

A History of the  
Wolfensberger – Sparger – Spargur  
Families



Vendell L. Spargur

Chadwick Wang

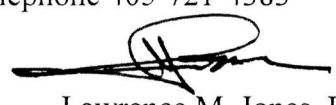
## A HISTORY OF THE WOLFENSBERGER - SPARGER - SPARGUR FAMILIES

This is an excerpt from the family history as compiled and edited by Vendrell Spargur, (Retired Col, U S Army), 5374 Oakton Circle, Dayton, OH 45440, telephone 513-434-5157. This compilation is an excerpt from the 267 page, loose leaf book. This book contains many photographs, maps and documents, mostly relating to the Spargur family in the Ohio area. This excerpt contains copies of many letters and a few documents that were part of the compilation by Mr. W. M. Creasy and Mr. J. B. Sparger in the 1930s. The principle part of the Creasy - Sparger records are on the history and family records of the Sparger - Spargur families and are not included in this excerpt. Vendrell prepared this book for his two sons, but with his permission this excerpt is being made available to others. Several persons have assisted Vendrell and contributed to these Sparger - Spargur family records. Two of them were Jane Spargur of Waynesville, OH who waded through many cemeteries and court houses in Ohio and elsewhere obtaining records. There was Ivylyn Sparger Martin of Mt. Airy, NC who assisted with the records in NC.

We are all aware that with continued research comes additional facts. Sometimes these additional facts change the records that we have been considering as correct in the past. As with the records that were provided by Mr. W. M. Creasy and Mr. J. B. Sparger, there are a few records that have changed in this, over 30 years since they were published. This excerpt has not attempted to change any of these previously published records.

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Lawrence M. Jones, Executive Director

July 1996

## FOREWORD

I have assembled this material for my two sons and grand-daughter to provide them with information about their family history and render some assistance if in the future they should wish to visit the places that were once familiar to their long ago ancestors. It is a moving experience for me to visit the places they once trod and ponder their lives and times particularly since the earliest ones were real pioneers venturing into the wilderness of Colonial America. There are few families as unique as the Spargers and Spargurs - actually the same family -- in that the number of people bearing the same name is so few. No genealogist has as yet found a person with this name who could not trace his descent from one man, John Wolfensberger, who was born in Pennsylvania August 17, 1754 and died in Highland County, Ohio November 17, 1840. John Wolfensberger's name evolved around 1800 into John W. Sparger. Family lore provides varied stories explaining the evolution of the name most of which conform with the usual trend to achieve brevity in the long names of many immigrants. John W. Sparger, as he eventually called himself, had nine children, six of whom were boys, who also adopted the new spelling of the name. Two resided in North Carolina their entire lives and spelled the name W. Sparger. The other four sons (one of them never married) migrated to Highland County, Ohio and spelled the name W. Spargur. With few exceptions the descendants of these two branches maintained these slightly divergent spellings and thus can relate their origin to either the North Carolina or the Ohio group. A number of descendants have researched the family, each adding his discoveries to its history thus helping to complete the picture.

Unquestionably the best and most scholarly of these efforts, included here in its entirety, was done by W. M. Creasy assisted by J. B. Sparger in 1930. This report left little to be done other than some refinement here and there. Knowledge of the European ancestors has been expanded somewhat and a few events dated more precisely by ensuing studies. Some information is yet to be uncovered but unfortunately a few of the mysteries may never be resolved. Some narrations have cited others often repeating errors creating new ones and occasionally revealing contradictions. The collection of materials herein includes correspondence, mostly unedited, historical sketches, quotes, comments, pictures, numerous maps from geological surveys, county property survey atlases and explanatory comments. It is not a rewriting of old material but rather a compilation of research in progress, some unedited, and that already done. Much of the material reveals the curiosity of many family members along with the fun and friendship they have enjoyed over the years, even those meeting for the first time, while sharing a common interest in whence they came. Space does not allow for the genealogy herein to be carried beyond the first generation after John W Sparger so each family member must do his own research to attach his descendancy hereto. At this time the trail back should not be too cold for most to follow but will become more difficult as successive generations pass by.

Vendrell L Spargur 1990

Costanz Goff

H Casper Hartman

Thomas Jemmy

Christian Schwam

Jacob Fiftel

Widols Zudrow

Friedrich H Peifer

Konrad Koyling

Johann Koyling

Wolfer A Spenger

John Witschman

Jacob Witschman

Anton Witschman

Ulrich & Steyer

H Jacob Ammon

Johann Jager

Jacob Jager

Jan de Vandenbroug

Wolfer A Spenger  
(Johannes WOLFERSBERGER)  
←

Ship Thistle, August 29, 1730,  
List 11 B (continued).

Gmünd Lu den biell  
 Gays Simon Mrij  
 + Hendrick Gutt  
 per den hwa Wimmer  
 Caspar Bringer  
 August Kinn  
 Jitrus Robert  
 lid rindig mayler  
 Jozz Jitrus  
 lid rindig Jitrus  
 Eänkerk Jozzering  
 Jozz Jitrus  
 Jozz Müller  
 Jitrus Jitrus  
 Carolus Jitrus  
 Jozz Jitrus  
 Jitrus Jitrus  
 Jitrus Jitrus

Ship Thistle, August 29, 1730,  
 List II B (continued).

Galatines imported in the Ship  
Thistle Colon Dunlop M<sup>r</sup> from Colton  
but lost from Dover

Gesamte	Christlich	+
von	Peter	Wes
Walter	Nichel	Fischer
Jacob	Johann	Georg
Johann	Robert	
Georg	Philipp	
Georg	Casper	
Johann	Johann	
Walter	Philipp	
Johann	Johann	
Johann	Hans	
Johann	Philipp	
Johann	Ludwig	
Johann	Abraham	
Johann	Hans	
Johann	Cros	
Johann	Jacob	
Johann	Georg	
Johann	Heinrich	

Ship Thistle, August 29, 1730,  
List 11 C.

Pennsylvania German Pioneers

Leopold Jöcklinger & Joseph Jöcklinger  
Johann Engelbinger Johann Wolff's Sohn

→ Walter A. Spenger.  
Joh. Michaelmann  
Joh. Michaelmann  
Glieb Michaelmann

Jacob H. Ammon

Abraham Meyers

Johann J. J. J.

Johann J. J.

Forhan & Ekol Lakeside

Group on Mt. T.

Johann of the Lake Hill

Edith Gatt

Walter Geringer

Johann Michaelmann

Abraham Krum

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Johann Michaelmann

Dated Aug 29<sup>th</sup> 1730

The foregoing description  
was taken & subscribed by  
the several parties whose  
names are contained in this  
preceeding page  
before the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Govern<sup>r</sup>  
& several of the City Magistrates

J. J. J.

C

f13 The qualification of the paper imported in the paper  
...  
...  
...  
...

Ship Thistle, August 29, 1730,  
List II C (continued).



WOLFENSBERGER IN AMERICA

Wolfer Sperger, "Thistle of Glasgow"

Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1934, Strassburger - Hinke.  
Volume III, Index. Wolfersberger - Volume I, pp. 31, 33, 34.

(List 11 A) Palatines imported in the Thistle  
of Glasgow, Colin Dunlop, Mr, from  
Rott<sup>r</sup>, but last from Dover p Clearance  
June 19th. (Qualified Aug. 29, 1730)  
Wolfer Sperger

Phila Augt 29th 1730

Sworn to before The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Gov<sup>r</sup> & Several of the City  
Magistrates, R. Charles, Cl. Con.

In all 260 Men W. & Children

"At the Courthouse at Philadelphia, Augt  
29, 1730, ... A list was presented with the  
names of Seventy Seven Palatines,  
who with their families, making in all about  
Two hundred & sixty Persons, were imported  
here in the Ship Thistle of Glasgow, Colin  
Dunlap, Mr., from Rotterdam, but last from  
Dover, as by Clearance from that Port." From  
the Minutes of the Provincial Council, printed  
in Colonial Records, Volume III, p. 285.

(List 11 B) Palatines imported in the ship Thistle of Glasgow,  
Colin Dunlop, Mr. (Qualified Augt 29th 1730)\*  
Wolfer (A) Sperger

List 11 C) Palatines imported in the ship Thistle, Colin Dunlop,  
M<sup>r</sup>, from Rott<sup>r</sup>, but last from dover.  
Wolfer (A) Sperger

Philadia Augt. 29th 1730

The foregoing qualifications were taken & subscribed by the  
several Palatines whose names are contained  
in this & preceding page, before the Hon<sup>ble</sup>  
Govern<sup>r</sup> & Several of the Magistrates.

\*The endorsement on the back of the list is here used as the heading.

The following treatise by Dr. Fritz Braun, professional genealogist in Germany, was written in 1953. Since that time he has found that Wolfer Sperger on the ship's list was an incorrect spelling of the name Wolfersperger, a well-known Swiss name. Since the emigrants could not read, write or speak English, and evidently the Scottish Captain could speak no German, the name was written in two words instead of one, and who can blame him? (Myrtle W. Braun)

A translation of the treatise written by Dr. Fritz Braun concerning the ship, "Thistle of Glasgow".

Emigrants from the vicinity of  
Ludwigshaven on the Rhine,  
sailing on the ship,  
"Thistle of Glasgow" in 1730

In the middle of June 1730, the sailing ship "Thistle of Glasgow" in command of Capt. Colin Dunlap, sailed from Rotterdam on a voyage to America. There were 77 families and a number of single persons on board, altogether numbering 260.

On the 10th of June 1730, the ship arrived at Dover, and after 73 days of sailing, it arrived in Philadelphia on the 29th of August 1730. In the News of the History of Emigration of the Phalzers, 1953 Volume, the passenger list of this shipload of emigrants was published. It in turn was taken from the 508 lists published in the three volume work, entitled "Pennsylvania Pioneers" written by Strassburger and Hinke and published in Norristown, Pennsylvania, around 1934. Most of the passengers on this list came from around the area of Ludwigshaven, which made it possible to almost pinpoint the point of origin at that time.

For those making inquiries, one of the most vital and profitable sources of information on a ship's list is specific points of origin. This information, unfortunately, was lacking on these lists. Also on the lists in the Courthouse in Philadelphia, where the immigrants had to register, this information is lacking. The general remarks on the records of the individual ships carry information about the name of the Captains, the point of sailing, departure, intermediate landings and the date of arrival in Pennsylvania.

Also there are plentiful references to the point of origin of the groups but only in general terms defining the general area from whence they came. For example, often after the name and designation "passenger", we can read the remark, "Phalzer", "Zweibrucken", "Wurtemberg", or similar phrases.

In this connection we must remember that the word "Phalz" was used in those days meaning "lands belonging to the Kurphalz" and not strictly the area now known as the "Phalz". The word "Phalz" in connection with these passengers is to be accepted in the broadest sense, and does not exclude the possibility that emigrants from other German provinces could be among those designated as "Phalzers". For the record of the "Thistle of Glasgow" it merely states that they were Phalzers.

For those who study family names, the deductions regarding the origin of the passenger lists of a ship can be greatly narrowed down by the names themselves, which are often a specific characteristic of a specific part of the Fatherland. Furthermore, for the Phalz itself, names can indicate the particular part of the Phalz that the people came from.

(Phalz is the region west of the Upper Rhine.)

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History also shows that in those days ships' passengers or groups of passengers were usually assembled from rather narrow areas. There are many reasons for this, aside from the desire to emigrate. The working areas of artisans, the necessity for grouping between friends and relatives in order to insure the great adventure and successfully accomplish the voyage - the faith in persons with leadership, and the desire to go in the company of like customs and tastes were all important considerations in the 18th Century.

Even through the Ship's lists could only give heads of families of the first and family names of the males over 16 years of age, it is only on a few lists that the women and children or the age of a passenger list is given, nevertheless, there are enough ways to achieve a comparatively clear picture of the origin of the passengers.

As early as 1953, the author had established the fact that the origins of the passengers of the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" could be found in a comparatively small area around Ludwigshaven. A close consideration and assemble of life dates in local records and in the United States, particularly in Pennsylvania and Maryland, showed a very satisfactory result and the author hopes, as time goes on, he can furnish more information based on connections between the immigrants through marriage before and after the voyage. This example will show what can be done through the bare skeleton of a ship's list.

