

By Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples

Last fall Harold Folk asked me to talk to our Reunion about some of our interesting forebears of long ago and in a moment of weakness I succumbed to his persuasive powers. Miss Cora & I made a trip to Washington where Harold & May Day gave us a beautiful room & bath in their handsome home, wined & dined us as though we were visiting royalty, took us to the National Geographic Society and the National Symphony Orchestra, plus visits to the Mormon Temple and the National Cathedral where we saw the new "moon rock" window. For four days Miss Cora & I did basic research in the National Archives, the D.A.R. Library and the Library of Congress.

Last month I spent a day in the South Carolina Archives in Columbia while visiting my sister Ruth & her husband, Douglas Mc Nair. Earlier this year I invested \$23 in The Hiers Genealogy, compiled by a Research Committee of which our own Angelia Hiers Ireland was a member, and found that they had discovered some information which I consider more immediately interesting to us as the family of John Francis Folk & his wife Mahala Elizabeth Platts. The first fact I found had not even been realized by the Hiers Committee member who recorded it, Wilmet C. Hiers of Allendale. Perhaps we ourselves had not remembered that when John Francis Folk died on 11 March 1861, only 38 years old, his widow Mahala was only 30 years old and had 8 children to support, including the baby Annie Catherine, only 5 months old. There was, I note, no financial problem because John Francis left real estate valued at \$4000 according to the 1860 Census and a personal estate of \$10,500 which means that at the usual value of \$500 each, he had 21 slaves.

This is about what we should have expected since both his father (2) and grandfather were substantial planters. In 1840 Jacob, Sr. had 42 slaves and Jacob, Jr. (John Francis' father) had 18 slaves. By 1850 Jacob, Sr. was dead and Jacob, Jr. (then 48) had real estate worth \$10,000 which amount had increased to \$25,860 by 1860 worked by 81 slaves. There was no widow Foltz in the 1870 census because the fact I found is that she married again. Her first husband was 8 years her senior; her second, William Martin Carter, born 1840, was 11 years her junior. They had no children, so presumably he raised her Foltz children. William died in January 1882, only 41 years old, but Mahala Elizabeth lived on until Dec. 1897, 68 years old, surviving 2 husbands and 5 of her 10 children.

This makes Mahala Elizabeth Platts Foltz Carter come a little more real to us. But we have a further and more important windfall. The Hiers Committee employed a German genealogist who has supplied us with a remarkable amount of data about her Platts forebears.

The story begins with Ludwig Platz (~~or Platz~~), a member of the local law court in the village of Hochdorf in the duchy of Württemberg in southwest Germany. Württemberg was part of the duchy of Swabia which was conquered by the Roman legions in the 1st century, stretching eastward from the Rhine River to the Danube and northward from Lake Constance. In the period of the great migrations, 4th & 5th centuries, the German tribes over-ran & destroyed the Roman Empire. By the late 5th century Clovis had been converted to the religion of his wife, St. Clothilde, and united the area under the Franks. His descendant Charlemagne revived the Roman Empire when he was crowned Emperor in 800 and the division of his empire by the Treaty of Verdun in 843 began the history of Germany as such, under Ludwig the German.

"Gossenbarthle". His death record indicates that he was then selling rakes, apparently successfully, because he returned from a sales trip "in a brandy drunkenness", fell into a water-ditch in the Grindtal Valley, took pneumonia and died. The moral seems to be that if you're going to drink brandy, stay away from ditches. But he was almost 81 years old!

Gossenbarthle's 10th child, Hans Jacob Platz was a manufacturer of rakes in Hochdorf (where he was born & died) and in nearby Schietingen. Apparently his aged father was one of his salesmen. Hans married Anna Barbara Freyermuth, born at Treschklingen near Heilbronn in 1669 (so she was 4 years older than her husband. Nevertheless, she outlived him by 18 years, supporting herself from Dec. 1708 when he died until Dec. 1726 by operating a tobacco shop in Hochdorf.

