

Snowbound

It was several years ago on two cold February days that southern California experienced an unusual snowstorm. For the first time in about thirty years, residents of the Los Angeles basin awoke to snow. It had been eight years since north Los Angeles County (Lancaster/Palmdale) had a major snowfall.

I didn't mind being "housebound" because it provided an opportunity to spend more time exploring my Roots 3 genealogy software program. Like shoveling snow, a lot of energy

history in book form! The elaborate features prompted my purchase, but I truly wasn't aware that the program would automatically print in register form.

As I marveled, it occurred to me, "We can't do the job if we don't have the tools." We can't remove snow if we don't have a shovel. We can't print a professional family history with public domain software.

I know wherewith I speak! I have been using a R-E-M-A-R-K-A-B-L-Y G-O-O-D public domain/shareware

went into keyboarding family names into the computer. I made some entry errors so a number of hours were spent correcting data. Similarly, a person will shovel out a driveway only to have a fresh snowfall obliterate his labor.

With over 300 names in the program, it was time to experiment with printing the data. Usually I have "a gift for words," but I haven't enough adjectives to describe my excitement when Roots 3 printed my (limited) family

program for two-and-one-half years. I've bragged on it; I've given away over one hundred copies! In excess of 5,500 family names were lovingly documented with two family history books in mind. As much as I love the program, it has its limitations. It would have been necessary to "cut and paste" a manuscript from two or more computer programs.

Back to my former illustration about tools: Heavy-duty equipment was necessary—a broom would not clear away six inches of snow. Genealogy software programs are a marvelous tool. (I wonder how researchers manage/managed without a computer!)

Evaluate your needs. Are you interested in organizing your family history for personal satisfaction and immediate family? Do you plan to publish and market your family history? If you do not have grandiose plans, contact me about "free" genealogy software (for IBM and compatibles). Write to Commsoft, 2257 Old Middlefield Way, Mountain View, CA 94043, for information about their outstanding line of Roots software for most computer operating systems.

As I mentioned in an earlier article, my recommendation(s) come from personal satisfaction. No one asked me to critique or evaluate. The snowfall in usually temperate southern California provided the theme for this allegory.

-Submitted by Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O. Box 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539-2076.

Commsoft (Roots 3 + 4)
7795 Bell Road
P.O. B. 310
Windsor, CA 95492-0310

or Phillip E. Brown (FHS)
834 Bahama Dr
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Minorate Family History
Vol 13, #1
Jan 1994

14/1/94

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
P. O. Box 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539-2076

Dear Lorraine,

In the January 1994 issue of MENNONITE FAMILY HISTORY, on page 2, I read your comments. I am interested in the "free" genealogy software for IBM and compatibles. I enjoy every page of this publication though I am of Church of the Brethren descent and so I have not found a "lead" yet. It is an excellent publication.

I will write to Commsoft, too, as you suggested.

Enclosed please find a SASE for your reply on the free software for IBM.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Veda Wilson Fatka
1892 Crestwood Lane
Muskegon, MI 49441-4506

*p.s. Did you ever attend college in
Mt. Morris, Ill? My brothers knew someone
by your maiden name there.
-I am a former Juan (Kingsley, La.)*

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
POB 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539-2076
Ph: (805) 949-6236
Fri., Feb. 4, 1994

Veda Wilson Fatka
1892 Crestwood Lane
Muskegon, MI 49441-4506

Dear Veda,

Thanks for your letter of Jan. 14th. Sorry it took so long to answer. We have been so busy at work -- due to the earthquake -- that I go home exhausted at night. Things are pretty much "back to normal" in our office so I can relax and think of other things beside the disaster.

First, it was a total shock to me to see that story "Snowbound" in the Jan. issue of Mennonite Family History. I had totally forgotten that I wrote it; that was years ago! Commsoft moved several years ago and their correct address is

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Second, I haven't been supplying the free software for years! I refer folks to the programmer who created the genealogy software program called Family History System (FHS). Please write to:

Phillip E. Brown
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Tallahassee, FL 32301

Many years ago, I used FHS and was really impressed with it. It is a fine genealogy software program. However, I knew I wanted to publish my family history and I knew I wanted to document where every scrap of information came from (sources). Therefore I made the giant leap from a \$35.00 shareware genealogy software program to \$350.00 Roots III. I am producing family history books and I love Roots III!!! (Commsoft has begun to market Roots IV but I'm very comfortable with the earlier program.)

