

# Palatine Roots

## The South Carolina Palatines of 1764

### Narrative

by Gordon A. Rampy

Palatine Roots is a study of the German origins of the Rampy Family with a narrative describing the emigration of Johan Nicholas Rempy to South Carolina with a group of Palatines in 1764

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## PREFACE

It has been said that anyone who thinks genealogy is fun has either never done genealogy or has never had fun. But is there anyone who has not enjoyed the challenge of assembling a five hundred piece jigsaw puzzle, even though, deep in his heart he knew that the effort was about as useful as taking a count of the stars?

In fact, genealogy is fun, as any searcher of censuses will tell you. Perhaps it's just a matter of vanity -- pride in knowing something no one else knows. But more likely there is something inside us that produces an insatiable appetite for answers to the question: "Who am I?"

What then is the goal? When the jigsaw puzzle is done, it's done, and except for the entertainment it provided, the exercise was futile. The finished product was relegated in bits and pieces to the box from which it came, perhaps never to see the light again. Genealogy, on the other hand, never produces a completed image, but, like any historical research, reveals at least one new question for every answer that is found. Portions of the puzzle may come into sharper focus, but its dimensions constantly increase. The game is never over.

This writing, then, is merely a news bulletin through which the facts are presented as they are known today. Tomorrow will bring new revelations and a sharper, but even larger image. It is hoped that the reader will become a contributor, eager to fit some of the pieces into place and anxious to glean bits of history from fading memories while those memories remain to be tapped.

G.A.R.  
March, 1988

## INTRODUCTION

### **Genealogy? Humbug!**

In the years just before his death in 1976, my father, Major General Thomas R. Rampy, tried to interest me in the investigation he was making into the origins of the Rampy family. Since he was then living in Falls Church, Virginia, it was convenient for him to take advantage of his proximity to the enormous body of records in the Library of Congress and the National Archives. He was able to trace the ancestry back to Peter Rampy in colonial South Carolina, but no farther. I was less than excited by the information and even less anxious to spend my time searching dusty files.

Ten years after my father's death, and still not the least interested in pursuing genealogical research, I happened to visit the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, the location of the largest and most complete collection of genealogical data to be found anywhere in the world. While my wife searched for some information relating to her family at the request of her aunt, I tried to kill time by hunting for Rampys. That's when the bug bit!

Since that day, we have made several trips to Salt Lake City, spent hours in the local LDS branch libraries, visited the British Library and Public Records Offices in London, and searched through ancient records in various cities in Germany, including the ancestral village of Meisenheim. It has been a fascinating and rewarding pursuit, and one that will not soon end. My only regret is that it came too late to share with the one who would have enjoyed it so much.

In the 1950s my father was stationed in Wiesbaden, Germany, as Comptroller of the United States Air Forces in Europe. It is ironic that he, who was so anxious to learn as much as possible about his roots during his later years, at that time had no idea that just an hour's drive to the southwest his forefathers had flourished three centuries earlier.

### **The Rampy name.**

One of the greatest challenges faced by the genealogist is the diversity he encounters in the spelling of a surname. Every possible variation must be considered, and often there is reason to question whether a particular version truly represents the family line which is being investigated or some spurious red herring. We who search the records for Rampy family information are among the more fortunate investigators because our surname rather quickly stabilized with respect to spelling, and also because that spelling appears to be traceable to one, and only one, ancestor in America, namely Johan Nicholas Rempi, who arrived in Charles Town (Charleston), South Carolina, in 1764.

Although the very first relevant colonial records use "Rumpe" and "Rimben", the surname almost immediately settled on a spelling which began "Ram-". This could have resulted from the English interpretation of the German pronunciation or an association with the very common Scots-Irish surname "Ramsay", or a combination of both factors.

The surname ending must have sounded like "bee" or, more often, "pee", because the spellings in the eighteenth century German churchbooks usually show "by", "py", "pi", or "pie", indicating a long "e" vowel sound.

In any case, during the early 1800s we see the spelling "Rampey" preferred in South Carolina, but "Rampy" adopted by those who moved to Alabama in the 1830s. Those two spellings (and sometimes "Rampee") appear to be unique to the line which originated with Johan Nicholas. No other family appears to have adopted them, even though their original

German surnames were identical or very similar. Instead, we find American families whose names are spelled "Rempy", "Rimby," "Rampe" and "Rempe", all originating in Germany and probably related in some way to each other and to the Rampys, but only those of us who descended from the Charles Town immigrant of 1764 are known as "Ramp(e)ys".

Many of the original German surnames underwent rather drastic revision as they were anglicized during the years before and immediately after the Revolution. For example, the "Loyalist Claims" of 1783 list John Swillan (Zwilling), Christian Sing (Zang), Nicholas Crane (Gream), George Weaver (Webber) and others whose names had changed beyond recognition. The Zimmermans became Timmermans and Schieldknechts became Shelnuts, so the transformation from Rempi to Rampy seems relatively inconsequential.

In this narrative the surname is generally shown as it appears in the records, while the spelling "Rampy" has been chosen to refer to the entire body of Johan Nicholas' descendants.

## I. OUR GERMAN ANCESTRY

### **The dream.**

Living in America today we can hardly imagine the dreams and expectations which must have inspired our ancestors to abandon friends, family and familiar surroundings in exchange for a chance to live a better life in a new, but unknown world. Certainly there were many factors which motivated the thousands in central Europe who left their homes and set out for America in the eighteenth century. The desire for religious freedom, fear of the devastation of war, oppressive taxation and the desperate need for more land for farming were among the most common causes of emigration. But underlying these seems to have been a very successful public relations campaign waged by the English colonial landholders who profited from the influx of industrious, dependable new citizens.

These propagandists were most influential in a region of western Germany known as the Rhineland Palatinate (German: Rhineland Pfaltz) and in northern Switzerland where the concentration of the preferred Protestants was substantial. So many emigrated from these areas that, to the English, Palatine became synonymous with German and the description "poor Palatine" was applied by them to any German-speaking, itinerant colonists. In a series of tracts known as "Golden Books", the new lands (referred to as "the island of Carolina" "the island of Pennsylvania," etc.) were described in such glowing, unrealistic and even deceptive terms that many believed they offered heaven on earth and a life of ease. The propaganda was so successful that in 1709 and 1710 German and Swiss Protestants by the thousands made the six-week journey down the Rhine to Rotterdam. From there they poured into London, expecting to be transported immediately to the colonies by a grateful British government.

