

## Genealogy

### Personnel of the Rappite Community of Harmony, Indiana, in the year 1824

*Otis E. Young\**

When the Rappites decided to leave their colony in Indiana and return to Pennsylvania, power of attorney was given to Frederick Rapp to sell their property. The document dated May 21, 1824, is interesting in that it reveals the names of the members of this communistic sect. While the names of George and Frederick Rapp are well known, the rank and file of the membership have remained in obscurity. Many of the names appear to be misspelled which may be due to the copyist's unfamiliarity with the names when they were recorded in the deed record book. As will be noted forty could not write and made their mark.

Undoubtedly many persons joining the colony brought with them quite a bit of property, which was made part of the common holdings. If the list of persons which follows is studied carefully, it will show that there is some evidence that man and wife signed together in about fifty cases. There seems to be no other logical explanation for this except that they may have been man and wife at one time. It does not necessarily mean that they were living together on the date when the document was signed. In signing as couples they may have felt they were protecting the investment they had made in the colony. The renunciation of marriage came in 1807, before the Rappites came to Indiana. How well it was enforced is not known. From time to time new recruits came to the colony from Germany.

In checking the list it also appears that men came in groups to sign, and women came in similar groups, which may mean that they reported by place of residence. Interspersed among these groups are the male and female in pairs, bearing the same family name.

While it has been generally known that the Rappites were a closely knit group of Germans, it would appear that they were even more closely knit, almost to a family basis. Such names as Rapp, Kurtz, Knodel, Bauer, Schmid, Barnesberger,

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Nachtrieb, Schnabel, Klein, Jung, Wagner, and Weingartner appear frequently. It is highly probable that many more were related by blood whose names were not the same. Such names as Smith and Baker are not strictly Germanic and may have been only Anglicized forms.

To all to whom these presents may come, Be it known that whereas the undersigned persons, members of an association at Harmonie, Indiana commonly known by the name of George Rapp & Associates, are seized and possessed of & in certain messuages, lands, tenements, & hereditaments & real estate & also of certain goods chattels & other personal property situate in the States of Indiana & Illinois & especially in the County of Posey & State of Indiana which said real and personal property is of grate value.

Now know ye that we the subscribers wishing to sell all our real and personal property in the State of Indiana & Illinois by whatsoever title or in whatsoever name or names the same or any other part may be held and reposing intire confidence in our worthy friend Frederick Rapp of Harmonie aforesaid have and each of us hath made Constituted and appointed and by these presents do and each of us doth, make constitute and appoint the said Frederick Rapp our true and lawful Attorney of and for each and every one of use, for us and for each of us and in our or any of our names or in the name of George Rapp & associates to take possession of all the real and personal property situate in Indiana and Illinois of which we or any or either of us are possessed or by any means entitled or interested in either in severalty or jointly or in common with any other person or persons.

And also for us and for each of us in our or any of our Names or in the name of George Rapp & associates to grant bargain and sell the real and personal estate situate as aforement belonging to us to any or to either of us, or any part share or proportion thereof, of us of any or of either of us and all our and each of our right title and interest therein for such price and upon such terms as he in his description may think proper and to take in his own name any notes, bonds, mortgages or other securities for payment of the purchase money or any part thereof and also for us and for each of us and in our or any of our names or in the name of George Rapp and associates to execute and deliver conveyances to the purchasers of such real property with such covenants and agreements as said attorney may deem adviseable binding upon us and each of us our and each of our heirs & upon all persons claiming or to claim from or under us or either of us.

Untill the sale of the real and personal property aforesaid, the said Frederick Rapp is hereby authorized by us and by each of us in our or any of our names or in the name of George Rapp & associates to Lease let and demise for any term whatever or in his own name to use occupy and employ the unsold property real or personal or any part share or proportion thereof, or to make any description whatever of the same And to receive sue for and recover the rents issues proffits and proceeds thereof or to take in his own name there for any assurance obligations or other securities forever and each of our use according to his discretion.

