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Mrs. M. J. Patrick
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Dear Mrs. Patrick:

My aunt Louise Platts Barnes (Mrs. James Kermit Barnes) of the Hickory Grove community near Brunson shared with me a copy of a "Loadholt Family History" compiled by your mother. I am interested in anyone living on the west bank of the Big Salkehatchie River between Buford's Bridge (Hy 301) and Broxton's Bridge (Hy 601), south to Jackson's Branch and Whippy Swamp, primarily from 1750 to 1850, and I am especially interested in Germans. I am curious about the origins of St. Nicholas Lutheran Church in present-day Allendale County; about what I believe to be "a dense web of reiterated kinship" that existed among the German families for over 100 years; and about the patterns of property ownership in the region described.

Your mother's account of the John Cone-Hannah Platts, Sabena Cone-John Loadholt, John Jacob Loadholt-Mary Augusta Brant family connections certainly fits all of my interests. I would like to know more about the earlier Loadholts and Brants and more about John Cone who and Hannah Platts, the parents of Sabena Cone Loadholt (b. 7 Feb. 1808-d. 26 Nov. 1886). Which John Cone was he? Where did he live? Was Hannah his first, second, or third wife? Did he have other children? There were several John Cones, and they are hard to pin down. I would appreciate looking through your mother's records, especially family Bibles, old wills, deeds, letters, etc. if they are available.

I can tell you about Hannah Platts' family. She was a daughter of John and Sophie Platts. The enclosed chart prepared by the archivist in Nagold, West Germany will tell you about the pre-emigration generations. An account of what I know about the family in this country follows.

FIRST GENERATION

Johann Jacob Platz was baptized 26 January 1705 in Nikolaus Kirche in Schietingen, Wurttemberg. On 7 October 1732 he married Christina Rentz who was born 27 February 1710 in Emmingen. Schietingen, Emmingen, Hochdorf (where Johann Jacob probably grew up), and Pfondorf (where Christina's mother was baptized in Nikolaus Kapelle) are all villages in the rural district of Nagold, about an hour's drive time from Stuttgart, West Germany, on the edge of the Black Forest. As "Nikolaus" is an uncommon name for an Evangelical Kirche (Lutheran Church), I have surmised that the St. Nicholas Lutheran Church in rural Allendale County was so-named because Johann Jacob and Christiana Rentz Platz each had a connection with a church of that name. Thus, I believe that they were among the founders of the South Carolina church.

Dr. Peoples - I have some new info, but not much. George Platts' Estate papers are a gold mine... thank goodness he died intestate + without issue! Correct what needs to be corrected and let me know. Will get your Brant info within the month.

**enclosed*

According to records in the church in Emmingen, Johann Jacob and Christina Rentz Platz had eight children:

- i. Maria Barbara Platz, b. 11 November 1734
- ii. Christina Platz, b. 6 April 1737
- iii. Anna Maria Platz, b. 4 March 1739
- iv. Johann Jacob Platz, b. ca. 1740
- v. Johannes Platz, b. ca. 1743
- vi. Johann Christopher, b. ca. 1746
- vii. Maria Magdalene, b. 23 April 1747
- viii. Martin Platz, b. 12 November 1749

Christina Rentz Platz was baptized in the church at Emmingen, married there, and all except three of her children's baptisms were recorded there at the time they were baptized, probably on the day they were born, according to local custom. The baptisms of Johann Jacob, Johannes, and Johann Christopher were not recorded, but their names were written in on the family page, apparently when Maria Magdalene was baptized. The record keeper of the church assured me that this deviation should not be taken as an indication that those children were not duly baptized. Rather, she indicated, the pastor who served this church between 1739 and 1747 was probably "lazy" and simply neglected entering those baptisms. In any case, on the page where the above information is recorded, is written "Johann Jacob Platz and Christina his wife and their eight children have left for the New World."

As discussed in The Hiers Genealogy, the Platz family emigrated from Germany to Charleston, SC in 1751 on the ship Ann with eleven other German families and a number of single men and women (HG, pp. 16-20). On 8 January 1752 Jacob Platz's petition for land and bounty for himself, his wife, and his six oldest children was heard by the SC Council (HG pp. 549-550). The ages he gave for his children are not exactly the same as the birth dates recorded in Emmingen. He may have wanted to impress the Council with what an industrious group of laborers he had, so made them older or, like some of his male descendants, he may not have known his children's ages. Of course, the discrepancy may result from a mistake in translation or in transcription. In any case, the Surveyor General was ordered to lay out 400 acres between the "Great Rivers of the Santee and Savannah" for Jacob Platz, and he was given the bounty requested. That he did not request bounty for the two younger children does not mean that they were deceased; perhaps children younger than six years old were not considered good risks. On 30 March 1753, 400 acres were surveyed on Pretty Creek, on the Great Salt Ketcher River, for Jacob Platz, and he received his grant on 4 September 1753. Most of the eleven families from the Ann also settled along the Salkehatchie, more of them on the Colleton County side, however.

