

## Highway Marker Unveiling Ceremony



*Jacob Rierschneck*

1752 - 1826

## JACOB RASNAKE

“Hessian” Soldier and American Pioneer

Glade Hollow  
Lebanon, Virginia  
Saturday  
August 1, 2015  
10:15 a.m.

*Dedicated with Love and Fondness by  
the Descendants of Jacob and Mollie Rasnake.*

## JACOB RASNAKE

The RASNAKE name has been well known in this part of Virginia for over 225 years. The story passed down through the family was that Jacob Rasnake was a “Hessian” soldier who had been brought to this country against his will during the Revolutionary War. Although little else was known about him, not even his true name, his descendants always felt a strong kinship to him and longed to know more. After many generations of searching, we now know that his true name was JOHANN JACOB RIERSCHECK and that he was born on December 17, 1752 in the tiny Bavarian village of Irsingen. He was a poor farm lad who was conscripted to the army by his ruler, hired out to the King of England and sent across the ocean to fight in a war that was not his own. Muster rolls list Private Rierschneck as a Musketeer in the Leibkompanie of the Ansbach-Bayreuth Regiment. He served bravely from 1777 to 1783, during which time he participated in battles at Philadelphia, PA, Newport, RI, Springfield, NJ and at the Siege of Yorktown, VA. He was taken prisoner on October 19, 1781 after the defeat at Yorktown and suffered many hardships while being held in POW camps in Winchester, VA and Frederick, MD. Faced with the bleak prospect of returning to Germany after the War, Jacob seized the opportunity to escape captivity when it arose, and chose to stay in America. His escape route took him out of Maryland and into the Shenandoah Valley, where he found his way to the farm of JOHN COUNTS and quickly started his new life. He married Counts’ daughter Mary, called MOLLIE, on February 25, 1784. Their first two or three children were born there before the family migrated to Russell Co. in 1789. Jacob was one of the earliest settlers along the waters of Cedar Creek, a branch of the Clinch River, and it was here in Glade Hollow that he became known as JACOB RASNAKE. Jacob and Mollie Rasnake raised nine children on the very farm where we stand today. Their names were: JOHN, JACOB, ELIJAH, MARGARET, LAZARUS, CHRISTINA, NANCY, MARY and JONAS. They were early American Pioneers and Founders of the RASNAKE-RASNICK-RASNICK FAMILY of SW Virginia. Many fine individuals can trace their origins back to the Rasnakes, and other families of German ancestry, such as the COUNTS and the KISERS, together with whom they have migrated and intermarried for more than 200 years.

[www.rasnickyfamily.org](http://www.rasnickyfamily.org)

## Program

Entrance Procession of Color Guard and Costumed Re-enactors: William Meade and members of Highlands Veterans Honor Guard (Abingdon VA); Tom Turner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hesse Kassel Jaeger Korps (Jonesborough TN); Jerry Vencill, Pioneer Entertainer (Pounding Mill VA) and Curtis Rasnake of the 21<sup>st</sup> Va. Cavalry (Abingdon VA)

Welcome and Greetings: Frieda Patrick Davison

Benediction: Pastor Bence Rasnake

Recognition of Guests: Frieda Patrick Davison

Proclamation Reading: JACOB RASNAKE DAY

Recognition of the Monk Family

Presentation of Flowers: to Elizabeth Rasnake Monk

Speaker: Frieda Patrick Davison on "Life of Jacob Rasnake"

Unveiling: Doyle Rasnick, Frieda Patrick Davison, Lynn Rasnake Thompson, Marie Rasnick Fetzer

Musket Salute and Taps: Highlands Veterans Honor Guard, Tom Turner, Jerry Vencill and Curtis Rasnake

Photographs

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*Please Join Us for Refreshments Following the Ceremony*

## Contributors, Volunteers and Supporters

Loretta Rasnake Congdon  
Frieda Patrick Davison  
Marie Rasnick Fetzer  
Mozelle Rasnake Guffey  
Dolores Ramsey Ham  
Donald & Sandy Hamilton  
Deanne Macomber Holmes  
Willetta Rasnake Jackson  
June Rasnake Lester  
Thomas Monk  
Judy Owens  
David & Charlotte Pitts  
Pearlie Ramsey

Claude Rasnake  
Clyde Rasnake  
Ezra (Herschel) Rasnake  
Ira Gene Rasnake  
James Rasnake  
Kemper Rasnake  
Leon Rasnake  
Doyle & Linda Rasnick  
Enos Rasnick  
Samuel Rasnick  
Mark Robinson  
Lynn Rasnake Thompson  
Nadine Rasnake Wagner  
Shirley Watson



Kemery Street  
**Highlands Tent and Events**  
Abingdon, VA 24210

Willetta Rasnake  
Jackson  
**Hostess**  
Bristol, VA

William Meade &  
Members of the  
**Highlands Veterans Honor Guard**  
Abingdon, VA

Brian Geverd  
**Graphics Design**  
Lansdale, PA

Ashleigh Rasnick  
**Jr. Hostess**  
Tazewell, VA

Bence Rasnake  
**Pastor of Chosen Stone Baptist Church**  
Hopkinsville, KY

Tandy Rasnake  
Phil Rasnake  
**New Dimensions Contracting Marker Installation**  
Abingdon, VA

Tom Turner  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Co. Hesse Kassel Jaeger Korps**  
Jonesborough, TN

Jerry Vencill  
**Pioneer Entertainer**  
Pounding Mill, VA  
*Visit Jerry Vencill on Facebook*

Frieda Patrick Davison  
**Mistress of Ceremonies**  
Spartanburg, SC

Curtis Rasnake  
**21<sup>st</sup> VA Cavalry**  
Abingdon, VA