

# MDI Family Newsletter

Issue # 20 - December 2001

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1. Cabin Kitchen Committee Report
2. Board of Directors Meeting - April 26, 2001
3. Mary Catherine Canter
4. Research & Education Committee Report
5. A Note from your Editor
6. About this Newsletter

*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 your editor and he will make some suggestions. Contact information is at the end of this newsletter.*

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## 1. Cabin Kitchen Committee Report:

Construction of the separate kitchen building behind the Johann Jacob cabin in King has gone a little slower than originally planned but by the time you receive this newsletter, the chimney should be completed and the rest of the roof should be done. Additional work on the windows and doors is also planned for the week of November 4.

The work on the park surrounding the cabin is also almost finished --- a little touch-up work on the walking trails around and through the woods remains. The current expectation is for dedication of the Park (and the Cabin) in May, 2002.

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## 2. Board of Directors Meeting - April 26, 2001:

1. Christine Whicker has resigned her posts as Treasurer, Director, and Family News Editor, due to health problems. Christine will be missed, but we understand her reasoning, and all wish her well.
  2. Our new Treasurer is Miss Lisa Newsome. Lisa works for a local bank in King, is a Spainhour descendant, and is very much interested in our projects. Lisa's address is P.O. Box 1051, King, NC 27021.
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## 3. Mary Catherine Canter - July 13, 2001:

Catherine Canter was a founding member of MUTTENZ DESCENDANTS INC., its Secretary until last October, and a strong supporter of every project the organization has begun. For those of you who did not know this lady, here is a brief introduction --- taken, in part, from her Moravian Memoir.

Catherine was the youngest of four children born to Herman Eugene Oehman & Addie Mae Spainhour. Her education was in Forsyth County Schools. She graduated from Old Richmond High School in 1938. As part of her valedictorian address to her fellow graduates she said: "The life work we choose, the money we accumulate, and the place in which we live will not necessarily determine the degree of success we have attained, but rather the kind of life we live, the type of influence we exercise, and the quality of the service we give." These were guiding principles for her lifetime.

Not long after High School, she married Theo Canter, and with him had two children. She is survived by her daughter, Wilma Harvey, and her son, Thomas Canter --- three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren --- one sister and one brother --- plus, of course, a host of friends.. At her death she was 79 years, 7 months, and 28 days.

During World War II, Catherine worked at the old carbon plant in Winston-Salem, and later worked at Western Electric Company until her retirement in the early 1980's. At Western Electric, she was a charter member of the Pioneer group --- a service organization associated with the company. At her Church she was Treasurer for about twenty years, taught Sunday School in the Youth Department, served as a diener, played an alto horn in the Church Band, played handbells in the Bell Choir --- and actively served in a host of other capacities.

She was a member of the Board of Directors for the Mission Shop, and in this connection made several trips to Africa. Mission Work and work crews were a special interest for her. On her last trip to Tanzania she provided the Moravian stain glass seal installed in the wall behind the pulpit in the new Moravian Church in Sumbawanga --- where she was usually called "Kidogo Mama" (Little Mother).

She traveled to Israel three times, to Egypt twice and to other parts of Africa three times, twice to the British Isles, to Alaska twice, and to European Countries twice in addition to her participation in our First International Family Reunion at Muttentz in 1990.

Catherine will be frequently missed and fondly remembered by all of us who knew her.

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

##### **A Special Exhibit: "Muttentz to California in the Eighteenth Century - A New World Adventure"**

A museum-type exhibit with the above title was completed early this summer by Judy Bodenheimer (Kennesaw, GA), Edith Spänhauer (Liestal, Switzerland), Corrie Spaenhauer (Muttentz), and James Spainhour (Arlington Heights, IL). The exhibit is a map of the United States with seven different settler migrations indicated in various colors. Small panels with coordinated colors surround the map and provide a brief description of each migration.

A fourteen page booklet accompanies the exhibit. Each migration is described on two pages of the booklet -- again with coordinated colors -- including the participation by members of our family.

Copies of the Exhibit and the booklet in both English & German languages are now in Muttentz and in the Johann Jacob Cabin in King. The Bethania Historical Society also has a copy of the exhibit and booklet in English.

Work has recently been started to adapt this material into a similar Exhibit (same title) for our [muttentzdescendants.org](http://muttentzdescendants.org) web site. Our plan is to initiate the web display with the material in the Museum Exhibit --- and then, from time to time, add additional information and pictures -- so as to more fully develop its stories about life on the moving frontier during the settlement of North America during the eighteen and nineteenth centuries.

##### **Online Scrapbooks:**

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 great grandchildren so we can include them in our archive of family "treasures". If you wish we can copy and return them.

##### **Genealogy Records:**

A major expansion of the genealogy information on the web site was begun in March of this year. Our new system required some modifications of the database and the development of Family Group Sheets in HTML format.

This new system provides two major improvements for users First, the family sheet files open much faster than the previous files in PDF format --- and most important, the HTML format allows direct links between family groups both backwards to previous generations and forwards to succeeding ones.

The new system also has a major advantage for maintenance of our collection. Previously all additions and corrections on the database had to be performed online and modifications of the family group sheets had to be done offline using special and expensive computer software.

The new system allows database maintenance online by any authorized individual using only internet browser software or offline using a special text editor which is available free on the Internet. Modifications of the new family group sheet files can be done offline with any modern word processor program -- or with a special HTML editor --- many of which are available for less than \$20.

Successful development of computer programs which will create the database records and the HTML Family Group Sheets directly from our old computer files has made changing to the new system very practical --- by eliminating the great amount of labor which would be needed to re-enter the information from a keyboard.

The first phase of this project will include 4,504 family groups containing 23,373 individuals --- that's the information in our current computer files. A second phase of the project will begin adding many additional family groups --- from our current paper files and from our ongoing research efforts.

Although work continues on the project, the addition of new information to the web site is currently suspended until we decide how to effectively limit visitor access to information on family groups which contain living individuals. That decision will be made by the time you receive this newsletter.

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## 5. A note from your Editor:

Since you should receive this newsletter issue before the Holidays, I will use this space to wish each and every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

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## About This Newsletter:

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

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