

Alvin D. Frantz

1946

A. D. Frantz
Plymouth, Wis.



Mr. G. Frantz
Ludoga, Ind. Just letter

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the first letter in a series dated in 1946.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
April 30, 1946

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz

I am writing you at the suggestion of Prof. Albert E. Harshbarger who I learned to know in my quest for information as to the Harshbarger family—a name I am intensely interested in, inasmuch as my great, great Aunt (Elizabeth Frantz) was married to a Mr. Harshbarger in Botetourt County, Va., or perhaps in Penna., since the family emigrated to Va. from Penna. in 1795, and I know among the early settlers in Penna., there were people by that name. The above is in the way of explanation and what I really would like to know is if the Frantzes down your way are descendants of Christian Frantz, who emigrated to Va., with his entire family, except my great grandfather Mathies, from Berks Co., Penna., in 1795. He had five sons and five daughters. The son's names were Michael, Christian, Mathies, John & Henry. Michael died in Va. Henry moved to near Dayton Ohio in 1825. So far we know nothing about John or Christian or their descendants and we suspect that the Ladoga Frantzes are in some way related to us. It may be of interest to you to know that all trace of the Va. Frantzes was lost since the year 1824 until it was my privilege to unearth my great, great grandfather's will in Botetourt Va. last August. All I had to guide me was that the family migrated to Va. in 1795 and a family tradition that we or rather some of my father's Uncles had met some cousins in the Miami Valley near Dayton Ohio years ago. Mr. M. A. Frantz of Clayton Ohio is a descendant of Henry who moved to Ohio from Va. in 1825. Any information you may have whether related to us or not will be appreciated. It will fit into the picture somewhere.

Truly yours
A.D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the second letter in a series dated in 1946.

Plymouth Wisconsin
May 21, 1946

Mr. Geo H. Frantz
Ladoga, Ind.

Dear Mr. Frantz:

I received your kind letter this A.M. and while the matter is fresh in my mind I want you to ask your father where he visited "Frank" and "John" in Ill. With this information we might be able to learn much more about our ancestry. To be frank, I suspect you Ladoga Frantzes belong to our line. That is you are descendants along with myself of Christian Frantz III who migrated from Berks County to Botetourt Co., VA in 1795 leaving my great Grandfather "Mathies" in the old homestead in Penn. In Christian Frantzes family (my great great grandfather) there were five boys namely Michael, Christian (IV), Mathies, Henry and John, all accompanied him to Va., except Mathies. There were five daughters, one of these was married in Va. to a Mr. Harshbarger. Strange as it may seem all trace of the Va branch was lost by the Penn. branch for over one hundred and twenty five years until last August when it was my good fortune to discover Christian Frantzes (III) will, which was probated in Botetourt Co., Va., in 1824. So far I have been unable to find any descendants in Va.; all down there claim to be descended from Elder Michael Frantz, a great Dunkard Preacher who lived in Lancaster Co., Pa. and died there in 1745. Michael (II) a son of the above Michael moved to Botetourt Co. Va., in 1770 and the fact that we too have a Michael in our family has caused, I fear, much confusion in Va., as to who is who. A Henry Frantz, father of Governor Frank Frantz of Oklahoma along with some brothers moved from Botetourt Co. Va. to Roanoke Ill. along about 1850 and maybe your Dad visited with this family. If it turns out that way that I feel more confident than ever that we are related. For we also suspect the late Governor belongs to the Christian line. I wish you would let me know within a few days so I can begin my investigations re Ill. Frantzes for it requires months sometimes to get even a starting point established.

Truly yours
A.D. Frantz

P.S. Excuse writing & mistakes in haste. A.D.F.

