

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.

I 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

~~(over)~~

2-11-87

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
4152 West Ave. L-2
Quartz Hill, CA 93536-4216
(805) 943-1898
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.

The following
5 pages
from

Tom Beardsley

Very valuable
info in my
early research.

FOR YOUR FILES
T.B.-

JAMES ARTHUR SHANKS

205 SOUTH BROADWAY
PROVIDENCE, KY. 42450

October 20, 1980

Mrs. Harold Walters
New Ross, Ind. 47968
and
Thomas J. Beardsley
Lake Park, Fl. 33403

Dear Mrs. Walters and Mr. Beardsley,

I have corresponded with you in the past in an effort to identify a Michael Frantz whose daughter Elizabeth married Adam Shank in Botetourt Co VA in 1797. Adam & Elizabeth came to Kentucky between 1807 and 1811 in Muhlenburg County, Ky.

Since there were several Michael Frantz in Botetourt during the 1790 to 1830 period, they have been difficult to separate as to parents, etc. I have just returned from a research trip into VA & PA and I think I have the earlier Michaels sorted out. I am writing to both of you, Mrs. Walters and Mr. Beardsley, because you both have been a help in the past in giving me a list of children of a Michael Frantz which includes an Elizabeth Frantz who married Martin Winger and a sister Magdaline Frantz who married Henry Winger. Your lists also indicates that the Michael, father of the girls, was the son of Michael II and Magdalena Zug.

My research of the Census Record, Wills, Estate Settlements and Deed Books of Botetourt County (which includes three trips there in the last three years) indicate that the Michael Frantz whose daughters married the Wingerts was the Michael, eldest son of Christian Frantz III and Anne. I certainly do not wish to upset anyone's apple cart and I hope my research will aid in some small way to eliminate a bit of the confusion.

To evaluate the material that I am enclosing I think it is necessary to remember that the Census of 1810 shows only two Michael Frantz. One, designated as "Michael Frantz, younger" and the other as "Michael Frantz Jr". The earlier Michael Frantz II was not in the census, having died 1807/8. The Census of 1820 also shows only two Michaels. My ancestor "Michael Jr" having died in 1817, would be missing from the 1820 census and of the two shown, one would be the Michael Frantz, younger of 1810 and the other would be Michael Frantz, age 26-45, and the son of David Frantz who died c1815. (see deeds of 1815 & 1822 on page 2)

It is also necessary to remember that research of Botetourt deeds show that Christian III and Ann owned land on Tinker Creek area as well as another tract on both sides of Craven Creek which they acquired in 1795. It is clearly stated in their deeds of October 13, 1800 that they were deeding the Cravens Creek to their sons Michael and Henry.

Unfortunately for me, my research seems to turn up more proof on the parents of Michael Frantz, younger than on my ancestor Michael Frantz Jr. It does not prove Michael Frantz Jr to be the son of Michael II. It merely proves, I think, that he was not the son of Christian III and Ann. Since Michael II and Christian III both had sons named Michael when they came to Botetourt it would seem that the one who was not the son of Christian would have to be the son of Michael II.

I would appreciate your valuation of my material and if either of you have anything at all on Michael Jr. I would be most happy to have it.

Sincerely,

Arthur Shanks

MICHAEL FRANTZ

There were at least 6 different Michael Frantz in the county of Botetourt, Virginia in the year of 1800. The following pages contain information that I have put together in an effort to determine which one was the father of a Michael Frantz Jr., the father-in-law of Adam Shank of Botetourt County, Virginia and Muhlenburg County, Kentucky, who was my ancestor.

These people were of German descent and it was customary for given names to be handed down from father to son to the point of great confusion to genealogists. It must be remembered, however, that in those days, the term "Junior" (Jr.) did not always indicate a father of the same name. The term Jr. was sometimes used to indicate that one person was younger than another person of the same given name. For instance, in Botetourt county at one time there was a Michael who died in 1807/8; a Michael Jr. who died in 1817 and a Michael, identified as Michael, "the younger" who died in 1833.

Evaluation of the following information leads me to believe that the Michael Frantz II, who died in 1807/8 was the parent of my ancestor Michael Jr. and that Christian and Anne Frantz were the parents of Michael "the younger" Frantz who died in 1833.

Further research of property records of Botetourt county should resolve the problem.

The many MICHAEL FRANTZ of Botetourt County, Virginia

MICHAEL FRANTZ II, born 1727, died 1807/8 Botetourt Co., VA.

Son of Michael Frantz I, born 9-1-1687 in Parish of St. Jacob, Basel-land, Switzerland and died in Dec. 1748 in Cocalica Township, Lancaster County, Penn. Michael II married Magdalena Zug on June 12, 1748 According to "Notes from History of Brethern" by Ruth Stucky, Michael II and wife were members of the "Little Swarta Congregation" in 1770. This was in an area located along the boundary between Lebanon and Berks county, which adjoin Lancaster County, Penn. It is unknown to me the date he came to Botetourt, VA.

husband of
Magdalena Zug

MICHAEL FRANTZ who died in May 1817 in Botetourt. He was identified as Michael Frantz Jr. in a deed dated Sept. 11, 1792 and recorded at Fincastle, Botetourt County Courthouse in Deed Book 4 at page 387. He was also identified as Michael Frantz Jr. in the Botetourt Census of 1810. There was another Michael Frantz in the same census. He was identified as Michael Frantz, "the younger" and is further described in the next discussion.

