

MUTTENZ DESCENDANTS INC.

Family Newsletter

Brodbeck, Frei, Leupin, Pfau, Schor, Spänhauer, Spittler, Tschudi
Arney, Doub, Fiscus, Volck, Hauser, Helsabeck

Issue #15 - April 1999

From our President:

.....W.Francis Spainhour, Rural Hall, NC

Ginny Atkins, of the Cabin Furnishings Committee, and I, met with the City of King Parks and Recreation Department in January. We proposed having a "Dedication & Open House Program" for the restored cabin. The proposal was well received. The City will be participating and is giving us full support. Details for this program will be announced to everyone as soon as the plans are complete.

There is a lot of work to do yet at the site -- so if you would like to help -- so that most of it is done before the opening in September -- please contact Charlie (803-649-3745) or me (336-969-5736).

Our special thanks go to Nick Hennessee for the outstanding job he has done as the Treasurer of MuttENZ Descendants during our formative years. His work in setting up our tax-exempt status, and other regulations approval has been invaluable. In 1999, we have a new Treasurer, Christine Spainhour Whicker. Christine holds the office of Finance Director for the City of King, NC.

Donations to MDI should be addressed to:

Christine S. Whicker, Treasurer

P.O. Box 122

King, NC 27021

Spaenhauer Family Cabin Project

.....Charles T. Spainhour, Aiken, SC

The John Jacob cabin has been reconstructed in Central Park in King to depict the lifestyle of the early settlers that came to America from Europe and settled in this area. Some materials used in the project were generously donated from the Hobart Spainhour Family home-place, which was of similar design.

A brochure will be developed for the dedication and open-house in September which will give a brief history about John Jacob and his wife, Anna Catherine Volck (Fulk). The marriage of this couple and the marriages of their thirteen children tied together many families in this area.

There is still much work to do. If you can help at any time and in any way, call me at 803-649-3745.

Family News:
.....ChristineS. Whicker, King, NC

Thank you to Virginia Patton Atkins for sending us a copy of an article which appeared in "The News Herald" of Morganton, NC last October.

Robert Patton III, was nominated and won an award as NorthCarolina Principal of the Year from the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Robert is Virginia's nephew. Virginia's grandmother was Margaret Ann Spainhour, daughter of Michael Spainhour, and Virginia's mother is Margaret Macon Spainhour, daughter of Ralph Harrington Spainhour. Virginia writes that the family is very proud of Robert's accomplishments ---- and well they should be!

**Please continue to send me family news of interest:
newspaper articles, announcements of births, deaths, weddings, etc.**

**Christine S. Whicker
P.O. Box 122
King, NC 27021**

Frontier History Series

"Chapter Five" of our U.S. Frontier History series will be concerned with the American Civil War period, and "Chapter Six" will complete the series ending in 1890 when settlement of the last U.S. frontier region -- The Dakotas & Montana -- was "officially declared" as effectively accomplished. These chapters will be included in future issues of the newsletter.

If you have any information about family members (any related family surname) in the Civil War, or ones who were early settlers in the Dakotas/Montana region which you would like to see included, please get these to me as soon as possible!

STORIES

.....Our Readers, Anywhere

One of this Newsletter's major purposes, as chartered by Muttenez Descendants Inc., is to encourage the collection and sharing of the history and life-experiences of Muttenez families --- especially within the moving frontier of the occupation of North America by European settlers.

This is an invitation to any and all of our readers to share with others the family stories with which you are familiar. These can be anything -- perhaps a complete biography of an interesting family member, perhaps a story about one special event in a family member's life, or perhaps you want to share what you may remember of your great-grandfather. Send me your story and I will include it in the next newsletter under your byline. **I said this is an invitation --- but it's really a plea!**

If you are not inclined to write up a story, then tell us where we can find family-related stories -- which books or magazines or newspapers contain such stories (or send us a copy of such if you have one). We will greatly appreciate the help!

<http://www.muttendezdescendants.org>

.....Stephen E. Spainhour, Richmond, VA

In April 1997 the Research Committee created within itself the Web site Implementation and Management Subcommittee. The committee members are Ron Spainhour, Elizabeth Harris, Anne Hood and myself. The subcommittee was charged with the tasks of searching out a suitable site host, then the development of a web site through which MDI could present itself to a far flung audience. But beyond that, it was thought that through such a web site, the MDI organization could utilize the power and reach of the Internet to conduct its gathering and dissemination of genealogical and historical information on a grand scale.

Not since the invention of the printing press, radio and television has a medium become available by which so much can be shared among so many, so quickly. Indeed, we must not forget that while the printed page and broadcast radio and television reach large groups quickly, the Internet provides a global, two way, dynamic exchange of information that has never before been possible. This concept of a widespread bi-directional information exchange is what makes the Internet so attractive to an organization such as MDI. Each contribution to the pool of knowledge is expanded upon by all the others. We all possess a piece of our collective genealogical and historical puzzle. Only when we put the individual pieces together do we see the intricate and beautiful story that is our heritage.

The web site subcommittee established our first web site with Geocities, primarily because the was no cost to MDI associated with this hosting service. Considering our fiduciary responsibility, we felt it appropriate to start here, with the knowledge that a move would likely be needed in the future. Geocities is an interesting place to visit, but as anyone who has done so knows, there are lots of advertisements and other distractions to lessen one's enjoyment of the experience. From a site building perspective, they imposed numerous restrictions, and lacked certain technical capabilities, that hindered our ability to present information in the way that we felt would accomplish the most. Our web site at Geocities (<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/6480/>) was sparse and fairly stagnant, with only occasional changes, for quite a while. It was decided that in order for the web site to develop and grow, the time had come to move to a commercial hosting service that could provide us with the capacity and capabilities that we need, including the ability to register our own domain name.