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the eighth letter in a series dated in 1946.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
Nov 15, 1946

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz

I now am in possession of additional data as revealed in several deeds, on record in Botetourt Co., Va., relating to land deals. A tract of land (282 acres) was jointly owned by Christian Frantz, your great, great grandfather and my great, great great grand uncle, Michael Frantz (presumably a brother to my great grandfather Mathies), and John Honts or Houtz, a brother-in-law of Christian Frantz (VI) (your great great grandfather). Ohio deed bears the date of Dec 8, 1801 and the tract of land was still owned by the three persons, mentioned, when Christian passed away along about 1807-8, and was not sold until 1830 – apparently not until Mathies, the youngest heir of Christian VI, who was born in 1808, became of age. The other heirs were as follows: Henry Frantz, Jacob Frantz, Mathies, your great grandfather, and Anna Trout, who was married to a Michael Trout. This recent discovery as you will observe, gives us the names of all of Mathies Frantzes brothers and sisters and should be of great interest to you folks and especially your father. Now, I also am in touch with a living descendant of Jacob Frantz, in Roanoke Va., undoubtedly a relative of all us, who informs me that an old Aunt of his visited the Lodoga Frantzes about the time of the Civil War. This gentleman is quite old but if you folks would like to contact him I will gladly send you his address. Owing to the fact that the different generations are easily confused, I will repeat once more my line of descent: Christian I who came to America in 1732 and settled in Berks County (then a part of Lancaster County) Penn., Christian II, Christian III. Christian III had the following sons Michael, Christian (your GGGGrandfather), Mathies (my great grandfather), John and Henry. Christian III sold his farm in 1794 and in 1795 migrated along with the Moyer (Myers) Hontzes and others to Virginia. All of Christian (III) sons accompanied him to Va., except Mathies who remained in Penn. because his wife, my great grandmother refused to go along. It may be of further interest to you to know that I have located living descendants of Henry Frantz, son of Christian III near Dayton Ohio. Henry Frantz moved from Virginia to Ohio in 1825. There are also descendants of Michael Frantz in Ohio. So far, all the sons of Christian III are accounted for, except John. No attempt has been made, as yet, to follow out the lines of the various daughters of Christian III and there were five of them. One was married to a Basehour, one to a Gaiby, one to a Harshbarger and one to a Wertz. One daughter Anna apparently was still single when the will of Christian III was probated in 1824. This is not a very fancy letter as I wanted to make it as simple as I could for we are dealing with a difficult subject, so please overlook all mistakes, and in conclusion let me say, that a reply would be greatly appreciated.

Yours in haste-
A.D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the ninth letter in a series dated in 1946-47.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
Feb. 20, 1947

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz

I am returning to you, with my thanks, Rev. Winger's letter. I regret to say Rev. Winger passed away last summer in the belief, I think, that he was a descendant of Elder Michael, whereas he was descended from Michael, the son of Christian III (my line) according to the will of Michael who died in Va., about 1831. Michael along with John Houtz was an Administrator of the estate of Christian VI [*sic*] *, who died intestate. Christian (VI) [*sic*] *, as I already informed you, was the father of Mathies your Great Grandfather. I would like to know what your Dad's reaction was to my discovery – to me it meant a thrill.

Truly yours
A.D. Frantz

* Lorraine believes the writer meant Christian IV.

Copy of a letter from Otho Winger to William Frantz. This is in a woman's easy-to-read handwriting but no indication of who copied the letter from the original.

The following is a copy of a letter from Otho Winger of North Manchester Dec. 5, 1941.

William Frantz
Ladoga, Ind.

Dear Mr. Frantz:

I was at your home today. Perhaps your daughter-in-law told you about it. I wanted to see you about your branch of the Frantz family. My great grandmother was a Frantz. They tell me you are a grandson of Matthias Frantz who was a Dunkard preacher at Ladoga. I have wondered whether my great grandmother and your grandfather might have been related. I will give you my ancestral line back for a few generations and it may be you can tell whether there is anything in common: My father was – John Winger – lived near Marion, Ind. Died 1922. His father was – Joseph Winger – lived in Grant Co., died 1895. His mother was – Elizabeth Frantz who married Martin Winger, my great grandfather. Her father was -- Michael Frantz III. He lived & died in Botetourt Co., Va. His father was –

Michael Frantz II who married Magdalena Zug (Zook) in Pennsylvania about 1750. They had eight sons: Christian, Daniel, Michael, Peter, John, Jacob, David & Abraham. Michael II and most of his family moved Botetourt Co. Va. About the close of the Revolutionary War. Christian & Daniel moved to Clark Co. Ohio about the first of the last century. They have many descendants today. Children of the other boys moved in to Indiana & elsewhere. I am wondering whether your grandfather Matthias Frantz might have been the son or grandson of one of the eight boys.

