

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER:

This newsletter is intended to promote the further development of family friendship and family history. Its purposes are to help enlarge the circle of interested family members, and to help us continue in sharing information about our family heritage. For 1991 and for each year until 1995 (our next worldwide family reunion), four issues are anticipated -- in February, June, September, and December. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ARE EAGERLY SOLICIT!

Our mailing list contains those families who have expressed an interest to me. The first issue in February went to approximately 110 families, and this second issue will be mailed to approximately 195 families. Our goal is to include as many interested families as we can find before 1995. If, therefore, you are not on our mailing list but would like to be, all you have to do is let me know. There is no charge.

Your "editor" is:

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FRIENDSHIP:

Congratulations and our very best wishes to Donna Spainhour & Clark Cochran who were married on June 22. Donna is a daughter of Henry & Diane (Roush) Spainhour (King, NC). Donna's grandparents, William Ernest (born 1888) & Glida Spainhour (born 1897), celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary in Nov., 1989. I was very happy to meet Donna during a recent visit to North Carolina, but I haven't yet had an opportunity to meet her parents or her grandparents. Perhaps all of us can meet all of them at our reunion in 1995!

I'M STILL WAITING TO ANNOUNCE THE NAME OF 1991's FIRST NEW SPAINHOUR ---or however the spelling -- but next below, are some "almost brand new" ones from 1990:

During the last week of September, 1990, while we were at the reunion in Switzerland, twin boys, Jessie & Jay Spainhour, were born in Wallburg, NC. Their grandparents are Randy & Brenda Spainhour. CAN SOMEONE SEND ME ADDRESSES FOR JESSIE & JAY (& their parents) --- AND FOR RANDY & BRENDA?

Kara Ann Spainhour was born on September 6, 1990 in Russellville Arkansas. CAN SOMEONE SEND ME KARA ANN'S ADDRESS? Please note that Kara Ann's great-great-great great grandfather, Edgar Emmanuel Spainhour, emigrated into Arkansas during the 1870's.

Edgar Emmanuel Spänhauer {from Muttentz, (not Kara Ann's gggg grandfather!}), has made beautiful pictures of the interior of the St. Arbogast Church in Muttentz using time exposures and a wide- angle lens. These pictures are much better than one can achieve with flash. Edgar has similarly also made some photographs inside the farm-house museum in Muttentz (built in 1444!) which we all visited during the reunion. If any of these pictures are of interest to you, write to Edgar. His address is:

Edgar E. Spänhauer
9 Tubesweg
CH-4132 Muttentz, Switzerland

Marquita & I thoroughly enjoyed a brief visit with Edgar Emmanuel and his wife Edith (Brodbeck) Spänhauer at our home in Arlington Heights during mid-June. Edgar & Edith vacationed in Alaska and Vancouver, with a stop-over in Chicago

Edith B. Spänhauer (Muttentz) {our reunion host, not Edgar's wife!}, received, in April, a long letter from Jean Spenlinhauer who lives in the Alsace. Jean had received copies of the newspaper articles about our reunion from a friend in Muttentz, and tells Edith that he has been interested in the family history for many years and is convinced that his roots are also in the Muttentz area. Jean & Edith plan to meet in Mulhouse during early June.

Edith was also contacted by a past-time friend who was anxious to learn the "secret" to our very successful reunion program. He had attempted a reunion of his own family between Switzerland and America, but only 4 out of 100 American families were interested. All of us can agree with Edith's conclusion: "The Spainhower Clan is SPECIAL!".

Edith was interviewed by a radio reporter on the subject of our family reunion. This twenty- minute interview was broadcast on January 21 by the first national radio channel in Switzerland. Edith reports a warm reception from various parts of the country.

Besides his forefathers named John, John Plaster of Braymer, MO, {see the History Section} also has a son named John. This son, John Richard Plaster & his wife, Kimberly Kay, also have a son {but not named John}. His name is Brandon Michael Plaster, & he was two in March. Brandon Michael has a new sister, Jessica Kay who was born December 26, 1990 while their father was in Saudia Arabia with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne. Sgt. John Richard returned to Campbell, KY in April after seven months duty as part of Desert Storm. WELCOME HOME JOHN!

