

OCC 88 Rohrbach
4/2015 Family

JOHANN GEORG ROHRBACH OF BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA WITH TWELVE GENERATIONS OF HIS ROHRBACH AND RORABAUGH DESCENDANTS

ROHRBACH GENEALOGY VOLUME IV

by

Lewis Bunker Rohrbach



Johann Georg Rohrbach, a 1732 immigrant from Germany to Pennsylvania, founded a large and thriving family in Berks County, PA. In this massive compilation, award-winning genealogist Lewis Bunker Rohrbach documents twelve generations of the immigrant's Rohrbach and Rorabaugh descendants, who have spread throughout the length and breadth of America. This 2011 book, with 768 pages and an Every-Name Index with 18,901 entries, vastly expands his 1977 account with its 280 pages and an Every-Name Index with 11,700 entries.

The picture above shows Jacob Rohrbach (c1490–1525), a leader in the 1525 Peasants' Revolt in Germany, at his execution. Johann Georg Rohrbach came from the same tiny area of Germany near the city of Heilbronn as Jacob Rohrbach, and probably is a relative although not necessarily a direct descendant. While 1525 seems ancient history to us almost five hundred years later, it didn't seem so to Johann Georg Rohrbach. He was born roughly 175 years after the revolt – to him it was only a bit further back in time than the Civil War is to us today.

Rohrbach immigrants began arriving in America in 1710, two generations before the American Revolution. Half were Evangelical Lutherans from Germany, the other half Evangelical Reformed from Switzerland. This volume contains the story of one of them, Johann Georg Rohrbach, a Lutheran who came from Germany in 1732. He soon settled in Berks County, Pennsylvania and founded a large family whose descendants have spread all across America.

While the Every-Name Index here contains 18,901 entries, this is a deceptively low number since only those who were born with the surname, married into the surname, or whose mother had the surname are included here. All-in-all, well over 50,000 Americans alive today can trace some of their ancestry to Johann Georg Rohrbach.

The surname spelling used today is roughly 80% Rohrbach and 20% Rorabaugh, with the latter group being descendants of one son named Simon Rohrbach and one grandson also named Simon Rohrbach. Both men eventually began to spell it Rorabaugh, which is the spelling still used today by their descendants. Readers should keep in mind that both spellings also are found today among descendants of other Rohrbach immigrants.

This is a 768-page, 7"x10" case bound book, with a full-color dust jacket, and contains an 18,901 entry Every Name Index. Published in December 2012.

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JOHANNES ROHRBACH OF NEW YORK 1710

SIXTEEN GENERATIONS INCLUDING
THREE GENERATIONS OF HIS ANCESTORS IN GERMANY
AND THIRTEEN GENERATIONS OF THE FAMILY IN AMERICA AND CANADA

THE ROHRABACHER, ROORBACH, ROORBACK, RORABACHER, RORABACK, RORABECK,
RORAPAUGH, ROREBECK, AND RORIPAUGH FAMILIES OF NORTH AMERICA.

ROHRBACH GENEALOGY VOLUME V

by

Lewis Bunker Rohrbach

Johannes Rohrbach came from Germany to New York in 1710 and is the progenitor of a large and thriving family whose descendants have spread to all corners of America and Canada. Like many early American immigrants, whether English-speaking or not, his descendants soon began to spell their surname a wide variety of ways, almost all of them unique to the descendants of Johannes Rohrbach 1710 rather than being found among descendants of the other ten Rohrbach immigrants in the period 1710-1754 (five of whom were German and five were Swiss).

It is hard for me to think of any other one-surname Palatine genealogy that so thoroughly and so clearly sets forth the intent of the work, and then follows through with the meat and potatoes genealogical portion of the book: superbly documented. Lewis Bunker Rohrbach's ROHRBACH GENEALOGY Volume V: JOHANNES ROHRBACH 1710 truly is a magnificent family history that should serve as a model for anyone chronicling their own ancestral line. I recommend it highly. [Henry Z Jones, Jr., Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists & Fellow of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society]

The current surname spelling of Johannes Rohrbach's descendants serves as an extremely rough indicator of where your ancestral line settled and, as indicated below, extremely roughly how large your branch of the Johannes Rohrbach 1710 family is today:

Rohrabacher	Michigan and other western states; roughly 11% of his descendants
Roorbach	NY, PA, and Texas; a smaller branch of the family
Roorback	Mostly Texas; a smaller branch of the family
Rorabacher	Michigan and other western states; roughly 9% of his descendants
Roraback	Disproportionately NY, MA, and CT; roughly 35% of his descendants
Rorabeck	Primarily Canada and the midwest; roughly 12% of his descendants
Rorapaugh	Mostly in California and Pennsylvania; a smaller branch of the family
Rorebeck	Primarily Canada and the midwest; roughly 13% of his descendants
Roripaugh	Mostly in California; a smaller branch of the family

This massive 768-page, hard cover, case bound, 7" x 10" book by award-winning author Lewis Bunker Rohrbach (a Certified Genealogist for 40 years) has an Every Name Index with 15,202 entries. Published by Picton Press in April 2014.