



**Muttenez Descendants, Inc.**

# Family Newsletter



**Spring 2011**

## **5th Annual Heritage Day Celebration Saturday August 27, 2011 Make Your Plans Now!**

Heritage Day 2011 will be Saturday, August 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at King Central Park in King, NC. King is home to the period cabin that was the home place of Johann Jacob and Anna Catherine Volck Spainhower.

We realize that an outdoor setting may not always be the best atmosphere to "sit and jaw" so this year, for the first time, we are planning a Friday night "Meet and Eat". We hope that our out-of-town guests can arrange to come a day earlier and have supper with the locals. This will allow time for more casual socializing and the opportunity to renew old friendships or create new ones.

If you are planning to attend the Friday night "Meet and Eat" at 6 p.m. please let Verna know as the number attending will influence determination of the dining choices.

Our 5th Annual Heritage Day will be held Saturday August 27, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at King Central Park in King, NC. BBQ pork and chicken w/fixins, beverages, and dessert will be served for lunch at no charge (donations greatly appreciated).

Our guest speaker this year will be the Director of Historic Bethabara Park, Ellen Kutcher. Ellen will be speaking on the history of Bethabara and the French and Indian War.

We will again take time to recognize and pay tribute to recent deaths and celebrate new births. Please contact us with any birth or death information that you would like recognized so that we may prepare ahead of time.

There will be a table for display of family photo albums, scrapbooks, etc. Please bring and share your family history.

We are hoping for another record turnout this year. In an effort to make sure we have enough seating space, we would like to ask that all local folks that will - please bring a lawn chair.

If you will be visiting us from out of town and may be in need of hotel accommodations, we have an Econolodge in King. Their number is 336-983-5600. Ask for the Heritage Day discount - room

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### **New Note Cards Available**

There will be a new series of note cards available for purchase at the Heritage Day celebration. The front is a beautiful photo of the Spaenhauer cabin. The inside is blank. The back has the following inscription: "Switzerland Flags - Swiss Heritage" "John Jacob and Anna Catherine (Volck) Spaenhauer House" "Originally built 1774 - Reconstructed 1999" "In King Central Park" "King, NC".

The cards are available in two sizes - small 5 1/2" x 4 1/4" folded and large 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" folded. The cost will be 3 large for \$5.00 or 5 small for \$5.00. Profit will go to the Muttenez General Fund.



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# FROM **The History Committee**

@ [www.muttenzdescendants.org](http://www.muttenzdescendants.org)

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## **Elsbeth Spittler Spaenhauer**

One of our American family's immigrant groups was the widow Elsbeth Spittler Spaenhauer and her four children, Heinrich, Werner, Anna & Barbara. Their safe arrival in Philadelphia in 1740 is well documented, and we have gathered much information about the lives of Heinrich & Werner. We know very little, however, about what happened to the mother and her two daughters. Previous family researchers concluded that Barbara, the youngest daughter, probably died soon after the family's arrival in Philadelphia, and that Elsbeth probably lived only a few more years (she was 48 years old in 1740).

Through the research of Bob Laughon, we know that Elsbeth was alive in Lancaster County in January of 1742, when Anna's son Henry Christe was baptized. Lois Canaday Hupfer, in her book "The Canaday/McCormick Families" notes that son Heinrich returned to Switzerland to collect the inheritance which his grandfather had left to his mother. We know that Heinrich's voyage was in 1748 and 1749. From that information we incorrectly assumed that Elsbeth had now died – presumably in 1747 or early in 1748 – in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

When Heinrich returned from Switzerland in 1749, several additional Muttenez families came with him. Lancaster County was now "filling up" – so these new immigrants sought land westward in York County. Heinrich, and his brother Werner, also moved their families from Lancaster County to York County during 1749.

Thanks to Michael Spainhour and the website called "Find a Grave" we have now learned that Elsbeth did not die in Lancaster County, but migrated with her two sons to York County

in 1749. She lived until 1759, and is buried at St. Jacob's Stone Church in York County. This is the church where Werner's twins (Johann Heinrich & Anna Elizabetha) were baptized on September 26, 1762.

