

December 15, 1988

To all Warthen Watchers;

This year, the letter you are reading shall replace the normal card I usually send so first let my family and myself wish you the best of Christmas' and a very good New Year.

Many of you have heard nothing or very little from me since my last big trip in 1981. To put it simply, we've been treading water on the issue of the father of Theodorick and Alban Warthen. In fact, we'd actually been going backward as we had trimmed our original list of candidates from about 7 in 1981 to just 2 by 1986. Ted Warthen, of Las Vegas, Nev. had worn out several researchers in Ohio and Virginia and had a terrific researcher in Salt Lake City about to drop our case when, about 6-8 weeks ago, lightning struck.

But first, so that I might refresh your memory, we had traced ourselves back to Theodorick Warthen, b.1782 probably in Md. and his proven half-brother, Alban, b.1788 probably in Md. or Va.

Theodorick and Alban were living in Licking Co. Ohio in 1833 where Theo, was a farmer and his brother owned and operated the American Hotel, amongst various other activities, when Alban was found at the bottom of the Canal in Newark, having drowned under mysterious circumstances. The following year, a Nicholas Warthen was in a tax census of the county and was living on Theodorick's property.

I traced Nicholas' back to Frederick Co. Md. to the only group of Warthens we've ever found who consistently used the present spelling of the name.

In researching this Md. group I found that the earliest entry was for a Martin who joined the county militia in 1794, married in 1797 and was in both the 1800 and 1810 censuses but, by far the main person in this group seemed to be a John Francis Warthen who was in church and county records about 25 times ending with the probate of a lengthy and complicated will in 1838.

After discarding several theories, we surmised that JF "Frank" Warthen was the oldest of a list of brothers and/or first cousins that had grown to the following:

John Francis Warthen	b.1765-70	d.1838
Rapheal Warthen	b. 1770	d.1852
Martin Warthen	b. 1772-4	d. After 1810
Theodorick Warthen	b. 1782	d. 1857
Nicholas Warthen	b. 1785	d. 1872
Alban Warthen	b. 1788	d. 1833
Thomas Warthen	b. 1787-92	d. After 1840

Henry Warthen

b.1790

d. 1862

And perhaps several others including another John, a Stanislaus (1791-1872) and just maybe a William (1795- after 1820).

But, our big problem has always been, just where did all these boys and about an equal number of girls, come from?

Well our last 2 candidates were, #1, a Nicholas Warthen, who is found only 3 times in Md. records; in 1783-4 in two tax censuses of Anne Arundel Co. where he is taxed on one lot in the city of Annapolis and on Nov. 2, 1792, when Wm. Faris, a silversmith and keeper of a diary, writes " Mr. Nicholas Warthen died last night."

Our second candidate is quite a bit more complex to annotate so I will not, at this time go into all the ways and wherefores except to say that it is Ted Warthen's idea which I struggled with for several years before (unbelievably) being the one who proved him right.

So, I will say only this: We have very good reason to believe that there were three John Warthens living in Randolph Co. Va. Two were Wathens, a father and son, who went with the Wathens to the Cartwright Creek Catholic settle- in Ky. about 1798. John the younger d. in 1803 and his father 7 years later.

The third John arrived in Randolph Co. earlier than the other 2, about 1790 and died there about 1795-6. He believed that he was either totally unrelated to the other two or was so distant- ly related that he couldn't figure it out.

So--there we are. We need either or both a NICHOLAS WARTHEN and/or a JOHN WARTHEN, who had about 8-10 sons starting with a JOHN FRANKS WARTHEN, b. 1765-70.

Now--we shall refer to the en- closed. These entries, found on film in the SLC library, were found in a small Lutheran Church in Birkenfeld, Germany, in the old state of Olden- berg in 1986-7 and entered in SLC soon after and were found by Ted Warthen's researcher just a few weeks ago. THIS IS THE VERY FIRST TIME WE HAVE FOUND AN ACTUAL COLONY OF WARTHENS ON THE EUROPEAN CON- TINENT AND THE RECORDS SHOW:

1. A JOHANN LUDWIG WARTHEN m. either a DOROTHEA MARGHARETA or a MARGHARETA DOR- OTHEA HALLERIN on 13 AP 1768 and that on 8 NOV 1768, their son JOHANN FRANTZ was christened.

2. Another JOHANN FRANZ WARTHEN, the son of JOHANN NICHOLAS WARTHEN and ANNA SIDONIA QUETSCHIN was christened at the same church on 27 SEPT. 1769.

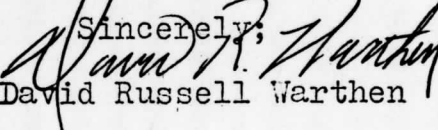
Ted Warthen has now hired a German speaking researcher who reads the old German script and we shall have him follow up on all of this including sending him to Birkenfeld, if that becomes necessary. As for right now I will make only several comments:

1. These two families seem to have left the Birkenfeld area very soon after 1769. This is important because we do not know where the JOHN FRANCIS of Md. was born, but Rapheal, b. 1770 says in the 1850 census that he was b. in MD.
2. The Frederick Co. Md. Warthens were very closely tied up with a Haller family, living near them, having several land deals with them and finally, James Henson Warthen, the last son of "Frank" m. a Dorothy Haller.
3. Birkenfeld, Germany is only 20 miles from the French border and less than 40 miles from Strausberg.

(In Maxwell's History of Randolph Co. he refers to a Mary Warthen, daughter of John, as "A FRENCH MAIDEN", probably meaning that he heard her speak the language,)

(In the 1880 census of Santa Clara Co. Ca. appears a young girl who is evidently living with Albert Warthen, last son of Alban (1788-1833) and she says she was b. in Strausberg. This city was originally a German City-State but was ceded to France in 1871 but even prior to that, a goodly number of the citizens were French speaking.)

Well, that is all I will say. Let us all keep our fingers crossed that at long last we may finally have the breakthrough we've been looking for these many, many years. The minute we are able to prove anything at all I will let you know but for now--have a very safe holiday season and best of wishes to you all.

Sincerely,

David Russell Warthen

