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Valuable Frantz

+ Zug.

Mrs. Fred A. Clarenbach
5009 Rissner Road
Madison 5, Wisconsin

March 21, 1960

This is a
"cover sheet"
for following.

Dear Mr. Francis:

Several years ago we exchanged several letters about my ancestors, the Zugs and the Frantzes. Now I have some more questions about them that I trust you can answer.

The inscription on the monument to the immigrant Ulric Zug includes the statement that he "fled from the Canton Zug in Switzerland" because of religious persecution. Your letter states that his grandfather Hans had gone to the Heidelberg area after his release from prison and had a large family there. The Mennonite Encyclopedia (3:1039) says that he had lived in Signau, Berne. It seems highly improbable that Ulric should have gone back to another Canton in Switzerland and then fled.

My husband and I spent several days in Zug in the summer of 1958, and when we tried to find Zug family records there we were told not only that there were none, but also that Zug was not a family name, and neither were any of its variations. So I question the statement on the monument. Do you know of any documentary authority for it?

Recent bits of information have caused me to have more serious doubts about my reputed Frantz lineage. I am supposed to be a descendant of Ulric's daughter Magdalena and her husband, Michael² Frantz (Michael¹).

Now I am beginning to wonder if it was not Michael² (Christian¹) whom Magdalena married. He was six years old when he came to Berks county with his father, so was the approximate age of the Michael who went to Botetourt county, Virginia, where it is known that other descendants of Christian settled.

I have not seen any convincing evidence that Michael¹ had a son Michael. Brumbaugh says that the Michael baptized in 1748 was "evidently" a son of the elder, but I consider that assuming too much. The Christian Frantz family was in the Conestoga district, and his three sons John, Michael, and Christian² were in Little Swatara in 1770, along with Nicholas Gerst and wife, whose daughter Anna married Daniel³ Frantz (Michael², Christian¹) July 25, 1784. Circumstantial evidence thus points to Michael² (Christian¹) as husband of Magdalena Zug and father of my Daniel (if they were both the same).

If you have any proof of the parentage of Magdalena Zug's husband I would surely appreciate knowing what it is. So far as I can see, it is only Brumbaugh's guess.

And if you should know anything of Michael² (Christian¹) or of anyone descended from Christian¹ who is versed in Frantz history I would be glad to have his address.

I grew up being told that I descended from Michael¹, but I have discovered too many family traditions that are incorrect to accept this one without better evidence than seems to exist. Apparently he left no Bible record, or there would be dates and names of more children, which, judging from early Frantz names in Cocalico, there must have been.

Sincerely yours,

Laura M. Clarenbach

Mrs. Fred A. Clarenbach
5009 Rissner Road
Madison 5, Wisconsin

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Sincerely yours,

Laura M. Clarenbach

Middletown, Pa.
January 15, 1961

Dear Mrs. Clarenbach:

I have not been able to reply to your letter of last Spring before this and I hope that you will forgive me for not having done so. I have gone over my grandfather's records pretty carefully and I am unable to give definite answers to any of your questions and it is doubtful that I can even shed any light on the questionable areas.

My grandfather had a copy of the Hertzler Genealogy written by John Hertzler Sr. and published by the Mennonite Publishing Company, Elkhart, Indiana in 1885. A footnote on page 329 of this genealogy states that Ulric Zug fled from Canton Zug. My grandfather had corresponded with the author of the Hertzler Genealogy and apparently received much of his information about the collateral lines of Zugs from him. Some of their information may have had a common source because I notice that the quotation in German in the footnote on page 1 of the enclosure is included in a longer English translation on page 277 of the Hertzler genealogy. As to the possibility or probability of Ulric's living in the Canton Zug, I am not competent to comment. I suppose the name of the Canton might have suggested that the family had lived there. What reasons, if any, might have caused a return to Switzerland and whether religious toleration had improved or worsened after Hans Zaug's release in 1671, I don't know.

It is probable that most of the family's early records, except those documented in Family Bibles, were handed down verbally from parents to children. You may be interested in the following quotation from a letter written to my grandfather by John Hertzler in 1880 when Hertzler was 58 years old: "I will here refer you to Martyr's Mirror page 1021 and page 1023 of the same book with extract from the same obersueltzen (?) Jan 5th A. D. 1672. You will find there a man who was a minister in the North who had a family of 12 children, said to be our progenitor Zeug and was told by Moritz A. Zug and Christian Zug to their children and down in their generation to this time. I will now say to you what my mother said in regard of Ulrich and Peter Zug. She told me they was cousins of Moritz A. Zug and Christian Zug and Johannes Zug my progenitor of my mother or my great grandfather Zug who came to this country in 1742 and I believe she had reason to say so for her father and grandfather lived on one farm and heard her father talk about it by times it is reasonable to think so in the family and as his house was the place of many of the German and Swiss Mennonites who resorted to him for council and information where to locate and to make their homes after they arrived in this country and great grandfather Christian Zug visited Europe his native home some time before the Revolutionary war and brought some of his friends with him back to America with him my mother said. And my mother spoke often to me about the Zug genealogy and their friends coming to visit them and stopping with them in early days when they hauled their produce of the farm on Conestoga wagons to Philadelphia market and I had a long talk with my mother in 1851 about the Zug family and she told me that Ulrich and Peter came to this country some years before her grandfather and that they visited each other by time I will say to you what my uncle Jacob Zug said at one time in talking of the Zug genealogy. He was of the opinion he said that Ulrich Zug and Peter Zug were uncles of Moritz A. and Christian Zug and Johannes Zug. But as he was some 10 years younger than Mother I think she was correct for Mother was about 10 years old at the time her grandfather died. I will now close on this fearing that you may not realize an interest in the above and might weary your patience, but give it only such credit as you think proper"

In regard to the family name of Zug, I'm going to refer you to Mr. Richard C. Miller, 4353 Burnham Ave. Toledo, 12, Ohio who has had some correspondence with authorities in Germany and Switzerland. His letters show, I think, that there can be no doubt about Zug being a family name and I'm sure he will be glad to share his information. Mr. Miller is a descendant of Christian, son of Ulric.

