

# MDI Family Newsletter

Issue # 19 - March 2001

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1. Newsletter Survey Report
  2. Board of Directors Meeting -- October 2000
  3. Cabin Furnishings Committee Report
  4. Cabin Kitchen Construction Committee Report
  5. Research & Education Committee Report
  6. A Note from your Editor
  7. About this Newsletter
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## 1. Newsletter Survey Report:

The volume of responses to the survey in the previous printed newsletter was disappointing. While the number of subscribers to the electronic newsletter was smaller than we expected, it was enough to demand going forward with the project. The first issue of what will be called the MDI Newsletter was sent by E-mail to 87 subscribers on February 5.

Additions, deletions, and modifications of the electronic mailing list is fully automated within our web site. There are detailed instructions on the site, so anyone who may be interested can sign up by going online to [www.muttendescendants.org](http://www.muttendescendants.org). You can also find instructions on the site for downloading a copy of the February issue in case you missed it.

It will be possible to count the number of addresses in the electronic mailing list from time to time --- and we will report on its growth (or lack thereof) in future issues.

We plan six issues of the electronic MDI Newsletter this year and two issues of this printed Family Newsletter. Subscribers to the MDI Newsletter will also receive this Family Newsletter during this year. At the end of this year we can consider together whether this duplication should be continued.

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## 2. Board of Directors Meeting -- October 4, 2000:

1. An electronic newsletter was authorized, and a Museum Exhibit project was approved (described below).
  2. James Spainhour, Nick Hennessee, David Spainhour, Michael Spainhour, were re-elected to three year terms on the Board.
  3. Francis Spainhour, Jack White, and Christine Whicker were re-elected to their present offices for one year terms.
  4. Catherine Canter resigned as MDI Secretary and David Spainhour was elected to this office. All present expressed deep appreciation to Catherine for her years of dedicated service.
  5. Our new Secretary's address is: David W. Spainhour, 8000 Stroupe Farm Road, Tobaccoville, NC 27050
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## 3. Cabin Furnishings Committee Report:

Virginia Patton, chair of this committee, expresses strong appreciation to each of you who have donated items for the cabin. Without member support, our organization and its projects would not be possible. If you have something you think might be of interest to this committee --- contact Virginia --- or check on the MDI web site. Virginia will soon help us update her committee's list of "still wanted items" which is located off the News Room in the Cabin-Reconstruction Project section.

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## 4. Cabin Kitchen Construction Committee Report:

A kitchen for the John Jacob cabin --- a separate building --- will be constructed. Some contract estimates for stone-work have been received. Charlie Spainhour indicates that work-sessions will be planned as weather permits. The first session is

## **5. Research & Education Committee Report:**

The past few months have included several intensive project activities for our R&E committee. Genealogy research projects include trying to resolve various questions regarding Spainhowers, Spainhowards, and Spainhours who show up in various Illinois census records and their correct connections to our family tree.

A very similar project involves Spoonhours, Sponhours, and Spohnhauers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana --- all of whom are almost surely descendants of Niklaus Austin Spänhauer and wife Ursula Schaub who were on the same ship in 1740 with the brothers Heinrich & Werner --- who were ancestors to many of our early members.

These are both interesting and challenging projects and they represent significant growth and development for our family tree. If you are interested in the details -- or perhaps in helping us with one or both projects -- check the History & Genealogy Forum Board on the MDI web site from time to time. There is also a section of "News from the Research Committee" --- off the News Room --- where you can learn how Riley Spainhower became his own first cousin.

Our education oriented projects include the development of an exhibit entitled: "Muttentz to California --- in the Eighteenth Century --- A New World Adventure" This exhibit features a map of the United States with different colored areas to indicate major settler migrations in which Muttentz Descendants actively participated. Along with the map is a booklet which contains some information about each of the migrations. The booklet topic headings are colored to coordinate with the colors on the map.

The exhibit will be produced using the German language for display in the Firehouse Museum in Muttentz, Switzerland --- thanks to the hard work of Edith Spänhauer, who will do the translations, and to considerable assistance with communications by Corrie Spaenhauer. The map is from the imaginative work of Judy Bodenhamer of Kennesaw, GA. The booklet results from a cooperative effort between Judy Bodenhamer & James Spainhour of Arlington Heights, IL --- through the wonders of e-mail communications. An English language exhibit will also be produced and the material will also become a feature on the MDI web site --- where it can be further expanded with new pictures and with additional historical information.

A "Scrapbook" of pictures of FAMILY HISTORY PLACES has been partially implemented on our web site --- (look for it in the News Room) --- this PLACES scrapbook will be joined by a similar one featuring FAMILY HISTORY PEOPLE --- Myron Spainhour of Tallahassee, FL will be working on these. Check back from time to time, because both will be growing.

If you have some old photographs of early family members or places where they lived --- send them along to us before they are lost or destroyed by the grandchildren so we can include them in our archive of family "treasures".

We are also planning a scrapbook which will feature materials related to MILITARY SERVICE by family members in the Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, and The American Civil War. There is much interesting material available. As one example, see the item on the web site about James D. Spainhour --- A Civil War Soldier --- look in the Library under "Stories & Biographies of Family Members".

Thanks to our Web Master, Stephen Spainhour of Richmond, VA --- the MDI site now has detailed instructions for subscribing (and un-subscribing) to the MDI E-mailing list. This process is fully automated. Click on the menu item "MDI Mailing List". If your E-mail address needs to change --- you can also implement this yourself using the instructions that Stephen has provided. Stephen hopes that you will visit the site frequently --- and he will warmly welcome your comments and suggestions. The URL is: [www.muttentzdescendants.org](http://www.muttentzdescendants.org).

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## **6.A note from your Editor:**

In the past, this printed Family Newsletter was our only medium for communications with members. Our web site and our electronic MDI Newsletter are more recent additions. All three exist to better serve your interests. Our committee of volunteers eagerly solicits your comments and suggestions --- and your help.

Please note that all MDI projects are conducted by volunteers who will welcome your help. If you are interested in what you might do, please contact me and I will make some suggestions. My addresses are below.

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## **6.About This Newsletter:**

This Family Newsletter is supported by donations to and is provided to interested parties without charge by Muttenz Descendants, Inc., a tax-exempt organization honoring the frontier heritage of Muttenz descendants and their neighbors. Our mailing list now numbers more than 550 families across the United States and in Switzerland.

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