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August 27, 1996

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peebles
8 Moon Shell Road
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Dear Dr. Peebles:

Last year, just about this time, you received a letter inviting you to meet with Platts cousins. Your presence at that meeting, and the information you shared then and in a later letter, was most affirming.

We are progressing, albeit slowly, toward publication. At subsequent meetings in February and June we outlined the book and assigned tasks to workers who were both willing and able. **Todd Platt**, a descendant of **Alfred⁴, John, Jr.,³, John Platts born Johannes Platz², Johann Jacob Platz¹**, has taken on the tedious chore of entering the vital statistics and sources for such information in a data base. Others are tracking down published material or haunting courthouses.

One of my most pleasant tasks is to invite you to write essays to introduce the chapters on the Colonial and Revolutionary periods in the Upper Coastal Plain of South Carolina. We'd like you to describe what South Carolina was like in October of 1751 when the Platz Family arrived in Charleston, how they made their way to the west bank of the Saltketcher River in what was then Granville County, and what experiences they may have subsequently had during the Cherokee War and later in the Revolution. We want our readers to have a context for the facts that Platts were on the SC Royalist Militia Muster Roll yet also contributed provisions to the Revolutionary forces.

As you well know, many members of our intended audience have only sketchy knowledge of this historical period and certainly don't know what roles their ancestors played. Those of us with grandchildren are anxious that when they study American history, this book will help them see that "history" is not just great men and dates to be remembered but a part of their family heritage.

Now let me define "essay" in terms of space. We're aiming toward a 6 x 9" hard-cover book, in standard genealogical format (NGSQ, as you suggested in your October 1995 letter) with as little white space as possible. We anticipate each of the essays being two-to-three pages long. We want enough information to cover the period adequately and to provide background for the genealogical information that will follow the essay. We want some suggested reading for those interested enough to pursue further study. We don't want to lose the readers whose knowledge and interest is limited. How's that for a tough assignment?

Dr. Peebles
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~~I will edit all~~ text so that the style and readability is consistent. For example, this letter is written at about the 11th grade reading level. It would be edited by shortening the sentences and avoiding the passive voice where practical and bringing it down to the 8th grade reading level which is just about where most daily newspapers and popular periodicals such as *Time* are written. I do not intend to edit content, but I may ask for clarification or suggest adding or deleting some material.

We would like to have all first drafts of the text by January 15th.

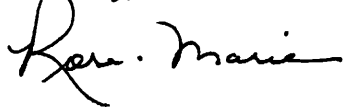
You are a busy man with lots of projects and lots of people depending on you to keep things going. You are also the intellectual father of this enterprise. Please say you'll lend us your knowledge and prestige.

Enclosed is a rough draft of a pre-publication flyer that will be mailed out before Christmas this year. Please send me your comments on both content and form. These chapter divisions were discussed at the February meeting, but they are really quite arbitrary and certainly not set in stone. We'd appreciate any suggestions you have for improving on them. We will meet on the 12th of October and hope to reach a final conclusion then.

I hope you and Miss Cora are having a pleasant summer. We survived the spring rains and the drought of June and July, but I'm not sure we'll weather these torrential rains we're having nor the thunder and lightning that accompany them. We may float right down to the Savannah River, tumble over the dams, and wash up on your beach any day!

With affectionate greetings to you both, I am

Sincerely,



Rose-Marie Williams

DRAFT

THE PLATZ-PLATTS (AND SOMETIMES PLATT) FAMILY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

1751-1996

Two Hundred Forty-Five Years on the Salkehatchie River

Johann Jacob Platz and Christina (Rentz) Platz and their eight children emigrated from Württemberg, then a state in what is now southwestern Germany, arriving in Charleston, South Carolina, in October of 1751. Johann Jacob Platz received a Royal Grant of 400 acres on Pretty Creek, waters of the Great Saltketcher River, and some of his descendants have lived on or near that tract since. The immigrant Platz family included four daughters and four sons, and while nothing is known about the daughters and one of the sons, Platts family historians have been gathering information on three of the sons for several years:

Johann Jacob Platz was born about 1740 and died in Colleton County about 1789. He married Catherine Rentz and had three known children.

Johannes Platz was born about 1743 and died in Barnwell County as **John Platts** about 1799. He married Sophia (surname unknown) and had at least ten children.

Johann Christopher Platz was born about 1746 and died 20 May 1779. No record has been found for a marriage or for children.

This book will focus on the descendants of the second son, **Johannes Platz**, or **John Platts** (1743-1799), but available information on his brothers will be included—such as Christopher Platts's death record and Christopher and Jacob Platts's Revolutionary War service.

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 and will sell for around \$35. It is expected to be available in June of 1997.

SOME POSSIBLE DIVISIONS

- I. German Peasant Life in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century: Three Generations of Ancestors of Johan Jacob Platz and Christina (Rentz) Platz
- II. The Late Colonial Period in South Carolina: The First Generation of the Platz Family in South Carolina, 1751-1775
- III. The American Revolution and the German Immigrants on the Saltketchers: The Second Generation
- IV. Between the Back Country and the Low Country/Between the Revolution and the Civil War: A Third Generation Immigrant Family Comes of Age
- V. The Civil War and Reconstruction: The Fourth and Fifth Generations of the Platts Family
- VI. The Platts (and Platt) Family in the New South: The Sixth and Seventh Generations (The eighth generation will probably be listed only as the offspring of the seventh; we don't anticipate having enough room to treat them more fully.)

• To order copies at the pre-publication rate, please send your check for the number of copies you want to Joe Blow, PO Box, Wherever, SC. Price \$30.00 plus \$1.50 SC Sales Tax, plus \$3.00 mailing for the first book, \$1.00 for each additional book to the same address.