

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. These follow a series of numbered envelopes dated in 1946-47. However the following, from envelopes **not numbered**, cover 1948, 1949, 1950.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 20, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

Michael Frantz oldest son of Christian (III) my Great great grandfather died in Va. about 1830. Christian, the second oldest son (your Great grandfather, or should I say your great great grandfather) died in Va., in 1808 so did his wife leaving four small children, the oldest of which was Jacob father of Mathies, who was raised by his Uncle and Aunt (John Myers). Mathies, third oldest, and my Great grandfather died in Penna. about 1830. John apparently passed away prior to his father's (Christian III) death in 1821, and Henry the youngest died in Ohio about 1840. The only descendants of Michael I have thus far located is Miss Ella Wingert of Crawfordsville, Ind. As to Christian (IV) I of course have contacted you folks as well as the late Jacob Frantz of Roanoke Va. None of John's descendants, and in all probably there are none, and Henry's descendants in Ohio and I am in touch with. There were however five daughters of which I have not so far found a trace of and all I can do is to write every one bearing their respective married names and if you know of anyone down there, except the Harshbargers, who it seems are not related please send me their names and addresses. The married names of the girls, except Susan who was unmarried, are as follows: Basehore, Harshbarger, Gaiby and Wertz. Jacob of Roanoke, while still living said they are old family names but no longer around there so I have concluded they moved to other states and I should direct my efforts accordingly.

Kindest regards to all  
Truly yours  
A. D. Frantz

P.S. Excuse writing-in haste. A.F.

Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 24, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I just want to draw your attention to an article and pictures appearing in this week's issue (July 26) of "Life Magazine" re the Harry Frantz family of Enid, Oklahoma, who are relatives of ours. To me it was a real surprise. Although identification was easy, as it shows, among others, a picture of newly-weds, who were mentioned in a letter I received several months ago from Mrs. Lula Whitson, one of Governor Frantzes sisters. Mrs. Whitson referred to the contemplated marriage of her grand neice Nancy, so I take it that Harry Sr. is a son of one of the Governor's brothers. The Oklahoma Frantzes are of the Jacob line, and closer to you folks then to me, so I would suggest that you get a copy of "Life." I am positive your Dad, if still living, will get a thrill out of it.

Kindest regards  
A.D.F.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 24, 1948

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

These Frantz women are a very elusive set. I mean the daughters of our Great great grandfather. So far no trace of any of their descendants. Their married names were Bashore, Gaiby Harshbarger and Wertz. I do know, however, that the Gaibys were still in Botetourt Co. Va. in 1830 in that I just got a copy from the Clerks of the Circuit Court of Botetourt Co. of a trust deed executed by Isaac and Magdalena Gaiby. This trust deed also showed me the approximate location of our Va. Great grandfather's homestead as this deed covered this particular farm which Isaac Gaiby inherited from our G.G.Grandfather, so we have at least some additional data re the family.

Very sincerely yours  
A.D. Frantz

P.S. I now know definitely that Reo Johnsen was a cousin of our nephew Richard Jehnsen. His wife of course was a granddaughter of my cousin Catherine Frantz Brightbill of Lebanon Pa. So it's a two-way connection.

Plymouth, Wisconsin  
July 28, 1949

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousins:

I have made no progress in tracing our relationship the past year. Christian Frantz (III) our great great grandfather had five sons and five daughters. One, as I previously wrote, stayed in Penna. He of course was my great grandfather (Mathias). Michael died in Va. about 1830 in fact before he completed the administration of his father's estate. John had passed away in Va. before the death of his father (Christian III). Henry moved from Va. to Ohio near Dayton in 1825. M.A. Frantz, Clayton Ohio is a descendant of his. Christian IV the father of Henry, Jacob, (Mathias) and Anna [*illegible*] also died in Va. in 1808. Both he and his wife died a few days apart when your great great grandfather was but five days old. He was brought up by the John Myer family and accompanied them when they moved from Va. to the section of land now known as Ladoga section. Jacob a brother as you well know was the ancestor of the Henry Frantz branch including the late Gov. Frank Frantz of Okla. [*Illegible*] two years ago I corresponded with his sisters Mrs. Lula Whitson and Mrs. Raery of Enid Okla. I now fear both passed away (one was 79 yrs of age and the other 83) as all correspondence suddenly ceased. I just wrote a few days ago to the Governor's son Frank Frantz, Dodge City Kansas asking him if he knew what happened to them. This leaves four married daughters and one single of Christian III not accounted for. A most elusive set of women. They married men with the following names: Basehore Gaiby Wertz and Harshbarger. Have you every heard of any folks with those names as being relatives of ours outside of your own relationship with the Ladoga Harshbargers? Also tell me if your Dad is still living. Week after next I leave for Penna. to attend the Frantz Reunion on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>.