### **Awakening.**

Unfortunately, there were far too many immigrants arriving in too short a time to be assimilated expeditiously into the British colonies in America. The city of London into which the nearly destitute Germans descended was already suffering from over-crowded slums where disease and hunger were taking a toll of fifteen percent per year. The burden on the local economy quickly became intolerable and riots broke out when it became obvious that the "poor Palatines" were taking jobs away from their reluctant hosts.

The Palatines of that period were eventually settled in various parts of the British Isles as well as in New York, New Jersey, North Carolina and other American colonies, but the picture painted by the propagandists remained to draw a steady stream of land seekers from the Rhine valley of Germany.

### **A Rempy goes to Nova Scotia.**

In the late 1740s, the conflict between England and France over control of land in Canada was settled in favor of the British, and Lord Halifax took the opportunity to strengthen the colony of Nova Scotia by attracting people of quality as settlers. He deliberately recruited German Protestants from the Palatinate because of their reputation for industry and stability. One of 2300 who responded to the call was Johan Andreas Rempy (b. ca. 1704-1711), the first of the Rempy ancestors to come to the Now World.

In 1751 at about the age of forty, Andreas (we would call him Andrew) took his family of six, including a daughter Anna Barbara (age 15) and a son George (age 8) by ship from Rotterdam to Halifax. The name appears on the passenger list as "Rimpie", but Andreas signed in a

clear hand, "Rimbie."

After two years in Halifax, the bulk of the German colonists established the new town of Lunenburg about sixty-five miles to the southwest. Not far from there George Rimby carried on the family name. Today the name may still be found in West Dublin spelled "Remby" and "Rimby".

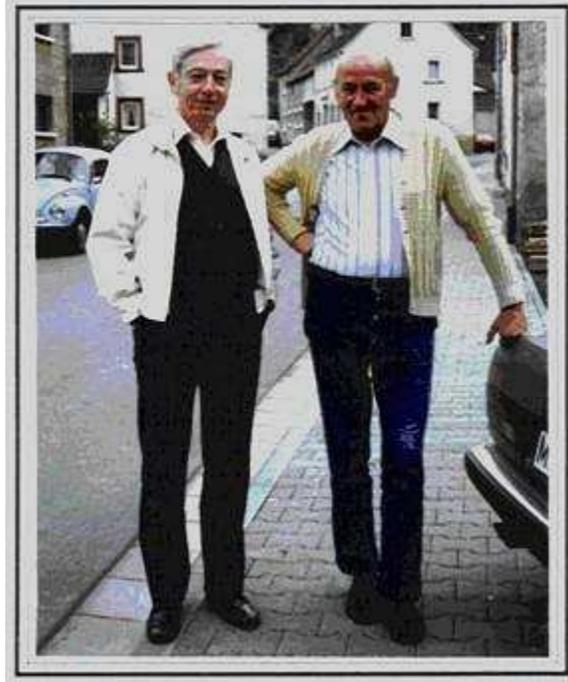
### **The Rempi family in Germany.**

In northern Germany there is a well known family by the name of "Rampe" (pronounced Rom'-puh) which has been traced back to the twelfth century. Their genealogy and coat-of-arms are included in the "German Lineage Books" which were used extensively during the Nazi era to prove non-Jewish ancestry. It is not unlikely that the Rempis of southern Germany, from which the American Rampy family is descended, is related in some way to the Rampes. However, no such connection has yet been established. As of this writing, the earliest known ancestor of the Rampy family is Christian Rimpy (b. ca. 1650). No conclusive evidence proves the relationship, but it is likely that he was Johan Andreas' grandfather. His name appears in the churchbooks of the town of Meisenheim on the occasion of his daughter's marriage in 1694. The marriage took place in the nearby village of Gangloff, presumably the home of the Christian Rimpy family at that time.

The only surviving official records available to us from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are those made by the churches. They list the important events in the lives of the people: births, christenings, confirmations, marriages, deaths, and occasionally, notes regarding emigration (e.g., "Johan Georg Schwartz went to America"). Since many villages were too small to have a church of their own, the records are to be found in the nearest village where a church did exist. In the records of the Evangelical church in Meisenheim, a small town of about a thousand people today, the names of many Rempis appear beginning in 1694. The places associated with the names are nearby villages, none more than four miles distant. Meisenheim is a delightful town with a street layout which remains today the same as it was over five hundred years ago when it was surrounded by a protective wall. Some of that wall still stands, and one of its towers is the repository of the city archives. The ancient records are lovingly cared for by Gunther F. Anthes, an engineer by profession who learned of his Meisenheim heritage some twenty years ago and has been spending his weekends there ever since. Herr Anthes' family, incidentally, is related by marriage to the Rempis of the neighboring village of Breitenheim.



Meisenheim on the Glan River, Eighteenth Century



The author (L.) and Gunter F. Anthes. (Breitenheim, Germany)

### **Johan Andreas Rempi.**

Exactly when Andreas left his home in the Meisenheim area is not known, but in 1727, probably in his early twenties, we find him at the altar of an Evangelical church in the city of Landau, Germany, taking the hand of Maria Magdalena Speissert in marriage. She was the daughter of a baker and he the son of a "handyman," Johan Paul Rempe. Although he was probably only an apprentice at the time, Andreas is listed as a "potter."

The couple remained in Landau for at least nine years, during which time they had four children: Maria Magdalena (b. 1728), Johan Nicholas (b. 1729), Anna Maria, (b. 1730), and Anna Barbara (b. 1736). No records have been found for the period between 1736 and 1751, the year the family left for Nova Scotia, but during that time, at least two more children, George and Elizabeth, were born.

In contrast to the pleasant, country atmosphere of Meisenheim, which lies among green hills alongside the Glan river, Landau is now a small metropolis, and not a very pretty one at that. No doubt the contrast was less severe two centuries ago, but nevertheless it is clear that the Rempis were used to an urban, not a rural environment.

