

8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
27 March 1987

L7M

Dear Lyn,

Thank you for your letter. The enclosed chart will clarify my Folk ancestry for you. It also adds to and corrects several errors being circulated in Folks America. It appears to me that our immigrant Folk ancestor JACOB sailed from Amsterdam via Cowes (Eng.) 30 Aug 1737 aboard the Ship Samuel, landing in Penn (see: Penn. German Pioneers p.169), coming thence to SC in the party of Capt. John Adam Epting whose daughter CATHERINE he married as his 2nd wife. John Adam Epting & wife Barbara had 250-acre grant 28 Nov 1749 on Crim Creek; he gave the land for St. John's Lutheran Church; died 1767. Jacob Folk (1772-1845) was born near Pomaria, Newberry Co.; our tradition is that he was hauling a load of cotton to Charleston, stopped at plantation of John Howard (read about him in Hiers Genealogy; he was b. Eng. c.1738, his parents died en route to Va. where he was apprenticed to a farmer who mistreated him; he ran away & joined Va. militia; was at Braddock's Defeat 9 Jul 1755 with Geo. Washington; moved to South Orangeburg Dist. 1770; Rev. War soldier: Sgt. John Howard, 5th SC Regt. married Mary, daughter of John & Mary Inman who gave 6 acres for White Lick Quaker Meeting House 1800). Jacob Folk fell in love with Mary Elizabeth Howard (1780-1839) and returned to marry her; he bought her father's land and settled there in 1797, John Howard dying 1800. They had 12 children; you descend from one and I descend from two. Meanwhile, in 1798 Barnwell Co. was created out of Orangeburg Dist.; Bamberg Co. was later carved out of Barnwell. Jacob helped found and build Wesley Chapel & is buried in Churchyard beside his wife. In 1840 Census he was a successful planter of St. Bartholomew's Parish, Colleton Co. with 42 slaves; his wife had died 18 Feb 1839 after 12 children. Your George Michael m. (1) Mary Eliz. Platts (1811-1836) whose sister: Mahala Eliz. Platts (1829-1897) m. 1844 John Francis Folk (son of John Jacob & thus became brother-in-law to his deceased aunt Mary Eliz.!) On my grandfather's side I descend from LEVI Folk (1815-1848) who m. Sarah Copeland (1813-1844) who had a handsome son Jacob Levi Folk, 1st Lt., CSA (we have a tintype of him) who m. 1858 Elizabeth Anne Weissinger (NOT Bessinger as Folks in Am. says); we have tintype of her also. Your great-aunt Jessie Mears (1877-1912) married my mother's Uncle John Gustavus Folk (1874-1919), both of whom my mother admired very much and knew well, although Aunt Jessie died just before mother settled in Estill where her only sister Mahala had married Dr. Johnston Peep. Mother lived with her sister until she married my father in June 1915. I do remember your cousin Clarion Coy Folk (1902-1943) but didn't know his two sons (both now live in Columbia, I'm told) or his two brothers. (His sons were raised in an orphanage, according to J. Larle Steadman, mother's 1st cousin).

The descendants of John Francis Folk (1822-1861) have an annual Reunion in Ehrhardt; I am currently president of the Reunion. The descendants of his uncle George Michael Folk also have an annual Reunion there. You might like to write to: Mrs. Corrin F. Bowers, Wyman Blvd., Estill, SC 29918 whose mother was Louise Folk, Mary Eleanor's aunt, Mrs. Pamaris Folk Solomons (deceased) was a member of the Huguenot Society on descent from Jacob Folk; her daughter Margaret Goettee his presently a member. I'll be happy to sponsor you for membership therein if you like. Just write a note to: Mrs. Edmund A. Burns, Executive Secretary, Huguenot Society of SC, 25 Chalmers St., Charleston 2940 and say that I am sponsoring you. I have known Martha Bailey Burns since 1934 and she is a good friend as well as a cousin (as was her late husband).

You may use pp. 222-224 of George Leland Summers' Newberry County, SC, Historical & Genealogical Annals, 1980 as evidence of your ancestry. Note that your gr-grandmother's name Laura Catherine Folk, goes back to her gr-grandmother Catherine Epting, died 1821.

Just before WWII when I was with C&S in Augusta, a nice young fellow named Frank Mears was also there. I believe he joined the Air Force & became a pilot. I always thought he was kin in some way but he didn't know how. Did you know him?

You and I also have another relationship through the Rentz family: a gr-grandmother of my Mahala Elizabeth Platts (1829-1897) was Christina Rentz, born 27 Feb 1710 in Emmigen, Germany (in Wurttemberg) who married

Oct. 1732 Johann Jacob Platz, born 29 Jan 1705 at Schietengen, Wurttemberg, Germany; they emigrated and arrived in Charleston in Oct. 1751 aboard the Ship Ann. Their grandson: John Platts (1790-1861) m. 1811 Susannah Mole (1791-1844), daughter of Jacob & Mary (Cope) Mole of Prince William Parish, parents of Mahala Eliz. (Platts) Folk. By the way, family tradition is that a young ^{man} named Kentz arrived in Emmingen from Italy with a circus c. 300/400 yrs ago, remained there and married and is ancestor of all the Kentz family of that area. I do not know the precise connection between your Margaret Kentz and my Christina Kentz but several generations of Christina's family can be charted from the Hiers Genealogy, back to Michael Rentz (1634-1675) of Emmingen.

Lyn, I am currently Vice Pres. of the Society of First Families of South Carolina, membership in which requires proof of an ancestor who arrived in SC 1670-1700. While it is obvious that no one in the Folk-Epting-Howard-Kentz-Platts etc. connection would qualify you, perhaps you know of some forebear in your Fraser-Lvans lines who would. If so, I'll be delighted to sponsor you for membership therein. Just let me know.

With all good wishes for you and your family, I have the honor to remain

Faithfully,
Robert H. H. Peoples

Rev. Dr. Robert H. H. Peoples

By the way, could the Frank Mears you met just before WWII be "JAMES FRANKLIN 'FRANK' MEARS b: 29 Apr 1919, d: 17 Jan 1995, and called also "Lt. Col."? (I never knew him)

Steve Mears
 → son of James Franklin Mears b: 1888, d: 1918; son of John Thomas Mears and Laura Catherine Folk?