

## MICHAEL FRANTZ I

Michael Frantz I was born September 1<sup>1</sup>, 1687, in the small town of St. Jacob, Canton of St. Jacob (?Joseph,<sup>2</sup>) near Basel, Switzerland.<sup>3,4</sup> His parents' names are not known but it is thought he had brothers Balser and Christian, b 1685, who were also born there and came to America in 1727 and 1732. Basel is on the northern border of Switzerland at the junction of Switzerland, France and Germany.

Michael was probably baptized into the state church as an infant, but later embraced the Anabaptist or Mennonite faith as did his brothers. The Anabaptists were persecuted in Switzerland at this time, and upon the invitation of Elector Karl Ludwig of the Palatinate in southern Germany, many fled to the Rhineland. Here it meant freedom from persecution if the Mennonites paid annually for that protection.

The information by Richard Davis in the next paragraph probably supersedes information in the next couple paragraphs concerning the location of the village where Michael lived in the Palatinate. Hassloch, Haschlof, Hosselinshof has all been named below as locations.

In 1709 at Hosslingshof (of the Mauer congregation) in the Palatinate is listed "Farm 1 - Hans Frantz 54; wife; daughters?; Michael 19; Hans 17; Baltser 14. Farm 2 Christian Frantz 24, wife, Christian Frantz, age 3." (EMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND PRISONERS, V2, 1997 by Richard Davis, Provo, UT).<sup>4a</sup>

In 1999 Dale and Gladys Royer were very near this village which is southeast of Heidelberg. Although Hosslingshof is not on the Michelin map, the villages listed before (Schatthausen) and after (Wossingen) are on the map. This is in the Sinsheim-Steinsfurt area where many Anabaptists lived and we visited Steinsfurt and several other villages.

The Matthias Frantz history states Michael in 1717 was paying 6 florins annually for that protection at the village of Hassloch, south of Ludwigshafen, as shown by Mennonite records.<sup>5</sup> His brothers also settled here as shown by the same records. This probably is an error as although the MATTHIAS FRANTZ FAMILY mentions Hassloch as the village where Michael lived, the original source of this has not been found. Helmstadt east of the Rhine lists a Michael around this time as well as much later.<sup>5a</sup> "Geischichte der bernischen Taufe" by Ernst Mueller, Fraunfeld 1895,<sup>5b</sup> lists Christian Frantz "on the Haschlof one hour from Neustadt, northward." This place has been erroneously identified several times as Hassloch, north of Neustadt. Actually the place is Hosselinshof, north of 7106 Neuenstadt am Kocher.<sup>5c</sup> This village has not been located as of yet.

Christian Frantz, wife and 11 children (List A) is listed on List B as Michael Frantz, wife and 11 children. This is probably? the same family and came on ship Samuel in 1732, as given in "Eighteenth Century Emigrants in the Northern Kraichgau" by Annette Burgert, 1983.<sup>5c</sup>

Michael paid this tribute money annually until 1720 when at the age of 33 he went to Krefeld<sup>6</sup> in the northern part of Germany where many Mennonites also lived. The Brethren had also lived here but most of them emigrated to America in 1719 before Michael moved here. It is possible he might have first met the Brethren here as Peter Becker lived here until 1719 when he emigrated to America and later baptized Michael Frantz in America.

Michael may have married here as Michael, Jr. was born in 1725<sup>7</sup>, and he would have been living here at Krefeld at this time.

Many Anabaptists, or Mennonites, were emigrating to America at this time. Although they could worship in Germany, they had to pay taxes and also sometimes were arrested for various activities. William Penn paid a visit to Pennsylvania inviting new settlers to his "Penn's Woods" - Pennsylvania. The first Mennonite settlers came to Germantown in 1683, other groups came in 1710 and 1717, and many came around 1727 and later. So Michael Frantz probably partially came seeking more religious freedom.