We were able to find such a site host at a very reasonable cost. It gives the Board of Directors and the entire Research Committee great pleasure to announce that MUTTENZ DESCENDANTS, INC. is now reachable on the World Wide Web at **<http://www.muttendezdescendants.org>**. This new site gives us the room to develop the site consistent only with the needs of our organization, and not with the needs of the host service. If you have bookmarked the old site at Geocities, please update your bookmark to point to the new web address. The Geocities site, even though it is still accessible, is no longer being maintained. It will eventually be taken offline.

At the new site a query facility is being developed to allow posting of questions, follow-ups, searches of the query boards, etc. Links are in place to other genealogical sites of great interest. These links will be added to in the future. There is a section on family news of interest, which will be updated regularly. Edith B. Spänhauer's *MuttENZ History* has been adapted to web format and is available, complete with many interesting graphics. All of the Family Newsletters (except Issues #1 and #2) are available in various formats for online viewing or downloading. Expect to see a substantial change soon in the overall layout of the site, as compared to what it was at Geocities (and still is). Some of these changes may have taken place by the time this report is published.

We plan a host of features to be implemented in the coming weeks and months. Many of the Family Sheets and associated descendants list are being prepared for posting. We also plan space for announcements from officers and committees, a section on research projects, a section on MuttENZ, Switzerland, a section on the cabin restoration project, family history and stories, and many other ideas that are just now being considered. And many more ideas not even thought of yet! The main point that those of us on the Web site subcommittee want to make is that this is not OUR site. It is YOUR site. We

simply have the job of formatting the projects and information for public presentation, and the routing of information to the appropriate persons and committees within MDI.

The projects undertaken by the Research Committee and the content ultimately placed on the web site will be focused in large measure by the information and comments that we gather from visitors to the site. To that end, we want to invite you all to visit the new site as soon and as often as you can. And above all, let us hear from you regarding anything that you may have to contribute to our collective history. We warmly welcome your input of any kind, whether praise, criticism, comment or suggestion. We only grow through your active participation. The Internet provides us a unique opportunity to make the world a truly small place. Let's make the most of it!

Lastly, I wish to publicly thank all those who have made, and continue to make, the MDI web site a reality. A hearty thank you goes out to Ron, Elizabeth, and Anne, without whose efforts and dedication the web site would be little more than an idea. All of us on the Web site subcommittee wish to thank James Spainhour and the other members of the MDI Board for providing and supporting that idea. We look forward to working with everyone in the weeks, months and years ahead, to make this site among the best of its kind!

Most of all, though, our thanks go out to you, our benefactors. Without the many contributions that MDI has received over the years, none of this would be possible. While all of us who work on these projects donate our time and efforts and receive no compensation except for the good feeling that comes with doing something exciting, the site does incur a small monthly expense. MUTTENZ DESCENDANTS, INC. is indeed fortunate to have so many people who have contributed so generously to fund its projects. We are forever grateful.

Research & Education Projects

.....James D. Spainhour, Arlington Heights, IL

In the item above, Stephen Spainhour writes about the Internet: *“Not since the invention of the printing press, radio and television has a medium become available by which so much can be shared among so many, so quickly.”*

Access to the Internet is already available to at least one individual in a large majority of American families and the number is growing almost explosively. The goals and objectives for our MDI Research Programs have not changed, but the development of the Internet has revolutionized the methods which we are now using to accomplish them. As Stephen points out, this medium provides not only a revolution in methods for gathering information, but also a revolution in ways to share such information with interested family members around the world.

We will have much to tell you about our committee activities in genealogy & history research and in information-exchange in the next issue of this newsletter.

We will be happy to have your participation in our committee projects. If you are interested, contact me.

**Telephone: 847-392-9638
or e-mail: jdspainhour@Home.com**

A Rare Book:

Since writing the last newsletter I have discovered a captivating account of the Donner Party's journey along the California/Oregon Trail and their "visits with the elephant" in Eliza P. (Donner) Houghton's book "The Donner Party and Its Tragic Fate", published in Chicago (A.C. McClurg) in 1911. I found it in the Library of Congress --- via the Internet. It was about 300 pages but I printed it all and read it through that same day! Wish I had found it before writing the last newsletter!

Eliza Houghton, born in 1843, was about 4 years old during her family's trip from Springfield, IL to the Sacramento Valley of California. Eliza provides a good picture of their journey across the plains, how information and messages were obtained and exchanged among emigrant groups on the trail, and some insights into why large wagon trains usually broke up into smaller groups after they left their "jumping off place".

Eliza gives a detailed description of their "tragedy in the snow". There were some "sensationalized" descriptions of the Donner Party experience --- Eliza's book was her effort to "set the record straight". It does that, but her picture is still very grim. In later chapters she also presents an insight into what a child's life was like in California during the 1850's (she was an orphan living with a German-speaking family). If you are interested in this part of the American experience, Eliza's book is well worth the reading. If you cannot find Eliza's book at your library, it can be read/printed from the Library of Congress web site. Look in the American Memory section of: <http://www.loc.gov>.

Research efforts for articles which appear in this newsletter often include reading a series of books and materials from searches on the Internet. If a subject which has appeared in the newsletter is of special interest to you and you would like more information, please feel free to contact me for suggestions on books in which you can "read more about it".

Also, if you are planning to purchase genealogy software for your computer and would like suggestions regarding which software to use, I shall be happy to offer my impressions from working with each of the leading programs.

