



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

March 2007

Vol. XIII, No. 1

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Life Member, Heini, has passed at 79

Heini Wolfensberger, 79,
Life Member of WFA Board
Dies in Bauma, Switzerland

Heini Wolfensberger, a lifetime member of the WFA Board of Directors and student of the family's Swiss origins in and around Bauma, died March 7, 2007, in the Swiss mountains of his beloved Zurcher Oberland. He was 79 and had been a board member since the origins of the Wolfensberger Family Association, less than a decade ago.

His wife, Irene, and four children survive him.

Few students of the family's history knew of his long and devoted stewardship to the family's origins. Former WFA President Bob Wolfenbarger met Heini and his family in 1962. They had searched unsuccessfully for the foundations of the original family castle somewhere on the OberWolfsberg, the three-peak hill depicted on the family's flag.

"I traveled to Bauma from the German city where I was based in the U.S. Army, in the weeks before I was to redeploy to the states. I went to see if there was any connection between our American family and the Swiss family."

"At that time, my American family strongly believed we were German - not Swiss - and had conducted several searches for the Wolfenbarger family along the Rhine," said Wolfenbarger.

In Germany, he met a genealogist on the staff of the Rhineland-Pfalz state government - a Dr. Fritz Braun - and visited Heini in the weeks before he was scheduled to return to the U.S.. Earlier, Braun had written a German-language history of passengers aboard The Thistle of Glasgow, the 1730 vessel that brought our original ancestors to this country.

Braun told me that he didn't believe the family was German, and showed me a brief pamphlet history listing a family of



Wolfensbergers from the Alsace-Lorraine who migrated from what was then Germany (actually the Palatinate, an historic former part of the old nation.

"I explored church books at several sites and found an entry for an Anna Wolfensberger of Kohlbrunn, Switzerland, who had married a local farmer in the late 1600s."

"I immediately called Dr. Braun and told him of the find, a churchbook entry for Anna, who hailed from a village in Switzerland."

Braun told me our finding was strong evidence that at least part of the family may have come from Switzerland. He told me he would call some Swiss genealogists in coming days to see if there were Wolfensberger descendents somewhere in the vicinity of Zurich. It was a million-to-one chance at this late date.

Of course, there were many Wolfensbergers in Switzerland. But the Swiss genealogist had already contacted Heini's father
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**Wolfensberger Family Association
Officers & Directors - 2007**

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Heini Wolfensberger
Bauma, Switzerland

Member's Notes.....

The Board of Directors was elected by the membership unanimously. There are no changes to the 2006 list except that Al Creasy has stepped down as our worthy treasurer and Bill Wolfenbarger has stepped down from the board.

We want to thank both gentlemen for their attentive service to our family organization. It can't be done without our volunteers. Their selfless hours of time spent doing business for the association has helped make it what it is today.

As you have read elsewhere, Heini Wolfensberger, an honorary life member, will be sorely missed. The vision of Heini, Bob and Larry brought this association into reality. We all mourn this loss to our extended family. A special thanks to Bob Wolfenbarger for writing such a nice obituary.

We should also make special mention of Al Creasy's service as Treasurer. Al has served as Treasurer for WFA now for over seven years. He has kept the WFA fiscally sound over these years and without him, we wouldn't have been able to be successful in publishing this newsletter, maintaining our website, purchasing our family items and most notably, the Memorial in Bauma. Thanks Al from all of us!!!

Queries:

Who are the parents of George Washington Wolfenbarger and Matilda J. Wolfenbarger? I have not been able to locate their parents therefore I don't know how they are related to the other Grainger County families. Here is what I have learned about both of them.

George Washington Wolfenbarger was born in September 1844 in Grainger County, Tennessee. He was called Wash and fought for the Union during the Civil War. He was a Corporal in Company D - 1st Tennessee Infantry.

On August 23, 1866 he married Mary W. Wolfenbarger, daughter of Reuben Wolfenbarger and Nancy Strange. Mary was born on March 8, 1841 and died on 5 Apr 1900. George died on 11 Dec 1907 in Grainger County. George, Mary, their son William Pryor and their granddaughter Laurel are all buried in the Acuff Cemetery.

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Heini cont. from page 1

and Heini to ask if they wanted to meet an American relative.

