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Monday, August 23, 1993

Nancy B. Pratt
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Dear Nancy,

I received my Summer issue of Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Newsletter on Saturday and read your query. I'm full of anticipation and expectation hoping that you will be able to HELP ME with Sollenberger information.

I'm enclosing a computer printout re: my Elizabeth Sollenberger married to Michael Frantz. Do you have info on this family? I'm particularly interested in her parents, grandparents, siblings, etc., etc.

I will eventually publish a book on the descendants of immigrant Michael Frantz. I have over 17,000 Frantz, and collateral lines, in my computer database (in my Frantz database). I have several other (smaller) databases on other non-Frantz ancestors. I use the Roots3 genealogy software program which prints in book format so someday I'll say "Now!" and start printing "camera ready" pages for reproduction by a publisher.

Meanwhile, I'm trying to "iron out some wrinkles" before I go into print. There are so many errors already in print re: the Frantz family that I hope to correct and thoroughly document. One problem has to do with two Michael Frantzes. The Michael, son of Christian Frantz III, is often identified as Michael, son of Michael II and Magdalena Zug. In fact a story was printed in F.O.B.G. Newsletter re: The Lost Michael Frantz III (but he wasn't Michael III !!!!!).

Nancy, I consider myself a "compiler" rather than a "researcher" (although I do research, too). Most of my information came from somewhere else and/or someone else. With the Roots3 genealogy software program, I can document where every bit of information comes from. Note that footnote #1 indicates that my information re: Elizabeth Sollenberger came from The Shanks Family of Pequea Creek and the L.D.S. F.H.C. Ancestral File. (Ancestral File probably has the info because I submitted 1000's of names, on computer disk, to Salt Lake.) I've never seen any Sollenberger

family histories in the libraries that I have available to me. I don't believe there are any Sollenbergers (and similar spellings) listed in L.D.S. F.H.C. Library Catalog.

Well, you get the picture!?! I will be so very grateful for Sollenberger information and/or clues of where to search. Because the two Michaels are so controversial, I'll love to find more documentation on Elizabeth, married to one of the Michaels. (I hope my letter makes sense. I'm thinking, and typing, as I go along.)

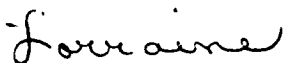
A lady entered D.A.R. and Daughters of American Colonists on Martin Wenger (D.A.R.) & Michael Frantz (D.A.C.). She has Martin Wenger (grandson of the Rev. War soldier) married to Elizabeth Frantz and proceeds to document Elizabeth as a descendant of Michael Frantz I and II. Well, Martin Wenger's wife Elizabeth was the daughter of Michael, SON OF CHRISTIAN FRANTZ III (Christian Frantz II, Christian Frantz I). I'm documenting all this to submit to D.A.R. and D.A.C. hoping they will correct their records.

Anyway, now you know a few of the "wrinkles" that I'm trying to iron out before I publish a Frantz book. I'm almost paranoid about perpetuating errors in print.

I will gladly reimburse you for photocopies and postage. If you send photocopies from a book, please copy the title page, too, and publication info (usually on the back of title page) or handwrite the title and publication info. As I said at the beginning of this letter, I'm eager for any information that you may be able to provide.

Very best wishes in your research.

Warmest regards,

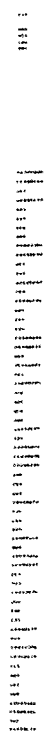


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735 Castleman Drive
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September 1, 1993

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Dear Lorraine,

I enjoyed your letter and am always happy to hear of someone working on similar lines. The SOLLENBERGERS were collaterals of mine through the STOVERS.

At the outset I must say I know nothing of Elizabeth Sollenberger as you describe her. The parents of the Sollenbergers who married the Stovers in Botetourt Co. are known, and I have only tried to find the descendants of the three Solenbarger-Stover couples.

However, one does collect a lot of material in the process and it is likely that the enclosed just MAY refer to your lady. In Keith Nonemaker's "Early Sollenbergers of America" is an outline giving the children of Ulrich, and listing #114 Elizabeth Sollenberger as b. 1746-1753. He does not elaborate which leads me to believe he knew no more, but she certainly was the right age to be a wife of Michael Frantz³, and probably in the right area. There is a list of her siblings, but it may not be very helpful.

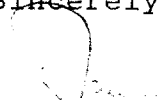
The article was in 1989, and Keith may have found additional information since then. The 1983 article covers John Sollenberger, son of Michael of Virginia, who remained in PA. His Elizabeth was too young, and she married someone else. As you can see, Michael of VA's Elizabeth was too young and married one of my Stovers.