By these presents we and each of us whose signatures and seals are affixed to this point and several power of Attorney authorize the said Frederick Rapp generally to demand sue for and receive for us and for each of us all sums of money or property which shall become due us or any of us by virtue of any bargains in sales leases or other transactions herein authorized and also to compromise arbitrate and agree for the same or any part thereof and acquittances or other sufficient discharges therefor to make seal and delivered for us and for each of us and in our or any of our names or in the name of George Rapp and associates generally to execute and perform any thing that may be necessary in and about the premises as completely in every respect as we ourselves or any of us might or could do if personally present and an attorney or attorneys under him for all or any of the purposes aforesaid to make and substituted and at his pleasure to revoke hereby ratifying and confirming all and whatsoever our said Attorney shall do or cause to be done in and about the premises by virtue of these presents.

In Testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty first day of May in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and twenty four

George Rapp	Maria Nachtrieb	Penotus Zundel
Christina Rapp	Drotheb Nachtrieb	Johannes Muller
Rosina Rapp	Magdalena	Michael Veihmeyer
Johnanna Rapp	Bamesberger	Lorentz Schnell
John P. Baker	Salouea Scholle	Jacob Zundel
George Schmid	Margareth Scholle**	Heinrich Jung
William Smith	Siloestus Gayer	Christina Durrwalchler
George Bendel	George Wagner	Magdal Lohrer
Katharine Bendel	Maria Wagner	Susana Seybert**
Johannes Schnabel	George Forstuer	Catharine Kant
Eva Schnabel	Maria Forstuer	Maria Veihmeyer**
Israel Bentel	George Bentel	Maria Schmid
Catharine Bentel	Margartha Bentel	Heinrika Zundel
Wilhelmina Bentel	Melina Wagner	Catharine Zunder
Friderika Mutschler	Elizabeth Jule	Maria Lohrer
Friderika Mutschler	Catharine Rein**	Friderika Dengler
Frederick Nachtrieb	Jacob Wagner	David Koenig
Dorothea Nachtrieb	David Wagner	Rosina Koenig
John Reichart	George Weingartner	Johannes Trompeter
Johanna Reichart	Michael Weingartner	Catharine Trompeter**
Johannes Reichart	Michael Forstuer	Ludwig Hagmeyer
Friederika	George Forstuer	Hillams Henring
Bamesberger	Jacob Dengler	Christoph Weber
Jacob Scholle	Louisa Dengler	Peter Rosden
Mathew Scholle	Frederick Kurtz	Gilber Trompeter
Hilpert Scholle	Christina Kurtz	Johnannes Trompeter
Adam Nachtrieb	Adam Jung	Catharina Vogt
Josua Nachtrieb	Wilhelm Zeller	Elizabeth Velte
Johannes Bamesberger	Walrath Weingartner	Jacobina Koenig

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\*\* Could not write and made the appropriate mark.