With kindest regards, I am  
Sincerely yours  
Alvin D. Frantz

P.S. My wife's sister was an Aunt of Reo Jehnsen. A.D.F.

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Note: The following is handwritten (in pencil) on the back of above letter. It is almost impossible to read!! I am guessing that the following was written by George Frantz.

*In your last letter you stated when my great great grandfather Mathias was 5 days old he was brought up by the John Myer family and accompanied them when they moved to Ladoga Ina. History of my county have found the following history which relates the reference young age. It seems that the name of Myers is written that way and sometimes the last letter is left off thus, Myer. But this sketch gives it as Myers. The article begins, "The family is of German origin and immigration to the U.S. was made in colonial days. John Myers Sr. was born in Lancaster Co. Pa. about 1770, was married in 1791 to Katherine [maybe Hants; uncertain of that name/LFE] born in 1775.*

*Soon after their marriage they moved to Botetourt Co. Va. where they became owners of 200 acres of land. 8 children were born, John Jr., David, Henry, Wm., Catherine, Sallie, Elizabeth & Nancy. About the year 1828 John Myers Jr. came to the site of Ladoga Montgomery Co. and purchased 320 acres at the edge of Ladoga & in 1830 brought his family here. In 1831 John Myers Sr., son Henry and nephew Mathias Frantz came on horseback to Ladoga to visit John Myers Jr.. The senior Myers was then 60 years old. He was so favorably impressed with the possibilities here that he returned to Va. sold his land & property for 600 dollars which sum he put in a chest which he loaded in a big wagon and piled furniture on top. Hitching 4 horses to the outfit he started with his wife youngest son William son Henry and his family and a goodly number of others came to Ladoga arriving in 1833. Their big Prairie Schooner attracted great attention. John Myers Sr. bought 1304 acres of land around Ladoga. He was a man of great vigor of mind & body as is shown by the fact that at 60 yrs of age when financially able to take his ease he left his home of his early life to what was then the western frontier and founded a new home where his children would have abundant opportunities. It was his money and public spirit that made possible the fostering of enterprises for Ladoga. His death occurred in 1841. In her earlier married life Mrs. Myers [illegible; looks like weaned] one of her children so she could rear her sister's child Mathias Frantz who was left an orphan when a few days old."*

*So that is the history I have found which I never knew about Mathias Frantz. They are buried in the Ladoga Cemetery which I did not know of which I will try to find the graves. My fathers parents are buried in another cemetery west of Ladoga. My father is 85 years old and in fairly good health but hard of hearing.*

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
April 20, 1950

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

Here is just a little more to what we have. Miss Ella Wingert originally "Winger" of Crawfordsville, Ind., a third cousin, writes that her grandmother Magdalene Frantz Wingert or Winger was born in Penna April 7, 1795 and was married to Henry Wingert in 1822, the same year they moved to Va., and in 1866 owing, I believe, to the Civil War, moved from Va. to Ladoga Indiana. They were members of the Brethren Church and are buried in the Brethren Cemetery at Ladoga. Magdalene Wingert, was a daughter of Michael Frantz, oldest son of our Great great grandfather Christian (III). Michael, in other words, was an Uncle of your great great grandfather Mathies Frantz. This of course is not much but it all adds to what we already have gathered together.