## The Family of Christian Rempi (Rheinland Palatinate, Germany)

**CHRISTIAN** (Haefelfingen, Switzerland and Gangloff, Germany)  
b. 1632, m. Margaretha Sonnenberg, 1654, d. before 1695

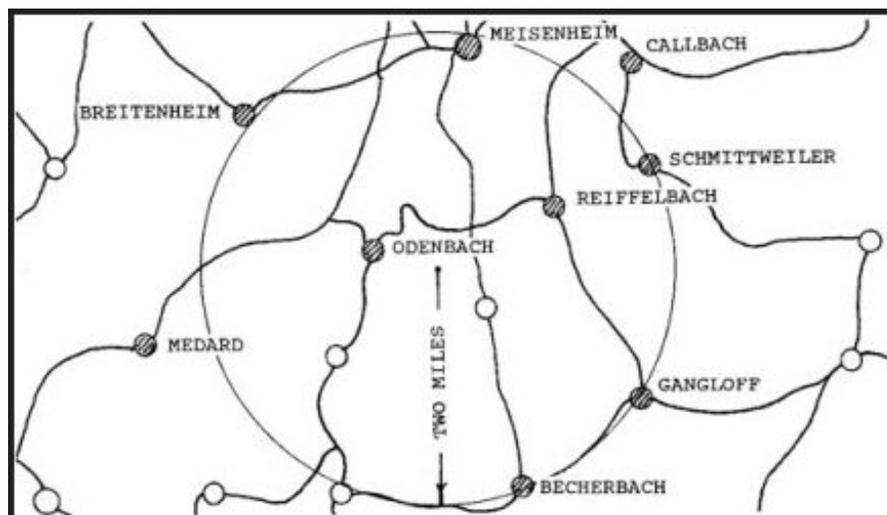
Georg (Reiffelbach)  
b. ca. 1670, m. ca. 1690  
Children: Conrad, ca. 1691 Phillip, ca. 1694 Susanna Ells., ca. 1698

**PAUL** (Meisenheim)  
b. 1672, m. ca. 1697  
Children: Nicholas, 1698, Maria Elis., 1699, Georg, 1707,  
**ANDREAS**, 1711 (m.1727 m. Maria Magdalena Speissert),  
Elis. Catherine, 1713. (Andreas went to Nova Scotia, 1751)  
Children of Andreas: Maria Magdalena, 1728, **NICHOLAS**, 1729,  
Anna Maria, 1730, Anna Barbara, 1736, Georg, ?, Elisabeth, ?  
**(Nicholas went to South Carolina, 1764)**

Elisabeth (Gangloft, to New York, 1709)  
b ca. 1674, m. 1694 (Nichlaus Wilhelm of Medard)  
Children: Susanna Maria, 1695, Peter, 1697, Anna Maria, 1702

Heinrich (Becherbach)  
b. ca. 1676, m. ca. 1695  
Sons: Jacob, ca. 1695 (Jacob and his son(?), Christoph arrived Phila. 1741), and  
Peter, ca. 1700

(The extremely common first name, 'Johan', has been omitted in the table above.)



The vicinity of Meisenheim, Germany,  
where the Rempi family lived in the 17th and 18th centuries.



## II. PALATINE ODYSSEY - 1764

### **Go west, Johan!**

It would be interesting to know how Johan Nicholas Rempi spent those fourteen years following his family's departure for Nova Scotia in 1751. Did he remain in Landau? Did he learn the potter's trade like his father, or did he enter military service as a mercenary? But unfortunately, no information has come to light which would answer those questions. We are grateful, however, that the record of his subsequent transit to America is preserved for those of us who are fascinated by every glimpse into our distant past.

In 1764, Johan Nicholas, age thirty-four, and his wife, Catherine, along with at least 400 other Protestants from their region of Germany, believing they were going to Nova Scotia as colonists, became the victims of an ill-conceived land development scheme promoted by one John Henry Christian de Stumpel. What happened to these people is an interesting and well documented odyssey which resulted in the immigration of the man who became the progenitor of all those in America who bear the name "Rampy" or "Rampey."

### **Land scam?**

Colonel de Stumpel appears in the British Admiralty records for July 22, 1763, as a mercenary soldier in the service of the King of England complaining of financial losses he had sustained because of the early end to hostilities in the recent "Seven Years War." He had been forced to pay off the German marines he had recruited at his own expense. The Lords of the Admiralty expressed no sympathy for his plight and responded that they did "not feel that his pretensions were well founded."

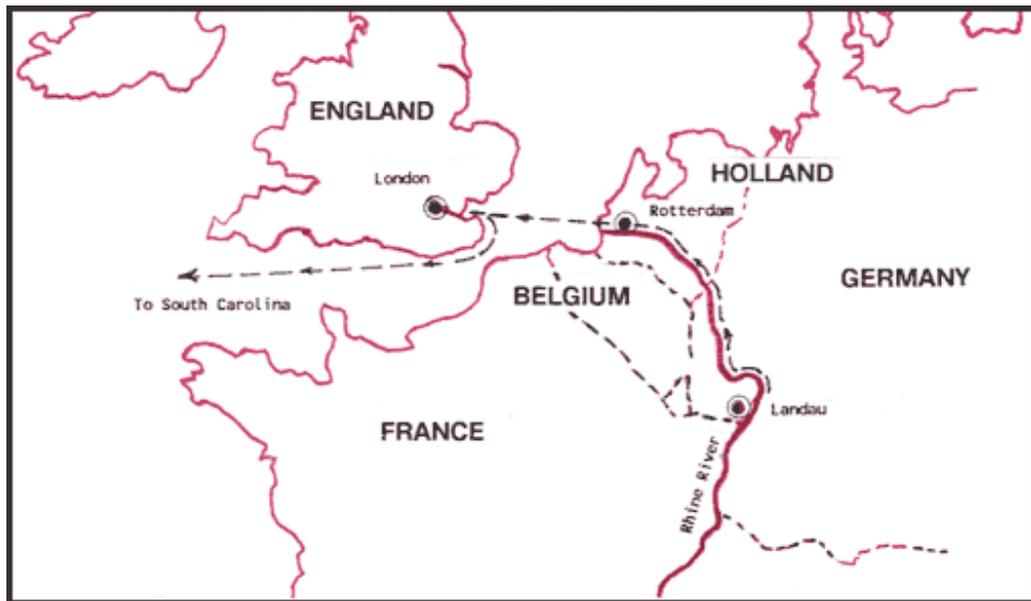
Finding himself in a foreign land and skilled in a profession for which there was no market, de Stumpel probably saw the opportunity to develop land in Nova Scotia as a well timed godsend. During the remainder of the year 1763, he devoted himself to obtaining the approval of the Board of Trade and Plantations for a grant of 200,000 acres in that new territory. The records show that the grant was approved and signed December 15th, but apparently the arrangement began to sour immediately afterward. In the Privy Council records of February, 1764, de Stumpel is described to their Lordships as being of dubious ability and unable to obtain the "number of people needed for so extensive a tract as 200,000 acres of land and therefore that it would not be advisable . . . to grant him so large a quantity of land . . ."

