

FRANTZ FAMILIES -- KITH & KIN

**an Incomplete Encyclopedia
of Information Regarding
Immigrant Michael Frantz,
His Descendants,
and
Allied Families**

**Compiled by Dore M. Frantz, Sr.
Lowell H. Beachler, Hazel Frantz Turner,
Lorraine Frantz Edwards, et al**

Edited by Lorraine Frantz Edwards

**Dedicated
to Lydia**



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FRANTZ FAMILIES -- KITH & KIN

Vol. 1 Descendants of Immigrant Michael Frantz & Allied Families

**Vol. 2 Descendants of Daniel Frantz, Son of Michael Frantz II
Descendants of Peter Frantz, Son of Michael Frantz II**

**Vol. 3 Descendants of David Frantz, Son of Michael Frantz II
Descendants of Christian Frantz, Son of Michael Frantz II**

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Introduction

Eighty-four years later, this editor finds the words of Martin Grove Brumbaugh inspiring and believes them appropriate and worth repeating. The bold italics emphasis on the following page is mine. [Lorraine Frantz Edwards]

“How relentless is time! The events of moment in our generation are memories in the next, and forgotten in the third. We retain but a fragment of the notable achievements of our fathers. The workers have been so busy doing things that no time was left to record the things they did. Here and there, by accident more frequently than by design, signs and hints remain. These the patient student and the sympathetic friend may gather and weave into a fairly accurate record. This is the work of the historian. It is service of the greatest value.

“The Christian Church has not carefully considered the meaning of its own history. Many a deed and many a life have faded from the light of the present. This is greatly to be regretted. We need all the testimony of God’s grace and goodness that we can possibly gather. The faithful follower of the Great Father should ever seek to know and to emulate the deeds and lives of the worthies who have gone on and whose example is rich in convincing power to those who now and hereafter follow on.

“The Church of the Brethren has lost much of the fine record its great leaders have set goldenly in the progress of Christian thought for two centuries. Perhaps the exodus from Europe, the change from the German to the English language, and the scattered life here in the colonies have combined to explain, in part at least, this loss. A few years ago it was impossible to ascertain the simple facts of the origin of the church, its early struggles, its great leaders, its commanding place among the German-Americans of our colonial and early national life.

“This in part has been remedied. We now know somewhat in detail this splendid record of glorious service to God’s cause. We shall never know it in full. In the grave of neglect it is buried beyond recovery. We should never be content until we know it as fully as research and study make it possible for it to be known.

“I have long been convinced that there is much yet to be learned and recorded. Biography is history teaching by example. At the heart of a great cause is ever the heart of a great man. To know the cause one must know its central spirit. To the student these are the concrete expressions of great movements. Just as one finds back of all this wide, wonderful, beautiful world the personal God who made it and directs it, so one finds back of great religious movements virile leaders whose thoughts and acts are the best explanation of the transforming power of the cause they espoused.

“In the Church of the Brethren it is peculiarly true that we had great leaders--men whose towering leadership is of commanding influence to this day. That God should have given us leaders so great is cause for gratitude. That we should know them not is cause for merited reproach. That their names and their deeds should at last be concisely and carefully presented to us is cause for thankfulness. We cannot add to their glory. But we can profit by their high spiritual devotion. They do not need us, but forever we need them. Marshals of God, they were, and ours is the high privilege of following where they led.

“It is fortunate that the record of their lives is here set forth by a sympathetic and devoted follower of the same common Father. It is most fortunate that Brethren Miller and Royer [*and Dore M. Frantz, Sr.*] should have been led of God to present these pioneer worthies to us before the dust of the centuries should have obliterated their footsteps forever.

Thanks to our beloved brethren in the faith they loved and lived, we can once more commune with sainted souls whose lives are benedictions and whose deeds are sacred legacies. That the reader of this valuable treatise will know more fully the meaning of the faith of the church is certain. That he will become a stauncher and steadier soldier of the cross is inevitable. That he may with increasing fervor and humility follow the Master of us all is my ardent prayer." M.G. Brumbaugh, in Some Who Led, written and compiled by D.L. Miller and Galen B. Royer, (Elgin, IL: Brethren Publishing House, 1912), pp. 3-4.



*Excellence
in all Things
and all Things to
God's Glory*

Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin



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The Dore Manford Frantz family, circa 1945

See Descendants of Christian Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #134, p. 485.

**Lorraine Frantz Edwards with Eleanor Gail Frantz, Dore Manford Frantz, Jr.
and George Richard Frantz, Springfield, Ohio, May 1991.**



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Compiling information on the Frantz families, and collateral lines, has been extremely gratifying. I've learned volumes of information about my ancestors -- and their indomitable loyalty to the German Baptist Brethren (Dunkard) Church and/or Church of the Brethren. Men, more scholarly than I, have written excellent books regarding the history of the Brethren and various splits within the brotherhood. I make no attempt to "plow the same field." I will, from time to time, refer to the books authored by Brumbach, Holsinger, Miller, et al.

Dozens of people have spent decades researching these families. There have been hundreds of contributors to this publication; I can't mention all but their name and reference can be found following Notes and References.

Special acknowledgment goes to the children of the late *Dore M. Frantz Sr.* (1880-1948): *George R. Frantz*, *Dore M. Frantz Jr.* and *Eleanor Frantz*. They went to considerable work and untold expense to furnish me with most (if not all) of The Dore Frantz Manuscript. It is unfortunate that Dore Frantz Sr. did not publish his book in the 1940's. (Frantz researchers would be wiser, if that were the case.) I have endeavored to incorporate all of The Dore Frantz Manuscript into this material. I have no way of knowing how many other contributors may have gotten their data from this source. Suffice that the records have been preserved and are presented here.

Regrettably, some errors will be found in this publication. For that reason, I consider this "an incomplete encyclopedia of information regarding immigrant Michael Frantz, his descendants, and allied families." The editor encourages the reader to send additions and corrections so the subsequent publication(s) will be more thorough and more accurate.

The following comment is meant to illustrate how easily errors slip into print (and not intended to impugn any individual or group).