Michael Frantz I, father of Michael Frantz II, came from Switzerland about 1727. So far as I know he had but one son, Michael, who in turn had the eight sons. I am sorry we could not wait today until you came home. I am much interested in this history & hope you will give me what information you may have.

Sincerely,
Otho Winger

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the tenth letter in a series dated in 1946-47.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
April 7, 1947

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I have important news for you. I am just in receipt of documented evidence which removes from further speculation the matter of our relationship. We are definitely related. The Court Commissioner of Botetourt Co., Va. in his final statement of settlement of our Great Great Grandfather's estate lists money paid to the "heirs" of Christian (IV), your Great Grandfather. The names of the "heirs" are as follows: Jacob Frantz, Mathies Frantz, Henry Frantz and Michael Frantz husband of Ann Frantz. The "missing link" was found, and words fail to express it as to how elated I am.

Sincerely yours
A. D. Frantz

P.S. Above statement was submitted to the November 1841 court.

P.S. Jacob Frantz was the father of Henry Frantz father of the late Governor Frantz.

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the eleventh letter in a series dated in 1946-47.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
April 28, 1947

Dear Cousins:

It may be of interest to you folks to know that I have now also in my possession a certified copy of statement and settlement of accounts of Michael Frantz and John Houtz administrators of Christian Frantz, dec'd, and John Myers as Guardian of Mathies Frantz one of the heirs of said Christian Frantz. The document is dated Mar 19, 1824 and it shows Mathies's share to be one-fourth or \$1038.00 and with interest and all it totaled \$1368.00—a small fortune those days. If nothing else, we now know that John Myer was Mathies Guardian—further proof that Mathies was the youngest of the children of Christian (IV) and Magdalene Houtz Frantz.

Best regards to all
Alvin D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin. This fits (time wise) between the eleventh & twelveth letters in a series dated in 1946-47. It was not in an envelope with a number on it. (Transcriber [LFE] does not know who numbered the envelopes.)

Plymouth, Wisconsin
May 14, 1947

Dear Cousin William:

You can put down as another newly-found cousin, Miss Ella Wingert, Crawfordsville Indiana. Ella's Grandmother was Magdalena Frantz, a daughter of Michael Frantz of Virginia, oldest son of Christian Frantz (III) who migrated from Berks Co. Penna, to Botetourt Co. Va. in 1795. Christian (IV) your Great Great Grandfather, was the second oldest son of Christian (III). Mathies, who remained in Penna., was the third oldest son and who, of course, was my Great Grandfather. Miss Wingert or Winger has additional data re family and I expect to have it shortly. Two of Michael's daughters married Wingerts—two brothers, Henry and Martin, Wingert. Henry was the Grandfather of Ella.

Truly Yours
A. D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. William Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the twelveth letter in a series dated in 1946-47.

Plymouth, Wisconsin
June 24, 1947

Mr. William Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz:

Our first American ancestor Christian Frantz (I) came to America August 11, 1732, and settled in Cocalico Township Lancaster County Penna. In 1745 his sons Christian (II) Michael and John moved from the above township in Lancaster County to Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, a short distance North of Cocalico, and were instrumental in establishing the Little Swatara Church (Dunkard) there and Christian's (II) farm or plantation (acquired from the Penns in 1760) was located not far from the Swatara Creek, and was in the family name up to forty years ago. Christian (III) inherited this farm from his father, and in 1794 sold it to a man named Moyer (Myer) and in 1795 migrated to Virginia with his entire family except Mathies, my Great Grandfather. The names of Christian's (III) sons are as follows, starting with the oldest, Michael, Christian (IV) (your great grandfather), Mathies (my great grandfather), John and Henry. Michael died

