

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This newsletter is begun in the spirit of our first international family reunion, which was held in Muttentz, Switzerland during September 1990. This very special event was the inspiration of Edith B. Spänhauer of Muttentz. To make it such a wonderful reality, Peter Spaenhauer and his entire family were one of her major support groups. Edith chose the year 1990 for the reunion because it marked the 250-year anniversary of that special event in 1740, when the widow Elsbeth Spitteler Spaenhauer and her four children made their journey from Muttentz to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This journey to America by Elsbeth and her surviving children, Wernhard, Heinrich, Barbara, and Anna created our "branch" on the Spänhauer "family tree".

Why have a family newsletter? Well, those of us who came together in Switzerland last year had a very good time, and we look forward to doing something similar again! Accordingly, plans have already begun for our second international family reunion. At our first reunion, we developed new friendships and we enjoyed sharing information about the history of our forefathers and the places they lived. This newsletter hopes to contribute to the further development of family friendship and family history. Its purposes are to help enlarge the circle of interested family members, and to help us continue in sharing information about our family heritage. For 1991 and for each year until 1995, four issues are anticipated -- in February, June, September, and December.

Our initial "subscription list" contains those who have expressed an interest to its "editor". If you are not on this initial list but would like to receive a copy of future issues, all you have to do is let me know. There is no charge.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ARE EAGERLY SOLICITED! Your "editor" is:

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HISTORY:

This section of the Newsletter will include items which describe some of "what we know" and some of "what we don't know yet" about our family's history. There are several projects now underway to further develop our knowledge. This section will report on some of the results from these efforts as they become known to me.

The current status of our project to assemble a family tree which will connect every interested family -- Spänhauer, Spaenhauer, Spainhower, Spainhour, Spainhouer (...or however you spell it) is as follows: Information collected prior to July 1990 was combined into 400 cross-referenced family sheets covering 14 generations. A few copies of this initial "tree" were made and provided to the major contributors last August, so as to encourage additions and corrections. Work has now begun to renumber the sheets (and the individuals) so that they are in consecutive order & to prepare an index.

This process has already been completed for the "American Branch" through the tenth generation & that part is now ready for those "additions & corrections". Renumbering is a substantial task, but doing that will make adding new information much easier. This seems important, since substantial new information is already in hand and more is expected. The target date for "Edition #1" to be ready for copying is June, 1991.

Catherine Canter (Pfafttown, NC) and Todd Martin are gathering more information regarding members of our family who were soldiers in the American Civil War. They will concentrate on the North Carolina family who were in the Confederate Army. Perhaps someone in Indiana, and someone in Missouri would like to help me in Illinois to identify those family members who were in the Union Army?

Following the Reunion in Muttentz, Anna Whitehurst & Edith Spänhauer visited the Baselland Staatsarchiv in Liestal (Capitol of the Basel Country Canton). During their visit, they obtained a copy of the record showing that the date of March 18, 1631 is the death date for the Arbogast Spänhauer whose wife was Anna Wartmann. All of us "Spänhauers" are probably descended from this couple. {You see, there were two Arbogasts, and either one could have died in 1631!}. They also sent me a copy of the marriage bond listing for Wernhard Spänhauer of Muttentz and the virgin Elsbeth Spitteler from Pratteln. All us "Spänhauers" currently in America appear to be descendants from this couple and their sons Wernhard and Heinrich.

William Spainhour (Glendale, CA) and Freddie Spainhouer (Dallas) are looking for expressions of interest from those of us who may want to contribute to a project to begin restoration of John Jacob Spaenhauer's cabin and the family cemetery which are near King, NC. John Jacob was emigrant Wernhard's first child. John Jacob's wife, Anna Catherine Volck (Fulk) gave him thirteen children, including six sons. This explains why so many of us in America owe our existence to this couple! Their cabin is still standing but it will not last much longer without some repair, at least to the roof. Each log of the cabin is reported to be numbered so that the cabin could be moved, then be properly reassembled. The family cemetery contains about 35 graves but only about 15 are still marked. The gravestones are soft rock, and therefore rather vulnerable to the weather. They need to be cleaned and coated with water repellent to prolong their life. If you are interested in support to this project, please let Freddie, Bill, (or me) hear from you!

