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Dear Mrs. Shealy,

Many thanks for your help, which clarified several points. I suspect that I am not in time to add much to what you will have discovered in the S.C. Archives by the time this arrives, but I'll restate it just in case.

I personally have no doubt that ZACHARIA TRAPP was the son of WILLIAM TRAPP, one of the earliest settlers of the Cedar Creek area. W.T., whose dates I estimate to have been possibly ca 1745-1815, received no less than three grants of land in that area between 1765 and 1792. In all of these, "vacant land" was mentioned along the borders, and in the first one, on all sides. I'll gladly dig out specific references if you have not already discovered these.

I am uncertain that I can come up with a single document that specifically states this relationship of the two men, but earlier Fairfield deeds state that LEVI and ZACHARIA Trapp were brothers, (and from the number of their land transactions it is apparent that they had a close relationship throughout their life time, often buying and selling land together) and in addition the relationship of LEVI and AARON TRAPP as brothers is mentioned in connection with LEVI having administered the estate of AARON who died intestate about 1822 as I recall. The Fairfield Deed Book GG page 162 records that another of William's grandsons, JOHN TRAPP sold his "undivided 3rd part of the 11th part of the real and personal estate of WILLIAM TRAPP SR in 1826, and I believe that other deeds also mention the "eleven parts".

Although the 1790 and 1800 census returns would naturally show some variation, it is apparent that William Trapp did have a large family, but most telling of all is that Zacharia Trapp did come into several parts of land in Fairfield Co. ~~It will take me some time if you wish me to be specific, but~~ Cedar Creek continued to be mentioned in some of these (HH p.34) note at a glance involves Z.T and mentions that these acres had been originally granted to Wm.T.)

Besides, only one other possibility is known to have been possible. THOMAS TRAPP also shows up in the Little River-Cedar Creek area reasonably mature in 1769 by which time he was called to account for his activities as a regulator (one who kept law and order along the frontier). But in general, he acquired less land, and appears to have been less successful than WILLIAM TRAPP, whom I imagine to have been his brother, and even appears to have returned to Virginia for a time. My assumption that this man was the ancestor of our own line is based on circumstantial evidence. I have found no actual proof, but the fact that my own great-grandfather, born 8 May 1803 in S.C. appears on the census of Fairfield Co. in 1830 only a few years before his migration to Mississippi, convinces me that some connection of our lines does exist. But all evidence links ZACHARIA as the son of WILLIAM, not THOMAS.

I am somewhat confused as to the death date of CHAPPELL OSCAR TRAPP. Like the discrepancies in the bible, these do not prevent me from believing in the fact. My notes from the marker on his gravestone state that he died 27 February 1884. The memorial at the site of his school states 1875 (possibly confused with the death of his wife as your Chappell family information list that year) and your own Chappell notes state 27 February 1889.

My notes on the 1880 census of S.C. that I had imagined to be complete did not list his household; although at the time I saw the tomb of Edgar's wife Florence, I thought I vaguely remembered having noted an Edgar on the 1880 census. Perhaps I lost that page before properly filing it. Although I enjoy every minute of it, I often work past the point of fatigue, and accuracy then diminishes.

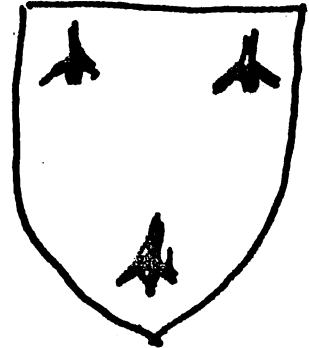
I do have theories of your earlier connections, but the connection to William is the only one that I feel positive of. The surname was so rare in America during the colonial period that some amount of conjecture may seem permissible, however. One PHILLIP TRAP did arrive during the 1750's from Germany to settle in Philadelphia and later elsewhere in Pa. The only other definitely known was THOMAS TRAPP (1637-1719) that definitely settled in Martha's Vinyard in 1659. There is strong tradition and some circumstantial evidence to convince one that this Thomas Trapp was not the first, but was rather joining relatives already there. This branch of Trapps is definitely tracable to Norwich Ct., and the gravestone of one WILLIAM TRAPP (1750-1789) at Elizabethtown N.C. mentions having been a former resident of Norwich Ct. The only other locality of any early Trapps in Colonial America known was in Northumberland Co. Va. I was able to spend several hours at the Court House there, but as I neared the end of my research I discovered that I had been intermixing Trase and Trop with Trap and Trape. Before I come to any conclusions about the family of that locality, it will be necessary for me to reexamine all of the scant and scattered examples and very possibly consult someone else on the handwriting, but my feeling at the moment was that they were not in continuous residence there. The Trapps of Martha's Vinyard were seafaring, and I should not be surprised if their fishing activities took them that far, but again I should reexamine all that I have found so that I am more confident. I have never before in ten years attempt done such a block of work for which I have so little confidence. But of course, I feel that it can be brought into better focus yet.