For many years, during early research, I [LFE] often heard reference to "the Dore Frantz manuscript." Finally someone shared their copy of "Burials, Frantz Family and Relatives, Extracts from the Dore Manfred Frantz Manuscript." In May 1991, I had the privilege of meeting George R. Frantz, Dore M. Frantz Jr. and Eleanor Frantz, and learned that their father's middle name was *MANFORD* and not Manfred.

Regarding accuracy: This compiler/editor believes that several individuals have been erroneously identified on "the wrong branch of the tree." Special attention is given to several men named Michael Frantz and exhaustive effort has gone into research to establish accurate relationships. Special thanks to *James Arthur Shanks* for his documentation, in The Shanks Family from Pequea Creek, re: Michael Frantz "Jr." and Michael Frantz "the younger." Arthur, and *Evelyn "Rosemary" Frantz*, spent hours searching original records in Fincastle, Botetourt County, Virginia.

During my early research *Lowell H. Beachler*, of Modesto, California was identified as another resource for Frantz family information. In 1989, Lowell opened his home -- and his files -- to me. He generously allowed me to take boxes of books -- and file folders full of information -- to my home in Lancaster. Our friendship is priceless and his ongoing support for this project is immeasurable!

Again, early in my research, I was introduced (through correspondence) to *Hazel Frantz Turner* of Highland, California. I sent a "mass mailing" to Pennsylvania to everyone with the Frantz surname. Her brother answered my letter and suggested that I contact Hazel for a copy of her book Michael Frantz Descendants. Before I wrote, however, I received, from her, a thick padded mailer with a copy of her book. (Her brother had alerted her to my inquiry.) It was such a thrill to read about Michael Frantz and his progeny.

Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin

Our Garst Family, by William Tell Garst, contains an enormous amount of data regarding the Garst/Frantz families. I'm indebted to **Betty J. Thielen**, formerly of East Troy, Wisconsin, for my copy of the elusive, out-of-print, book.

It is his niece, Jill Eikenberry (of TV's L.A. Law), that gets her name "up in lights" but the late **Keith E. Ross** (1909-1994), of North Manchester, Indiana, is a star in my book! For many years he conscientiously examined my voluminous printouts for "additions and corrections." Keith supplied details about "branches of the tree" that seem to have eluded other family historians. His interest in computers, and genealogy software programs, strengthened our family ties (although, regrettably, we never met).

The circle of supporters has grown increasingly larger and their contribution to this book is **no less significant**. As I mentioned above, their names can be found in Notes and References.

In addition to the enormous computer database, I have a considerable amount of information in notebooks and file cabinets, and a sizable library. Among my most valuable books: Old German Baptist Brethren Obituary Summaries from The Vindicator 1870-1994, by **Rosa (Hufford) Yoder Brovont**. This dedicated woman spent years copying information to 3x5 cards from the Old German Baptist Brethren monthly publication The Vindicator. More recently that information was transferred to a computer, printed, and distributed primarily among friends and families of the Old German Baptist Brethren.

I'm embarrassed by the repeated use of the perpendicular pronoun ("I") but know of no other way to express myself. I want to explain why I'm publishing material that I consider "an incomplete encyclopedia of information regarding immigrant Michael Frantz, his descendants, and allied families."

On January 17th, 1994 a devastating earthquake caused billions of dollars damage in Los Angeles, California. Residing in Lancaster, approximately forty miles from the epicenter, my mobilehome and I were severely shaken. Mobilehomes in the San Fernando Valley were totally destroyed! The same fate may await my mobilehome when Southern California experiences "The Big One." A major earthquake could occur at any time along the San Andreas Fault. I live less than ten miles from a portion of the fault!

Cognizant that my genealogical collection could be lost in less than sixty seconds; saddened by the deaths and illnesses of friends and family, I feel an urgency to publish. Yes, loved ones are dying, some are younger than myself! Although the Bible says, in Psalm 90:10a, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten..." we cannot be assured of seventy years. Cancer, stroke, and other diseases; violent crimes perpetrated against civil servants in the U.S. Post Office, Employment Office or Welfare Office; disregard for the lives of convenience store clerks; kidnapping of young and old...

Psalm 90:12a: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." I pray that it is "wisdom" that prompts my heart's desire to present the information that has been collected from many branches of the family tree. Readers may be able to supply additional information that will appear in a revised edition. If God, my Heavenly Father, calls me home in the near future (or an earthquake destroys my library), this book will serve as a foundation for fellow family historians. If my years are "threescore and ten," I will publish additional books focusing on descendants of immigrant Michael Frantz, and collateral lines.

To quote two more scripture verses (from Hebrews 11:11-12 NIV): "By faith Abraham, even though he was past age -- and Sarah herself was barren -- was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore." My immigrant ancestor, Michael Frantz, came to this continent after experiencing religious persecution in Europe. He may have experienced a harrowing ocean voyage that may have taken the life of his wife and daughter (unsubstantiated). He arrived in Pennsylvania in 1727 with a two year old son and from that one

son I have documented over 17,500 children in twelve generations. "And so from this one man... came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore."

Many years ago, I saw the pen and ink drawing of a misshapen tree growing from (what appears to be) rocky soil. "That's my family tree," I mused. "From less than ideal circumstances, a substantial, old, gnarled tree has grown. Bare branches are visible and reminiscent of unknown, undocumented Frantz families." By God's grace, I met the artist, *Lou Czerwonka*, and he generously gave me a print of the original drawing and permission to use it in my family history books. (I'm told this is one of the most photographed trees in the world -- the Jeffrey Pine at Sentinel Dome, Yosemite National Park, California. The original drawing is in the office of the President of Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest, Kern Co., California.)

In the future, the editor would like to research -- and hopefully document -- the European origin of immigrant Michael Frantz. Meanwhile, *Robert F. Frantz* (a descendant of immigrant Christian Frantz) has supplied an interesting thesis that "stands alone" or might assist in further European research. See Appendix.

No attempt has been made by the editor to check the accuracy of names and/or dates herein with official public records. The material presented is strictly the compilation of the editor and not Dore M. Frantz, Lowell H. Beachler or Hazel Frantz Turner (although their research was the foundation upon which this book was built).

