

The bloodline of Raigersfelds (Rakhersfeld), a Carniolan aristocratic family, descendants of a farmer family Rakovec, which gained noble recognition in 1698 and baronetcy in 1747, ended with no male descendants in 1802 in the region of today's Slovenia and in 1844 in England. Its members occupied influential official, military, and church functions and cooperated in the development of administration and economy of Slovenian provinces from the end of the 17th century until the beginning of the 19th century. Its first representative was Janez Boštjan Rakovec, who was born in the beginning of January 1655 in Rakovica pod Sv. Joštom (baptised on 10th January 1655 in Šmartno pri Kranju) to farmer Urban Jurij R., and died on 15th January 1732 in Ljubljana. He probably attended primary school lessons in the presbytery in Šmartno pri Kranju, and started his job at the state bookkeeper's, the noble Adam Dinzle, who tended to his additional education, resulting in R. succeeding Dinzle at the provincial bookkeeper's, after he left this position. In 1689, he gained the title of nobility and changed his family name to Raigersfeld (in "matica" publications also Rakhersfeld), known also as Adlershofen. On 21st May 1690, he married Marija Izabela Sorger of Sorgfeld nobility, a wealthy 16-year-old daughter of the castle's caretaker, the noble Janez Ludvik Sorger, in Postojna, and became a member of the province on 8th March 1701. Only five of his numerous children managed to live through their childhood years. His oldest son, Jurij Žiga R., born on 9th June 1691 in Ljubljana, from 1709 onwards a Capuchin, died in Florence in 1719, as he was embarking on his missionary path to Tibet. His second-born son Franc Henrik R. is considered the founder of the baronetcy R. (see below). His daughter Marija Katarina, baptised on 28th April 1695 as Marija Maksimilijana became the Superior of Clarissa nuns in Škofja Loka. On 6th July 1711 (according to Luschin, in 1713), Janez Boštjan R. bought from count Jan. Gašp. Kobencel the Predjama Castle near Postojna and sold it back to him in 1719 for 30,000 gulden.

Franc Henrik R., born on 6th July 1697, died on 31st March 1760 in Ljubljana, studied in Vienna (Dunaj), Graz (Gradec), and Ljubljana. From 1714 to 1716, he studied law in Vienna and in Louvain and travelled across Central Europe. He began his job with the merchant Giacomo d'Orlando in Reka (Rijeka) in 1718. With his father's purchase fee for the sold Predjama Castle and with the funds by the wholesaler Ant. Milpacher, father-in-law of army publisher Domin. Hingerle, R. established a big clothing company in Ljubljana, which was supposed to supply Austrian border regiments with clothes. But due to unexpected obstacles, he was forced to sell, at a loss, wool which he already purchased in Italy, which led to him abandoning his plan.

His idea was brought to life by the Carniolan provincial classes, as they established a big clothing company (privilege 27th September 1724) in Selo pri Ljubljani, which in the second half of the 18th century became known across the entire Austrian market (see Ruard). R. returned to Reka (Rijeka), where he became a partner of d'Orlando Company and in 1721 as its representative a part of the recently established Oriental Trading Company (Orientalska kompanija) in Reka (Rijeka) (later on in Trst (Trieste)), where he made a name for himself, especially in seeking merchant contacts with Portugal. After his dispute with the Head Baron Fleischmann (1724), he broke all ties with the company and returned to Ljubljana, where he in March 1725 gained a position of the assessor of the nobility court (Landschranne). In spring 1726, he managed to get his debts with the Oriental Trading Company paid and on 10th June 1726 married Marijana Elizabeta, daughter of Baron Franc Mihael Erberg, an assessor of the provincial and nobility court. In January 1732, he was named the emperor's and provincial-duke's commissioner with the investigative toll and tariff bureau in Trieste, where he sold the fleet of the liquidated Oriental Trading Company, managed saltpans in Trieste, and reformed the customs and toll bureau. From Trieste he was sent to Graz and in 1738 as a