Putting together the names and dates from the Phalz, America and even from Switzerland, produces substance to which may be added haphazard and seemingly unrelated material, thus reestablishing forgotten family connections. In addition it furnishes valuable information about the history of the wanderings of the Phalzer.

This research definitely establishes the fact that the Swiss who were not yet firmly or deeply established in the area, were, comparatively, communally interested as a group for further emigration.

All names on the passenger list are set forth even in cases where no further connections have as yet been established. In the spelling of the names, the author will rely on the publication of Strassburg and Hinke. For the passengers there are three lists; one, the ship's manifest and the two lists under oath in Philadelphia.

John Wolfensberger  
born circa 1695  
arrived Philadelphia August 1730  
on  
the ship "Thistle of Glasgow"

John Wolfensberger's wife was Margreda born September 21, 1697, died December 1, 1775. She is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Schaefferstown, Lebanon County, Penna., and although there is no tombstone for John 1, died ca. 1761, we believe he is buried beside her.

Children of John 1, and Margreda Wolfensberger:

Peter, born in Europe, married Apollonia Brunner:  
(His widow 1802 was Elizabeth).

Frederick, born in Europe, married Elizabeth Smith.

John, born in Europe about 1724, died November 8, 1788, Woodstock, Virginia married Hannah

Phillip, born February 14, 1739, Heidelberg Township, Lebanon Co., Pa., died July 14, 1824. Married (1) Susannah. Phillip was Lt.-Col. during the Revolutionary War.

Catherine, born in Penna., married Jacob Frey

Anna Maria, born in Penna., married Martin Heffelfinger.  
.....Various Court Records

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John, the immigrant father, was naturalized September 12, 1744. His name is spelled Wolfersperger.

Peter Wolfensberger, naturalized Quaker, September 24, 1755.

Friederich Wolfensperger, Lancaster County, naturalized 1761.

John Wolfersberger, immigrant son, was naturalized September 10, 1761

.....Pa. Archives

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Excerpts from a letter written in 1965 by Mrs. Heinz A. Braun, 623 East Noble Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma to Mrs. Samuel K. Francis, 3715 R Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20007

"It sounds like it could not be true, but the story of how I found out about the Swiss connections is really miraculous. Some years ago I had gotten in contact with Dr. D. O. Wolfenberger, an entomologist with University of Florida. He lives in Homestead, Florida, and is in charge of their sub-station there. He has delivered papers in Vienna and is often called all over the world to solve some insect problem. His son, Bob, was going to have to do his stint in Germany in 1962, and Dr. Wolfenberger wrote me while Bob was there and asked me to send a letter to him informing him of what we had on our immigrant and to see if he could find anything else at that end of the line. When I wrote, it seems that Bob was almost ready to come home, about three weeks from sailing time, but he made some inquiries and found that there was a Dr. Braun (no relation) in Kaiserslautern, where he was stationed, who was a professional genealogist, and he made an appointment to talk to him.

"Now this is the unusual part - Dr. Braun had written his thesis for his degree on 'The Thistle of Glasgow', the ship that brought our immigrant to America, and had made a detailed study of the immigrants who were on it. As you probably know the ship's record had the name Wolfer Sperger, and he had never been able to trace this man, but had identified all else. When Bob told him that this man had used the name Wolfersberger after he landed in Philadelphia, Dr. Braun saw immediately that the Ship's Captain, being Scotch and knowing no German, had had to wrestle with that long name and came up with Wolfer Sperger. Dr. Braun saw, too, that it was a Swiss name, and the old records around there showed an Ann Wolfersperger from Switzerland. Dr. Braun had found in his study of the immigrants that they all had come together and stayed some months in Germany before sailing. Dr. Braun immediately put in a call to Switzerland to a genealogist whom he knew and this genealogist got in touch with the family at Bauma, and they in turn asked Bob to visit them for a week. The Army sent him with an interpreter and paid all of his expenses, and the ones incurred by the interpreter, as well. The old Jakob, head of the family spoke French, Italian and German but no English. The story was written up both in the local Kaiserslautern and the U. S. Military paper there.

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"It happened that Jakob was an avid genealogist, and had overseen the printing and publishing of a privately printed genealogy that took the history back to 1200. He gave Bob a copy which I had for some months and then returned to Bob. It was all in German and I had much of it translated, many old wood cut engravings made in the 1500's and 1600's - it was simply fabulous, but of course not for sale. Some branches had broken off and settled in Germany, but all were originally Swiss. Bob had business in Oklahoma City the next year, and I got to spend an evening with him and hear all of the details of the visit. Can you believe that he walked right in to the man, and the only man in Europe, who could have given him any information and who could give us such a wonderful record?"

"It seems that many Pennsylvania people had contacted Dr. Braun about their ancestors who came on "The Thistle", as there were about 275 people on it, and he had developed quite an interest in that particular ship. I still think it was the most unusual thing that I ever heard of for Bob to fall into such a thing. As Dr. Braun said, 'Bob accomplished in a few days what ordinarily would have taken years'. I will get copies of some of the articles and translations off to you just as soon as I can get to it.

"The Swiss record is carefully documented from old records with all dates and places. Of course all records were right there at Zurich as the original family, or part of it, have always resided in that Canton."

s/Myrtle

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The following translation was made April 11, 1967 by Prof. Calvin D. Gruver, P. O. Box 23, State College, Arkansas, 72467.

In commenting about the translation, Prof. Gruver said, "I was puzzled by how Hans (John) Wolfensberger was a common ancestor of the Swiss and American families. Did he leave part of his children in Switzerland? Perhaps the reporter made an error, but that is definitely what the article said."

The translation is just as Prof. Gruver did it for me. The reporter did make the error in designating the 'common ancestor' who was not John who came to America with his wife, Margaretha, and three small sons born in Europe before 1730. The 'common ancestor' of Bob Wolfenberger of Homestead, Florida, and Heini Wolfensberger of Bauma, Switzerland, is one who lived before John, the Immigrant on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow", was born.

C O P Y

C O P Y

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Pfälzische Volkszeitung      Wednesday

March 14, 1962

**BOB FOUND HIS ANCESTOR IN SWITZERLAND.** Dr. Fritz Braun Helped a Young American With His Family Research - Pedigree Back to 1233.

Kaiserslautern - For the first time on Tuesday of last week, an American Wolfenberger shook hands with a Swiss Wolfensberger 232 years after their common ancestor, Hans Wolfensberger left his native Switzerland and, via the Palatine, landed with 270

Palatines in Philadelphia in 1730, on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow". The meeting between Heini Wolfensberger and his American cousin, Bob Wolfenberger, who served two years in the U. S. Army Bureau of Information at the Panzer Barracks in Kaiserslautern, was the first meeting between descendants of this line from the Old and the New Worlds since that Wolfensberger, at about the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, left his native Canton, Zurich.

Robert Wolfenberger first learned here in Kaiserslautern of the true place of origin of his family. With the help of Dr. Fritz Braun of the Heimatstelle Pfalz in Kaiserslautern he was able to determine that his ancestors were Swiss and not Palatines as he had believed. The passenger list which contained the name of Bob's ancestor gave Dr. Braun important clues, since Dr. Braun had written in 1959 an excellent work on just this ship, "Thistle of Glasgow", and its emigrants. Following the advice of Dr. Braun, Bob Wolfenberger located in the marriage register of the church book for Heidelberg, an Anna Wolfensperger, who came from the Zurich area. Several telephone calls to Swiss genealogists followed, which named Bauma, in the Canton of Zurich, as the residence of the present Wolfensberger family. Bob Wolfenberger journeyed there six days ago as a guest of the Wolfensbergers, who are now highly respected and wealthy manufacturers, property owners, and operate an iron foundry according to the most modern methods.

In beautiful Bauma, the Swiss sat with their American cousin, talking many hours about their common pedigree, which names as its first ancestor Knight Baldebert von Wolfsberg, who appears for the first time in documents in 1233 as the freeman Greifenberg and performed the duties of castle-overseer for the Count von Rapperswil. Together the descendants studied the many-branched family tree, where the Wolfensbergers went from knights to farmers, marriage arbitrators, cheesemakers, craftsmen, and then later again skilled laborers, and finally became industrialists. Meanwhile, Bob related the adventures of the American Wolfensbergers that began with John Wolfensberger who swore allegiance in Philadelphia in 1730, received citizenship from the state of Pennsylvania in 1744, and became progenitor of today's Wolfensbergers. The Wolfensbergers over there fought in the Revolutionary War, emigrated about 1790 to Tennessee, where they experimented with their changing luck as farmers, cowboys and gold-seekers. About the turn of the Nineteenth Century, there came into the family history a distinguished Wolfenberger who secretly made liquor (called "moonshine") and, when discovered in the act, simply overthrew the sheriff and appointed himself the new sheriff.

In the American Civil War (1861-1865), Wolfenbergers fought on both sides. The Grandfather of our Bob moved out of impoverished Tennessee after the war and into newly opened Oklahoma, where he searched fifteen years for oil in vain. He wandered farther on toward Colorado, with the whole family along, and finally settled down in Grand Falls as Sheriff. After a few years, Grandfather Wolfenberger gave up the dangerous occupation of a frontier sheriff and opened a general store, the mixed-market place of the wild west. Father Wolfenberger studied and works yet today in Homestead, Florida as an expert in entomology, while his son Robert - yes, our Bob - will end his studies in Public Relations in New York, where he will arrive on March 23rd.

Together with his Swiss cousins, Bob Wolfenberger climbed the Wolfensberg mountain and stood on the place where the Wolfsburg Castle had stood. Together with them, he will now bear the coat of arms, a wolf which stands on three green mounds and crowned by a knight's helmet. And a joint meeting is already planned for the 24th of April, in New York, when Heini and Robert Wolfensberger from Switzerland go to the U.S.A. for an international convention of iron-foundries. Then, not only Bob Wolfenberger and his young wife, Dawn, will be present, but also certainly a few of the Wolfenbergers from Florida, Tennessee, or Oklahoma will celebrate a joyful family fest on their behalf.

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A translation of the letter written by Dr. Fritz Braun which is shown below:

den 29.8.1963

Herrn  
Jak. Wolfensberger  
Bauma, Kanton Zurich.  
S c h w e i s

Dear Mr. Wolfensberger:

My researches on Wolfensbergers is proceeding very slowly.

Nevertheless, I can report a good result from Hasloch which will perhaps clear up the mystery of the emigrant John Wolfensberger of 1730. In the baptism register of Hasloch (church record) I found the following entry:

Jacob Wollesberger  
from Winterberg, area of Zurich

He went to the evening ceremonies on Easter 1717 in Hasloch. Apparently he attended for the first time and was therefore registered. We can assume that he had just recently arrived from Switzerland.

In the "Geschlechter buch" (note, this is the red book in German with the coat of arms, which you have) I have not found a Wolfensberger from Winterberg. I am convinced, however, that this reference to a Wollesberger really deals with a Wolfensberger and Winterberg is in the area where your branch of the family is at home.

It is not unnatural to assume that this John and Jacob were closely related since John emigrated on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" (1730) and I believe my earlier discoveries will convince you of this possibility.

Would you please send me what information you can gather in Winterberg and particularly the birth date of this Jacob? Perhaps John is recorded there too?

Jacob was not confirmed (at the Easter ceremony) therefore unfortunately his age is not shown.

I am most anxious to hear what you may be able to find for me.

s/Dr. Fritz Braun

DIE WOLFENSBERGER IN DER MARKGRAFSCHAFT HOCHBERG

By

Von Hermann Oscar Pertsch, Genealogist

Translated from the booklet, "Badische Familienkunde, 1960"  
obtained from  
Dr. Fritz Braun  
Heimatstelle Pfalz, Germany

(Foreword by the translator, WRW --- The names are spelled exactly in the translation as in the original Booklet. There are minor discrepancies such as the census dates in relation to the marriage dates, which could have been in the original copy or in type-settings, but not in the translation. This is a record of the Swiss family to Wurrtemberg and Bavaria and Baden.)

The Wolfensbergers came from Canton Zurich over the Voldersteg der Baar around the year 1653 to Schweningen. They wandered there and from there in the 1680s to Sexau, Maleck and Emmendingen. In Bretten and Elztal, the name changed to Wolfsberger from Wolfensberger, and today they write it Wolfsperger throughout the entire area.

