

What do we really know about ... The Origins of our Ranck family?

The mission of the Ranck Family Heritage Society is to preserve and enhance the heritage of the Ranck/Rank/Ronk/Runk Family. Its stated objectives include: (1) to develop, maintain, and provide to the public accurate and documented information on the lineage and history of the Family and (2) to conduct, promote, and support further research on the Family's origins and extent. (The entire mission statement can be referenced on the Ranck Family Heritage homepage at <http://ranck.org>).

In accord with these objectives, I began a careful review of the "received wisdom" in 2010. This project has blossomed (or exploded) into a multi-faceted investigation. In the following pages, I have summarized the current state of this investigation, the questions it raises, some tentative conclusions, and intended paths for future research.

The Problem

For several generations, our family has shared tales of German and Huguenot ancestry, mixed with legends of noble ancestry and castles, fleeing religious persecution, support by Moravians, crossing the Delaware with General Washington, etc.

However, all is not well. There is a huge amount of misinformation, widely circulating in the public domain, relating to the origins and ancestry of the Ranck family. Some of it is based upon family **legend** -- but the legends are unsubstantiated and some of the legends have been proven erroneous. Some of the misinformation is based upon **conjecture** -- and conjecture, though sometimes plausible, is still conjecture and cannot be taken as fact. Worst of all, Ancestry, RootsWeb, and other fine organizations that have provided the tools for many good and conscientious genealogists to share and evaluate information have also provided the vehicle for individuals to post undocumented family trees -- and "name gathering" without documentation (much like "friend gathering" on Facebook) has become a wholesale industry. **Readers are especially cautioned -- until someone is able to cite some evidence -- to regard ANY claim of lineage from Bernardine or Etienne Ranc (or du Ranc) or any association with the Ranc family of Vibrac castle as some combination of wishful thinking and/or fabrication** and, in general, to bear in mind the maxim:

Genealogy without documentation is mythology.

This paper is an attempt clarify what we do know and what we do not know about our family's origins -- examining, criticizing, and correcting the known legends in detail and (where possible) debunking the more egregious fabrications and inventions.

Researchers/Collaborators

I must first identify and give credit to those who have contributed, participated in, and otherwise aided in this research.

John Philip Ranck (07.94). As archivist of the Ranck Family Heritage Society, I have had access to the records and correspondence of J. Allan Ranck (from which *The Ranks of the Rancks* (1978) was published) and the records and correspondence of his brother, Ezra Ranck, President of the Ranck Family Association from 1975 to 1990, with whom Allan collaborated on many matters of family history and genealogy. Their records also contain correspondence and genealogy gathered by their father George Ranck, President of the Ranck Family Association for 47 years from its founding at the time of the 200th Anniversary celebration in 1928 until his death in 1975. We are also collecting the records of David G. Ranck, the early Ranck family historian in Lancaster County who compiled and drafted the famous "family charts" for the 1928 reunion. And since the Ranck Family Heritage web site appeared on-line about eight years ago, nearly 400 people have corresponded by e-mail.

Dan McEver (descendant of John Philip Ranck; Ranck # not yet assigned). Dan has provided (literally) hundreds of pages of genealogy, research reports and analysis, and images of source documents. His work is reflected in a major way in this report and in the on-line Ranks of the Rancks. Dan has pursued vigorously the early family history and has commissioned a German researcher (Heinz Hoeke) to search, examine, and translate the Neckarau church records. He has also advanced knowledge of the children of John Philip who settled in Botetourt Co., VA which has heretofore been a bit of a "black hole."

Allan J. Skiles (8.1678). Allan, a well-known historian/family researcher in Lancaster County, is a descendant of both John Philip Ranck and Susanna Margaretha Schnaeder. Allan first reported Susanna Margaretha Ranck as married to Johann Christian Schnaeder.

Richard Hunsinger (008.71s). I corresponded with Dick for several months in 2007. He has provided the Schnaeder genealogy included in **The Ranks of the Rancks**.

Liz Williams. Liz, a Schnaeder descendant, first contacted me in 2008, alerting me to Mark Stotzer's Snader web site. Liz (with her son Richard) maintains her own extensively documented web site -- Mouser Ancestry (http://mouser.org/projects/genealogy/index.php/Main_Page). There she has noted the apparent two marriages of Susanna Margaretha Ranck in very short time.

David Myers. David first contacted me in December/January 2010/11 alerting me to the substantial work by Church of the Brethren researchers which apparently establishes Susan Margaretha Schnaeder as niece of Alexander Mack (founder of the Church of the Brethren). My preliminary examination indicates we have a real problem here in our Ranck narrative. See "The Issues" (below) for more detail.

Mark D. Stotzer. Mark, creator/owner of the elegant and informative Schnaeder web site (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~stotzer/snader.html>), first contacted me in April 2011 seeking documentation relating to John Schnader (b. betw. 1795 and 1805 est.). We

have identified this John with Ranck #(004.51) s/o John Michael, s/o John Michael, s/o Johan Christian and Susanna Margaretha [Ranck] Schnaeder.

Sharon Parsons. (g-granddaughter of Leatie Ronk (6.757)). Sharon has vigorously pursued the name Ranc in French genealogy. In early summer 2010, she shared her work with me and gave me the name of Philippe Ranc, a French genealogist with whom she was sharing data. I was planning a research trip to Baden and France during the fall of 2010 (postponed due to family circumstances) and was trying to assemble all the information we knew about our "French Connection" to share with Philippe and to see what new information we could turn up. It was then that I discovered that I cannot find a shred of hard evidence to substantiate our family's having ever lived in Paris or in France. (It was this work that led to the present paper.) I owe Sharon my sincere apologies for my long silence; I hope that this paper answers the question of "What have I been doing in the meantime?"

Melody Summers Hull. Though I have not corresponded directly with Melody, I am including her here as a contributor because of the fantastic "Ranck & Swope Genealogy" page (<http://www.hullhome.com/Ranck%20%26%20Swope.htm>) she has published as part of her even greater "Family Genealogy" site (<http://www.hullhome.com/genintro.htm>).

Marcus Ranck. A young German whose family resides in the Lübeck area. Marcus found Ranck Heritage on-line (2004) and contacted me attempting to determine whether he had any relationship to our family (we have found none). Marcus happened to be working in the Mannheim area at that time and kindly went to the Evangelical Church in Neckarau where he obtained and sent to us pristine copies of the Ranck marriage, baptism, and death records from the church.

Art Lawton. Art, a long-time friend, (after many varied previous lives) has become a major Moravian historian and researcher, specifically researching the life of Henry Antes, a "provisioner" and "factotum" for the early Moravian settlements in Eastern Pennsylvania. (It was from the diaries of Henry's daughter, Anna Catharina, that Moravian Archivist, Adelaide Fries, wrote her book "The Road to Salem" (1944).. Interestingly, the Antes family connects with the Ranck Family through an arranged Moravian wedding of eight couples in Bethlehem in 1758 in which Anna Catharina was one of the brides and John Michael Ranck's eldest son, George Michael, was of the grooms. The men had carved the new settlement of Bethabara out of the North Carolina wilderness beginning ca. 1755 and returned to Bethlehem in 1758 to obtain wives to help build the new community - which became Winston-Salem.)

The Legends

George Washington Ranck [GW]

The first written account of Ranck Family History in our possession was penned in 1871 by George Washington Ranck (1841 – 1901; Ranck #05.44), a university professor, historian and lecturer in Lexington, KY. He prefaces his sketch, titled “**The Ranck Family: A Brief Outline of its History.**”

The following sketch of the Ranck Family in the United States was compiled from traditions and records in possession of the family, and was written by the undersigned for the information and benefit of his young relatives, and in order to preserve entire and in consecutive order important facts which were liable to be lost or forgotten, when entrusted simply to the memory of members of the family.

Mary Carty Ranck [Mary]

George Washington Ranck’s daughter, Mary Carty Ranck (06.188), similarly wrote a family history sketch titled “**Four Revolutionary Ancestors**” in which she particularly details the life of John Michael Ranck’s son Samuel during the American Revolution. The fact that Mary’s essay is undated seems to leave open the possibility that this may have been a school-girl exercise encouraged by her father, the historian. Mary’s sketch, however, relates incidents and facts not reported by her father, some considerably different, so we should hold that this essay was written some time after G.W. wrote his sketch and that Mary was in possession of new information – perhaps information that she had gathered through her own research. Mary’s rich vocabulary and “embroidery” of many of the “facts” with colorful descriptions such as were common in literature in the 19th century, would also point to her sketch’s having been written by a more mature woman. It is in Mary’s sketch that we first encounter the name spelled as “Ranc” and Paris as the family’s home. Mary’s having the family emigrate from Strasbourg (rather than Neckarau), the error in John Michael Ranck’s birthdate, and the absence of (calculated) birth date for Jean Ranc would indicate that Mary did not know about the Neckarau records.

Cecilia Crane Ranck [Cecilia]

Cecilia Crane Ranck (wife of Ralph Ranck, 06.166) published a Ranck history and genealogy as part of her 1950 **History of Doddridge Chapel Community**, in Wayne County, Indiana. We have been unable to determine Cecilia’s sources for the European history she recounts, but it appears that she had access to Mary Carty Ranck’s sketch as well as the Neckarau records. In addition, she has added history of a Ranc family of Languedoc dating back to the 12th century but is unable to cite any evidence of connection to that family. John Ronk has suggested that Cecilia may have derived some of this information from Gustav Anjou’s fraudulent genealogy of the Runk-Runk Family. [This possibility is under investigation.] Cecilia and her husband had no children; I have contacted several (aging) nieces, nephews, and former neighbors (without avail) in an attempt to discover whether any of her research records and notes exist to determine her source of the Vibrac material.

J. Allan Ranck [Allan]

For many of us, the widely-distributed telling of the European history of the Ranck family (the “received wisdom”_ has come from J. Allan Ranck’s 1978 book **The Ranks of the Rancks**, published in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the arrival of John Michael Ranck in America on

August 24, 1728 (Old Style date). Much of Allan's history is clearly taken directly from Cecilia's account. Though he embellished this account with much public history, he added no significant new family information prior to the family's arrival in Lancaster County.

[The remainder of this paper will be best understood by first reading the above named documents (largely legends) in our possession. I have attached these as appendices to this report and have added annotations, noting discrepancies as well as evidence that either substantiates or refutes claims contained therein and raising other reasons to lend support or suspicion to specific parts of their narratives.]

The Fraud

Gustav Anjou

Finally, Gustav Anjou must be mentioned. Wikipedia reports: "Gustav Anjou (1863–1942) born Gustave Ludwig Jungberg, was a self-professed genealogist who has been accused of fakery." John H. Ronk of Bellefont, PA, reported the Gustav Anjou case in the October 2000 edition of The Ranck Reporter. His correspondence is recorded here in full.

"The April 27th issue of the Rootsweb Review, an online genealogy newsletter, had an item about faked pedigrees which should be of interest to Ranck Family descendants.

"As many of you know, a Gustav Anjou produced a book on the Runk-Runck family sometime prior to his death in 1942. It has not been clear as to the authenticity of this or many of his other works which are now being called into question. They are all widely available on microfilm loan from the Mormon's Family History Centers.