Probably under great pressure from the government, the enterprising colonel prudently reduced his request to a modest 20,000 acres and appears to have received approval for that amount of land at the February meeting of the Council. It was noted in the record of that meeting that he had already in London forty-five families (128 persons) whom he had recruited from various countries, so that it is clear that he had initiated his promotional activities while believing that he had approval for the full 200,000 acres. Since the settlement was to be based on a density of one person per hundred acres, he would have expected to recruit about 2000 colonists. His subsequent misfortunes probably resulted from the success of his promotional campaign. As many as 600 Palatines would now be arriving in London expecting to occupy a grant which would support only two hundred.

The London newspapers announced June 16, 1764, that de Stumpel had arrived from Germany with his officers and had been granted 20,000 acres in Nova Scotia where he planned to build a city named "Stumpelberg." But just one month later, on July 18th, "several foreign officers" petitioned the Board of Trade and Plantations to provide passage for them to America and to grant them lands in the colonies. They stated that they had been given false

and improper assurances by Colonel de Stumpel. These "assurances" apparently were that the British government would provide transportation to Nova Scotia at no expense to the colonists. There is no indication that such provisions were ever made and the Board simply confirmed to the officers that any such promises made by the colonel were without foundation.

It is tempting to characterize this opportunist as unscrupulous, but it is possible that de Stumpel was simply a victim, himself, of a giant bureaucratic snafu. In any case, concluding that discretion was the better part of valor, he apparently had already left the country by the time his officers went before the Board of Trade, knowing that there were several hundred more of his people on their way to London expecting free passage to Nova Scotia.



The route taken by the Palatines from Germany to America in 1764

### **The Palatines in London.**

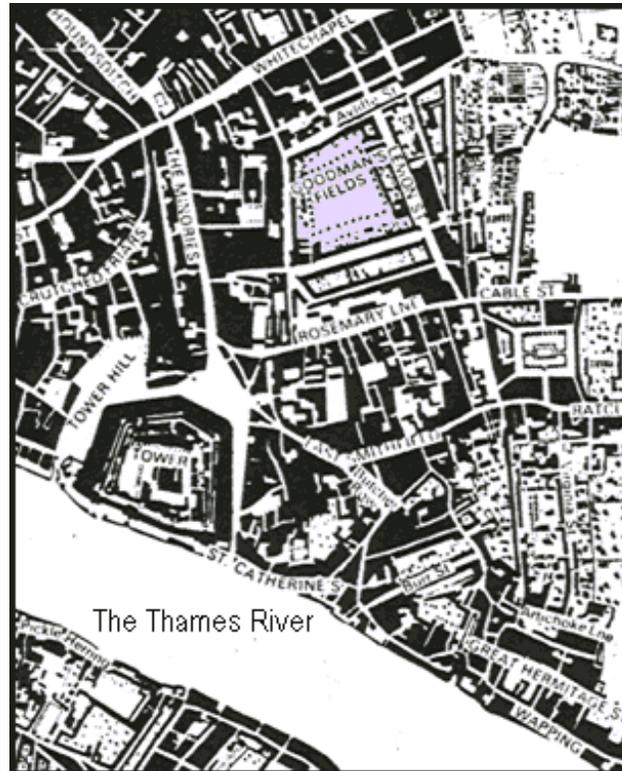
The exact date on which those "poor Palatines" actually arrived is unknown, but on August 29th, a letter was published in the London newspaper "Lloyd's Evening Post" (see Appendix B) which described their "unutterable distresses" and challenged: "For shame, Britons! Exert yourselves and let a spirit of charity inspire you to feed the strangers that are within your gates."

Dr. Anton Wachsel, pastor of St. George's German Lutheran church also published an impassioned plea for assistance to the 600 (there were actually about 400) refugees. Two hundred of them did not have the means to pay their arrival fees and were therefore confined and "rotting in filth and nastiness" aboard their ships.

The response of the people of London to these letters was instantaneous and quite remarkable. A committee of twenty-one gentlemen was quickly organized and by eleven o'clock in the morning on which the pastor's letter appeared, relief in the form of tents, food, clothing and money began to be distributed to the suffering Palatines where they were assembled in an open area of East London known as "Goodman's Fields." (Today, very little of the open area remains, but just across Alie Street, on the northwest side of what was once Goodman's

Fields, you can still visit Dr. Wachsel's German Lutheran church. The date 1764 on the front of the old brick structure shows that it was new when the Palatines arrived. The location is just a few blocks north of the Tower of London.)

The relief committee held frequent meetings in the local coffee houses and remained active on behalf of the refugees, collecting about 4000 pounds sterling and arranging for a grant of lands in South Carolina to be made available to them on favorable terms from King George III.



East London in 1746 showing the location of Goodman's Fields.

### **All aboard for South Carolina.**

The committee contracted for two ships, the "Union" and the "Dragon," to carry 180 passengers each. When it became apparent that these were inadequate to transport both passengers and baggage, a third ship, the "Planters Adventure," was engaged to carry the baggage of the entire group and thirty-three of their number to watch over it.