With kindest regards to all

I am, sincerely yours

Alvin D. Frantz

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. **William** Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. The last letter in the series.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin
March 9, 1950

Mr. William Frantz
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Cousin:

There seems to be considerable confusion as to the Elder Michael Frantz and the Michael I call "our Michael." **Elder Michael Frantz** came to America in 1727 and settled in Cocalico Township Lancaster County Penna and it was in that community he established for himself quite a reputation in the Dunkard Church and he is at the present time looked up to as one of the great Colonial leaders of the church. He died in 1749. His son Michael married a lady named Zug and moved to Virginia (Botetourt Co.) in 1770. If there was any relationship as to our branch it may have been between our first American ancestors Christian (I) who came to America five years later (1732) and also settled in Cocalico Township Lancaster Co. Penna. Christian I had three sons, John Michael and Christian (II). These three brothers moved from Cocalico Township to Tulpehocken Township Berks Co. a few miles north of Cocalico Township in 1745 and were among the founders of the Little Swatara Church (Dunkard) there. Here Christian Frantz (II) acquired a tract of land from one of William Penn's sons, in 1742, which became our homestead and was in the family name up to 30 years ago. Christian (II) had only one son Christian III (our great great grandfather) who inherited the farm at his father's death in 1770. Christian (III) had five sons named as follows: Michael the oldest, Christian (IV) your great grandfather, Mathias my great grandfather, John and Henry. He also had five daughters. In 1794 Christian (III) sold the homestead to a Mr. Moyer, and in 1795 moved to Botetourt Co. Va. with his entire family, except Mathias, my great grandfather who would not go because my great grandmother (Basehore) refused to go along. In 1800 my great grandfather (Mathies) bought the farm back from Moyer and as I stated before, the place remained in our name up to 30 years ago. There is a private Frantz cemetery on the farm and I suspect all of our early ancestors are buried there. Our "Michael" had two daughters who married two Winger or Wingert brothers, one of whom was the great grandfather of Rev. Otho Winger, and I regret to say Rev. Otho died in the belief (contrary to the records) that he was descended from Elder Michael Frantz, rather than from our "Michael." Christian Frantz (IV) a brother of my great grandfather Mathies, and your great grandfather, was married to Magdalene Houtz. Both died a few days apart in 1808 and left four children behind, namely: Jacob, the grandfather of the Enid Oklahoma Frantzes, Henry Anna and Mathies, your grandfather. Mathies was the youngest, in fact, was only five days old when his parents died. He was raised by his Uncle and Aunt John and Catherine (Houtz) Myer and when the Myers migrated from Va. in 1830 to Ladoga Mathies and his wife (Greybill) accompanied them. All four children of Christian IV are specifically mentioned as heirs in the final statement of

settlement of our great great grandfather's estate in 1845, so there is absolutely no question as to our relationship. In conclusion I may add that I correspond with Ella Wingert, of Crawfordsville Ind. also a cousin as well as Mrs. Whitson and her sister Mrs. Rarey of Enid Okla. (daughters of Henry Frantz a cousin of yours) and M. A. Frantz of Clayton Ohio, a descendant of Henry Frantz the youngest son of Christian Frantz (III). I feel greatly elated over the success, thus far attained, in unraveling our relationship, especially so inasmuch all trace of our Virginia relatives was lost for over one hundred and twenty years or ever since 1820 when my great grandfather sent one of his sons to Va. after the great great grandfather passed away.

Sincerely yours
Alvin D. Frantz

P.S. In locating you folks I was told to keep an eye on the descendants of a Mathias Frantz at Ladoga as the name "Mathias" only runs in one branch of the Frantzes. Presumably your great grandfather was named after my great grandfather—the Uncle left behind in Penna. Such names as Frank, Henry, Jacob, etc. run strong in our branch. I have a brother named Frank, also a son. Then there was your father. Also the late Governor Frank Frantz, and he too had a son named "Frank." Henry is a common name too. I know of at least four in our branch, not mentioning the Governor's father or the brother of your grandfather Mathias.