Our Shared Historical Heritage

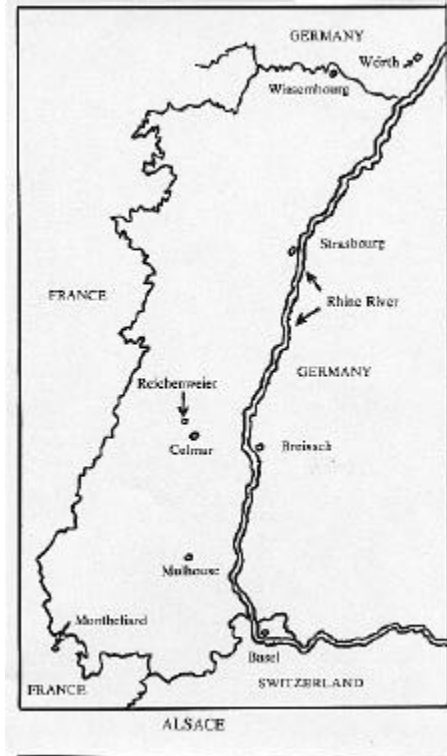
A major goal of this newsletter is to encourage the mutual development of the historical heritage which is shared by several family groups. The name of our organization -- Muttentz Descendants -- encourages us to begin our list of families with those who immigrated together and directly from the village of Muttentz -- such as Brodbeck, Frey, Leupin, Pfau, Shore, Spänhauer, Spittler, & Tschudi. We quickly add to that list families who became very closely associated with each other during the "early years" in America -- such as Arney, Doub, Fiscus, Fulk, Hauser & Helsabeck. We can all be interested in the shared and the diverse experiences of these families as they tamed the wilderness of a "new continent". The following item examines a little of the history of the Hauser family immigrants and how some of those inter-family "connections" happened. The information is taken from the book "Alsatian-American Family Hauser" by Kenneth John Hauser, Jr. The words in italics are added by your editor using information from other sources.

Hauser, Hooser, Hoozar, etc. -- From Alsace to Bethania.

The oldest known town of origin for the Hauser family is Colmar, in Alsace, now France. *Notice on the map below how the region of Alsace is nestled between France, Germany and Switzerland and the proximity (perhaps 60 miles) of Colmar and Muttentz (near Basel). Both Colmar and Muttentz were within the Bishopric of Strasbourg.*

The records of Colmar begin in 1575 and are incomplete before 1600 -- *similar situation to the records in Muttentz.* The first known Hauser family in Colmar was that of Lorentz Hauser, and his second wife, Rosina Reissmantel. *Our interest centers on the fourth child of this couple, Matthias Hauser.*

Matthias Hauser was married to Maria Simler in Colmar on January 28, 1611. Assuming that he was about 25 years old at this time (average for men to be married at that time), he was thus born about 1586 --- *in the same generation as Arbogast Spänhauer, who was born about 1580.*



Matthias & Maria Simler Hauser had a son, also named Matthias, who was born on September 10, 1624 --- *ten years younger than Arbogast's son, Hans Spänhauer who married Elsbeth Süß.* Matthias (jr) married Maria Huffel, daughter of Matthias Hüffle, also of Colmar on February 7, 1653. This Matthias became owner of a vineyard and was well enough known in Colmar to be a member of the town government. To this couple, on January 25, 1657, was born Hans Georg Hauser (*sometimes called Johann Georg*) --- *six years younger than Hans Wernhardt Spänhauer, who married Barbara Seiler.*

Hans Georg Hauser left Colmar about 1680 and moved to the town of Reichenweier (Riquewihr), a smaller but ancient fortified castle-town eight kilometers to the northwest. Hans Georg married three times, first in 1683, to Martha Froehlich, who died within two years after their marriage. He married again in 1685, but this second wife also died after a few years of marriage. Matthias married third, on September 20, 1689 (*now at age 32*), to Susanna Burckhardt, daughter to Michael Burckhardt, a wheelwright, and warden of the castle Reichenweier. On the Schönenberg, a steep-rising hill immediately north of the town are the remains of Roman construction indicating that a garrison of ancient Rome maintained a watchtower in the vicinity of the road into Gaul (France). *In the opposite direction (see the map below) this same road passes through Muttentz on its way into Switzerland --- and atop the Wartenberg above Muttentz are also the remains of Roman garrison watchtowers.*

Martin Hauser, Sr. was born, in Reichenweier, to Hans Georg & Susanna Burckhardt Hauser, on November 11, 1696 --- *compare with Wernhardt Spänhauer, born 1688, who married Elsbeth Spittler.* These are the emigrant generation.

Martin Hauser, Sr. married, in 1721, at the Woerth Lutheran Church in Reichenweier, Maria Margaretha Schaeffer, daughter of Hans (Johann) Michel Schaeffer & Maria Barbara Geiger. Maria Barbara Geiger was from Ruttingen, Switzerland but Margaretha was born in Lampertsloch (Lambrechts Loch) near Würth in the Palatinate -- *see map.* After the death of Hans Michel Schaeffer, Margaretha's father, her mother married again. The step-father, apparently tended to be abusive, and as a result, soon after Margaretha married Martin Hauser, her mother emigrated to Pennsylvania with a group of Mennonites.

Economic conditions throughout the region were very bad due to the destruction of the Thirty Years War, and thousands were responding to those Rhineland advertisements of William Penn. Margaretha begged Martin that they too should go, but he was reluctant. Finally she convinced him and in late 1726, they, with their two-year old son, Martin, Jr., began the long journey northward, along the Rhine, through Germany and Holland, to Rotterdam.

