



Jack Rieke, a fourth-generation member of the Barrington Rieke family, lives in Sarasota, Fla. with his wife Jacquie.

## One Founding Family, One Town, Seven Generations

FOURTH IN A SEVEN-GENERATION LOCAL FAMILY, JACK RIEKE SHARES HIS STORY OF GROWING UP IN BARRINGTON.

**A**REND HEINRICH RIEKE (1793–1841) and his bride, Christine Caroline Kropp, lived in Germany and had 16 children. The emigration of their children began as early as 1840 when they moved to England, Australia, and eventually Barrington, Illinois, where six of eight sons, and five of eight daughters, settled. Arend’s son, Heinrich Ernst Rieke, is Jack Rieke’s great-great-grandfather.

Jack Rieke’s great-great-grandfather emigrated to the United States and landed in Barrington as a founding family in 1856. Other families had settled here as early as the 1830s, and Barrington became incorporated in 1865 with the State of Illinois. If you measure Barrington from the year the first Rieke settled here, in 1856, and use 24 years as a generational yardstick—Barrington is a seven-generation town.

Jack Rieke, who is the right in the middle of the family’s seven generations, recently visited with *Quintessential Barrington* to share stories of his life.



**Below:** From left: Jack Rieke, Alan Drover, and Ken Jeppsen

**Above:** Meeting for dinner in South Barrington this spring are lifelong friends (from left) Jacquie and Jack Rieke of Sarasota, Fla., Alan and Ann Drover of Batavia, and Ken and Betty Jeppsen from West Chicago.





Four generations of the Rieke family line are (from left) Beckett Coulter, Beth Rieke Coulter, Burton Coulter, Todd Rieke, Jack Rieke, Jaquelyn Rieke, Mark Rieke, and Jan Rieke.

Jack Rieke recalls his childhood days in Barrington with great fondness. He was born at Sherman Hospital in Elgin, and baptized by Rev. Boothman at his beloved Barrington United Methodist Church, as were his two siblings. He was active in youth fellowship at church and sang in the choir for 15 years. “Church was important to us,” Rieke said. “Mom made grape juice and we cut up white bread for Communion.”

Rieke recalls the days when the Ed Wichman Blacksmith Shop at Station and Hough Streets was kept busy with all the horses needing horseshoes and wagons needing repair. As a child, he could walk anywhere around town, and his friends would go to the Catlow Theater where movies were 25 cents, and the popcorn was a nickel. The first movie he saw was “Snow White” and it remained his all-time favorite.

Jack Rieke was born in 1929, and by the time he was 10 years old, World War II was underway. Americans of all ages felt it was their patriotic duty to help with the war effort by collecting tin, aluminum, rubber, and paper—which was scarce because so many lumbermen were in the service. Paper was collected and recycled because the wood pulp supply dried up. Local Boy Scout Troops 21 and 10 drove the war support efforts in Barrington. Rieke says that everybody loved Scout Master Roy Wilmering.

“We went house to house to collect paper for

recycling, and I had a wagon I used with chicken wire for the collecting,” Rieke said. “We would gather the paper, and toss it through a basement window where it would be bundled up and then taken to Schwim’s barn. The amount of paper gathered would be weighed and we’d get credits to buy our Scout supplies, like a canteen and uniform.”

Downtown Barrington was a great place to grow up according to Rieke. He recalls when Hough Street School was torn down. “It was built by the PWA and lacking somewhat in its construction,” Rieke said. “The Landwehr’s store, next to Grebe’s Hardware, was small, but had everything you could want, from soup to nuts, including groceries, notions, toys, and clothing. There were wooden floors and a second floor balcony.”

Rieke’s dad, Sandfort and his brother, Victor, both sang in the Barrington United Methodist Church choir and both were firefighters (Victor was the Fire Chief). Rieke remembers that when the fire whistle blew that the preacher would stop mid-sermon and Sandy and Vic would drop their choir robes and run out the door to fight the fire.

Making 50 cents an hour, says Rieke, was good money that he earned at the corner A&P grocery store at Hough and Main. The young lady he dated, Jacquie, had moved to Barrington as a high school sophomore and by the time both were juniors at Barrington Consolidated High School, they were dating. “There was nowhere to

go on dates except for dancing in the lower level of the Canteen restaurant,” he says. He and Jacquie were married and have three children and several grandchildren. The Riekes gather once a year in Illinois (they retired to Sarasota) to meet up with Jack’s two lifelong friends from kindergarten, Alan Drover and Ken Jeppson.

Jack Rieke graduated from high school in 1947 in the upper third of his class. He attended Illinois College, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago. He worked at Jewel Companies from 1951 and stayed there for most of his professional career. He was recognized by his employer throughout his career for his conscientious efforts and successful projects.

Community service has been a hallmark of Rieke’s life—from his Boy Scout experience to being on several boards or serving as president for his church, Republican Organization, Barrington Homeowners Association, O’Hare Rotary Club, Barrington Area Development Council, and many more.

“Looking back, I was always proud to live in Barrington,” Rieke said. Being in the middle generation of a family that spans seven in Barrington offers a chance to reflect and personally know the people of Barrington’s past, its present, and within his own family, those with a happy and hopeful future. U



**The family gathers** at the home of Todd and Libby Rieke in Barrington. In front, from left: Todd Rieke, Jan Rieke, and Mark Rieke. In back, from left: Burton Coulter, Beth Rieke Coulter, Jaquelyn Rieke, Jack Rieke, Jacquie Rieke, Beckett Coulter, and Libby Rieke.



**The Sandfort E. Rieke Family.**

Sandfort (Sandy), who is in the center in uniform, is Jack Rieke's father. Sandfort Rieke enlisted for service in 1917 during World War I. He was in the service for two years and spent half of that time in Europe. He was active in the community, serving for eight years on the village board of trustees in the 1920s. He worked for 25 years as a foreman at the Bowman Dairy's Chicago plant on Ontario Street.



**Todd and Libby Rieke** are lifelong Barrington residents who own and operate Rieke Office Interiors, a firm they built that is based in Elgin. Here, the Riekes sit in the redesigned and repurposed chicken coop located by the pool on the property of their new home in Barrington.