One MARTIN TRAP was in Orange Co. Va. during the 1730's to about 1740. The same name shows up on a grant to land in 1755 in Lunenburg Abemarle Co. sold the same about 15 years later (his wife MARY relinquished her claim also) and appears later in Lincoln Co. (W.Va.) and circumstantial evidence seems to link JOHN & ROBERT TRAPP of Rutherford Co. N.C. in 1790, as well as descendants in Ky, Tenn and further points west with this man.

Beyond stating that I am not sure of the connection of William Trapp of Fairfield ~~any~~ other than I am confident that it was not from the Pa. family) I can only add that some of the above must be connected in fact to him. The earliest census returns leave no doubt that the name was most rare in early America

and although there would be numerous immigrants of the surname as the 1800's progressed, no other Trapps have so far been located on any other passenger list. No evidence has been gleaned to suggest that either Thomas or William were anything but English speaking, although the Book on S.C.Regulators credits Thomas (without offering any evidence) as being German. The surname is, of course, more common in Germany, and this would be a natural assumption without any evidence.

I hesitate to offer the coat-of-arms as is crudely illustrated, since I suspect that it was merely assumed in the first place. The Martha's Vinyard Trapps were from Essex England. My conviction that we are descendents of these is based upon what many would pronounce insane; a rare prophetic dream I had almost a decade ago when I first began my research and knew nothing of my ancestors. In the dream two people identified themselves as my (I thought grandparents) and the details that I wrote down upon waking have proven to be most probable after ten years research, as illogical as they appeared at the time. I never doubted the truth of the dream, although I had earlier presumed that some parts were merely symbolic. You are of course free to discount this section, and in doing so you may possibly be identified with a more reliable group for I do not seek out the company of mediums and prophets knowing that there are frauds among them, and doubting if it is easy to always tell the difference. But even so, I find in the Bible numerous instances of dreams being given, and I in all sincerity, believe that the saints on the other side interceded (with divine indulgence) in my behalf. Having been educated in a scientifically-oriented age, although I was a piano major, I could not accept fully the Christian Beliefs and concepts; particularly in regard to a life hereafter. This period proved a turning point and although I could remember numerous wonderful christian examples throughout my life, it was really the saints on the other side that I regard as mainly responsible for changing my thinking. I should hasten to state that I remain Southern Baptist as far as membership goes, but I believe as strongly as any Roman Catholic in the intercession of saints, and in truth our allegiance is to Jesus Christ, and were I to locate in a community that I did not feel spiritually fed as a member of the Baptist Church, I should change my affiliation without the least hesitation. But I digress. The coat-of-arms was definitely used by some of the Essex Trapps in the 1500's and as given would appear to have been in use also in the 1400's, having been quartered with that of another family. From time to time, it appears, without apparently having been continuously used, until it was patented by one branch of the Trapps in 1951. Strictly speaking by the English Code of that patent, only descendants from that point are entitled to use it. However, according to scholars on the subject, all arms were not registered, and this one was definitely

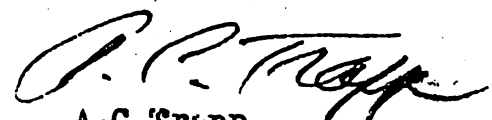


in use in more ancient times. Every legitimate son of any one who did use it (assuming that the user was in truth entitled to arms) would likewise be entitled to it. There must have been some question for I find that two sons were "guaranteed the right to bear arms" in London in the 1500's and although no early records of this one having been issued earlier presumably exists, this is the one that has been since used. If they had the "right" all other legitimate sons had the right. Although I have found one example of illegitimacy among the earlier Trapps that I will not further identify, it was not in either of our branches, and the chances are that none exists. Of course, in America there are no actual laws governing the use of coat-of-arms. One is free, if they choose to order anyone else's and use it (which does not seem just) but although neither of our lines is actually proven, I suspect that if anyone is entitled to the one illustrated, we may in fact be.

I hope that I have not digressed to the point that I have lost your interest. Should you like specific references to any point I have mentioned, please let me know.

Again, many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,


A.C. Trapp