

MDI Family Newsletter

Issue # 21 - November 2002

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*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.*

1. An Introductory Note from your Editor:

It has been a year since the last Newsletter. It has been a very eventful year --- within our organization as well as without. In spite of that, there has been relatively little to report in a Newsletter --- because our activities have mostly involved finishing some projects you already know about, and beginning some new projects about which there was as yet little to say. But now, in this Newsletter, I will try to "catch-you-up" with what has been going on.

The cabin reconstruction project has been completed, including the separate kitchen building which is located a few feet behind the cabin. The city of King has also completed and dedicated the Central Park in which the cabin is located. If you have not already done so --- come and tour this nice park and visit the cabin which serves as a symbol of our family heritage and of pioneer life in this region of North Carolina.

A new research project initiated by Nick Hennessee, Harold Spainhour, and Judy Bodenheimer has been investigating the John Jacob farmlands. Of particular interest is whether the location of the reconstructed cabin in the Central Park in King is within the boundaries of John Jacob's original farm. The proof is not yet 100%, but the evidence suggests strongly that this is the case. Associated with this research is an effort to also better identify the lands of Werner Spainhour in the area along Bashavia Creek and perhaps to identify the specific location on this farm where he is buried. A new committee will be formed to carry this work forward --- and they will report on their progress in future issues of the Newsletter.

Our family history and genealogy program has achieved a critical milestone in its development. The specifics of this project and some related projects are described in this issue.

2. Our Mini-Reunion Weekend in June --- Its Themes

A central theme for this weekend was recognizing the many inter-family ties forged between the historical families in this part of North Carolina. The first such inter-family link for the Spainhours was the marriage of Maria Elizabeth Spainhour to George Peter Hauser on July 08, 1762. Some years later, Maria Elizabeth's brother John Henry Spainhour, married George Peter's niece, Elizabeth Hauser. Children of these two families married Strupe, Feiser, Boechel, Kapp, Shore, Ranke, Boner, Lash, Stoltz, Davenport, Reich, Hauser, Conrad, Reich, and Schmdt.

Another element of the weekend is celebrating the completion of the pioneer cabin in King's new Central Park. That cabin was originally built for John Jacob Spainhour and his wife, Anna Catherine Fulk. Spouse names for eleven of the thirteen children who were born in that cabin were Rider, Shouse, Harris, Boose, Helsabeck, Conrad, Helsabeck, Kreeger, Doub, Leinbach, and Beroth. The families of John Jacob's half-siblings, expands the links to also include Teague, Doub, Dietz, Fiscus, Rider, and another whose name we don't yet know.

The parents of these families were mostly born in Pennsylvania and their children were mostly born in Stokes County. The second generation born in Stokes County will obviously expand the inter-family connections to include Coe, Sneider, Flynt, Grabs, Newsome, Long, Dull, and several others.

There was a Spainhour family reunion held in King in the early 1920's. It's host was Rev. F. Walter Grabs and the active family historian was a man named Doub.

The genealogy of many families will produce this same list of names --- Arney, Butner, Conrad, Doub, Fiscus, Fulk, Grabs, Hauser, Helsabeck, Kreeger, Leinbach, Newsome, Shouse, Shore, Speas, and others. These families link repeatedly not only with each other but with almost every family in this region at the time. One of our members puts it this way: "If your forebears lived in Stokes County in or before 1820 --- then we are cousins."

Descendants of these families also migrated into the western states together, founding villages in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa --- and their descendants still live there.

Another element of the weekend is the connection of many of these families to the Moravian Church. Maria Elizabeth Spainhour was baptized at Bethabara by Brother Seidel on June 14, 1759 and she was married to George Peter Hauser by Br. Ettwein.

Many of the first families who settled in the area of today's city of King were familiar with the Moravians in Pennsylvania and wished to continue that association. As a result, the cabin of John Jacob & Anna Catherine was the designated site where local folks would gather to attend worship services led by a visiting pastor from the Moravian Church in Bethania. This practice continued for many years. Perhaps we can view this as one of the stones in the foundation of King Moravian Church.

3. Our Mini-Reunion Weekend in June --- Its Program

The following is taken from an article written by Francis Spainhour for the Bethania Historical Society Newsletter

On Saturday, June 15 they met at Bethania at 9 A.M. To start their adventure. There were 100 family members from 14 states that gathered for this reunion.. Refreshments were served on the front lawn of the old school house in Bethania and the program began with a presentation about the many inter-family connections among the early settlers of this region of North Carolina. There were exhibits of family maps, arrow heads, military records and other interesting materials.

We visited the Bethania Moravian Graveyard where many ancestors are buried. We then had a picnic lunch at the Church's picnic shelter. That afternoon we loaded two buses and took a tour of the area beginning at Bethabara and the King area to the grave site of John Jacob and his wife Anna Catherine. We traveled over other area graveyards in King, Dalton, and Pinnacle where many members of our family and many related families settled. We admired our view of Pilot Mountain and returned by way of the place where the old Spainhour Mill was located, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Tobacoville, Old Richmond, and Doub's Chapel Cemetery --- then back to Bethania.

Saturday night we attended a reunion banquet at the Twin City Club in Winston-Salem. We enjoyed a buffet dinner and a presentation adapted from a script written by Patsy Moore Ginns that told of the heartaches and difficulties of travel from Muttentz to Bethania for Elizabeth Spänhauer and her children.