"Michael Franse, altogether 5 persons" appears on a list of "45 more (who) were starting on their way to Pennsylvania, most of whom no doubt would need assistance" in a 1727 letter prepared by three Mennonite ministers then living in the Palatinate.<sup>8</sup> This could possibly mean Michael, wife, and 3 children or some other family members.

Michael, his wife, son Michael, and daughter Maria?, and another person? sailed from Rotterdam on the ship Molly, landing at Philadelphia on September 30, 1727.<sup>9,10</sup> Wives and children's names were usually not given on the ship lists which might account for the tradition of his wife dying before he came or on the voyage over.

When Michael landed in Philadelphia he was 40 years of age, a mature and educated man, who had with him a son about 2 years of age, and may have had a wife and daughter. He is said to have settled in Cocalico Twp. near Ephrata along the Conestoga Creek.<sup>11</sup> One researcher says he purchased this land although no land records have been found.<sup>12</sup> Tradition says the land he owned may have been the place mentioned later where a church meeting was held in the barn<sup>13</sup>, but warrant maps show this barn to have been on land patented to John Landis in 1734.<sup>14</sup> The Cocalico Creek is directly behind this barn.

Records say that "by 1727 Lancaster Co. immigration had reached such proportions that large groups who wanted to settle together were handled by being sent to the back parts of the province. No application to the commissioners of property or warrant to survey was required. Palatine Germans and Scots-Irish were particularly involved." Also "between 1718 and 1732 it became common for settlers to occupy land before obtaining a warrant."<sup>14a</sup>

He was baptized into the Brethren Church on September 29, 1734 in the Conestoga congregation by Peter Becker. He was now 47 years old.<sup>15</sup> Conrad Beissel, the first minister at Conestoga, had deviated from the custom of the Brethren, especially by observing Saturday for the Lord's Day. He had left in 1728 and in 1729 11 members had voted with him for Saturday and 27 members favored Sunday with the Germantown brethren.<sup>16</sup>

The trouble still continued. On the day Michael was baptized in 1734 a council was held in a barn near Millway to determine the loyalty of the members. After the council Michael supposedly placed a rail on either the floor of the barn or on the barn hill outside. He then requested all who wished to stay with the Germantown brethren to step to the right, he leading the way, and all who wished to join Beissel to step to the left of the rail.<sup>17</sup>

(Tradition<sup>18</sup> says this barn might have been where Michael Frantz lived but land warrant maps show it to have been patented to John Landus in 1734.<sup>19</sup> This barn was still standing in 1991 but plans had been made to tear it down due to its deteriorating condition. A storm in 1991 did some more damage to it and plans were made to tear it down in the near future. 20 members stayed with the Brethren. This same day, or "almost immediately after his baptism" he was commissioned by Peter Becker to serve as an exhorter for the Conestoga congregation which was quite a distance from Germantown where Becker and Mack were.<sup>20</sup>

The following year, 1735, he was made an elder. Beginning with 20 members at the time Michael Frantz was made an exhorter at the time of the organization of the Conestoga congregation, Conestoga had grown to 200 members at the time of Michael's death in 1748.<sup>21</sup> He was also overseer of the church at White Oak, and the first elder in Tulpehocken and Bern townships in Berks Co. which was organized as early as 1748.<sup>22</sup>

Michael was 47 when he was commissioned to preach and evidently was not afraid to speak his mind. He led the above incident at the barn to decide the loyalty of the members in 1734. Count Zinzendorf of the Moravian church came from Europe in 1742 trying to unite all of the German religions in America. Michael Frantz evidently spoke out against this as minister George Adam Martin, sympathetic to Zinzendorf records as follows "Now I return to our yearly meeting at which the European ban-branch continually became a topic of conversation so that you also had to contend with these quarrels until A. D. (Abraham Duboy) and M. F. (Michael Frantz) died."<sup>23</sup>

The Germantown congregation called on him in 1747 for advice on a matter of church polity.<sup>24</sup>

He was also an author, writing both poetry and prose. His works were not published until after he died, the Sauer Press printing some of his works in 1770.<sup>25</sup>