The town clerk from Ennet, Canton Baden, Switzerland, Paul Wolfensberger wrote in the year 1929 in Volume 65, "The German Family History", pages 286-522 and 559-734 in the section entitled "Wolfensberger Family Chronicals", the following: "the census record of October 18, 1661, stated that Hans Jacob Wolfensberger and his wife and three children are now in the Wurrtemberg land."

Hans (John) Jacob Wolffensperger was married on October 28, 1665 to Anna Muller, daughter of the deceased Balthaser Muller, in the Evangelical Church in Schweningen (Baden, German). His brother Hans Wolfensberger, who also migrated at the same time, married on the 5th of May 1661, Verena Kaiser, oldest daughter of Martin Kaiser, from Thonigen by Schweningen. Hans is a son of Caspar Wolfensperger of Hitnau.

Hans Wolfensperger went later with his family toward Alsace in the Schlettstadter region. Hans Jacob Wolfensperger in 1680 with his three sons, Jacob 1656, Balthasar 1657, and Melchior 1659, moved to Brettental and became the founder of the Wolfsberger family groups that flourish there to this day. They maintained family connections with Schweningen for a period of 150 years.

Christian Isaac Wolfsberger (1812-1876), the well known mapmaker and co-worker of General Dufour, worked with the Swiss Federation, and was promoted to a high state position due to his labors. He stems from a branch of the Wolfsberger family that broke away in the year 1772. They were located in Emmendinger land, near Geneva and today the name is spelled Wolfsberger.

The Wolfensberger dynasty began with a Knight in 1230, the Lord of Rapperswil, Zurich Sea. On the family crest, a person can see a wolf standing on three green peaks. In Eber, Mohlen and Reichenbachle, near Brettentales, the Wolfsperger occupation is farming on a large scale. At the start of the 20th Century, we find these families in building work, teaching, graphic arts, and even artists. Frequently members of the Wolfsperger families, around Sexau, served as council members and burgomeisters.

What was the reason that these hardy sons left beautiful Zurich Canton to migrate elsewhere? Was it because of the decline of agriculture toward the end of the 30 Years War? Were they so severely hit by the impact of that War?

The New Settlers in empty Hochberg were offered many opportunities that they could not get at home. With persistent efforts, and tenacity, belonging to the Swiss people, they started refounding their stately families and rejoiced in the things that they had accomplished.

WRW



WOLFENSBERGER IN AMERICA

From the Library of Congress, Jul. 1979

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(Copied from genealogy received from the Library of Congress, July 1979.  
Original sent to Mrs. Jim Spargur, Mar. 1980.) C A

## FOREWARD

In preparing this little brochure about "Wolfer Sperger", passenger on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" to Philadelphia, 1730. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mrs. Heinz A. Braun, 623 East Noble Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma, 73044. Without her indefatigable and continuing interest in the Wolfensberger families, and her generosity in sharing her knowledge about them with me, I could not have assembled the enclosed material.

John Wolfensberger 3 (John 2, John 1) established his family in the Moravian settlement of Salem, North Carolina, and it was he who first used the abbreviated spelling "Sparger". After the death 1830 in Surry Co., N. C., near Mt. Airy of his wife, Christina, daughter of the Moravian, Valentine Frey, he went to Highland Co., Ohio where some of his sons had preceded him and there he died. The North Carolina families spell their name Sparger and the Ohio families use the spelling Spargur. The other sons of John 2, an immigrant with his parents, retained the original or some variant spelling of the name. It is interesting to note that for a few generations, among those in Ohio who used the abbreviated spelling, the initial "W" was used by both men and women.

My grandmother was Sarah W. Spargur born Highland Co., Ohio who married Adam Bashore born Fairfield Co., Ohio, a descendant of John Beshore of Bethal, Lebanon County, Pa.

Mr. William Creasy's splendid compilation of the 1930's, while lacking in some records, has become the 'Guide', I might say, to all the descendants of the mysterious "Wolfer Sperger" of the ship "Thistle of Glasgow". It is entitled, "Sparger and Allied Families". The copies are limited but one is on file in the NSDAR Library, Washington, D. C.

Research continues on the family and anyone interested is cordially invited to address any inquiries to Mrs. Heinz A. Braun or to me. Mrs. Braun has spent years working on the family and was born a 'Wolfinsberger'. She knows many who are continuing the search, hoping eventually to add to "Sparger and Allied Families." if anyone can supply the maiden name of Hannah, wife of John 2, we would be most grateful to receive it. Mrs. Braun joins me in hoping that this brochure will help to bring enlightenment to those descendants who haven't found their way through the intricate puzzle of the "Wolfer Sperger", Wolfensberger, Sparger, Spargur names, which puzzle wasn't solved until 1962 in Germany.

WOLFENSBERGER out of Wolfensberg in Canton Zurich

Coat of Arms: (Before 1500) red, a silver wolf on three green hills.  
A silver wolf's head with red and silver cape upon the helmet.

Evangelical: Living in (here follows a long list of villages and cities, including Buenos Aires, and Saigon in Chochin China).

The numerous and widely scattered family Wolfensberger has derived its name from the settlements in the communities of Bâretswil and Bauma. The ancient form of the word is Wolfesberg, Mount of the Wolr (or she-wolf). In the earliest written form, the name is Wolfensberger. This later took on many forms so we have numerous - Wolfensperger, Wolfesberger, Wolfensperger, Wolfisberger, Wolfsberger. Today, most of the line that come from Wetzikon spell it Wolfensperger, while to the others, it is customary to spell it Wolfensberger.

Not far from Old Landersberger, upon a steep hill, at the village Ober-Wolfensberg, the Castle Wolfensberg stood. The home of the noble Knight of the same name - Knight Baldebert of Wolfsberg, 1233 to 1259, as shown by the earliest records, was from Rapperswil and a subject of Briefenberg, a possession of the Counts of Rapperswil, who held feudal tenure from St. Gallen. Baldebert and probably others of his family endowed the cloister (monastery) Ruti, where their coat of arms were held, and where they now lie buried.

Another castellated hill by the settlement in Bad, westerly between upper and lower Wolfensberg, is also still listed in the Book of Castles (Zurich Castles).

On November 16, 1315, Hermann von Wolfensberg, while serving Duke Leopold of Austria, was slain in the battle of Morgarten, fighting the Swiss. In 1316 Dorothea von Wolfensberg was married to Walter von Shalken (Schalchen). In 1392 the noble von Hinwil leased his hof (house, yard, home) to his sons von Wolfisberg for a rental of 2 pounds annually from 1393 through 1394 and from then on 2 mutt, 1 malter.

From 1432 to 1438 Hof Wolfensberg was leased by the cloister Ruti to Konrad Sern. In 1434 Hans Wolfensberg (in residence at Wolfensberg) was a witness in a tithing case between Oswald Kundig of Wallenwil and Boszhart von Hornen in district of Bauma.

It appears that in 1439, HOF WOLFENSBERG was freed from the cloister Ruti, since from that year on there are no tax entries in the local tax books. A few years later, the old Zurich war broke out. Therefore, it is understandable that the inhabitants in that area, through the development of rights of citizenship, attempted to guard and protect the city of Zurich. Among the admissions to citizenship during this time, we find HANNS WOLFFENSBERGER, the weaver, admitted on Wednesday after Corpus Christi Day, June 22, 1446.

At about this time, we begin to lose the traces of the individual Rappersweiler von Wolfesberg, more and more, and in their place we meet more and more of the related name, Wolfensberger.

In 1463, Uli of Wolfyspert at Wallenwil paid 1 pound in taxes and in the same year Hans Wolfyspert in Ettinghausen paid 18 shillings. From here on are charts and records of individuals.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>From Swiss Genealogy - a translation.

WOLFESPARGER

Because of the Moravian settlement in Surry County, many German people came into the area. Their speech becoming English and their names, in some instances becoming simplified, they were important factors in the growth of the county. The story of one such family has been selected as an example of the true worth of those who were willing to give up their own nationality in exchange for the freedom they found in America.

It was to this section that there came a man in 1792, whose descendants have enriched not only this county but many sections of this and other states. John Wolfesparger's family had been in America since 1734, his grandfather having come from Alsace, Germany in that year. It was in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania that he obtained a land grant which was recorded under the name of Wolfsparier. Ten years later there is a record of his having received his naturalization papers. In that paper his name is recorded as John Wolfersparger. For those of us who have never seen a copy of such a paper issued by the English Government in Colonial days, this is interesting. - The Document -

TO RICHARD PETERS ESQ'R      SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

I do hereby certify that a Supreme Court held in Philadelphia for the Province of Pennsylvania, before John Kinsey, Thomas Grame and William Tell, Esq'rs, Judges of said Court, the tenth, eleventh and twelfth days of April in the year of our Lord one-thousand-seven-hundred and forty-four, between the hours of nine and twelve of the clock, in the forenoon of the same day the foregoing subscribed persons being foreigners and having inhabited and resided the space of seven years in His Majesty's Colonies in America and not having been absent out of some of the colonies for a span of more than two months at any one time during the seven years, and having provided the Court certificates of having taken the sacrament of the Lord's Supper within three months before the said Court, took and subscribed the oath and did make and repeat the Declaration appointed by an Act made in the First Year of the Reign of His Present Majesty, King George the Second entitled an Act for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned as are settled or shall settle

in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America and there-upon were admitted to be His Majesty's Natural born Subjects of the Kingdom of Great Brittain pursuant to the directions and intent of said Act of Parliament.

		David Edwards, Proton Equed Curis (Clerk of this Court)
Foreigner's name	County	Sacrament When Taken
John Wolfersparger	Lancaster	1st April 1744

In the above paper we find a religious requirement similar to that of the Lords Proprietors! as stated in the Fundamental Constitution of Carolina-

".....No man shall be permitted to be a Freeman of Carolina or have any estate or habitation within it that does not acknowledge a God and that God is to be publicly worshiped....."

As it was in Carolina so it was in Pennsylvania - A Nation founded under God.

It is interesting to note how family histories can be traced through church records as well as land grants. The Wolfersparger family belonged to the German Reformed Church at Campbellstown, Pa., but the family of John II or John Junior moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia, where he was prominent in the church life as recorded in Wayland's History of Shenandoah County. In 1771 John Wolferberger (a different spelling of the same name) took oath as Vestryman in Beckwith Parish. This is explained that while the Wolfenbergers were Lutherans and Reformed Church people the office of Vestryman referred to the Episcopal Church which was the established church in Virginia at the time, and as there were, probably, not enough Episcopalians in the Parish to fill the office of Vestrymen, members of other churches were appointed. The Lutheran Church being the established church of Germany or at least the favored church of the ruling classes, it was natural to select from among them. ~~The Lutheran and German Reforms~~ always had

joint churches in these parts. The Lutheran minister at Woodstock where the family lived, was ordained an Episcopalian in order that he might perform marriage ceremonies.

The Wolfesperger name is next found in Surry County on Moravian Records -

"Dec 9th, 1776, a man by the name of Wolfesperger, who formerly lived near Lititz, Pa., but is now in Virginia made an agreement with Br. Graff to buy 300 acres on Sparks Creek His son will live there."

The son, whose name was also John, married Christine Frey of the Moravian community in 1777 or 1778, but it seems they did not live there but remained in Virginia where they aided the cause of American Independence in every way except the carrying of arms which was forbidden by their church vows. (A tradition handed down in the family stated that John's Uncle Philip Wolfenbarger, a member of the First Battalion of Lancaster County, Pa., was bodyguard for George Washington while Commander of the American Forces). In 1787 John returned to the Moravian settlement but remained there only a short time, moving to Surry County in 1792. His first deed was made in the name of Wolfenberger but two state grants of 1794 and 1802 were made to John Sparger. The lands of John Sparger lay on both sides of Faulkner Creek, containing many hundreds of acres. Six sons and three daughters were born to John and Christine, a large family, which was to produce future leaders in nearly every phase of the business, religious, educational, political and social life of, not only this county but also the state. A remarkable feat was performed by John Sparger in 1833 when, after the death of Christine, he, at the age of 79, rode horseback to Ohio, accompanying his son, Henry. There he died in 1840.

Letters to Miss Carlene Phillips

from: Col. C. E. Wisecup (Clarence E.), Commander  
United Spanish War Veterans  
2340 W. Adams, Phoenix, Ariz.

