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June 3, 1991

James R. Bentley
Director
The Filson Club Historical Society
1310 South 3rd St.
Louisville, KY 40208

Dear Mr. Bentley,

Reference is made to your correspondence of April 25 together with enclosures. We enclose a genealogy report in respect to the Spainhour family. My son and I can trace a direct line back to Hans Spaenhauer, born in 1614 in Muttentz, Switzerland. All of the family genealogy appears to have concentrated only on the male line. Much of our genealogy was compiled by a cousin living in Lenoir, North Carolina about 1901. I'm afraid his exclusion of the female bloodline has somewhat hampered our ability to be more complete.

I also enclose, for whatever use it may be in your records, a Spainhour family history detailing the descendants of my great-grandfather Rufus Adkins Spainhour. Rufus was a Confederate war veteran and was the founder of our family business when he opened a dry goods store in West Jefferson, North Carolina in 1870. What was then known as Spainhour Sydnor Dry Goods, has expanded into seven separate retail stores located in Hickory, North Wilkesboro, Elkin, Ashville, Morganton, and Statesville, North Carolina. The fourth and fifth generations from Rufus remain active in daily management as we embark on our 121st continuous year of operation in the business.

All Spainhour families in this country (now approaching 250 at our best estimate) appear to be descended from Henry and Werner (Wernhardt) Spainhour. Werner and Henry immigrated to Philadelphia from Muttentz, Switzerland in 1740. Werner's son, Peter, moved into the Brushy Mountain area of North Carolina around 1798.

Many of our ancestral records are found at the Church of St. Abrogast in Muttentz. The church records recount Henry and Werner leaving for America and detail their ancestry back to Hans Spaenhauer in 1614. According to the records, the Spainhour family played a significant role in the reformation adopted by the City and Canon of Basel. Muttentz is now a suburb of Basel.

The church records between 1528 and 1590 appear sketchy concerning direct ancestry. The Spaenhauer's first appear in the records of the Church of St. Abrogast about 1320.

It is hoped that the enclosed will be of some degree useful for your records.

Yours truly,

John E. Spainhour

Bentley/kd

Hans Spaenhauer(b:1614, d:3/11/1675)
married on 5/29/1638 to
Elizabeth Suse May(b:?, d:11/28/1683)

1 of 6 children:
Wernhardt Spaenhauer(b:6/25/1651, d:5/2/1713)
married on 6/23/1679 to
Barbra Seiler(b:?, d:2/26/1708)

1 of 5 children:
Wernhardt Spaenhauer(b:2/9/1688, d:3/30/1737)
married to
Elizabeth Spitter(came to America and must have died in Philadelphia)

1 of 7 children:
Warner Spainhour "Wernhardt Spaenhauer"(b:7/16/1719?, d:1786?)
Henry and Wernhardt(Warner) were brothers who came to Philadelphia in 1740
with their mother Elizabeth and sister Anna

1 of 7 children:
Peter Spainhour(b:?, d:8/1/1754)
married on 3/29/1796 to
Catherine Elizabeth Rider(b:8/9/1777, d:5/12/1864)

1 of 10 children:
Michael Spainhour "Spainhower"(b:4/15/1807, d:2/26/1880)
married on 3/16/1834 to
Letty Estes(b:8/14/1814, d:6/23/1892)

1 of 10 children:
Rufus Adkins Spainhour(b:10/5/1839, d:3/23/1928)
married on 9/5/1866 to
Mary "Mollie" A. Ginnings(b:11/7/1840, d:7/4/1921)
Rufus was a Confederate veteran and started the Spainhour stores

1 of 5 children:
James Edgar Spainhour(b:9/10/1874, d:11/1/1965)
married on 9/10/1884 to
Ruby Onyx Sydnor(b:9/10/1874, d:1963)

1 of 5 children:
John Edward Spainhour(b:4/17/1914, d:10/18/1984)
married on 6/3/40 to
Mary King Mallonee(b:6/5/1918, d:11/4/1974)

John Edward Spainhour, Jr.(b:3/18/1951,)
married on 8/9/75 to
Elise Charles Givhan(b:10/5/52,)

John Christian Givhan Spainhour(b:7/29/1980, d:)

The Filson Club

Historical Society

ORGANIZED MAY 15, 1884, FOR COLLECTING, PRESERVING, AND PUBLISHING
HISTORICAL MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT PERTAINING TO KENTUCKY

June 18, 1991

Mr. John Spainhour
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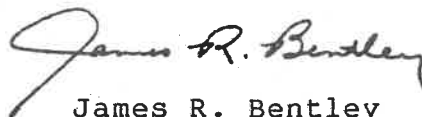
Dear Mr. Spainhour,

I have received your letter and genealogical information and am pleased to add both to our surname file. Researchers from all over this country and others come to The Filson Club to use our genealogical and historical collections.

We appreciate and welcome all types of research material. Without contributions such as yours our genealogical collection would not develop as well as it has over the years.

Good luck with any further research and again, thank you.

Sincerely



James R. Bentley
Director

JRB/gg