There are many good software programs on the market. Another inexpensive program you might consider: Personal Ancestral File (PAF). It is marketed by the L.D.S. (Mormon) Church, has excellent support, and only costs \$35.00 (or a little more).

Third: I'm surprised that you haven't yet found any leads to your Brethren ancestors. I've found the members to be very well documented and I have been blessed with more information than I can process (I am about one year behind on all the data I have to put into the computer!!) Another publication that

you should consider: Fellowship of Brethren Genealogist News-letter. I don't have their address with me (at work) so will pen it at the bottom of this letter before I mail it. You'll want to get your surnames into their Surname Directory and you may want to write to those in the Surname Directory with your surnames. Sometimes it takes about two years to make all the right connections. Actually, I'm saying it took me about two years to make all the right connections and writing hundreds of letters. Correspondence is the "key" to success. I've been accused of subsidizing the U.S. Post Office and United Parcel (ha).


OK, here is another "key" to my success: I have Bishop Michael Frantz as my immigrant ancestor. He was an early leader in the Brethren Church and much revered. Almost every-one in the (Old Order) Old German Baptist Brethren have Frantz ancestry too. When I began to make contact with members of the O.G.B.B. the flood-gates of information swung wide open and I have been inundated with data. I go to their Annual Meetings and meet all my fifth and sixth cousins. I love all my O.G.B.B. cousins!! They are so hospitable, kind, loving, thoughtful, considerate.... They are "not of this world" but of an earlier time and persuasion. If you don't already know, they are similar to the Amish and Old Order Mennonite. They don't own TV's, radios, tape recorders, etc, etc. They are very family oriented, devote Christians. Because of Frantz ancestry, and theirs, and because of my love for the Lord Jesus, I am warmly welcomed at their annual meetings and at their Love Feast(s).

Well enough of that. No, I didn't attend college in Mt. Morris, Illinois, but it was probably a ~~my~~ Frantz "cousin" that your brothers knew.

In closing, my daughter lives in Michigan. She and her family live in the Upper Peninsula: Garden Corners. I visit there frequently. I wouldn't want to be in Michigan now because of the cold and snow. I'll ride out the earthquakes in Southern California instead.

Good luck with your research. Hope you find a software genealogy program that you like.

Best wishes,



Lorraine Frantz Edwards



John F. Murray

303 E Indiana Kouts IN 46347 Tel:(219)766-3981

**ANCESTRAL
SURNAMEs**

Beiler
Berkey
Blank
Borntrager
Cristner
Falb
Gindlesperger
Gingerich
Hertzler
Holly
Hooley
Johns
Kauffman
Keck
King
Leibengut
Mast
McKibben
Miller
Mishler
Murray
Nafziger
Neff
Plank
Reichenbach
Ruege
Schrag
Schrock
Schwartzentruber
Smith
Streit
Thommon
Troyer
Yoder
Zook
Zug

1/24/94

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
P.O. Box 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539

Dear Mrs. Edwards,

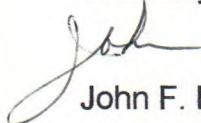
I read your article "Snowbound" in PMH. p.2. I'm interested in this free soft ware for a family history. I'm use IBM Compatible with MS Dos 6.0, Word for Windows 3.1, and Word 6.0 plus PAF, Personal Ancestral File 3.2.

I write a column for a family news letter "Neff News". I would like to be able to pull out of PAF family information formatted as seen in the enclosed sample. If you receive the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage Magazine, in the Oct. 93 issue is also an example my article on the Mishler Family.

