

Springfield, Ohio.
January 14, 1941.

Mr. LaVern Houtz,
Route #2, Box 107,
Albion, Nebraska.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Jan., 8, 1941, received and request noted. As I have very often asked and received the kind of information you are seeking, and for which I am very thankful, so I also try to be accommodating. I have been in Salem, Va., personally, looking up data about our family, and spent several valuable hours at the home of ~~THE~~ Miss May T. Garst, and her sisters, and found them very gracious and willing to give all the assistance they could.

In order to make the information entirely clear to you, I feel I must start at the beginning of our line of Frantzes. I have a list of Frantzes, of twenty eight names, who came to America through the port of Philadelphia alone, prior to the year of 1776, and there were many more who came through the port of New York; and as each of these, or at least most of them, was the ancestor of a separate line of descendants, which makes definite data imperative, and sometimes very hard to obtain. So to make your question and its answer clear to you, I start with our immigrant ancestor.

Michael Frantz, immigrant, came to America through the port of Phila., in September 1727, bringing with him his two year old son, and settled in Lancaster Co., Pa., where he soon became prominent in organizing and promoting the Brethren Church, or Dunkards as they are still sometimes called. Our branch of the family has consistently belonged to this denomination up to present generation; who belong to about all of them. This two year old son was baptized into the church in 1748 as was his bride to be, Magdalena Zug, and I think they were probably married the same year, and probably all these ceremonies were performed by Michael, Sr., who died in December of that same year. (For further information, see any history of the Brethren Church. Any minister of this church has one.) Now I feel I can go ahead with a genealogical list.

1st generation:

born
Michael Frantz, immigrant, in Basle, Switzerland in 1687; came to America 1727; died in Lancaster Co., Pa., 1748; only one child so far as known.

2nd generation:

Michael Frantz, Jr. Born in the old country, 1725; married Magdalena Zug, daughter of Ulrig and Barbara (Baughman) Zug, of Lancaster, Co. Immigrants, also. Moved to Botetourt Co. Va., with most of his sons and their families, about 1784-1788; died there about 1808.

3rd generation.

Consists entirely of children of this Michael and Magdalena Zug Frantz, which follows:

- I. John Frantz. 1749-1821. Married Elizabeth Hostetter. Lived and died in Lancaster Co., Pa. Prosperous farmer and miller. Seven children: Jacob, Anna, John, Elizabeth, Barbara, Christian and Maria. Many descendants in Pa., today.
- II. Jacob Frantz. 1755-1799. Married Barbara Hostetter, sister of John's wife. Lived and died in Lancaster Co. Prosperous farmer. Four children: John, Jacob, Christian and Anna. Many descendants in Pa., today.
- III. Christian Frantz. 1761-1850. (my ancestor) Married Mary Garst. Moved to Botetourt Co., Va., 1784-1788. From there to Ohio, 1815, To Clark Co. Buried Here. Nine children: Jacob, Christian, Jr., (my ancestor) Elizabeth, Catherine, Anna, Magdalena, Esther, Mary and Sally or Salome. Many descendants now in Clark Co, Ohio and Wabash Co., Ind.
- IV. Daniel Frantz. 1763-1843. Married 1st Anna Garst; 2nd Magdalena (Garver) Minnick. Prosperous farmer. Moved to Botetourt Co., Va., 1784-1788. To Clark Co., Ohio, 1815. Buried here. 15 children: 1st wife: Anna, Michael, Magdalena, Catherine, Elizabeth, Daniel, (died young. later named another child Daniel) Benjamin, Susanna, John, 2nd Daniel, Christina; 2nd wife: Joel, Salome, 2nd Elizabeth, and Samuel. Descendants pretty well scattered all over the U.S.
- V. Michael Frantz. Data scant. President Otho Winger of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., claims to be a descendant. Supposed to have moved to Botetourt Co., Va., 1784-1788, and lived and died there.
- VI. Abraham Frantz. Data scant. I think he probably died young, in Lancaster Co., Pa.
- VII. Peter Frantz. 17---1853. Married twice. 1st ~~(?)~~ ^{Catherine Garst} 2nd Sarah Pleasant. Moved to Botetourt Co., Va., 1784- 1788. Lived and died there. 8 children: Catherine, Mary, Nicholas, Anna, Magdalena, Elizabeth, Sally and Barbara. No descendants of Frantz name in Va., as his only son, Nicholas, moved to North Manchester, Ind., where many descendants now live.
- VIII. David Frantz. 17---1815.(?). Married Elizabeth Garst. Moved to Botetourt Co., Va., 1784-1788, where he lived and died. See another page.
- IX. A daughter. Reported to have married George Garst. No Data.

Note:

AS you will see, Christian, Daniel, David and the daughter, all married Garsts. David's wife, Elizabeth, was a daughter of Dewalt Garst, and a sister of Frederick (Indian) Garst, Abraham Garst (who moved to South Bend, Ind., and died there, etc. A daughter of David and Elizabeth, Anna, married a son of the South Bend Abraham, Abraham, Jr., they being 1st cousins. They lived and died here in Clark Co. A son of Abraham Jr, married my aunt, Mary Frantz. His name was David. I have no satisfactory data about the other Garsts.