Ann<sup>25a</sup> Maria Frantz (possibly a daughter) was baptized on March 23, 1746. Michael Frantz (evidently a son of the elder) was baptized on April 24, 1748.<sup>26</sup>

Alexander Mack Jr. in a list of deaths gives no dates, but lists Bro. Michael Frantz; his wife, the sister; and his daughter, the sister. This would appear to be Michael Frantz 1, his wife, and his daughter.<sup>2</sup> Brumbaugh in a list of members (which is probably the same Alexander Mack Jr. list gives Michael Frantz died Dec, 1747; wife of Michael; daughter of Michael.<sup>27</sup>

Michael probably died in December 1748 at the age of 61. Christopher Sauer lists "around Christmas 1747" as the death date.<sup>28</sup> Brumbaugh also gives the December 1747 death date in a list of members<sup>29</sup>, but later says "Elder Frantz died in 1748 which is the date given by official records of the congregation in my possession. Morgan Edwards also gives 1748."<sup>30</sup>

The 1747 date must be wrong as Zug says "Michael Frantz, overseer of the church in Conestoga and White Oak has laid his hand upon Bro. Michael Pfautz on Sep. 25, 1748 and has ordained and confirmed him in his place, with the united assistance of the Brethren."<sup>31</sup> Zug says "in the year 1748 is our elder and overseer Michael Frantz departed this life."<sup>32</sup> Then later Zug gives Sep. 25, 1748<sup>33</sup> date as the date of death which is unlikely if he was able to ordain Bro. Pfautz on that day. Durnbaugh also gives 1748 as year of death from the Brumbaugh records.<sup>34</sup> Frantz researchers are giving December 1748 as the probable date of death.<sup>35</sup>

According to Brumbaugh's HISTORY OF THE BRETHREN, p 301 - "His remains are buried in the old graveyard near the Cocalico."<sup>36</sup> This location is unknown today. One source says he may be buried in Middle Creek cemetery, which is near Middle Creek.<sup>37</sup> Emig Royer bought this ground in 1743 or 1747 more likely and is said to have given ground for the cemetery but the first known grave (other than probably his own in 1769) was Michael Pfautz (also 1769).<sup>38</sup>

No will has been found for Michael I.<sup>39</sup>

NOTES ON MICHAEL FRANTZ I

1. Flory, Rolland, Lest We Forget and Tales of YesterYears, Vol. 2, 1974, p. 393, p. 177, from "a historical sketch of the Frantz family from a document signed by John Alpha Garst giving a historical sketch from the book of my great-grandfather, Daniel Frantz, concerning his father, Michael the second, and his grandfather, Michael the first, the immigrant.

Frantz, A. D., now deceased, of Plymouth Wisconsin, chart - "Memo of Daniel 4 including what Daniel 3 told and Gospel Visitor and Almanock, pub. by H. L. Kurtz."

2. Holsinger, Henry R., History of the Tunkers and the Brethren Church, 1901, page 327. Flory, *ibid.*, p 177 - Canton of St. Joseph.

3. Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc, Philadelphia, Pa, and Oak Park, IL, 1983, p. 508, 509.

Brumbaugh, M. G., History of the German Baptist Brethren in Europe and America, 1899, p300 (pp 58, 283, 298-310, 317-321, 331)

Kimmel, John, Chronicles of the Brethren, pp 30, 33.

Mallott, Floyd, Studies in Brethren History, 1954, p 71.

4. Frantz, E. Harold & others, The Genealogy of the Matthias Frantz Family of Berks Co., Pennsylvania, Boyer Printing and Binding co., Lebanon, Pa, 1972, pp 3-10. Mr. Frantz is dead and location of his research papers is unknown. Original source of this information has not been found.

4a. In 1709 at Hosslingshof (of the Mauer congregation) in the Palatinate is listed "Farm 1 - Hans Frantz 54; wife; daughters?; Michael 19; Hans 17; Baltser 14. Farm 2 Christian Frantz 24, wife, Christian Frantz, age 3." (EMIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND PRISONERS, V2, 1997 by Richard Davis, Provo, UT).