chamber councillor (Hofkammerrat) to Vienna, where he gained recognition by the decision-makers, including Earl Kinski and Earl Haugwitz. Due to the recommendation from the latter, he was included into the newly established 7-member Gubernium representative body by Maria Theresia in 1747 and in the chamber for Carniola, Goriška, Trieste and Rijeka, based in Ljubljana, and was named the Gubernium councillor and bestowed with hereditary baronetcy. R. excellently cooperated in the establishment of the new provincial administration and in 1748 in the establishment of provincial districts (kresija) in Ljubljana, Postojna, and Novo mesto and was in charge of the development of economy in the province. It was his ideas that were used as the incentive to make a "rafting path" for boats on the right bank of the Sava River from Litija to Zidani Most, cut into a rock and partially still visible today, as well as the idea to start the coal mining process in Zagorje ob Savi or intelligently use the tunnels of the Idrija mine, where also a large, newly discovered lode was named after him. Out of 22 children, Franc Henrik R. was outlived only by 4 sons. The oldest, Franc Benjamin Maksimilijan, born on 9th October 1733 in Ljubljana, died a retired major on 4th January 1802 in Ljubljana. The third son, Franc Borgia Karel, who was born on 26th September (according to R.'s diary, but on 10th November according to Radics, MHK 1862, 41) 1736 in Graz and died on 16th July 1800 in Ljubljana, joined the Jesuit order at the age of 16 and was active as a history professor from 1767 to 1773 at the Theresian Academy in Vienna. After the disbandment of the Jesuit order in 1773, he became the information officer of the young duke Lichnowsky and travelled with him from one German university to another from 1776 to 1783. In 1784, he became the honourable canon in Trieste and on 6th April 1788 the cathedral canon in Ljubljana. From 1792 to 1794, he was active as a clerical official of the Gubernium; he became the vicar general in 1794, on 8th September 1795 the auxiliary bishop of Ljubljana and the titular bishop of Pičan. His youngest son, the very talented Mihael Amadej Janez Nepomuk, born on 29th September 1744 in Vienna and buried 29th April 1783 in Ljubljana, studied law and cameralistics from 1761 to 1767 in Vienna with Sonnenfels who thought of him as his best student; he joined the national administrative services in Vorarlberg in 1769 in Carniola and became the councillor of the provincial government in Ljubljana. Baron Raigersfeld's lineage was continued only by the second son of Franc Henrik, Janez Luka, who was born on 20th May 1735 in Trieste and died in 1817 in London. After finishing the Theresian Academy, he came to London in 1756 accompanied by an Austrian ambassador and stayed there until his death, performing Austrian diplomatic services. In 1797, he was promoted to parliamentary councillor and led the negotiations on behalf of the absent ambassador in 1813, which led to the second coalition against Napoleon. During the marriage with Elizabeth Steward (1780), he had a son Jeffrey who joined the English navy, became a rear admiral, and died on 7th September 1844 at his estate Raigersfeld-home in Weaving in Kentish county as the last descendant of the noble Carniolan family of Raigersfelds. His charmingly colourful memories from his naval days were gathered in *The Life of a Sea Officer*, which was printed privately in app. 1830 and published again by the English navy office in 1929. — Compare: ZI XXXX–I, lit. R No. 71; lit. R No. 100; LIII, lit. R No. 138, 156; Franc Henrik R.'s *Journal in the legacy of Erberg* (all in DAS); *Familiengesch. d. freiherrl. Erbergischen Hauses*, Page 7 (manuscript property of Countess Attems from Podgora pri Gorici); Kidrič, *Zgod.*, table of contents; *Marn XV* (1877), 17, 54 (Erläuterungen B, No. 8); ŠKALj and KapALj; F. Pokorn, *Šematizem lj. nadšk. 1788*, 7; Schiviz, *Krain*; HA 3, 438, 496; A. Dimitz IV/8, 255; same, *Kurzgefasste Gesch. Krains*, 107; Žontar, *Kranj*, table of contents; *Histor. Tagebuch*, Carn 1841, 88; A. J(ellouscheg), MHK 1852, 38; F. Klun, MHK 1853, 94; P. Radics, *Die Frauen in Sage u. Gesch. Krains*, BK 1862; isti, MHK 1862, 39, 41; J. Siebmacher's *Gr. u. Allgem. Wappenbuch IV*, 2: *Krainradel* (Nürnberg 1858) 16, Tab. 15; Witting, *Jb. d. Herald. Ges. Adler* 1894, 139; S. Rutar, *MMK* 1895, 97; A. Müllner, *Argo* 1898, 15, 40 and 1903, 27; *Globočnik*, *MMK* 1899, 60; J. Kržišnik, *ZZ* 1899, 791; A.

Koblar, IMK 1900, 220; V. Steska, IMK 1900, 164; J. Novak, ZZ 1907, 907; M. Bajuk, Vodnik po lj. pokopališčih, 1930, 6; A. Luschin v. Ebengreuth, GMDS (XI) 1930, 36–42; (XII) 1931, 18–32; (XIV) 1933, 103–8; J. Polec, GMDS 1936, 54, 96; Jože Šorn, Merkantilist Franc Rakovec-Reigersfeld, Kron III/2, 1955, 81–7. — Pictures: Erberg, Sammlung v. Portraits, No. 38 and 39 with the photo of Franc Borgia Karel and Maria Elisabeth (photocopy at NUK, Ms 1044). Ara.