Michael Spainhour (Charlotte, NC) traveled to Muttentz again during March and enjoyed another visit in our "home town". Michael was a guest with Irma, Silvia, & Felix Spaenhauer, but also visited with Corry, Peter, & Thomas Spaenhauer, with Hanni & Andreas Spaenhauer, and with Ruth & Martin Spänhauer. During his visit, on Saturday, several of his Swiss "cousins" gathered together to watch a video tape which Michael made of the speeches and the entertainment program at the Friday Banquet during the Reunion last September. Michael says he will make VHS copies of this tape available to anyone who is interested, at his cost for copying. This cost, approximately \$20, will depend on the number of copies needed, so Michael says "don't send money yet --- just let me know if you want to be included". After he determines how many copies are needed & gets a specific cost figure, he will let us know how much to send. Michael's address is:

J. Michael Spainhour
2230 Hassell Place
Charlotte, NC 28209

While driving thru Banner Elk, NC, Marquita & I noticed a restaurant called Heidi's Swiss Inn. This brought immediately to our minds two of the special cousins we met in Switzerland last September -- Walter & Heidi Tiefenthaler. Walt was Master of Ceremonies at our reunion Banquet. Marquita & I remember especially, taking a hike with a group led by Walter & Heidi Tiefenthaler up on the Gornergrat above Muttentz, to see the three Roman stone towers which are represented in the town's emblem. As it turns out, Heidi's Swiss Inn in Banner Elk is owned & operated by Walter & Heidi Vollenweider, who are natives of Zurich. SMALL WORLD?

Also during our drive to NC, we enjoyed two nights at Archer's Inn, "a cozy bed & breakfast country inn, perched on the side of Beech Mountain with a beautiful view of the Elk River Valley." Near (actually above) the town of Banner Elk, this inn is owned and operated by Joe & Bonnie Archer. Joe's mother (Indiana) was a Spainhower.

Saturday evening, May 11, thanks to arrangements made by Catherine Canter, about 50 of us "Spänhauer Cousins" gathered in the Bethania Moravian Church's Fellowship Hall, where we watched together a video tape by Nick & Betty Hennessee made at our reunion in Switzerland & looked at some photograph slides taken by me during the Switzerland Tour which followed the reunion. There was also some coffee and some Moravian sugar-cake to enjoy.

With special joy, we welcomed Marjorie & Joe Felmet (Winston-Salem), since Marjorie, due to an illness, was unable to join with us in the reunion programs while she was in Switzerland. We also had a special welcome for Margaret Patton (Greensboro) since Margaret had to forego her Switzerland trip because she broke her hip. I was very happy to introduce two of my brothers, twins Robert & Richard, and their wives, to the group. They also were physically unable to join us in Switzerland.

So you see, this was a fun evening during which many of us who were in Switzerland were able both to remember together the wonderful time we all had there, and also to share that experience with several new cousins ---including the good Dr. Emmett White, (Rutherford College) who discovered Muttentz, NC--- BUT OUR VISITING TIME WAS MUCH TOO SHORT!

At this "gathering" in Bethania, we were especially happy to greet Jack White and his mother. Jack (Winston-Salem) is chairman for our 1995 reunion! In discussing the next "worldwide" reunion, he indicated that one of the early questions to be answered for the 1995 program is the best time of the year. There seemed to be general agreement within this group to avoid the mid-summer heat by choosing spring or fall. Some suggested Easter-time. Because of many local activities which would compete for hotels, meeting space, etc., the specific week of Easter seems prohibitive. Advantages were mentioned for both spring & fall, without a clear-cut choice within this group. If you have a strong choice or other thoughts on this subject, I am sure Jack would be happy to hear from you.

HISTORY:

By the way, those who attended the reunion in Switzerland should remember our visit to Pratteln where we had coffee & cookies in the little Castle? Edith Spänhauer (Muttentz) reminds us that our emigrant mother, Elsbeth (Spitteler) Spänhauer was born in this town only a few kilometers from Muttentz.

The North Carolina Gazeteer (p343) has a listing which says: "MUTTENZ --- a community in west Caldwell County on the John's River". While doing some research, Dr. Emmett White (Rutherford College, NC) was looking at a government geological survey map of Burke & Caldwell Counties in western North Carolina when an unexpected village name caught his eye -- MUTTENZ, NORTH CAROLINA. In early April, Dr. White wrote to me, advising me of this discovery and suggesting that it might be nice to include a visit to this village during our family reunion in 1995!

Marquita and I were very excited by this, and since we were already planning a drive to North Carolina during early May, we immediately included some time to follow up on Dr. White's discovery. Dr. White's map depicting this village of Muttentz was of about 1901 vintage and that village is not indicated on the current edition of this map --- so, we wanted to find out whether Muttentz still exists, or if not, when it did exist, and also, who named it? We discovered that today on the John's River, at or very near the spot where Muttentz is indicated on the old map, there is a small campground and outdoor recreation area called "Playmore Beach". We have since learned that Dr. White knew this also and he has visited this place several times --- but he didn't previously know that a village called Muttentz had once been located there!