Now, as to Michael Frantz. I suggest that you write to Mr. Reuben King, 7th and Chestnut St. Lebanon, Pa. He is, I think, president of the Frantz Reunion and may have records which would answer your questions. In addition to the footnote on page 73 of the enclosure, I find the following in my grandfather's records: "The ship Samuel of London who arrived at Philadelphia, Pa. August 11, 1732 had on board among others, Christian Frantz, Sr., Christian Frantz, Jr., Johannes and Michael Frantz, the two last were under the age of 16 years. From I Daniel Rupp's History. Now it is quite presumably that Christian Frantz Sr. was the father of Christian Jr. And it is also no doubt but that the said Christian Frantz Jr. was the grandfather of Matthias Frantz (my wife's grandfather)." I have no comment on these assumptions but wish to point out only that there was a young Michael on board ship with Christian and might have been the son of Christian. If you have any records which would confirm or refute these assumptions, I would appreciate being informed. Of my Frantz ancestors, my grandfather's records are meager. He says that "Matthias Frantz, August 2, 1769 to November 19, 1829, was the grandfather of the writer's wife. Matthias Frantz was the son of Christian Frantz (if his name was yet properly known) who with his whole family (some six in number) except Matthias emigrated to Virginia. Matthias' grandfather, the ancestor, Christian Frantz immigrated to America and obtained a deed in the year 1760 for a large tract of land, most of it has nearly all the time since been owned and occupied by his descendants."

In the History of Lancaster County by Ellis and Evans I find on page 341, in an article on the Conestoga Dunker Church that "Michael Frantz, a minister, was elected successor of Bishop Mack in 1736 and served until 1747 when he removed to Virginia and organized a church in that state." Since Michael the elder died in 1848 in Lancaster County according to Brumbaugh as well as my grandfather's records, the authors of the Lancaster County History were apparently confused about the identity of this Michael. It might tend to confirm, however, that the Michael who went to Virginia was from the Conestoga congregation.

Among some fragmentary records which my grandfather noted is a list of 'Members who joined the church under the Eldership of Michael Frantz of Lancaster County'. I wish that he had shown his source. It may have been taken from church records or perhaps copied from an article in a church paper. He says "Elder Michael Frantz was ordained in 1735. In this original group of Conestoga members were at this time *** John Frantz ***. Michael Frantz, above named was born in the Canton of St. Jacob near Basle in Switzerland in the year 1687, came to America Sept. 30, 1727 and settled in the vicinity of the Cocalico, Lancaster County, Pa. His son, Michael Jr. came over with him when but 2 years old, who was later married to Magdalena Zug." "Michael Pfautz was baptized in 1739, was elected to the ministry in 1744, ordained by Michael Frantz to the Elder Sept. 25, 1748. This was only a few weeks before Eld. Frantz' death." The list then shows that Michael Frantz was baptized on April 24, 1748 and Magdalena Zug on June 12, 1748.

In 1916 my father read a paper to the Lebanon County Historical Society which was printed in the form of a brochure entitled 'The Church of the

Brethren (Dunkers) in Lebanon County'. Concerning the Little Swatara Congregation which is located in northwestern Berks and northeastern Lebanon Counties, this article states: "In 1750 Eld. George Klein, ancestor of the late Dr. W. F. Klein of Lebanon, moved to Northkill, Berks County and labored in the Little Swatara region. Soon after, near the present town of Millersburg, he baptized George Behler (Bashore), Michael Frantz, Peter Heckman, John Frantz and others." He then stated that by 1770 the membership had grown to 45 baptized members and listed them including the four named in your letter. In their cases he added " and wife" after each name. Later on, "August 12, 1780, Michael Frantz, mentioned in the list, was ordained an elder ***. Eld. Michael Frantz, doubtless cared for the church till the ordination of Eld. Hans Jacob Beashor***."

Perhaps this only adds confusion, but if these baptismal records are correct, it would establish the existence of two Michaels, one in Conestoga and the other in Little Swatara. It would still not establish the identity of Magdalena's husband. Ulric Zug lived in the Conestoga area, but that can not be considered conclusive. The Little Swatara region is probably not more than about 30 miles distant and no doubt the Brethren families in different regions did become acquainted. I have not found any record of the date that Magdalena moved to Virginia. Do you have any information? However, if the one Michael was still in Little Swatara in 1780, would this not rule him out? I am certain that my father had documentary evidence whenever he mentioned dates; he was, though, making an assumption, apparently, about Michael's presence in Little Swatara after 1780.

I've been spending some time in two-fingered typing of the Zug records in order to insure that they won't be lost or destroyed. I'm enclosing a copy of those which pertain to Magdalena's descendants. I would appreciate any corrections which you could furnish and if you would care to have the records of the rest of the family, you are welcome. While the records of Magdalena are very incomplete, much to my grandfather's regret, they may possibly furnish some clue as to other sources of information. I certainly hope that they will be of some value. After you are through with this copy I would appreciate if you would forward it to Mrs. Harold Walters, R. D. 1, New Ross, Ind., asking her to return it to me when she has finished with it. She is also a descendant of Magdalena and may have some information which would be of value to you.

In addition to the reference to the Gospel Visitor in the footnote on page 73 of the enclosure, I also found another which apparently had to do with Michael Frantz. This reference was to Volume 3, number 1 of 1855, pages 4 and 5.

Again, please forgive me for this belated reply.

Sincerely yours