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July 15, 1991

Earl Smith  
2515 Jefferson  
Kokomo, IN 46901

Dear Earl,

I am a "cousin" from another branch of the family tree. My grandmother, Lydia Traxler Frantz, was an aunt to your mother (I think!?).

I have been compiling genealogy for several years and find it a fascinating hobby. (My children are grown; my husband passed away several years ago. I have evenings and weekends to "climb the family tree.") For over a year, I worked on a very special book for my Aunt Nena Frantz. I gave her the book for her birthday in April. (She gave me your name and address.)

Genealogy is never complete! There is always another family that we need information about. I have very little data on your family. Please note -- from the enclosed printouts -- that I have woefully little info on the Criss and Smith families. Can you help me? -- or refer me to a family member who can? Also enclosed, please find several family group sheets and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Complete the forms with as much information as possible. Turn the forms over and write on the back if you have extra info. Send biographical sketches and obituaries, too, if you have them.

I've collected a lot of information on the FRANTZ families but haven't found much on my grandmother's ancestors. I'll be most grateful for information on Traxler, Alderfer, Fry, etc. and/or names of relatives that might be researching.

I'm compiling my information in a computer and the Roots III genealogy software program. The printouts are very "readable" -- and very interesting -- when printed in a book format. It is my intention to eventually print (and publish) a book on the Frantz family. To that end, I take trips to areas where I can collect information on my ancestors -- and collateral lines. I spent three weeks in Clark County, Ohio, in May and visited with so many "cousins" and collected an awful lot of data. That was a fantastic trip (my first to Ohio). We even went to Fort Wayne, IN, to the big public library that has an outstanding genealogy department. (By "we" I mean my hostess and me.)

It has been over 100 degrees here on the "high desert" north of Los Angeles. VERY HOT! There have been several earthquakes in this area the past month but no damage here in Lancaster. We had a very brief rain on July 8th -- not enough to even water the lawns. It had been 114 years since rain on that date. With this kind of trivia, you can understand why I have an interesting hobby.

Very best wishes to you, and yours. Perhaps your summer is cooler and greener than ours. Hope to receive a reply from you soon.

Sincerely,

*Forraine*

Lydia Hannah Traxler  
David Henry Frantz

Ivan Jesse Frantz  
Pearl O. Showalter

*grand-  
parents*

*parents*

*over*

*Compare parents  
of several families  
(family group  
with), SASE and  
four plain f.g.s.*