"In any event, in the 1998 book compiled by John H. Ronk on the Ranck/Rank/Ronk/Runck Families, he included this item in "An Historical Note" which serves as part of the book's preface:

'... there is in existence, a book by Gustave Anjou entitled Runk-Runck Family which in reality may have been a reference work for Cecilia Ranck as it also identifies some of the earliest pre-20th Century sources on the Ranck family name (and its variations) just as she does. Of considerable interest should be that Anjou's work also places our immigrant ancestors John Michael and John Phillip as the sons of Johann and Louise (Casparson) Runck with the family also in Mannheim, Germany, but originally coming from Krefeld, a small town 12 miles north of present-day Dusseldorf, Germany., rather than France. Before Krefeld, the ancestors purportedly came from Lubeck, Friesland. John Michael and John Phillip are purported to have a brother Samuel. Anjou's work cites immigration records for John Michael and John Philip, and early church records for a couple of John Michael's sons, but reveals no actual defining evidence establishing parental ties to Johann and Louise (Casparson) Runck.'

"Now, comes along an article titled "Grafting Family Trees" by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, which will be quoted extensively so as to gain the full measure of Anjou's work and establish the likely demerits of any claim to Johann and Louise (Casparson) Runck.

'Early in the 20th century, about 200 fabricated genealogies were produced by Gustav Anjou (1863-1942), a Staten Island, New York, forger of genealogical records. Anjou developed a profitable business in mail-order ancestors for wealthy clients willing to pay about \$9,000 for a family history. More than 100 genealogies compiled by Anjou have been located. They are widely accessible in most large libraries and have been reprinted many times, and probably are being used today by genealogists who are not aware that the pedigrees are false. Anjou, and others like him, simply grafted noble and royal ancestors onto their client's trees, sometimes by using invented European parishes and forged wills and vital records.

'Not only did Anjou falsify many genealogies, evidently he fabricated his own pedigree and credentials.

'According to Robert Anderson, a certified genealogist and Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, a typical Anjou pedigree displays four recognizable (at least to the more experienced researcher) features:

- A dazzling range of connections among dozens of immigrants (mostly to New England).
- Many wild geographical leaps, outside the normal range of migration patterns.
- An overwhelming number of citations to documents that actually exist, and include what Anjou says they include.
- Here and there an "invented" document, without citation, which appears to support the many connections.

'For an extensive listing along with the call numbers of the Anjou genealogies available at the Family History Library, see FRAUDULENT LINEAGES:

<http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud/fraud223.htm>

<http://www.linkline.com/personal/xymox/fraud/fraud224.htm>;

For further information, see the Wikipedia entry on Gustav Anjou or "Google" the name Gustav Anjou.

Following John Ronk's disclosure of the fraudulent Anjou work to The Ranck Family Association, the Association sent a letter to the Family History Library, asking that the fraudulent Runk-Runk family history not be circulated. Apparently this request has been honored. Unfortunately, this has made further examination of this record inaccessible except in Salt Lake City and copyright law prevents copying more than 7 pages. I visited the library in Salt Lake City in March 2012 and photocopied Anjou's manuscript.

The Records

Neckarau Church

The first known historical records of our Ranck family appear in the church books of Matthäuskirche (the Reformed church) in Neckarau, a village on the eastern bank of the Rhine that is now entirely within the city of Mannheim, Baden, Germany.

[Images of the original church book pages have been provided by Markus Ranck of Germany (whose relationship to our family we have been unable to determine). Additional images and translations have been provided by Dan McEver (Ranck #?.?) from Heinz K. Hoeke, a hired researcher. These images of the original pages in old German handscript are [will be] presented on our web site for further analysis. They are also available on Microfilm #1192229 from the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon).]

I have obtained long-term loan of Microfilms #1192229 and #1192230 (also Neckarau Church records) at the Family History Center in Chambersburg, PA and have spent 3-4 hours on three separate days reviewing these records. During my last visit in February 2011, I became convinced that MUCH more careful scrutiny of these records over a longer period of time is essential -- especially with regard to the family name Weinkrauss/Weigraus and Philippes. Chambersburg is 80 miles from my home and it will be difficult to conduct the examination I feel necessary at that location; therefore, I have ordered (but not yet received) copies of both microfilms so that I may examine them at length locally.

Colonial Records

So far, I have examined only the customary ships records for the Mortenhouse and the Allen, arriving in Philadelphia in 1728 and 1729.

Moravian Records

John Michael Ranck was associated with the Muddy Creek congregation of the Moravian Church -- a congregation which ceased to exist years ago. Fortunately, some of the records of the Muddy Creek congregation are preserved in the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, PA. I have obtained a copy of the record of John Michael's family from this archive. They relate to Pennsylvania events only and are of no help in unraveling the European history of the family.

Records of later descendants of John Michael's family exist in the archives of the Lititz (PA) congregation. This archive is only a half-hour distant from my home. I have made a preliminary scan of the burial records, but there is more of the later family history to be gleaned from this source.

I have twice visited the Moravian Archives in Salem, NC, and obtained photocopies of a substantial number of records relating to later members of John Michael's family who migrated to Salem, NC with the Moravians.

[These copies may not be reproduced or placed on-line without explicit permission of the archive, so readers will have to visit the Ranck Heritage Center in the New Holland Historical Society Museum (once established) to see these records or else take my word for their content.]

The Issues

Among the sketches and "histories" we find incidents and assertions that have been disproven or seem highly questionable, based upon more recent evidence. I will attempt to evaluate and criticize a few of these issues individually, citing current evidence that either supports or refutes previous narratives. Following this summary of issues, I have attempted to construct the current "best-evidence" narrative.

The Family Origin

Cecilia (echoed by Allan) cites history and genealogy of a du Ranc de Vibrac family in southern France (Languedoc) and Spain dating back to the 12th century. A member of the family was supposedly given the land and labor for its erection by the Spanish crown in compensation for service with Columbus during his (second?) voyage to the New World.

We can trace this Vibrac/Ranc legend in our family back only to Cecilia's 1950 publication. Although Cecilia does not list it among her sources, John Ronk has suggested Anjou's fraudulent Runk-Runck genealogy "may have been a reference work for Cecilia Ranck."

[I have obtained a copy of Anjou's work and determined that Anjou is not the source of the Vibrac legend.]

Cecilia qualifies this information quite clearly:

*The genealogical information on the next page [the Ranc families of Vibrac] has been included in the hope some future member of the family **may be able to use it to establish the connection of this branch of the family to these older lines at Vibrac** [emphasis added].*

J. Allan Ranck has essentially copied the French lineage/Vibrac pages from Cecilia's book and adds:

*In the lineages of these two branches of the Vibrac family, it is **impossible at this date to verify** where the Rev. Jean Ranc, born in Paris in 1641, might have fit. ... It is entirely **possible**, then, that our first known direct ancestor, whose story we are about to pick up in Paris, had a close if not direct relationship with the Vibrac family. [emphasis added]*

Though it is gratifying to reflect upon castles and possible noble heritage, until direct evidence is discovered to confirm this ancestry, any connection with this du Ranc de Vibrac family must be understood as legend or even conjecture – and our family's recent appropriation of the du Ranc Coat of Arms must be regarded with more than a little suspicion. Most especially, **without supporting evidence, published genealogies citing ancestry from Bernardin or Etienne du Ranc (and such genealogies abound on-line) must be disregarded as some combination wishful thinking and fabrication.**

The Family Name

G. W. cites correspondence with the German historian Leopold Von Ranke, tying the family name to Von Ranke in Sweden, Rank in Bohemia, Ranko in Servia, Rangos in Greece. It would be interesting to know Von Ranke's basis for these assertions. **Without such evidence, mere similarity of name, though suggestive, proves nothing and no positive conclusions should be drawn from this.**

Mary cites (again without evidence) "Ranc" as the original family name, suggesting the addition of the "k" as a possible Germanicizing. Cecilia (and Allan) re-tell Mary's story. The name, in fact, appears first in the Neckarau records in 1699 as "Ranck" and also (within the same year and for several years thereafter, but by another recorder) as "Rang." **John Michael and John Philip signed their names in the immigration records as "Ranck" and we have taken this spelling to be definitive**, though later generations (in America) used the variations "Rank," "Ronk," and "Runk." **Unless and until we can obtain evidence of French heritage, we should hold the "Ranc" spelling (and its suggestion of French heritage) as unsubstantiated legend.**

The Progenitor

G.W. cites John Michael Ranck both as the progenitor Huguenot clergyman (incorrect) and the immigrant ancestor (correct); Mary correctly has John Michael as the immigrant and names his grandfather, Jean Ranc, as the progenitor (and also as a Huguenot pastor). Cecilia and Allan repeat Mary's narrative. The Neckarau records identify the grandfather of John Michael Ranck as **Valentin Ranck the Older** ["Valentin Ranck, der Alt"], but say nothing more about him. We may compute his birth year from his death record, but **we have no evidence in hand to testify to French or Alsatian ancestry prior to Neckarau, Baden, Germany (1699), and we have no evidence testifying that Hans Valentine and his father, Valentin the Older, were other than members of the Reformed parish in Neckarau.**

Paris

Mary's sketch is the first written account to cite the family's presence in Paris. Cecilia also cites the family as having lived in Paris (and gives the first account of the Ranc family of Vibrac), but this may be based entirely on Mary's sketch, which other evidence indicates she possessed. There is much confusion of Moravian and Huguenot in Mary's account. John Michael's Moravian connection is well established, although all that we know of it at this time occurs after coming to America. From the Neckarau records I have been unable to find any thread back to France. Could the Huguenot/Paris parts of the legend be a result of Mary's (and GW's) confusion of the two Protestant religions?

Short answer: **Although it may be true, I have found no hard evidence to substantiate the family's ever having lived in Paris.**

Strasbourg/Alsace

As I have come to understand it, the Moravians traveled the Main River westward from Saxony to the Rhine and thence to Rotterdam from whence they sailed to various Western Hemisphere locations. Strasbourg is more than 100 miles up the Rhine from the confluence of the Main. This would make GW's and Mary's narratives questionable. It is true that Strasbourg and Alsace were havens for Huguenots fleeing Louis XIV. Did Mary, believing the Huguenot ancestry, simply accept Strasbourg as the most probable location for the family in France? or did they possess other (perhaps legendary) evidence they did not report?

Short answer: **Although it may be true, I have found no hard evidence to substantiate the family's ever having lived in Strasbourg / Alsace.**

At this point, the historical thread runs out in 1699 in Neckarau.

A Huguenot or Moravian Connection?

I have been working with Art Lawton, Moravian historian currently completing his PhD in American Folk History at Indiana University, to try to sort out the fact and fiction in our family's connection with the Moravians, a protestant sect that, in France, could have been classified as "Huguenot."

Lots of issues here.

- Define Huguenot. Does it include Moravian?
- Must first have Moravian chronology in mind. Must look carefully at the chronology. At this point it is difficult to rectify Mary Carty Ranck's account with known dates and locations of Moravian migration and settlement.
- Hussites before settlement on Zinzendorf estate. Followers in France -- likely or not?????? What about the Waldenses?
- Settlement on Zinzendorf estate -- year?
- Travel route to the Rhine -- Main River not as far up the Rhine as Strasbourg; Neckarau -- possibly.
- Moravians first traveling on the Main / Rhine (year?) Year of Herrendijk settlement Netherlands)?
- Settlement (missions) in West Indies, other locations.
- Settlement in America; Sea Congregation.
- Georgia and Pennsylvania years.
- Muddy Creek congregation.
- Lititz congregation.
- Wachovia -- Johannes and George Michael chronology
- Gadenhutten (Ohio) -- .

Establish:

- Earliest date of contact in North America
- Children who lived (incl. dates) at the Moravian settlement in Bethlehem
- Johannes & Geo Michael in NC
- Family in Lititz
- Gnadenhutten and Indiana

Questions:

- Possible family connections with Moravians in Europe?
- Moravians in France (as per Mary's sketch)?
- Travel on Rhine w/ Moravians?
- from Strasbourg?
- Sailing with Moravians? very unlikely because Moravians first sailed to America in 1742 or 1743(?)