in Virginia, so did John and Christian (IV). Mathies, of course, remained in Penna, and is buried in the Frantz graveyard on the northwest corner of the Frantz farm which he bought back in 1800, and rebuilt the home—a large brick structure and which is still standing. Henry, the youngest moved to Ohio in 1828 near Dayton and I am in touch with his descendants. Michael the oldest had [illegible] daughters that were married to two Wingert or Winger brothers (Henry and Martin). Their descendants live in Indiana. One of the brothers (Martin) was Rev. Otho Winger's great grandfather. Ella Wingert of Crawfordsville is a descendant of Henry Wingert. I am corresponding with her also. I hear quite frequently from Mrs. Lula Frantz Whitson, a daughter of Henry—the Henry your folks visited in Ill. Mrs. Whitson, also was in the dark as to who her great grandfather was and feels very grateful to me for solving what appeared a mystery to all of us up to two years ago. All I had to work on myself was the family tradition in Penna that “they went to Virginia.” Where? Nobody knew.

Best regards
A. D. Frantz

P.S. I may think of other interesting things re our family from time to time, and I will set them down for you. There were five daughters in Christian's (III) family. So far I have not gone into that phase of it. One was married to a “Basehour” and if you know of any Bashours in Indiana, where they located years ago, let me know please. ADF

“Bashor” “Basehore” “Bashour”—all one and the same name.

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Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the thirteenth letter in a series dated in 1946-47.  
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Plymouth, Wisconsin
June 28, 1947

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz:

I have had several letters from a Miss Paula Frantz of Houston, Texas, and she is most desirous of learning who her ancestors were. She could give me very little of her background, but after repeatedly urging me to give me just a bit more I received the following which she recently obtained from an old Uncle in **Mushogee (?)** Oklahoma: ***"Your grandfather's full name was Daniel Frantz. He was born July 30, 1854 in Penn (?) but I do not know where. He died June 22, 1911 at Siloam Springs, Arkansas. He had several brothers and sisters. Their names were Ben, Eli, Joe, Lincoln, William and Elizabeth and another sister but I can't think of her name. Your Great Grandfather's name was William Frantz. No middle names. Then were Penna-Duthc. I heard my father talk a lot about his people and knew one Aunt and all the Uncles but William who was the oldest. My father corresponded with the brother of the Governor of Oklahoma, who was a Lumberman at Enid Okla., and I heard him say that the best they could tell they were 3rd cousins."*** You will observe reference made to being third cousins to the Governor etc. This started me thinking of your line inasmuch as your Great Grandfather, Mathies, had a son named "William" who may or may not be the Great Grandfather of Paula. In view of this I wish you would ask your father if he ever heard of an Uncle named William and what became of him.

Thanking you in advance
Sincerely yours
A.D. Frantz

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Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the fourteenth letter in a series dated in 1946-47.  
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August 27, 1947

Dear Cousins:

I am returning herewith the clippings which you so kindly loaned me and am going to try to locate these people. [*Clippings were not in the envelope.*] Nothing further has been uncovered relating to our family, and despite all we have discovered much remains to be done. For instance, the daughters of our Great Great Grandfather have not been touched, and which I may add, will be the most difficult to unravel. There married names were: Basehore, Gaiby, Wertz, Harshbarger and an unmarried one at the time of Christian's (III) death. We know definitely that Michael the oldest, died in Virginia, about 1831 (Ella Wingert of Crawfordsville Ind. Is a descendant of Michael, so was Rev. Otho Winger). Christian your G.G.Grandfather, also died in Virginia prior to the death of his father. John apparently had passed away when Christian's (III) estate was settled. Mathies, my Great Grandfather, of course remained in Penna, near to old homestead in Berks Co. Henry moved from Va., to Ohio, near Dayton, in 1825. He drove a four-horse team with his personal belongings and his wife and a horse and they were enroute three weeks. I hear from Mrs. Lula Whitson, of the Illinois relatives quite frequently. Also her sister Mrs. Varey. I also had a letter from Frank Frantz, Jr., the late Governor's son, early this year. We were delighted with the discovery of their remote ancestors, and this also was a source of much satisfaction to yours truly, inasmuch as our branch in Penna had lost all trace of our G.G. Grandfather for over one hundred and forty years. All I had to go on, at the inception of this search for the "lost tribe" was that "they had gone to Virginia in 1795" and the lead that someone had visited some cousins in Ohio, near Dayton, many years ago. Not much..... you, but sufficient to give me a fair start in what has proved to be the most interesting and most fascinating work I ever engaged in. To make a long story short it was one thrill after another and in closing permit me to say that the most vital information was obtained from unexpected sources—accidently as it were.