Further, it is my hope and prayer that readers will not feel that I have plagiarized the work of other authors by using information from Descendants of Jacob & Eve (Boone) Funderburgh, Our Garst Family, The Neher Family History, The Studebaker Family in America, et al. I consider myself a "compiler" who has a huge jigsaw puzzle and places the pieces together for a complete "picture" of the interrelationship of German Baptist Brethren (Dunkard) and Church of the Brethren families. I have faithfully endeavored to footnote where every piece of information (every piece of the puzzle) came from. If I failed to recognize a source, or an individual, it was an unintentional oversight.



One final name that deserves special mention: *Darryl Bemus*. He is the "Good Samaritan" that rescues me when I experience a hardware problem with my IBM computer.

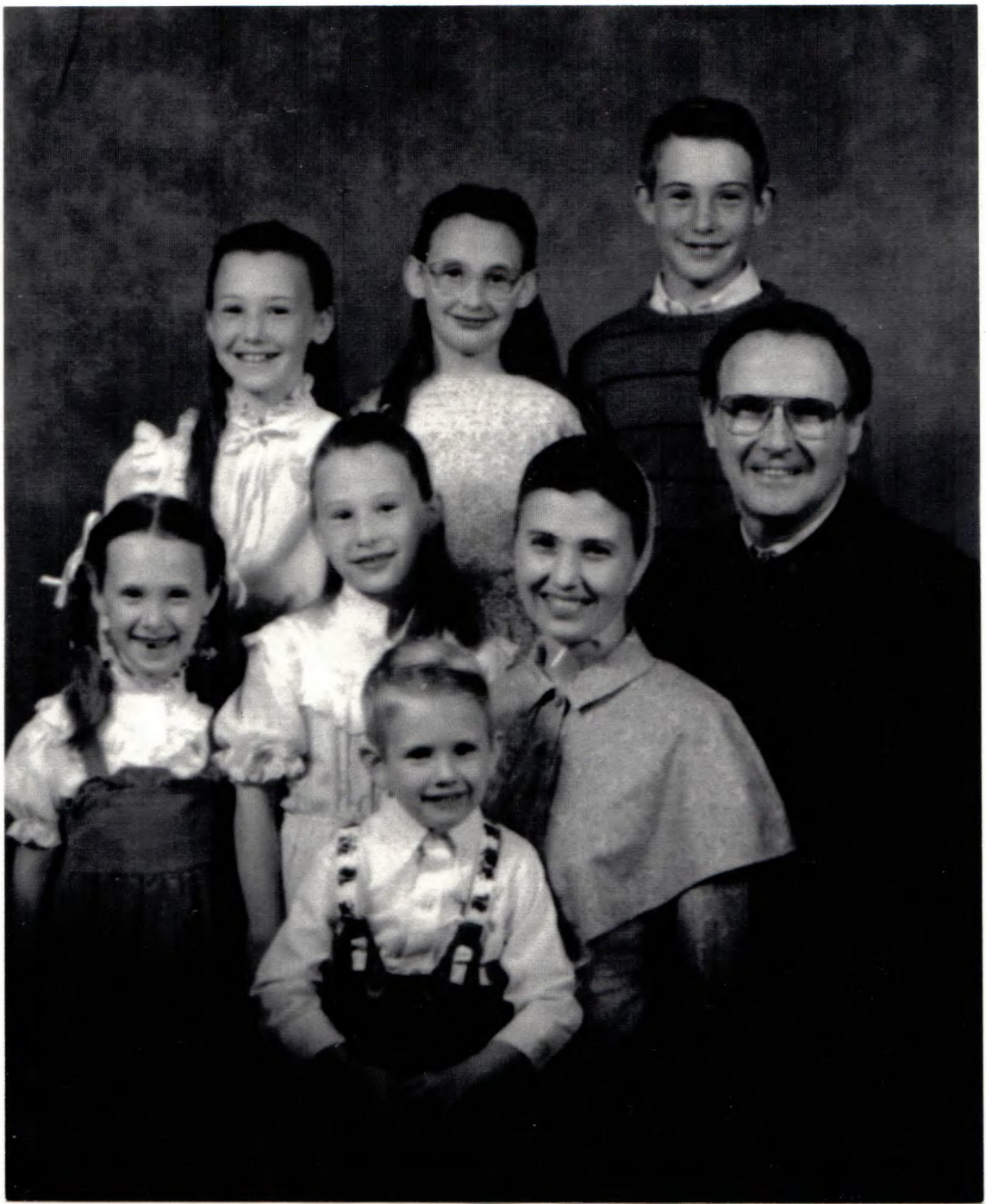
In conclusion, I want to "acknowledge" the generosity and hospitality of "cousins" whose name may not appear in this material -- and thank those who will provide "additions and corrections" for subsequent volumes.

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



Hazel Mae Frantz Turner

**See Descendants of David Frantz --
Son of Michael Frantz II, #318, p. 160**



Lowell H. Beachler family, Modesto, California 1990

**front: Vaughn
middle: Leah, Barbara, Doris, Lowell
back: Marylis, Saloma, Gareth**

**See Vol. 1, Descendants of Immigrant Christian Frantz &
Descendants of Immigrant Michael Frantz, #264, p. 172
and
Vol. 2, Descendants of Daniel Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #1180, p. 375**



Opposite page:

upper left: Lela Mae Landes Shoup and Marvin LeRoy Shoup, 1995
See Descendants of Christian Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #393, p. 570,
and Descendants of Peter Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #704, p. 947.

upper right: Lorraine Evon Frantz Edwards, 1995. See Descendants of David Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #566, p. 228.

center right: Lela Landes Shoup, Lorraine Frantz Edwards and Rosa Hufford Yoder Brovont, 1991. (Rosa Lucille Hufford: See Descendants of Peter Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #496, p. 886.)

lower left: Lorraine Frantz Edwards with Dora Catherine Brubaker Frantz, (1884-1990), 1989. See Descendants of Christian Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #259, p. 531.

lower right: Thomas Joseph Beardsley and Freeda Elinor Bryte Beardsley. See Descendants of David Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II, #262, pp. 142-143.