Arrangements were also made with Messrs. Cathcart and Woodrop in Charles Town, South Carolina, to serve as agents for the committee. They were charged with the responsibility of paying the ship captains and seeing to the outfitting of the Palatines on their arrival. The immigrants were to be supplied with tools, livestock and provisions as they were needed until September 30, 1765.

### **A tearful departure.**

During the several weeks that the Palatines were under the benevolent care of Dr. Wachsel

and other members of the relief committee, strong bonds of Christian love and friendship were formed, bonds which resulted in what must have been an extremely painful experience when the time came to part. The account which appeared in the London Magazine, Saturday, October 6, 1764, gives us a glimpse of that emotional moment:

"The Palatines broke up their camp behind Whitechapel church. The treasurer, and some other gentlemen of the very benevolent committee, attended on that occasion and accompanied them to the water side and particularly the Reverend Mr. Wachsell, who has been indefatigable during their abode in England and whose pious labours are above all praise. His taking leave of them was a most moving spectacle, tears flowing plentifully on both sides, especially from the sick, and pregnant women who were near their time. Many of the persons present could not refrain from sympathizing with them. They were carried in lighters to the ships lying at Blackwall, singing hymns all the way, and a great number of boats filled with spectators attending them, who seemed greatly affected with their devout behavior and demonstrations of gratitude to the nation which had so hospitably treated them."

The ships Dragon and Union sailed from Gravesend, England, on October 7, 1764, arriving in Charles Town December 14th and 16th, respectively, after a passage of ten weeks. The Planters Adventure departed later and did not arrive until February 12th, causing considerable inconvenience for the new arrivals since they were without their belongings for nearly two months.

The Union suffered the loss of three children during the ten week passage. Two were born. Those who sailed aboard the Dragon were not so fortunate, however. Lt. Governor William Bull reported in a letter to the committee that all arrived sick and had to be placed immediately in an emergency hospital which was established in the local barracks. Twenty had died aboard ship and twenty more died shortly after arrival. It was concluded that the disparity in the health of those aboard the two ships was no reflection on the quality of care provided by the captain of the Dragon, but rather was due to the fact that those who were taken on board included all those who were sickly from their stay in London and that the sickness had then spread to the other passengers.

A careful analysis of the records (see Appendix C) shows that 374 Palatines sailed from London aboard the three ships. The Union carried 181, the Dragon 160, and the Planters Adventure, which also transported the baggage, carried 33 along with unrelated passengers and goods. During the passage, twenty died on the Dragon, three on the Union and none on the Planters Adventure. Two children were born on the Union, so that 353 immigrants actually reached their destination. Of those, 131 were under fourteen years of age.

Within six weeks after their arrival in Charles Town, at least 44 more, including fifteen children, would die from their illnesses, leaving only 309 of the original group to find their way to the new life they had dreamed about and traveled so far to experience.

### **A painful choice.**

In the years that followed, time and a preoccupation with survival no doubt dimmed the memories of those hardy Germans and much of the hardship and bereavement of the early days in South Carolina may have been forgotten. But they could never forget the kindness, mercy and generosity of those who had cared for them so unselfishly during their sojourn in London. Nor could they forget the king by whose grace they were not forced to return to Germany, but were instead provided with free land and protection in the New World. So, when the time came just a few years later for the choice to be made between Whig and Tory, it is not surprising that the majority elected to support their benefactors. Those who made that

choice lost their lands and were forced again to leave their homes and their homeland.

The case of Christian Zang is probably typical of those Palatines who elected to serve the British rather than to take up arms with the rebels. In 1765, when they first arrived in South Carolina, the Zang family consisted of Christian (40), Juliana (32), Peter (9), Jacob (7), Christian (4), and Johannes (3). A fifth son, Phillip, was born in January, 1765, shortly after the arrival of the Union in Charles Town. Twenty-one years later, in July, 1786, Zang told this story to the British authorities in Nova Scotia to support his claim for recovery of losses suffered as a result of his choice:

"In the first year of the Troubles took Arms, in the year 1775, & drove the Rebels from the Town in Ninety Six, besieged them & they Capitulated, but soon after got together and drove them away. Claimant was taken prisoner & carried to Charles Town & afterwards released, being an old man. In 1778 joined the British Army under Col. Robinson & Major Maclauren, served as a Volunteer, went into Florida, then went to Georgia, from Georgia came back to Charles Town, serving all this time & came from Charlestown to this Province.

His eldest son, Peter, was in a British Station & was taken by the Rebels & hung, his 2 sons (second son?) died at the siege of Savannah, he was then in the British Army, his 3rd Son, Christian, was shot in a Scouting Party, he was then a Volunteer in the British Army."

### III. LONDONBOROUGH - 1765

#### **Arrival.**

After ten weeks at sea in a crowded sailing vessel and close to six months of "living out of a suitcase," the anticipation the itinerant Germans felt at the prospect of settling down on their own piece of America must have been close to unbearable. Surely it was that dream of freedom, independence and prosperity, gilded so unrealistically by Colonel de Stumpel and the propagandists of fifty years earlier that kept them moving resolutely toward the goal in spite of spirit breaking hardship.

The toll in lives had been great -- nearly one in five had died by the end of January, 1765, and of thirty families on the ship *Dragon*, twenty lost at least one member. Fourteen year old Agnes Franck was the only survivor from a family of five and Joseph Widener, age ten, was alone, having lost mother, father, brother and sister. Johan Nicholas Rempi and his wife, Catherine were fortunate to have been healthy and to have been on board the *Union* which suffered the loss of only three passengers, all children. It is tempting to speculate that Catherine was one of those two women who gave birth during the journey, but we have no record to support the conjecture. We do know, however, that no Rempis were listed among the children over two years old who qualified for a bounty payment, but the size of the land grant -- two hundred acres -- shows that they were a family of three. It is likely that Peter Rempi, the first of four sons, was the third party. (Note: We now know that the child was their daughter, Maria Elisabeth, christened in Kern, Germany, 15 May 1763. GAR, 2001)

The records of St. John's Lutheran Church in Charleston provide some interesting background information relating to those first few days after the *Dragon* and *Union* arrived, December 14th and 16th. Births and christenings are recorded for four of the newly arrived Palatine families:

**1. Frederick and Margaretha Zimmerman**

Joh. Peter, b. Dec. 19, 1764;  
chr. Dec. 20, 1764.