3-24-53

Dear cousin, a bit removed perhaps but of the same stock. Your interesting letter finally caught up with us here where we spend our winters. I am interested in your line also that of Ruth Carroll and I would be pleased to see you on our next visit to Hillsboro which will probably be about May 15th or on way back to our home in N.Y.. For the past six years I have been trying to cure the inequalities, mistakes, apathetic cooperation and downright suspicious of my being interested only from a mercenary position when I send return postage with my Spargur inquiries and have them ignore my information request. Perhaps use the postage for more worth while projects perhaps. An example in point, one Frank Spargur died in Oakland, Calif. A Spargur derivative sent me the newspaper clipping. He was a prominent mason. The clipping gave the widow's name also his three sisters and a brother in Milwaukee, Wisc. Also that he was a son of Blomdin Spargur. I have tried every known route short of making a personal trip to Milwaukee to find to whose family this said Blomdin belongs but to no avail. I have stacks of letters from Cooperative Spargur's and have accumulated some 250 pages of type written family records and the end is not in sight. Mrs. Olive Spargur Watts had a fine record, may be you can get a glimpse of her records. She and I used to have a conference every time I came to town and we swapped our info. I miss her help and her sweet self very much. I have searched over 100,000 immigrants arrivals into the country from 1720 to 1820 and no Wolfensbergers are found. However we do find the name frequently in the Lancaster Pa. records. We do know that near Littitz Pa. was the home of the Wolfensbergers and two families of the name still live near Lancaster, Pa. They are from the Revolutionary Army Capt. Phillip Wolfensberger who served under Washington. If there were none of the name who entered the country during the period cited and they were present about 1776, we are forced to attach the problem from another angle. However this theory of mine had the approval of the late Olive Spargur Watts. In September of 1743 one Wolfer A Sparger arrived on the ship "thistle". Nothing further is known positively of him but his arrival at the opportune time, furnishes me grounds for my theory. We know that in Pennsylvania all male persons were listed. For purposes of defense. We also know that many names were listed phonetically by the clerk also that given names were seldom used. Then when Wolfer A Sparger appeared and was asked his name, replied Wolfer Sparger. There how easy it could happen that the clerk combined the two and to all interests and purposes he committed no offense in answering roll call as Wolfensparger. His children were known as Wolfensberger and a variation that of substituting the "b" for the "p" results as Wolfensberger.

(57) my records are available to you when I am in Hillsboro and in the meantime, if you want info. of who was who's son, write me and if I have the info. you shall have it. When you see my cousin John Montgomery please remember me to him. It is interesting to note that the whole family of Wolfensbergers changed about 1800 to Spargur and Sperger retaining the initial "w" for "Wolfen" then those that came to Ohio were spargurs while those John, William, Nancy and Hannah who remained in North Carolina adopted the spelling of Sparger. From these the whole South and southwest all the way to San Diego, Calif. became the Spargers of today. Fix me up a chart as to where you tie in with Joseph W. Does Ruth Carroll come from him also. Recently I had a visit from Mrs. Leila S. Martin, 610 Leavenworth St., San Francisco, Calif. She is a Grand daughter of Dempsey Sinclair. Write her, she has a lot of info. We wish you success. Col. C. E. Wisecup.

10-30-54 205 Cook Ave., Yonkers, 2 N.Y.

Dear Miss Phillips:

I am sorry that I was prevented from attending this years reunion. There is much that I would like to know averst (?) the Spargurs for example. The children of my great grand father, Phillip are listed in my history a Matilda, Caleb, Hannah, John, Mary, Christina, Reuben, Milton, Henry and Phillip. I have gotten a few of them straightened out to date except "Matilda" who married David Lester and had children, Phillip, Hannah, Harrison G., Rachel. Where did they live? What became of the children? Then follows "caleb" married Lydia Moore. Children, John, Rachel, Mary and Milton. What became of these individuals? "Phillip" married Hester Spargur, Children Lycurgus, Austin, William, Scott, Cassius, Mary, Phillip. Where did these people go. I have the families of Hannah, John, Mary Reuben, Milton and Henry Catalogged to date. Do you have anything on the missing Matilda, Caleb, Christina and Phillip. There are some Spargurs in Milwaukee, Wisc. who are brothers and sisters of one Frank Spargur who died in Oakland, Calif. His wife was "Astrid". left two children, his father was one "Blorndin", repeated letters to the widow and the Milwaukee families bring no response although my letters are not returned as undeliverable ans postage enclosed not used. Have you any line on these folks. The last two of my mothers generation are Charles and Sister, Eva, Children of Henry Lycurgus Spargur and Ervina Jennison. They live at 1127 High School Way, Mountain View, Calif. Henry Cvaret (?) Spargur recently died in San Francisco. He was the last of Reuben & Eliza Murdock Spargur's Children.

On our way to Phoenix , Ariz. we plan to stop in Hillsboro and would like for us to get together. This will probably be the first week of December. Will keep you advised thru brother Clark. If you find anything on any of the above Spargurs please put it in a safe place against our arrival. Very truly yours, Col. C.E. Wisecup.



1-25-55 2340 W. Adams, Phoenix, Ariz.

Dear Miss Phillips:

Received yours on the 20 and glad to hear from you once again. Brother Clark sent me a brief summary of the Spargur family, I presume it was distributed at the last Spargur reunion. It is a splendid effort but does not clear up some hazy points, for example it says that a John Wolfensberger came into the port of Philadelphia aboard the ship Thistle Aug. 29, 1730 on the surface, that statement is a misstatement but the legend says "that he did arrive on that ship" the record of the passenger list says 67 adult men listed and women and children, to bring the total to 260. I think I have stumbled on to the solution which all of the tracers stumbled over.

Please read carefully and see if you agree. Thomas Brendle, employed by M. M. Creasy as a tracer, found no record of John Wolfensberger in Pa. Prior to 1734 when he took a land grant, therefore he must have been present and at least 21 years of age in 1734. No record is extant to account for the arrival of any Wolfensberger or Wolfesperger between 1700 to 1750, therefore I think we must find the solution with the materials at hand. We know that in those days family heads traded names as suited their fancy. As a matter of record that did happen in our Progenitor case.

The three volumes of the Pennsylvania Early German pioneers offers a partial explanation. The index of these books lists the first mention of the name Wolfensberger and found, turning to those pages indicated, one finds no name remotely related to Wolfensberger, but instead we find "Wolfer A Sperger" listed. Thomas Brendle, himself, a Wolfensberger derivative, admits that Wolfer A. Sperger did arrive on the ship Thistle 8-29-1730, no record is extant of what became of Wolfer A. Sperger. Thomas Brendle lists the tombstone record of Margaret Wolfesperger b.9-1-1697 d. 12-1-1775.

The Creasy Spargur History, Page 90 has this to say anent Margaret Wolfesperger "There is no record that she was the wife of John except the early date of her birth and there seems to be no other place where she would fit in", Margaret's name is the first clue, "that if one combines the name Wolfer Sparger the results if "Wolfesperger" and confirms a suspicion that there had been a merger of the name and that would account for the presence of Wolfespergers and Wolfensbergers in Lancaster Co., Pa. subsequent to 1734. My theory of this merger of the name fits in with the customs of that period.

It is a matter of record that all male adults living in the Province of Pennsylvania during that period, were required to register at certain intervals for tax and defense purposes. Now my theory.

Wolfer A. Sparger arrives at the registration office and in response to the question, What is your name? replied "Wolfer Sperger". Now we do know that the Registrars were not given to meticulous observation of given names and wrote phonetically Wolfesperger. Wolfer Sperger an emigrant of doubtful education although the signature photostat on the ship Log proves he was far from illiterate, does wear out the theory that, a lowly German emigrant, a stranger in a strange land and thankful to be alive after the hazardous ocean voyage, was not one to haggle of petty details of whether his names were combined or singly. I seriously doubt that he ever saw what the Registrar wrote and that he could read it. If he had seen, in response to roll calls he would respond with "here" and no indication of a merger, common usage among his fellows confirmed the name usage and we have the first name evolution, which is confirmed by the Shaffertown Cemetery, Margaret Wolfesperger. The tombstone could have helped us if it had named "and wife of whom". So we are forced to theorize further The Lists of the Passengers aboard the Ship Thistle lists 67 adult males, "Adult Males" is taken to mean

that 67 men were 21 years of age or over, and the women and children brought the total to 260. Legend says that "John" arrived on the Ship Thistle. The official list says "No" but does not disprove the theory "That John did arrive on the ship Thistle 8-29-1730 on that he was one of the children, even could have been, 18 years old, which would preclude his discovery as almost a man. The birth date of Margaret 9-1-1697, her age 8-29-1730 would be 33. No ages are listed on board the Ship Thistle so we are left free to surmise that Wolfer A. Sperger, his wife Margaret and son John arrived on the ship Thistle 8-29-1730, that Wolfer died within the next three years, that he lies in an unmarked grave somewhere in Lancaster Co., Pa. even alongside Margaret in Schaffertown Cemetery grave, an unimportant person could easily have faded out of the picture and not leave a trace, if this happened and I'm not saying it did, the son John, over 21 in 1734 could easily have become the head of the house, have married Margaret? And they the parents of Peter, Frederick, Phillip, Hannah, Mary, Joseph, John and Benjamin. I know it may sound fantastic but we are faced with riddle to solve. John could not have been on the ship according to the record in any other way. If John was 17 in 1730 his birth year would be 1713 and his death 1761 would give him a life span of approximately 50 years and easily have been the father of the above children. If this be true then the John we have given first place to in the past takes 2nd place to Wolfer and undoubtedly have been born in Germany 1713.

Now back to earth. You ask about maps on printed charts. I know of none. Recently I visited the Genealogical section of the Aston Library, N.Y. 42nd and 5th Ave. A new index system alphabetically arranged had been installed. As usual I looked in the "W" section and was surprised to find the name Wifecup in capital letters. I called for the book referred to and presently it was placed before me. It was an 1500 page book of the "Alvord: Somerset England family, a branch came to America settled in Massachusetts some 200 years later a branch moved to Iowa. There Jasper N. Wisecup met and <sup>married</sup> Martha Alvord. As you asked about maps, the system of the Alvord Genealogists I thought you might be interested in, in the Alvord book.

Alvord Thomas headed the book list. Under his name were the names Johan Joseph, this first Alvord was given a #1. Then followed whom he married and all data as to birth, death or history thus the first Alvord.

1. Alvord Thomas b.? d.? Somerset England marries  
     Johan Joseph  
     Jordan, Mary b.? d.?
2. John.
24. Thomas
40. Mary

You will notice the jump in numbers from John #2 to #24 Thomas. His next younger brother and is accounted for by tracing and numbering each one. There were 23 children to be accounted for before the brother Thomas could be considered and accounts for the descendents of Thomas up to Mary #40. The system worked in the Alvord case. It seems a very complete record was kept through the many generations, but it was interesting to note under each name was a string of old time names; Obed, Micha, etc. L. to right the name at farthest right being the parent of the name under consideration. I don't think it would work in the Wolfensperger as for there are so many loose ends to pick up and many are just not interested in leaving any tracks or records whereby they might be traced.

On the way out in December we stopped with the survivors of William Sylvester Wolfenberger in Muskogee, Okla. They descend from Frederick, a brother of our John W. Lovely people, see page 102 Creasy History. In today's mail was a letter forwarded from Youken from Mrs. H. A. Brann, 623 E. Noble St., Guthrie, Okla. She descends from Benjamin, also a brother of our John W., but the name had evolved "Wolfenberger". She gave me the name of Mr. James Wolfenberger, Co. attorney Irvine, Ky., an authority on the Wolfenbergers. He descends from Joseph, also a brother of our John W. Should you write to Muskogee, Okla, address Miss Beulah Wolfenberger, retired Supt. of schools. Mrs. Braum (Myrtle Wolfenberger) has a brother Major General retired Air Force W. R. Wolfenberger. Wm. M. Creasy, Jr. present Major General Army Chemical Warfare is another of our illustrious sons. He is stationed at Cravelly Pt., Va.

Now my Dear I have nothing to sell if and when our paths cross. You are welcome to copy any or all I have accumulated. I don't think to publish it, but hope to shed some light to some weary seeker of how, when and what we are. Yours with our love. Col. & Mrs. C. E. Wisecup.

