

Jan 12, 1987

Dear Mr. Beachler,

A few days ago I received valuable information from Evelyn Rosemary Frantz. She helped me carry my family back several more generations. Prior to her letter, I only had confirmation of gr-gr-grandfather David FRANTZ and knowledge of Michael I, II, III, etc and Christian I, II, III, etc. Bless her heart, she had the info that tied my David to Michael IV.

Rosemary gave me your name as a resource. I would appreciate any info that you can provide.

Enclosed is a penned copy of the family as I now tentatively have it. Also find a computer printout for my family. I have a computer and a genealogy software program that I'm entering data into. (The printout was prior to Rosemary's correspondence. At that time I only knew of five [of ten] children for David [1818] and Sarah. In fact, I didn't know of Sarah!)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,
Lorraine Frantz Edwards
4152 West Ave. L-2
Quartz Hill, CA 93536

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Feb 7, 1987

Dear Mr. Beachler

Enclosed you will find correspondence written last month and obviously sent to the wrong address.

In a recent letter from Tom Beardsley I received your new address. Tom sent me quite a bit of info which provided me with valuable knowledge about my ancestors. He indicated that you have a wealth of info and you are willing to share...

I have a camping trailer and a portable computer. It is very easy for me to "hook up" and take off in pursuit of additional genealogy. May I visit you some time and see what data you have that relates to my family? It is probably less than eight hours from Lancaster CA to Modesto.

My grandparents lived in Modesto for many years - and died there. Did you know David and Lydia Frantz? They were Brethren all their lives - and I understand you're Brethren. I'm a Christian today because my saintly grandmother prayed for me!

I'm enclosing a newly typed chart that shows my family back to Michael I (with the exception of David Henry and that is on the computer printout).

Looking forward to your correspondence and perhaps a visit,

Lorraine Frantz Edwards

Lorraine Edwards
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June 9, 1987

Dear Lowell,

I never intended to let so many months go by without further correspondence. Please forgive me for an initial contact and no follow-up.

For several months I was extremely busy entering Frantz info into my computer. Tom Beardsley furnished me with most or all of the data he had. Between Tom and Evelyn Rosemary Frantz I expanded my family tree from a few names to 27 computer pages. I now have over 1200 Frantz family members--all linked together (no isolated members). They include Wolf, Wolfe, Ebersole, Diltz, etc etc.

I became so involved with the project that I began to have the grandiose thought that I would collect a lot more info and eventually publish a Frantz genealogy. With my computer I started another big (and expensive) project. I have a "cover letter" that is personalized with the individual Frantz name via a MAILMERGE process. (In another part of the computer I have entered the names and addresses of Frantz families all over the U.S.). I have mailed over 200 letters with stamped return envelope. I've only received about a dozen replies and two dozen were returned because of moves, etc. (Not a good response!)

The information that I'm receiving is varied and interesting. Some people don't know the name of the great grandfather. One provided his line back to Christian I. Two said their family name is really **Franz** but it got changed... One said the name was Polish, 18 letters long and impossible to pronounce so the Catholic sisters made it "Frantz" when the children started school. The Polish immigrant arrived in about 1900. I haven't received any info from a Michael I descendent (that I know of). Over the last several months (even before my large mailing project) I've received info from Abraham Frantz descendents. Apparently he was a later immigrant and not related to Michael, Christian or Balsar line.

Lowell, I have been so blessed with info in such a short time. I naively believed (hoped) the data would continue to "snow ball." Well it hasn't! I can't even get cousins to provide me with modern day info on their families! I've been running off reams of paper, providing relatives with the ancestors names, etc. They seem interested in the material that I've collected but "lax" when it comes to expanding the record.

I'm really anxious to learn more about the Frantz family and add more info to my computer. Your extensive records have been tempting me ever since Tom Beardsley told me of your vast collection. My limitation was "time."

I've only been on my job for less than a year so no vacation time yet. More recently though, I have a means for some time away from the job. Three weeks ago I was operated on for a ruptured appendix.

God must have more work, or more education, for me because it was "touch and go." The doctor said I was a "lucky gal to be here" (but I don't believe in "luck").

Less than two weeks after the surgery I was back to work. I'm healing rapidly but I'm extremely tired. As I talk with coworkers, and individuals that come into our building on business, I'm finding that anesthetic is the villain. It may be quite a while before I have my old vim and vigor back.

I'm planning to ask for a week or more time off to "get my strength back!" (I really shouldn't have returned to work so soon!) I'd like to plan a visit with you folks and your genealogical library. What would be convenient for you? Remember, I have my own camping trailer so electricity for the refrigerator is all I need.

Lowell, I might have been hopelessly lost in all your data a few months ago. By repeatedly working with 1200 names on the computer, I have acquired a lot of "head" knowledge and I now have computer printouts to check against. It should be a productive "vacation" for me. I anticipate that you will have some suggestions that wouldn't occur to me until years "down the pike" (I'm such a novice).

Please let me know when a visit would be convenient for you. Meanwhile, my warmest regards to your family.

Sincerely,

Lorraine

P.S. Enclosed is an example of the letters/packets-of-inquiry that I am mailing out. Please give me your opinion of the letter and presentation. Thanks. Use the stamped envelope for your reply.