I know most works in your Notes, but not James Shanks' SHANKS FAMILY FROM PEQUEA CREEK, nor Hazel Frantz Turner's MICHAEL FRANTZ DESCENDANTS. I hope you will copy me any pages of these referring to the children etc. of Michael (d.c. 1817) and Elizabeth Frantz.

I have one other urgent need. ANYTHING relating to: Mary (Polly) Frantz and husband Daniel Stover who m. Botetourt Co. 29 Apr. 1802. Descendants are having a real problem identifying their children, though it is known they were in Washington Co. IN by late 1820s. If you know anything about them, I would be most interested.

Thank you for writing and I hope the enclosed may be of some help to you. I would be happy to send a check for copies re the above, and look forward to hearing from you. Good luck to both of us!

Sincerely,


(Mrs.) Nancy B. Fratt

The Early Sollenbergers of America

by Keith A. Nonemaker*

In the previous article, "Early Descendants of John Sollenberger of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania," I traced the story of the Sollenbergers of Cumberland County during the nineteenth century.¹ Recently discovered documents have shed new light on the earlier history of the Sollenberger family in America.

The first document of interest is in the deed books of Botetourt County, Virginia.² It is difficult to read, not only because of the handwriting, but also because the three-page document apparently consists of only two long sentences. It reads in part as follows:

Whereas Michael Solinbarger late of Botetourt county state of Virginia died intestate possessed of two tracts of land the first of sd tracts contains by the title paper 174 acres and was granted to Carvan (?) by patent bearing date the ___ day of ___ the property of which became vested in Edwd Carvan (?) who sold + conveyed the same to Joseph Robinson by deed bearing date the ___ day of ___ + the said Robinson sold + conveyed the same to the said Michael Solenbarger by deed bearing date the 8th day of April 1794 and the second of said tracts contains 157 (?) acres + is part of a tract of 150 acres granted to William McClanahan by patent bearing date the 1st June 1782 + the said McClanahan sold + conveyed the said 107 (?) acres to the said Solenbarger by deed bearing date the 13th of June 1797 the said Michael Solinbarger decd left ten children to wit, Mary Solinbarger who intermarried with John Smith (now decd) Sarah Solenbarger who intermarried with Paul Ziglar John Solenbarger David Solenbarger now decd Joseph Solenbarger Susannah Solenbarger who intermarried with Jacob Stover, Samuel Solinbarger Michael Solenbarger, Elizabeth Solenbarger who intermarried with Michael Stover Christiana Solenbarger who intermarried with Jacob Shaver and whereas Joseph Solenbarger

one of the above Legators did purchase of the said David deceased in his lifetime his undivided moiety + share in said Lands for the sum of eighty pounds Virginia Currency which sum the said David recd as per receipt the said Joseph purchased the undivided shares of the sd tract + Samuel Solenbarger for the sum of eighty pounds each which sums they recd + bound themselves to make letters to the said Joseph before they were married + the said Joseph purchased the undivided moieties of shares of all the other Legators in the said Lands for the like sum of Eighty pounds each and whereas the said Legator hath not made to the said Joseph Letter to their respective shares of the said lands and the said Joseph hath sold two hundred acres part of the said Lands to Jacob Gish the said Legators therefore mutually agree to jointly with the said Joseph convey the said tract of 200 acres to the said Gish. Therefore this Indenture made this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred + ten between Mary Smith Paul Ziglar + Sarah his wife Michael Frantz administrator of David Solenbarger decd Joseph Solenbarger + Susanna his wife Michael Stover + Elizabeth his wife Jacob Shaver + Christiana his wife all of Botetourt County + State of Virginia + Samuel Solenbarger of Rockingham County + Michael Solenbarger of Augusta County + State aforesaid Legators of Michael Solenbarger decd of the one part and Jacob Gish of the said County of Botetourt of the other part Witnesseth that the said Legators for + in consideration of the sum of four hundred + eighty five pounds Current money of the sd state to...in land paid by the said Gish the receipt whereof they do by these presents Acknowledge hath granted bargained + sold + by these presents doth grant bargain sell assign + confirm unto the said Gish a certain tract or parcel of Land containing by survey two hundred acres be the same more or less as is contained in the transaction hereafter maintained. 125 acres thereof is part of the aforesaid tract of 174 + 75 acres the residue thereof is part of the aforesaid tract of 107 acres.