2-26-55

Dear Miss Phillips:

I was struck forcibly by an idea and in order that I get it off my chest I'm passing it on to you for your judgement.

First, as you are a moving spirit in the annual Spargur Reunion and altho I have been physically incapacitated and have not attended, yet I have kept apace with your efforts and Mrs. Carroll's to keep the "Spargur's " on the map. Did you ever think of a real publicity angle to wake up the laggard Spargurs into attendance. We have available some top notch talent as speakers. One of them might be inveigled into a "Historical Oration" of the family. Mrs. H. A. Braun, A Wolfenbargar, a Genealogist enthusiast, 623 E. Noble, Guthrie, Okla., has a distinguished brother, himself a helper of our Mrs. Braun, a retired Major General of the Air Force with an enviable record. William R. Wolfenbargar, descends from Joseph a brother of our John W. Spargur. I am almost certain Mrs. Braun would help in the inveiglement. Next we have Major General Wm. M. Creasy, a Westpoint graduate, son of W.M. Creasy, the compiler of Sparger History. He descends from our John W. General Creasy is presently Chief of Chemical Warfare service of the Army. His address is Room 2748, Bldg. T-7, Cravelly Point, Va., An astute approach I think could induce him to be available. A shining example of the artistic side of the family as exhibited by Mrs. Lizzie Beavers Freshwater is reflected in Harold A. Wolfenbargar, Jr. Can be reached thru H. A. Wolfenbargar, 4260 S. Crane St., Englewood Colo. His paintings are superb and attract wide attention when exhibited. They descend from Frederick, a brother of our John W. Perhaps he would be available and make an exhibit of some of his landscapes. Last but not least is James Wolfenbargar, county attorney, Estill Co., Irvine, Ky. He is an authority on the Wolfenbargers as it descends from Joseph, a brother of our John W.

If any of these interests you, it is not too early to begin planning for next reunion. I do not know your Spargur organization but suggest a meeting soon to lay the ground work for a "Humdinger" of a reunion for next August. I am presently at work on a rearrangement of music and words of the Reunion Song to make it more singable. For example the verse beginning with "John W. Spargur was the father" the meter and Rhythm calls for the word John to be placed on an upbeat before the bar as it should be. But in the first verse beginning "tis the day." the meter of the line calls for "tis" to be on the down beat of the bar and it is to adjust these differences that an organist friend and I are trying to smoothe out the differences. Between the literary effort of Dear Old Aunt Nancy Redkey and the musical effort of Uncle Milt Spargur with his "knee Fass" (Cello), will let you know our progress.

Let me hear from you as to the feasibility of getting an illustrious son as a speaker. Then by wide publicity we might have an audience commensurate with the dignity of Guest Speaker.

Now that I've unburdened myself, will say Bye for now.  
Yours with our love. Col & Mrs. C. E. Wisecup.

10-17-55

Dear Miss Phillips

Perhaps you, as a Spargur genealogist, already have this information, but I thought that you might not have it so here it comes.

You will remember that in my data are letters written by The Rev. Thomas R. Brendle to Mr. William Creasy ament the controversial subject of "Who of the Spargur Clan" were on board the Ship Thistle Aug. 29, 1730. Mr. Brendle and I correspond frequently and recently came up with something new. He writes that the grave alongside that of Margaret in Schaeffertown, Pa. Cemetery contains the remains of one Adam Wolfersperger but gives the birth date on the stone at this grave b. 1774, d. 1775. In other words a babe's grave. I am assured by the Pastor of the Reformed Church, who holds title to this cemetery and its records, that this grave is that of an adult and in the absence of any record of any birth or death of an infant Adam Wolfersperger, I am in full agreement and with Egle, the noted genealogist, who says this "Adam" was the husband of Margaret and hence, was the father of John Wolfensperger 1st. I hope to visit this grave before I am called and make a cast of the face of this stone, which will reveal the chipped places and lead to a final solution.  
Eye now - with our love. Col. C. E. Wisecup.

A man by the name of Wolfspargur obtained a land grant in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1734, and in 1744 was naturalized under the name of John Wolfspargur. Seven persons whose names were entered in the Certificate were foreigners and of the people called Quakers, who only affirmed as they had some scruples about taking the oath; . . . . .

It is interesting to note that the Freys came to America in 1734 as recorded in the Moravian records. (Everything indicates that both families came over at the same time from Alsace.) They spoke the German language. The records of the Reformed Church at Campbellstown, Pennsylvania, show they were among the pillars of the church. This ancestor's record carries eligibility to membership in the D.A.R. He was probably too old to fight but he gave assistance to the Revolution. This John Wolfspargur was the father of John Wolfspargur who was born in 1754 in North Carolina<sup>1</sup> and died in Ohio in 1840, buried at upper Quaker Cemetery.

. . . . .

They lived among the Moravians in North Carolina and many strange entries are made in the Diary of the Moravians and kept in the Archives at Winston-Salem. They read as follows:

One, Anne Barbara Frey, who was born in Alsace, April 5, 1696, married in her twentieth year. She had twelve children.

The Savior granted her desire that she might be spared a long and painful illness, and that she might be taken quickly, which happened on January 9, 1768 in the forenoon. Only a couple of hours previously she had been spinning when she was taken with a severe chill and great pain in the chest. The last verse she had been singing was, "I am melted unto tears when I sing of Jesus' death." Her age was 71 years.

In Volume 111, page 110, of the Moravians Records, Valentine Frey, son of A. B. . . . . on February 23, 1776 with others signed the oath of allegiance to the colonies, gave up his gun and refreshed Captain Fornes and his company with food and drink.

One more entry in the Moravian records, April 28, 1777, states thus:

We went to Christian Frey's, . . . . and they told us what danger they had been in. Four rascals had broken into their house and behaved in a murderous fashion, and if their dear Savior had not protected them their lives would not have been safe.

With a large stone they broke the paneling out of the cupboard and with a sword cut the wood around the locks taking all the money and whatever else they wished.

<sup>1</sup> This is in error. The John W Sparger who was born in 1754 and later came to Ohio was born in Pennsylvania. His father, sometimes referred to as the man from Lititz (PA) came to America with his parents in 1730 and died in Woodstock, Virginia. He, the father of John W Spargur, is listed in the DAR Patriotic Index for "Patriotic Service" in Virginia thereby conferring eligibility thereto to his descendants.

After Christian had received another cut on the head he tried to get out of the house, but was given a blow on the chest with a gun by the guard at the door so that he became faint. Finally he escaped from them and raised an alarm when they fired after him, but God so ordered it that he was not hit. Poor Sarah, who had hidden behind the door, sank to her knees when she heard the shot, and when the rascals had left, she was happy to find her husband still living. Here appears a comment by W. M. Creasy: "*It would be interesting to know where John Wolfspargur was all this time.*"

We have the record of another ancestor, Peter Binckele, born in the village of Guckensburg in Canton Bern, Switzerland, March 2, 1704.

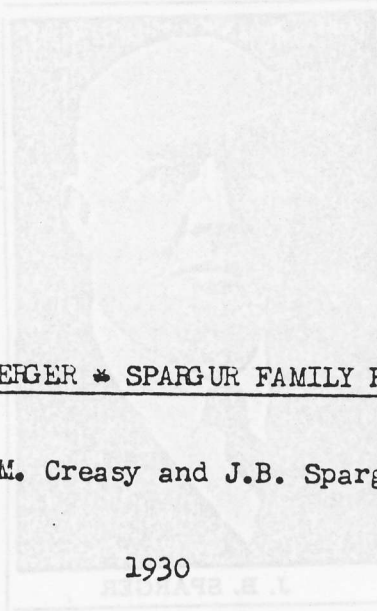
In his sixth year he had to seek support from outsiders, so great was his poverty. In his 13th year his mother moved to Alsace. In the year 1736 he came to America and settled at Philadelphia. In 1748 his wife died after a married life of about 24 years, blessed with 14 children. In 1749 he married Maria Margaretha Schmell, and in his second marriage God gave him nine children, making 23 in all.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Morgan, Violet: "Folklore of Highland County", pp 191-2, 1946.

WOLFENSBERGER \* SPARGER FAMILY RECORD

W.M. Creasy and J.B. Sparger



1930

Sparger. He spent his entire life in Burt County and was one of the pioneers in the development of the wilderness Sparger, or- chards that cover hundreds of acres of mountainside near here.

Mr. Sparger was graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute and then taught school at Westfield and Mount Airy before entering the real estate and hardware busi- ness. Later he was associated with the Banner Manufacturing Com- pany which for many years oper- ated a chair factory here.

He served as postmaster here from 1914 to 1928. During that time the Mount Airy office was built into that class building and the present granite post office build- ing was constructed.

Was on School Board

For several years he was a member of the Burt County Board of Commissioners and later Highway Commissioner. During his

regime he supervised the building of a network of roads throughout the county and directed the con- struction of 40 bridges in one year. He was also a leader in the building of the first improved road from Mount Airy to Galax, Va. by way of Louisa.

Mr. Sparger also served sev- eral terms on the City School Board and City Light and Water Board.

He was married to Miss Nellie Case, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Case of Oak Ridge. She died in 1918.

Surviving are three sons, W. E. and Randall W. Sparger, both of Mount Airy, and Collier E. Spar- ger of Bethesda, N. Y. Three daughters, Mrs. Conrad Stoddell of Mount Airy, Mrs. H. W. Nichols, son of Durham and Mrs. Lillian Jarvis of Washington, D. C.; one brother, Allen J. Sparger of Law- renson; one sister, Mrs. W. D. Wall of Winston-Salem; and five grandchildren.

Sparger. He spent his entire life in Burt County and was one of the pioneers in the development of the wilderness Sparger, or- chards that cover hundreds of acres of mountainside near here.

Mr. Sparger was graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute and then taught school at Westfield and Mount Airy before entering the real estate and hardware busi- ness. Later he was associated with the Banner Manufacturing Com- pany which for many years oper- ated a chair factory here.

He served as postmaster here from 1914 to 1928. During that time the Mount Airy office was built into that class building and the present granite post office build- ing was constructed.

Was on School Board

For several years he was a member of the Burt County Board of Commissioners and later Highway Commissioner. During his

J. B. Sparger  
Final Rites  
Held Monday

Mount Airy — Funeral services for Joseph Jackson Sparger, 52, son of Mount Airy's best known citizen who died Saturday night at a Winston-Salem hospital after a long illness, were held yesterday morning at the home of a son, Randall W. Sparger, 201 Cherry Street.

Dr. Charles H. Clark conducted the services. Burial was in Oak Dale Cemetery.

Mr. Sparger was born in Burt County, November 22, 1851, son of William E. and Sarah Winters



J. B. SPARGER

## J. B. Sparger Final Rites Held Monday

Mount Airy. — Funeral services for Joseph Bingham Sparger, 82, one of Mount Airy's best known citizens who died Saturday night at a Winston-Salem hospital after a long illness, were held yesterday morning at the home of a son, Randall W. Sparger, 201 Cherry Street.

Dr. Charlie N. Clark conducted the services. Burial was in Oakdale Cemetery.

Mr. Sparger was born in Surry County, November 22, 1864, son of William S. and Sarah Witcher

Sparger. He spent his entire life in Surry County and was one of the pioneers in the development of the widespread Sparger orchards that cover hundreds of acres of mountainside near here.

Mr. Sparger was graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute and then taught school at Westfield and Mount Airy before entering the real estate and hardware business. Later he was associated with the Banner Manufacturing Company, which for many years operated a chair factory here.

He served as postmaster here from 1924 to 1936. During this time the Mount Airy office was built into first class rating, and the present granite post office building was constructed.

### Was on School Board

For several years he was a member of the Surry County Board of Commissioners and later was chairman of the Surry County Highway Commission. During his

regime he supervised the building of a network of roads throughout the county and directed the construction of 40 bridges in one year. He was also a leader in the building of the first improved road from Mount Airy to Galax, Va., by way of Lowgap.

Mr. Sparger also served several terms on the City School Board and City Light and Water Board.

He was married to Miss Bettie Case, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Case of Oak Ridge. She died in 1918.