Elisabetha	Rosina Kramer	Sabina Stily
Durrwalchter	Johanna Stahl	Jersida Frank
Eva Jung	Apolena Vogt	Magdalena Streheker
Caroline Beiper	Michael Friz	Barbara Frank
Frolina Herman	George Frank	Margareth Bessanin
Catharina Schnieb	Shigust Schmid	Mathew Weidenbach
Margaret Rosdann**	Christopher Leucht	Adam Straub
Susana Rosdann**	Michael Haufler	Daniel Lentz
Elona Loenpple	Reinmund Gaun	Sabina Benger**
Philena Stark**	Christopher Dain	Johanna Woulhaf
Erustina Trompeter	Sebald Meih	Johannes Dick
Christian Waldman	Jacob Gayer	David Lenz
Elizabeth Waldman**	Reinhold Frank	Jacob Kraie
Jacob Stitz	Jacob Bauer	Heob Ifeil
Dorothea Stitz	Christian Autrich	Regina Frank
Johannes Hoernle	Michael Bauman	Maria Benger**
David Kant	Jacob Kurtz	Megina Barchet
Joseph Hoernle	Magdalena Wolf	Magdal Ehman
Johannes Reif	Elizabeth Kroemer	Regina Bergdolf
Frederick Braun**	Jacob Frederick Ifiel	Rosina Rein
Frantz Bonnet	Margaretha Ifeil	Christina Wolfer
Martin Dieterle	Christian Aigner	Lawrina Ifiel
Christopher Strohaker	Mariah Aigner	Catharina Wohlgemath
Florian Keppler	Jacob Ehman	David Muller
Adam Scheiber	Eva Ehman	Peter Gutbrod
Phillip Bochringer	Michael Stahl	Antonius Knapper
Johannes Schanbacher	Catharine Stahl	Johannes Herman
Andreas Oestreicher	George Fink	Jacob Koenig
Jacob Strokoker	Elizabeth Fink**	Henrich Gayer
Jacob Schanbacher	Henry Hardman	Nathaniel Zimmerman
Edward Stilz	Jacob Bizer	Christopher Bauer
Jacob Rein	Anna Bitzer	Jacob Diem
Jacob Geiger	George Ruhle	Barbara Diemin
George Keppler	Catharine Ruhle	Jacob Spengler
Christoph Keppler	Daniel Vogt	Agnes Spengler
Catharina Keppler	Magdalena Vogt	Jacob Sander
Margaretha	Henrich Knapper	Eusebius Boehn
Schanbacher	Dorothy Knapper**	Albert Knodel
Frederika Kant	Andreas Widmayer	Engelhart Authrieth
Sibilla Hinger	Alphanas Benzenhefer	Elizabeth Knodel
Sibilla Hurbebaus	Sirena Leucht	Julianna Autrieth**
Catharine Longenbaker	Rosin Rein	Henrick Hang
Catharine Longenbaker	Elizabeth Hoernlenien	Mathews Klein
Jacob Burzenhoefer	Agatha Wolfer	Ludwig Kast
Catharine	Elizabeth Oestriceher	Margrada Kast
Bursenhoefer	Catharina Bennet**	John Cunn**
Salomo Wolf	Dorothea Mahle	Jacob Hunn
Elisabeth Wolf	Fredericka Welchof	Christoph Troggle
I. Chr. Muller	Rosina Loefflerin	Jacob Schell
Johana Muller	Catharina	Conrod Knodle
Melchior Kramer	Bochringerin	Higenius Frank

George Beisser	Elisabeth	Jacobina Woelhof
Anna Hasert	Hurlenbausin	Catharine Frautwein
Catharina Frank	Christina Beisser	Susanna Schnepfer**
Catharina Ehman	Barbara Weissertin	Maria Schriver**
Frederika Aigner	Agnas Baderin	Jacob Schriver
Rosina Klein	Magdal Schmidin	Maria Schriver**
Elizabeth Geiger	Magdal Leucht	Solomon Schreiber
Maria Schock**	Regina Knodel	Rebecca Schreiber
Dorothea Klein	Magdal Weidenbach	Clemens Weingartner
Maria Ehemann	Elisabeth	Conrod Benzinger
Maria Vester	Lautenschlager	Trompart Durr
Sabina Beker	Maria Durr	Mathews Schaefer
Elisabeth Stahl	Margret Wochele**	Johanna Schmid
Juliana Ehman	Barbara Hess**	Elisabeth Bauer**
Magdalena Seibolden	Christina Wolfongel	Frederika Schmid
Barbara Feucht	Agnas Ashinger	Johanna Oestreicker
Margretha Reiff	Catharina Schaefer	Margreth Frautwein
Maria Barchet	Regina Schaefer	Mariah Reiff
Margretha Hasert	Maria Wolfer	Elisabeth Lacupple
Rosina Hingert	Agatha Kurz	Jacobina Schmid
Dorothea Hermann**	Margretha Krail	Fredrika Schmid
Margaret Eppler**	Anna Barbara Kuhnlin	Catharina Strohacker
Maria Neff	Augusta Beisser	Catharina Zeller
Barbara Rapp	Wilhelmina	Margreth Jung
Maria Staigerni	Darrwalchter	Regina Klingenstein
Barbara Laeupple	Jacobina Klein	Johannes Lump
Elizabetha Bochringer	Carolina Staudenmeyer	Johanna Stump**
Catharine Geiger	Barbara Mayer	Thomas Wohrle
Elizabetha Vaihinger	Christina Bauer	Catharine Woehrle
Johana Houni	Elisabeth Veigner	David Krauter
Christina Mutschler	Elizabeth Dein**	Adam Marguardt
Catharine Jordan	Dorothy Fruh**	David Schaefer
Maria Reif**	Lewis Schriver	Margreth Schaefer
Elizabetha Frank	Elisabeth Schriver	Christian Ashinger
Elizabetha Knodel	Franz Blank	Maria Ashinger
Eva Bauer	Magdolena Blank	Tobias Haufler
Regina Schmid	Jacob Lacupple	Regina Haufler
Catharina Staiger	Eustina Lacupple	Frederica Goetzin
Maria Nix	Martin Stahl	Margreth Wohlgemuth
Anna Wolfer	Catharina Stahl	Eva Fruh**
Maria Frank**	Ludwig Bauman	Joseph Goetz
Dorothea Spaeth	Maria Baumann	Christian Frank
Catharina Schanbacher	Christian Aigner	Jacob Klein
Elisabeth Geiger	Magdalena Aigner	Johannes Beauer
Jacob Beker	Jacob Forstuer	Ludwig Eppler
Rosina Beker	Catharine Forstuer	Johannes Endriess
Frederick	George Gutbrod	Catharina Aschinger
Eckensperger	Rosina Gutbrod**	Catharina Beutz
Conrad Gann	Phillip Beker	Regina Bauerin
George Kurtz	Christian Schmid	Elisabeth Wolgemuth

