

# The Platts Newsletter

*It Is Better to Know Some of the Questions than All of the Answers*

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## The Platz-Platts Family History

Johann Jacob and Christina Rentz Platz and their children arrived in Charleston in October of 1751. On October 14, 1995, thirteen of their descendants, including a couple of spouses, met and agreed to compile a book about the family. The following decisions were made:

1. The book will focus on the descendants of the second son, Johannes Platz, or John Plats (1743-1799), but any available information on the other Platz *kinder* will be included—such as Christopher Platts's death record and his and Jacob Platts's Revolutionary War service.
2. The book will include five generations of descendants of John Plats and two or three generations of his German ancestors.
3. Land records—grants, plats, and deeds—wills, estate inventories, maps, cemetery and Bible records, and photographs will illustrate the book.

The 6 x 9 hard-cover book will be in standard genealogical format with as little white space as possible. It will sell for around \$30 and will be available Fall 1996. ☞

## In This Issue

- ◇ Bob Connelly's scoop on the maiden name of Elizabeth Platts, second wife of John Platts, Jr.
- ◇ Todd Plat's dead end on W. Josiah Creech, grandson of John Plats's son David Platts
- ◇ Computerized genealogy software update
- ◇ **The February 10, 1996, meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Hampton United Methodist Church, right on Highway 68, 9:30 'til 4.**

## About This Newsletter

This newsletter will go to volunteers working on projects for *The Platz Family*. It will update projects between meetings; ask pertinent questions; and pose research and publication problems to be considered at the next meeting. It will serve as a forum for those who have theories to which they'd like reactions. Sometimes it will be a medium for announcing allied family happenings—reunions, weddings, births, and deaths—or to share a family recipe, story, or joke that may never make it to the book. However, this newsletter will keep its

readers informed of the progress being made by their collaborators *only to the extent that the readers keep the editor informed*. Material can be submitted in several ways:

If you have a computer, send an IBM-compatible disk containing your newsletter information. If you have a computer *and* genealogy software you may send text in GEDCOM format (see related story in this issue).

If you have a computer and a modem, you may send your information via e-mail on the Internet.

If you do not have a computer, you may fax your newsletter information to the editor, and it will be scanned into the computer.

All of the above presupposes that the editor will learn how to use her genealogy software, fax modem, scanner, and the Internet by the time you send something.

If you want to be sure your information is received and not lost in cyberspace, use the US mail! ☞

## Christina Elizabeth Who?

John Platts, Jr., as he styled himself when administering his father's estate, was born 27 May 1790 and died 26 January 1861. He was first married to Susannah Mole (1791-1844), and they had eight children. He married again, and he and his second wife had two children. His second wife's tombstone shows her as Christina Elizabeth Platts (1808-1887), but in all legal documents she is Elizabeth or Eliza (and once Lizzie). Her maiden name has been a mystery. (The theory that she was the daughter of John and Judith Dodd Myers was disproved several years ago.)

A new theory, based on an 1833 deed, was advanced that she was a Jenny, daughter of John and Christener

[sic] and sister of Rebecca, Mary Caroline, John (1795-1868), and George (1805-1883) Jenny. But the theory was based on circumstantial evidence; there was no proof.

Bob Connelly, however, has found the proof. The two children of John Platts, Jr., and his second wife were Eliza Susannah—Sue—(1845-1919) and Joseph Henry William—Bill—(c.1847-1910). Eliza Susannah Platts married John B. Roberts. Late in 1995, Bob found Sue Platts Roberts' death certificate, showing that her mother was, indeed, Eliza Jenny Platts! Now if he can just identify Bill Platts's second wife . . . ☞

### It's a Genealogical Computer Software Jungle Out There

A great deal of computer software for genealogists exists these days, but fortunately, most of it is compatible. Not only can genealogists who use different brands of software swap data with each other, in most cases, their computers don't even have to be compatible, thanks to GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communication) which takes data from one program and puts it into a standard format that another program can read and accept. Evaluating all the available software would be never-ending as it changes so rapidly, so potential users must determine their criteria before deciding what to buy. At the February meeting we will discuss some criteria and look at an example of *Visual Roots* for Windows. ☞

## The David Platts Dead End

David Platts, son of Johannes Platz, or John Platts, (1743-1799), was born about 1792 and died in 1841. He was thrice married: first to Margaret Cope, daughter of George and Hannah Cope, and they had two children: Charity, who married Stephen Creech, and Mary, who married George William Bishop. David Platts's second wife was Elizabeth Shupert, daughter of Frederick and Catherine Shupert; they had no children. He married third Sarah Carter, and they had two children, Ann (1838-1904) and George W. who married Emma Breland.

David Platts's daughter Mary Platts Bishop's descendants are listed in Charles Lawrence Bishop's *The Bishop Family: 1785-1985*, and Pat Miley listed George W. Platts and Emma Breland's descendants in *The Miley Family*. Anna Platts, daughter of David Platts and Sarah Carter never married, and, according to Virginia Platts Hodge, is buried at Old St. Nicholas/Brant Cemetery. Charity Platts Creech (who predeceased her father) had two children, a daughter Mary who died young (11 Jan 1848), and a son Wm. Josiah Creech, born c. 1835 (15 in the 1850 census, in his father's household). In the 1860 census a Josiah Creech [sic], age 20 is in Judith Dodd Creech Meyer's household, next door to H. G. Creach, presumed to be Stephen Creech's brother. Stephen Creech remarried, and he and his second wife Matilda had a daughter Melissa. Stephen Creech died, no doubt in Baker Co., Georgia, as that's where Matilda and the daughter were when Guardianship papers were filed in Barnwell for Melissa in 1864, most likely in connection with Judith Meyer's Estate. But where was Wm. Josiah Creech? He was probably the W. J. Creech who received \$2,400 in 1862 from his paternal grandmother Judith Dodd Creech Meyer's estate in 1862, but after that he disappears.

Todd Platt took Wm. Josiah on as a project but has not found him in the Georgia census in 1860 or 1870 and has found no record of him in South Carolina. Please bring anything you have on any of David Platts's wives, children, etc. to the February meeting, and let's have an afternoon work session and finish this family up then . . . unless someone discovers new information between now and then. ☞