5. Flory, *ibid.*, p 177.

Frantz, E. Harold, *ibid.*, p 9., original source unknown.

This indicates Hassloch records available that show Michael there in 1717 and until 1720, Baltzer until 1727, and Christian until 1731.

- 5a. Mennonite Quarterly Review, 1940-41, Harold S. Bender, Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1774, Originals in "Karlsruhe Generallandesarchiv," State Archives at Karlsruhe Germany.

C. Henry Smith obtained a set of copies of originals prepared for him by official archivist of Karlsruhe Archives.

Guth and Mast, Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793, completely revised 1987 does not list any Frantz at Hassloch. hey do list Michael Frantz at Helmstadt in 1717, 1724 but also in 1774.

If Michael Frantz lived at Hassloch (which is doubtful) it is interesting that Emig Royer lived near Hassloch and was confirmed in the Reformed Church at Hassloch in 1721 and 14 years later he was baptized into the Brethren Church in Pennsylvania where Michael Frantz was elder and it is possible Michael could have baptized Emig.

5b. Mueller, Ernst, "Geischichte der bernischen Taufer," Fraunfeld 1895.

5c. Burgert, Annette, "Eighteenth Century Emigrants in the Northern Kraichgau, 1983, p 421.

6. Frantz, E. Harold, *ibid.*, p 9., original source unknown. Flory, *ibid.*, p 177.

7. Frantz, E. Harold, *ibid.*,  
Flory, *ibid.*

Phyllis Kendall, Crockett Tx postcard writes "Michael Frantz came to US 1727 b Switz was m to Mary Garst (1st) given by Daniel Kurtz as told of Parish of St. Basel-land but do not know the place in Switzerland."

8. Smith, C. Henry, *Mennonite Emigration to Pennsylvania in eighteenth Century*, 1929, p 137, p 181. (Another Michael Frantz, wife and 11 children planning to emigrate is listed in a 1732 letter from Mennonite ministers. No Christ Frantz is listed in this letter but a 1732 ship's list includes Christ Sr. and Jr. and gives Michael as a child under 16. Smith says if this letter's list of names is correct, Michael may have died at sea.)

Page 68 - Much of this information in this chapter is taken from Mueller as well as from his source of information, the documents in the Archives of the Mennonite Church at Amsterdam. Page 197, footnote 55 (and 51) mentions Mueller 210 - Mueller, Ernst, *Gesichte der bernischen Taufe*, 1896 (reprint 198-) (1731), Haschoff (stunde von Neustadt nordwärts), Christian Frantz..

INDEX to Smith, by Arta Johnson, 198-.

See updated information from Burgert, Annette, "18th Century Emigrants from Northern Kraichgau."

9. Strassberger, Ralph B. & Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, V 2, 1934.

10. *Brethren Encyclopedia*, *ibid.*, p 509.

11. Frantz, E. Harold, *ibid.*, p 10.

Frantz, Dore M., Clark Co., Ohio, now deceased, manuscript c1941, "A Notable Early Elder" microfiche of much of his work in possession of Lorraine Frantz Edwards on page 3 says tradition says "on the Cocalico creek near where Middle Creek and Hammer creek join it, the land now being owned by an oil co. This seems at this time to be without satisfactory proof." p 3.  
and March 12 1947 letter. (however, this may be part of the land owned by John Landis in 1734 land warrant).

12. Flory, *ibid.*, p 177, 179.

Frantz, Dore, *ibid.* p 7, and March 12, 1947 letter.

13. Frantz, Dore, *ibid.*, p 3.

14. Warrant map of portion of Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co. PA.

15. Brethren Encyclopedia, *ibid.*, p 509.

Brumbaugh, Martin G., *ibid.*, pp 299-303, 307-315.

Durnbaugh, Donald F., *The Brethren in Colonial America*, The Brethren Press, Elgin, Il, 1967, p 180.