Fredrica Velte	Christian Riesh	Regina Bentel**
Maria Marguardt	Catharina Riesh	John Bessan
Maria Woehrle	Rolandus Hoehr	George Flekhammer
Johannes Kurz	Maria Hoehr	George Knodel
Barbara Kurz	Christina Rukenbrod	David Ruff
George Wigand	Friderika Endriss	Ludwig Schaal
Regina Wigand	Fridrika Fruh	Barbara Hartstein**
Christoph Leucht	Christoph Lang	Aushelmes Voelm
Frederich Buhler	Johannes Bonnet	Catharine Woerner
George Heinle	Johan Kappel**	Regina Knodel**
Fredericka Heinle	Conrad Boehm	Jacob Durr
Phillipp Heinle	Rosina Boehm	Jacob Wohlgemuth
Johannes Spaeth	Wilhelm Fegert	Ferdinand Autheriel
Christiana Plessing	Barbara Fegert	Ludwif Pfeil
George Kurtz	Martin Rall	Jacob Schaefer
Erhard Klingenstein	Philipbina Rall	Regory Ruff
Leander Ebner	Regina Bamesberger	Johannes Goetz
Helmuth Lacupple	George Moess	Jacob Kurtz
Margreth Rukebrod	Micleta Ehman	Jacob Spaeth
Nicara Thorwarth	Johannes Kurtz	Philemon Schaal
Veronica Frank	Margreth Knodel	George Schall
Catharine Spaeth**	Romanus Beysor	Jacob Woehrle
Barbara Knodel	Fredrick Boger	George Reiff
Anna Beauver	Johannes Blum	Conrad Thorworth
George Beutz	Christina Barchet	Jacob Bessan
George Conzelman	Catharine Buhler	Catharina Schmid
Christian Wohlgemuth	Sturmina Knodel	Catharina Schmid
Christian Woehrle	Adam Schule	Maria Zoll**
Jacob Zimmerman	Joseph Kotesba	Jacobina Knodel
Eberhard Frank	Johannus Eberle	Mathew Speidel
Angelius Vaigner	Israel Lenz	Rebecca Oestreicher
David Beauver	Christian Knodel	Freiderich Kohler
Christoph Loeffler	Johannes Beyser	Jacob Klingenstein
Fredrick Wolfer	Fridora Leucht**	Michael Plessing
Elisabeth Wolfer**	Johannes Viehmeir	Margreth Plessing**
Gotfried Endriss	Jacob Vaihenberger	Frederich Lacupple
Maria Endriss	Jacob Schenkenberges	Michael Feucht
Gottlieb Hoehr	Adam Gayer	George Bauer
Christian Hoehr	Arnold Bentel	Jacob Riesch

Signed sealed and delivered by the undersigned this second day of  
March A.D. Eighteen hundred and twenty five

Peter Schreiber  
John Schreiber

Romelius L. Baker  
Conrod Feucht

Witness  
Isaac Blackford\*

\* One of the judges of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

Harmonie Indiana—This certifies that the within Power of Attorney was signed, sealed and delivered and acknowledged by the five hundred & one persons within named on the twenty first & twenty second days of May eighteen hundred & twenty four in our presence.

John Schnee  
Isaac Blackford<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Posey County, Indiana, Deed Record D, 116-127. This record is in the courthouse at Mt. Vernon, Indiana.