Your cousin
Alvin D. Frantz

P.S. It might be of interest to you folks to know that all the Frantzs in Roanoke Va. are descendants of Jacob, a brother of your "Mathies."

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the fifteenth letter in a series dated in 1946-47. Marked 15th on the envelope but an envelope, not numbered, that predates this one.

Alvin D. Frantz , Sr.
Majestic Building
Plymouth, Wisconsin
Dec. 2, 1947

Mr. George Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I just learned that you have in your midst a distant relative in the person of Mrs. Reo(?) Jehnson or Jensen, wife of the minister (Dunkard) at Ladoga. Her maiden name was Brightbill, a granddaughter of Mrs. David Frantz Brightbill of Lebanon Penna. a first cousin of mine. Strange things happen and this is one of them. To all intents and purpose the Penna. Frantzes and the Virginia Frantzes were dead, as to one another, for over one hundred and forty years and now all of a sudden, us descendants are getting together again—strange indeed.

Truly yours
A. D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing information in an envelope from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is one in a series dated in 1946-47. The handwriting is not that of Alvin D. Frantz. The writer does not identify herself but research regarding the families should reveal her identity. The envelope is dated Nov. 5, 1947.

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This is the family of Henry Frantz, who my father visited in Roanoke Ill. 79 yrs ago. As written to my father in a letter by Henry's widow Jennie Frantz Feb. 25, 1913 who at that time lived in Enid, Oklahoma 412 W. Elm Ave. Henry died in 1897.

**William**, eldest son, was 54 yrs old in 1913. Had three sons Joe, Will & Harry.

**Edmund** next oldest son has two children Maurine & Douglas.

**Lula** was next -- married Sumner Whitson of Penn. who died 1901 in Wichita, Kan.

Leaving 2 girls Ruth & Virginia. Lived in Enid, Oklahoma.

**Minnie**, who died in 1898 in Pasadena Cal. leaving 3 children Faith Frantz & Rexford. Her husband's name was Robert Hieronymus.

**Mamie** who has 8 children—Paul, Dorothy, Helen, Lucy, Frantz, Sarah, Geneva & Nellie. Didn't give her husband's name. Lived in Enid, Okla.

Next is **Frank** who lived at Bartlesville Oklahoma & had 4 children—Frank Louise Jim & Marti. Jim died of lockjaw from running a splinter in his foot, when he was 8 yrs old.

**Walter** married Miss Foy Moore of San Antonio. Lived in San Antonio Tex. & had 1 child Walter Moore Frantz.

**Orville** lived in San Antonio & had no children then. Orville's wife was Miss Louise Edwards.

**Montgomery J.** youngest son lived in Enid Oklahoma. Had 3 girls Janet Margaret & Bettie. Called him Mont for short.

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Note: under a line, drawn across the sheet of paper, the following information:

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This Jennie Frantz had a brother John Gish who was a minister in the Dunkard Brethren Church. Her father was Christian Gish. Everyone called him Christly.

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Note: under another line, drawn across the sheet of paper, the following information:

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My father's father was Frank Frantz who married Elizabeth Myers whose mother's maiden name was Lydia Harshbarger daughter of Jacob and Salome Harshbarger. Lydia was born Oct 14, 1816 & died in 1892. (See Note below.)

My grandfather Frank Frantz was the son of Matthias Frantz who was born Sept. 3, 1808 & died July 1, 1898. He married Sallie Graybill who was born Dec. 12 1812 & died June 23, 1894.