(pp180-183, 447-459, 599, 606,633)

Frantz, Dore M., *ibid.*, p 4.

Zug, S. R., editor, *History of the Church of the Brethren of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania*, 1915, pp81-87 and pp 325-327. (pp78, 81-87, 272, 325-327, 378, 564,644.

16. Zug, *ibid.*, p 325.

17. Brethren Encyclopedia, *ibid.*, p 332.

Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 299.

Zug, *ibid.*, 325-327.

18. Frantz, Dore, *ibid.*, p 3.

19. Warrant map, *ibid.*

20. Brethren Encyclopedia, *ibid.*, p 508-509.

Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 299-301.

Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p 180.

Zug, *ibid.*, p 325-326.

21. Brethren Encyclopedia, *ibid.*

Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 302.

22. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 318, 321.  
Zug, *ibid.*, p 81.
23. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 331.  
Zug, *ibid.*, p 272.
24. Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p 448.
25. Brethren Encyclopedia, *ibid.*, p 508.  
Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p 447-459.  
Schwarzenau, V. 2, No. 2, October 1940-January 1941, by Alexander Mack Historical Society, Chicago IL, pp 78-82.
- 25a. Christian Bomberger list, Church of Brethren Archives, Elgin, IL, sent by Clarence "Chip" Wise to Gladys Royer.
26. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 309, 310.
27. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 58.  
Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p 599, 633.
28. Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p. 606, 633 - d December 1747.
29. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 58 - d December 1747.
30. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 299 - d 1748.
31. Zug, *ibid.*, p 83 - ordained Pfautz on Sep 15 1748
32. Zug, *ibid.*, p 82 - d 1748
33. Zug, *ibid.*, p 327 - d Sep 25, 1748
34. Durnbaugh, *ibid.*, p 180. - d 1748 as given by Brumbaugh.  
Brethren Encyclopedia 1747, p 509; 1748, p 508.
35. Edwards, Lorraine Frantz, P. O. Box 2076, Lancaster CA 93539-2076 - Michael Frantz I family researcher
36. Brumbaugh, *ibid.*, p 301.  
Frantz, E. Harold, *ibid.*, p 10.
37. Frantz, Dore, letter, March 12, 1947.
38. Francis, J. G. History of the Royer Family in America, p.19.  
and -  
Edwards, Lorraine Frantz, *ibid.*  
  
Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Newsletter, V. 18, No. 1, Spring 1986.  
Frantz, A. D., Plymouth, Wis., now deceased, chart.
39. Fulton, Eleanor, INDEX TO WILL BOOK OF LANCASTER CO. PA.

Corrections, comments, additions welcomed.

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*Copied from Gladys Royer's<sup>8</sup>  
collection 8/30/2000.*