**2. Phillip and Apolonia Zimmerman**

Joh. Christian, b. Jan. 11, 1765;  
chr. Jan. 14, 1765.

**3. Christian and Juliana Zang**

Phillip, b. Jan. 7, 1765;  
chr. Jan. 10, 1765.

**4. Joh. Georg and Elizabeth Zang**

Margaretha, b. Dec. 4, 1764;  
chr. Dec. 20, 1764.

The two Zimmerman fathers are both listed at thirty-six years of age, suggesting that they might be twins, however, a private communication from descendant Chuck Timmerman states that the two were likely not brothers, having actually emigrated from different villages. (GAR 2011). The Zangs, however, are thirteen years apart, with Christian forty and Georg twenty-seven. The four children were most likely conceived in March or April of 1764 while the Palatines were still in Germany. The daughter of Georg and Elisabeth was one of the two children born on board the *Union*. However, on December 24th, the couple applied for a land grant of only 150 acres, suggesting that the child died shortly after birth. They had no other children at the time.

Upon arriving in Charles Town, the captains of the ships Dragon and Union turned over to Messrs. Woodrop and Cathcart detailed passenger lists and instructions from the relief committee in London. These men, as agents for the committee, were to see that the captains were paid in full and that proper application was made to the governor (Lt. Gov. William Bull was acting governor.) for bounty payments and land grants which had been offered as "encouragement" to new colonists. They were also instructed to give particular attention to preventing the Palatines from deserting their companions and accepting employment in the town. They reported regretfully that "eight or ten who were tradesmen" insisted on remaining behind.

### **Londonborough.**

The influential plantation owners of South Carolina's coastal plain were anxious to place new colonists far up in the "back country" where they might serve as a buffer against Indian attacks. Thus the French Huguenot refugees of the previous year were settled in New Bordeaux Township, northwest of the present town of McCormick, and it was hoped that the Germans would choose lands nearby. A township of 20,000 acres called "Londonborough" (often incorrectly referred to as "Londonderry") was eventually laid out for them, not on the more fertile frontier, but on the less desirable ground east of the French settlement where the danger from Indians was not as great.

Early maps of South Carolina, such as the Parker map of 1773, show the size and location of Londonborough Township too imprecisely to allow us to lay out its boundaries today. Those maps indicate an area of 16,000 to 18,000 acres, and we know that Lt. Gov. Bull directed that Patrick

Calhoun, a prominent and respected back country landholder, and Deputy Surveyor John Fairchild should select "about 20,000 acres of good land" for the Germans. That instruction was given in a letter dated December 23, 1764, nearly two weeks before the first party of Palatines left Charles Town. It is now clear that most of the Germans did not choose to settle on lands within the designated area.

A township of 20,000 acres, if laid out in the form of a square, would be 5.6 miles on a side, just as was the nearby French township of New Bordeaux. The ten land plats which were laid out along Hard Labor Creek fit easily into such bounds, and in fact, each is described as being "in Londonborough Township". None of the other eighty-four, however, are so described, nor could any of them lie within a 5.6 by 5.6 mile square which also included the Hard Labor Creek properties. Instead, we find them widely scattered to the east and southeast, some as far as sixteen miles from the town site.

The town of Londonborough, or at least its intended location, may be pinpointed with reasonable certainty. The plat of Phillip Zimmerman's land (see "Palatine Land Grants on Hard Labor Creek," Palatine Land Plats - 1765) states that his 350 acres are "on land laid out for the town." Since Lt. Gov. Bull specified that only 100 acres should be allotted for the town itself, we have reliable support for the traditional location of Londonborough near Powder Spring (see Palatine Land Plats - 1765).

In November, 1964, a marker with the title "Londonborough Settlement" was erected on the west side of State Route 48 near the eastern boundary of the Zimmerman property to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of that community.

The first party of Palatines to move out on the trek into the back country left Charles Town January 9, 1765. They were fifty in number, including fourteen men, and it is possible that Johan Nicholas, Catherine and Peter Rempi (Note: Actually Maria Elisabeth, not Peter. See note above. GAR, 2001) were among them. The lands they selected as homesteads were

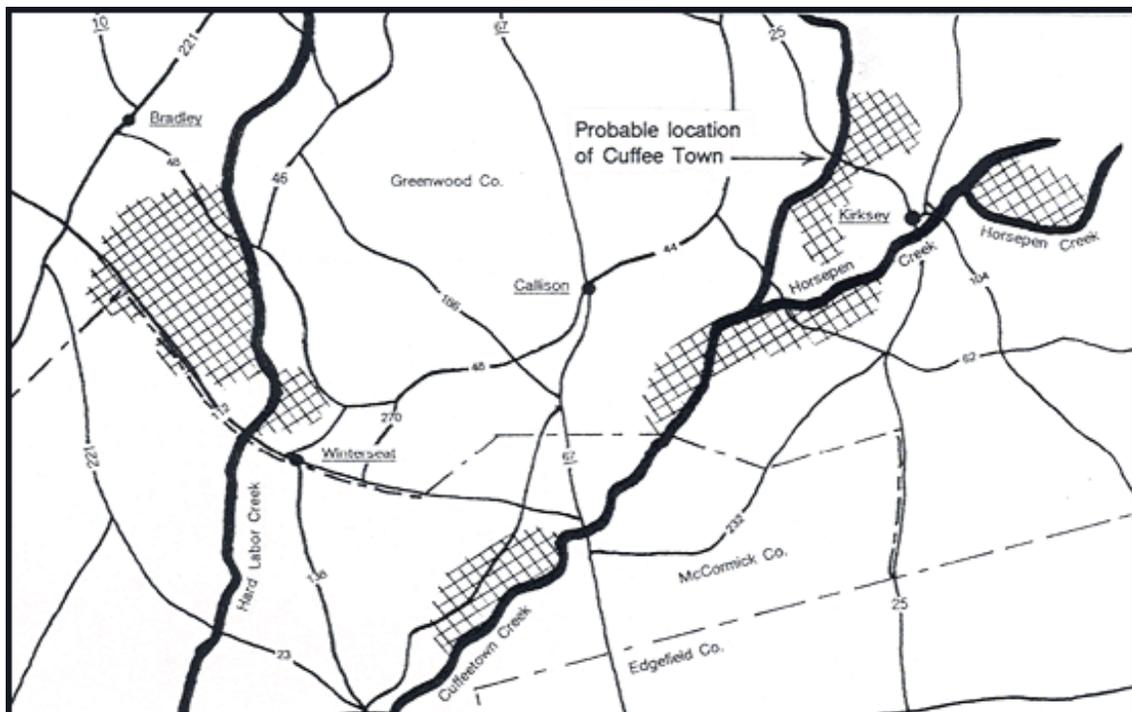
along Cuffeetown Creek and one of its branches called Horsepen Creek (see map below).