**Note:** There is an absence of punctuation throughout the material. However, there may be an oversize period after Oct in the birth date of Lydia. Therefore, her birth date may be Oct. 4, 1816. I make that comment, and observation, because the writer has a period after Sept., and Dec. (above).

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. These follow a series of numbered envelopes dated in 1946-47. However the following, from envelopes **not numbered**, cover 1948, 1949, 1950.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 20, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

Michael Frantz oldest son of Christian (III) my Great great grandfather died in Va. about 1830. Christian, the second oldest son (your Great grandfather, or should I say your great great grandfather) died in Va., in 1808 so did his wife leaving four small children, the oldest of which was Jacob father of Mathies, who was raised by his Uncle and Aunt (John Myers). Mathies, third oldest, and my Great grandfather died in Penna. about 1830. John apparently passed away prior to his father's (Christian III) death in 1821, and Henry the youngest died in Ohio about 1840. The only descendants of Michael I have thus far located is Miss Ella Wingert of Crawfordsville, Ind. As to Christian (IV) I of course have contacted you folks as well as the late Jacob Frantz of Roanoke Va. None of John's descendants, and in all probably there are none, and Henry's descendants in Ohio and I am in touch with. There were however five daughters of which I have not so far found a trace of and all I can do is to write every one bearing their respective married names and if you know of anyone down there, except the Harshbargers, who it seems are not related please send me their names and addresses. The married names of the girls, except Susan who was unmarried, are as follows: Basehore, Harshbarger, Gaiby and Wertz. Jacob of Roanoke, while still living said they are old family names but no longer around there so I have concluded they moved to other states and I should direct my efforts accordingly.

Kindest regards to all  
Truly yours  
A. D. Frantz

P.S. Excuse writing-in haste. A.F.

Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 24, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I just want to draw your attention to an article and pictures appearing in this week's issue (July 26) of "Life Magazine" re the Harry Frantz family of Enid, Oklahoma, who are relatives of ours. To me it was a real surprise. Although identification was easy, as it shows, among others, a picture of newly-weds, who were mentioned in a letter I received several months ago from Mrs. Lula Whitson, one of Governor Frantzes sisters. Mrs. Whitson referred to the contemplated marriage of her grand niece Nancy, so I take it that Harry Sr. is a son of one of the Governor's brothers. The Oklahoma Frantzes are of the Jacob line, and closer to you folks than to me, so I would suggest that you get a copy of "Life." I am positive your Dad, if still living, will get a thrill out of it.

Kindest regards  
A.D.F.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 24, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

These Frantz women are a very elusive set. I mean the daughters of our Great great grandfather. So far no trace of any of their descendants. Their married names were Bashore, Gaiby Harshbarger and Wertz. I do know, however, that the Gaibys were still in Botetourt Co. Va. in 1830 in that I just got a copy from the Clerks of the Circuit Court of Botetourt Co. of a trust deed executed by Isaac and Magdalena Gaiby. This trust deed also showed me the approximate location of our Va. Great grandfather's homestead as this deed covered this particular farm which Isaac Gaiby inherited from our G.G.Grandfather, so we have at least some additional data re the family.

Very sincerely yours  
A.D. Frantz

P.S. I now know definitely that Reo Johnsen was a cousin of our nephew Richard Jehnsen. His wife of course was a granddaughter of my cousin Catherine Frantz Brightbill of Lebanon Pa. So it's a two-way connection.

Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 28, 1949

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I have made no progress in tracing our relationship the past year. Christian Frantz (III) our great great grandfather had five sons and five daughters. One, as I previously wrote, stayed in Penna. He of course was my great grandfather (Mathias). Michael died in Va. about 1830 in fact before he completed the administration of his father's estate. John had passed away in Va. before the death of his father (Christian III). Henry moved from Va. to Ohio near Dayton in 1825. M.A. Frantz, Clayton Ohio is a descendant of his. Christian IV the father of Henry, Jacob, (Mathias) and Anna [*illegible*] also died in Va. in 1808. Both he and his wife died a few days apart when your great great grandfather was but five days old. He was brought up by the John Myer family and accompanied them when they moved from Va. to the section of land now known as Ladoga section. Jacob a brother as you well know was the ancestor of the Henry Frantz branch including the late Gov. Frank Frantz of Okla. [*Illegible*] two years ago I corresponded with his sisters Mrs. Lula Whitson and Mrs. Raery of Enid Okla. I now fear both passed away (one was 79 yrs of age and the other 83) as all correspondence suddenly ceased. I just wrote a few days ago to the Governor's son Frank Frantz, Dodge City Kansas asking him if he knew what happened to them. This leaves four married daughters and one single of Christian III not accounted for. A most elusive set of women. They married men with the following names: Basehore Gaiby Wertz and Harshbarger. Have you every heard of any folks with those names as being relatives of ours outside of your own relationship with the Ladoga Harshbargers? Also tell me if your Dad is still living. Week after next I leave for Penna. to attend the Frantz Reunion on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>.

With kindest regards, I am  
Sincerely yours  
Alvin D. Frantz

P.S. My wife's sister was an Aunt of Reo Jehnsen. A.D.F.

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Note: The following is handwritten (in pencil) on the back of above letter. It is almost impossible to read!! I am guessing that the following was written by George Frantz.

*In your last letter you stated when my great great grandfather Mathias was 5 days old he was brought up by the John Myer family and accompanied them when they moved to Ladoga Ina. History of my county have found the following history which relates the reference young age. It seems that the name of Myers is written that way and sometimes the last letter is left off thus, Myer. But this sketch gives it as Myers. The article begins, "The family is of German origin and immigration to the U.S. was made in colonial days. John Myers Sr. was born in Lancaster Co. Pa. about 1770, was married in 1791 to Katherine [maybe Hants; uncertain of that name/LFE] born in 1775.*



*Soon after their marriage they moved to Botetourt Co. Va. where they became owners of 200 acres of land. 8 children were born, John Jr., David, Henry, Wm., Catherine, Sallie, Elizabeth & Nancy. About the year 1828 John Myers Jr. came to the site of Ladoga Montgomery Co. and purchased 320 acres at the edge of Ladoga & in 1830 brought his family here. In 1831 John Myers Sr., son Henry and nephew Mathias Frantz came on horseback to Ladoga to visit John Myers Jr.. The senior Myers was then 60 years old. He was so favorably impressed with the possibilities here that he returned to Va. sold his land & property for 600 dollars which sum he put in a chest which he loaded in a big wagon and piled furniture on top. Hitching 4 horses to the outfit he started with his wife youngest son William son Henry and his family and a goodly number of others came to Ladoga arriving in 1833. Their big Prairie Schooner attracted great attention. John Myers Sr. bought 1304 acres of land around Ladoga. He was a man of great vigor of mind & body as is shown by the fact that at 60 yrs of age when financially able to take his ease he left his home of his early life to what was then the western frontier and founded a new home where his children would have abundant opportunities. It was his money and public spirit that made possible the fostering of enterprises for Ladoga. His death occurred in 1841. In her earlier married life Mrs. Myers [illegible; looks like weaned] one of her children so she could rear her sister's child Mathias Frantz who was left an orphan when a few days old."*

*So that is the history I have found which I never knew about Mathias Frantz. They are buried in the Ladoga Cemetery which I did not know of which I will try to find the graves. My fathers parents are buried in another cemetery west of Ladoga. My father is 85 years old and in fairly good health but hard of hearing.*

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
April 20, 1950

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

Here is just a little more to what we have. Miss Ella Wingert originally "Winger" of Crawfordsville, Ind., a third cousin, writes that her grandmother Magdalene Frantz Wingert or Winger was born in Penna April 7, 1795 and was married to Henry Wingert in 1822, the same year they moved to Va., and in 1866 owing, I believe, to the Civil War, moved from Va. to Ladoga Indiana. They were members of the Brethren Church and are buried in the Brethren Cemetery at Ladoga. Magdalene Wingert, was a daughter of Michael Frantz, oldest son of our Great great grandfather Christian (III). Michael, in other words, was an Uncle of your great great grandfather Mathies Frantz. This of course is not much but it all adds to what we already have gathered together.