On Sunday we gathered at the King Moravian Church for a worship service, with Jack White speaking. After this service we moved for lunch to King Central Park where the John Jacob Spaenhauer Cabin has been reconstructed. After lunch there a dedication service for the cabin and its kitchen was led by David W. Spainhour.

The closing event was a series of questions/answers on early family history presented by James Spainhour & Judy Bodenheimer. Between 120 and 130 family members attended the Sunday activities.

4. Our Mini-Reunion Weekend in June --- Cabin Dedication

The following was composed and read by David W. Spainhour

Over 200 years ago, John Jacob Spainhour and family constructed this cabin to house and protect themselves and to begin a new life in America. With broad axes and mules they built their home. Hard work, dedication and by the grace of God, they survived and now 12 and 13 generations later, we enjoy the freedoms that come from living in America.

It is rather fitting that it is on Father's Day that we the descendants of John Jacob gather to honor our great great grandfather by dedicating his home as a tribute to the vision and courage of a group of people that would settle a new land. This home is not a replica but a reconstruction of the original home. The rocks for the chimney and the logs for the walls were dismantled and reconstructed by great grandchildren of the original designer and builder.

For all the cousins who had a part in relocating the cabin, we say thank you. For all the donations of time, labor, money, furnishings, and food, we say thank you. We would not be standing here today were it not for the efforts of a lot of people. It is the desire of the cousins who had a hand in this project that this cabin stand as a tribute to the early descendants of the Spainhour family and that it would honor and portray the type of life our ancestors lived.

As a member of the Muttentz Descendants Board, and because I'm a proud descendant of John Jacob, it is an honor and privilege to dedicate this cabin to that end. May all those who enter our grandfather's home enjoy the fellowship of Generations of Spainhours.

5. Old Odd & Other Stuff --- by Robert Carroll --- Spainhours in the Political Life of Stokes County

John Jacob Spainhour married Anna Catherine Volek (Fulk) in 1773 and in 1774. moved to about one mile north of where the city of King is today . This was about fifty years before Charles and Frances King moved into a log cabin which is referred to as "King's Cabin". John Jacob was the only son of Werner Spainhour and his first wife, Verona Wistler. His second wife was Elizabeth Loehner, and they were the parents of Michael (who married Elizabeth), Mary Eve (who married John Doub Sr.), Henry (who married Lucy Dietz), Elizabeth (who married John A. Fiscus), and Peter (who married Catherine E. Rider.

The family of Werner Spainhour were very active in establishing the town of King and in the political life of Stokes County. Five Sheriffs, two Clerks of Court, two Registers of Deeds, and seven County Commissioners were descendants of or married to a descendent of Werner Spainhour.

Solomon Edwards, elected Sheriff in 1864, was the son of Edward S. & Matilda Spainhour and grandson of Solomon Spainhour and great-grandson of John Jacob and great-great-grandson of Werner.

Riley J. Petree, elected Sheriff in 1902 and 1904, was the son of Riley F. & Olethia F. Helsabeck Petree, grandson of Jacob & Mary E. Doub Helsabeck, great-grandson of John Sr. And Mary Eve Spainhour Doub, and great-great-grandson of Werner.

Charles M. Jones, elected Sheriff in 1908 and 1910, married Flora V. Wall, daughter of Samuel J. & Emily Edwards Wall, granddaughter of Edward H. & Matilda Spainhour Edwards, great-granddaughter of Solomon Spainhour, g-g-granddaughter of John Jacob Spainhour, and g-g-g-granddaughter of Werner.

Joe Helsabeck, elected Sheriff in 1946, was son of Dr. Chester Helsabeck, grandson of Joseph H. Helsabeck, g-grandson of Jeremiah Helsabeck, g-g-grandson of Joseph & Susanna Spainhour Helsabeck, g-g-g-grandson Johann Heinrich Spainhour, and g-g-g-g-grandson of Werner.

William "Wick" Southern, elected Sheriff in 1978, married Mary Ann McGee, daughter of Res "Bill" McGee, granddaughter of Ralph & Alma Smith McGee, great-granddaughter of John G. & Mary Edwards Smith, g-g-granddaughter of A.T. "Gus" Edwards, g-g-g-granddaughter of Edward and Matilda Spainhour Edwards, g-g-g-g-granddaughter of Solomon Spainhour, g-g-g-g-g-granddaughter of John Jacob and g-g-g-g-g-g-granddaughter of Werner.

N. O. Petree, elected Clerk of Court 1886 through 1900, was son of Riley F. & Olethia F. Helsabeck Petree, grandson of Jacob & Mary Doub Helsabeck, g-grandson of John Sr. & Mary Eve Spainhour Doub, and g-g-grandson of Werner.

William "Wick" Southern, elected Clerk of Court in 1992 is listed above as Sheriff

Charles M. Jones, elected Register of Deeds in 1902 and 1904 is listed above as Sheriff.

Frances Helsabeck Burwell, elected Register of Deeds in 1968, 1972, 1976, and 1980, was daughter of Dr. R. S. Helsabeck, granddaughter of Joseph H. Helsabeck, g-granddaughter of Jeremiah Helsabeck, g-g-granddaughter of Joseph & Susanna Spainhour Helsabeck, g-g-g-granddaughter of Johann Heinrick Spainhour, and g-g-g-granddaughter of Werner.