Lt. Governor Bull reported that a town site was laid out for them twelve miles south of Ninety Six. Today, the village of Kirksey is situated at that approximate location, but it is more likely that Bull was referring to Londonborough, fifteen miles southwest of Ninety Six, as the crow flies.

### Cuffee Town.

Although the location of the small stream which bears its name is well known and easily found on South Carolina maps even today, Cuffee Town itself is a place which has disappeared without leaving a trace, or even a documented statement as to its former location. That it lay somewhere between Kirksey and Winterseat is certain, but exactly where, is not. Perhaps the most definitive references to its location may be found in the plats of Michael Keiss (see below, "Palatine Land Grants on Horsepen Creek") and George Schieldknecht. Both are described as being "at a place called Cuffee Town." The Schieldknecht land was some three miles northeast of the Keiss place, and five others in the immediate vicinity of Schieldknecht are described as "near Cuffee Town." If we ignore the Keiss reference, all of the remaining plat data would support a location very near where Highway 25 crosses Cuffeetown Creek.

The origin of the name, as well as the location of Cuffee Town, is the subject of speculation. It is tempting, for example, to imagine that the Indian village of "Cofitachequi" cited by De Soto during his trek through the area two hundred years earlier may be a clue. (See M. Watson, "Greenwood County Sketches", p. 2.)



Palatine settlements in Greenwood and McCormick Counties

### **Palatine land grants.**

Land was granted to the Palatines according to the size of the household. The head of the household was granted one hundred acres and each additional member was granted fifty acres. Thus a husband and wife would receive 150 acres and a family of five would be granted three hundred acres. Many single young men and women (including Agnes Franck, 14, mentioned above) were considered eligible for one hundred acres. The largest grant, 450 acres, went to Johannes Flick on Little Stephens Creek.

The recorded land plats surveyed by John Fairchild show that the Palatines remained to a great extent segregated according to the ship on which they were passengers. The first to select lands and have their plats recorded were from the Union, probably because they were relatively healthy on arrival and did not require the long period of recuperation needed by the passengers on the Dragon. Their homesteads were located in clusters, one along Cuffeetown and Horsepen Creeks in the vicinity of Kirksey (now Greenwood County), another about ten or twelve miles west on Hard Labor Creek north of Winterseat (now Greenwood County), another three miles southeast of Winterseat on Cuffeetown Creek (now McCormick County) and another on Sleepy and Little Stephens Creeks in northern Edgefield County.

By mid-June, 1765, all but one of the Union people had had their plats recorded. Between that time and the end of August, those who had arrived on the Dragon and Planters Adventure were settled along the various branches of Turkey Creek called Log, Mountain, Little Turkey, Little Rocky, Sleepy, and Little Stephens Creeks in Edgefield County midway between Kirksey and the town of Edgefield.

Johan Nicholas Rempi selected land just two miles due east of Kirksey on the upper reaches of Horsepen Creek (see below). His two hundred acre parcel lay between properties belonging to Anna Catherine Weiser and George Wilhelm. Today this land is a forested wilderness leased to a hunting club. It is no longer cultivated and shows no signs of ever having been inhabited.

See Appendix C: Palatine Land Grants - 1765 and Palatine Land Plats - 1765.

### **A difficult beginning.**

Lt. Governor Bull strongly encouraged the Germans to clear their lands and bring in a crop of hemp (what we know today as marijuana, but at that time, its uses were benign) as soon as possible. He provided the seed for that purpose and established a system of appropriately situated agents to distribute the supplies on which the immigrants were to subsist while they waited for their fields to produce. The benevolent committee in London had provided funds for their subsistence, but only until the end of September, 1765.

No doubt the living conditions were extremely difficult and the process of clearing, planting and cultivating was slow and tedious, but William Bull was nevertheless irritated when Peter Dorst and Henry Adolph appeared before the Council October 11, 1765, to request relief for their fellow Germans. The flow of supplies had stopped and the Palatines were unable to provide for themselves. But the Lt. Governor was not impressed. He criticized them vehemently for having been so slow in moving onto their land that they had missed out on the best growing season, and sent the two representatives home with nothing more than payment of their travel expenses.

We have no record of how these people survived the winter of 1765, but we do know that by 1769 their situation was so much improved that they were commended by Bull in a "state

of the colony" report to the Board of Trade in London:

"They now raise more than they can consume and consequently yearly add to their capital. Some raise hemp and some flour. They are loyal subjects and very useful and orderly members of the community, retaining a grateful sense of the Royal and private English charity which placed them in the way of attaining by their own industry this happy situation ..."

**The Family of Johan Nicholas Rempi  
(South Carolina)**

**NICHOLAS** (Landau, Germany)  
b. 1729, d. ca. 1801, Edgefield, S.C.

**Peter** (Edgefield)  
b. ca. 1764, d. 1843  
Son, ca. 1792  
Daughter, ca. 1793  
Nicholas, 1794-1852, Abbeville and Edgefield  
Daughter, ca. 1795  
Henry, 1797-1879, to Alabama ca. 1835  
Daughter, ca. 1800  
William (?), 1804-?  
Jacob, 1805-1884, to Alabama ca. 1835  
John Jackson, 1811-1881, Pickens, S.C.  
Mary, 1820-?, to Alabama 1843.