Not far away, in Colletsville, we introduced ourselves to the local Postmaster --- a very nice lady who explained that she was the temporary (Postmistress?) while the Postmaster was recovering from an illness. She has done research in Burke and Caldwell Counties for many years & has read every issue published by the area newspapers, but had never heard of Muttentz! She recommended that we visit the Caldwell County Library in Lenoir.

At the Caldwell County Library in Lenoir, Marquita and I consulted the 1900 and 1910 North Carolina Census reports. There were no Spainhowers, Arneys, or Shores, for example, then living in the John's River township area -- so -- no indication of who might have named the community of Muttentz.

While at the library, we met Linda Roberts (Hudson, NC), who was also "researching". We have recently received a letter from Linda telling us that she met Mr. Dave Harris (Morganton) in the Register of Deeds office, and that Mr. Harris knows of Muttentz, NC. Mr. Harris indicated that he is now building a home near there. Mr. Harris says that land in this area has been held by his family for many years. Stay tuned to this station for more news of Muttentz, North Carolina as it becomes available {YOU MEET SUCH NICE PEOPLE DOING FAMILY RESEARCH!}.

Mr. John Plaster of Braymer, MO contacted me in 1989, telling me of his efforts to complete his geneology linkage to the Spänhauer family. He had traced himself to John H. Spainhour, born in Kentucky in 1836. John H.'s mother was Jane Cross and, at that time, Mr. Plaster thought that John's father might have had the name Jacob. Our collected records suggested one Jacob-candidate, but Mr. Plaster had already eliminated that possibility.

I am happy to report that John Plaster has now completed his connection, and has forwarded that lineage to me for inclusion in our family books. John Spainhour's father wasn't Jacob, but Werner. Werner's father was named John, and his grandfather was Werner (of the immigrant family). Let's see, Werner-Werner-John-Werner & John. IT CAN GET CONFUSING SOMETIMES

Mary Spainhour (Aiken, SC) has done much research to complete the geneology connection between her husband Charles and the immigrant Spänhauer family. She has also forwarded that lineage to me for inclusion in our geneology books. Because many of Charles' ancestors had lived in different states, Mary's research was a special challenge. During her work, Mary consulted some early records from churches near York, Pennsylvania, which were on microfilm from the Mormon Library. She mentioned these films to me during one of our telephone discussions regarding the unknown burial site for Elsbeth Spänhauer, the immigrant lady who brought her four living children from Muttentz, Switzerland to America in 1740. I visited the Mormon Family Center Library in Naperville, Illinois, about 20 miles from my home and made arrangements to view five of these microfilms. As Mary had discovered, the records of the St. Jacob's Union Reformed Church near Brodbecks, PA, contain records for twin children born to Elsbeth's son "Werner" and wife Elizabeth which were not previously in any of our geneology tables. These twin children, a girl, named Elisabeth and a son Heinrich (named for his uncle?) were born in August and baptized in September 1762. This information raises several new questions regarding the activities & movements of Elsbeth's two sons Werner & John Henry during the 20 years or so between their arrival in Pennsylvania (1740), and their arrivals in North Carolina (Henry in 1760 & Werner in 1763). IF THERE'S A FAMILY RECORDS CENTER NEAR YOU, AND IF YOU HAVE BOTH THE TIME AND THE INCLINATION, perhaps together, we can answer many of these questions by 1995!

Among the papers of the late Mr. Julius C. Kreeger, of Winston-Salem, who did much research on Spainhower geneology, is a note recording that Mr. Kreeger and Ralph A. Spainhower made a trip view of the Elk River Valley." together on September 11, 1954, "to a few family graveyards and some cemeteries at churches to what information we might find on the markers." One of the several Spainhower places they visited that day was described as follows:

"There is a family graveyard at the old home place of John Jacob Spoenhauer & wife Catherine Volk Spainhower, located at Dalton, NC, between the railroad and the Little Yadkin River." They found there "... only three markers or stones:"

1. Solomon Spainhower
Born 05-19-1784
Died 03-16-1869
2. Mary (Maria Conrad Spainhower)
Born 08-05-1787
Died 09-09-1861
3. a soldier named Eaton

Mr. Kreeger goes on to note that there were signs that others had been buried there, and "likely John Jacob & wife Catherine (Volk) are buried at this place". We have since learned that the homeplace & burial site for Solomon's father & mother, John Jacob & Anna Catherine is actually somewhat east of that Dalton location.