SECOND GENERATION

Of the eight Platz children who came to the New World with their parents Johann Jacob and Christina Rentz Platz, I have thus far identified only three:

I. Johann Jacob Platz (ca. 1740-1788) married Catherine Rentz, daughter of George and Catherine Rentz and sister of Peter and Simon Rentz and Christine Rentz Fender. This Rentz family also emigrated

from Emmingen, Germany in 1751, along with the Platts family (HG, pp. 417-419). In 1785, this Johann Jacob Platz was granted 264 acres next to George Rentz, his father-in-law, on the Colleton County side of the Salkehatchie where Jacob operated a mill. When Jacob's 1788 will was proved in 1797 in Charleston County, his heirs included his wife Catherine; two sons, George, who was underage, and Peter; and a daughter, Mary.

II. Johannes (ca. 1743-1799). Johann or Hans as a prefix to a name simply designates a child whereas Johannes is German for John. Johannes is evidently John Platts, Sr. who appears in the 1790 Census as John Plat, Orangeburg District, South Part: 1 male over 16, 2 males under 16, 7 females and 1 slave. His will, written in 1799, named his wife Sophie as one of the executors. Since in the 1800 census we have Sophia Platts, Barnwell: 4 males under 10, 1 female under 10, 5 females 10-16, 1 female 26-45, and 5 slaves, we can assume that John was dead by census time that year. Sophie appears again in the 1810 census as Sovihah/Sopinah Platts: 1 male 10-16, 3 males 16-26, 1 female 10-16, 1 female over 45, and 11 slaves. When the will of John Platts, Sr. was proved in 1816, his son John Platts, Jr. attested that all of the executors to his father's estate were themselves deceased and he was, therefore, applying for letters of administration. From that, we can assume that Sophie was deceased by 1816. Other than her name appearing in her husband's will, and twice in census records, the only other place it appears is in a document allowing John Platts, Jr. to hold a public sale of that portion of his father's estate that had not been divided among the heirs, "said sale to be held at the home of Mrs. Sophie Platts." I do not know who she was before she married or whether she was the mother of all of John Platts' children or a second wife. She remains a mystery. I have a theory that she was either a Varn or a Miley, and Dr. Robert Peoples speculates that she might have been a Creech.

III. Johann Christopher (b. ca. 1746). Christopher lived to his majority and bought land from William Mills. When Christopher died, his brother John bought the land from Christopher's heirs and gave it to his (John's) daughter Christinia who later sold it to her brother David. I know nothing of the wife or children of Christopher Platz/Platts/Platts.

Unless otherwise noted, the following information is derived primarily from Barnwell County Probate records and has not been checked against other public documents (including census records). I supply it as tentative information, not as fact. I will be happy to furnish references to all dates and information.

THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATIONS

Johannes, or John Platts, Sr., died in 1799 leaving a wife, Sophia, and nine children. One daughter, Hannah, predeceased him leaving heirs. If there were other children deceased in 1816, they obviously left no issue. Children of John and Sophia Platts:

Christinia m. George Howard. In 1816 they had moved to Liberty County, now Ludowici, Georgia. She was still living in 1844 and an heir to her brother George's estate. Helen Day of Brunswick sent me the following information on the Howards from Judge Folks Huxford's book, Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, Vol. 5, pages 580-581. This information was furnished to Judge Huxford by Mr. E. O. Parker of Washinton: George Howard was born 17 June 1777 and Christina Platt was born 16 March 1776. Their children were (a) Elizabeth, b. 10 June 1798, m. Robert Middleton; (b) Mary, b. 13 Dec. 1799, probably died young; (c) Jacob, b. 10 Nov. 1801, m. (1) Rebecca Moody, (2) Martha Flowers; (d) Anna S. b. 6 Jan. 1804, m. (1) Daniel Sullivan (2) R. H. Peacock; (e) Hannah B. b. 13 Feb. 1806, m. Joshua Fletcher; (f) John H., b. 30 April 1808 (sic), probably died young; (g) Miley, b. 31 Oct. 1810, m. Simeon Harrington. *

Hannah m. John Cone. She was deceased when her father's will was proved in 1816. She had two daughters, (a) Sabena/Sibil/Sivey who married John Loadholt and (b) Elizabeth who married Herren/Henry Bowers. In 1844 Sivey Loadholt and Elizabeth Bowers and their husbands divided an heir's share of George Platts' estate. Mrs. J. B. O'Neal, Sr. of Fairfax compiled a list of the descendants of Sivey and John Loadholt, but I know nothing of the children of Elizabeth Bowers nor do I have conclusive evidence as to which John Cone Hannah married.

