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(original)
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FIRST GENERATION

1. Elizabeth¹ Sollenberger¹.

In the absence of additional information, and in an effort to document "clues" that may assist another researcher, I include the following data and speculation. Is Elizabeth the daughter of Ulrich Sollenberger (d. ca 1766, Berks Co., PA)? In an article titled "The Early Sollenbergers of America" by Keith A. Nonemaker, in Mennonite Family History, Vol. VIII, No. 2, Apr. 1989, p. 63, an Elizabeth is listed as born between 1746-1753 which would make her about the right age. Her spouse is not listed.

In the same article, pp. 62-63, are details regarding documents in deed books of Botetourt Co., VA. The contents described land of Michael Solinbarger/Solleberger, and lists his children, his father (Ulrich), and his siblings (including Elizabeth). Two hundred acres of land, of the deceased, was sold on 9 Oct 1810 to Jacob Gish also of Botetourt County. The Legators are listed and Michael Frantz is listed as administrator for David Solenbarger, dec'd (son of Michael Solinbarger/Solleberger).

Compiler speculates that Michael Frantz was the brother-in-law of Michael Sollenberger, and probably a neighbor, so therefore named an administrator for his wife's nephew.

Jacob Gish, who bought the property, may have been the son of Christian Gish I, and married to Katharine Stover. Three of Michael Sollenberger's children married into the Stover family. Michael Frantz's daughter, Polly, reportedly married a Daniel Stover(s), and his son, Michael, married Elizabeth Gish, a niece of Jacob Gish (son of Christian Gish I).

The article mentions that Michael Sollenberger's neighbors include Stover, Edward Carvin, Millar, Markey, and Leonard Hintz (maybe Houtz?). Note: Michael Frantz's land, according to previous research, is described "on Carvin Creek." Michael Frantz's sister-in-law, Elizabeth Garst Frantz, married Leonard Houtz after the death of David. With a little additional research we should be able to determine if Leonard Houtz was a neighbor of Michael Sollenberger.

Again this is speculation. Compiler is endeavoring to establish family relationships and not have a unique name (like Sollenberger) which does not correspond to a list of more familiar Brethren family surnames.

She married² Michael Frantz Jr.³, son of Michael Frantz II and Magdalena Zug. Born, circa 1753 (?), in Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co., PA⁴. Died, 1817, in Botetourt Co., VA⁵. Prob of Est: May 1817, in Botetourt Co., VA⁶.

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"There were several men named Michael Frantz in Botetourt County, Virginia during the period of the late 1700's through the middle 1800's. There is confusion and disagreement among Frantz reseachers as to the parents of the two men named Michael Frantz who were listed in 1810 as living in Botetourt County. I [J. Arthur Shanks] made two visits to Fincastle, the county seat, to do my own research on the matter. The first visit was to research our ancestor Adam Shank. The second visit was to establish which Michael Frantz was our ancestor and the father-in-law of Adam Shank who married his daughter, Elizabeth.

"Michael II died about 1808, so the Virginia Census of 1810 shows that there were only two men named Michael Frantz living in Botetourt County at that time. One was listed in the census as 'Michael Frantz, Jr.' The other was listed as 'Michael Frantz, the younger.' Michael, 'the younger' was listed with several teen-age children at home. Michael 'Jr.' was shown with himself and wife (both in the 'over 45' bracket; one male in the 26 to 44 bracket and one male 'under 10'). Michael 'Jr.' was obviously much older than Michael 'the younger.' Other research shows Michael Jr. had only four children, all married by 1810. When he made his will in 1816, he named all four children, one of whom he designated as 'Elizabeth, wife of Adam Shank of Kentucky.' There is another document, a deed, apparently overlooked by earlier researchers, but which proves, conclusively, the parentage of 'Michael Frantz, the younger.' The deed was made by Christian and Anne Frantz on October 13, 1800 and is recorded in Deed Book No. 7, at page 352. It conveys, quoting from the deed, 'To our son, Michael, a tract of 193 acres on Craven Creek.' This Michael sold part of the 193 acre tract on March 1, 1825. It is recorded in Deed Book No. 15, page 310 and he cites his title, word for word, from the 1800 deed of his parents. He could not have been the son of Michael and Magdalena Frantz whose son Michael Jr. died in 1817. The confusion over the two Michaels seems to stem from erroneous research recorded in a Garst Family genealogy in 1950 and taken as 'gospel' since that time. [Bold emphasis by the editor L.F.E.]