FOR YOUR INFORMATION & guide to peculiarities of this book

This book was prepared on an IBM-compatible computer (486-DX, 50-MHz, 8MB RAM, 240 MB hard drive). Over 35,000 names are preserved in the Roots III®¹ genealogy software program. The majority of this printed material is from Roots III® but Microsoft Word®² was used exclusively for format and printing.

The Roots III® genealogy software has the sophisticated ability to identify the common ancestor. The editor puts two names together and asks for "kinship." See the examples of relationship between the editor and the co-authors of this book. Note that there is no known relationship between Keith Ross and Lorraine Frantz but his wife, Helen Eikenberry, is a fourth cousin one time removed. I underline known because there might be a relationship but the editor does not have the individuals in the database. The editor may have substantial ancestor information, and recent generations data, but lack one or two names to link the families.

As noted, the cousin relationship between individuals can be established. Then, knowing the common ancestor of the requested couple, the editor can trace back through the generations and list parents, grandparents, great-grand-parents, etc. (Illustration, next page.)

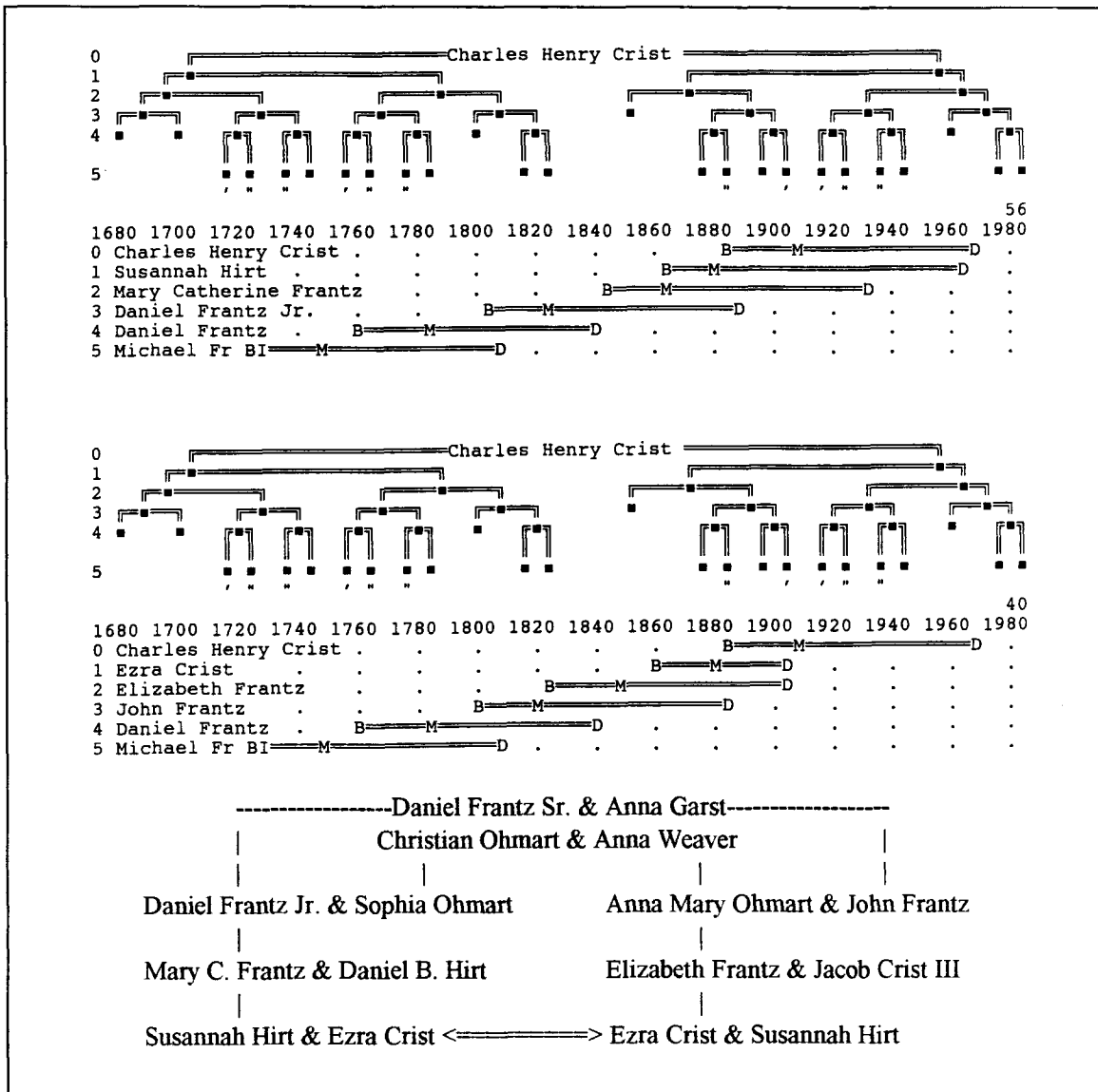
<p style="text-align: center;">COMMON ANCESTORS</p> <p>■ Michael Frantz II ■ Magdalena Zug</p> <p>Key: Dore Manford Frantz was the 3rd cousin 3 times removed of Trgt: Lorraine Evon Frantz</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMON ANCESTORS</p> <p>■ Daniel Frantz ■ Anna Garst</p> <p>Key: Lowell H. Beachler is the 4th cousin 1 time removed of Trgt: Lorraine Evon Frantz</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMON ANCESTORS</p> <p>■ David Frantz ■ Sarah Heck</p> <p>Key: Hazel Mae Frantz is the 2nd cousin 1 time removed of Trgt: Lorraine Evon Frantz</p> <p>Key: Keith E. Ross Trgt: Lorraine Evon Frantz</p> <p>No relationship within generation span.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMMON ANCESTORS</p> <p>■ Daniel Frantz ■ Anna Garst</p> <p>Key: Helen Marie Eikenberry is the 4th cousin 1 time removed of Trgt: Lorraine Evon Frantz</p>
--

¹ Roots III is a registered trademark of Commsoft, Inc., POB 310, Windsor, CA 95492-0310.

