**Our Francke/Frank Family in America**

This book is one in a series of family tree books written to explore the genealogy of the Harrington and related families. While it is structured to show how the Frank line connects with the Harrington family line, it has been enlarged to include all of the known descendants of the Frank family that issue from our immigrant ancestor, Oscar (aka, Heinrich Ferdinand) Frank, in America.

*The authors:* The principle authors of this book are: Richard Edward Harrington and Forrest “Frostie” Osal Frank. There have been dozens of others who have contributed information, time and editing to this work – too many to list. Thank you all.

When I began researching my family lines in the early 1990s, I was fortunate to find that Frostie Frank had already pulled together a large list of family members. Eventually, we decided to combine our efforts to produce this book. It has been a very rewarding and productive venture.

*Publisher:* Richard E. Harrington added the names of about half of the 1,200 members of the family, organized the data and information into a book format, and published the final product.

The computer program, “Family Tree Maker” was used for data storage and organization. The Family Tree Maker book-writing feature was used to help structure this book. While most of the material was gathered by personal research, credit is due to Ancestry.com for supplemental items such as online Federal Census, many of the birth and marriage records and Find-A-Grave data.

As with any historical document, the end product is a collection of materials and contributions from many, many people and sources. Thanks is due to all of these sources - too many to list. Thank You!

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**Preface**

The story of the Francke/Frank family is a story without a beginning. But, in time, that will likely change. Let me explain. The story of the Frank family, in this book, is intended to be told in chronological order starting with our oldest known ancestor who lived in Germany and proceeding to the youngest descendants known at the time the book is published. This has been largely accomplished. However, at the time of publication, we have not been successful in discovering who the parents of our immigrant ancestor, Oscar Frank, were. We know nothing about Oscar’s life for the first 22-years and nothing about his parents, siblings, or other ancestors who almost certainly lived in Germany. The 1850 US Census lists Oscar in Monroe County, Ohio, USA at age 22-years as an unmarried farm laborer with the Bertram family. This is the earliest reference that we can find. In the 1850 US Census he stated that he was born in Saxony in the year 1825. The arithmetic does not quite work, but population census data are frequently off by a year or two.

For the past 20-years the authors searched diligently, without success, for clues that might provide a hint as to Oscar’s origin. In that process we discovered, largely by accident, an obituary for “Oscar Frank” that told us that “Oscar” was not his birth name. His obituary which you can read on page-8 clearly shows his birth name to be Heinrich Ferdinand Frank. His surname of “Frank” was probably spelled, “Francke.” Knowing his correct name re-energized our search for the young immigrant for a few more years, but, to no avail. As this book goes to print, we are no closer to Oscar’s ancestors or origin than we were 20-years ago.

What has changed in the past 20-years, however, are two major events that will very likely provide a break in the “brick-wall” that obscures Oscar’s past. The first is the re-unification of East and West Germany following the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). During the 46-years between World War II and the collapse of the USSR the genealogical records of East Germany which included Saxony, were closed to the outside world. Following the re-unification of East and West Germany these records have become available and the identification of Oscar’s family may soon be accessible. The second major event was the development of DNA testing that could allow the matching of DNA between Francke/Frank family members in Europe with Frank family members in the USA.

This process of matching family members on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean should be relatively easy, but, it will take time. Even in the USA where enthusiasm for genealogy is high, there is concern about privacy which is slowing the rate at which DNA testing is proceeding. The privacy issue is an even greater concern in Europe where the role of xenophobia of the Nazi regime played such a large part in the initiation and conduct of WWII. At the time of the printing of this book the population of Germans who have had their DNA tested is very small; too small to support an early comparison with records in the USA. The rate is increasing, however, and in a few years should allow for a fruitful search for a match. The authors of this book are both aging, and fearing that further delays could mean that the book may not be published, have opted to publish even if it means that the Frank family story begins without a beginning.