**John** (Abbeville)  
b. ca. 1765, d. 1816

John, ca. 1794  
Mary, ca. 1800  
Cattley, ca. 1802  
Margaret, ca. 1804  
Daniel, 1812-1887, Ninety Six, S.C.  
James, 1814-?, Cokesbury, S.C.

**William** (Abbeville)  
b. 1766-70, d. 1830-40  
William, Jr., 1800-?, Anderson, S.C.  
Son, b. 1804-1810  
Son, b. 1815-1820  
Daughters (3). b. 1790-1800

**Samuel** (Abbeville)  
b. 1770-1778, d. after 1840  
Phillip N., 1799-1860+, to Greene Co., Ill., 1821  
William Henry, 1801-1867, Lowndesville, S.C.  
James Anderson, 1814-?, Anderson, S.C.  
Daughters (6), 1800-1820

## EPILOGUE

Very few records have surfaced as of this writing which would enlighten us with respect to the activities of our first American ancestor after his arrival in the South Carolina back country. It is certain that he (Nicholas Rambee) served in the militia on the side of the rebels prior to the fall of Charles Town in May, 1780. Many years later (1801) two grants of land were made to him (Nicholas Rampey), presumably in recognition of that military service. Unfortunately, the picture is clouded by the fact that Nicholas Rambee is also listed as a private in Captain George Dawkins' company of South Carolina Royalists (British) from February through June, 1781. The October-December muster states: "Ramby, Nicholas, dead, 30 Oct 1781."

A reasonable explanation for the seemingly contradictory records may be that Nicholas, along with a great many other patriots, found it expedient to change sides in that trying conflict. The initial policy of the victorious British after they took control of Charles Town was to grant amnesty to the captured rebels and send them home with their promise not to take further hostile action against the Crown. But that policy was almost immediately revised so as to require that the participants in the rebellion take up arms with the Loyalist forces.

The death notice may be explained by the fact that it was common practice to report deserters as deceased. (The American victory at Yorktown, Virginia, eleven days before the death notice, had effectively ended the war.)

While we have no record of the date of Nicholas' death (other than the above), it may be that it occurred shortly before his land on Horsepen Creek was sold by Peter, his eldest son, in 1802. Supporting the conclusion that Nicholas lived long after the war had ended is the record of Captain Peter Zimmerman's estate administration in which Nicholas Rambay is listed as a purchaser of goods, November 26, 1797. (Two Peter Zimmermans were among the Palatine immigrants: the son of Phillip, age four, and the son of Frederick, born three days after the arrival of the Union.)

The four sons of Nicholas Rempi, Peter, John, William and Samuel lived out their lives in Edgefield and Abbeville Counties. Land and court records document the activities of Peter and his male children pretty well, but information concerning the other three is scant due to the loss of the Abbeville County courthouse files by fire in 1873.

Peter's name appears on several Edgefield County jury lists from 1785 to 1790, and in 1788, he was one of the signers of a petition which was submitted to the General Assembly requesting incorporation of the back country German Protestant churches. It is likely that he represented the Lutheran church known as "St. George's" which was situated near the point where Long Cane Road (Rt. 112) crosses Hard Labor Creek. In 1786, Peter had purchased 100 acres of land adjacent to the church, and he may have been one of its more active members. He was probably living on that property in 1843 when he died, leaving possessions, exclusive of land, valued at only \$300.

Like most people of that era, the Rampeys were continually seeking a better life somewhere else. The first to leave South Carolina was probably Phillip N. Rampey, the oldest son of Samuel. Phillip moved to Greene County, Illinois, in 1821. His descendants may be found today in Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The existence, of a branch of the family in Illinois at that early date suggests the probability that Rampey cousins faced each other on opposite sides during the Civil War.

In the mid-1830s, many Edgefield families moved southwestward, ultimately settling in Alabama. Two of Peter's sons, Henry and Jacob, were among them. There is some indication

that they lived for a short time in Georgia, but by 1836 they had established their homes in Chambers County, Alabama. In the 1840s, Henry moved a few miles north to Randolph County. When Peter died in 1843, Mary, his youngest child, went to live near her brothers. It is said that she brought with her a ring which her father had made for her from a gold coin, and that the ring remains a keepsake of the Rampy family in that area today.

In 1845, L. (Lewis?) Henry Rampy (Note: Now known to be Henry, Jr.. GAR, 2001), the oldest son of Henry, left Alabama and became the first of many Rampys to settle in Texas. He farmed in Anderson County. Another of Henry's sons, John Henry, moved with his family to Bell County, Texas in 1884. (His son, Thomas Jefferson, was the author's grandfather.)

Rampy descendants may also be found in Mississippi as a result of a move to Water Valley by Amos Rampey in about 1868. Amos, born in 1824 in South Carolina, was the son of Nicholas Rampey, Peter's oldest surviving son.

While there are probably more Rampys in Texas today than in any other state, the greatest concentration of Johan Nicholas' descendants is found in and around Greenville, South Carolina, in the counties of Pickens, Anderson and Greenville. As of this writing, none bearing the name are known to reside in either Edgefield or Abbeville County.

## **AUTHOR'S NOTE**

It has not been my purpose to trace the various descendants of our common ancestor up to the present day. Others have undertaken that tedious endeavor and will no doubt soon make the results of their labors available to all of us. However, it is my hope that the reader will find this account of our family origins interesting and informative, and that it will serve to shed some light on the matter of who we are.

While the efforts of a great many members of the Rampy family have been utilized in the preparation of this narrative, I want to especially thank Edward W. Rampy, Joe D. Rampey and Mrs. Margaret d'Arazien for their contributions and encouragement.

I apologize for the errors and omissions which the reader may encounter, and encourage him to make them known so that perhaps a more accurate and complete account of our family origins may be produced at some time in the future.

G.A.R., 1988

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See also:

- Appendix A - The Rampys in Germany
- Appendix B - The Palatines in London
- Appendix C - The Palatines in South Carolina
  - The Revill Lists
  - Palatine Land Grants - 1765
  - Palatine Land Plats - 1765
  - An Accounting of Palatine Passengers
  - A Compilation of Families

Addendum, October, 2001:  
Death Records in Charlestown