Surviving are three sons, W. E. and Randall W. Sparger, both of Mount Airy, and Collier B. Sparger of Scarsdale, N. Y.; three daughters, Mrs. Conrad Siceloff of Mount Airy, Mrs. H. W. Richardson of Durham and Mrs. Lillian Jarvis of Washington, D. C.; one brother, Allen L. Sparger of Lexington; one sister, Mrs. W. D. Wall of Winston-Salem; and five grandchildren.



WOLFENBARGER - SPARGUR FAMILY RECORD

The following information has been collected and compiled by W. M. Creasy of Wilmington, N.C., assisted by J.B. Spargur of Mount Airy Surry County, North Carolina, the home of the original Sparger Family. Mr. Sparger has visited personally many of the County court houses and obtained valuable data from the records. The services of genealogists in Washington, Philadelphia, Harrisburg, Richmond and various other places have been utilized in the collection of this data.

This record is not as complete in some respects as we would like, but there seems to be no doubt that the direct descent of the Sparger family from a man called John Wolfesparier in the Court records, who obtained a land grant in Lancaster County Pennsylvania in 1734, later being naturalized under the name of John Wolfersparger April 11th, 1744 in Philadelphia has been proven. Change the "i" into "g" in Wolfesparier and you have Wolfesparger, or in other words John W. Sparger. It can be easily seen how the name Sparger originated from the name first used and spelled in its various forms. Before proceeding with the family record and history, a copy of the naturalization certificate in which the name of John Wolferspargar is included is quoted.

TO RICHARD PETERS ESQ'R SECRETARY OF THE PROVINCE OF  
PENNSYLVANIA

I do hereby certify that at a Supreme Court held at Philadelphia for the Province of Pennsylvania, before John Kinsey, Thomas Grame and William Till, Esq'rs, Judges of said Court, the tenth, eleventh and twelfth days of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand, seven hundred and forty four, between the hours of nine and twelve of the clock in the forenoon of the same days the foregoing subscribed persons being foreigners and having inhabited and resided the space of seven years in his Majesty's Colonies in America and not having been absent out of some of the colonies for a longer span than two months at any one time during the said seven years, and having the Court certificates of having taken the sacrament of the Lord's Supper within three months before said Court, took and subscribed the oath and did make and repeat the Declaration appointed by an Act made in the First Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the First, according to the directions of an Act of Parliament made in the Thirteenth year of the Reign of his present Majesty King George the Second intituled an Act for Naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned as are settled or shall settle in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America, and thereupon

were admitted to be His Majesty's Natural born Subjects of the Kingdom of Great Brittain pursuant to the directions and intent of said Act of Parliament.

DAVID EDWARDS. Proton Equed Curia  
(Clerk of this Court)

Foreigner's Names	What County	Sacrament When Taken
Phillipp Sweiback	Lancaster	23rd. March, 1744
George Thomas Power	"	8th. April, 1744
JOHN WOLFERSPARGAR	"	1st. April, 1744

Thirty three names are entered under this heading on the certificate. Then there is the following sub-heading under which seven names are entered in the same form:

The persons whose names are subscribed being foreigners and of the people called Quakers and other Protestants who conscientiously scruple the taking of an Oath, severally took the Affirmation and made the Declaration according to the directions of an Act of Parliament past in the thirteenth year of the Reign of His Present Majesty King George the Second, intituled an Act for Naturalizing Foreign Protestants and an Act of the General Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania in the year of our Lord 1742.

Immediately following the complete list of names on the above naturalization certificate is the following:

The persons before named having Intituled themselves to the benefit of The ~~PERKINS~~ Act ~~of~~ of Parliament aforesaid a list of their names is to be transmitted to the Commission for trades and Plantations. To which end in persuance of the Said Act I have caused their names to be made known.

JOHN KINSEY.

To Richard Peters Esq'r  
 Sec'y of the Province of Pennsylvania.

In writing the records of the family, an effort will be made to use the spelling of the names as used in the records wherever found, which of course will show the many ways in which it was spelled in the early days. The record begins as follows:

- 1 John Wolfesberger, Immigrant. m. Margaret. No information as to date of his birth. He died about 1761. The burial records in the Shafferstown Pa. cemetery shows that Margaret Wolfesperger was born September 1st. 1697, died Dec. 1st. 1775. There is no information that she was the wife of John except the early date of her birth and there seems no other place where she would fit in. No record of John's burial has been located.

Among the records of the Department of Internal Affairs State House, Harrisburg Pennsylvania is a warrant No. 41 authorizing the survey of 100 acres of land between Cocalice and Muddy Creek amongst several other settlers, for John Wolfespairer, Earl Township near New Holland for which he agreed to pay the sum of fifteen pounds and ten quit rent of one half penny Sterling for every acre thereof. The date of this record was February 20th, 1734. Under Patent Book A.P. 33 Dec. 3rd, 1741, it is found that John Wolfespairer did not comply with the terms of the Warrant on which this survey was ordered, and the survey in his favor became void and the land was warranted to Ludwick Moler.

Among the records mentioned above, Warrant No. 205 is found ordering the survey of three hundred and fifty acres for John Wolfesberger of Lancaster County for which he agreed to pay fifteen pounds and ten shillings per each one hundred acres with lawful interest for the same, and the yearly quit rent of one half penny sterling for every acre thereof, both to commence with the first day of March 1737. This document was dated April 11th, 1744, showing that John Wolfesberger had probably been living on the land from March 1st. 1737. He was no doubt the man referred to as John Wolfespairer, and had doubtless abandoned the land surveyed under Warrant No. 41.

It is found by reference to Patent Book A.A. Vol 1. page 540 that John Wolfesberger was granted 671 acres of land under authority contained in the Warrant No. 205, making the usual allowance of ~~67~~ for roads and highways. It appears that the grant to this land was never officially confirmed in the name of John Wolfesberger, but after much preamble describing the land etc., in the same document, we find the following:

and whereas said John Wolfesberger died intestate entitled to the said tract of land aforesaid, leaving issue, Peter, Frederick, John and Phillipp his sons, and Catherine, now wife of Jacob Frey and Anna Maria, now wife of Martin Heffilfinger, his daughters who have all humbly besought us to grant to them our patent of confirmation of the said tract of land, now know ye that for and in consideration of one hundred and

four pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to our use, paid by the said Peter etc. the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and of the yearly quit rent herein after mentioned and reserved we have given, granted released and confirmed and by these presents for our heirs and successors, do, give, grant, release and confirm unto the said Peter, Frederick etc. all that the said hereinbefore described tract of 671 acres of land etc. (here is a lot of repetition, technicalities etc.), to be holden of us, our heirs and successors Proprietaries of Pennsylvania of our manor Cosmotego, in the County of Lancaster aforesaid in free and common soccage be fealty only in lieu of all other services, yielding and paying therefore yearly unto our heirs and successors at the Town of Lancaster in the said County at or upon the first day of March in every year, from the first day of March last, one half penny sterling for every acre of the same or value thereof in coin current according as the exchange shall then be between our Province and the City of London to such person or persons as shall from time to time be appointed to receive the same, and in case of non-payment thereof within ninety days next after the same shall become due then it shall and may be lawful for us, our heirs and successors, our and their receiver or receivers to enter into and upon the hereby granted land and premises and to hold and possess until the said quit rent and all arrears thereof together with the charges accruing by means of such non-payment and re-entry be fully paid and discharged.

Witness. James Hamilton Esq'r. Lieutenant Governor of the said Province who by virtue of certain powers and authorities to him for this purpose granted by the said Proprietaries hath hereunto set their hands and caused the great seal of the said Province to be hereunto affixed, at Philadelphia this sixth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and sixty one. The first year of the Reign of King George the Third over Great Brittain Etc. and the forty fourth year of the Provincial Government.

JAMES HAMILTON

Recorded Oct. 1st. 1761

It is the opinion of Genealogists in Harrisburg Pa. including the Librarian of the State Library of Pennsylvania that John Wolfespairer and John Wolfespargar are one and the same man though at present there has been no record discovered to definitely prove this. It is likely that the Wolfenbargers and the Freys came to America at the same time and it is found from the Moravia records that the Freys came in 1734, and settled in Lancaster County Pa. and the court records show that John Wolfespairer entered land in the same county in that year. It is also evident that the family of the original John, or at least part of them immigrated with him. John our ancestor who settled among the Moravians was born in 1754 and his father, John, son of the

original John was naturalized in 1761. The Original John was naturalized in Philadelphia on April 11th. 1744, he being one of a party of forty foreigners who were naturalized at the same time. I have among my files a photostatic copy of the naturalization certificate issued by the judges of the Supreme Court for this group of foreigners. Unfortunately the records at that time did not show on the certificate from what country these people came, but it is assumed that they came from various countries. Of course, it is proven by this certificate that they had all been here at least seven years, and probably some of them had been here much longer. Everything indicates that the Wolfersbergers came from Alsace, probably with the Freys in 1734. They all originally spoke the German language. It will be noted that the name was spelled Wolferspargar in the naturalization certificate.

The records of the Reformed Church at Campbelstown, in Lancaster County Pennsylvania, show that the family was among the pillars of the Church at an early date.

There were many forms of spelling the name in the early days, but the correct name in the German language was probably "Wolfesberger" meaning "The Hill of the Wolves". I have a free hand drawing of the signatures of some of the family in Shenandoah County Va. (on some of the old deeds), and I must admit that after trying to descipher the spelling, would not be surprised at any form of spelling that might be recorded by an American Court officer, not being a German Scholar. The children of John Wolfesparier, John Wolfesberger, John Wolferspargar, or whatever the name really was, and whom I believe to have been one and the same man, are listed as follows:

2. i Peter Wolfesberger
- 3 ii Frederick Wolfesberger
- 4 iii JOHN WOLFESBERGER
- 5 iv Phillipp Wolfesberger
- 6 v Catherine Wolfesberger
- 7 vi Anna Maria Wolfesberger

As an additional confirmation of the names of these children we have the following reference. Deed Book S.p. 388 Sept. 28th, 1761. Peter Wolfesberger, Lebanon Township in the County of Lancaster Province of Pennsylvania, yoeman and Appelonia, his wife; Fred Wolfersberger of the same township, smith and Elizabeth, his wife; John Wolfersberger of the same township, smith; Jacob Frey of Heydelberg Township, yoeman and Catherine, his wife; Martin Hoffilfinger and Anna Maria, his wife of the one part (John was designated as wheelwright) transfer to Jacob Diehl of Lebanon Township, yoeman 164 acres, part of the tract of 671 acres which belonged to John Wolfersberger, deceased, father of Peter, Frederick, JOHN, Phillipp, Catherine Frey and Anna Maria Hoffilfinger.

2 Peter Wolfersberger, son of John Wolfersberger No. 1. No record of date of Birth or Death. Name of wife, Appelonia. For identification of name of wife, see confirmation of land grant to heirs of John Wolfersberger No. 1 for 671 acres of land, also record of transfer of 164 acres of land to Jacob Diehl Sept: 28th. 1761 by said heirs. Peter No. 2 evidently was married twice, as it is found that at the time of his death the name of his wife was Elizabeth. See will Book P. p. 124 Article of agreement between Peter Wolfersberger Sr. of Heidelberg Township, Dauphin Co. Pa. and Peter Wolfersberger Jr., and George Wolfersberger both of the same township, farmers and sons of Peter Wolfersberger Sr. Then we find in Will Book P. p. 127, The will of Peter Wolfersberger Sr. follows the agreement. Wife Elizabeth with whom he had a marriage contract dated March 6th. 1784 had an agreement with sons George and Peter, oldest son Frederick, Son George Michael, Son John George, daughter Margaret intermarried with Daniel Homming and daughter Anna intermarried with John Thom. It would seem from the above records that Appelonia was the mother of these children and that Peter had to make a marriage contract with Elizabeth before marriage, and that he and Elizabeth had to execute certain agreements with the children in connection with the inheritance of the property in which they had an interest through their mother Appelonia. All of the above is quoted for the purpose of identifying the names of Peter's children, who are found to be the following:

- 1 Peter Wolfersberger
- 8 ii Frederick Wolfersberger
- 9 iii George Wolfersberger
- 10 iv George Michael Wolfersberger
- v John George Wolfersberger
- vi Margaret Wolfersberger - Married Daniel Homming
- vii Anna Maria Wolfersberger - Married John Thomas

3 Frederick Wolfersberger, son of John Wolfersberger No. 1. b. \_\_\_\_\_ d. 1764. Wife Elizabeth. Identification of name of wife. Same information as used for Peter No. 2. In the records of the members of the Reformed Church at Shafferstown, Pa. prior to 1800 is found the names of Frederick and Elizabeth Wolfersberger, but there is nothing to show just when they were members except prior to 1800, but it is assumed that it was some time after 1750. No children of this couple have been identified.