"Michael Frantz, father-in-law of Adam Shank, was identified as Michael Frantz Jr. in a deed dated September 11, 1792 and recorded in DB No. 4, page 387. The deed was for 268 acres located on Carvin Creek and just west of present day Roanoke, Virginia. On April 8, 1800 he acquired an adjoining 24 acres from his brother Daniel -- this land being 'on the north branches of the Roan Oak River.' Michael, getting old in years, sold off part of his land in 1809 and another part in 1811, retaining 82 acres on which he lived until his death. Michael's wife, Elizabeth, continued living there until she died, apparently about 1832. The 82 acre tract, on which she had lived, was sold by the Executor of Michael's estate on October 11, 1832 and the proceeds from the sale, \$189.42 was noted in the final account of the settlement of his estate which was recorded at the March term of court at Fincastle in 1833.

"The location of Michael's land and likewise that of Adam Shank who adjoined, can be determined from the description in their deeds. Their lands were on Carvin Creek, on the 'north branches of Roan Oak River' and 'near the Green Ridge.' A present day AAA road map of Roanoke, Virginia, shows Interstate Highway 81 running along 'Green Ridge.' Going north on the highway and immediately after passing Exit 43, the highway crosses Carvin Creek. Michael and Adam would have been located either immediately on the left toward Tinker Mountain or on the right near Hollins College. The upper reaches of Carvin Creek have been impounded to form a reservoir for the city of Roanoke. It is difficult to visualize this area in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains as it

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existed when Michael Frantz and Adam Shank made it their home. A map of the area, made in 1821 makes no mention at all of Roanoke -- only the 'Roan Oak' River. It does show a very small community on the map called 'Big Lick.' Big Lick was the seed from which has grown today's Roanoke, a bustling city of over 100,000 souls.

"Getting back to our Michael Frantz Jr. He made his will on the 16th of September 1816 and it was probated the next spring in the May term of court in 1817. His will is recorded in Will Book C, page 94. He was quite specific in his will:

'In the name of God, Amen, I Michael Frantz of Botetourt, being very sick and weak in body, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God; Calling into mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament. That is to say principally and first of all, I give and Recommend my soul into the hand of almighty God that gave it and my Body I Recommend to the Earth to be buried in decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my Executors; nothing Doubting but at the general Ressurrection I shall receive the same again by the Mighty Power of God and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life, I give, devise....'

"Michael went on in his will to dispose of his worldly goods. His wife, Elizabeth, was to live on the property the rest of her life and at her death, the property was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between his four 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, also Polly, wife of Daniel Stovers, Botetourt, Virginia.'

"The settlement of Michael's estate, filed with the court in 1833, as well as his will, are very important documents to the genealogy of Adam Shank." The Shanks Family from Pequea Creek, by J. Arthur Shanks, (Evansville, IN: Whipporwill Publications, 1985), pp. 45-46.

"Frantz, Michael, Will pro May, 1817. Names wife, Elizabeth, and ch, Michael (of Ky.), Elizabeth (wife Adam Shanks, of Ky.), Catherine (wife of Henry Britz), and Polly (wife of Daniel Stover)." Early Marriages, Wills and Some Revolutionary War Records Botetourt County, Virginia, by Anne Lowry Worrell, p. 55.

Children:

- i. Elizabeth "Betsy"² Frantz⁷. Born, circa 1778 (?), in Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co., PA⁸. Died, before 1830, in Muhlenberg Co., KY⁹. She married Adam Shank (Schenck)¹⁰, son of John/Johanne Shank (Schenck) and Mary Moyer (Myer), 17 Sep 1797, in Botetourt Co., VA¹¹. Marriage(2): 12 Sep 1797 (?)¹².
- ii. Michael Frantz/France¹³. Born in ?Botetourt Co., VA. Died, 1847