Now the only branch of the Frantz family, that I can see that you would be interested in is that of David and Elizabeth (Garst) Frantz, a list of whose children follow:

- I. Samuel Frantz. 1790-1875. Both dates approximately O.K. Married Mary Fisher. Lived and died in Va. Has descendants in W.Va. and Wabash Co., Ind. I think, none in Va., any more.
- II, Michael Frantz. 1791-1860. Married 1st Elizabeth Crist. 2nd Susan Neher. 3rd, Catherine ~~FRANK~~ Crist. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The Crist name was the name of her first husband. They lived and died in Clark Co., Ohio. Only descendants in Calif., and Wash., D.C.
- III. Joseph Frantz. 1813-1854. Married 1st Nancy Harnish. 2nd Catherine Neher. Lived and died in Clark Co. Ohio. A few descendants here now. But a large number now live in Springfield, Ill., and surrounding counties.
- IV. David Frantz. 1798-1836. Married Catherine McGinty. Lived and died in Clark Co., Ohio. Descendants here now.
- V. Christian Frantz. 1801-1851. Married Catherine Minnick. No data except that they are buried here in Clark Co.
- VI. Abraham Frantz. 1799-1874. Married 1st, Catherine Houtz, a daughter of Leonard Houtz, Abraham's step-father, consequently Abraham married his step sister. Children: Jacob Leonard, Samuel, Anna, Catherine, Elizabeth, and Susanna. 2nd wife; Abalona Hamsher. Children: Joseph Abraham, and Abalona. Abraham, Catherine and Abalona, all buried about 5 miles S.W. of Bellefontaine, Ohio, in Stony Creek Cemetery, near the Brethren Church, which he served as Elder for almost 50 years.
- VII. Anna Frantz. 1792- 1867. Married Abraham Garst. Mentioned on page two.
- VIII. Lydia Frantz. 1805- 1886. Married David Ziegler. Lived and died in Clark Co., Ohio.
- Ix. Susan Frantz. Married Jerry Wolfe. Other data lacking.
- X. Elizabeth Frantz. Married 1st Henry Houtz, who died in Va. 2nd -----Arnold. Data lacking.
- XI. Jacob Frantz. Married Mary Ebersole. Moved to Wells Co., Ind., where they lived and died. Descendants now living there.

Note:

I will now give you some historical data from my files.

Marriage recorded in Fincastle, Va.

"Elizabeth Frantz to Leonard Houtz. Sept.,24, 1813."(?)

PS. I think some of the dates I have were copied wrongly for Me. However I give them just as they are in my records.

Marriage of Henry Houtz and Elizabeth Frantz, daughter of above Elizabeth not recorded at Fincastle. ~~Probably occurred some where else, but you will see by part of David's will that it took place in Va., and that Henry died there before David did.~~ *In error,*

Parts of will of David Frantz:

" In the name of God, Amen. This 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord,1814. "

" I bequeath my whole estate to my beloved wife, Elizabeth,"

" It is my will that provided the remaining widow should marry again, she shall then inherit what the law will allow, and all that I have heretofore willed her in the foregoing part of my will shall be null and void."

Witnesses.

Signed David Frantz.

Peter Frantz.

David Pefley.

His

Frederick X Gharst.

Mark

At Botetourt April Court, 1815.

" An instrument of writing in the German language, said to be the last will and testament of David Frantz, Dec'd, was exhibited in Court, etc. " Note date.

" Whereas, the said David Frantz departed this life, leaving children, To-wit:

Michael Frantz, Anna Frantz, who intermarried with Abraham Garst, David Frantz, Christian Frantz, Elizabeth Frantz, who intermarried with Henry Houts, (now deceased), Abraham Frantz, Jacob Frantz, Lydia Frantz, Jeremiah Wolfe and Susanna, his wife, and Abraham Frantz and Catherine his wife, have made, constituted and appointed Samuel Frantz, of the County of Franklin and the State aforesaid, by power of attorney, bearing date of the 9th day of September, 1828, to sell and make title to the aforesaid land and the said Samuel Frantz has sold the said lands to Abner Petty."

I will now give you parts of a memoriam written to Lydia Frantz Ziegler:

"Lydia Frantz was born near Fincastle, Va., Sept.,27, 1805. Dwelling in a lovely valley, mountains in plain view of her parental home, her first eight years (this fixes dates) were spent in

unalloyed happiness." " But in the joyousness of this rural life the darkness of sorrow came over the family. The father was called from among them, etc"

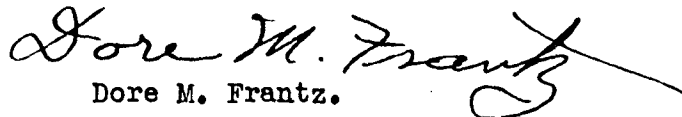
A few years at the home of a step-father, Leonard Houtz, then at the age of thirteen, in company with the whole family, except her oldest brother, Samuel Frantz, she came to Logan Co., near the present site of Bellefontaine. There in the wilderness, they made their new home. In a few years a substantial brick house was built!

" With a sense of filial duty she now agreed to forego the pleasures of society (she had evidently become about of age) and remain with her again widowed mother; two brothers having their home there also."

That is all I can give you about the connection between the ~~HEM~~ Houtzes and Frantzes. I have no record of the marriage of a Houtz woman (who might have been the daughter of Christian Houtz) who married a Frantz. Such a marriage, I do not believe occurred at Fincastle, for I believe I have a complete list of Frantz marriages there up to 1850.

The Jacob Frantzes in Va., I have as yet not looked into, but I have some minor details about them. A Jacob Frantz is the ancestor of about all the Frantzes now living there, and he was not of our line. If you run across anything that would help identify my great grand mother, Mary Frantz, who was Mary Garst, I will be thankful.

Sincerely,


Dore M. Frantz.