Michael Frantz Jr. in his will of Sept. 26, 1816 names his wife, Elizabeth and 4 children; Son Michael of Kentucky; daughter Elizabeth, wife of Adam Shank of Kentucky; Catherine, wife of Henry Britz, of Botetourt; and Polly, wife of Daniel Stovers, of Botetourt. Son Michael was in Muhlenburg Co., Ky. Census of 1810. The location of Elizabeth and Adam from 1807 to 1811 is not known to me. They were in the Muhlenburg Co Tax list in 1811.

Son of Michael II

MICHAEL FRANTZ who died in 1833 in Botetourt. His will dated Sept 16, 1833 is at Fincastle. He is identified in the Botetourt Census of 1810 as "Michael Frantz, the younger" The census shows him with 9 children; 4 of them less than 10 years of age; 1 male-45 or older and 3 females in the age bracket of 26 to 44. This Michael is obviously younger than Michael Jr. above. Michael "the younger"s last child was also named Michael & was born 2/10/1810 and was likely in the 1810 census.

Son of Michael
Christian

MICHAEL FRANTZ son of David and Elizabeth (Garst) Frantz

David was in the Botetourt Census of 1810 but died prior to 1815. In a deed dated Aug 26, 1815, in Deed Book 11, page 635, Michael (quote) "as Executor of his father David's estate" bought from "his mother, Elizabeth" 2 tracts of land on the east bank of Mason Creek. David got the land from John Griffin 13 Sept 1795. It adjoined Samuel Mitchell and Frederick Garst (Garst) at the time of the deed.

Michael & wife, Elizabeth and his brother Samuel & wife, Mary sold 202 Acres on Mason Creek to John Rann on March 21, 1822. Deed states "is land on which Michael now lives", and which he purchased from his mother Aug 26, 1815. This Michael was not in the Botetourt Census of 1810, probably being listed in the family of David. He was in the 1820 census

Son of David
md. Elizabeth Crist

Prepared by:

Arthur Shanks
205 S. Broadwaay
Providence, Ky 42450

The following PROVEN information on various MICHAEL FRANTZ of Botetourt Co. VA. was obtained from the examination of court records at the county seat of Fincastle. The information is the result of three separate trips that I have made to Fincastle in 1978, 1979 & my last visit, just completed in October, 1980.

Michael, son of Christian and Anne Frantz

In a deed dated 13 Oct. 1800 & recorded in DB 7, at page 352, Christian and Ann Frantz sold (quoting directly from the deed) "to their son, Michael" a tract of 193 acres. In another deed, also dated on 13 Oct 1800 & recorded in DB 7, at page 349, Christian and Ann sold 90 acres (quoting directly from deed) "to their son Henry" Both tracts of land were on Cravens Creek where it empties into the Roanoke River. Michael's tract was on the east side of the creek and Henry's tract was on the west side. The Roanoke River bounded both tracts on the north. Christian and Ann cited their title to the land in considerable detail. In DB 11, page 217, dated 10 Oct 1813, Henry and wife Mary sold 47 acres of their land to Michael and stating in the deed that it was part of the land he had received from his parents. One of the calls in the deed was "crossing Cravens Creek".

In a deed dated 1 Mar 1825 & recorded in DB 16, page 310, Michael sold 135½ acres of the above tracts to George Trout. He cites his title, word for word, as the same in his deed from his parents, and it leaves no doubt he was the son of Christian and Ann and definitely could not have been the son of Michael II, whose son died in 1817. There was no mention of a wife in the 1825 deed, she having apparently died prior to the date.

On 13 July 1830 three deeds were made and recorded in Deed Book 19, pages 469, 493 & 560. These deeds were made to divide three ways, a tract of land that was bought in partnership in 1801 by Christian Frantz IV, Michael Frantz and John Houtz, all apparently sons or son-in-law of Christian III and Anne. Christian's interest was conveyed by his heirs; he having died in 1808. Inventory of his estate filed Oct 18, 1808 in Will Book B at page 210.

This Michael Frantz wrote his will 19 Sept. 1833 and it is in Will Book E, page 404. In the will he "bequeaths to his wife Hanna the plantation whereon I now live (also other personal property) and, quote- "150 dollars to be put in some good mans hands and to be given to my wife as she needs it" "My son-in-law Henry Winger to be my Executor" Hanna was apparently his second wife. Final settlement of Michael's estate was filed in the June Term of Court in 1842. Names mentioned in the settlement were Henry Wingart, Martin Wingart, Hannah Frantz, widow. The final settlement was returned to the court by a Henry M. Frantz.

