

In May 1751 Johannes Jacob and Christina (Rentz) Platz, their eight children and sundry Rentz and Eiting relatives of Emmingen, were joined by the Heyer family of Pfalzgrafeweller in emigrating from Wuerttemberg, Germany. It has been speculated that they had sold their furniture and everything too heavy 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 fine-limbered rafts at the best prices offered. Other historians believe they simply paid their passage on the regularly operated commercial barges along that busy route. At Rotterdam the company was joined by the Rev. Frederick Stoltzner, a Lutheran pastor who accompanied them to South Carolina, acting as their spiritual leader, interpreter and teacher until they could learn English.

The emigrants shipped from Rotterdam aboard the sailing ship Ann, with Captain Charles Kennaway, went ashore briefly at Cowes, Isle of Wight, England and arrived in Charlestown (even then pronounced Charleston) five months after leaving Emmingen. On 23 October 1751 The South Carolina Gazette carried a notice of their arrival. As "poor German protestant immigrants" they received food and shelter at the expense of the royal government. On 29 October twelve heads of families of the two hundred immigrants aboard the Ann appeared before Royal Governor James Glen and the Council to present their petitions for their transatlantic fare, for bounty land warrants of fifty acres per person five years and older, and bounty supplies for one year. Their petitions were routinely granted. The Surveyor General was given orders 8 January 1752 for laying out for Johannes Jacob Platz 400 acres which were duly surveyed 30 March 1753 on Pretty Creek, waters of Salkenhatchie River, Prince William Parish, Granville County, the grant ultimately dated 4 September 1753. Prince William Parish had been erected 1745, land between Salkenhatchie and Coosawhatchie Rivers. The Salke and Coosaw Indians no longer inhabited the parish; others did. Pretty Creek flows eastward into Salkenhatchie between Rivers Bridge and Bufords Bridge, some five miles southeast of present Ulmers. Situated in

① could you what
did you do on land?
see bounty land grants
warrants? typical for
supplies? typical for
the new immigrants?
do you know granted
- how long grant in the
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in the country
- was a bounty
land grant on
the grant?
- were there "bounty"
lands if granted?

than the lower pine belt. Thickly wooded with pines and oaks 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, reptiles and fowls: deer, wolves, bears, turkeys, snakes of many species including the poisonous timber rattlers and moccasins. It was a frightening environment as many settlers recorded. Thick woods, wild animals and Indians.

During the able, energetic and successful administration of James Glen, royal governor of Carolina 1738-1756, relations with the Indians were relatively peaceful. In 1748 a tract of 21, 774 acres along the Savannah was surveyed and reserved for two groups of Chikasaws, one with twenty warriors, one with seventy. By 1751 there were 37 principal Indian traders managing a pack of some 300 Carolina traders: 17 to the Creeks, 16 to the Cherokees, two each to the Catawbas and Chikasaws; bringing 100,000 deerskins annually to Charlestown in August, each returning with 150 pounds of trade goods: glass beads, thread, cloth, axes, hatchets, rifles and whiskey. Settlement Indians near Silver Bluff, New Windsor, Ninety-six, the Congarees and Charlestown were deemed a nuisance, sometimes dangerous. "Pilfering, thieving dogs", a leading trader, George Haigh, called them. "When the liquor is in, the wit is out." In spite of Governor Glen's efforts, settlers between the Edisto and Savannah remained in great danger until after the end of the French and Indian Wars in 1761.

Nevertheless, between 1748-1759 there were 1300 German petitions for 3700 headright grants, 300 along the Salkehatchie. Near Johannes Platz's 400-acre grant were: 200 acres for John Rentz (including the site of later Wesley Chapel), 300 acres to Jacob Heyer, 300 acres to Jacob Studmeyer, 300 acres to Matthew Fender and 100 acres to John Maul. "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 thrift and plenty, and they, by their industry and frugality, not only secured a competency and independence for themselves and their children in this fertile portion of South Carolina, but many became blessed with

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.; wrote Tardeton Brown. Cooking was done outside in a pot hung by a hook, plus a pan for frying over an open fire. Even after the one room pole house daubed with mud was built, kitchen, smoke house (necessary for preservation of meat), corn crib and privy remained detached structures. Corn was the first crop planted, made with hoes (no ploughs) in wide rows, hills six feet apart with peas, beans and pumpkins planted between.

For corn was their principal food other than meat which they took by hunting deer and wild hogs. The right to hunt unenclosed land was clearly established. The royal bounty included a cow and a calf for every five persons, plus hoes and axes and provisions for one year. There were pewter plates and spoons, steel knives and forks. Furniture included stools (later chairs), table and bedsteads with shuck or straw mattresses. A spinning wheel made thread from wool, flax , hemp or cotton. Every family had to raise its own hogs, sheep, cattle and horses and to make its own cloth. The common diet included corn meal or hominy, wheat bread, salt meat (beef, mutton or pork bacon), milk, butter, peas, beans, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and turnips, all of which had to be produced.

There was no parlor, no carpet, no curtains, no glass windows, no screens, no sofa, no classical music, no tea, no sugar, no flower garden. There was very little wine and very little crime, largely because there was very little to steal or fight over. Still, the climate was mild and healthful. The good land would develop a sturdy and independent population of small farmers with law-abiding, Sabbath-keeping families. The Platz family would persevere and prosper.