In Rotterdam, Martin must have worked as a carpenter for more than six months, because they did not leave that city until the summer of 1727. Martin paid for their passage in full, and did not have to suffer indenture, as did thousands of others. Sailing aboard the English ship "Molly", commanded by Captain John Hodgeson, the small family crossed the North Sea, touched land again at Deal, in East Kent, England, and then began the hazardous voyage across the Atlantic. The ship was crowded, the food dry, wormy, and minimal. Eventually most of the passengers were stricken with fever and some were lost. Among the dead was young Martin, Jr., but his mother, herself feverish and too delirious to distinguish dreams from reality, was unaware for days. Martin, Sr. was alone when his son was buried at sea. What regret he must have felt for ever leaving home!

The Spänhauer voyage a few years later was in some ways even worse due to a severe storm encountered while at sea, and the resulting loss of their food and cooking utensils.

On September 30, 1727, the Molly anchored at Philadelphia. Her Rhineland passengers, numbering 70 families, swore their allegiance to the new English King George II, himself a German, and then scattered north, west, and south. *Elsbeth Spittler Spänhauer and her children will arrive 13 years later.*

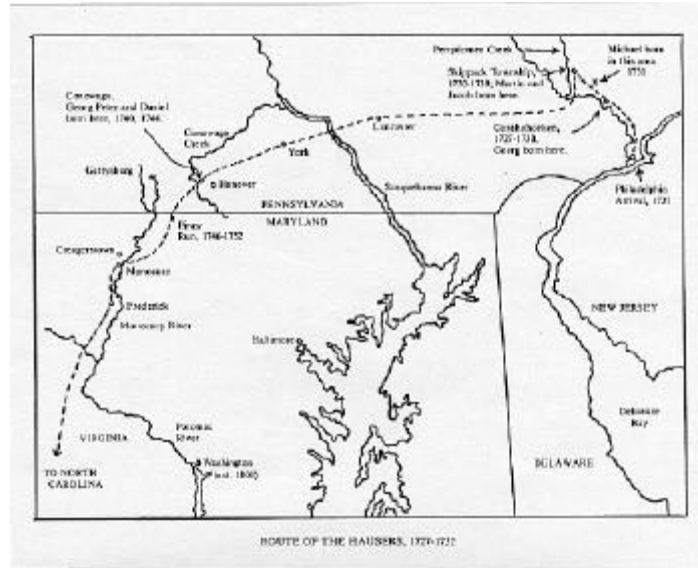
At Conshohocken, (Goshenhoken) to the northwest, Margaretha and Martin found her mother, Barbara, living with the Mennonites. Responding to Barbara's pleas, Martin & Margaretha settled here for over two years. There, on February 8, 1730, was born their first American son, Hans Georg (Johann George). Margaretha's mother died shortly after this, and Martin, always a Lutheran at heart, was dissatisfied among the Mennonites and desired to move on.

At the Berkiana River, a second son, Michael, was born on September 29, 1731. On October 16, 1733, came the twins, Martin & Jacob, at Shippach (Skippack) Township. -- *see map below.* After seven years, Martin decided to move again.

They crossed the Susquehanna to the Conowago River, south of York. Here they remained six years, during which two more sons were born -- George Peter in 1740, and Daniel in 1744. *Meanwhile the Spänhauer families have arrived and Johann Heinrich has married (1742) Elisabeth Lum in Lancaster., and their first two children are born, Johannes in 1743 and Maria Elisabeth in 1746.*

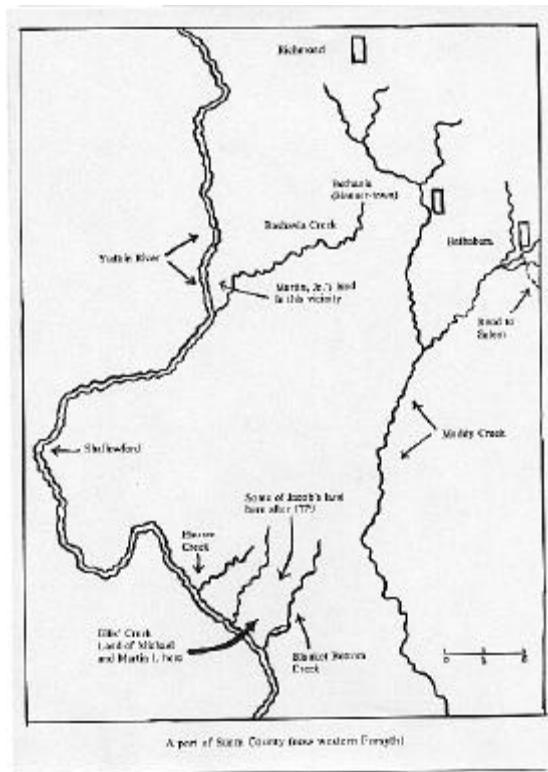
In 1746, Martin & family moved four miles further south into the colony of Maryland, where Martin, now 50 years old, took up farming. The Fiscus family lived on an adjoining farm. Life in Maryland was adequate but not plentiful. Martin, Sr. was aging and the best lands there had already been taken up. *It was, therefore, going to be difficult to develop much wealth in that area -- so the two older sons, George and Michael, decided to seek their fortunes elsewhere.*

While the Hauser brothers are working their farm in Frederick County, Maryland, Johann Heinrich Spänhauer made his return voyage to Switzerland (1748-1749) and upon his return moved his family to the Pigeon Hills area between York and Hanover, and his brother Jacobus Wernhardt had married Verona Wister and made their home not far away along the Cadorous Creek just southwest of the town of York-- see map. Their son, Johann Jacob was born there in 1751.