John Michael and most of his children had close connections with the Moravian Church in Pennsylvania. John Michael's "funeral oration" is recorded in the Burial Books in Lancaster County.

This is precisely an example of a Memoir or Lebenslauf as written by Moravians themselves, or by persons close to them, near to the time of their deaths. John Michael's Memoir records that he was "received into the congregation in the Muddy Creek Schoolhouse and gave permission to Brother and Sister Munster and afterwards to Brother and Sister Beck, to live in his house, by which arrangement not only he and his family but many people in the neighborhood heard the gospel." A Moravian congregation did exist at Muddy Creek but apparently not until ____.

The Memoir of George Michael Ranck (John Michael's first child) records that "_____" and that of Johannes Ranck (John Michael's fourth child) records "-----." These records clearly establish a Moravian connection as early as ____.

Whether or not the family traveled with the Moravians or "were of a far more ancient faith ..." (as cited by Mary) is still an open question.

Anna Barbara Schwab Ranck

John Michael's wife, Anna Barbara Schwab had emigrated to Pennsylvania with her family in 1727 (see Ranck&Swope Genealogy), a year before John Michael. Anna Barbara's family were from the Heidelberg area of Germany, quite near to Neckarau, and were intimately associated with the Reformed church in Pennsylvania. John Michael and Anna Barbara were married very shortly after his arrival as their first child was born in August 1729, just one year and ten days after his arrival in Philadelphia. Could these facts indicate that John Michael and Anna Barbara were already acquainted in Germany? that the emigration of the Schwab family influenced that of the Ranck siblings?

The Immigrants

G.W. cites John Michael Ranck as both the progenitor (wrong) and immigrant (right). Mary notes the progenitor as Jean Ranc (her source of this information unknown) and cites only John Michael as the immigrant. Cecilia and Allan, in possession of both the Neckarau and colonial records, **cite both John Michael and John Philip as immigrants**. The colonial "ships' records" (including signatures) confirm both these these immigrations, and the ancestors' self-reported birth information, agreeing with the Neckarau records, confirms their Neckarau origins.

Susanna Margaretha Schnaeder: Ranck or Mack?

It was not until 1969 that Allan J. Skiles (8.1678) of New Holland, a descendant of both Susanna Margaretha and John Philip, reported Susanna Margaretha's immigration with her husband Johann Christian Schnaeder and their daughter, Margaretha:

Christian Schnaeder, his wife Susanna (sister of John Michael and John Philip Ranck), and their daughter Margaret arrived in Philadelphia September 11, 1729 aboard the ship ALLEN. They settled in the area now known as Weaverland, northeast of Blue Ball in East Earl Township. Christian warranted, and later purchased from William Penn's sons, 133 acres on both sides of the Conestoga Creek, south of present Terre Hill. The portion of their plantation containing the house and out buildings, 286 Conestoga Creek Road, is presently (1996) owned by David R. and Sharon Horst, who have done an excellent job of restoring this fine old property. In the years following Christian and Susanna's arrival another daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons: John Jacob, John Christian, John Philip and John Michael, were born. With the exception of John Michael, all their children were baptised by John Caspar Stoeber at Trinity Lutheran Church in New Holland.

An obvious assumption would be that John Philip and John Michael Schneder were named after their uncles John Philip and John Michael Ranck. Susanna Margaret's death was recorded in the records of Zeltenreich's Church in 1767, and by 1769 Christian had remarried. While in earlier records the name was spelled variously, the majority of their descendants now spell it Schnader. Christian and Susanna Schneder were my great-x7 grandparents, while John Philip and Anna Barbara Ranck were my great-x6-grandparents on another of my lines. The names, dates and marriages of Christian and Susanna's family appear below.

Richard Hunsinger has provided the Schneder lineage reported on the Ranck Family Heritage web site.

David Myers first contacted me in December/January 2010/11 alerting me to the **substantial work by Church of the Brethren researchers which apparently establishes Susan Margaretha Schnaeder as niece of Alexander Mack (founder of the Church of the Brethren). My preliminary examination indicates we have a real problem here in our Ranck narrative. David's and my full exchange, together with additional comment by Allan Skiles, are included here.**

David Myers:

I came across your website while doing research and I believe that your researchers probably are mistaken about your Christian Schneider/Schnader immigrating on the Allen in 1729. Church of the Brethren researchers have worked on this problem lately and they believe that the Christian Schneider on the Allen married Susanna Margareta Mack on 12 Nov 1725 in Surhuisterveen, Holland. Susanna was almost certainly the Susanna Margareta Mack who a niece of Alexander Mack (1679-1735), the founder of the Brethren religion. I can provide more information, etc. if you are interested in discussing this.

John Ranck:

You have raised a serious issue that I really want to look into, together with two or three others who have provided the information to the Ranck genealogy. I really don't want to publish erroneous information (there's more than enough of that on the web). I will respond to you in detail after I have thought about how to proceed.

Though I am not Brethren, I have spent more than 50 years at Elizabethtown College as student and faculty (chemistry, now retired), so I have some knowledge of Alexander Mack, etc. and should be able to find the information you reference. However, if you can send me a quick link to help me get started, I would be further in your debt

My sincere thanks for taking the initiative to contact me,

David Myers:

Thanks for your reply. I hope that we can make some progress in resolving this problem. I'm sure you're aware that it's difficult to be very definitive about events that happened in the 1700's but I hope that won't be too big of a hurdle.

I think that there are two discrete problems here.

1.) Was the wife of the Christian Schneider who lived in New Holland, Susanna Margareta Mack or Susanna Margareta Ranck?

2.) Was the Christian Schneider who lived in New Holland on the Allen in 1729?

If the answer to 1.) is Susanna Margareta Ranck, then the answer to 2.) almost certainly is no. The problem is, what kind of proof is there that Susanna Margareta Ranck was Christian Schneider's wife? If there are estate records, that would be pretty definitive, but I don't know if that is the case or if some other method of proof was used. I definitely would be interested in finding out how the relationship to the Ranck family was determined.

As far as the issue of learning about the Christian Schneider who was on the Allen, there was a discussion about this on the Brethren mailing list about two years ago. The following are a couple of the links that will take you into the discussion that took place at that time.

- <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/BRETHREN/2008-02/1203251572>
- <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/BRETHREN/2008-02/1203308139>
- <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/BRETHREN/2008-06/1213582474>

I can imagine that jumping into the middle of this discussion might be a little confusing so it might be useful to let you know about a booklet that Dwayne Wrightsman produced in 2008, "Brethren on the Ship Allen, 1729." I can send you scans of a few pages from the booklet but I wouldn't want to send more than that since the booklet is copyrighted.

Alexander Mack definitely married Christian Schneider and Susanna Margareta Mack in Surhuisterveen in 1725. I was able to find an on-line database of Dutch vital records, apparently official, so there is no dispute about that. With that knowledge, it becomes easy to identify the Christian and Susan Schneider on the Allen as this couple. The problem is, what happened to them after they came to America?

As a further complication, we believe that the widowed mother of Susanna Margareta (Mack) Schneider married a Kitzmiller. You have a couple of Kitzmillers marrying into

your Ranck family so these families must have been in close proximity in the 1729-1735 period.

John Ranck:

I have obtained (from the Brethren Heritage Center, Brookville, OH) a copy of Wrightsman's booklet.

Allan Skiles:

Someone skillful at using their computer to view European church records (unfortunately, I am not) should be able to find something on Johan Valentin Weinkraus and Susanna Margaret Weinkraus after their marriage in 1725. Anything found (baptism of children, death records, etc.) in the years after 1728 and the discussion is over.

[I intend to pursue this last suggestion (Allan's) as soon as I receive the Neckarau microfilms.]

The “Evidence-Based” Narrative

[At the 2010 reunion of the Ranck Family Heritage Society, I presented a synopsis of the known early family history. I later refined this presentation as a slide presentation and am arguing the case more fully here.]

The first authentic record of our family that we have is a 1699 entry in the Neckarau church’s marriage register. From this and subsequent entries in the church books we can reconstruct a partial picture of this little family, enabling us to share some of its happy and some of its sad moments, and try to weave these facts together with the family legends that have been handed down to us.

[The entries in the church books are recorded as columnar data under Births, Deaths, and Marriages rather than in prose. The wording cited in this presentation is that in the report of Heinz Hoeke to Dan McEver; I have capitalized and bolded the names for clarity of presentation; original spellings are maintained throughout.]

From the Neckarau church records:

*1699: On 17 Febr., **HANS VELTIN RANCK**, son of **VELTIN RANCK**, here, was married to **MARGRETH**, daughter of the late **HEINRICH PHILIPES**, former citizen of Mannheim.*

This is the ancestor we have known as Hans Valentine Ranck, the father of our three immigrant ancestors. It names his father as Veltin also. We have known the father as Jean Ranc. Perhaps his full name was Jean Valentin Ranc (in French) which became Hans Valentine Ranck (in German) – but there is nothing to substantiate this conjecture. Cecilia Ranck reports (without citation) both Jean Ranc’s and Hans Valentine’s births to have been in Paris and seems to suggest (though she does not outright assert) relationship to the Vibrac family:

Why did some of the Rancs of Vibrac during the first half of the seventeenth century leave their family estate in Languedoc and go to Paris? That question we can not answer. By that time Paris had become a great city and Louis XIII and XIV were in the process of making it the most beautiful in all the world. John Ranc born in Paris, 1641, is the first Ranc whose name and date of birth we know. His son Hans Valentine was born here too in 1668. John Ranc was a Protestant minister – a Huguenot as the French called them.

We have no direct evidence to substantiate either this supposed profession or place of birth – though the recording of Hans Valentine’s marriage in the Reformed Church does attest to the family’s Protestantism and many living in Alsace and the Palatinate at the end of the 17th century were, indeed, refugees from religious persecution in France following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by the Catholic King Louis XIV in 1685. Valentin’s (Jean’s) death record in Neckarau, recorded on 26 December 1712 [below] lists his age as 71 and from this we may compute a birth year of 1640 or 1641 which is consistent with Cecilia’s account – and, indeed, we suspect that this is

the source of Cecilia's cited date of birth; similarly, Hans Valentine's date of birth can be computed (approximately) from his later death record in the Neckarau parish.

Interestingly, George Washington Ranck has John Michael Ranck, Jean's grandson, and his wife Anna Barbara (whom he, in fact, married (and perhaps first met) in Pennsylvania) as the refugee Moravian (also Protestant) pastor and family, fleeing directly from Alsace, near Strasbourg, to America (in 1725 rather than 1728; from Strasbourg rather than from Neckarau; and landing on the coast of the Chesapeake Bay rather than in Philadelphia as is substantiated by colonial records). John Michael and his family did, indeed, associate themselves closely and intimately with the Moravian church when it was established in nearby locations in eastern Pennsylvania beginning in 1741 so, again, there may be elements of truth in the legends, despite some factual errors.

The Neckarau church record continues, documenting the birth of Hans and Margaretha's first child before the end of the year.

*1699: Born on 19 November, baptized on 22 November: **ANNA BARBARA**, daughter of **HANS VELTEN RANG** and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness: Anna Barbara Philippes.*

Here, Hans's name is spelled "Velten" and the family name is spelled "Rang" (as it is for several years afterward in the Neckarau church books – and this spelling even persists into some colonial records). The mother's name is given more fully as Anna Margaretha. Witnesses or sponsors at baptism were often persons for whom the child was named. Here the witness is Anna Barbara Philippes (note the change in spelling of Philippes), who reasonably might be presumed to have been Anna Margaretha's sister. Less than two years later, our immigrant ancestor, John Michael Ranck (01.1) was born.