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**How This Book is Organized**

This book is primarily designed to tell the genealogical story of our Frank family in America. It begins with the ancestor, Oscar (aka, Heinrich Ferdinand) Frank, immigrating to Ohio, USA sometime in the 1840s. It covers a period of about 175-years and 1,200 family members. The book is organized chronologically into nine family branches. The children of Oscar Frank and his wife, Caroline Brubach, form the heads of each of the nine individual family branches.

An index of all the important components of this book can be found in the “Table of Contents” on page-iv in this book.

The organization of the book opens with the “Story of the Frank Family.” In this 425-page section each of the 9 individual family branches, headed by a child of Oscar and Caroline Frank, is discussed as a unit and each branch is treated in its entirety in the order that the children appeared in the Oscar and Caroline family. Each family member is identified by a generation number that appears in front of their name. The text that appears after each family member’s name is mixed in quality and size, reflecting the source and availability of data. Members who are known only by their names are listed with no text provided.

Immediately following the “Story of the Frank Family” is an “Outline Descendant Report” of the Oscar Frank descendants. In this 30-page Report, that begins on page-426, each of the 1,200-plus members is identified by a generation number that precedes their name. This is the same generation number for the individual that is found in the “Story of the Frank Family.” The generation number and name of the individual is followed by all of the available vital statistics of the person such as date-of-birth; date-of-marriage; date-of-death; the location of each event, if known; etc. In this Report, the generation number and location of the name in relation to other names in the Report, provide a picture of how each individual fits into the family.

Finally, the last section of the book is an “Album” containing all of the available photos of family members. About 280 members of the Frank Family are included in the Album. The pages of this Album are numbered contiguously with the rest of the book.

The Album is followed by a detailed index that includes each known family member and the page-numbers on which all available family member’s information and photograph can be found.

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**Symbols and Abbreviations**

s/o = son of

d/o = daughter of

p/o = partner of

w/o = wife of

h/o = husband of

child/o = child of

m/o = mother of

f/o = father of

gm/o = grandmother of

gf/o = grandfather of

b: = born or birth

d: = died

m: = married or marriage

+ = spouse

aka = also known as

The Arabic number preceding each name in the “Outline Descendants Report,” beginning on page-426 of this book, is the same generation number used in the “Story of the Franke/Frank Family” which begins on page-1 in this book. Oscar and his wife, Caroline Brubach-Frank are generation #1.

The album at the end of this book is a collection of photographs of family members who appear in the “Story of the Frank Family” and other places throughout the volume. Only about 280 family members are represented in the album out of a total of about 1200 family members in the whole book; about 23%. An attempt has been made to use the full names of members in their respective photos. Also, an attempt has been made to date each picture or “estimate” dates when they are not known. Estimated dates are identified. Photos in the album have been arranged into family units as much as possible.

All of the pages of the book have been numbered consecutively and a full Index is located in the back of the book, following the Album. Page numbers in the index in **red** are pages on which photos of the individual preceding the page number can be found.

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**This book can be accessed online**

**(Follow the steps below to access the Internet and this book)**

**Step 1** – On your computer browser, copy and paste or type, [https://reharr.github.io/MCGen/](mailto:https://reharr.github.io/MCGen/) into the address box. The “Monroe County, Ohio History and Genealogy” home page will appear.

**Step 2** – Scroll down to the “Index – Short-Cut Buttons” and click the blue button for “Books.” The “Books” page will appear.

**Step 3** – Click on the title “FRANK FAMILY in AMERICA” by Richard E. Harrington and Forrest O. Frank. The title page of the book will appear.

**Sterp 4** – Scroll down or click the hyperlink for the “Table of Contents (TOC).” From the TOC you can access any part of the book by clicking on its title.

Alternately, you can go directly to the title page of the book as follows: In your browser address box, copy and paste or type-in, <https://reharr.github.io/MCGen/FrankBook>.

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