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- (?), in Muhlenberg Co., KY¹⁴. Census: 1810, in Muhlenberg Co., KY¹⁵. Census: 1820, in Muhlenberg Co., KY¹⁶. Census: 1830, in Muhlenberg Co., KY¹⁷. He married Elizabeth Gish, daughter of Christian Gish II and Elizabeth Barbara Stintz, 23 Nov 1802, in Botetourt Co., VA¹⁸. Marriage(2): 28 Nov 1802 (?)¹⁹.
- iii. Catherine Frantz²⁰. Born in ?Botetourt Co., VA. Died in ?Botetourt Co., VA. She married²¹ Henry Britz²¹, 3 Jun 1802, in Botetourt Co., VA²². Mar License, 29 Apr 1802, in Fincastle, Botetourt Co., VA²³.
- iv. Polly Frantz²⁴. She married²⁵ Daniel Stovers²¹, 8 Apr 1806, in Fincastle, Botetourt Co., VA²⁶.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- ¹Ancestral File (computerized) ver 4.11, in the custody of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (L.D.S), Family History Center (F.H.C.), Salt Lake City, UT, (& local FHCs) (AFN:KZHN-9F); Shanks, James Arthur, The Shanks Family From Pequea Creek, (Evansville, IN, 47715: Whipporwill Publications, 1985), in the custody of Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O.B. 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539, p. 8.
- ²Shanks Family, p. 8.
- ³Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-88).
- ⁴Shanks Family, p. 8; Turner, Hazel Frantz, Elvin and Rachel (Hamm) Frantz, Michael Frantz Descendants, (private printing: 1982, 1990), unpaginated, in the custody of Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O.B. 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539.
- ⁵Shanks Family, pp. 8, 45.
- ⁶Will Book C, p. 94; Shanks Family, p. 46; Worrell, Anne Lowry, Early Marriages, Wills and Some Revolutionary War Records, Botetourt County, Virginia, (Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976), in the custody of Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O.B. 2076, Lancaster, CA, p. 55.
- ⁷Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-BL); Shanks Family, p. 50.
- ⁸Shanks Family, pp. 8, 44.
- ⁹Ibid., pp. 8, 38, 44.
- ¹⁰Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-M5).
- ¹¹Worrell's Botetourt Mar., p. 41; Vogt, John and T. William Kethley, Jr., Botetourt County Marriages, 1770-1853 Vol. 2, (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Company, 1987), p. 411.
- ¹²Shanks Family, pp. 8, 36, 43, 44.
- ¹³Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-CR); Shanks Family, p. 46.
- ¹⁴24 Dec 1847 date of will per Mrs. Fred A. Clarenbach personally

NOTES AND REFERENCES

compiled family info, (1966) in the custody of Mrs. Clarenbach, 5009 Risser Road, Madison, WI 53705 and Hazel Frantz Turner personally compiled information, (1992) (1993), in the custody of Hazel Frantz Turner, 27105 Cypress St., Highland, CA 92346 and selected copies in the custody of Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O.B. 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539.

- ¹⁵1810 Census, p. 393 per Clarenbach compiled info.
- ¹⁶1820 Census, per Clarenbach compiled info.
- ¹⁷1830 Census, p. 79 per Clarenbach compiled info.
- ¹⁸Worrell's Botetourt Mar., p. 18.
- ¹⁹Vogt, John and T. William Kethley, Jr., Botetourt County Marriages, Vol. 1, (Athens, GA: Iberian Publishing Company, 1987), p. 119.
- ²⁰Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-DX); Shanks Family, p. 46.
- ²¹Shanks Family, p. 46.
- ²²Vogt's Botetourt Mar. #2, p. 412; Worrell's Botetourt Mar., p. 8.
- ²³Court Records at Fincastle, Virginia, Marriage Record Book, 1784-1844 (from the compiled information of Dore M. Frantz).
- ²⁴Ancestral File (AFN:KZHN-F4); Shanks Family, p. 46.
- ²⁵Shanks Family, p. 46; Fincastle Court Records.
- ²⁶Worrell's Botetourt Mar., p. 45; Vogt's Botetourt Mar. #2, p. 412; "Marriages Performed by Rev. William Stover", Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Newsletter, F.O.B.G., 1451 Dundee Av., Elgin, IL 60120-1694, in custody of Lorraine Frantz Edwards, P.O.B. 2076, Lancaster, CA 93539, Spring 1985, p. 18.