John Wesley Spainhour, elected County Commissioner in 1872, 1874, and 1876, was son of Solomon Spainhour, grandson of John Jacob, and g-grandson of Werner.

Dr. Rupert S. Helsabeck, elected County Commissioner in 1926 and 1928 was son of Joseph H. Helsabeck, grandson of A. Jeremiah Helsabeck, g-grandson of Joseph & Susanna Spainhour Helsabeck, g-g-grandson of Johann Heinrich Spainhour, and g-g-g-grandson of Werner.

J. Worth Gentry, elected County Commissioner in 1956, was son of Gaston & Mary Kreeger Gentry, grandson of James & Adeline Shore Kreeger, g-grandson of Levi & Charity Helsabeck Shore, g-g-grandson of Joseph & Susanna Spainhour Helsabeck, g-g-g-grandson of John Jacob, and g-g-g-g-grandson of Werner. Worth Gentry later represented Stokes County in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Dr. William J. Helsabeck, elected County Commissioner in 1964, 1966, and 1968, was son of Dr. Rupert S. Helsabeck, who is listed above as County Commissioner.

William Gentry, elected County Commissioner in 1970, 1974, 1978, 1987, and 1986, was a brother of Worth Gentry, who is listed above as County Commissioner.

Howard Mabe, elected County Commissioner in 2000, is son of Zeb & Elsie Edwards Mabe, grandson of David Edwards, g-grandson of A.T. "Gus" Edwards, g-g-grandson of Edward & Matilda Spainhour Edwards, g-g-g-grandson of Solomon Spainhour, g-g-g-g-grandson of John Jacob, and g-g-g-g-g-grandson of Werner.

John Wesley Spainhour did not serve his term when he was elected in 1876. He resigned and William H. Schaub was appointed to complete his term. William Schaub married Mary Laura Grabs, daughter of Lewis E. & Harriett Spainhour Grabs, granddaughter of Solomon Spainhour, g-granddaughter of John Jacob, and g-g-granddaughter of Werner.

6. Family History & Genealogy:

Progress in our family history and genealogy program -- for a long time now -- has been bogged down by our limited ability to share information. Clearly solving this situation had to take precedence over everything else. We set as our objective to develop a system for our MDI web site which would be practical both to implement and to maintain and which would not require the use of specialized and expensive computer software.

In the previous issue of this Newsletter you were told that work on the project was suspended until we decided how to effectively limit visitor access to information on family groups which contain living individuals.

Our conclusion was that separating the information into two parts with open access to one part and restricted access to another part is not a practical method for us. As a result we agreed to keep all the information together and require all visitors to register and receive permission prior to any access. The project effort was renewed under these conditions. We will spare you the many details and problems along the way --- here is the present situation:

The online database --- which serves as index to the information --- now contains more than 23,500 individuals. The database records link with a click of your mouse to the appropriate family group sheets which include that individual. The family group sheets are formatted with HTML so that they link backwards and forwards to other generations from each individual. The online library currently contains 4, 575 family group sheets. New database records and new family group sheets can be created and existing ones can be modified while off-line using a programmer's text editor --- which can be downloaded from the Internet free of charge.

This online collection now includes all the Spainhour descendants that are in any previous collection we have printed and many more. Beyond that, it now also includes about 20 related surname collections --- Arney, Doub, Fiscus, Fulk, Hauser, Hunter, Leinbach, Leupin, Shore, and others with whom we share much in historical heritage.

The database currently requires about one minute --- sometimes two if the system is busy --- to search all those records for the key individual of interest to you. The family group sheets and the links between them, however, appear in one or two seconds. Work has already been completed on an improved database record structure which will cut the database search times in half. This change will be implemented along with other planned modifications to the database software program which will make its loading time shorter.

Our new online history & genealogy system is in place and the MDI collection of genealogy information is now installed online. Access to the information requires a User-ID and a Password assigned by the system manager. More than 50 approved users are currently registered.

7. Recent Additions to the Family Genealogies:

1. Descendants of Anna Catherine Spainhour and Peter Duncan, Jr.

This couple were born and married in Stokes County, North Carolina --- where they appear in the 1850 census. The 1860 census lists them in Carroll County, Virginia and the 1870 census lists them in Polk County, Missouri --- where they died.

One of their descendants, Elbert Elmo Duncan, married (in Missouri) Lucy Bruce Helton, who was born in Knox County Kentucky, a daughter of Susan Emeric Pfaff & Luke Walter Helton --- illustrating again that family linkages which began in North Carolina were continued as descendants of our families followed the frontier into the western states.

Anna Catherine Spainhour was a daughter of Johannes Spainhour & Elizabeth Helsabeck. Johannes was born in that cabin in King, NC --- a son of Johann Jacob Spainhour & Anna Catherine Volck.

2. Descendants of John & Rosannah Spoonhower

We hope to find the connection between John and our immigrant families, but so far this has not been done. John was born in 1783. His father might have been born in the range of about 1740-1760.

There was a Jacob Sponhour who died November 14, 1805 in Warwick Twp of Lancaster County, PA. His will names three children --- Anna, Jacob Michael, and John. Assuming this Jacob was about age 60 when he died in 1805 --- suggests he was born about 1745. Perhaps the John who married Rosannah was his son.

Now, the immigrant family of Niklaus Austin Spänhauer & Ursula Schaub contained a son Jacob, born 1723 -- about right if the 1745 Jacob was his son --- but, of course, we need much more evidence before making such a connection.