Miley/Mary m. Michael Kinard. She was living in Lexington County when her father's will was proved and was still there when she received an heir's share of her brother George's estate in 1844. I have made no attempt to trace her descendants.

Margaret m. (1) George Harter. Helen Day also furnished information on the Harters compiled before 1979 by Mrs. Bert Harter of Key West: George Harter was born 9 August 1786 and died 27 April 1818. Margaret Platts was born 9 April 1786 and died 22 September 1860. They married before the 1810 census. They had two sons, (a) William George Harter, b. 25 Sept, 1811, d. 31 July 1864, m. (1) 30 Dec. 1846 at Salisbury, NC to Margaret Virginia Nutall and (2) 6 Jan 1858 at Silver Run, Ohio to Charlotte E. Hine and (b) Henry Joel Harter, b. 26 Jan. 1814, d. 6 Feb. 1900, m. (1) 1 Nov. 1834 to Elizabeth Lightsey and (2) 26 Jan. 1888 to Annie Laurie Hiers. Margaret Platts Harter married (2) Benjamin Warren before 1835. I don't know if Margaret and Warren had children or not.

* enclosed

- Elizabeth m. (1) John Adam All. John All died before 5 October 1832 leaving "four heirs of age besides the widow and five minor children." I have tentatively identified three unnamed older daughters: (a) ? m. J.W. Gibson; (b) ? m. John Harrison, Jr.; and possibly (c) ? m. Edward Lyons (but think he was probably a court official instead); and the following siblings: (d) Adam All, Jr. m. Martha M. McMillan; (e) Daniel All m. Nancy O'Neal; (f) Phillip All; (g) Lavinia All; (h) Harriett All; and (i) Jonas All. I don't know whether Elizabeth was the only wife of John Adam All, which of the children were hers, nor anything more about them. Elizabeth was married to (2) James Ulmer in 1834. He died in 1855. I do not know if Elizabeth was the mother of any of James Ulmer's children.
- Nancy m. Abraham Hiers. The Hiers Genealogy says that Abraham Hiers was married five times: (1) Nancy Copeland, (2) Hannah Platts, (3) Frances Caroline Parker, (4) May (Polly) Harrison, and (5) to the daughter of his third or fourth wife by a previous marriage. It lists seven children: (a) Charles (12 December 1815), (b) Elizabeth (11 April 1817), (c) Wade Hampton (20 December 1824), (d) Mahaly (13 November 1826), (e) Jacob (12 March 1828), twin girls (f) Elizaabeth Frances and (g) Rebecca May (25 August 1830) (HG, pp. 266-304). According to her father's estate papers, Nancy Platts was married to Abraham Hiers 1816-1817. According to her brothers' David's and George's estate papers, at their deaths in 1841, George was the guardian of Hampton and Mahaly and David the guardian of Jacob Hiers, and Charles Hiers was the Executor of Abraham Hiers' estate. Dr. Peeples has speculated that Nancy Platts was previously married to a Copeland. He has a Hannah Platts (other than the one above married to John Cone) who was born in 1806 and who could have been the mother of Wade Hampton, Mahaly, and Jacob Hiers, but he has no source for her birth date and no parents for her.
- Catherine m. (1) Henry Brant between 23 April 1816 when her brother John Platts, Jr. signed as her guardian and 26 December 1817 when she and her brothers and sisters sold their shares in their father's land to their brother George. In 1844, I think she was married to (2) W. W./ W. H. Weekley. I do not know if she and Brant or she and Weekley had children or not.
- David m. (1) Margaret Kope, daughter of George Kope and (2) Sarah (?). He had four children, the first two by Margaret, I believe, and the second two by Sarah: (a) Charity m. Stephen Creech. Charity was deceased when her father's estate was probated in 1841, but her two children, Josiah and Mary (Mary d. 1850) received her share. Thomas O'Neal, a lawyer in Barnwell, was Josiah's guardian. (b) Mary Platts m. George Bishop. (c) Anna and (d) George were minors in 1844. Washington Weekley (husband of Catherine Platts Brant?) was guardian for Anna and George.

- John m.(1) Susannah Mole. The enclosed family group sheet compiled by Dr. Peeples provides information on them and their eight children and on John and his second wife, (2) Christina Elizabeth Mayer*(?) and their two children.

- George m. Levica/Levice/Louisa (?). They had no children when he died in 1841. After George Platts' death Levica/Levice/Louisa married George Priester. They had no children. She was George Priester's second wife and not the mother of his children, all of whom were born before 1841. The property that was known in 1886 as the George Priester Homeplace was, I believe, originally the George Platts place and part of the original 400 acre land grant to Johann Jacob and Christine Rentz Platz.