This adds an interesting new perspective to the lives of our immigrant family. When Heinrich migrated south to New River, Virginia in 1752, his brother Werner remained in York County. He would be needed there to take care of their mother, Elsbeth and his own wife who was pregnant with their first child (Michael – born in January of 1753). Werner then migrated to North Carolina to join with his brother in 1763 – after their mother had died, and after peace had been negotiated at the end of the French-Indian War – making it a bit safer to travel along the Great Wagon Road through Virginia.

We are still left with mystery regarding the two sisters of Heinrich & Werner --- Anna and Barbara. We know that Anna married John Christe in 1740-1741 in Lancaster County and that they had a son named Henry who was baptized in January of 1742. Different sources contain conflicting information about the rest of Anna's family.

Contrary to earlier family researchers, we now know from Heinrich's Moravian memoir that Barbara did not die soon after the family's arrival in Philadelphia in 1740. This information is from the research of David & Nane Spainhour who arranged a second translation of Heinrich's memoir (written in 1788 not long before he died). The Memoir says that one of his sisters still lives in Pennsylvania and the other "died last year in this vicinity" (presumably in 1787). Okay, now, which was Anna and which was Barbara? Obviously, Barbara was married – but to whom we have

no idea. Without her married surname it will be very difficult to track her down.

What all of this illustrates is that these four family members kept in touch with each other throughout their lives in America. I wish they had passed more of the family news down to us !!

## **Paternal DNA Testing**

Thanks to a note from Robert Messmore which announced the proof that two American lineages of the Muttenez family of Nicholas Mesmer & Barbara Spänhauer share a common paternal link. I still do not know much about this methodology, but my current understanding is that such tests could tell us how many generations separate our different American Spainhour lineage groups (Spainhour, Spoonhour, Spahnauer, and Sponhour). Since we already know at least one common ancestor of all of us, such testing has not seemed very necessary – we just need to do enough research to identify the missing generation or two that remain unknown in each lineage.

Such testing might be interesting, however, to compare individuals in our Swiss Lineage and our American lineage to determine the number of generations between these two. This could tell us, for example how many generations separate our Swiss lineage beginning with Hans born in 1635 and our American lineage beginning with Arbogast born in 1580. Since many of the older church records in Muttenez are no longer available, we will undoubtedly find it difficult to fill in those generations with names.

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## Meanwhile

Work continues on integrating the large package of family information from Siegfried Grabs, and smaller packages from several others. New contacts with researchers who are working on connecting families continue to arrive and they will share their research with us. Our own research is also needed to identify and update the family interconnections that are contained in these packages. As a result of all this, our genealogy collections continue to grow and James has plenty to do.

The rest of our website, however, remains static – hoping that some new members will take charge of and recreate selected panels.

## On Heritage Day 2011

Last year, on Heritage Day, we explored what that journey from York County, Pennsylvania to New River, Virginia in November of

1752, might have been like for Heinrich & Elizabeth Lum Spainhour and their three children, Johannes (age 9), Maria Elisabeth (age 6), and Johann Heinrich, Jr. (age 2).

The family of Friedrich Shore, Sr. made their journey to the New River area in November of 1753 and bought a farm about 15 miles WNW of the Spainhour farm (on the opposite side of the river). This family included Friedrich, Sr. (age 48), Friedrich, Jr. (age 22), Heinrich (age 18), Johannes (age 14) and Margaretha (age 11).

The lives of both families were rudely interrupted by Indian attacks in 1755 and both families retreated southward to the Forks of the Dan where they could live temporarily in a safer area near the Moravians at Bethabara.

This year on Heritage Day, we will explore what we know (and what we wish we knew) about this

war-time experience for both these families. This chapter will be titled “*The Indians are Coming – The Indians are Coming!!!*”

## Spainhour Family Group on Facebook

If you use a computer on the internet – check out the Spainhour Family Group site on Facebook. This is a product of Stephen Spainhouer and his sister Chana Spainhouer Willis (children of Freddie Philmon Spainhouer and Anna Klein of Dallas, TX). When we started our MDI web site, we dreamed of such a place where we could interact effectively with other members of the family. Unfortunately the technology was not available – and it remains beyond what we can do independently. Thanks to Stephen & Chana, however, we can now enjoy the family section on Facebook.

