

# BAD DÜRKHEIMER ZEITUNG

19 Mai 2004

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## Irish Palatines on Tour in their Old Homeland

BAD DÜRKHEIM Ancestors of the 'Irish Palatines' emigrated in 1709  
Start and Finish in the Dorint Hotel

A visit to Heidelberg Castle, a flying visit to Speyer and dinner in the Dürkheim Wine Barrel for Lily Baker [sic], Ken McDonald and Austin Bovenizer. What seems like a typical anglo-saxon tour programme has for the above and 44 others a quite different significance. The participants of the 'Pfalz Tour 2004' are the descendants of refugees who left the Palatinate in 1709 and who settled in Ireland: the Irish Palatines.

The group arrived yesterday afternoon by coach in Bad Dürkheim, the comfortable Dorint Hotel serving as their base for the nine-day tour, explained Austin Bovenhizer (originally Bobenheiser). With the Irish are descendants of Irish Palatines who emigrated further to England, Canada and America.

The participants will also be visiting Schwäbisch Hall and the Schöntal Monastery as County Limerick, the home of the Irish Palatine Association (IPA) is twinned with the Hohenlohe region.

Otherwise the Programme is based entirely in the present day Pfalz and the former wider reaching KurPfalz: a trip to Heidelberg, the capital of the erstwhile KurPfalz, could not be missed. Also planned is a trip to Lichtenberg Castle in the western part of the Pfalz, driving through Frankenstein (purely because of its gruesome sounding connections), a tour in English of the medieval village of Freinsheim, a trip to the Weintor (gateway to the vine growing areas) in Schweigen, wine tasting included, a visit of Schwetzingen Castle and gardens, as well as a visit to the oldest vineyard in the world in Rhodt.

A particular highpoint of the tour for the Irish Palatines will be a visit to Hochdorf-Assenheim, the original home of the Switzer family. The town has planned a festive day-long reception for its guests, starting with a bi-lingual church service, a typical old-style Palatine feastday meal of beef and horseradish sauce, various farm visits and a cake and coffee buffet.

In Bad Dürkheim the IPA members also have a full programme with talks and a lecture in English by Roland Paul from the Institute of Palatine History and Folklore in Kaiserslautern, a visit to the Zumstein vineyard, including dinner, and a stroll through the town, described on the Homepage of the IPA website as the 'charming spa town of Bad Duerkheim'.