Her father was the Hon. & Well-born Herr Johan Andreas Freyermuth, Pastor of the Lutheran church at Rappenaue & Treschklingen. He was born at Bad Wimpfen in 1630, died at Treschklingen 1670, having married there in 1657 Margarethe Vetterlin, daughter of George Vetterlin, hunter & forester of Wimpfen. The pastor's parents were Andreas Freyermuth, citizen & knifemith of the Free Imperial Town of Wimpfen, and Dorothea Müller of Talheim.

Hans Jacob & Anna Barbara (Freyermuth) Platz were parents of Johan Jacob Platz, born 1705 at Schietingen. He married in 1732 at Emmingen, Christina Rentz, born 1710, daughter of Jacob Rentz, citizen & fisherman of Emmingen, and his wife, Christina Roller, daughter of Hans & Catherine Roller of Pfundorf.

Jacob Rentz (1682-1746) was a son of Martin Rentz (1655-

1726) former of Emmingen, and Anna Maria Eiting (1658-⁽⁵⁾
1747), daughter of Jacob Eiting, born 1613, citizen and member
of the local law court at Unter-Ittingen, son of an earlier
Jacob Eiting. The Rantz family progenitor was an Italian who came to
Emmingen with a circus & stayed to found a family.

In May 1751 John Jacob & Christina (Rantz) Platz, their
children and other Rantz & Eiting relatives of Emmingen, were
joined by the Hoyer family of Pfalzgrafenweiler, in emigrating.
Presumably they sold their furniture and everything too bulky to
carry, built rafts of fine timber on which they floated down
the beautiful Neckar River to its junction with the Rhine at
Mannheim, thence to Rotterdam where they sold their fine-
timbered rafts for the best price they were offered. There they
were joined by the Rev. Frederick Stoltzner, a Lutheran pastor who
accompanied them to South Carolina and acted as their interpreter
until they could learn English.

They shipped from Rotterdam on the ^{English} sailing ship Ann with
Captain Charles Kennaway, stopped briefly at Cowes, Isle of Wight,
and arrived in Charles Town 5 months after leaving their native
village. On 23 Oct. 1751 The South Carolina Gazette carried a notice
of their arrival and on 29 Oct. twelve of the heads of families of the
200 immigrants aboard the ship Ann appeared before Royal Governor
James Glen & the Council to present their petitions for their
ocean fare, for free land grants and bounty for one year for their
families.

Among the original Royal Land Grants recorded in this
area (along Savanna Branch of Saltcatcher Swamp) were
200 acres to John Rantz (which includes the present site of Wesley
Chapel), 300 acres to Jacob Hoyer, 200 acres to Jacob Studmeyer,

250 acres to Mathew Pfender, 100 acres to John Maul,
 (Mahala Elizabeth Platts' mother is said to have been a Mole)
 Jacob Platts had a 400-acre grant on Pretty Creek, Granville Co.
 dated 4 Sept. 1753. Johannes Platts had a 50 acre grant in Prince
 William Parish dated 18 Oct. 1757, John 300 acres on north Fork of the
 Edisto 19 Sept. 1758 and 200 acres on a branch of the Edisto 10 Sept.
 1765. Hans Jacob had 150 acres on Pretty Creek, Granville 14 June
 1771. Pretty Creek is 5mi. S.E. of present Ulmers.

John Platts supplied Col. Edward Harden with two beeves (4 yr.
 old steers) for Gen. Greene's army 2 Oct. 1782 and Jacob Platts supplied
 six beeves 18 Nov. 1782 for Continental Army use.

On 22 Oct. 1785 Jacob Platts received a S.C. State grant for
 264 acres which included Carter's Cross Road

The immigrating family of Johann Jacob & Christina (Rentz)
 Platts included their 8 children: 4 daughters: Maria Barbara,
 Christina, Anna Maria & Maria Magdalena and 4 sons: Johann
 Jacob, Johann, Johann Christoph and Martin. I find no land grants
 for the latter two. So apparently ^{b. 1741} John Jacob or his brother ^{b. 1743} John
 was the grandfather (~~or great grandfather~~) of Mahala Elizabeth
 Platts, born 28 May 1829, our ancestress.

[Who has the Platts family Bibles and records?]