

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the first letter in a series dated in 1946.

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Plymouth, Wisconsin  
April 30, 1946

Mr. George Frantz  
Ladoga, Indiana

Dear Mr. Frantz

I am writing you at the suggestion of Prof. Albert E. Harshbarger who I learned to know in my quest for information as to the Harshbarger family—a name I am intensely interested in, inasmuch as my great, great Aunt (Elizabeth Frantz) was married to a Mr. Harshbarger in Botetourt County, Va., or perhaps in Penna., since the family emigrated to Va. from Penna. in 1795, and I know among the early settlers in Penna., there were people by that name. The above is in the way of explanation and what I really would like to know is if the Frantzes down your way are descendants of Christian Frantz, who emigrated to Va., with his entire family, except my great grandfather Mathies, from Berks Co., Penna., in 1795. He had five sons and five daughters. The son's names were Michael, Christian, Mathies, John & Henry. Michael died in Va. Henry moved to near Dayton Ohio in 1825. So far we know nothing about John or Christian or their descendants and we suspect that the Ladoga Frantzes are in some way related to us. It may be of interest to you to know that all trace of the Va. Frantzes was lost since the year 1824 until it was my privilege to unearth my great, great grandfather's will in Botetourt Va. last August. All I had to guide me was that the family migrated to Va. in 1795 and a family tradition that we or rather some of my father's Uncles had met some cousins in the Miami Valley near Dayton Ohio years ago. Mr. M. A. Frantz of Clayton Ohio is a descendant of Henry who moved to Ohio from Va. in 1825. Any information you may have whether related to us or not will be appreciated. It will fit into the picture somewhere.

Truly yours  
A.D. Frantz

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Plymouth Wisconsin
May 21, 1946

Mr. Geo H. Frantz
Ladoga, Ind.

Dear Mr. Frantz:

I received your kind letter this A.M. and while the matter is fresh in my mind I want you to ask your father where he visited "Frank" and "John" in Ill. With this information we might be able to learn much more about our ancestry. To be frank, I suspect you Ladoga Frantzes belong to our line. That is you are descendants along with myself of Christian Frantz III who migrated from Berks County to Botetourt Co., VA in 1795 leaving my great Grandfather "Mathies" in the old homestead in Penn. In Christian Frantzes family (my great great grandfather) there were five boys namely Michael, Christian (IV), Mathies, Henry and John, all accompanied him to Va., except Mathies. There were five daughters, one of these was married in Va. to a Mr. Harshbarger. Strange as it may seem all trace of the Va branch was lost by the Penn. branch for over one hundred and twenty five years until last August when it was my good fortune to discover Christian Frantzes (III) will, which was probated in Botetourt Co., Va., in 1824. So far I have been unable to find any descendants in Va.; all down there claim to be descended from Elder Michael Frantz, a great Dunkard Preacher who lived in Lancaster Co., Pa. and died there in 1745. Michael (II) a son of the above Michael moved to Botetourt Co. Va., in 1770 and the fact that we too have a Michael in our family has caused, I fear, much confusion in Va., as to who is who. A Henry Frantz, father of Governor Frank Frantz of Oklahoma along with some brothers moved from Botetourt Co. Va. to Roanoke Ill. along about 1850 and maybe your Dad visited with this family. If it turns out that way that I feel more confident than ever that we are related. For we also suspect the late Governor belongs to the Christian line. I wish you would let me know within a few days so I can begin my investigations re Ill. Frantzes for it requires months sometimes to get even a starting point established.

Truly yours
A.D. Frantz

P.S. Excuse writing & mistakes in haste. A.D.F.

Lorraine Frantz Edwards here transcribing a letter from Mr. Alvin D. Frantz of Plymouth, Wisconsin, to Mr. George Frantz, Ladoga, Indiana. This is the third letter in a series dated in 1946.

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Plymouth Wisconsin  
May 27, 1946

Mr. Geo Frantz  
Ladoga Ind

Dear Mr. Frantz:

Pardon me for asking questions. What I would like to know, in addition to what I have already ask for is are you folks related way back to the "Harshbargers"? Elizabeth Frantz, a sister of my great grandfather Mathies was married to a Mr Harshbarger and they lived in Botetourt Co. Va. along about 1820. I know the Harshbargers in Ladoga also came from Botetourt Co. Va. originally. Do you folks trace your ancestors to Va? To have this information will give me some thing definite to work on.

Thank you  
Truly yours  
A. D. Frantz

P.S. Also don't forget to ask your Dad where he visited Frantzes in Ill. A.D.F.

[Back of the sheet of paper.]

My ancestors were strong Brethren people. In fact they were among the founders of the Little Swatara Church in Berks and Lebanon Counties Pa in 1745.

My grandfather donated the land for the Frystown Meeting House.

Personally, I am a Methodist.