Complicating the matter, Philip Spainhour has discovered another Jacob in Lancaster County. This third Jacob's will is dated 1827 --- so birth might have been somewhere near 1760? Perhaps he too had a son named John?

3. Descendants of Samuel Spohnhauer & Elizabeth Wright

Samuel Spohnhauer was born in 1793 (probably in Pennsylvania). He died in Stark County, Ohio, and is buried at the Old Shepler Church Cemetery in Bethlehem Township of Stark County. We hope to find the connection between Samuel and our immigrant families, but so far this has not been done.

4. Descendants of Absolom Sponhauer & Maria Brown

Absolom Sponhauer was born in Bethlehem Township of Stark County, Ohio on March 11, 1831 and married Maria Brown on April 7, 1853. Absolom died in Cleveland, and is buried at the Westlawn Cemetery in Canton, Ohio. We also hope to find the connection between Absolom and our immigrant families, but so far this also has not been done.

We believe groups 2, 3, & 4 above are descendants of Niklaus Austin Spänhauer & Ursula Schaub who came to Pennsylvania in 1740--- and/or from Stephen Spänhauer & Ursula Brodbeck, who came in 1749.

5. Descendants of Jonathan Spainhower

Mary McCormick Spainhour (Charlie's wife) has recently provided us an update of her collection of Jonathan descendants and the new information is now included in the online library.

6. Descendants of Martin Thomas Spainhour, Jr.

Judy Bodenheimer provided us with two GEDCOM files which have now been surveyed -- and almost all the new information is now added to the online library.

7. Descendants of Schaub & Vest

The particular package that is now included was compiled by Annie Mary Vest Russell of Rural Hall, NC & Washington, D.C. It begins with the family of Johannes Friedrich Schaub, who was born in the village of Buss (Basel Canton), Switzerland on 12 August 1717. Descendants from this couple intermarried with Hauser, Doub, Leinbach, Spainhour --- and others of our North Carolina group --- and new connections developed in other states as folks moved west together.

Ursula Schaub, born in Sissach, Switzerland in 1687 married Niklaus Austin Spänhauer --- and this couple emigrated from Muttentz to Philadelphia in 1740. We don't yet know the family relationship between Ursula and Johannes Friedrich --- but that is one of the things we would now like to learn.

Vest seems to be an early family from eastern Virginia --- which became closely associated with Schaub --- but members of the Vest family have several marriage connections with Hauser, Kreeger, Spainhour, etc. also.

Now that we can share information with each other much more easily --- our genealogy research can at long last effectively interact with those who would like to contribute to the many, many things we do not yet know --- so stay tuned there will be more.

8. Family History Projects

So far we have been discussing genealogy information --- what about family history? Many family group sheets already contain some historical information about the family group or some of its members--- and many others are linked to separate text files (formatted with HTML) with historical information. One of the advantages of the HTML family group sheets is that links to various documents (and pictures) can be easily added. This project will continue.

Besides stories about individual family members and groups, we are also interested to develop exhibits directly related to our family's historical heritage.

9. Family Migrations Map and Booklet

In the previous issue of this Newsletter, you read about the completion of a special exhibit called "Muttentz to California in the Eighteenth Century -- A New World Adventure". This exhibit is a map of the United States with seven different settler migrations indicated in various colors --- each migration is described on two pages of a color coordinated booklet -- including the participation in each migration by members of the Shore & Spainhour families. This exhibit was developed by Judy Bodenheimer & James Spainhour, then translated to German by Edith Spänhauer. The fourth member of the project team, Corrie Spaenhauer (Peter's widow) assisted with e-mail communications in both directions.

This map and booklets in both German and English are part of a special new exhibit at the Muttentz Village Museum which is entitled: "The Story of Old Muttentz". The official opening of this new exhibit was on Sunday, April 28, 2002. The museum will open the exhibit on the last Sunday of each month during July through December during the hours 2 - 5 PM.

Copies of the migrations map & booklet have been placed in the reconstructed John Jacob Cabin in the City of King's Central Park and also at the headquarters of the Bethania Historical Association. The text and pictures from the map and booklet are now being posted on the MDI web site --- where we can enlarge its sections beyond the two-pages limit which was adopted for the printed booklet.

10. A Dramatic Script based on Family History

You already know much about this script by Patsy Ginns if you attended the Reunion banquet in June. The script itself, however, was not the only important product from this project.

During her reading of family history materials in preparation for her writing, Patsy discovered a most interesting item that the rest of us had embarrassingly missed. Barbara Spänhauer --- younger immigrant sister to Heinrich, Wernhardt, and Anna --- did not die soon after the family arrived in Philadelphia in 1740 as we have always assumed --- she lived until 1787 and came to North Carolina ! That's all we know so far. Presumably she married someone in Pennsylvania --- perhaps a fellow passenger from Muttentz --- and perhaps she and her husband came to North Carolina with Wernhardt in 1763 ?? Needless to say, we will be following up on this with more research.

While writing the script, Patsy asked many questions --- most of which got a response from us which was something like "Gee, that's interesting". Some examples: "What was the event like during the day that the ship docked in Philadelphia? After weeks at sea the immigrants were exhausted and in bad need of a bath, a place to sleep and a decent meal. How did they arrange these? Our family settled first in Lancaster County -- we know they were there together in 1742. How long did they stay in Philadelphia? Did all the Muttentz emigrants settle first in Lancaster or did some of them go elsewhere? How did they learn about places to settle and how did they get there from Philadelphia?"