(Here there appears a detailed description of the land, which is said to lie on the waters of (Leaking?) Creek. Neighbors mentioned include Stover, Edward Carvin, Millar, Markey, and Leonard Hintz. The document then continues:)

...by these presents in testimony whereof the said Mary Smith Paul Ziglar + Sarah his wife Michael Frantz as administrator of David Solenbarger decd; Joseph Solenbarger + Susannah his wife Jacob Stover + Susannah his wife Michael Stover + Elizabeth his wife + Jacob Shaver + Christiana his wife Samuel Solenbarger + Michael Solenbarger hath hereunto set their hands + seals the day + year first above written But it is always to be understood that the said Legators are not liable for the right of David in said Land of Sarah Solenbarger the widow of the said Michael Solenbarger deceased neither are they liable for undivided share in the said Lands of the aforesaid John Solenbarger —

witnesses present:

<i>John Pantia</i>	<i>Maria Smith (Seal)</i>
<i>Andrew Lewis Junr</i>	<i>Paul Zigler (Seal)</i>
<i>John Stover</i>	<i>Sarah x Ziglar (Seal)</i>
	<i>Joseph Sullinbarger (Seal)</i>
	<i>Susannah x Sullinbarger (Seal)</i>
	<i>Jacob x Stover (Seal)</i>
	<i>Susannah x Stover (Seal)</i>
	<i>Samuel Sullinbarger (Seal)</i>
	<i>Michael x Stover (Seal)</i>
	<i>Elizabeth x Stover (Seal)</i>
	<i>Jacob Shaffer (Seal)</i>
	<i>Christian x Shaver (Seal)</i>
	<i>Michael Sullinbarger (Seal)</i>

On the pages that follow are similar deeds for a second piece of land which apparently adjoins the first. This second deed bears the same date of October 9, 1810. Over two years later, two indentures were signed pertaining to the same two tracts of land. They begin as follows:

This indenture...this eighteenth day of May in the year of our lord one thousand eight hundred thirteen between John Sullenbarger of Allen Township County of Cumberland + State of Pennsylvania Farmer of the one part and Jacob Gish of Botetourt County + State of Virginia of the other part. Whereas Michael Sullenbarger late of Botetourt County aforesaid in his life time became lawfully seized in his...of fee of and in a certain tract of land situated in botetourt county aforesaid bounded + described as follows...

*Keith A. Nonemaker, 211 Market Street, New Cumberland, PA 17070, a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary, served as founding pastor along with his wife of the Iglesia de los Hermanos de Rio Prieto, Puerto Rico. Keith wrote "Early Descendants of John Sollenberger of Cumberland Co., Pa." in the Oct. 1983 *MFH*.

¹ *MFH*, Oct. 1983, p. 158.

² Book 10, pages 469-471.

The next document of interest is found in the Orphan's Court dockets of Berks County, Pennsylvania.³ It reads as follows:

Upon the Petition of Michael Solleberger eldest son of Ulrich Solleberger late of Tulpehocken Township in Berks County, setting forth that the said Ulrich lately died intestate leaving a Widow and six Children, to wit, Michael, Joseph, Samuel, Barbara now the Wife of Christian Kurtz, Elizabeth & Mary — That the said Ulrich died seized of a certain Plantation & Tract of land in the said Township of Tulphoccon and praying the Court to award an Inquest to make Partition of the said Ulrich Solleberger's Real Estate among his said Children according to law, if such Partition can be made without Prejudice to Prejudice to (sic) or spoiling the whole of the said Real Estate — but if such partition cannot be made that then the said Inquest may value & appraise the same & the Petitioner be allowed to hold the same according to law — the Court here do award an Inquest to make Partition or Valuation of the Plantation & Tract of Land aforesaid of the said Ulrich Solleberger deceased, according to the Prayer of the said Petition & agreeable to the Acts of Generall (sic) Assembly of this Province of Pennsylvania in such case made and provided — And it is ordered by the court here that a Writ issue to the Sheriff of this County directed Commanding him to summon an Inquest for the purpose aforesaid. And the same was issued accordingly.

It is clear from the above documents that John Sollenberger of Allen Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, is the son of Michael Sollenberger of Botetourt County, Virginia. It seems that Michael moved to Botetourt County about 1794.

Tax lists place him in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, until 1793. Then in 1794, he made a land purchase in Virginia. It was about that same time that John Sollenberger appears in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Michael Sollenberger, in turn, was the son of Ulrich Sollenberger, who died in Berks County in or about 1766. He and his brother Joseph were the immigrants of the Sollenberger family, having arrived September 26, 1737.

It has always been assumed that Ulrich and Joseph were brothers, but the Orphan's Court dockets confirm this when Joseph is referred to as the uncle of Ulrich's children. Joseph resided in Bern Township, Berks County, where he was warranted a tract of land on October 14, 1745, while it was still part of Lancaster County.

Other Orphan's Court entries give the

approximate ages of Ulrich's children. From these and other documents, the following outline of the early generations of the Sollenberger family has been constructed.

1 Unknown Swiss ancestor. Circumstantial evidence now points to a Swiss rather than a German origin for this family. The name may have been spelled Solleberger.