- James Spainhour

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## 5th Annual Heritage Day Celebration

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w/2 doubles \$60.00 w/o tax. There is also a Holiday Inn Select (336-767-9595) and Hampton Inn (336-377-3000) in nearby Stanleyville (about 7 miles south of King). All hotels request that reservations be made as soon as possible as it is also parents weekend at Wake Forest University.

Also, for the out-of-towners, regional day - trip destinations of interest include Old Salem and Pilot Mountain. There are also the nearby restored settlements of Bethabara and Bethania. Additional options are Castle McCulloch in Jamestown and Carowinds in Charlotte.

The following is a tentative schedule of events:

10-10:30 Visiting and registering

10:30 Welcome, Prayer, Memorials and Births since last year.

10:45 Patriotic Music by Lisa Voss Hancock

11:00 James Spainhour -  
“*The Indians are Coming – The Indians are Coming!!!*”

11:30 Guest speaker -  
Bethabara Park Director  
Ellen Kutcher -  
“*Bethabara and The French and Indian War*”

12:15 Recognition of Out-of-Town  
Guests and First-Timer  
Attendees

12:30 BBQ Lunch, Homemade  
Desserts

2:00 - 3:00 Socializing

If you plan to attend please let us know by choosing one method below:

**By Email:** [vernabrewer@aol.com](mailto:vernabrewer@aol.com)

**By Phone:** 336-985-0286 or  
336-287-8414

**By Mail:** Verna Brewer  
PO Box 2255  
King, NC 27021

**Please provide the following:**

**Number Attending**

**Names**

**Addresses**

**Phone Numbers**

We're looking forward to a great turnout and a great time to be had by all. If you've never been to Heritage Day -

**Try it -  
You'll Like It!**

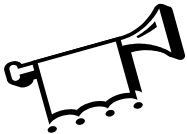


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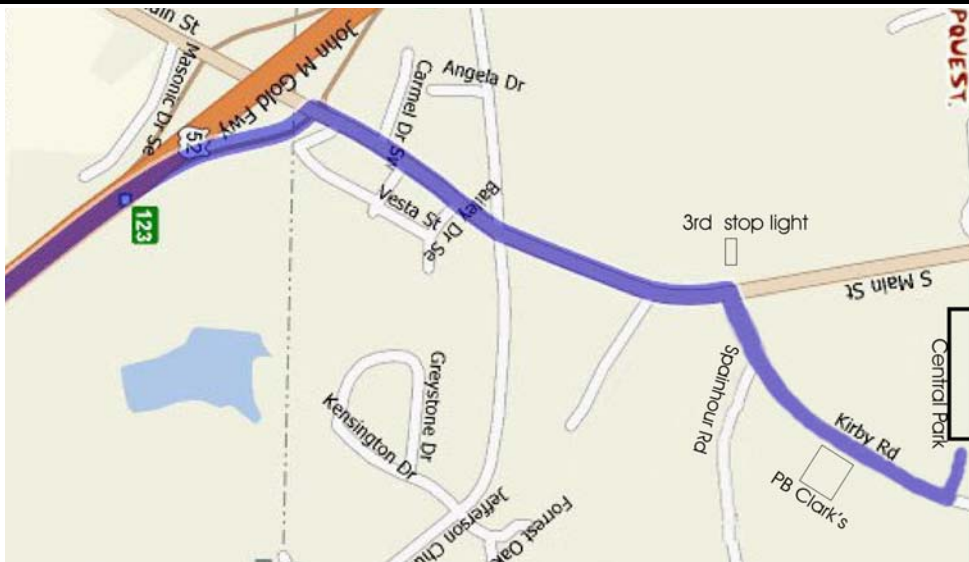
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portraying and honoring the frontier heritage  
of Muttenez descendants and their neighbors.*



## Final Call! 5th Annual Heritage Day Celebration!

Looking forward to a  
hounding of a time!



Hope to see everyone there!

Hwy 52 North to King-Tobaccolville exit #123  
Right at light at end of ramp  
Go thru next light (Jefferson Ch Rd on right)  
Turn right at next light (Kirby Rd) - BB&T on right  
Go approx 1 mile to King Central Park entrance on left

Hwy 52 South to King-Tobaccolville exit #123  
Left at light at end of ramp  
Go thru next 2 lights (Jefferson Ch Rd on right)  
Turn right at next light (Kirby Rd) - BB&T on right  
Go approx 1 mile to King Central Park entrance on left