- 1724 - Conestoga organized by Peter Becker  
 Located south of Mill Creek with 7 members - Beissel, Shaffer, Moyer, Hohn and Frederick  
 Soon removed to Rudolph Nagele home in Earl Twp where worshipped 7 yrs
- 1728 - Beissel withdrew and formed the Ephrata group
- 1729 - Emig Reyer had child baptized into Reformed/Lutheran Ch, New Holland
- 1734 - March, " " " " " " (not living there) records
- 1734 - Sep 29 - Michael Frantz was baptized and commissioned to preach  
 Same day division at barn near Millway with rail took place  
 11 members went with Beissel (Eastern Pa book)  
 20-27 members went with Becker (Eastern Pa book)
- 1729-  
 1734 37 persons baptized (Eastern Pa, book)
- 1734-5 Emig Reyer and wife, George Reyer and wife baptized  
 Brumbaugh names these with Sep 29 group  
 Eastern Pa author who saw original records at Bareville (Conestoga), 1855?,  
 names Sep 29 group and Royers not mentioned. He says Royers baptized  
 1735
- 1735 - Emig Reyer bought ground Leacock Twp south side of Mill Creek
- 1747 - Emig Royer bought ground on Middle Creek
- 1748 - Michael Frantz died and buried in "the old burying ground near the Cocalico
- 1769 - Emig Royer died - said to have given ground for Middle Creek cemetery
- 1769 - Michael Pfoutz died 1 month after Emig - first recorded burial "
- 1770 - Daniel, Christopher, John & Peter (Emig had sons by these names) were members at Middle Creek
- 1770 - Catharine Royer - member at Middle Creek (Conestoga) - wife still living 1769 and a Catharine baptized 1769 (he had daughter Catharine also)
- 1772 - Conestoga divided -  
 Swatara - Berks, Lebanon, Dauphin, Schuylkill counties  
 White Oak - northern Lancaster Co.  
Conestoga - around Ephrata
- 1860 - Eby meetinghouse built - Conestoga members met in homes until then  
 Monterey
- 1864 Conestoga divided -  
 \*J.G. Francis, p 344 pic says this  
 1 WEST CONESTOGA - (4 houses of worship) house second house at Middle Creek  
 Middle Creek - built 1874, remodeled 1939. Built new 1961, 1979 addition.  
 Lehns - 40x50 Mannheim Twp - closed before 1939  
 Lexington - 44x50 Lexington - closed 1939  
 Millport - brick, Disston - closed before 1939 - union
- 1872 - bldg bought at Mulberry & Grant, Lancaster
- 1891 - West Conestoga and Lancaster City divided  
 1893 Lancaster City exchanged with Methodists on N. Charlotte St.  
 1959 " " moved to Sunset Ave.
- 1913 - West Conestoga and Akron divided -  
 Steinmetz 1847-1974  
 Akron 1898-1974  
 Akron new church built 1974

- 1914 - West Conestoga and Lititz divided -  
 1887 - Lititz built Willow St.  
 1926 - new house built Center St.  
 1961 - new house built Orange St.

1864 (Conestoga divided - Cont'd)

2 Conestoga

- 1860 - Eby house built, 40x50 brick Monterey - sold 1946 31  
 1888 - Bird in Hand house built, 50x80 - sold 1928  
 1891 - Intercourse house purchased, 36x55 - sold 1915  
 Earlville or Carpenters, 40x50, also used

1897 Conestoga divided -

- 1 Conestoga -  
 1914-1915 Bareville (Leola) house built, 30x50, remodeled 1951, 1960 31  
 2 Spring Grove - Blue Ball  
 1864 - Kempers near Ephrata built - new Kemper built 1951 18-19?  
 1875 - Blue Ball built - new Blue Ball built 1951 33?  
 3 Mechanic Grove - 4 mi south of Quarryville 57  
 1898 - meetinghouse built - enlarged 1928  
 meetinghouse bought  
 1959 - new church built  
 Offshoots - 1928, Jennersville, 1978 Lampterer Fellow., 1983 Gap F

3 Ephrata

- 1899 divided -  
 1 Ephrata - church built 1889 Church & Cloacust, 1974 built Crescent Ave  
 2 Springville (Mohlers) - changed to Mohler name in 1965  
 1854 - Springville built - sold 1923  
 1866 - Blainsport house built - closed 1940  
 1872 - Mohler built, burned, rebuilt 1898, remodeled 1949  
 1877 - Denver built - sold 1938  
 1909 - Cocalico built - organized separately from Springville 1959  
 Union houses - Steinmetz blt 1847, razed 1939, Schoeneck, Bucher,  
 Flickingers, Miller used.

You asked as to the origins of certain lines. I do have Hans Zaug born 1620 in Canton. He married Barbli wyss of Zug Switzerland. Now Michael Frantz came to US 1727 b Switz was m to Mary Garst (1st) given by Daniel Kurtz as told of Parish of St. Basel-land, but donot know the place in Switz.

Really think this is all that I have of any possible help at the present.

At your convenience, I would be most happy to receive any information that you have and care to share.

May The Good Lord richly bless you two and the ones in your group during your trip and may you arrive home safely.

Phyllis 45 →