Patsy's questions demonstrated that we know some facts about WHAT our family members did --- but we know very little about WHY they did those things and others did something else --- or HOW they did them. As a result, our list of research topics has grown substantially !!

11. Some Newspaper Articles from Muttentz

Corrie Spaenhauer (Muttentz) has very kindly sent four articles from the local newspaper --- Muttentzer Anzeiger --- which I will now try to share with you. As you will see I am not providing a direct translation, but rather a description of what the articles are about.

Two of the Articles deal with the opening of the special exhibition in the Muttentz Village Museum which has a title something like: "The Story of Old Muttentz". This is the Museum exhibition developed by the Museum director Karl Bischoff --- which includes the MDI exhibit entitled: Von Muttentz bis Kalifornien --- Abenteuer in der Neuen Welt -- which was developed by Edith Spänhauer, Judy Bodenheimer, James Spainhour, and Corrie Spaenhauer.

The Old Muttentz exhibition includes many old pictures and also family trees for twelve old village surname groups such as Honneger, Iselin, Leupin, Ramstein, Schmid, Schorr, Pfirter, and two lineages of Jauslin --- some of these surnames may be quite familiar to you from the genealogy of our early Spänhauer generations in Switzerland. One of the articles points out that there are many lineages of Jauslin --- enough that there were Jauslin-Jauslin marriages. In our genealogy collection there are also several Hauser-Hauser marriages, and a few similar same-surname marriages in smaller family groups --- including Spainhour.

Both articles about the opening of this exhibition include discussion about how family surnames were developed. Many family surnames were derived from the name of the village in which the family lived. Also a frequent choice was a name derived from the occupation of the family patriarch --- resulting in names such as Scholer, Schmid, Spänhauer, Weber and Ziegler --- if he were a farmer, a blacksmith, a weaver, or perhaps a goat-herder. Some surnames were derived from an outstanding physical characteristic of the patriarch --- resulting in names such as Lang, Klein and Stark --- if he were unusually tall, small or strong. Some surnames came from an outstanding family mental disposition --- yielding Frölich or Fromm --- if the family were always a happy bunch --- or an especially religious group. And some names seem chosen not by the family itself --- but from what other folks might call them --- names which were sometimes flattering and sometimes disparaging. --- such may explain how surnames such as Bünzli, Nützli, or Binggeli were established.

Surnames also were derived from the family patriarch's given name. In this way, John and Mary, children of Walter, might become John Walter and Mary Walter -- or a variation such as Welti, Welter or Wolter.

When folks came to America they sometimes kept their name unchanged or perhaps they changed the spelling to an English version with a very similar sound --- Spänhauer to Spainhower and Volck to Fulk are good examples --- and sometimes they translated the meaning of their surname into English. In this way not only was Klein anglicized into Cline --- but it was also translated --- so that some descendants have the surname Small or Little.

How does Spänhauer translate? --- well perhaps something like "chip (piece) -- hewer (cutter, chopper)" Suggesting that maybe our family patriarch carved figures from small pieces of wood? --- or perhaps he was a coal miner who chopped

pieces of coal from the ground? Respectable --- But some names do not translate comfortably --- we might not be so enthusiastic to be known as descendants of the "Crazys", the "In-a-Ruts" or the "Good-for-nothings" !!