With kindest regards to all

I am, sincerely yours

Alvin D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. **William** Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. The last letter in the series.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
March 9, 1950

Mr. William Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

There seems to be considerable confusion as to the Elder Michael Frantz and the Michael I call "our Michael." **Elder Michael Frantz** came to America in 1727 and settled in Cocalico Township Lancaster County Penna and it was in that community he established for himself quite a reputation in the Dunkard Church and he is at the present time looked up to as one of the great Colonial leaders of the church. He died in 1749. His son Michael married a lady named Zug and moved to Virginia (Botetourt Co.) in 1770. If there was any relationship as to our branch it may have been between our first American ancestors Christian (I) who came to America five years later (1732) and also settled in Cocalico Township Lancaster Co. Penna. Christian I had three sons, John Michael and Christian (II). These three brothers moved from Cocalico Township to Tulpehocken Township Berks Co. a few miles north of Cocalico Township in 1745 and were among the founders of the Little Swatara Church (Dunkard) there. Here Christian Frantz (II) acquired a tract of land from one of William Penn's sons, in 1742, which became our homestead and was in the family name up to 30 years ago. Christian (II) had only one son Christian III (our great great grandfather) who inherited the farm at his father's death in 1770. Christian (III) had five sons named as follows: Michael the oldest, Christian (IV) your great grandfather, Mathias my great grandfather, John and Henry. He also had five daughters. In 1794 Christian (III) sold the homestead to a Mr. Moyer, and in 1795 moved to Botetourt Co. Va. with his entire family, except Mathias, my great grandfather who would not go because my great grandmother (Basehore) refused to go along. In 1800 my great grandfather (Mathies) bought the farm back from Moyer and as I stated before, the place remained in our name up to 30 years ago. There is a private Frantz cemetery on the farm and I suspect all of our early ancestors are buried there. Our "Michael" had two daughters who married two Winger or Wingert brothers, one of whom was the great grandfather of Rev. Otho Winger, and I regret to say Rev. Otho died in the belief (contrary to the records) that he was descended from Elder Michael Frantz, rather than from our "Michael." Christian Frantz (IV) a brother of my great grandfather Mathies, and your great grandfather, was married to Magdalene Houtz. Both died a few days apart in 1808 and left four children behind, namely: Jacob, the grandfather of the Enid Oklahoma Frantzes, Henry Anna and Mathies, your grandfather. Mathies was the youngest, in fact, was only five days old when his parents died. He was raised by his Uncle and Aunt John and Catherine (Houtz) Myer and when the Myers migrated from Va. in 1830 to Ladoga Mathies and his wife (Greybill) accompanied them. All four children of Christian IV are specifically mentioned as heirs in the final statement of

settlement of our great great grandfather's estate in 1845, so there is absolutely no question as to our relationship. In conclusion I may add that I correspond with Ella Wingert, of Crawfordsville Ind. also a cousin as well as Mrs. Whitson and her sister Mrs. Rarey of Enid Okla. (daughters of Henry Frantz a cousin of yours) and M. A. Frantz of Clayton Ohio, a descendant of Henry Frantz the youngest son of Christian Frantz (III). I feel greatly elated over the success, thus far attained, in unraveling our relationship, especially so inasmuch all trace of our Virginia relatives was lost for over one hundred and twenty years or ever since 1820 when my great grandfather sent one of his sons to Va. after the great great grandfather passed away.

Sincerely yours

Alvin D. Frantz

P.S. In locating you folks I was told to keep an eye on the descendants of a Mathias Frantz at Ladoga as the name "Mathias" only runs in one branch of the Frantzes. Presumably your great grandfather was named after my great grandfather—the Uncle left behind in Penna. Such names as Frank, Henry, Jacob, etc. run strong in our branch. I have a brother named Frank, also a son. Then there was your father. Also the late Governor Frank Frantz, and he too had a son named "Frank." Henry is a common name too. I know of at least four in our branch, not mentioning the Governor's father or the brother of your grandfather Mathias.