The steady stream of pioneers moving through Maryland, bound for the Great Valley of Virginia, had become a familiar sight, and in 1751, Hans Georg and Michael started south in search of new land. Their destination was western Carolina, because they had heard rumors of rich soil and sparse population there. The journey south was long and treacherous -- with plenty of Indians, panthers, bears, etc. One night, while they slept, their horses were stolen, so the remainder of their trip was on foot.

They reached Carolina sick and without money, but their spirits were raised by what they found along the Yadkin River; rich soil mixed with sand, good wooded hills, good water, and stones on the hills which could be used for building. The land was largely unsettled, but there were German trappers in the area, and the brothers worked among them for a year in order to buy new horses. Michael saved enough to acquire some river land from the Granville Land Office. *Heinrich Spänhauer acquired land adjacent to Martin Hauser's on Bershavia Creek.*



In October, 1752, the two brothers began their return to Maryland, just two months before another exploring party led by Johann Gottlieb, Bishop Spangenberg, of the Moravians, encamped at the three forks of Muddy Creek in what was to become Wachovia. The brothers reached home in November, and the family began a year of planning and preparation for the new migration southward.

But wives were not to be found on the unsettled frontier -- the brothers must first seek those in Maryland! Michael married his old sweetheart, Anna Fiscus, and Georg married Anna Margartha Elrod, in July 1753, just before they all left Maryland for North Carolina. *Meanwhile Johann Heinrich Spänhauer had made a similar decision and had moved his young family into the New River Valley of Virginia, arriving there sometime between March and June of 1753.*

The three Hauser families arrived in the Yadkin River Valley on October 22, 1753 and settled first on Michael's land. Just four weeks later, the first party of Moravian Brothers, began the town of Bethabara, just 12 miles north and east of Michael's land. But the Hausers, being Lutheran, knew nothing of the Moravians, and Martin was still suspicious of the sects along the frontier. *Heinrich Spänhauer often expressed a similar emotion.*

For a year the Hauser families worked together, clearing fields and building houses, living on provisions brought from Maryland. In the spring came their first planting and the birth of Martin's first grandchildren. In that autumn, after the harvest, they said good-bye to Martin, Jr., who had come of age and who had decided to seek his fortune in western Pennsylvania.

The following year, 1755, brought more clearing of land, new buildings, and with the harvest, two new grandchildren. It was also about this time that the Moravian Brothers began to call at Martin's cabin. *It was also about this time that Johann Heinrich Spänhauer's farm in New River was attacked by Indians and the family fled southward to North Carolina.*

In 1756, the news spread among the settlers on the Yadkin that the Moravians had a mill for grinding grain, and many journeyed to Bethabara to take advantage. This included Michael Hauser --- *and very likely Heinrich Spänhauer.* As the Indian hostilities spread southward, Governor Dodd of North Carolina responded by building a fort in what is now Iredell County to which settlers might retreat. Fort Dobb, however, was too far away for the Moravians and the settlers along the Yadkin, so the Moravians fortified the village of Bethabara with a palisade of stakes in 1756.

Thus in the early spring of 1757, when the Yadkin Valley seemed threatened, the settlers, including the Hausers, sought refuge in Bethabara, now known as "Dutch Fort". The Moravians could not allow non-Moravians to settle in their village, so together with the refugees, eight log cabins were built for them at the mill. On May 15, 1757, Martin, Margaretha, Georg Peter, and Daniel moved from the Fort to the mill. When the alarm was over, they returned to the land, but the spring of the next year saw them back again at the mill. During these frequent flights, they began to attend (religious) services with the Moravians. As a result, Martin & Margaretha Hauser asked permission to join their group and move into the Bethabara village. When this was refused, he resolved: "Then I am going to live as a stranger with the Brothers". His first intention was to buy land on the border of Wachovia; but then it occurred to him to ask the Moravian Unity to establish another town which could include those families who wished eventually to become Moravians. He made this request to Bishop Spangenberg, who was visiting Bethabara, and after much discussion among the Brethren, it was agreed. Bishop Spangenberg selected the site for Bethania in "Black Walnut Bottom" in the northwest corner of Wachovia on June 3, 1759. One month later, the road to Bethania was begun.

Moravian records suggest that Heinrich Spänhauer may have behaved in a similar fashion, going back and forth to his farm in New River, Virginia, when dangers eased. Exactly how and where they were living between their flight from Virginia in 1755 and 1759, we are not yet sure, but it is clear that during this period, Heinrich and family had become familiar both with the Moravians and with Martin Hauser, because Heinrich tells us in his memoir that he moved his family into the fortified mill in 1759, after having decided to join the Society if possible, but if not, to "live in their vicinity".

On Sunday morning, July 1, 1759, eight families joined together and signed a letter to the Brethren at Bethabara, asking for permission to live in the new village of Bethania. These eight families were of Martin Hauser, Georg Hauser (blacksmith), Michel Hauser (weaver & farmer), Heinrich Sponhauer (cooper & farmer), Friedrich Schorer, Heinrich Schorer (farmer & carpenter), Johannes Strub (baker & farmer), and Phillip Schaus (farmer & shoemaker).

The following Sunday, July 8, 1759, the Moravians at Bethabara selected eight families of their Brothers & Sisters who would help build the new village, who would live in the lower section of the town, and who would "watch over" those eight families of "strangers" living in the upper section of the town.

On the morning of July 12, 1759, the Moravians held morning prayer on the spot where the first house was to be built, and the work of building was begun. At ten o'clock Martin Hauser arrived with his sons Georg Peter and Daniel to cut timber for their house in the upper town. By evening of that day the sixteen laborers from Bethabara had completed the framework for the first house (*even though there was a thunderstorm that afternoon*) and the next day it was finished. Gottfried Grabs and his wife became the first residents of the village when they moved into that first house in the lower village on July 18. Shortly after that Martin and Margaretha Hauser moved into the upper town, and on August 9, two more of the non-Moravian families moved into the upper town.

