



## Barrick



## Berg



A man's name is only as good as its origins. Many names reveal their origins immediately—others only with diligent search in lexicons and genealogies.

The Barrick name was the result of an anglicized German name: Berg. Early American spellings included Barrich, Barrack, and Barrick. The original German means "mountain"—probably indicating the original ancestral habitat—somewhere in southern Germany, or perhaps Switzerland or Austria.

My own attraction to the mountainous regions of planet Earth is like a confirmation of my lineage. I am not alone. Other members of the family also share this love of elevated and rugged terrain.

Recently I was reading a collection of German-American folk literature. I found a story which began: "*Es wawr moll en kall fum*

*barrick . . .*" — "There was once a fool from the mountain . . ." Among the Pennsylvania "Dutch" (who are Deutsch rather than Dutch), *barrick* is the equivalent of *berg*. *Berger* thus becomes *barriyer* ("mountaineer"). The traditional tale is about a fool, but that should mislead no one. A fool is a fool, whether he is a mountain man or a flatlander.



Those who bear the Barrick name can be proud that mountains have always been the symbol of strength. Such strength offers help, health, and heavenliness to those who climb their slopes or look to their summits.

From the mountains of Europe our ancestors sailed to the New World. They nestled their abodes under the great shoulder of Pennsylvania's Blue Mountain on the slopes of the Susquehanna River valley. Nearly two centuries later some of them moved westward, homesteading on the flanks of the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

My great-grandfather, Mervin Edward Barrick, was one who

left Pennsylvania. His homestead near Parachute, Colorado, is in a setting reminiscent of the region he left near Doubling Gap, Pennsylvania.

The Barrick family history has many mountaintops and many valleys. If we could but know all the trails our ancestors trod, we would no doubt find many a mountain to climb.

—William D. Barrick

