

Typed on pink paper  
(Not on the computer!)

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Bernice Eller  
512 Dewey St.  
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Dear Bernice,

I'm a far-removed "cousin"--a descendent of Michael II, David I, Michael... At the outset, I want to tell you that I love you! Before you faint because a "nut" fell off the "tree," I want to explain the reason for my warm feelings toward you.

Tom Beardsley loaned me his copy of the twenty-two page genealogy that you compiled. I spent the weekends of March 1, 2 and 7, 8 putting about 800 names on my computer. I'm really impressed with all the research that you have done to bring all those names and dates together!

I'm a "come lately" to the field of genealogy. I had a modest number of dates and names of parents and grandparents, and I visited the Mormon Library in Salt Lake (out of curiosity), but I hadn't done any research until this past December. I have two cousins, on different "branches", who have been deeply involved in genealogy for a couple of years. In July 1986, they gave me copies of all their research and I entered the information into my computer and genealogy software program. Of course, I shared printed copies with them and occasionally they send me new info. It took about four or five months to put the info in the computer, add, correct, and familiarize myself with the computer genealogy program.

When I ran out of the considerable amount of COFFIN, SHOWALTER and ALDERFER data I began my search for FRANTZ info. There isn't anyone else in my family who is interested in genealogy. I can't even get them to fill out family group sheets on their own families and return to me. I've given them printouts of my existing info and indicate that their children and grandchildren can/will appear in the proper chronological order. Oh well, maybe very soon I'll receive the desired information.

Seems ~~sees~~ Bernice, it would appear that your children and grandchildren have been very good about providing 20th century information. The record ~~sees~~ quite complete. Added to the data from yesteryear, your 22 page genealogy is very impressive!

In late November I mailed about thirty letters to Frantz families listed in the phone books in Southern California. I told them I was just beginning to research and could they help me. (Not the "best" way to research--using a "shotgun method.") Within a few days I received a small box full of info--from Wayne Frantz of Bellflower, CA. He sent all the original research done by his Uncle Harry 35 years ago. I had "goosebumps" as I read about Michael I and II and just had a "feeling" that he was my ancestor--(an intuition)



I spent an entire Saturday putting the history (from Wayne) into my computer. Armed with the info about immigrant Michael, and the name of my great-grandfather, I started going to the local LDS library. The old gentleman librarian was very helpful, but annoyed with me because I expected my family to "fit" into another family. That first evening we found my g-g-grandfather David (son of Michael, son of David I). What a thrill to find g-g-grandfather, but at that time I didn't know that he was a Michael descendent!!

I received several more replies to my letters (but little info) and I wrote to a few FRANTZ researchers that I found in the Genealogical Helper. Along the line I received the name of Evelyn Rosemary Frantz. She answered my correspondence by return mail and supplied me with all the names of brothers and sisters <sup>sons and daughters</sup> in the genealogy to Michael I and II. (The LDS librarian couldn't believe my "luck." In less than a month I had my surname back to 1725. I know it wasn't "luck"--my loving heavenly Father opened the doors, and hearts, of strangers to share their information with me.)

I put the info into the computer and sent a printout to Rosemary. On Saturday March 1, I received a manila envelope full of additional (more specific) info. However, on Friday February 28, I received my second correspondence from Tom Beardsley--a very thick manila envelop with the copy of your genealogy, the Susan Wolf genealogy and greater detail about his WELCHHAN\* family. I spent almost the entire weekend(s) at the computer and I'm still not finished!!

The FRANTZ info has begun to "snowball." The last few days I received info and a newsletter from the Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists. Tom Beardsley sent me the application and told me how helpful, so I joined. I saw your name and address (and Rosemary, and Tom) in the Surname Directory. Now I have about 18 new names of FRANTZ researchers to contact. Also, one doing ALDERFER and another doing SHOWALTER.

Bernice, I feel as though I've "come home." I'm so proud of my FRANTZ, Memmonite, Brethren ancestors! Now I know why I love Jesus so--I'm the granddaughter and great-granddaughter of believers. Sadly, my parents did not practice any religious beliefs and were openly critical of "Christians." Dad has already passed into destruction and Mother is very close to it. I've loved Jesus since I was a little girl but I've been persecuted by my family for my belief. To repeat myself, I'm so proud of my "Christian" ancestors!