11 Ulrich Sollenberger, b. ca1716, died ca1766. He was apparently the older of the two brothers and married Mary or Maria.

111 Michael Sollenberger
b. ca1746, moved to Botetourt Co., Virginia, ca1794 and died ca1819. He married Sarah.

1111 Mary Solinbarger
married John Smith and lived in Botetourt Co., Virginia.

1112 Sarah Solenbarger
married Paul Zigar. They lived in Botetourt Co., Va.

1113 John Sollenberger
b. 1771, is the ancestor of the Cumberland Co., Pa., Sollenbergers.

1114 David Solinbarger
of Botetourt Co., Va. He was deceased by 1810.

1115 Joseph Solinbarger
m. Susanna Stover on June 26, 1799. They lived in Botetourt Co., Va.

1116 Susannah Solinbarger
m. Jacob Stover on March 22, 1798. They apparently lived in Botetourt Co., Va.

1117 Samuel Solinbarger lived in Rockingham Co., Va.

1118 Michael Solinbarger lived in Augusta Co., Va.

1119 Elizabeth Solinbarger
m. Michael Stover on June 26, 1799. They lived in Augusta Co., Va. It appears that a brother and sister married a sister and brother in a dual ceremony.

1119a Christiana Solenbarger
m. Jacob Shaver/Shaffer.
Lived in Botetourt Co., Va.

112 Barbara Sollenberger
b. ca1748, m. Christian Kurtz

113 Joseph Sollenberger b. between 1746-1753, d. ca1792, single.

114 Elizabeth Sollenberger
b. between 1746-1753

115 Samuel Sollenberger, b. between 1753-1767. He is probably the same Samuel who is taxed as a single person in Tulpehocken Twp., Berks Co., in 1784, as well as the Samuel who is taxed in Earl Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., from 1789 to 1811.

116 Mary/Maria Sollenberger
b. between 1753 and 1767

12 Joseph Sollenberger, who disappears from Bern Twp., Berks Co., Pa., after 1785. There is scant documentation for this branch of the family.

121 Joseph Sollenberger, who resided in Newton Twp., Cumberland Co., Pa., just outside of Newville, was likely a son of Joseph Sollenberger, the immigrant. He m. Esther/Hettie Kline, and d. ca1814.⁴

122 Abraham/Abram Sollenberger, who appeared in Tulpehocken Twp. from 1779-1782 was probably a son of Joseph. He is, on one occasion, referred to as a "Tory" or British loyalist. This epithet was often used in reference to the Anabaptists who refused to take sides in the British conflict with the colonies. In 1784, the tax list contains an entry for "Smith, Peter, for Abram Sollenberger's est." This may not imply that Abraham had died. Smith may have been an agent selling Abraham's land after Abraham moved. In 1791, an Abraham Sollenberger appears in Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co. He may be the same person. The East Cocalico Sollenbergers are descended from Abraham.

123 Peter Sollenberger may have been a son of Joseph. He appeared in Bern Twp., Berks Co., Pa., from 1768 to 1772. He may be the same Peter who appears in Rye Twp., Cumberland (now Perry) Co., from 1779 to 1785 and in Juniata Twp., Cumberland Co., from 1793 to 1814. This latter Peter is the ancestor of the Perry County, Pa., Sollenbergers.

³ Volume 1, page 253, dated Feb. 13, 1767.

⁴ See *MFH*, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 25.

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Sept. 27, 1993

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Dear Nancy,

Thanks for the information re: the Sollenbergers. Honestly, I haven't had a minute to go over the info in detail but I have a "gut feeling" that you have provided a clue to the identity of Elizabeth Sollenberger married to Michael Frantz.

I bet I already sent you the enclosed info. I didn't go back into my files to check. This was conspicuous on my desk this weekend so I did a printout and decided to get a quick note off to you today.

ALL of Arthur Shanks info (from The Shanks Family of Pequea Creek) is included in my printout(s). His primary purpose was documentation of Shank/Shanks and not collateral lines. He has a long commentary re: Michael Frantz because he was interested in proving which Michael Frantz was father-in-law....

This is ALL I have on Mary (Polly) Frantz and Daniel Stover. It sounds like you have more on them than I do. I would appreciate all the data that you care to share. As you can see, I try to document all the families. Maybe I told you that I am following female lines, too, and I want info right down to the present.

Please keep me in mind for any other information that you discover re: Sollenberger, and Mary/Polly and Daniel. When I have a little more time, I may ask you about Stover info. I have other Stovers in my database.

I'm rushing right now because I'm in a time consuming project. I'm "beta testing" the new Roots4 genealogy software program. I'm spending almost all my spare time (evenings and weekends) trying the program. On the other-hand, I don't like to have correspondence piled up on my desk. Let me know if I can be of any more help. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,

Lorraine