Heinrich & Elisabeth Lum Spänhauer moved into the upper town on February 10, 1760. On the 18th of July, 1762, Heinrich Spänhauer's daughter, Maria Elisabeth, married Martin Hauser's son, George Peter; and two years after that, Heinrich's son, John Henry, married Martin's granddaughter, Elizabeth (daughter of Michael & Anna Fiscus Hauser).

Meet Marie Roberta Tumlinson Spainhower:

Sometime before her 88th birthday, Marie's daughter urged her to write down her memories of her life to share with her children and grandchildren. Over several months she did that, and Eleanor Spainhower Grasham transcribed them. Copies were made in preparation for the family's celebration of Marie's 90th birthday on March 2, 1999. We are delighted to have a copy for our family library shelf, thanks to her son, Thomas Henry Spainhower (Antioch, CA).

I enjoyed very much reading Marie's "Memories". The reading required about fifteen minutes - which was followed by a nice two hours or so remembering parts of my own childhood. Thank you Marie!

Here are a few highlights from Marie's booklet -- perhaps they will rekindle a few enjoyable memories for many of you as well.

Marie was born in Galveston, Texas. Her name, Marie, was contributed by her sister Hazel's school teacher there, and Roberta was chosen after her paternal grandmother, Mary Roberta Tumlinson. Her father, John Tidwell Tumlinson worked for the railroad as a boilermaker, and "we moved around a lot".

Of her life in Shreveport, LA, Marie recalls "the doughnut man" who pushed his cart filled with hot fresh doughnuts along the street several mornings a week while singing "Mama, Mama, oh Mama, Mama, don't put those biscuits on the table! Here comes the doughnut man!"

In 1914, her father quit the railroad and the family moved to Atascosa County near San Antonio where they lived in a little house near her grandpa's farm and where Marie can remember playing with sisters and cousins in the orchards and in the buttercup & daisy fields in the spring, searching for guinea nests in the mesquite thickets, riding calves, and gathering wild grapes for the jellies & jams that Mama & Grandma would make.

All the children of the area joined together for their two to four mile walk to their two-room schoolhouse --- first three grades in one room, and the next three grades in the other. The school was in the town of Verdi, Texas, which also had a general store, a post-office, and a church.

Marie's first ride in an automobile was in her uncle Wiley's Oldsmobile. "Very few of our acquaintances owned a car. Our transportation was a wagon. We thought uncle Wiley must be very rich to have such a fine car. He and Aunt Oattie and Rebecca lived in San Antonio and once in a while we got to visit them in the big city! What a luxury!! They even had running water!"

Marie's father died of a brain hemorrhage at age 39 in 1917 and the following year brought a flu epidemic which claimed her sister Velma at age 19 on Christmas Eve, 1918. Her sister Hazel received her teaching credentials from the College of Industrial Arts at Denton, Texas and her first teaching was with the primary grades at that school in Verdi. In the meantime, Granpa had secured a buggy for them -- so they could now ride to school!

Of course, Marie remembers her baptism by Bro. Burleson in a nearby creek on a Sunday morning in April, 1922. Not long after that there was another change in her life --- Granpa caught "Plains Fever" after hearing about the fabulous grain crops being produced there. So Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt Edna, Mama, and us girls all set off for Panhandle country in two cars and a truck. No motels in those days -- they would make a camp each night. The trip should have taken a few days but it rained the whole time. Detours due to washed out roads and bridges stretched it to two weeks!

The new farm had a good house, a barn and a windmill. "To us, it was huge". "I attended school in Floydada". Grandpa made good crops and was happy. "You could see for fifty miles if you climbed up on the windmill". The land was flat -- no trees -- and sometimes the sand blew so thick it covered the roads and school would be closed. During the two years they lived here, Maria heard her first radio broadcast on a crystal set! "What a marvel!"

Because sister Hazel needed to boost her teaching credentials, Mama and the girls moved to Canyon City, where Hazel could go to college. They rented a boarding house so Mama could board some young men students at the college. The boarding house caught fire on January 7, 1925 and after the fire,

Mama and her youngest sister, Claudia, moved to Southern California where there would be much better opportunity for work and better pay. (Mama's sister lived there).

Meanwhile sister Hazel eloped to Amarillo and got married to Horace, so Marie & sister Jackie lived with this couple until school was out in the summer; following which these two, with Hazel as chaperone, took the train to California to join Mama and Claudia. Uncle Jack and Aunt Mabel met them in Los Angeles, and Hazel returned to her husband in Canyon City. Aunt Mabel and Uncle Jack lived in Long Beach.

Marie attended the Polytechnic High School in Santa Ana -- made the honor roll and received a California Scholarship Pin at the end of the year. Even though she weighed barely 100 pounds, she was quick, and made the basketball and volley ball teams in spite of her small size.

They attended the Walnut Avenue Church of Christ, and it was here that Marie met Thomas Riley Spainhower. Her sister Jackie was seeing Ward Edward Spainhower at the time and, Ward brought his younger brother Thomas to meet Marie --- both now eighteen. Marie remembers: "Mama fell in love with him and he charmed Claudia too --- and that was the last boy friend I ever had". Over a weekend Thomas took Marie to Dos Palos to meet his mother and dad, Carrie (Carrie Ethyl McHenry) & Alfred (Alfred Judson) Spainhower. Alfred Judson Spainhower & family had moved to California from Indiana in 1915.

