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Naomi Brubaker
7115 E. Tipp-Elizabeth Rd.
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Dear Naomi,

I hope that address is correct. The name and address were "smeared" on the envelope. Your name was on your letter but nothing inside with the address.

THANK YOU very much for all the information!! I haven't begun to process it in the computer yet. I wanted to get a "thank you" note off in today's mail.

I enjoyed your "trivia." It does interest me. I, too, am a widow and I get very, very lonely. I'm still a full-time working woman but my hobby (genealogy) is an effort to keep busy and not think about how lonely I get. I LOVE FAMILY HISTORY!

A little about myself and my project to publish Frantz Families Kith & Kin. I went to Old German Baptist Brethren (OGBB) Annual Meeting for the first time in 1989, in Modesto, at the invitation of Lowell Beachler. It was all very new and exciting to me; I didn't know that aspect of my ancestry. Lowell stood with me near Donald and Freda's house and gestured across the grounds where thousands of members were standing around visiting. Lowell said: "You are related to more than half of these people." He introduced me to many "cousins" who later exchanged their family history with me.

Over the last seven years I've attended three annual meeting (and would have been to more if time and money had permitted). I've "met" many "cousins" personally and have corresponded with dozens more. My best sources of information have been Lela Landes Shoup, Gladys Cool Royer, Rosa Hufford Yoder Brovont -- and Lowell Beachler (among OGBB). Hazel Frantz Turner (Ch./Brethren) has provided lots of info, too.

If you see a copy of Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin you will see that I list Dore M. Frantz Sr. as the first name for the compilers. He was preparing a book over 50 years ago. I was blessed to be able to contact his (grown) children and get a copy of "the Dore Frantz Manuscript" and incorporate it with all the other information that I've collected.

I have stated over-and-over that I am a "compiler" of family history; I'm not a "researcher" as such but, of course, have done research in the process of compiling....

As a "compiler" I am at the mercy of those who provide me with information. Sometimes people supply "straight line" info about their ancestry. They just have their ancestors and little or no info on the siblings. Sometimes I don't have dates -- or someone sent "estimate" or "circa" dates. This may explain why I have your husband as the fifth child and not the first child.

If you see a set of Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin, you will be able to check my sources. I've listed where I got every bit of info. If it came from Marwin Brubaker than I have his name and address. I have an enormous amount of info from Marwin before he published John and Anna Myers Brubaker 1750-1995. (Yes, his book is a terrible disappointment. It can only be used like a dictionary. A quick "look up" without a lot of supportive info.)

If my info came from (example) The Studebaker Family in America I list all the publication info, author, page numbers, etc. If it came from Rosa's Yoder Brovont's Summaries from the Vindicator then volume numbers, page numbers, etc.

I may eventually publish a revised edition of Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin. I'm hoping that folks will send additional information regarding their families when they see where I have "bare branches" or wrong info.

Booklets like yours have been so very helpful to me in the past. Gladys Cool Royer, Alva Landes, and others, have sent me their little booklets. Please write back and tell me the name of your booklet because I will use that as my source with page numbers, author, publication info, etc.

There are so many families that have a connection to immigrant Michael Frantz. My computer database has over 36,000 names. I have had to include Brubaker's, Neher's, Crist's, Studebaker's, etc., etc. because they are all intermarried. I have to check every book and booklet that has OGGB families. PETERS, for example. I'm sure there is family info in that book that I need but I haven't ordered it yet. Flora/Flory is another name that is interwoven through FRANTZ. (Lela Landes Shoup has written to tell me that she is AMAZED at all the OGGB in Frantz Families Kith & Kin that she knows but didn't know they had Frantz connections.)

Lord Willing, time permitting, etc., I hope to include descendants right down to the present. I even told Lawrence Crist that I'm "greedy." I want names, birth and death dates, birth and death locations, names of parents of in-laws, marriage dates and locations.... I want biographical sketches and obituaries. Of course, all this information means an enormous amount of pages in printed form. I'm thrilled that I've had the opportunity to document over 17,500 direct descendants of immigrant Michael Frantz. I'm thrilled that you have sent me more info for my database. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Naomi, my children aren't interested in genealogy, either. They aren't even interested in looking at the books and booklets that I have prepared. When I'm dead and gone; when they are "senior citizens" (like myself) then they may sit down and read about their ancestry. At least your children will sit down and read about it now.

Sincere best wishes from

Laura