4 JOHN WOLFERSBERGER, son of John Wolfersberger No. 1.

1788. Wife Hannah (Wheelright). For identification of name of wife, same information as used in case of Peter No. 2. No record of John No. 4 is found in Pennsylvania after transactions concerning the land formerly belonging to his father John No. 1, but reference is found in the History of Shenandoah County Virginia; by John W. Wayland on page 523 where John Wolfenberger (Note: they were calle

*Handwritten notes:*  
 misc  
 975.5  
 1995

Wolfenbergers in Shenandoah County) with others took oath as Vestrymen in Beckford Parish on March 6th, 1771. It will be shown later that this John was the father of John who settled in North Carolina and is without a doubt the "Man named Wolfesperger who formerly lived near Lititz but is now in Virginia" mentioned in the Moravian records in North Carolina in December 1776.

It should be explained that while the Wolfersbergers were Lutheran and Reformed Church people the office of Vestryman referred to the Episcopal Church which was the established church in Virginia at that time, and as there were probably not enough Episcopalians in the Parish to fill the offices of Vestrymen, members of other churches were appointed. It is explained by a genealogist that this was often the case. It was also explained that the Lutheran Church being the established Church in Germany or at least the favored church of the governing classes it was most natural to appoint a Lutheran or Reformed as a Vestryman. The Lutherans and Reformed always had joint church in these parts. Muhlenberg, the Lutheran minister at Woodstock, where John Wolfenberger lived, was ordained an Espiscopalian in order that he might perform marriages. John Wolfenberger purchased land in Shenandoah County, Virginia June 5th, 1781 Deed Book C p. 433, Deed Book K p. 496 Sept. 29th. 1795 the following record is found. Peter Wolfenberger and Susan his wife, Frederick Wolfenberger and Catherine his wife, Phillip Wolfenberger and Catherine his wife, of the County of Greenbrier, Geo. Woods and Hannah his wife, Martin Miller and Mary his wife, Joseph Wolfenberger and Nancy his wife of Shenandoah County and JOHN WOLFENBERGER AND CHRISTINA HIS WIFE, of Surry County, North Carolina, children and heirs of John Wolfenberger, deceased. To Benjamin Wolfenberger of the County of Shenandoah, two lots in the town of Woodstock of which John Wolfenberger died seized and possessed, known as lots 54 and 76, being the same lots, one half acre each which were conveyed by Nounce Byrd and Clara his wife to Peter Wolfenberger by deed of lease and release, May 24th, 1780. Benjamin Wolfenberger who bought the land from the heirs was also one of John's sons, and qualified as Administrator of his estate. According to the final settlement filed with the Court on Sept. 10th, 1792 he died about Nov. 18th, 1788, as an entry of disbursements made shows that David Jordan (School Master) was paid on that date six shillings for reading the funeral sermon at the burial of the deceased.

His personal property was sold at a sale on May 14th, 1792, the proceeds of which amounted to 84 pounds one shilling and 10½ pence. The Administrator's itemized account of disbursements in the settlement of debts and expenses of the estate show that he paid out fourteen shillings and six pence more than the receipts from the sale. John Wolfenberger No. 4 was naturalized Sept. 13th, 1761, and it is therefore decided that he immigrated to America from Alsace with his father

(where the family probably came from to this Country) in 1734 or about that time. His children, according to Court records of land sales and settlement of his estate were as follows.

- 11     i       Peter Wolfenberger
- 12     ii      Frederick Wolfenberger
- 13     iii     Phillipp Wolfenberger
- 14     iv      Hannah Wolfenberger
- 15     v       Mary Wolfenberger
- 16     vi      Joseph Wolfenberger
- 17     vii     John Wolfenberger
- 18     viii    Benjamin Wolfenberger

5 Phillip Wolfersberger, son of John Wolfersberger No. 1 For identification, see same information quoted in case of Peter No. 2. Phillip No. 5 was evidently not married at the time of his father's death, since he is the only one of the sons whose wife's name was not recorded in the land settlements. According to his tomb stone in the Campbellstown Cemetery in Lancaster County, he was born <sup>2-18</sup> 1739, died July 14th, 1824. According to Reformed baptism records in the History of Shaffertown his wife was named Margaret, and they had the following children who were baptized in that church.

- 19     John Wolfersberger. Baptized April 12th, 1767. Sponsors:  
John Wolfersberger and wife.
- ii     John Phillip Wolfersberger. Baptized Sept. 8th, 1769.  
Sponsors, Peter Wolfersberger and wife Appolonia.

A tradition handed down in the family is that John W. Sparger (John Wolfenbarger) had an uncle Phillip who was body guard for George Washington during his entire career as Commander in Chief of the Armies. This can not be verified, however this is John's uncle Phillip and the following is found among the Pennsylvania muster rolls. Under the general heading "Associators and Militia of Lancaster County" is found "A report of the First Battallion, Lancaster County Militia commanded by Col. Phillip Greenwalt". In this report of the first battallion is given the name of First Lieutenant Phillip Wolfenberger in the 8th Company. This indicates that there must have been something in the tradition which we have been unable to verify. According to Chronicles of Scotch Irish settlement in Virginia Court records of Augusta County, Virginia, 1745 to 1800 by Chalkley Vol. 2 p. 241 Luddington vs Stuart, suit over tract of land, Phillip Wolfenberger desposes and says he lived near the land in 1789. In 1793 he saw James Hudgimns cutting still house logs, indicating that Phillip once lived in Augusta County Va., However he died in Pennsylvania and was buried there.



- 6 Catherine Wolfersberger, daughter of John Wolfersberger No. 1. For identification see same as Peter No. 2. Her marriage to Jacob Frey indicates that the Freys and Wolfenbergers were in close proximity to each other in Pennsylvania or possibly in Alsace before they came to America in 1734. It is possible that they were married before they came to this country, as Jacob Frey was naturalized in 1761 at the same time as his brother-in-law John Wolfersberger was naturalized. There is no identification of any children of this couple.
- 7 Anna Maria Wolfersberger, daughter of John Wolfersberger No. 1. She married Martin Hefflinger. For identification see same as Peter No. 2. Martin Hefflinger was naturalized at the same time that Jacob Frey and John Wolfersberger No. 4 were naturalized. There is no identification of any children of this couple.
- 8 Frederick Wolfersberger, son of Peter Wolfersberger No. 2. See wills and agreements under Peter No. 2. Will of Frederick Wolfersberger of Elizabeth Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania, farmer dated Jan. 16th, 1795. proved Feb. 12th, 1795. Wife Elizabeth is to live on plantation until son Frederick is 21 years old, than two sons, John and Frederick are to have all the plantation where I now live, in Elizabeth Township, consisting of 130 acres, and also another piece of land in the same township consisting of 43 acres, they to pay the estate 1600 (sixteen hundred pounds). The plantation is to be subject to the power of Christine Neaff my mother-in-law (it would seem from this that he married Elizabeth Neaff). The son John is to have thirty pounds as his birthright. The 1600 pounds which the two brothers are to pay is to be divided among my five children, John, Frederick, George, Phillipp and Elizabeth. Executor: Brother George Wolfersberger and Samuel Rex. According to the above his children were.
- i John Wolfersberger
  - ii Frederick Wolfersberger
  - iii George Wolfersberger
  - iv Phillipp Wolfersberger
  - v Elizabeth Wolfersberger

In the muster rolls of the 2nd battallion, Lancaster County Militia on a tower of duty at Lancaster guarding British prisoners of war, among the names of persons furnishing substitutes is the name of Frederick Wolferberger. Date Aug. 20th, 1781. Frederick No. 8 is probably the man referred to.

9 George Wolfersberger, son of Peter Wolfersberger No. 2. Wife Eva. They were members of Reformed Church at Shafferstown Pa. prior to 1800. Records do not show more definite date. John son of George and Eva was baptized in Reformed Church April 23rd, 1785. According to the above, George and Eva had at least one child.

i John Wolfersberger.

10 George Michael Wolfersberger, son of Peter Wolfersberger No. 2. Name of wife unknown. There is a record in the Pennsylvania State Library showing that George Michael Wolfersberger late of Culpepper County, Va. died in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster County, Pa. in 1789. The Orphan's Court Docket Book A. p. 204. Orphan's Court held at Lebanon County of Dauphin Oct. 3rd. 1789. The Court appoints Phillipp Wolfersberger and Christopher Uhler of Dauphin County gaurdians over the estates of Sarah Wolfersberger, George Wolfersberger, Hannah Wolfersberger, John Wolfersberger and Margaret Wolfersberger, minor children of George Michael Wolfersberger, deceased, late of Culpepper County Va. Yoeman. Elizabeth and Catherine Wolfersberger minor children of George Michael Wolfersberger deceased, late of Culpepper County Va. being above the age of 14 years appear in Court and choose Phillipp Wolfersberger and Christopher Uhler as guardians over their estates. According to the above, the following were the children of George Michael Wolfersberger No. 10. There is no further record of any of them that can be identified.

i Sarah Wolfersberger  
 ii George Wolfersberger  
 iii Hannah Wolfersberger  
 iv John Wolfersberger  
 v Margaret Wolfersberger  
 vi Elizabeth Wolfersberger  
 vii Catherine Wolfersberger

11 Peter Wolfenberger, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4. M. Susanna Miller, daughter of Jacob Miller. In proof of this marriage the following is copied from the records of Shenandoah Co. Virginia "I, Peter Wolfenberger do hereby certify that I have received from Abram Brubacker and Henry Utt the sum of sixty four pounds, current lawful money of Virginia about the year of our Lord 1776 it being in full of all, debts, dues and demands, due me on account of my father-in-law Jacob Miller deceased. Real and personal estate and agreeable to request made by the last will and Testament of said Jacob Miller decd. to my wife Susanna, a daughter of the said Decedent.

Of witness my hand this 26th day of July, 1786.

Peter Wolfenberger

Adam Derting

Martin Mity

At a court held in the County of Shenandoah on Thursday the 25 day of Sept. 1788. This receipts of Peter Wolfenberger to Abraham Brubaker and Henry Utt was acknowledged and ordered recorded.

Test. John Williams C.S.C.

The best information obtainable indicates that the following were the children of Peter Wolfenberger and his wife Susanna.

- 782    i     Hannah Wolfenberger (m. Henry Cary Aug. 6, 1795 John Alderson Minister.)  
       ii     Mary Wolfenberger (m. Henry Barnheart April 6, 1795. John Anderson, Minister.)  
       iii    Susey Wolfenberger (m. Adam Faul, April 12, 1791, John McCue, Minister.)  
       iv     John Wolfenberger (m. Rebecca Craig, June 6, 1805, John Pinnell, Minister.)  
       v     Peter Wolfenberger (m. Milly Hanson Feb. 27, 1807. John Pinnell, Minister.)  
       vi     Phillipp Wolfenberger (m. Ingado Rader Oct. 6, 1803. John Pinnell, Minister.)

The above record of the children of Peter is arrived at on the basis of marriage records of those whose names and dates suggest that they were his children.

- 12 Frederick Wolfenberger, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4. Wife Catherine. For identification see record of sale of land in Shenandoah County Va. in settlement of estate of John Wolfenberger No. 4. There is no record that he ever owned land in Shenandoah Co. but he was there as early as 1782. He owned land in Greenbrier Co. Va. in 1792. He had a family of six in Shenandoah Co. in 1783, but their names can not be identified. They all probably moved to Greenbrier Co. with their father. No further information on him except that he owned 340 acres of land in Greenbrier Co.
- 13 Phillipp Wolfenberger, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4 m. Catherine Pinnewit, Shenandoah Co. Va. May 2nd, 1786 (Shenandoah Co. marriage records) m. second Catherine Cooper in Greenbrier Co. Va. May 23rd, 1791 (U.S. Pension Bureau records). He was in Kanhaw Co. Va. in 1804. It appears from papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim, w. 6575 that Phillipp Wolfenberger, while a resident of Shenandoah Co. Va., enlisted (time not given) as a private with the Virginia troops in Captain Wallace's Company under Major Ridley to serve for eighteen months and was in the battles of Cowpens and Guilford Court House. He reenlisted about two months after the battle of Guilford Court House and served as a private in Captain Jughes' and Watts' companies, Continental Dragoons; He was in the battle

of Eutaw Springs and in many skirmishes in Georgia, one near Savannah, and he was discharged after peace was declared. He was allowed a pension on his application, executed Feb. 8th, 1819 while a resident of Gallia Co., Ohio, aged 57 years. He died Oct. 1, 1852 in Pike Co., Ohio, and is buried in Beaver Township Cemetery.