Marie and Thomas planned their wedding for June of 1929 just after Thomas' 20th birthday, but they later moved it up to April 25th of that year. Marie says her friends teased her about having to get married because she was expecting 300 babies! Thomas' mother had ordered 300 baby turkeys and she wanted Thomas and Marie to get married in time to help take care of them. Marie tells us that whoever coined the phrase "Too dumb to come in out of the rain" must have raised turkeys --- because they would often stand up and point their beaks at the sky when it rained --- and drown if they weren't rescued!

The couple was married at 11 o'clock in the morning of April 25, 1929, and with Mother & Dad Spainhower's Dodge, they drove to Santa Cruz for a four day honeymoon. Their life together was to begin on a dairy farm in Dos Palos. It was ten acres and had a house and barn, but the house needed much work --- including wiring for electricity and a well -- so they lived with Mother & Dad Spainhower for four months while Thomas worked on their house. Mother Spainhower had a Maytag washing machine which was powered with a gasoline engine. They heated water in a large pot out in the yard and carried it in a large pot to fill the washer. It had a wringer that you turned by hand.

Thomas suffered a massive heart attack January 5, 1961. He was in the hospital two weeks. In 1967 his doctor told him about a series of experiments involving heart by-pass surgery, and suggested that Thomas was a good candidate. He was accepted for the procedure at Mr. Zion Hospital in San Francisco, but there was limited success. Thomas lived another two and a half years more, but spent most of this time in and out of hospitals. He died just after Christmas in 1969.

Marie Tumlinson Spainhower has three children, Thomas Henry, Robert David, and Eleanor. She has eleven grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren --- each of which, of course, "is exceptionally bright and beautiful".

MANY MORE HAPPY BIRTHDAYS MARIA!!

Meet Russell Blain Spainhower:

The following is taken from the book "Owen County Cousins" by Rosemary Faulk Lovell.

Born in Forsyth County, North Carolina, second of four children of Oliver Calvin Spainhower and Mary Frances Hauser, Russell Blain Spainhower moved to California when he was a small child, and spent much of his boyhood on the old Carson Ranch, where the city of Torrence now stands.

Perhaps while it was living there that Russell acquired his love of cattle, of ranch life, and no doubt dreamed of someday having such a place of his own. Coming to Inyo county as an employee of the Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles in 1909, he saw the Owens River Valley change, however this did not deter him from his dream and desire to have a ranch of his own.

In 1913 he married Catherine Walter of Independence, and after a few months they moved to Lone Pine and to the old Lucas Ranch, which had already been sold to the city of Los Angeles. Here they lived many years while Russell began to realize his dream of having a spread of his own. Later they bought the adjoining Anchor ranch from Dave Holland and moved onto it some years later. Through the years, though continuing with the cattle business, Russell became contact-and-location man for the movies, working with such companies as Twentieth Century Fox, Paramount, MGM, Universal, and many others. His opinion and judgment were highly respected by many of the old movie directors and his friendship treasured. He was a friend of many of the old movie actors that took part in the western movies, such as the Barry brothers, W. S. Hart, John Wayne, and others.

Meet Julius Clay Kreeger:

The following is taken from the book "Owen County Cousins" by Rosemary Fault Lovell. Julius Kreeger's research on the history & genealogy of Spainhour, Kreeger, Fulk, and other related families is well known.

Julius Clay Kreeger was born in Forsyth County, North Carolina on August 30, 1870. He was the son of John Wesley and Caroline (Shore) Kreeger. He died early in June, 1959 of a heart attack at the age of 88 years.

Mr. Kreeger was educated under A.I. Butner of the Bethania Academy. He taught in the schools of Forsyth and Stokes Counties for five years. He spent ten years in King, NC, working for L.E. Grabs & Sons, General Merchandise & Lumber business. He was secretary of the Grabs Manufacturing Company.

He was elected to the state House of Representatives on the Republican Ticket in Stokes County in 1903. Following his service in the legislature, Mr. Kreeger moved to Winston-Salem, and shortly thereafter became connected with the Winston-Salem Post office. He remained with the postal service for 36 years. The last eight years of his service was as Assistant Postmaster. He retired in 1940.

He was a charter member of the King Baptist Church, later moved his membership to the old Broad Street Baptist Church. Still later he joined First Baptist Church and was on the board of Deacons for many years.

He was married twice, first to Miss Betty Rominger, who died in 1920. He then married Miss Minnie Phillips, who survived him.

In 1933, long before he retired from active work, Mr. Kreeger became interested in tracing his relatives. He started simply enough, by tracing back to Nicholas Kreeger (1709-1804) and Maria Katherina (Borger) Kreeger, who come to America in 1754. The original Kreegers moved to North Carolina in 1765, and his genealogy traces through one of their sons, John Jacob Kreeger, his great-great grandfather. During the last 25 years of his life, Mr. Kreeger accumulated countless documents, notebooks, and papers. He worked with Dr. Adelaide Fries, Salem archivist and historian. He turned these papers over to the Moravian Archives in Old Salem.

Mr. Kreeger was a soft-spoken, slow-talking man who made friends easily. He shared his search for ancestors and relatives. His research touched on many of the families contained in "Owen County Cousins", and we are truly grateful for his contributions to this work.

Meet Alpha Matron Spainhoward Skouson:

The following is taken from information supplied by Aaron Bradshaw (Higley, Arizona), one of Alpha Matron's grandchildren.

I am including her genealogy lineage so you can follow the changes in the spelling of the family surname.