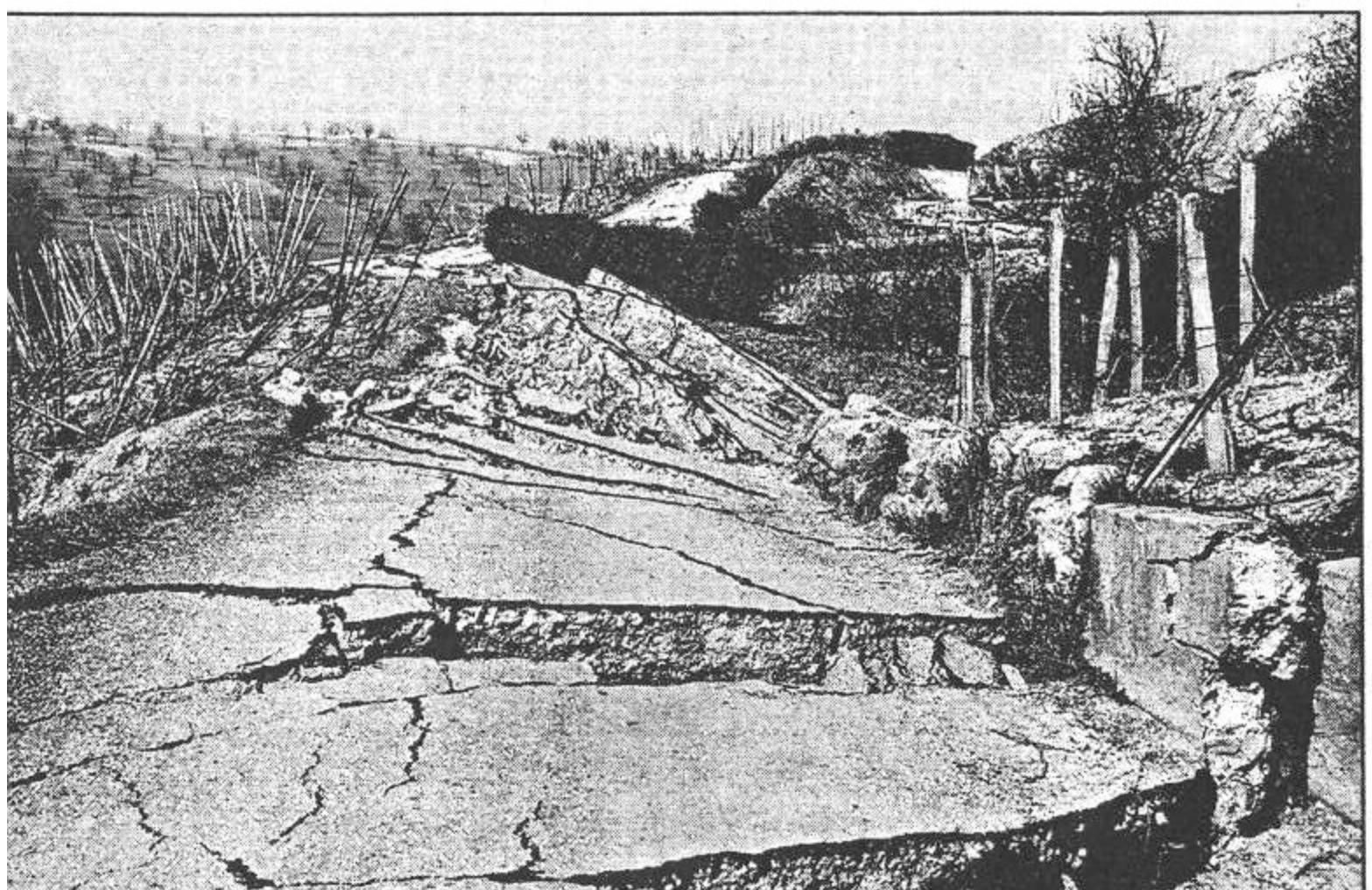
Atop the Wartenberg in MuttENZ, you can visit the remains of three Roman watchtowers and from there you also have a fine view of the village and the area around it. The other two articles from Corrie describe what happened on this hill 50 years ago. Corrie, by the way, now lives in this area.

In March of 1952 there was exceptionally heavy rainfall in MuttENZ. One result was a landslide which developed on the southwestern slope of the Wartenberg between April 7 and April 9, 1952.

About 3700 square meters of this area was at the time not much covered with vegetation so that the rains (and broken water mains) caused the landslide to be quite large --- its volume is estimated at 300,000 cubic meters and it was as much as 7.2 meters (about 25 feet) in cross-section. Some streets were spared and some were completely buried.

Between April 11 (Good Friday) and Easter Monday, there were many curious observers of the damage. Some carefully kept photographs allow us to see some of it also.

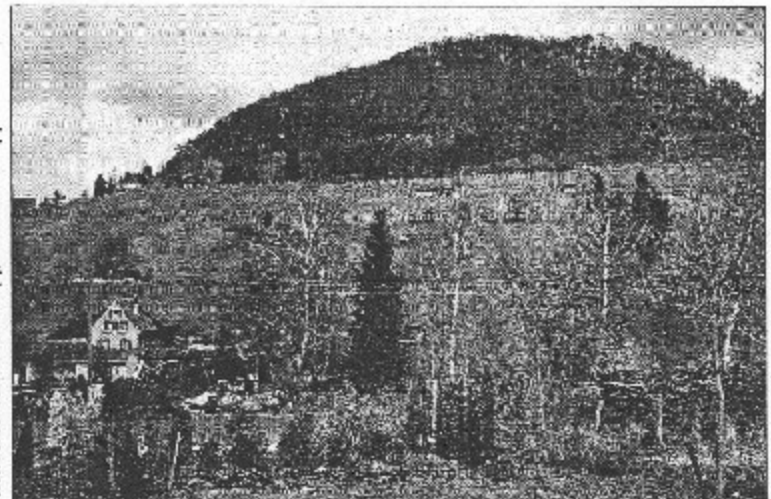
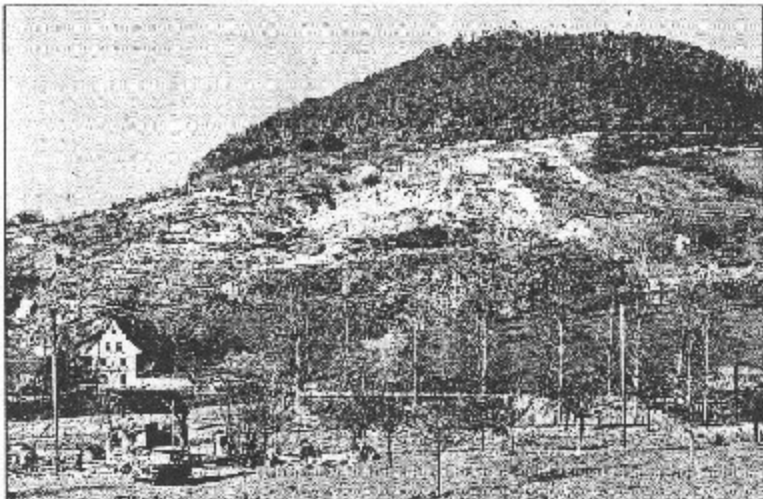
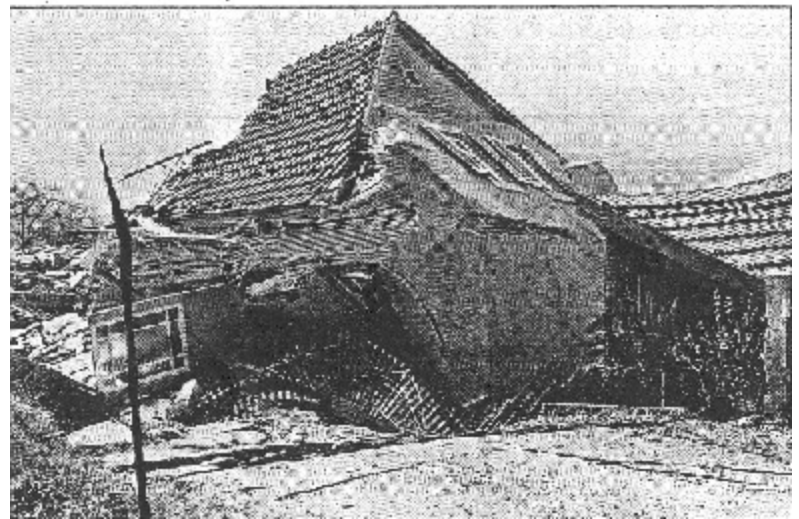
The following is a view along Schauenburgerstrasse looking toward the village on April 8, 1952.