*1701: Born on 28 October, baptized on 30 October: **HANS MICHAEL RANG**, son of **HANS VALTEN RANG** and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness: Hans Michael Minckendörfer, legit. son of Hans Martin Minckendörfer.*

More spelling variations: "Valten" rather than "Velten" or "Veltin" or "Valentin" or "Valentine." We have no information as to who the Minckendörfers might have been.

Slightly more than two years later, the third child was born.

*1704: Born on 31 January, baptized on 3 February: **PHILIPUS**, son of **HANS VELTEN RANG** and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness: Philipp Weigrauß.*

This is our immigrant ancestor John Philip Ranck (1.1). It was not uncommon to give siblings the same first name, distinguishing them only by their second names, by which they were often "called." Indeed, John Michael and John Philip were often distinguished, even in official documents, simply as Michael and Philip.

Other sources record that Anna Margaretha's mother's maiden name was Weinkraus. So the sponsor or witness, Philipp Weigrauß, may have been Anna Margaretha's uncle and the name Philip Weinkrauss also appears suggestively later.

Another two years later, the fourth child was born.

*1706: Born on 4 February, baptized on 7 February: **ROSINA CATHARINA**, daughter of **HANS VELTEN RANG** and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness: the virgin [or young woman] Rosina Catharina, legit. Daughter of Görg Grohn, village mayor.*

The child is obviously named for and attended by the daughter of the village mayor. There must have been a close association with the Grohn family, for the next child, our third immigrant ancestor, is also named for and attended by a daughter of this same family.

*1707: Born on 29 October, baptized on 6 November: **SUSANNA MARGARETHA**, daughter of **HANS VELTEN RANG** and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness Wife of Görg Groh(n), village mayor, and his middle daughter Susanna.*

Now with five children aged 10½, 8½, 6, 4, and 2½, tragedy strikes our little family as the father, Hans Valentine, dies.

*1710: Died on the 7th of May, **HANS VELTIN RANK**, his age was 42 years. Text of funeral sermon: Deuteronomy 10:18.*

This establishes Hans Valentine's birth date as 1667 or 1668 [the date reported by Cecilia Ranck]. There is no hint in the record as to the cause of his death, but the scriptural passage used for the funeral sermon ["He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow ..."] suggests that the enormity of the loss. The tragedy is compounded by Anna Margaretha's being eight months pregnant with their sixth child. Five weeks later, a son is born who is aptly given his father's name.

*1710: Born on 15 June, baptized on 22 June: **JOHANN VALENTIN**, son of **HANS VALTEN RANG**, who died on 10 May 1710, and **ANNA MARGARETHA**. Witness: Johannes Haushorn of Wertheim.*

We do not know who Johannes Haushorn might have been. It is noted that he was not a local resident. Was he the Johannes for whom the child was named? Probably not; it seems more likely the child was consciously and deliberately named for his recently deceased father. Also, the date reported here for his father's death is at variance (by 3 days) with the previous record.

So Anna Margaretha and her six young children now appear to have only the children's grandfather, Velten Ranck (Jean Ranc), now about 69 years old, as their provider and protector. Then, two and a half years later, on the day after Christmas, the baby's death is recorded:

*1712: On 26 Dec., **JOHAN VALENTIN**, surviving little son of the late **JOHAN VALENTINE RANCK**, died at the age of 2 years and 6 months.*

and on the very following day

*1712: On 27 Dec. **VALENTIN RANCK, the Older**, citizen with full rights has died. Age, 71 years.*

and less than three weeks later, death visits again.

*1713: On January 15, **ROSINA CATHARINA**, surviving little daughter of the late **JOHAN VALENTINE RANCK**, died at the age of 7 years.*

The father's name is now given fully as Johan Valentine Ranck. We have no hint of the cause of these three deaths; we can only speculate about winter-time afflictions, intimate contact among family members in close quarters, epidemics in the community, etc. But we can imagine and share the distress in this young widow's life as she faces supporting her young family (ages 13, 11, 9, and 5) with no adult male. Thus, we should not be surprised at the next entry in the Neckarau marriage records:

*1713: On 14 February, **JOHAN MICHAEL WEINKRAUS**, surviving son of the late **PHILIP WEINKRAUS**, former citizen with full rights, here, and **MARGARETHA**, surviving widow of the late **JOHAN VALENTINE RANCK**, citizen with full rights. Banns proclaimed on 29 Jan, 5 and 12 February and married on the 14th of same month.*

We conjecture that this Philip Weinkraus may have been a relative (through Anna Margaretha's mother) and may have been her uncle, which would make her husband, Johan Michael Weinkraus, her first cousin. Later evidence [below] shows that Johan Michael Weinkraus may himself been a widower with a young child or children. In any case, the Banns were first proclaimed just two weeks after this sad three week period of multiple losses.

And then parish record of our family goes silent for the next twelve years until:

*1725: On 6 February, **JOHAN VALENTIN WEINKRAUS**, legit. surviving son of the late **JOHANNES WEINKRAUS**, and **SUSANNA MARGARETHA**, legit surviving daughter of the late **JOHANN VALENTIN RANCK**. Banns proclaimed on 21 and 28 Jan., and 4 Feb and married on 6 Feb.*

Susanna Margaretha, now 17½ years old, marries Johan Valentin, son of Johan Weinkraus. Though it is not absolutely certain from this entry, Johan Valentin, apparently, is her step-brother (and perhaps her second cousin by blood relationship) and they would have grown up in the same household. This also suggests that the elder Weinkraus was previously married with at least one child and that his wife had died before he married Anna Margaretha. Sometime during this elapsed 12 years, the elder Weinkraus has died, leaving Anna Margaretha a widow (again). That Johan Weinkraus's middle name was "Valentin" also suggests the existence of a close relationship between the Ranck and Weinkraus families.

Six months later, John Philip, now 21 years old, also marries.

*1725: On 21 August, **JOHAN PHILIP RANCK**, legit. surviving son of the late **JOHAN VALENTIN RANCK**, former citizen with full rights, and **ANNA BARBARA**, surviving daughter of the late **JOHAN VALENTIN SCHUMACHER**, former resident of Mannheim, were married. Banns proclaimed on 17 and 24 June and on July 1, and married on 21 August.*

This is the last we learn of our family from the Neckarau parish records. We know nothing more of widow Anna Margaretha, of eldest daughter Anna Barbara, or of Susanna Margaretha's husband, Johan Valentin Weinkraus. We must turn to the colonial records in Pennsylvania to follow the family from here onward.

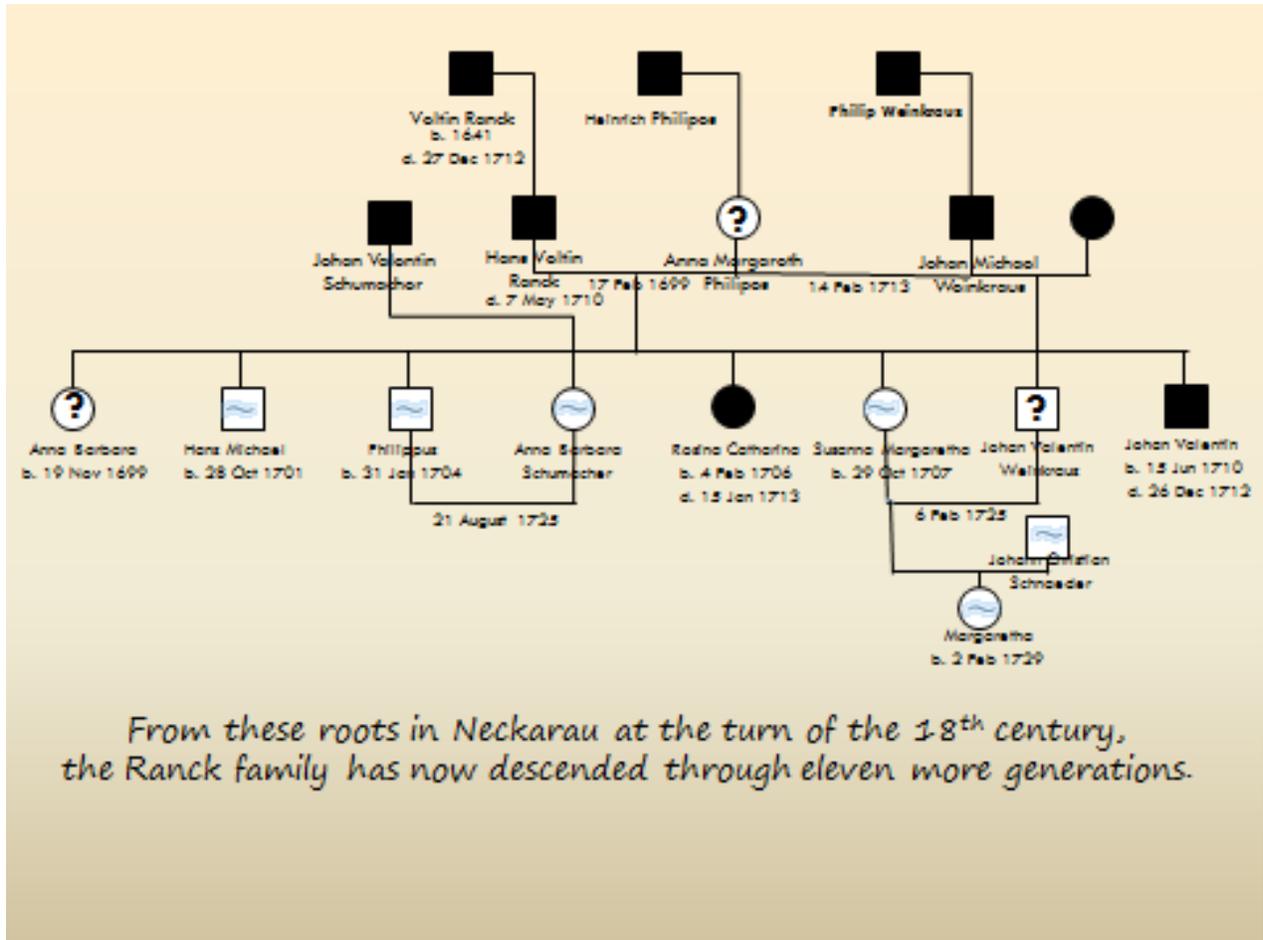
Three years after the final Neckarau record, John Michael arrived in Philadelphia on August 17, 1728 (OS) (the date varies, depending on whether the Captain's or the Court House records are used) aboard the ship Mortenhouse sailing from Rotterdam. He (very!) soon married Anna Barbara

Schwab as their first child, George Michael, was born on August 27, 1729, just one year and ten days after John Michael's arrival. Anna Barbara had been born in Heidelberg, not far from Neckarau, and had emigrated with her parents, arriving in Pennsylvania in September 1727. German families often migrated in groups. Had John Michael and Anna Barbara known each other in Germany? Had the emigration of Anna Barbara's family influenced the Ranck children, especially John Michael, to emigrate also? Had their marriage been pre-planned in Germany? Another possibility: John Michael would have quickly sought community among Reformed Protestants in the new land. At that time, there were three Reformed congregations in (what became) Lancaster County : Cocalico (Bethany) near Ephrata, Hill Church (later Heller's; now Salem), and Lancaster. Anna Barbara's father was an elder at Cocalico. Perhaps it was love at first sight at Cocalico church. Interesting possibilities, but we don't know.