² Microsoft Word is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin

Sprinkled throughout the book are rather crudely designed "cousin charts." This compiler/editor is attempting to illustrate (through "cousin charts") that the descendants of Michael Frantz (and descendants of other early ancestors, collateral lines) have been a close-knit community. You've heard the saying: "The family that prays together, stays together." The Brethren have prayed together, farmed adjoining properties, emigrated in groups, ... and intermarried. I rely on the computer to analyze and determine... but their relationship is often so complicated that it is difficult to ascertain the closest cousin number. Lacking details on many Brethren surnames, I may have illustrated a 5th cousin marriage when, in fact, they may be 3rd cousins. Conversely, I'm certain there are many more cousin marriages between individuals listed herein but editor needs additional information.



On the following page, find a consanguinity chart. The reader, too, can calculate relationships.

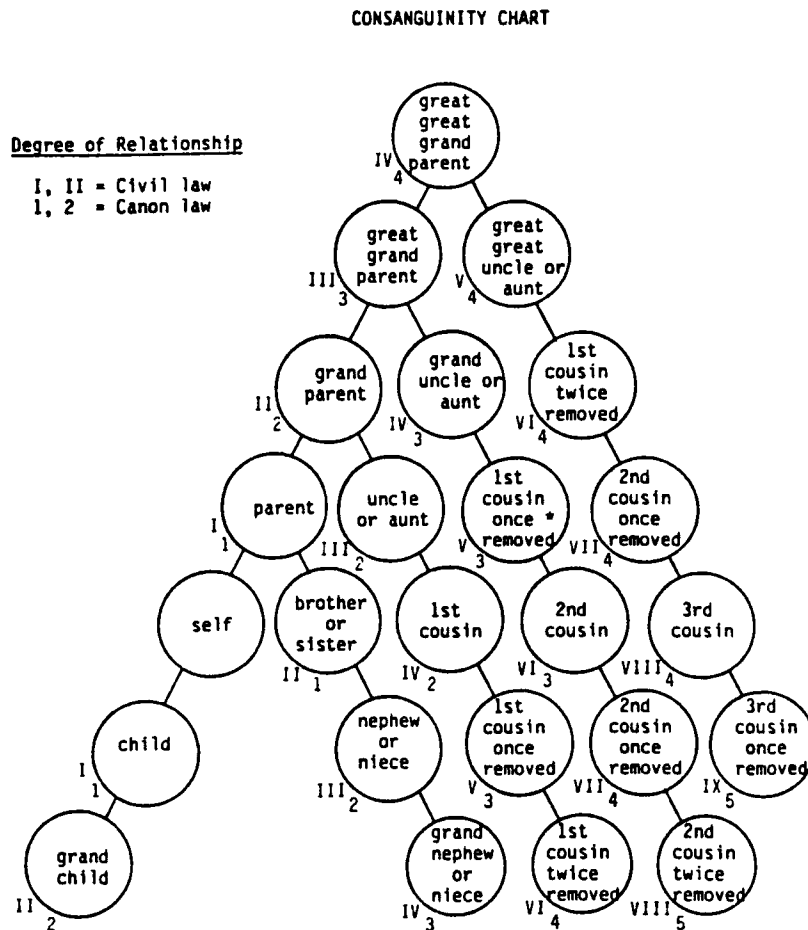
Several Old German Baptist Brethren have indicated that the cousin marriages have actually strengthened the individuals -- and the brotherhood. It is my desire to illustrate the positive nature of the relationships and not to embarrass families and/or descendants. (Through research, I discovered that my own parents were sixth cousins. I'm a 7th cousin to myself!)

“Consanguineous Marriages

Genealogists often find ancestors who married cousins. In such cases, the family health historian should document the union and the relationship, and inquire whether there were excessive time lapses between known children or whether any of those children had particular health problems. However, one should not latch onto the intrafamily marriage as the explanation of problems in much-later generations.

The increased risk of genetic problems from cousin marriages applies to the children of that particular couple, but not to the grandchildren or later descendants. Why? Because the risk lies in inheriting the same recessive gene through both parents, thus causing the child to exhibit that problem. If a child of a consanguineous union did not inherit two copies of the disease gene, then his or her descendants are at no greater risk for that problem than is the average person.” How to Be a Family Health Historian, by Anita A. Lustenberger, C.G., National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Special Issue, Vol. 82, No. 2, June 1994, page 88.