There were no children by the first marriage, from his marriage with Catherine Cooper there was one daughter.

783 1 Elizabeth Wolfenberger (b. Feb. 23, 1795. m. Abraham Taylor who was born May 8 1787)

14 Hannah Wolfenberger, daughter of John Wolfenberger No. 4. m. George Wood (Authority, record of settlement of estate of John Wolfenberger No. 4.) No record of family.

15 Mary Wolfenberger, daughter of John Wolfenberger No. 4. m. Martin Miller, said to have been a Revolutionary soldier (authority for this marriage, settlement of estate of John Wolfenberger No. 4.) No record of family.

Joseph Wolfenberger, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4. Wife Nancy. For identification, see settlement of estate of John No. 4. The records do not show that he owned land either in Greenbrier or Shenandoah Counties, but tax records show that he was in Shenandoah from 1791 to 1795 (He probably reached the age of 21 in Shenandoah and had to pay poll tax). The records in Greenbrier show that he was also in that County in 1795 where he joined his brothers and sisters in executing a power of attorney in favor of his brother Frederick. According to the best available information, he had at least one son. Based on a letter written by Mr. Andrew W. Wolfenbarger of Lincoln Neb. May 25, 1910 to Mr. Sam W. Sparger, Mr. A.G. Wolfenbarger was the son of William W. Wolfenbarger, and he says his grand-father was Joseph, who as I figure it was No. 16, now under discussion. There was a younger Joseph in Greenbrier Co. who was no doubt the son of the original Joseph No. 16. and the father of William W. Wolfenbarger.

19 1 Joseph Wolfenbarger

17 JOHN WOLFENBERGER, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4. Born in Pennsylvania August 17th, 1754. Died in Ohio Nov. 17th, 1840. Married Christina Frey at Friedberg North Carolina, 1777 or 1778. She was born in Pennsylvania Nov. 22nd, 1759. Died in Surry County North Carolina between 1830 and 1833.

He went from Lancaster County Pennsylvania where the early family settled some time between 1761 and 1771 to Shenandoah County Va. with his father and family. The first record found of his father in Virginia was when he took oath as Vestryman in Beckford Parish in 1771. It is thought when he took oath as Vestryman in Beckford. It is thought possible that he was in Pennsylvania as late as April 12th, 1767, since on that date it is recorded in Shafferstown Reformed Church, that John Wolfersberger and wife were Sponsors when John Wolfersberger, son of Phillipp Wolfersberger and Margaret his wife was baptized. John No. 4 and Phillipp were brothers and it is natural to suppose that John and his wife would have stood sponsors for this child at his baptism. It is also significant that at the baptism of another son, John Phillipp on Sept. 8 1769 that another brother, Peter and his wife, Appelonia stood Sponsors, further indicating that possibly John had left Pennsylvania and gone to Virginia where he was found in 1771.

The first record found on John No. 17 is among the Moravian records now on file among the archives of the Moravian Church at Winston-Salem N.C. which reads as follows. "Dec. 9th, 1776, a man by the name of Wolfesperger who formerly lived near Lititz Pa. (An old Moravian settlement at which point a church is still maintained - 1932) but is now in Virginia, made an agreement with Br. Graff to buy 300 acres on Spark's Creek. His son will settle there" This land is near Friedberg Moravian Church which is being maintained at the present time. The Moravian Ledgers show that John Wolfesberger was in possession of this land in 1778 and 1779. It is not known under just what arrangement he was in possession of the 300 acres of land referred to, probably on a rental basis, since the ledgers show that on May 31st, 1781 an entry was made charging the rental to profit and loss, amounting to 16 pounds and sixteen shillings for the two years 1778 and 1779. He had probably been unable to make his payments, and moved away or was dispossessed of the land.

A bit of interesting information is contained in a little sketch written by Joseph W. Spargur, Jr., a grand-son of John, in 1876 in which he says "John W. Spargur our grand-father was born in Pennsylvania, lived there for a time, then lived for a time in Grayson County Va., and removed to North Carolina in 1787. The records at Danbury county seat of Stokes County North Carolina, show that John Wolfesberger was granted 150 acres of land on Feb. 22nd, 1787, the same year that his grand-son Joseph said he came to North Carolina. Not it appears that about what happened was that when he left the Moravian settlement after 1779, he went to that section of Virginia, now Grayson County (Which was not formed until 1793) and remained there until he took the land in Stokes County and came back to North Carolina. He sold the Stokes County land to Charles Frederick Bagge on Jan. 22nd, 1802.

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The Surry County records show that John Wolfvan berger owned land in that County as early as 1792, that he had two State grants in 1794, and one in 1802 all records refer to John Sparger. After that date, many deeds were made to John Sparger. Many of these grants and deeds of John Sparger are located on both sides of Forkner's Creek, and John Sparger Sr. owned hundreds of acres of land on this creek. John Sparger Sr. and John Sparger Jr. owned and traded slaves as the records show that they would sometimes give a deed of trust on their slaves. He lived in Surry County until 1833 after the death of Christine, his wife. The United States census records show that she was living in 1830, so she died between 1830 and 1833. Several of his children moved to Highland County Ohio from time to time, beginning with Joseph and Reuben in 1804, Phillipp in 1809, and in 1833 he accompanied his son Henry and his bride, traveling on horseback to Ohio where he lived until his death on Nov. 17th, 1840. He is buried there in a Quaker Cemetery.

The Frey family record in the Moravian Archives at Winston-Salem N.C. show that Peter Frey was born in Wingen Alsace Sept. 27th, 1689 and that he died at Friedberg N.C. May 4th, 1766, being the first person buried in this "God's Acre" (As the Moravians expressed it), the land for which was contributed by his sons and son-in-law. The compiler of this record visited his grave on Sept. 21, 1931. The marker on this grave is in a perfect state of preservation, showing plainly the date of birth and death, and place of birth. He married in 1716, Anna Barbara \_\_\_\_\_ (Maiden name unknown), born April 5, 1696, died Jan. 9, 1768 at Bethania N.C., while she was on a visit to one of her daughters. They had twelve children and more than 100 grand-children and great-grand-children at the time of her death. Johan Valentine Frey, son of Peter was born May 9th, 1721 at Wingen Alsace. Died at Hope N.C. Sept. 13, 1798. He married Anna Maria Barbara Binckele. She was the widow Meyer at the time of her marriage to Valentine Frey. She was born in Whitsuntide in 1722, died Jan. 6, 1791 near Salem N.C. They came to America with the family in 1734. Peter Binckele father of Anna Maria Barbara Binckele, wife of Valentine Frey was born March 4th, 1704 at Guckensberg Canton Berne Switzerland. Died at Bethania N.C., August 20, 1793. Married Anna Maria Werlyn who died in 1748 near Yorktown Pa. She was Christina Frey's grand-mother. He then married in 1749, Maria Margaretha Geiger. By both marriages he was the father of twenty three children. He was the son of Christian and Elizabeth Binckele.

The Moravian records show that Christina the daughter of Valentine Frey was born in Pennsylvania Nov. 22, 1759 and came to North Carolina with her parents in 1765 when she was six years old. Married John Wolfesberger but fails to give the date of the marriage, however, since John came to North Carolina about the first part of 1777, and she being at that time about eighteen years old, and their first child being born in May 1779, it is assumed that they were married soon after he came down to North Carolina. It is thus seen that Peter Frey was her paternal grand-father, Valentine Frey her father, Peter Binckele her maternal grand-father, and Anna Maria Werlyn Binckele her maternal grand-mother.

There is no record that John or Christine ever connected themselves with the Moravian Church, although their first two children were baptized by the Moravians, however, it appears that Christina's parents and grand parents on both sides were devout communicants of the Moravian church. John and Christina were the father and mother - or founders of the Sparger and Spargur families in this country, and their descendents are scattered all over the world.

According to the best information obtainable Christina is buried in an old country grave-yard in Surry County N.C., near Mount Airy, within sight of the site of the old home adjoining the property of the Sparger Orchard Company. There is a group of four graves, said to be those of Christina Sparger, Hannah Deatherideg, Christina's daughter, John W. Sparger her son and Robert Turner Taylor who married Jane Sparger her grand daughter, and the daughter of John W. Sparger. These graves are not marked so they can be identified, but they simply have rough stones placed at the head and foot of each grave. Of course, no one is living now who was here at the time these people died, so we are, of course, entirely dependent upon what has been handed down to those now living. The traditions about these burials were personally investigated by J.B. Sparger and W.M. Creasy in Sept. 1931 and the above information was obtained from some of the older descendents of these people, and there seems no room to doubt this information is correct.

The children of John and Christina were as follows.

- |    |      |                             |
|----|------|-----------------------------|
| 20 | i    | Reuben W. Spargur (b. 1779) |
| 21 | ii   | Joseph W. Spargur (b. 1781) |
| 22 | iii  | John W. Sparger             |
| 23 | iv   | Phillipp W. Spargur         |
| 24 | v    | William W. Sparger          |
| 25 | vi   | Henry W. Spargur            |
| 26 | vii  | Hannah W. Sparger           |
| 27 | viii | Nancy W. Sparger            |
| 28 | ix   | Sally W. Sparger            |

18 Benjamin Wolfenberger, son of John Wolfenberger No. 4. For identification see records quoted in case of Peter No. 11. He was probably married twice. The records show that he married Elizabeth Miller in Shenandoah County April 9, 1798. She was probably his second wife, since on April 11, 1797 Benjamin Wolfenberger and wife Catherine sold land on Main street in Woodstock Shenandoah County, Virginia to Jacob Liggett.

Benjamin was appointed Administrator of the estate of his father, John Wolfenberger No. 4 who died in Shenandoah County Va. in 1788. The estate was finally settled and reported to the Court July 7, 1792. The real estate belonging to John Wolfenberger No. 4 was finally sold on Sept. 29. 1795 and bought by Benjamin from his brothers and sisters, he paying \$50.00 to each heir. He had a suit against John Yager and wife as a result of which a certain tract of land was conveyed to Benjamin. This suit was disposed of on Oct. 7, 1800. He was probably in Greenbrier County in 1803, as he and his wife Elizabeth executed a power of Attorney to Phillipp Wolfenberger, to execute a deed. In 1805 he and his wife Elizabeth executed a deed to Henry Pope in Greenbrier County. On April 8, 1806 Benjamin and wife Elizabeth of Botetourt County Va. sold land in Shenandoah County Va. This indicates that they moved to Botetourt County in 1805 about the time they sold the land in Greenbrier Co. The records in the court house at Wytheville Va. show that Benjamin died in 1812, and his estate was settled in November of that Year. He was a wagon maker, as his personal property consisted of Wagon Makers tools which were bought by Elizabeth Wolfenbarger at the Administrator's sale (it appears that the family commenced the use of the name Wolfenbarger along about this time.)

Incidentally Benjamin's father John Wolfenbarger ~~also~~ No. 4 was referred to in the Pennsylvania records as a wheelwright (Maker and repairer of wagons and carts). Many of the family in later generations have been listed as wagon makers. The records at Wytheville, County seat of Wythe County, show that Elizabeth Wolfenbarger, bought land there in 1817. Elizabeth sold this land to Christopher Brown on Feb. 22, 1827, and no further record has been found of the family in that section, indicating that they must have moved away from there about that time.

The United States Census record shows that in 1820 there was in that county in the town of Evansham (now Wytheville) an Elizabeth Wolfenbarger with a family of eight, supposed to be six sons and two daughters, with herself making nine in all. We have the names of two of the children taking from a deed from John Short to Elizabeth Wolfenbarger, referred to as daughter of Benjamin Wolfenbarger deceased, and witnessed by Samuel Wolfenbarger. Presumably both of these were his children.