Just eight days before the birth of John Michael's son, his brother, John Philip and wife Anna Barbara (Schumacher) arrived in Philadelphia on August 19, 1729, also sailing aboard the Mortenhouse. And three weeks later, on September 11, Susanna Margaretha arrived aboard the ship Allen with a new husband, Johann Christian Schnaeder, and a six-month old daughter, Margaretha. [Note added after original draft: Susanna Margaretha Ranck was married to Johan Weinkraus in Neckarau in Feb. 1725. Is Susanna Margaretha Schnaeder (with 6-month old daughter) arriving on Allen in 1728 Susanna Margaretha Ranck? Other sources suggest rather strongly that S.M. Schnaeder is Susanna Mack, neice of Alexander Mack (who, with other members of his family, did arrive on the Allen).]

How happy and excited these three young couples must have been to be safely together and starting the next chapter of their lives together in the new county of Lancaster (formed May 10, 1729) in Pennsylvania – John Michael and John Philip on adjoining farms in Earl Township just south of the village of Säueschwam ("Hog Swamp," later called Earltown and New Design, now New Holland) and the Schnaeder family just to the north in an area known as Weaverland, having recently been settled by several Palatine families named Weber.

Here, in graphical form, is the history and status of our family in the autumn of 1729.



More Recent Information

Other Rancks in Germany – Then and Now

In the autumn of 2012, Art Lawton, upon returning from a research trip to Henry Antes's hometown of Freinsheim, only about 15 miles from Neckarau, brought me some records from his German research collaborator. These include church and civil records from villages in the area during the period 1681 - 1728 which name several Rancks, including the name Hans Veltin Ranck. From the dates, places, and events, it does not seem that this could be our Hans Veltin/Valentine of Neckarau, nor have I been able to relate any of the twelve Rancks named in his records to our family. Now, here's the issue:

- IF, according to our legend, Jean Ranc (Valentin Ranck, der Alt) fled from Paris to Neckarau with his son Hans Valentine,
- AND, as the Neckarau parish records establish, there were only two male children who survived childhood,
- AND both of them came to Pennsylvania,
- THEN, THERE SHOULD BE NO RANCKS REMAINING IN GERMANY.

The existence of other Rancks in the area at the same time clearly suggests that our Pennsylvania family is/was/could have been part of a larger German family of Rancks -- rather than Huguenot refugees from Paris as related in the family legends for which I have (thus far) been unable to find any hard evidence.

In 2004, Markus Ranck, a young man from Lübeck, contacted me trying to determine if there was any relation between his family and ours. Given our understanding of our family history, as I have just described, I did not see any way this could be so. (Interestingly, Gustav Anjou's Runk-Runck family history posits a possible connection to Johann and Louise (Casperson) Runck of Lübeck.)

Ranck Family DNA Project

Within the last few days, we have begun a Ranck Family DNA project. Y-111 DNA testing is now relatively affordable (\$359) and will identify the presence of a common ancestor within 4 generations at ca. 95% confidence level. John Michael and John Philip, between them, had 13 male heirs in the next generation (the 2nd generation, according to our Ranck numbering) who lived into adulthood. (There were 57 male lines in the 3rd generation.) We have lost contact with two of the 2nd generation lines, but we should be able to find living male descendants (currently 7th to 11th generation) in the others. We will first obtain tests for two male descendants (from different 2nd generation ancestors) of each of the John Michael and John Philip lines, and make further specific plans for extension to sub-lines after analysis of these findings. Some of the possibilities we see in carrying out this project are:

- Ability to differentiate among descendants of the second (and substantially later?) generations of descendants of John Michael and John Philip Ranck – which could provide --

- Evidence to assign descendancy (or to suggest where research should be concentrated) where the historical record (especially in the early 19th century) is confused and/or ambiguous.
- We have been approached by a few persons bearing the name Ranck who have no idea at all how they are connected to the family tree; DNA mapping of the 13 known lines (and some sub-lines?) could help us concentrate research.
- Determine whether there is any direct connection with Rancks currently living in Germany, e.g., Markus Ranck family.
- Finally, through the ability of DNA testing to determine “deep” family history through haplotype, and considering the rather different migration patterns associated with Germans in die Pfaltz compared to Huguenots from Languedoc and Spain, we may be able to strengthen or weaken the case for French heritage and/or relation to the French/Spanish Ranc family of Vibrac, Languedoc. The possibility of finding a current male descendant of the Ranc/Vibrac line could aid immensely in this quest.

Immediate Research Priorities

1. DNA Project (as described heretofore)
2. Neckarau microfilms
 - a. Weinkraus births/baptisms and deaths 1725 - 1730 to attempt to settle the Susanna Margaretha (Ranck/Mack) Schnaeder issue.
 - b. Philippes and Weinkrauss families from ca 1675 – 1750. These links through Hans Veltin's wife are the only path we seem to have between Ranck and others in Neckarau.
3. Ranck records from Art Lawton's German researcher relating to other Rancks near Mannheim in 1680 – 1720 period..
4. More critical examination of Muddy Creek Moravian records.
5. Careful examination of Anjou manuscript.
 - a. Assuming what he reports to not be fraudulent, is there anything in his report that we can conceivably connect to our Neckarau family?
 - b. If so, is that material legitimate? Can it be verified?

----- Longer range -----

6. More careful study (with Art Lawton) of Moravian chronology and geography in attempt to discern whether any connection with Moravians before Pennsylvania.
7. More careful study of history of Mannheim (Neckarau) in the period 1660 – 1720. What sort of life might we expect our family to have suffered during this time? Some of this is reported in Anjou; is it historically correct?

Appendix I George Washington Ranck

The following is a transcription of a typewritten document recorded on the paper of: Frederick W. Francis, M.D./ Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat/ Texas National Bank Bldg./ Fort Worth, Texas: Annotations by John P. Ranck (2011) are in footnotes.

THE RANCK FAMILY A Brief Outline of its History

The following sketch of the Ranck Family in the United States was compiled from traditions and records in possession of the family, and was written by the undersigned for the information and benefit of his young relatives, and in order to preserve entire and in consecutive order important facts which were liable to be lost or forgotten, when entrusted simply to the memory of members of the family.

G.W. Ranck

Lexington, Ky. 1871

[The following begins on a new page]

SKETCH

The Ranck family in America is a direct branch of the old and extensive Ranck Family of Europe. The name became prominent early in the fifteenth century, and has held a respectable place in French, German and English literature, ever since. Among the most noted writers of the name is the marvelous god-son of Cardinal Richelieu, Jean de Rance, born in Paris in 1626. He published an edition of Anacreon, with notes and comments, when a mere child of twelve years of age. In the present century we are justly proud of the great German historian Leopold Ranke, famous the world over as the author of "Ranke's History of the Popes," and other well known histories. To this learned gentlemen[sic], now a very old man, the writer of this short sketch returns his thanks, for the facts regarding the family name which under various modifications is spread all over Europe. The name is spelled Ranke in Thuringia, which was the native place of Leopold Ranke's grandfather, and we also have a "Freiherr (or Baron) Von Ranke" in Sweden. We have a "Tos. Rank" in Bohemia. "Knaes Ranko" in Servia, and "Rangos" in Greece. [1] In America generally, and particularly in the Southern States, the name is spelled "Ranck." The progenitors of our family were natives of Alsace, and lived near the famous city of Strasbourg. [2] Alsace has, for centuries, been alternatively conquered and governed by France and Germany, and the two nationalities have been so intimately blended, that the inhabitants partake largely of the characteristics of both, and speak both the French and German languages. The blood, name, religion, and marked traits of our family plainly indicate the country and people from which it sprung. Our immediate ancestors were John Michael Ranck, pastor of a little persecuted flock [3] and Anna Barbara, his wife, who were descended from Huguenot families, which clung to the ancient Moravian faith.

The Moravians originated in Bohemia, in Germany, about the middle of the 15th century, from the remains of the stricter set of Hussites or followers of John Huss. In the 16th century their chief residence was Moravia, adjacent to Bohemia, hence their name. They held fast to the spirit of what was afterwards called Protestantism, long before Luther's Reformation. In their religion they endeavored to conform to the primitive purity and simplicity of the Gospel. Their motto may be said to be the same as that of Augustine, -- "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." Good old Christopher North says of them: "Of all religious sects the Moravians are the most simple-minded, pure-hearted and high-souled." As regards the Huguenots the name was first applied to all French supporters of Luther's Reformation, and only subsequently to Calvinists.

Driven by persecution, John Michael Ranck, and his faithful wife, [\[4\]](#) determined to fly from their native land. The wise and beneficent Edict of Nantes, promulgated in 1598, by Henry IV of France, and which secured to the Huguenots political and religious rights, was revoked in 1685, by Louis XIV, causing refuge in foreign lands. It was during this vast outpouring which never ceased till the revolution of 1793, that John Michael Ranck and his household, in company with a number of other Huguenot families, [\[5\]](#) abandoned their country, and seeking refuge in America, landed on the coast of Chesapeake Bay, in 1725, just fifty years before the commencement of the Revolutionary War. [\[6\]](#) They settled in Earl Township, County of Lancaster, in the then Province of Pennsylvania, which was at that time under the administration of Sir William Keith, proprietary governor. Here, after purchasing a homestead, and erecting upon it substantial stone buildings, some of which still exist, the unrecanting Huguenot, John Michael Ranck, pursued the joint vocations of farmer and pastor. [\[7\]](#) The good old man and his devoted wife, blessed for the remainder of their days with civil and religious liberty, lived and died in their ancient and simple faith, leaving two sons to mourn them. [\[8\]](#)

[the rest of this paragraph has been reformatted for readability]

1. The first was Phillip Ranck, who was born on January 30, 1734. [\[9\]](#) He was married but once and had nine children. [\[10\]](#)
2. The second son was Samuel Ranck. He was born at the old home-place, July 30, 1742, and was reared a farmer. [\[11\]](#) Served with Washington during the Revolutionary War, [\[12\]](#) and died at the ripe age of 72, May 22, 1815. Samuel Ranck was married twice, and seven children, [\[13\]](#) viz;--
 1. George Michael, who died in infancy.
 2. Eva Barbara, who died in infancy. [\[14\]](#)
 3. Anna Maria, who lived and died at Lititz, a Moravian town, situated in the north-eastern part of Lancaster county, Penn.
 4. Peter who died at the age of 85.
 5. Elizabeth.
 6. John, a farmer.

7. and Samuel, the youngest son. This Samuel was born at the old home. He married Mary Ault, and pursued the avocation of a farmer in his native county, until the time of his death, which occurred in August 1811, of bilious fever. Samuel and Mary Ault Ranck had five children, as follows:

1. Michael, the first son, who studied medicine alla [sic] practiced his profession in Lititz, where he died and was buried in the cemetery of the Moravians, of which body he was an honorable member.

2. Lydia, who married Peter Dague, deceased.

3. Samuel, who died, unmarried, of consumption at the age of 24.

4. Nathaniel, who graduated at Jefferson Medical College, married, has seven children, viz; and is now practicing medicine in Philadelphia.

5. Solomon, the youngest son of Samuel and Mary Ault Ranck, was born at the old home-place in Lancaster county, Penn., Sept. 17, 1809. He was sent by his guardian at an early age to live in Maryland, and was married in the city of Frederick in that State, to Sarah Ann Marmen, on the evening of Monday, July 12, 1830 by the Rev. Mr. Shaffer. The parents of Solomon Ranck's wife were Thomas Marmen and Sarah, his wife. Thomas Marmen was a teacher by profession. He was not destitute of wit. At one time, while a candidate for office, in Maryland, his opponent was a vulgar, pulse-proud person, whose father had become wealthy by taking advantage of the necessities of the Continental soldiers at the close of the Revolutionary war, and who grandfather had been "shipped" to America, by an English Court, for horsestealing. The would-be office-holder in his first speech spoke of Thomas Marmen as an "impoertd ENGLISHMAN." Marmen jumped to his feet and pointedly replied,---"Imported or exported, I was never transported." His discomfited antagonist was never known to make another speech. Thomas Marmen died October 5, 1835 and was buried in the Lutheran graveyard in Frederick, Md. Sarah, his wife died Nov. 21, 1845, and was buried in the same place. They left five children, viz:-

1. Sarah Ann Ranck, dead.

2. Washington,

3. Julia, dead.

4. Selina Frazer, and

5. Hannah Truscott. The surviving members of the family live in and about Frederick, Maryland. They are both of English bireth, and emigrated to America in 1819, and were friends and fellow-passengers of Wildey, the founder of Odd-Fellowship in the United States.