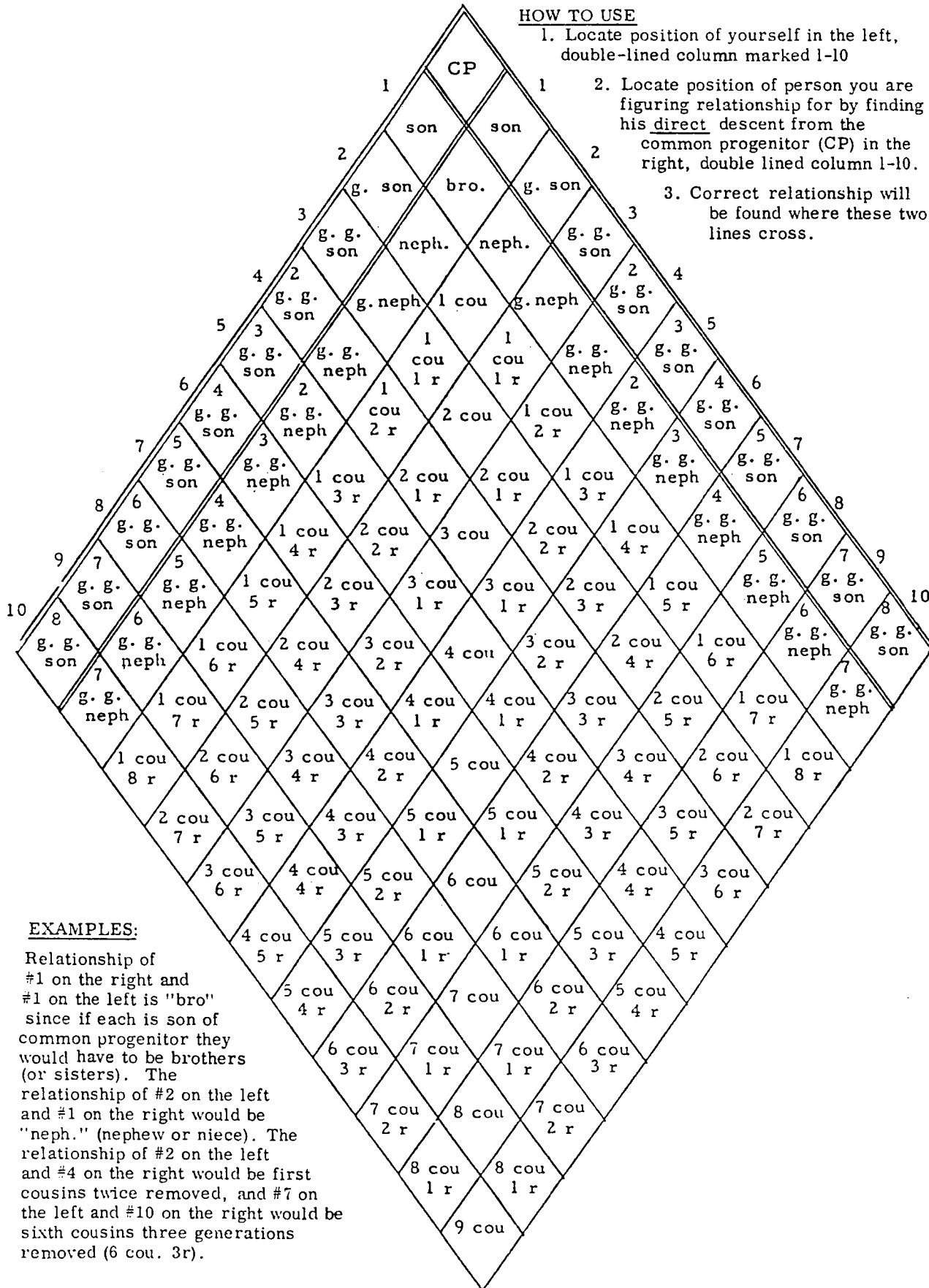
“Consanguinity: A condition existing when there is a mating between (and progeny produced by) blood relatives. Consanguinity increases the probability of the appearance of recessive traits.” National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Special Issue, Vol. 82, No. 2, June 1994, page 141.



Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin

HOW TO USE

1. Locate position of yourself in the left, double-lined column marked 1-10
2. Locate position of person you are figuring relationship for by finding his direct descent from the common progenitor (CP) in the right, double lined column 1-10.
3. Correct relationship will be found where these two lines cross.



EXAMPLES:

Relationship of #1 on the right and #1 on the left is "bro" since if each is son of common progenitor they would have to be brothers (or sisters). The relationship of #2 on the left and #1 on the right would be "neph." (nephew or niece). The relationship of #2 on the left and #4 on the right would be first cousins twice removed, and #7 on the left and #10 on the right would be sixth cousins three generations removed (6 cou. 3r).

Guide to Peculiarities of this Book (continued)

One of my "pet peeves": Reading a genealogy book and discovering that female lines are dropped when she marries! True, the surname changes but her descendants are equally important for the symmetrical family tree. When details are available, I have compiled progeny right down to the present. Equally distressing: To find (example) Elizabeth Frantz married to a fine upstanding Brethren farmer but no indication of her parents names. (Almost every family had a daughter named Elizabeth!)

As sophisticated as the Roots III genealogy software is, there are a few inconveniences. One that annoys me: The "back reference" doesn't appear for the child if the descendant parent was a woman. Please keep that fact in mind when you read higher number generations. A good way to find the parents: **Check the index!** The Index will indicate the page number(s) where individual first appears *with their parents*. In volume one *only*, section one, Descendants of Immigrant Christian Frantz & Immigrant Michael Frantz, editor manually prepared "back reference" so reader can quickly identify descendants of immigrant Christian Frantz.

Names with slash (/) are an indication that compiler/editor found more than one name, or more than one spelling for that person. (Example: Foust/Foutz; Gerlach/Gerlock; Hartsaw/Hartsaugh; Lehman/Layman; Lichty/Leighty.)

The reader may be confused by individuals with birth (1), birth (2), death (1), death (2), marriage (1) and marriage (2). The second birth, death, or marriage date was found during compilation of data and is included for evaluation. In this publication, birth (1), death (1) and marriage (1) is considered the probable date but, conceivably, several sources may have used the same erroneous date. Birth (2), death (2), or marriage (2) may be the accurate date. When original sources are available, the date will appear in **bold print**. A question mark (?) appears after a date that is uncertain, and two question marks (??) for a very unlikely date.

Why does the editor include a variety of dates? If she arbitrarily selected one date (for birth, death or marriage) and the reader found a different date, in another source, the accuracy of this material would be questioned. The source for each date can be found by noting the superscript number (example:⁹⁶) followed by a check of that number in Notes and References.

Descendants of Immigrant Christian Frantz & Immigrant Michael Frantz ...	245
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Regarding Notes and References: The first time a source appears, it is listed in its entirety with author, publication, and repository. Thereafter, it will appear with an abbreviation, or *Ibid.*, and page number. There are some instances where the reader **will not** find a source listed. There have been several occasions where compiler/editor experienced problems with the computer and lost some data.

For readers with access to Old German Baptist Brethren Obituary Summaries from The Vindicator, Rosa Yoder Brovont has printed revised editions so page numbers may vary from those listed in Notes and References.

Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin

Those of us who "do" genealogy know what the various abbreviations mean but one of our children, or grandchildren, may leaf through these pages and wonder what "p." and "pp." stands for. A single p. is followed by a page number; a double pp. refers to two or more page numbers. "Ibid." is defined in the dictionary "In the same place: Used in referring again to the book, page, etc. cited just before."

b = born d = died m = married wid/o = widow of (MNU) = maiden name unk

The editor has used the two letter United States Post Office abbreviations for the states (CA = California, CO = Colorado, etc). If the city or county is unknown, the state is spelled out. The exceptions are to be found in quotations which editor did not alter.

