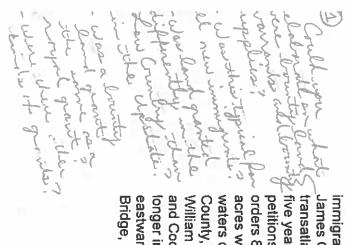
In May 1751 Johannes Jacob and Christina (Rentz) Platz, their eight children and sundry Rentz and Eiting relatives of Emmingen, were joined by the Heyer family of Pfalzgrafenweiler in emigrating from Wuertemberg, Germany. It has been speculated that they had sold their furniture and everything too heavy 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-timbered 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.

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



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.

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

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

screens, no sofa, no classical music, no tea, no sugar, no flower was clearly established. The royal bounty included a cow and a corn crib and privy remained detached structures. Corn was the outside in a pot hung by a hook, plus a pan for frying over an open rude dwelling of logs:, wrote Tarleton Brown. Cooking was done the weather was a bark tent which served until we could erect a It was not easy. "Our shelter for several weeks to protect us from independent population of small farmers with law-abiding, Sabbathwas mild and healthful. The good land would develop a sturdy and garden. There was very little wine and very little crime, largely sweet potatoes and turnips, all of which had to be produced. common diet included corn meal or hominy, wheat bread, salt meat hogs, sheep, cattle and horses and to make its own cloth. The with shuck or straw mattresses. A spinning wheel made thread one year. There were pewter plates and spoons, steel knives and calf for every five persons, plus hoes and axes and provisions for six feet apart with peas, beans and pumpkins planted between. first crop planted, made with hoes (no ploughs) in wide rows, hills built, kitchen, smoke house (necessary for preservation of meat), (beef, mutton or pork bacon), milk, butter, peas, beans, pumpkins, forks. Furniture included stools (later chairs), table and bedsteads by hunting deer and wild hogs. The right to hunt unenclosed land keeping families. The Platz family would persevere and prosper. because there was very little to steal or fight over. Still, the climate from wool, flax,hemp or cotton. Every family had to raise its own fire. Even after the one room pole house daubed with mud was There was no parlor, no carpet, no curtains, no glass windows, no For corn was their principal food other than meat which they took