Second night in Selbitz..

Day 11 – Monday – Oct 22 Selbitz – Munich

This morning we return to Munich on our last full day in Germany, routing and stopovers to be determined. Your afternoon is free to stroll around the city or rest in your hotel, as you choose. Afterwards we will enjoy a Farewell Dinner together in a beergarten or brewery on our last night in the city. Hotel: Munich



Day 12 – Tuesday – Oct 23 Munich - USA

Sadly, our visit has come to an end and we must say “*Auf Wiedersehen*” to Germany and all our German cousins. Transfer to the Munich airport is on your own, however group transfers can be arranged. We catch our flights for a safe trip back home. Arrival at US destination the same day. **Optional Extensions:** we will gladly arrange extra nights at our hotel for you.

Please note that itinerary is subject to change as plans are still being firmed up. Information is current as of December 12, 2011.

Price Per Person Based on Double Occupancy: **Euro 1,846,00**
(minimum of 20 participants, **excludes airfare**)
Price in USD is flexible and will be adjusted at
time of final payment. If payed now it would be **US \$ 2,455.00**

Single Accomodation Surcharge: Euro 260,00
or in USD US \$ 353,00

DEPOSIT amount equal to EURO 400,00 per person is due at time of reservation. Euro 50,00 of which are nonrefundable. Should we have to cancel the tour the complete deposit will be refunded.

Early Reservation Discount: US \$ 100,--

For deposits received by February 01 2012 we will deduct USD 100,- from the final tour price. Final Payment is due 8 weeks prior to tour but can be arranged any time in portions or in total if exchange rates look promising to you. All payments are secured by a consumer protection certificate issued by Routes to the Roots, Dr. Grams as required by German law.

Tour is organized and conducted by:

Routes to the Roots

Dr. Wolfgang Grams



<http://www.routes.de>



and

German Genealogical Research Service

Sabine Schleichert
<http://www.ggrs.com/>

And sponsored by

The Jacob Rasnick Project



7

For more Information Contact:

Marie Rasnick Fetzer
57 Overland Trail
Mineral Bluff, GA 30559
706-374-4464
mariefetzer@tds.net

Rasnick – Rührschneck Family Heritage Tour to Germany and Austria
Oct 12 – 23, 2012

THE JACOB RASNICK PROJECT

<http://www.rasnickfamily.org>

Marie Rasnick Fetzer
mariefetzer@tds.net



8