

In May 1751 Johannes Jacob and Christina (Rantz) Platz, their eight children and other Rantz and Eiting relatives of Emmingen, were joined by the Heuser family of Pöhlzgrafenweiler, <sup>from Hurlenberg, Germany</sup> in emigrating. It has been speculated that they had sold their furniture and everything else to carry to carry, bought timber and built rafts on which they floated down the beautiful Neckar River to its junction with the Rhine at Mannheim, thence to Rotterdam where they sold their pine-timbered rafts for the best price offered. Other historians believe they simply paid their passage on the <sup>regularly operated commercial</sup> barges ~~which regularly operated~~ along that busy route. At Rotterdam the company was joined by the Rev. Frederick Schlegel, a Lutheran pastor who accompanied them to South Carolina, acting as their spiritual leader, interpreter, and teacher until they could learn English.

The company shipped from Rotterdam aboard the sailing ship, Ann, with Captain Charles Kenneway, went ashore briefly at Cowes, Isle of Wight, <sup>England</sup> and arrived in Charleston (eventually pronounced Charleston) five months after leaving Emmingen. On 23 Oct. 1751 the South Carolina Gazette carried a notice of their arrival. As "poor German Protestants," <sup>immigrants</sup> they received food and shelter <sup>at the expense of the royal government</sup> of government. On 29 Oct. <sup>representatives</sup> of the heads of families of the two hundred immigrants aboard the Ann appeared before Royal Governor James Oglethorpe and the Council to present their petitions for their transatlantic fare, for free land warrants and bounty supplies for one year.

Their petitions were granted by the Secretary General for Johannes Jacob Platz given orders 8 Jan. 1752 for laying out <sup>4000 acres</sup> of which were duly surveyed 30 March 1753 on Paddy Creek, waters of Salkehatchie River, Prince William Parish, Granville County, the grant ultimately dated 14 Sept. 1753. Prince William Parish had been erected

1745, land between the Salkahatchie and Crosskatchie Rivers. Pooty Creek flows eastward into Salkahatchie between Pooty Bridge and Sanford's Bridge, about five miles southeast of present Union. Situated in the upper pine belt, seventy miles inland from the coast, these lands were far better suited to the purpose of these early settlers than the lower pine belt. Thickly wooded with pine and oak was a nearly level or gently rolling land, the soil a sandy loam easily worked and fertile, though not rich. Land bordering streams was covered with cypress and gum swamps, teeming with wild animals, especially bears, deer, wolves, turkeys, & flocks of many species including the wild turkey. Timber hollows and cotton mouth meadows. It was a delightful environment. Wild animals and birds were abundant.

James Oglethorpe, successful administration of Savannah, Georgia, relations with the Indians were relatively peaceful. In 1748 a tract of 21,714 acres along the Savannah was surveyed and reserved for two groups of Chickasaws, one with twenty warriors, one with seventy. By 1751 there were 37 principal Indian traders leading a pack of some 300 Carolina traders: 17 to the Creeks, 16 to the Cherokees, 2 each to the Catawbas and Chickasaws, bringing 100,000 deer skins annually to Charleston in August, each returning with 150 pounds of trade goods: cloth, glass, kettles, axes, rifles and whiskey. A Settlement of Indians near Sals Bluff, near Windsor, North-Sy, the Ogechees, Charleston, etc. were deemed a nuisance to the white inhabitants. "Pilfering, thieving dogs, a looking trader, George Haigh called them. When the liquor is in the cell is not." The effect of Governor Glen's efforts, settlers between the Savannah and Edisto remained in great danger until after the end of the French & Indian wars in 1761.

Nevertheless between 1748-1759 there were 137 Government positions for 3700 head of stock, 300 on the Salkahatchie. Near Fort Mifflin's plantation spot inland 2000 miles to 3000 Range (including the site of the

Wesley Chapel), 300 acres to Jacob Neyer, 200 acres to Jacob Studenayer, 250 acres to Matthew Jander and 100 acres to John Maul (note).

"These came to Carolina not as "gentlemen or traders", but as tillers of the soil, with honest intention "to earn their bread by the sweat of the brow", and their lands soon gave evidence of that in plenty, and they, by their industry & frugality, not only secured a competency & independence for themselves & their children in this fertile portion of South Carolina, but many of them became blessed with abundance & wealth." (Dr. Bernheim)

It was not easy. "Our shelter for several weeks to protect us from the weather was a bark tent which served until we could erect a rude dwelling of logs". Cooking was done outside over an open fire. <sup>in a pot hung by a hook</sup> <sup>plain pan for frying</sup> Even after the one room <sup>with</sup> "kansi dambis" mud was built, kitchen, smoke house (necessary for preservation of meat), corn crib and privy remained detached. Corn was the first crop planted, <sup>made with hick (no spigots), in wide rows, hills six feet apart, water</sup> <sup>pieces, bean & pumpkin plants & betwixt</sup> For corn was their principal food other than meat which they took by hunting deer and wild hogs. <sup>The night hunting on extensive land was clearly established.</sup> The bounty included a cow & a calf for every five persons, plus hoes and axes. There were pewter plates and spoons, steel knives & forks. Furniture included stools, then chairs, beds made with shuck or straw (much later, feather) mattresses. A spinning wheel made thread from wool, flax, hemp. Every family was expected to raise its own pigs, sheep, cattle & horses and to make its own cloth. The common diet included corn meal or hominy, wild turkey, wild meat (beef, mutton or pork bacon), milk, butter, pumpkins, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and turnips, all of which had to be produced. There was no paper, no carpet, no curtains, no glass windows, no screens, no sofa, no classical music, no flower garden, no lawn. There was very little wine and very little beer, largely because there was very little to steal or fight over. Still, the climate was wonderful to all eyes. The good land would draw a sturdy & healthy adult population of small & medium sized, hardworking families.