Christian Frantz (III) will is in Will Book C, page 540 and states the amount of money he had already provided his children-- "beginning with the oldest" "Michael, Christian, Mathais, Barbara Bashore, Henry, Magdalin Gaiby, Elizabeth Marshbarger, Anna Wertz, John Frantz, Susanna France" "Son-in-law Gaiby to have 50 pounds more than the rest for his trouble he have with me in my dotage"

The above facts prove to me that the Michael listed in the census of 1810 as Michael Frantz, "younger"; the Michael who married Maria Elizabeth Garst in 1764 and after her death married Hannah Goode in 1826 and the Michael who died in 1833 are all one and the same person and, beyond any doubt, was the son of Christian and Anne Frantz and could not possibly have been the son of Michael II and Magdalena Zug

Michael, who appears to be the son of Michael II & Magdalena Zug.

This Michael Frantz was involved in considerably fewer land transactions than Michael, son of Christian^{III}. He was, as indicated in the Census of Botetourt in 1810, somewhat older! He had only four children and they had already flown the coop by 1810. The identity of the child and the one male "26-44" in the census are unknown to me, but possibly was a son-in-law and grandson. This Michael was in the 1810 census as "Michael Frantz, Jr"

In a deed dated 11 Sept 1792 & recorded in DB 4, page 387, a Wm. McClanahan conveyed to Michael Francis Jr. 268 acres on what appears to be Carvin Creek. In a deed dated 8 Apr 1800 & recorded in DB 7, at page 112, Michael acquired 24 acres from Daniel Frantz for 58 pounds. The land being "on the north branches of the Roan Oak River" Adam Shank, my ancestor, who married Michael's daughter Elizabeth in 1797 acquired 59 acres by deed dated 8 Jan 1800 & recorded in DB 7, page 114. It was also bought from Daniel Frantz and all these tracts adjoined each other. Carvin Creek has been dammed up in recent years to form a reservoir for the City of Roanoke so it is quite possible these lands are now inundated.

Michael Frantz Jr. lived on these lands until his death in 1817. In a deed dated 10 Oct 1809 & recorded in DB 9, page 646, Michael Jr and his wife, Elizabeth sold part of the 268 acres to John Britz. The 126 acres he sold "lies near the Green Ridge and heretofore was built and improved upon by said Michael Frantz" In a deed dated 2 Apr 1811, and recorded in DB 10, page 329, Michael and Elizabeth sold James Newman 100 acres and 20 poles, part of their original 268 and part of the other 24 they had. Michael must have acquired some other land in addition to the previously mentioned two tracts. An additional tract of 82 acres were sold in the final settlement of his estate.

Michael Frantz Jr. made his will 16 Sept 1816 and it was proved in the May Term of Court in Botetourt County in 1817. It is recorded in Will Book C at page 94. Michael provided in his will that "his beloved wife, Elizabeth" should live on the property the rest of her life and afterward the property be sold and divided equally between his children to wit "Michael Frantz of the State of Kentucky; Elizabeth, wife of Adam Shank of Kentucky; Catherine Frantz, wife of Henry Britz of Botetourt Va. and Polly, wife of Daniel Stovers, Botetourt Va." Settlement of Michael Frantz estate was delayed for several years. Samuel Harshbarger, his Executor, on 11 Oct 1832 sold 82 acres DB 20, page 77, for \$189.42 to Joseph Lloyd and this sum appears in the final statement. Partial distribution of the assets of the estate was made to the four children in September 1817. Son Michael and Son-in-law Adam Shank are shown in the settlement as receiving \$200.00 each on Sept. 3rd. The last items in the disbursement of the estate are not dated. One of the last items however reads "By Cash paid John Shank for Elizabeth Shank, by Power of Attorney" Elizabeth's husband Adam Shank, having died in 1822, left son John to go back with his mother's Power of Attorney to collect her final part. From this it can be determined that the elder Michael's wife, Elizabeth must have died, probably just prior to the above mentioned deed of 11 Oct 1832. The final statement and settlement of Michael Frantz Jr's estate was returned to court and ordered to be recorded in the March Term Of Botetourt Court in 1833

Prepared by: Arthur Shanks, 205 S. Broadway
Providence, Ky 42450

From Botetourt Co, VA

Recorded in Deed Book 19, page 330, dated 9 Sept. 1828

All the heirs of David Frantz, late of Botetourt, Give Power of Attorney to Samuel Frantz of Franklin Co VA. to sell 2 tracts of land on Mason Creek, a branch of Roanoke River:

190 acres on Mason Creek (Note: Mason Creek runs to the)
45 acres adjoining above. (Roanoke River thru and somewhat)
(between the City of Roanoke and)
(Salem)

Heirs of David Frantz living in Clark Co Ohio
Michael, w. Susanna; Abraham Garst & w. Anna; David Frantz & w.
and Davids w. Catherine; Christian Frantz & w. Catherine

Heirs of David Frantz living in Logan Co Ohio
Elizabeth, widow of Henry Houtz, decd.; Jacob Frantz & w Mary;
Lydia Frantz; Jeremiah Wolf & w. Susannah

All of above names signed & notarized in their respective counties.

Thomas - this may be of
interest to you. The list of children
you gave me states you are descended
from David, son of Michael II. The
list is the one from Mrs Fred Clarrach.

Arthur

Don't
mention on
Joseph