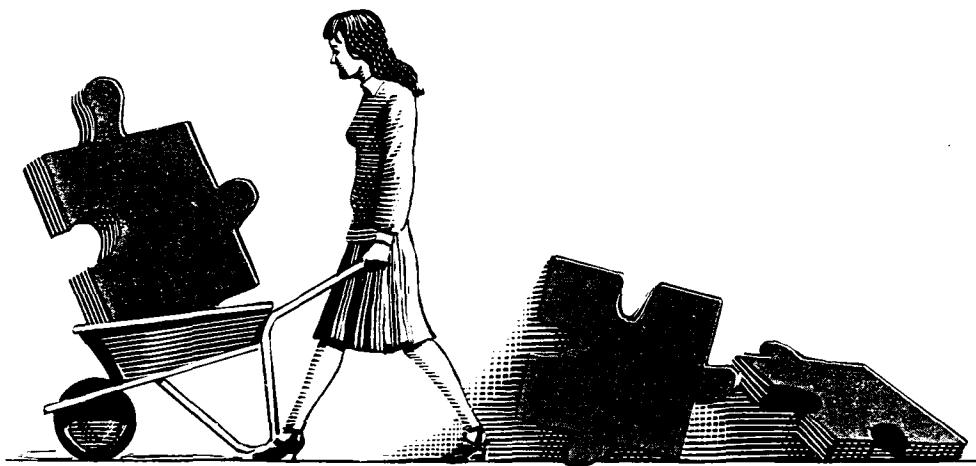
Family history is often found in unique forms *and that's OK*. Thankfully someone took the initiative to preserve their lineage. This editor has used the "Register" format, in the Roots III genealogy software program, to print Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin. The Register format is recommended by the National Genealogical Society, 4527 - 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

Perhaps the reader is impressed with the method used to bind the pages of the books. (Library copies are the exception.) The editor appreciates the simplicity and deliberately chose it over more traditional bindings. You are encouraged to separate the pages, make photocopies, and share with your loved ones. Bear in mind that the three volume set of books is copyrighted so I request that you reproduce the title page and copyright page when you distribute the information.

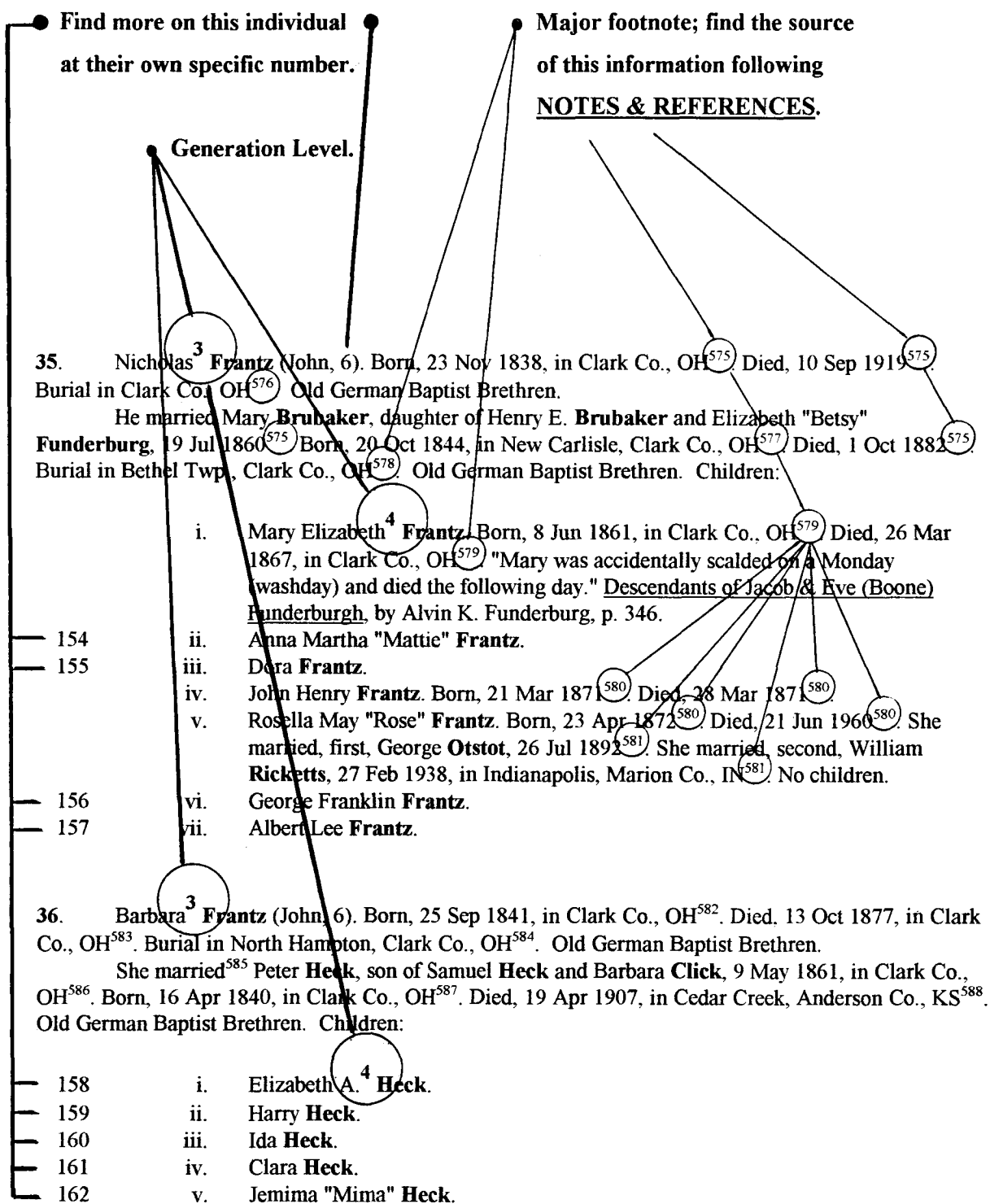
The cost of these books would have been considerably more if they contained hundreds of photographs (like Descendants of Jacob & Eve (Boone) Funderburgh by Alvin K. Funderburg, or The Neher Family History by Jimmy E. Neher and Raymond E. Neher). Insert your photographs. Large copy centers (like Kinko's in Southern California) can reproduce photographs on their laser copiers. The pictures of the Dore Frantz family, Lowell Beachler family and Lorraine Frantz Edwards are examples of laser photocopies and cost \$1.49 each page (May 1996). Include copies of birth and death certificates; add new material to your copy of Frantz Families -- Kith & Kin as you gather more facts.