I have not identified Edward J. Platts who died sometime before 4 November 1836 and his wife Elizabeth who died between then and 6 March 1837. They left three children: James, Sarah Ann, and Deliah. They were evidently connected to the Platts discussed above since David Platts was the Administrator of Elizabeth's estate and the signatures of all three brothers, David, George, and John appear on one of the documents in her estate papers.

Nor has Dr. Peeples identified the Hannah Platts discussed above as Abraham Hiers' second wife (27 September 1806) and her siblings Jacob Platts, (1 March 1809); George Platts (4 March 1811); or Peter Platts (31 December 1813). He has no sources for these dates.

I am sending copies of this letter to others who are working on related families and have provided some of the information above. We will all look forward to hearing from you. Perhaps you can clear up some of our mysteries!

Yours truly,

RMW

Rose-Marie Williams

** Is it OK for me to share this with others? I should have asked first! Sorry.*

*** my correspondent Helen Day of Brunswick suggests this. She is trying to find a niche for her grandmother Catherine Mayer (Meyer)'s sister Christenar. Catherine, Christenar, Mary, John, & Jacob were children of Johnny Meyer according to his 19 July 1823 will. This is all tied in to the Baptist minister Jonathan Paper is some way about one census info on Howards' of Georgia which I'll send on to you, also. I'm enclosing everything else she sent on Howard family in Georgia.*

Sources

Hiers, James Lawrence, Chairman, The Hiers Research Committee. The Hiers Genealogy. Columbia: The R. L. Bryan Company, 1978.

Meriwether, Robert L., The Expansion of South Carolina: 1729-1765. Kingsport, Tennessee, 1940.

Barnwell County Estate Papers

Correspondence, conversations, and speculation

Trip to Emmingen, Hochdorf, Pfondorf and Schietingen, West Germany

Notes

1. So far, the connection between the Rentz family of Christina Rentz Platz and the Rentz family of Catherine Rentz Platz has not been established. When I inquired after the Platz and Rentz families in Emmingen, I was told that there were no Platz there now and that the relationship was not clear between the Rentz family there now and the family of Christina Rentz Platz. "It is told that a young fellow with the name Renz three or four hundred years ago came from Italy with a circus. When the circus left, he stayed here and he should be the ancestor of all Renz living here and in the surroundings," goes the local legend. The current Circus Renz in Berlin is a small family circus that originated in 1842.

2. Concerning the children of John and Sophia Platts listed on Dr. Peeples' family sheet, I assume that Dr. Peeples has up-to-date information on the descendants of Mary Elizabeth Platts and Abeline Mohala Platts. Dean Attaway has information on Eve Platts Copeland's ¹ descendants and I on those of John Jacob Platts. I don't know who has information on the latter generations of the families of Anna Miley Platts Young, William Platts (who I believe died young)², or Harriet Platts Moore. Virginia Hodge is my correspondent for the family of Joseph Henry William (Mr. Bill)³ Platts, son of John Platts, Jr. and his second wife Christinia Elizabeth.

3. Holbrook and Carl Platts of Hampton and Brunson respectively and their sister and brother-in-law, Ann and Sam Rice of Allendale, are working on Platts' land holdings in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

1. I have all of this if you want it.
2. I left Alfred out of that listing unintentionally. I have information, as you know, on the descendants of one branch of this family - John Dexter Platts. Is Alfred Wm. A. Platts, "my son-in-law" in Margaret Brant's will (Barnwell, Bnd. 178, pkg 86) to whom she left one third of her estate "for the sole use and benefit of his children now living"? She also left 1/3 to E. Martin Cope and 1/3 to Solomon Jones, also son-in-law. Recorded Will Book F, p. 130, 28 January 1869. I found a W. A. Platts as an appraiser in another estate, Mrs. M. Anerva E. Kope, in 1849. (over)

Further, when John Platts, Jr. made his will 28 Feb. 1856, he stated that if "both of my children Joseph H. W. and Coliga S. shall die without ^{leaving} issue at the time of their deaths, it is my will that their shares of my estate shall be equally divided between my sons John J. and William A. Platts their heirs and assigns forever."

3. Why did John Platts name three children William?

a. William, born 15 March 1819

b. (William) Alfred, born 10 June 1825

c. Joseph Henry William, born after 1844 (presumably; that's when John's first wife, Susannah Mole, died.

However, there is a tradition in my family that "Owen Platts' daddy was yard children.") In any case, Joseph Henry William was not yet 21 when John Platts

died in 1861. Throughout the will and in a plat John Platts refers to this son as Joseph H. W. Platts.

In his many land transactions (he sold over 3500 acres between 1868 and 1875) he refers to himself as J. H. W. Platts. However, his grand daughter Virginia Hodge insists he was known to everyone as "Mr. Bide."