This photo shows the land breakaway and a damaged building which had to be cleared



This was a duplex on Weinbagstrasse which caved in on the morning of April 8, 1952.



These are the same view of the Wartenberg April 1952 (left) and April 2002 (right)

The newspaper report by Museum Director Karl Bishoff explains that it was clear to everyone that the whole slope was --- and remains --- unstable, so the whole landslide area had to be cleared and the entire system of streets, stairs, and supporting masonry had to be redesigned. For improved stability the upper part was forested and the rest of the slide area was planted

with deep-rooted grape vines. In addition to the grapes and flowers there are some little lizards and beetles who can endure the exposure and the fine Muttzen rainfall. So, as Karl Bishoff says, "Mother nature has provided a superabundant compensation".

Many thanks to Corrie for sharing these articles with us

12. Our Last American Frontier

Previous issues of this newsletter have reported on some of what we have learned about the frontier of American life as it spread across the continent. The final region of the United States which can be appropriately described as a frontier was, however, not on the west coast --- but in Montana --- and members of our associated families also played an important part in developing this region of our country.

Okay --- this was after the Civil War already --- so it wasn't really like the earlier frontiers was it ? Well, the Montana Historical Society has opened an impressive web site on this subject --- so let's share together a little bit of what they report.

Remember that for the residents of Skunk City, a wild boomtown later known as Chicago, the frontier was Illinois during the 1840's. For Laura Ingalls Wilder, the frontier was South Dakota in the 1880's. Our subject is the life of homesteaders in the Montana Territory in the 1870's and early 1880's.

Homesteading was a way of life. It came into being as a result of the Homestead Act enacted by the United States Government on May 20, 1862. That document declared that any citizen could claim 160 acres of surveyed government land --- and after payment of a nominal filing fee, the claimant must "improve" the land, by building a dwelling there, living in it, and planting crops. The land became the legal property of the claimant after he was living on it in this way for five years. Ten percent of the whole continental United States -- 270 million acres --- was open to such claims.

Farming in the harsh conditions of the West, however, was a challenging task for even the most experienced of farmers --- and many would-be homesteaders had little or no experience. Over the 24-year history of the act, more than two million people filed claims but only about 783,000 ultimately obtained deeds. Despite the odds --- the offer was a powerful magnet for newly arrived immigrants and for settlers of all types --- including single women and newly freed slaves --- who would try to "prove up" their claims and keep their "free" land.

Before 1870 the Montana Territory underwent a series of booms and busts. Following its exploration by Lewis & Clark in 1805-1806, it was a land of fur trappers during the 1810's and 1820's. In the 1860's gold was discovered. One early miner wrote home that the vein of gold was so rich that "you can pull up a sagebrush and shake a dollar's worth of dust from its roots". But as the mining yields dwindled, more and more settlers began to take an interest . The first homestead claim in the Montana Territory was filed in 1871.

Many of these settlers had "hopscoched" their way across the country --- staying for awhile and then moving on (or backwards) as their fortune rose or fell. For every move, getting started was the hardest part.

Most homesteaders -- by far -- who headed for Montana traveled in a train of covered wagons. The wagons they used were basically similar to the ones used earlier on the California and Oregon trails of the 1840's and 1850's. It was a converted farm wagon which was called the "prairie schooner" because it looked like a boat crossing the "sea of grasses" that covered the Great Plains. It weighed about one ton, was about 14 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 2 feet deep. It was build of maple, hickory, or oak --- the only metal parts were the tire rims and some reinforcements on the wooden axles. Many had double floors, making a storage compartment about 2 feet deep. The wagon box was caulked or covered with hides to make it watertight for crossing streams. The canvas top was double-ply homespun cotton treated with linseed oil or tallow to make it waterproof. Some women sewed pockets into the tops to increase storage space. Most of the space went for food to be used on the trip and for surviving the first months before a new crop could be harvested. Making the journey was an enormous financial drain --- many families had to save for years to afford such a trip -- less if they could sell off their lands and household goods to help with the costs.