Catherine Canter finds in the census for Warwick County, PA, for 1751, Jacob Spenhauer, shoemaker. I assume this is Jacob, the son of Claus (Niklaus) Spänhauer and wife Ursula Schaub. Jacob would have been age 28 in 1751 (Jacob was baptized on January 17, 1723). Claus & his family immigrated from Muttentz in 1740 on the same ship with the family of Elsbeth Spittler Spänhauer. We know of no living descendants from Claus or sons Jacob and Matthew.

Elsbeth Spaenhauer & her children landed in America in August 1740. To help put the year 1740 in some perspective - my history book says that Alaska was "discovered" by Danish explorer Vitas Bering (as in Bering Strait) in August 1741. Anyone have an estimate for the total number of people in North America in 1740?

David & Nane Spainhour (Boone, NC) are actively researching the early history of the family in America. Their special attention is focused on the places and the environment within which our early family members lived. They have located emigrant Heinrich's property on the New River in Virginia. Heinrich lived in Virginia until raids by Indians forced him to move. He brought his family further south to the Moravian settlements in North Carolina for protection. David & Nane find in the Library of Congress, a deed which records the sale of land by Heinrich to Adam Waggoner. There is still much to be learned about the specific locations where the early family lived, in the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina.

FRIENDSHIP:

This section of the Newsletter will include almost any type of item which relates to our present family members. This will, of course, include more information regarding the second international family reunion, which will take place in 1995 in North Carolina. North Carolina seems the most appropriate location for our first appropriate location for our first international reunion on this "side" since that's the locale in which our American family first developed and from which it then spread throughout the U.S.

There were 76 of us Americans who attended the Reunion in Muttentz, and a similar number of the Swiss family joined us for a celebration banquet on Friday night. This was certainly a memorable evening. Ask us about the desert!

Our letter of thanks to American Airlines and commending Dee Duval for her help in arranging the group flights to Switzerland last September was mailed from Arlington Heights on October 8, but apparently became lost in the mail. I have written to AA again, enclosing a copy of the original letter which we all had signed.

Many of the Swiss family members enjoyed getting together at Corry Spaenhauer's house in Muttentz to watch the video tape which was made at our Reunion by John M. Spainhour (Ripley, WV).

During late October & early November, Ruth & Martin Spnähauer (Muttentz) made a three-week trip to California. During the trip they were able to briefly visit again with Barton & Greta DeHart.

Peter Spaenhauer (Muttentz) tells me that for the first time in 44 years, he was able during December to visit again in the town where he was born -- Havana, Cuba. Peter's father, a geologist with Shell Oil Company, was stationed in Cuba for several years. Peter and two of his brothers, Andreas and Thomas, were born there.

Catherine Canter advises me that someone asked her for one of the Moravian-Lady lapel pins. She has the pin to send, but unfortunately has misplaced the name and address. If this was you, and you haven't misplaced Catherine's address, you can get your pin by contacting her. If you have misplaced Catherine's address, you can get that by contacting me!

Thomas Spainhour (Hudson, WI) has called my attention to the credits at the end of the video: "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles --The Movie". This picture was filmed partly in North Carolina, and local casting there was provided by "Location Casting of the Southeast, Inc." of Wilmington, NC --whose casting director is Martha Spainhour!

Each of us from America attending the first international family reunion in MuttENZ were much moved by the enthusiastic welcome & the warm friendship extended to us by our Swiss family members, but one of us said it best:

This afternoon at six-fifteen
I sat down with pen in hand;
I thought to write a poem
For my friends in Switzerland.
I wanted just to tell them
How much they meant to me;
How awfully-awfully glad I am
I flew across the sea.
To meet so many cousins
I have never seen before
Descendants of Arbogast, Elizabeth,
Henry, Theopholis, and more.
I really do not know how to say
The things I really feel;
The town, the talks, the helpfulness
Every word and every meal,
Have been so great and wonderful
That I want to shout and sing,
For you have made all of us
Feel like a princess, prince, or king
So, all I really know to say
For all the care and fun
Is, I'm glad to be a Spainhour
And, I love you - every one!
---Jack White

This would be a great spot to announce the birth for a new baby named Spainhour (or however you spell it). Anyone know of a new "cousin" born in 1991???

This first issue of the Newsletter is only four pages, & it contains only a small fraction of what it might. On the other hand, it will serve to introduce the idea and "to get the process started". One stamp will carry at least eight pages, so there is plenty of room for more news items! PLEASE LET ME HEAR FROM YOU! My current mailing list contains about 100 families, but there should be 300 or more who will be interested. You can also help by sending me names and addresses for those "other cousins" who may be interested in sharing family news and possibly in joining us in North Carolina during 1995.