Solomon Ranck removed to Louisville, Ky., in 1834, but finally settled in Shelbyville, Ky., where he engaged in the grocery and confectionary business. After accumulating a comfortable estate by a life of energy and honesty, he failed in his declining years, by "going security," joined with the business depression and stagnation occasioned by the war, and through losses sustained in bitter persecutions by the Yankees. He died in full communion with the Episcopal Church at his residence, August 13, 1862, of consumption. His illness was long and painful. His funeral service was conducted by Rev. W. I. Waller, in the chapel of Shelby College. Solomon Ranck was tall and finely formed. His complexion was pale, his eyes light blue, and his hair abundant and dark brown. He was proud, reserved, dignified, self-reliant, brave and energetic. He felt an exhibited the utmost contempt for mean, dishonest or dishonorable conduct. He gave the South his active sympathy and aid during her struggle for independence, and was proud of the persecutions which his principles wrought upon him.

His beloved wife, who was born June 10, 1805, in London, England, and came to America with her father, in 1819, died in Shelbyville, after a protracted illness, August 12, 1849. She was a woman of fine taste and delicate perceptions; she was small in person and graceful in carriage. Her naturally excellent mind was educated and cultivated to an unusual degree, and in disposition she was most generous and affectionate. Her eyes were brown, hair auburn, and hands and feet very small. She was raised in the faith and practice of the Established Church of England, but was impelled through lack of facilities for regular worship in the then barely existing Episcopal Church in Shelbyville, to become a member of the Methodist Church. She lived and died a devoted and consistent Christian.

Solomon and Sarah Ann Ranck, had nine children, viz:---

1. Thomas Nathaniel, born in Frederick, Md., June 11, 1832. He was a member of the U. S. Exploring expedition, under Major Moore, in California. Served in the Confederate army in Walter's Battalion Gen'l _____, Green's Texas Cavalry brigade, till the close of the war. He was once taken prisoner and confined at New Orleans. Walter's command was universally admitted to be the most serviceable small one in this department. It went into the service with 485 men, came back with 130, recruits and all told. Hardly a man of the old volunteers left, but had been wounded from one to five times. Settled in Austin County, Texas. Business, farmer and stock raiser, unmarried.

2. Mary Ann, born in Frederick, Md., August 28, 1833. A pupil at Science Hill Academy, Shelbyville, Ky. Married to George W. Jones, of Lawrenceburg, Ky., by Elder Josiah W. Waller, on the morning of Feb. 22, 1859; removed to Texas and now living in Austin county of that state. Mary Ann and G. W. Jones had five children.

1. Fannnie, deceased.
2. Cora.
3. Ella, deceased.
4. Margaret, and
5. Georgie.

3. William Henry, born in Louisville, Kentucky, April 5, 1835. A pupil at Shelby College, Shelbyville. Removed to California in 1852.

4. Edwin Spencer Ranck, born in Louisville, Ky, March 1, 1837. A pupil at Shelby Collete, Shelbyville. Removed to Missouri; was married in St. Joseph in that State May 10, 1859, by Rev. Mr. Hoaglan, to Lucy A Hall, daughter of J. B. Hall, and Adaline Snapp, his wife, who were born near Mt. Washington, Ky. The ancestors of both parents were among the very first settlers of Kentucky. Lucy was born in Carroll county, Mo., May 22, 1839 and died of consumption at St. Joseph, April 2, 1865, leaving two children, William and James. Edwin served in the Confederate army under Gen. Sterling Price, in Owen's Company, Lundiffs regiment, Stein's brigade, and fought gallantly at Lexington, Blue Mill, and Pea Ridge. He removed to Austin county, Texas, June, 1870, farmer. Died of consumption, October 4, 1871, and was buried near Hempstead.

5. Hannah Rosetta, born in Louisville, Ky., March 6, 1839. Pupil at Science Hill Academy and Kentucky Femaly College, Shelbyville. Married in Shelbyville, Kentucky, January 22, 1856 by Elder Josiah W. Waller to John S. Churchill, of that place; removed to Austin City, Texan in 1869. Hannah R. and John S. Churchill had five children, viz:---

1. Frank,who died in early childhood.
2. Williiam.
3. Alice.
4. Annie.
5. Thomas.

6. George Washington Ranck, born in Louisville, Kentucky, February 13, 1841; student at Shelby College, Shelbyville, Ky. Assisted his father in business, until misfortune caused his failure, when he conducted the business himself. Arrested as a "Rebel" September 26, 1861, at home, in Shelbyfillle, by a mob of "Union men," headed by C.

M. Harwood, and confined in the Louisville jail, from which he was released after the interposition of influential friends. General W. C. Whitaker, of Federal army, attempted to assassinate him, March 4, 1863, in Shelbyville, and during the rencontre which ensued, Ranck was wounded twice by Whitaker's pistol shots, and Whitaker was struck once in right breast, but not wounded, by Ranck's pistol ball. Closed out business in Sep., 1864, and went to Kentucky University, at Harrodsburg, Ky., to complete his education. Settled in Lexington, October 3, 1865, and continued at Kentucky university, and was teacher in the Academy. Appointed Principal of the Academy in 1868; married in Lexington, at 10 o'clock Thursday night, Feb. 27, 1868, by Pres. R. Milligan, to Helen, daughter of John and Mary E. Carty. Elected editor of Lexington Observer and Reporter, July 20, 1868, Col. W. C. P. Breckinridge retiring. Subsequently became proprietor of Observer and Reporter, but was compelled by ill health to retire, which he did in April 1871.

G. W. and Helen Ranck have one child,

1. Mary Car[t]y Ranck, born December 14, 1868.

[2. Helen and

3. Edwin born since date of first writing.]

Helen, wife of G. W. Ranck, was born in Lexington, Ky., May 26, 1846. Graduated at Sayre Female Institute in same city, June 16, 1864. Her father, John Carty, was noted for his modesty, integrity, generosity and remarkable business capacity. He died April, 1868, leaving an ample fortune, and beloved and mourned by all who knew him. His father John Carty, was born in New Jersey, and was a soldier of the American Revolution. His mother's maiden name was Mary Ayers. She was a native of Maryland. Helen's mother was a daughter of Lewis Ellis and his wife Mary D. Parrish, whose family came from Virginia, and were of English descent.

7. Julia Elmira Ranck, born November 10, 1843, in Louisville, Ky. She died in same city August 19, 1844, and was buried there.

8. Sarah Louisa Ranck, born in Louisville, Ky., July 9, 1845, a pupil at Science Hill Academy, Shelbyville, but graduated at Kentucky Female College, Shelbyville, June 8, 1865. Died of consumption at the residence of her brother-in-law, John S. Churchill in Campbellsville, Taylor County, Ky., May 2, 1869, after a long and painful illness. She was unusually gifted, accomplished and intelligent, of exquisite taste and rare conversational powers. She was a fluent and sprightly writer. In person she was quite small, hair auburn, eyes brown large and

beautiful, hadns and feet small, and carriage exceedingly graceful. She was a member of the Reformed or Christian Church.

9. Samuel Albert Ranck, youngest child of Solomon Ranck and Sarah Ann, his wife, was born in Shelbyville, Ky., August 28, 1848. Student at Shelby college. Connected himself with the Christian Church in St. Joseph, Mo. Died of Consumption in Louisville, Ky., Dec. 13, 1867, at St. Joseph's Infirmary, where he had gone to receive medical attendance.

We learn from the above sketch, that the Ranck family is an old one. At present we can trace our descent through six generations before reaching the European stock; but counting the generations in America and Europe both, we can run out family history back over two hundred and fifty years.[\[15\]](#)

As regards blood, the German, French and English predominates in our family and certain characteristics that have been regularly transmitted from generation to generation, demonstrate the truth of the old maxim, "Blood will tell." These particular traits are pride, honesty, good taste, a high regard for honor and truth, ease in writing and conversation, freedom from drunkenness, predisposition to consumption, smallness in size, not easy to discourage. It was a familiar saying of John Michael Ranck, the great, great grandfather of the writer of this sketch, that "The women of our family are virtuous and proud, and the men are never dishonest or drunkards," and the saying is strictly applicable to the family at this day.

The favorite occupations of members of the family in the past have been those of the farmer, physician, teacher and writer, though those of the grocer, druggist and others have at times been adopted.

We have as yet had no cause to blush for our family. There is no stain upon its history, and God grant that all who are members of that family, and all who may descend from it, will so conduct themselves that no blot of disgrace or misconduct shall ever disfigure the name. Let each and all see to it, that both they and their children grow in every virtue and grace that consitutes the true Christian lady and gentleman, that by the aid of religion, education and refinement our family may be advanced more and more each year, until it occupies the height and wields the influence which naturally belong to it. Every true Ranck will labor to accomplish these ends.

END.

Annotations by John P. Ranck (2011):

General comment: How much of this lore could G.W. have heard from the "old folks"? Very little, it seems. G.W. was 5th generation; John Michael was 1st generation. G.W. was born 1841; His grandfather and g-grandfather were both dead by this time. The uncles with whom he overlapped, Michael and Nathaniel, lived in Lititz and Philadelphia while he (G.W.) was born and grew up in Louisville. Thus, most of this must have been from the telling of his father, Solomon. And again, how much could Solomon have heard from the "old folks"? Solomon was born in 1809; *his* father, Samuel, died 1811 and his grandfather, also Samuel, died in 1815. Where did G.W. learn these "traditions" of which he speaks? Probably not from "old folks." He also mentions "records." Do they exist today???

1. It would be interesting to know upon what the "great historian" Leopold Ranke based these claims. Lacking further information, it would be imprudent to impute any meaning at all to mere similarity of names.
2. Although quoted by many, I have found no evidence to substantiate this.
3. We have no evidence that John Michael was a pastor. There are, however, legends that his grandfather, Jean (Valentin?) Ranc/Rang, who died in Neckarau in 1712 was a Huguenot pastor in Paris. G.W. Ranck may have associated this (unsubstantiated) legend (incorrectly) with John Michael. Records show that John Michael was born in Neckarau (Germany) and was 26 years old when he emigrated to America, where he married Anna Barbara Schwab.
4. From the testimony of John Michael's "lebenslauf" and substantiated by the Schwab [Swope] family research, John Michael Ranck [met and ?] married Anna Barbara Schwab after arriving in America.
5. John Michael emigrated (alone) in 1728 and was followed by his brother John Philip and wife Anna Barbara Schumacher and his sister Susanna Margaretha and husband Christian Schnaeder and daughter Susanna in 1729. We know of no other families, Huguenot or other, emigrating with them.
6. John Michael, in fact, arrived in Philadelphia alone on board the Mortenhouse on August 19, 1729 (Old Style date).
7. This legend is substantiated in the Memoir or Lebenslauf, read in the Moravian Church at John Michael's burial: "He was afterward received into the congregation in the Muddy Creek Schoolhouse and gave permission to Brother and Sister Munster and afterwards to Brother and Sister Beck, to live in his house, by which arrangement not only he and his family but many people in the neighborhood heard the gospel."
8. According to the family Bible record, they had six sons and four daughters.
9. From the family Bible records, Johann Philip Ranck was the third child, born on 9 January 1734 (Old Style date which converts to 20 January 1734, New Style).
10. This information agrees with current records.
11. From the family Bible records, Samuel was the seventh child, born 19 July 1742 (Old style date, which converts to 30 July 1742, New Style.)
12. Substantiated. See Ray Martin's article in The Ranck Reporter, Vol. 24, No. 2, May 2002.
- 13, This Samuel Ranck was the writer's great grandfather; I am taking the genealogy from this point onward as probably correct.
14. These two children who died in infancy do not appear in our other records.
15. That would be back to 1621 -- not really substantiated in this account or by any other evidence in our possession.