Yes, there were Indians in Montana, but they were not so bloodthirsty as one might expect from the movies. Pamela Fergus took her family from Iowa to Montana in 1864. One night, a band of Indians wandered into their camp but they were mostly very curious. Pamela's daughter tells us that while one of the Indian women was staring at her mother, Pamela accidentally dropped her false teeth. This caused the Indians to scream and run fast --- to get away from this great witch.

But travelers to Montana also had other choices for the journey --- they might make the journey by steamboat !! Traveling up the Missouri River from St. Louis required 2,200 miles -- but commercial traffic began making such trips in 1860. The cost was \$300 per person and 12 cents per pound for freight. This was prohibitively expensive for farmers, but over 40,000 passengers made this voyage between 1860 and 1888. Problems were that the river was navigable for only a few weeks each summer --- so the boats frequently ran aground, sank, or burned after their boilers exploded --- making the trip rather perilous.

By the mid 1880's, as the first railroads reached Montana, the steamboat faded away in favor of the railroad's "Emigrant cars" --- it was still expensive, and you had to sit upright on uncushioned and backless benches --- and sleep on the floor beneath the benches using a thin straw mattress provided by the railroad (\$3 each please). There were about 30 folks in each car with one toilet, one cookstove, and no partitions. If you could afford it, though, it was easier than walking beside a covered wagon.

Once they arrived, the typical farming family might build a "well ventilated" (cold and drafty) shack or a sod hut --- or they might just dig a hole in the ground for shelter. Until the venture showed promise, their first home should be as cheap as possible. That log cabin which was at least ten by twelve feet and with at least one glass window --- that the Homestead Act required --- could wait until they were sure they were going to be successful on the claim. Water, of course was a special concern. If you got there early you might be able to make your claim along a river or creek --- but once these sites were taken --- you had to dig yourself a well.

Frontier life, even in the 1880's was definitely not a venture for fragile folks One Montana settler left the following note on his shanty door: "One hundred miles to water. Twenty miles to wood. Six inches to hell. God bless our home. I've gone to live with the wife's folks".

Samuel Thomas Hauser, Jr. fared a little better in life than the settler who left that note. Samuel's father was born in Bethania, North Carolina, a son of Johann George Hauser and Maria Magdalena Shore. Samuel Sr. graduated in law from the University of North Carolina, and moved to Falmouth, Kentucky, where he became a prominent lawyer and judge.

When Samuel, Jr. was 19 he became an assistant to his cousin Henry Hill who was a graduate of Yale University, a railroad engineer, and who was in charge of construction work for the Kentucky Central Railroad.

In 1854, Samuel went to Missouri in charge of surveying the right-of-way for the railroad which later became part of the Missouri Pacific. As the Civil War approached, he decided to remain neutral (his father was strongly Unionist). So he started up the Missouri River to the Salmon River mines in Idaho. He had some success in Bannock --- then searched in the Yellowstone area where he had no success --- but he apparently bought or was given a claim in the area of Alder Gulch --- where rich veins enabled him to accumulate several thousands of dollars.

To get even more capital to expand mining, he went back to St. Louis. There he joined with two wealthy cousins and a friend of theirs who was the State Geologist of Missouri, a George Swallow. Samuel & George returned to the northwest territories and purchased six silver mines. In Argenta, Montana, they built the first furnace in the Territory for reducing silver ore.

Samuel built a silver mill at Phillipsburg, Montana in 1866 and opened several profitable coal mines. The first legislature of Montana gave him a franchise to build a toll road and a telegraph line from Virginia City to the mouth of the Yellowstone, and a telegraph line to Salt Lake City.

In 1885 President Grover Cleveland appointed Samuel to the office of Governor of the Montana Territory. His appointment was popular, but it took too much time from his business interests, so in less than two years, he resigned. He remained, however an enthusiastic student of Montana history. Samuel's wife -- by the way -- was Ellen Farrar of St. Louis --- a grandniece of General George Rodgers Clark.

There is, of course much more to say about Frontier life in Montana -- and elsewhere --- but perhaps this can be the basis for a new series of stories in continuing issues of our Newsletter.

13. A Closing Note from your Editor:

As reported herein, our Family History & Genealogy Program has achieved a new beginning which will enable us now to interact effectively with new contributors. There is still much more in my family history files that is not yet part of the online

system. I owe a great debt to the many members who have shared this information with us to insure that it is preserved and available to aid new research efforts --- this must have my highest priority.

As a result, this is the last issue of this newsletter for which I will serve as editor. Writing for and editing it during the last several years has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have learned much and I look forward eagerly to continuing that effort to learn and hopefully sharing some of it with you as a contributor to future Newsletters.

Your new editor is an active lady from Kennesaw, Georgia. Judy Lynn Bodenheimer's ideas and hard work made the Muttentz Museum Exhibit possible. Among other things, she been active in the genealogies of several Stokes County families, in our efforts to better map the boundaries of the farmlands owned by our early family members, and in several other MDI projects. Judy has much to offer for future issues, and hopefully others will also contribute stories for future issues --- as Robert Carrol and Corrie Spaenhauer have done for this one ---

How about you --- will you share a story with us?

14. 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 600 families across the United States and in Switzerland.

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