A little about myself: I married young and then had the responsibility of raising three boys alone--when their father left us for another woman. I was a single parent for many years but remarried ten years ago. My husband's health declined and he went to be with the Lord in October 1983. My finances and employment have been up and down like a yoyo. I'm rich in blessings but poor as a church mouse. I rent a bedroom from some friends and have a full-time job as secretary to the Farm Advisor in Lancaster, CA (60 miles north of Los Angeles). For eighteen months, my computer has been the object of my affection. I spend all my evenings and weekends "with my head in the computer." Since last July, it has been computer genealogy! My sons are married, have families and other interests. I seldom see them. I have a little camping trailer so, when the weather is nice, I get away on weekends. Very soon, I hope to get to Lowell Beachlers, in Modesto. He's invited me to "camp" at his place and browse through his resources.

\* and DILTZ



I'm trying to get all the names, and dates, into the computer before I go to Modesto. With the computer printouts, I'll be able to focus on info that I need. Also, if I run across names that "belong" under a certain family, I'll know where to insert them. Incidentally, my computer is "portable" so I take it on camping trips--and into ~~data~~ libraries. I'll take it to Modesto with me.

The enclosed computer printouts are for you to keep. Perhaps you will have time to pour over them, and see if I have some blatant errors. In some instances I have found conflicting birth or death dates. There were some differences between your dates and some sent by Rosemary. In most situations, I went with your dates because I "feel" that you have spent a lot more time on the details. I'm not critical of Rosemary--her information sheets are sometimes confusing with two or three different handwriting. I really appreciate all the documentation that she has provided. I would be "bogged down" without her. She also sent the names of Tom Beardsley and Lowell Beachler.

My computer genealogy program "sorts" the information in about three dozen ways. I'm still learning the many, many ways to print out the information. I can print with names and birth/death dates only OR I can print with birth/death place, also. Further, I can print "comments" if I wish. Example: The Christian Frantz sheets are printed with both birth/death places and "comments." You will notice that sometimes I listed the wife/husband in comments. I wasn't always consistent but if there were no children I often just put spouse info in comments rather than make a separate "record" for them. Another "quirk" to watch for in the printouts: When I didn't have birthdates, the computer program lists zeros. Zero is the smallest number so any/all children without birthdates are listed first even though I am aware that they were not the first born. Sometimes I guessed at a date so that I could put that child last. (Example: Aaron, son of Michael F. and Elizabeth Crist. Pg 10, line 21.)

The computer program prints family group sheets, pedigrees, ancestor and descendent sheets. The computer stores information about medical, education, military, residence, etc, and is printed (if desired) on the family group sheet. I've enclosed a couple of samples. Maybe you can't excited about the computer but I hope you can understand and appreciate the marvel of the printouts. I'll look forward to hearing from you with an evaluation. And you can be honest. If you don't like, tell me so. Hopefully, though, you will correspond with me and provide me with additions and corrections.

Do you have any "folklore"--stories about the FRANTZ family? It is impressive to see twelve pages of names (and growing daily) but I like to read stories and biographical sketches of my ancestors. I imagine I'll find some (or a lot) of history when I visit with Lowell Beachler.

Bernice, do you have a descendent named Art Eller in Hollywood, CA? When I was entering the data into the computer I expected to find them. I've known the family for a number of years; we attended the same church (First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Do you ever see the LET GOD LOVE YOU television program with pastor Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie?) My youngest son dated Debbie Eller for several years.

Excuse the typing errors. As I re-read the pages and paragraphs I found several errors. Sometimes my mind and fingers aren't coordinated!



In closing, Bernice, I want to thank you for the thousands of hours that you have spent compiling genealogy. I enjoy and appreciate the information very much. I'll share with aunts, uncles, cousins, children and grandchildren and hopefully they, too, will enjoy and appreciate all the hours that went into researching and recording the names of our relatives.

Warmest wishes to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Lorraine

Lorraine Frantz Edwards