As previously stated, this is "an incomplete encyclopedia of information regarding immigrant Michael Frantz, his descendants, and allied families." Sharing this data enhances the probability that "all the pieces of the puzzle" will eventually be located. The editor welcomes your "additions and corrections."

For your information... the computer indicates over 24,000 names are documented herein. Frankly, I haven't counted the index entries to confirm this.



EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLS





*This extra-special thank you note
For all of you today
Holds more appreciation
Than any words can say
For you're the nicest
kind of people
This world has ever known
And you'll never be forgotten
For the thoughtfulness you've shown*

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Dore Frantz Family



Frantz Family In Wabash County

by Dore M. Frantz

Last July I had a very pleasant visit in North Manchester, the place of my birth, and vicinity, for the purpose of looking up the locations where some of the Frantz family had settled, in the early years of the history of Wabash County, and as there are many descendants of these early Frantzes, now living in Wabash County, perhaps a short story of my visit, would be of interest to quite a few of your readers.

I think the first of the Frantzes to settle in Wabash County, was Nicholas Frantz, who was an elder in the Brethren Church, becoming a bishop after the death of Elder Joseph Harter in 1861. He first moved to Clark County, Ohio, from Virginia about 1826, and on to North Manchester in 1841, purchasing land at the north-west corner of Route 114 and the Delauter Road, 3 miles west of North Manchester. Here he built his home, cleared the land, lived and died. He and his wife and quite a number of his descendants are buried in the little cemetery on his farm near Route 114. He had a family of ten daughters. No sons.

Between 1841 and the Civil War, I found record of nine other Frantzes settling in the county, among whom were five Johns. It seems, that to distinguish between them, they were given nick names: Old John; Big John; Little John; Black John; and Blue John; the latter being my father. Then there was a Christian, an Abraham, a Jacob and an Elizabeth who married Henry Brubaker and moved there from Virginia.

Of these all were related to each other except Old John and Black John. In the short time I had out there, I was unable to find out anything about the ancestry of these two, or where they had lived before moving to Indiana. What they had lacked in relationship, they soon made up by inter-marriage. Black John soon married one of the ten daughters of Nicholas, and one of Black John's sisters married Abraham, the two being son and daughter of Old John. Then Big John and Little John each married one of the daughters of Nicholas, there being

three John Frantzes who married three Frantz sisters.

In looking up the farms where these Frantzes settled, I was taken back the Miller Road, and shown the homes where Old John, Abraham and Big John had lived, their farms being between Route 114 and the Kosciusko County Line, while the former home of Christian was on the same road, just over the line. The home of Black John was on Route 114 just west of the Delauter Road. I was unable to locate the home of Little John, but Blue John, my father, lived in North Manchester, near the college, and was a brick and stone mason by trade. He helped to build many of the down town buildings, as well as many of the residences. One of the treats, I sought and enjoyed while there was to put up at the Sheller Hotel, which he helped build, and which was once operated by a man named Grimes, it being known at that time as the Grimes Hotel. My brother Hollis married Jennie Grimes, a daughter of the proprietor, and moved to Springfield, Ohio; she is still living. All of these homes, I believe, have passed out of the hands of the Frantz family.

Jacob Frantz and his sister, Elizabeth, (Mrs. Henry Brubaker) bought farms about six miles south of Wabash, on Route 13 at the Palmer Road. Elder John Frantz, his brother, Henry, and their first cousin, Barbara Pulley, who was Barbara Brubaker, still live in the vicinity, all getting along in years.

I was able to locate descendants of about all of these early settlers. Simon Frantz of North Manchester is a descendant of Christian Frantz. Ezra Frantz, the lumber merchant and his brother, Noah, are descendants of Big John Frantz. Cornelius Frantz is a descendant of Abraham Frantz. Josiah Frantz is a descendant of Black John. Besides these, other descendants of all generations would probably number several hundred, just counting those now living, and through marriage, many now have such well known names as Hay, Neher, Metzger, Snell, Miller, Ulrey, Cripe, Butterbaugh, Witters, Kohr and Biechler, as well as others.

While there I also had a very pleasant visit with Mr. and Mrs. Otho Winger, president of Manchester College, who is also descended from the Frantz family, his ancestor having come to America from Switzerland in the early 1700's and settled first in Pennsylvania, later descendants moving from there to Virginia, and others still later to Indiana.

I was very pleased with the data I was able to gather, while there, but was somewhat disappointed in not being able to learn anything about the ancestors of "Old" John Frantz.

An interesting event of our visit to North Manchester, was: One evening I told my wife I would like to take a walk down to the river to see if the old suspension bridge was still there, upon which I had as a boy jumped up and down to make it swing. Needless to say it was no longer there. While standing on the present structure, looking down at the water, which I had remembered as being clean enough to cut ice from, I got in conversation with a man crossing it, and spoke about the little jail that used to be there and pointed out the location where I had remembered its having been, and he called my attention to the present one and mentioned that it now had a women's department. I could not help looking at the jail and at the water, and just wondering "how time does change things." And this is not a slam at North Manchester either. This beautiful little college town had just been keeping pace with her larger sisters. The little three celled calaboose with seldom an inmate, has a descendant, for which there is ample need. I told this man that I had been born in North Manchester, and was there on a visit, to see if I would recognize the place and he asked me my name, and when I said it was Frantz, he said his name was Frantz, also; Henry Frantz, of 103 South Market Street. He is a descendant from Old John.