Muttenz immigrant Werner Spänhauer and first wife Verona Wister were the parents of John Jacob Spaenhauer, whose cabin has been restored in King, NC. After Verona's death, Werner married Elisabeth Lohner. Elisabeth & Werner's fifth child, born December 4, 1765, was named Johannes (John).

John, about 1788, married a lady named Elisabeth (whose maiden name we still do not know). John & Elisabeth Spainhower, with three young sons, migrated to Kentucky about 1802.

Their second son, Thomas, born about 1797 in North Carolina, married on May 29, 1820 in Pulaski County, Kentucky, Miss Sarah Kinser. The marriage recording clerk spelled Thomas' surname Spoonhoward, but the present-day descendants of Thomas and Sarah spell the name Spainhoward. Thomas & Sarah Kinser Spainhoward had two sons, Warner, and Daniel Green.

Daniel Green Spainhoward, born in Kentucky on March 10, 1826, married in Edmonson County, Kentucky, on July 29, 1847, Nancy Reason Roof.

This couple had only two children, a son, John Melvin, and a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth. Daniel Green Spainhouard died on March 15, 1856, only five days after his 30th birthday.

John MelvinSpainhoward was married to Ludicy Jane Vincent in the town of Brownsville, Edmonson County, Kentucky, on March 2, 1870. Their third child, Alpha Matron was born there on October 14, 1888. The following are parts of Alpha Matron's memories, in her own words, as compiled by Ruth Skouson Bradshaw.

"I was born at home, in a little farmhouse on the Green River. I was named after Alpha Webb, a friend of my mother. I was the third of five children (two girls and three boys) born to my parents, John Melvin Spainhoward and Lou Dicy Jane Vincent."

"I started school at the age of seven, attending the Mount Zion School in the country about three miles from home in Edmonson County. We had spelling matches at night on Friday. I was pretty hard to spell down. The first two years, there were only two in my class." It was a little log one-room schoolhouse with about 35 children altogether. "The children sat on benches -- boys on one side, and girls on the other."

"We raised most of our food. We raised pork for meat and smoked it, and had bacon and ham. Once in a while we'd kill a calf. We stored our potatoes in the attic in the house and made pits outside for turnips and cabbage. "We'd fill the pits and would have a mound of vegetables up on top. We could cut out a place after the ground froze about 15 inches by 24 inches. We'd take our vegetables out, and put the straw back in, and the frozen earth back over it ground level." Before I was eight, fruit was dried, but after that we could buy glass jars and tin cans. Ma canned jars and jars of fruit. The cans were a half-gallon and a gallon, and she sealed the cans with sealing wax.

"I remember my mother very well." She was a very religious woman and she had a big Bible, which she would put on her lap and read -- sometimes out loud so the family could listen. Mother and father were Baptists. Father couldn't read but he liked to hear mother read, and they were very good singers.

Mormon missionaries were active in this part of Kentucky and it was usual for them to visit country homes and spend the day, or sometimes stay overnight. Among them, was Peter James Skouson.

"When they had cottage meetings around, my brothers and I went to the cottage meetings. I would bring tracts home to my mother that the missionaries would spread out at the cottage. I liked to hear them talk, but I never thought about belonging to the Church. It was at one of these cottage meetings

in 1919, that Alpha Matron met Peter James Skouson, one of the missionaries, and the District president. When the meetings were over, he would come back home with us and sit there and talk about religion.

She resisted baptism at first because she felt her father might object, but eventually she agreed and Peter James baptized her in the swimming hole on Honey Creek on June 6, 1921. "Jim started writing me in January 1923, and in June he wrote and proposed. Two or three letters later, I accepted. We were married on the 18th of September 1923 at Edmonson County Courthouse by the county judge, George Wright Lindsay. "Our honeymoon was a trip to Salt Lake to get sealed in the temple." *At their marriage, Alpha Matron was 32 and Peter James was 35.*

"We made our first home in Colonia Dublan, Mexico." Our trip to Mexico was through Rialto, California. We stayed there several hours to change trains, then came through New Mexico to El Paso, where we stayed about two nights until a little old wood-burning train came in. On this train we had to stop every little bit for them to go out and cut wood to build it up again. It took a whole day to get down to Dublan. "They didn't have a station there, but they let people get off there, and they let mail off there. There was a little post-office place there and sometimes you could buy a stamp. American two-cent stamps cost a dime there. "Altogether I lived in Mexico four years." *The first two of her three daughters were born in Mexico.*

In 1927, after Thanksgiving, they packed what they could into a little truck, put a canvas over it, and came out to El Paso, where Jim had secured a job putting farm machinery together. Their third daughter was born January 21, 1928.

It was typical for Alpha to can fifty quarts of pineapple, fifty quarts of peaches, and fifty quarts of pears, quince, apricots, and jam. The Depression was difficult at times with Jim out of a job, but he worked for the WPA for \$30 a month until he finally got on as a custodian with the schools.

Jim worked for the Mesa Public Schools for several years. Alpha stayed at home with her knitting, and crocheting. Like her mother she much enjoyed reading, and she was known as a wonderful cook. Jim died on November 24, 1956 at 70 years of age and Alpha followed him on August 2, 1973 at age 84. They left three daughters, sixteen grandchildren and a few great-grandchildren.

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General Editor:

James D. Spainhour

1210 Francis Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005-2208;

Telephone: (847)-392-9638; E-mail: jdspainhour@home.com

Family News Editor:

Christine Whicker

PO Box 122, King, NC 27021-0122;

Telephone: (336)-983-3771

For changes of address & for additions to the mailing list, please contact:

Catherine Canter

Secretary, Muttenez Descendants, Inc.,

4321 Transou Road, Pfafftown, NC 27040

Telephone: (336)-924-9565