Appendix 2

Mary Carty Ranck

This document has been rather widely circulated in typescript through several generations of Ranck family with direct connections to the New Holland reunions. Annotations by John P. Ranck (2013) are in footnotes.

Four Revolutionary Ancestors of Mary Carty Ranck Sketch.

RANCK ANCESTRY

My paternal ancestors were natives of France. Eight generations ago, early in the reign of Louis XIV, their home was in Paris, where the family name in its original form RANC, is still a familiar one, but though they were French by birth and entitled to all the rights of citizenship they could hope for no protection from the laws or from the King, and were beset by perils and consumed by anxieties. Paris overflowed with gaiety and dissatisfaction but they walked its streets with heavy hearts for the sword and grim old Bastille were ever before their eyes. For they were Huguenots, as all French Protestants were disdainfully called by their enemies.

Though the name of us is synonymous of heroic souls; a reminder of romantic days and tragic deeds; of long and terrible suffering endured for the sake of the Master of faithfulness even unto death, but though the Rancs were Huguenots they were of a far more ancient faith than the mere word Huguenot generally implies, for they were adherents of the Moravian Church, the oldest of Episcopal Churches, and one that had existed long before the reformation of Luther.

Times grew worse and worse for the Protestants in the reign of Louis XIV, and in 1680, though that blessed act of toleration the Edict of Nantes had not yet been formally abolished it was so little regarded by the bigoted King that the condition of the Huguenots was nigh intolerable, and many fled before the rising storm.

Among the refugees escaping from Paris was the Ranc Family which included a Huguenot clergyman and his son, my earliest known ancestors. With the fear of a violent death forever before their eyes they made their way by night to Germany, and after a terrible journey of 250 miles they reached the Rhine and rested at last in the free Alsacian city of Strasburg, then warmly devoted to the Protestant cause. The mere fact that they abandoned their home tells how much they must have suffered in it, for no people on earth cling with greater devotion to their native soil than the French.

But they had hardly settled themselves in Germany when they fell again into the power of Louis XIV, for in 1681 the conquering King seized Strasburg, and soon after came a crowning disaster, for in 1685 he revoked the Edict of Nantes and so stripped the Huguenots of the last guarantee of liberty and safety and left them helpless victims of a rage and ferocity second only to that of the French revolution that was to come. Huguenots who dared then to assemble to worship God did so under the very shadow of the gallows. It was during this dark era that my ancestor of seven generations ago, the child of the Huguenot minister grew up and married, and from this union came

my great-great-great grandfather John Michael Ranck, who was born about the year 1705. John Michael Ranck saw the close of the very long and remarkable reign of that Monarch who was so grand in some things, and so small in others, and he was a suffering witness of the mighty havoc that bigotry had made, for when in 1724, Louis XV sought to renew the fires of persecution, death and exile had been so busy thinning out the Protestants of France, that but few were left to be harassed.

My ancestors were among the few. Time and again they had tried to get away and failed. All they possessed, that had not already been confiscated, they turned into gold, hid it in belts about them and waited for another chance to escape. The long looked for opportunity came at last, in 1728 when a body of Moravians of the neighboring kingdom of Saxony aided and protected by the illustrious Count Zinzendorf started to find a new home among the refugee Protestants, who were colonizing the province of Pennsylvania. [1] [2] Word was sent them and when their vessels in sailing down the Rhine [3] touched at the port nearest to the French city of Strasburg, my great-great-great grandfather, John Michael Ranck, his brother Philip, and other members of the family were smuggled aboard and there concealed among the adherents of their own faith, they escaped to Holland, which had so long and so grandly fought for religious freedom in Europe.

The family name at this time appears with the addition of a "K" instead of the old French spelling of R-a-n-c it is given as R-a-n-c-k. It has been suggested that the "k" was used as a part of the family disguise to aid in the escape. Others think that it came through a partial Germanizing of the name, that it was grafted during the residence of the family in Alsace [4], which has belonged alternately to France and Germany, and which for centuries has used the languages of both countries. One thing is certain and that is this, that the present form of the name indicates its origin in the home of the Huguenots, and also carries with it a reminder of that fair German Land which gave such timely shelter to the refugees from Paris.

The Rancks [5] joining their fortunes with those of the gentle Moravians from Saxony sailed with them [4] from Holland in the English vessel Morton House, landed with them at Philadelphia, August 24, 1728, and together they settled among the friendly Indians and the exiled Huguenots and Palatines in the wilderness afterwards known as Lancaster County. There, nearly half a century before the American Revolution, while Sir Patric Gordon was the Proprietary Governor of Pennsylvania, they aided in founding a town which the settlers called New Holland in grateful remembrance of that brave and sturdy country which had welcomed and protected them in their day of trouble. [6]

Such was the stock from which descended my great-great-great grandfather, Samuel Ranck born July 30, 1742. When the Revolutionary War commenced, true to his ancestral instincts he joined the Continental Army [7], and according to the official Archives of Pennsylvania, he belonged to the first battalion of the Flying Camp organized in that state in 1776 and commanded by Col. James Cunningham. On the 27th of August, 1776 he participated in the disastrous battle of Long Island, and on that ever memorable Christmas night of that immortalized year, crossed the ice-gorged waters of the Delaware with Washington, and early the next morning was one of the cold and hungry visitors of the battle of [Trenton].

The old silver case of the watch he wore on the glorious field is now a part of the Columbian Liberty Bell and though

“The Knight is dust, and his good sword rust,”

He speaketh yet for freedom through the pealings of that bell, and he may speak unto the ages, for every peal shall echo down the corridors of time.

He was at the Battle of Germantown on the 4th of October 1777 and in December of the same year contributed largely of the products of his farm to relieve the needs of the soldiers of General Wayne who suffered in miserable winter quarters not far from his place. Later he was one of the volunteer forces which guarded the Hessian prisoners when they were removed from Lancaster to Philadelphia.

In 1778 he aided in the equipment of the cavalry of Count Pulaski, which was partly recruited in his section of the state and it was at that time that one of my quaint and dignified woman ancestors of the Moravian faith, Margaret Ranck Grosh, sister of my great-great grandfather, helped to make the famous banner of Pulaski. The Pennsylvania town of Bethlehem was the principal refuge of the sick and wounded Continental soldiers, and Margaret Ranck like other patriotic women of her country had gone there to attend them under the direction of the Moravian sisters of the place. It was then that she helped to embroider that banner of crimson silk which these sisters presented to the gallant Pole as a token of gratitude for the protection he had given them during the military occupation of the place. That banner waved from a lance held above Pulaski's Legion when the hero fell at the siege of Savannah, and is still preserved in Baltimore where so many of his men enlisted. The incident of its presentation is commemorated by Longfellow in his poem commencing with the familiar lines:

“When the dying flame of day,
Through the chancel shot its way,”

A poem remarkable for the number of its errors, as it is for its exceeding beauty. The nuns, the cowed head, the vows, the glimmering tapers and burning censers that lead such cathedral spendor to the poet's picture have no existence whatever among the Moravians.

No religious people are more thoroughly Protestant, and none more distinguished for simplicity of life and worship. It is passing strange that such a poet as Longfellow should have known so little of the ancient church, and should have invented this incident with a ritualistic pomp so utterly foreign to the Moravian faith.

Samuel Ranck survived the Revolution and lived to the good old age of 72. It may add interest to this sketch for us to say that a part of my information about my ancestors was received by my father's family directly from Leopold Von Ranke, the author of that great history of the Popes which caused Maculay to write one of the most famous of his reviews.

Brief Memoranda of Descent.

John Michael Ranck, born about 1705 [8], of French parents, Huguenots refugees of 1680, and died July 28th, 1778.

Anna Barbara, his wife, died in 1794.

Samuel Ranck, first son of John Michael Ranck and Anna Barbara Ranck, said Samuel Ranck the Revolution soldier, was born July 30, 1742. Anna Margaret, his wife.

Samuel Ranck, 2nd son of Samuel Ranck 1st, and Anna Margaret Ranck, said was born September 10, 1775, Mary Aultz Ranck, his wife.

Solomon Ranck, son of Samuel Ranck and Mary Aultz Ranck, was born Sept. 17, 1809, Sarah Ann Marmon Ranck, his wife.

George W. Ranck, son of Solomon Ranck and Sara Ann Marmon Ranck, born in Louisville Ky. Helen Carty Ranck, his wife born in Lexington, Ky.

Mary Carty Ranck, daughter of George W. Ranck and Helen Carty Ranck.

Annotations by John P. Ranck (2013)

1. Everything (excepting the name John Michael Ranck) preceding this point is unsubstantiated and may well be considered literary embroidery based upon general historical knowledge.
2. The Moravians first arrived in Pennsylvania in 1742 and 1743 – 14 or 15 years later than John Michael's arrival.
3. The Moravians sailed the Main to the Rhine, the confluence being several miles downstream from Neckarau and ca. 100 miles downstream from Strasbourg.
4. We have no independent evidence indicating that the family ever lived in Alsace.
5. Only John Michael sailed in 1728.
6. Fanciful. The history of the community of New Holland records previous names of Saueschwam, Earltown, and New Design, the name New Holland being given only in ____.
7. Samuel's service in the Continental Army has been substantiated (cf. Ray Martin's report in The Ranck Reporter ____). The detailed record reported by Mary, including Margaret Ranck Grosh's presence in Bethlehem, has not been researched for corroboration.
8. According to the Neckarau Church records, John Michael was born in 1701. This date would indicate that Mary (and her father G.W.) did not know of the Neckarau records.

Appendix 3

Cecilia Crane Ranck

Pages 130-133 excerpted from Cecilia Ranck, *Doddridge Chapel Community: Yesterday and Today*, 1950 (privately published).

[Careful: I have "reproduced" these pages using OCR; Refer to pdf scan or the original if in question.]

The earliest Rancs lived in Forez, another family in Agenais and this branch in Languedoc. Vibrac was the name of the family estate. Paris and Strassburg are also shown on the map and the family spent some time in each place before emigrating to this country.

The first family spelled the name "Rance" and so did the other branches at various times in their history. They added the "K" (Ranck) while they were in Strassburg. In the United States we had a variety of spellings: Rank, Ronck, Ronk and Ranck. Ronk probably approximated the French pronunciation of Ranc more closely than any of the other spellings.

The first records available for the Ranc de Vibrac family take us back to the mediaeval province of Languedoc, France. This province bordered the Mediterranean Sea and was the most prosperous section of the country. Its chief sources of wealth were the production of the famous French wines and a lucrative commerce with the Italian cities of Genoa, Milan and Venice.