In 1954, there was a house on the Dalton site. Mr. Kreeger was told by a Mr. Thomas Dalton, that his father bought that house from Solomon's son Wesley, who built it before "going west". We may assume Solomon & Mary also had a home here overlooking the Little Yadkin & the site of the old Spainhower Mill.

During May, Catherine Canter & visited the site discussed above where Solomon and Maria (Conrad) Spainhower are buried. You may in the pictures below, see that even though the graveyard is heavily overgrown, we were able to find many periwinkles and some obvious "marker" stones. These stones had no readable inscriptions but others there may have. This site, which is in a cornfield needs both clearing & some basic protection, or it will be lost entirely. The nearby site where John Jacob & Anna (Volck) Spainhower are buried is in much better shape overall, but the stones there are rapidly becoming unreadable due to weather action. Before anything can be done, of course, the land owners must be identified and their cooperation secured. MORE IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER!

The homes of the two immigrant Spänhauer brothers, Heinrich & Werner, are gone, so it is of special interest that the home of John Jacob and Anna (Volck) Spainhower still stands just north of King. Anna Catherine Volck (later Fulk) came with her parents to North Carolina from Pennsylvania in 1762 when she was 11. John Jacob, the first Spänhauer child born in America, came in 1763, at age 13 with his father and his stepmother. Anna & John Jacob were married in 1773, and on March 14, 1774, John Jacob received a land grant of 100 acres near the Little Yadkin River, (today just north of King) where they built their home.

My color snapshots didn't reproduce very well below, but from them, you can at least see what is the general appearance. I do not know the exact year this house was built, but I assume 1775-1780. We were told that the house was last occupied (by people, anyway) in 1945.

Effective restoration of this house would be a very substantial project, probably beyond the scope of family efforts, since it will need replacement of some external structural elements as well as rebuilding inside. We were told that the Stokes County Historical Society may be interested in a restoration project. Perhaps we can help "make it happen", assuming its present owners may be also interested. A short-term goal may be to improve its protection from the weather. MORE ON THIS TOO IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!

The family record sheets which were collected prior to last June, and which many of you saw as two volumes in Switzerland in September, have now been revised so that the numbers are all consecutive, and an index has been prepared. The new information collected after June, 1990 is already being added --- so now there are three volumes! The "1991 Edition" of our Family's Genealogy should be ready for reproduction by September --- the next issue of this Newsletter will provide details for those who wish to have a copy.

While in Switzerland, many project-ideas were suggested which might "mark the occasion" of our first worldwide family reunion in some tangible way for our future cousins. One of these ideas seems to have developed broad interest among family members. That idea is to have a "library" where records & information, especially with respect to our early family and the places they lived, could be more easily available for our future cousins to read & enjoy. It has been suggested that there should be such a library both in America and in Switzerland. There are several possible sites for the American "collection". The Winston-Salem area seems especially appropriate for a number of reasons. Our immigrant ancestors both settled & raised their families in this area, a large number of our cousins still live in this area, and this central part of North Carolina has several historical places which should also be of interest to out of town visitors.

To help provide this concept with a place to start, to become a tangible reality, rather than just an idea, Nick Hennessee kindly arranged for us (May 13, 1991) to meet with Mr. William Roberts, Director of the Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem. Mr. Roberts was interested in the concept and feels that such a project can be an appropriate part of the library's North Carolina Room.

Our family collection would be very easily accessible to interested visitors as are other materials in this special "room", and visitors could make copies readily if desired. Mr. Roberts suggested that Materials placed there by the family can remain family property so that should we wish, for example, sometime in the future, to move them, or to duplicate them at another location, there would be no serious problems. I am in the process of outlining the intended scope of our project in a letter to Mr. Roberts, as he suggested. After receiving my letter, Mr. Roberts believes he can agree formally to "house" our collection should our project go forward. Before September, please let us also have your thoughts on this idea. If there is suitable interest, I can, in the next newsletter, discuss some of the interesting items which members of the family have already suggested to be included in the collection and, of course, I will also let you know how you can participate.

While in Anchorage Alaska during June, Edith & Edgar Spänhauer (Muttentz) discovered David Spainhour in the local telephone book, had a chat with him, and learned that David is a son of the John M. Spainhour (Ripley, WV), that they had met during our reunion in Muttentz. I now have David's address for the newsletter. Perhaps you will have a few minutes to spare during the next month or two. You might use that time to locate a Spainhour family you don't know in your city's telephone directory. If you wish, you may tell them "James asked me to call". Then, if they are interested to receive the family newsletter, you could send me their name & address.

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US --- PLEASE? And, for each of you who contributed information for this issue, thank you most sincerely!!