

# **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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**Descendants of  
Immigrant Christian Frantz  
& Immigrant Michael Frantz**

## TABLE of CONTENTS

### Volume One

Introduction .....	ix
Acknowledgements .....	xv
Photographes of Compilers .....	xiv, xvii, xviii, xix
For Your Information.....	xxiii
Consanguinity Chart .....	xxv, xxvi
Guide to Peculiarities of this Book.....	xxvii
Explanation of the Symbols .....	xxix
Subscribers.....	xxxí, xxxii
Frantz Name .....	1
Pennsylvania Immigrants of the Frantz Name.....	3
Immigrants on the "Molly" .....	6
The Frantz Family .....	7
A Notable Early Elder.....	9
Writings of Michael Frantz.....	13
Harry W. Frantz Letter.....	19
Wills - Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania .....	22
First Federal Census.....	23
The Virginia Frontier .....	25
Descendants of Immigrant Christian Frantz & Descendants of Immigrant Michael Frantz.....	31
Descendants of Immigrant Theobald Gerst.....	313
Descendants of Christian Gish .....	339
Descendants of Immigrant Philip Lorentz Hautz.....	367
Descendants of Immigrant Ulrich Zug .....	397
Addendum -- Descendants of Sally Frantz .....	425
Addendum -- Descendants of Jacob France .....	443
Index -- Volume One.....	451
Appendix -- Robert F. Frantz Information.....	504

## Volume Two

### Descendants of Daniel Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II

First Generation.....	1
Second Generation.....	5
Third Generation.....	15
Fourth Generation.....	47
Fifth Generation.....	117
Sixth Generation.....	229
Seventh Generation.....	385
Eighth Generation.....	525
Ninth Generation.....	563
Notes and References.....	567

### Descendants of Peter Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II

First Generation.....	715
Second Generation.....	719
Third Generation.....	727
Fourth Generation.....	745
Fifth Generation.....	775
Sixth Generation.....	815
Seventh Generation.....	875
Eighth Generation.....	949
Ninth Generation.....	1007
Notes and References.....	1025

Addendum -- Descendants of Simon Blocher..... 1095

Addendum -- Descendants of Peter Crill..... 1121

Index -- Volume Two..... 1139

## Volume Three

<b>Descendants of David Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II</b>	
First Generation.....	1
Second Generation.....	5
Third Generation.....	19
Fourth Generation.....	51
Fifth Generation.....	91
Sixth Generation.....	149
Seventh Generation.....	219
Eighth Generation.....	299
Ninth Generation.....	321
Notes and References.....	323
<b>Descendants of Christian Frantz -- Son of Michael Frantz II</b>	
First Generation.....	415
Second Generation.....	417
Third Generation.....	425
Fourth Generation.....	445
Fifth Generation.....	487
Sixth Generation.....	565
Seventh Generation.....	665
Eighth Generation.....	781
Ninth Generation.....	808
Notes and References.....	811
Addendum -- Descendants of Noah Franklin Brubaker.....	905
Addendum -- Descendants of Stanley Raymond Diltz.....	921
Addendum -- Descendants of Jacob Ebersole.....	925
Addendum -- Descendants of Samuel Hamm.....	963
Addendum -- Descendants of David Peter Long.....	973
Addendum -- Descendants of Owen Metzger.....	1045
Addendum -- Descendants of Levi Addison Miller.....	1049
<b>Index -- Volume Three.....</b>	<b>1083</b>

## 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*

## 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.

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