Our first record mentions a Pierre del Ranc in an act of October II, A.D., 1112 reported by "Thalamus" of Montpellier. (*Annals de la Soc. Archeol.* p. 213). Montpellier was the chief town of Languedoc and stood in a fertile plain near the right bank of the small river Lez. In the tenth century Montpellier was held by the family of Guilhem who were succeeded, through marriage by the royal house of Aragon, a member of which in 1349 sold his rights to Philip of Valois. In the twelfth century Montpellier had a fine school of medicine, and its law school dates from A.D. 1160. Its university was founded by Pope Nicholas IV toward the close of the thirteenth century. During the religious wars it was captured by the Protestants and its town walls were razed, 1628. Louis XIII chose it as the site of one of his "generalities" and they met here during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Revoir, in "Statistique du Gard," gives this Ranc family a Spanish origin and states that some of its principal members accompanied Christopher Columbus to America on one of his expeditions. However, by 1498 the Rancs were established at Sauve and had acquired the estates of Vibrac which had been raised to a barony in 1520 (Revoir II, p. 604).

In "Amorial de la Noblesse de Languedoc" M. de Bezons gives the pedigree of the Senior and Cadet lines. It was the custom for families to record genealogical data for the Senior male heirs only for it was they who inherited the family estates. Usually it was the younger sons who had no share in the family wealth who emigrated to America or sought fortune in other avenues of endeavor such as trade and education. The genealogical data on the next page has been included in the hope some future member of the family may be able to use it to establish the connection of this branch of the family to these older lines at Vibrac. •

Why did some of the Rancs of Vibrac during the first half of the seventeenth century leave their family estate in Languedoc and go to Paris? That question we can not answer. By that time Paris had become a great city and Louis XIII and XIV were in the process of making it the most beautiful in all the world. John Ranc born in Paris, 1641, is the first Ranc whose name and date of birth we know. His son Hans Valentine was born here too in 1668. John Ranc was a Protestant minister-a Huguenot as the French called them. [1]

PEDIGREE BY M. DE BEZONS

(1) BERNADIN DU RANC, Seigneur or lord of Vibrac, married Aug. 19, 1548, Isabeau de Blausac, by whom he had:

1. Bernadin, who succeeded him, and
2. Louis, ancestor of cadet line, Branch B.

(2) BERNADIN DU RANC, Sgr. de Vibrac, married June 24, 1594, Marguerite de Rochmore, by whom he had:

1. Etienne du Ranc, Sgr. de Vibrac and Saint-Nazaire, who succeeded him, and
2. Louis, Sgr. de Cabrieres, who married Oct. 28, 1630, Gilette de Valobscure.

(3) ETIENNE DU RANC, Sgr. de Vibrac and SaintNazaire, married Aug. 25, 1637, Jean de Pellet, by whom he had:

1. Marc-Antoine, Knight of Malta 10 1665.
2. Louis
3. Jean
4. Henri
5. Hercule

Patent of nobility confirmed by final judgement, Dec. 5, 1668.

There is a lapse of time until the marriage of M. le Baron Louis de Vibrac, last representative of the elder branch of this house, son of LouisGaspard, Baron de Vibrac, Sgr. to Marie Francoise Duportail 1770. He died at Sommerieres, Dec. 20, 1829, with out posterity.

GENEALOGY OF LOUIS, SECOND SON OF BERNADIN I, ABOVE, BRANCHE.

(1) BERNADIN second son.

(2) LoUIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, married Aug. 15, 1610, Suzanne de Cousin, by whom he had:

1. Charles, Sgr. de Saint Series, and

(3) LOUIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, colonel of cavalry in the foreign service of the king. Pat. of nobility confirmed with that of his brother, 1668. He married Nov. 9, 1663, Angele de Marimom, by whom he had:

(4.) JEAN-FRANCOIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, married May 13, 1702, Anne de Poitvin by whom he had:

(5) JEAN-FRANCOIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, married Oct. 17, 1731, Benoitte de Huon, by whom he had:

(6) JEAN-FRANCOIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, Lieutenant of the regiment of Bresse, married Sept. 17, 1763, Louise Magdeleine de Rochmore, by whom he had:

1. Jean-Francois, who succeeded him, and

2. Charles - Joachim - Cesar, Chevalier, (Knight) of Malta in 1790.

(7) JEAN FRANCOIS DU RANC DE VIBRAC, officer of the Royal Rousillon Regiment, married Dec. 9, 1790, Marie Josephine Henriette de Rochemore, by whom he had:

1. Marie Francois de Sales Eugene, who succeeded him,

2. Joseph-Paulin, senior officer of cavalry,

3. Amelie, married Eugene de Bornier

(8) MARIE FRANCOIS DE SALES EUGENE DU RANC DE VIBRAC, senior officer of cavalry, married 1822, Marie Anastasie Guilhemine Hostalier de Saint-Jean.

(9) LOUIS CHARLES FERDINAND.

The years between 1641 and 1712 representing the life span of John Ranc were turbulent ones in the history of France and Germany. France witnessed the religious struggle between the Catholics and Protestants, the terrible persecutions and revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685). The Huguenots were the most industrious and prosperous class in France. In fact so much so that a saying became common "as rich as a Huguenot."

However, the Catholic church never ceased its opposition to the heretics, as all who differed from them were called, and so whenever a Catholic became powerful in the government, laws were passed restricting the activities of the Protestants. First their political rights were taken away, then their fortified towns, soon their property was confiscated and finally their very lives were in danger.

Since John Ranc was a Protestant minister [2] his life would surely be forfeited if he continued to preach in France. Realizing all this the family disposed of their property, exchanged it for gold, concealed it on their persons and fled two hundred miles to the Protestant free city of Strassburg on the Rhine. [3] But they were not long secure here for Louis and his armies soon recaptured it, and

the Rancs were in even greater danger than before. It was during this residence in Germany that the letter "k" was added to the name, no doubt to help disguise their French origin by giving the name a German connotation. The Rancks still fearful for their lives escaped from Strassburg and sailed down the Rhine river to Mannheim, Baden. Here John continued to preach but this city did not prove to be the peaceful haven he so desired. Louis XIV ambitions still were not satisfied and again his armies moved farther into Germany laying waste every field and vineyard in the whole area. Over a hundred thousand persons lost their lands and all their possessions. The Rancks living in the heart of this area must have witnessed all this destruction and indeed Hans, the son, being of military age must have engaged in the struggle to drive out the French army. [4] Hans had married at Mannheim Marguerita Phillips of French-Dutch [5] descent. It must have seemed to these religious people that misfortune was ever to be their lot. Twice by flight they had escaped from the grasp of the French king only to be caught within his clutches again. It is not surprising that William Penn found eager listeners when he visited this desolate region [6] and told the people of his plans for a new colony in far away America where everyone could worship as he desired and peace would reign always. It was from this region that the great migration to Pennsylvania came in the following years.

Rev. John Ranck died in 1712 but his son Hans had preceeded him in 1710, leaving four children: John Michael age nine, John Philip age six, Susanna Marguerita three, and Johann Valentine age one year. [7] The life for the widow must have been difficult indeed in the years that followed. The youngest son died in 1712, but John and Philip grew to manhood in Mannheim. John married Anna Barbara Schwab (Swab) also a resident of Mannheim [8]. News came to them that a colony of Moravians from Saxony were coming down the Rhine past their city [9] on their way to a new home in Pennsylvania. After the privations of their early days the thoughts that they too might find a new home more to their desires in a new country thrilled them and they decided to contact these Moravians and ask them to smuggle them aboard their ship as it stopped at Mannheim. This was done and John and his wife, Anna Barbara, and Philip were soon on their way to Rotterdam, Holland where the Moravians had secured passage on the English ship "Morton House" for Pennsylvania. Thenceforth their fortunes were interwoven with the gentle Moravians. They landed at Philadelphia August 28, 1728. [10]

Annotations by John P. Ranck (2013).

1. Though not as embroidered as Mary Carty Ranck's account, this is largely a retelling of common historical information. Cecilia, apparently, had access to Mary's account. We have no hard evidence that any of this is related to our family.
2. Again, we have not been able to substantiate that Jean/John Ranc/Ranck was a pastor/minister.
3. We have no hard evidence that the family ever lived in Alsace or in Strasbourg.
4. I have not studied the detailed history of the Neckarau region in this period. Hans Veltin/Valentin was ca. 31 years old when he was married in 1699 and may well have been "engaged in the struggle to drive out the French army."
5. I do not know on what basis Dutch descent is reported.
6. William Penn visited Germany 1661-1667.
7. The Neckarau records clearly establish six children, two of whom had died, leaving four living children: Anna Barbaras (b.1699), John Michael (b. 1701), John Philip (b. 1704), and Susanna Margaretha (b. 1707). Did Cecilia NOT have access to the Neckarau records – or to all the Neckarau records?
8. Swope family research, as well as John Micheal's "Lebenslauf" establishes their separate immigration one year apart and their marriage after arrival in Pennsylvania.
9. The Moravians sailed the Main from Saxony. The confluence with the Rhine is downstream (not by far) from Neckarau.
10. Again, be careful with this date. Records vary depending on whether Captain's lists or Court House lists of "abjuration" are used.

Appendix 4 J. Allan Ranck

Allan's *The Ranks of the Rancks* is published in full on line at <http://ranck.org/Archive/RoR/RoR/RoR.pdf> and will not be reprinted here. Especially pertinent to this paper are:

- Chapter 1: Chateau de Vibrac
- Chapter 2: A Huguenot Heritage
- Chapter 3: Haven in Germany

Most of Allan's report of the European years seems to be taken unquestioningly (and even verbatim) from Cecilia's account. It contains, essentially, no new information – only (a little) additional historical and contextual embroidery.

Appendix 5

Gustav Anjou

I have previously given the context and general critique of Anjou's work and will not repeat that here. Anjou's publication is 69 pages long and, rather than including it in full, I will present a synopsis and some commentary.

Nearly 20 pages are devoted to an historical discussion of emergence and meanings of surnames and, hence, not directly related to Runk-Runck family history. There are, however, 50 or so pages of family history, beginning with a Heinrich Runck, born around 1450. The first 30 or so of these pages wander from one place to another, citing records of persons with the name of Runck, weaving them together as a single family. The records are sparse and, even taking their authenticity at face value, they do not provide a compelling case for the "genealogy" he has constructed. (Still, there may well be important historical "nuggets" among this.)

He devotes a few pages to conditions in The Palatinate following the 30 years war (1618 – 1648). This depiction is consonant with other information I have read.

Beginning on p. 51, he relates the lives of brothers, Hans Runck (b. 1640) and Johann Runck (b. 1663). These accounts would have been contemporaneous with the life of our "Valentin der Alt" (b. 1641, d. 1712). By Anjou's account, this (or a) Johann Runck of Mannheim left Pfalz and settled at Wesel in the Rhineland about 1698. (Remember our chronology: Hans Veltin and Margaretha Philippes m. 1699 in Neckarau.) Continuing with Anjou: Johann Runck married Louise Casparson. "They had three sons, Samuel, Johann Phillip and Michael Runck, or, as the name was written then, Ranck." Anjou's very next sentence is "One Michael Ranck appears among the list of Foreigners Imported in the Ship Mortenhouse John Coultas Master, from Deal, qualified Aug. 24, 1728 (citing Pa. Archives). Michael and John Rancke came in 1748, from Earl Township, Lancaster Co., PA to Bethlehem ... Many of the Moravians came from the vicinity of Wesel, ... etc."

These few sentences relating to events about which we have more information give some hint as to how Anjou was able to jump and attempt to make mere chronological sequence of events seem credibly linked and even probable – and put us on guard in reading other parts of his narrative.

Still, to the extent that Anjou's account may provide evidence of and information about other Runcks/Rancks in the Mannheim area prior to our first Neckarau record of 1699, his account should (possibly) be scrutinized (albeit, with great scepticism) for other possible origins and connections of our Neckarau family – particularly if "the French connection" continues to unravel, as I perceive it to be doing at this time.