I'd like to know what the programs you suggest can and can not do.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


John F. Murray

*P.S. I'll will pay postage and other
reasonable cost you incur! Perhaps
you could call me. to let me know
To save time and I'll pay the call. See above*

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
P.O. Box 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539-2076
Ph: (805) 949-6236
Friday, February 4, 1994

John F. Murray
303 E. Indiana St.
Kouts, IN 46347 -- 9059

Dear John and Marilyn,

Thanks for your letter of Jan. 24th. Sorry it took so long to answer. We have been so busy at work -- due to the earthquake -- that I go home exhausted at night. Things are pretty much "back to normal" in our office so I can relax and think of other things beside the disaster.

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Third: There was no "enclosed sample" so I don't know what you were referencing. There are many genealogy software programs on the market and some have unique features (drop charts, boxes, etc, etc) so you may have to buy and try. Of course, be sure that the other programs have GEDCOM so you can export from PAF to the new software. Sorry I can't be of more assistance.

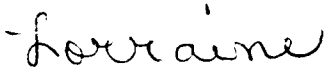
Before the year is out, I hope to get my family history to the publisher. I'm preparing a book on descendants of Immigrant Michael Frantz, early Bishop in the Brethren (Dunkard) church

in Pennsylvania. I have over 19,000 Frantz, and collateral lines, in my computer database. I also have Naff/Neff that married into the Frantz family. If I sent a copy of some incomplete Naff/Neff families, would you be able to supply "additions and corrections"?? Let me know; enclosed find SASE for your convenience.

I see you have Zug in your ancestry. My "Zug" is Ulric Zug and his daughter Magdalena Zug; Magdalena was married to Michael Frantz II. Most of my 19,000 Frantz, and collateral lines, are therefore descendants of Ulric Zug!!

Best wishes from rockin' and rollin' Southern California. Fortunately I had absolutely no damage but lots of damage within fifty miles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine".

Lorraine Frantz Edwards

TUESDAY
MARCH 29, 1994

DEAR MRS. EDWARDS:

I READ WITH INTEREST YOUR NOTE
IN THE JANUARY 1994 MENNONITE
FAMILY HISTORY, AND WOULD APPRE-
CIATE RECEIVING MORE INFORMATION
ON "FREE" GENEALOGY SOFTWARE.

THANK YOU.

JAMES D. LEA

6230 BAYOU BRIDGE
HOUSTON TX 77096

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
P.O. Box 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539-2076
Ph: (805)949-6236
April 8, 1994

James D. Lea
6230 Bayou Bridge
Houston, TX 77096

Dear Mr. Lea,

Thanks for your letter of March 29th.

First, it was a total shock to me to see the story "Snow-bound" in the January issue of Mennonite Family History. I had totally forgotten that I wrote it; that was years ago!! Commsoft moved several years ago and their address is:

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There are many good software programs on the market. Good luck on finding the genealogy software that meets your needs.

Respectfully,

Lorraine

Lorraine Frantz Edwards

P.S. It's customary to send SASE with your requests. I'm not a company; I'm a struggling family historian, too.

Dear Lorraine,

5/17/94

I enjoyed your article in the January, 1994 issue of Mennonite Family History. I've been working on my genealogy for quite a few years, but haven't used a computer yet.

My husband & I recently purchased an IBM compatible computer for his business, and I would love to use it for my genealogy work, too. If you would share your public domain/shareware program with me, I would appreciate it very much. I don't plan to publish a book or anything at this time, but that may be an option for the future. At this time, I'd just like to be able to organize all of my information, & be able to have quick access to it.

Thank you in advance.

Jeannine Janzen

P.O. Box 66

Elbing, KS 67041-0066

BRUCE JANZEN
P.O. BOX 66
ELBING, KS 67041

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
P.O. Box 2076
Lancaster, CA 93539-2076
Ph: (805)949-6236
May 27, 1994

Jeannine Janzen
P.O. Box 66
Elbing, KS 67041-0066

Dear Jeannine,

Thanks for your letter of May 17th, 1994.

First, it was a total shock to me to see the story "Snow-bound" in the January issue of Mennonite Family History. I had totally forgotten that I wrote it; that was years ago!! Commsoft moved several years ago and their address is:
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