The answer, of course, was yes.

So I climbed aboard a German Bundesbahn train out of Kaiserslautern a late night in March 1962, with a German language translator working for the U.S. Army. That night we were due in Zurich. But what did Heini look like? And what would I look like to him?

Believe it or not, it was less of a problem than I could imagine.

Luckily, the station was almost deserted. And a couple was waiting in the station for that train to arrive. I walked over and introduced myself. The couple responded, saying "Hi Bob, welcome to Switzerland." It was Heini and his wife, Irene.

Heini's wife Irene later told me she spotted me when she saw my ears, which she said, surprisingly resembled Heini's ears.

We went off into the snowy night for a little belated dinner, while we both chatted about our trip and the plans Heini and his father had set for us back in Bauma. I still remember a small hotel where they put me up. The snow was pouring down and I was able to go to sleep early.

I still remember the next morning when I pushed open the shutters to discover that some boy shepherds across the valley were walking their cattle up the mountain. As their bells clanged, the cattle slowly climbing the hill looked and sounded for all the world like a scene from the classic movie, "*Heidi*."

So that was my introduction to Heini. The next morning, I met his father and began a two-day discussion of our common - and uncommon - family ancestry.

I told Heini and his father what I knew already about our family - that the original immigrant was named John (or Johann) and that he and his family emigrated from Ludwigshafen to Philadelphia in 1730, then gradually moved west with the opening of the frontier.

And they told me about the Swiss family history, which began in the 14th Century, a time of turmoil in the Alps as the country separated from

the Austrian Empire. They told me of 14th Century knights who held sway in the region for the Austrians, and of other distinguished Wolfensbergers - Swiss leaders - who lived in later centuries.

Long before there was a Wolfensberger Family Association, I helped to share some of my recollections with history-minded members of the family, such as the late Mrs. Myrtle Braun, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, who had originally asked me to research the family's history in Europe.

When Larry Jones toured the country, meeting with people who had a knowledge of family history, he came to see me as well as my father in Florida. So when he asked about Swiss personalities who might join in establishing a WFA Board of Directors, I couldn't forget advising him to invite Heini to serve with us.

Heini agreed, becoming the first lifetime member of WFA Board of Directors

As his death notice puts it, "Early this morning, Heini was recalled from our earthly living circle into the eternal light.

"We are mourning our beloved, eternally constant husband, our strong, far-seeing father and father-in-law and our amicable, adored grandfather. His bounty, his direct thinking and his entrepreneurial spirit guided his actions and our common life."



Wolfensberger Family Memorial Dedication - 2003
From left to right, Irene Wolfensberger, Heini Wolfensberger, Robert Wolfensberger, Max Wolfensberger.

written by Robert Wolfensberger

QUERIES.....

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Wash and Mary had at least 6 children all born in Grainger County. Their dates of birth are from George's Civil War pension: John C. born 12 May 1867, Joseph F. born 9 Jan 1869, Dora J. born 14 Dec 1870, William Pryor born 23 Oct 1872, James Franklin born 9 Jan 1875, and Jesse Henderson born 23 Mar 1878. I have been able to trace three of their sons.

William was going by Pryor on the 1880 Grainger County census. He married Viola. William and Viola had one daughter Laurel born 12 Sep 1904 and died 16 May 1909. William died on 16 Jan 1910. Both he and Laurel are buried in the Acuff cemetery. The WFA Rootsweb database has him the child of Jacob Wolfenbarger and Louisa Jones which is incorrect.

James Franklin married Annie about 1908. They lived in Knox County, Tennessee and may have been married there. They had at least five (5) children: Robert, Maude, Bertha, Herbert and Edith. His full name is from his WWI Draft Registration.

Jesse Henderson was married at least twice. His first marriage was to a woman named Lucy. His second to a woman named Cleo. His full name is from his WWI Draft Registration.

Matilda J. Wolfenbarger was born in December 1840. She married Leroy Clark on 18 Feb 1858 in Grainger County, Tennessee. Matilda has been confused with Mary W. Wolfenbarger. Matilda and Leroy left Grainger County shortly after the birth of their son William in November 1858 and went to Roane County and then to Loudon County.

Matilda and Leroy had at least nine (9) children: William, Mary Jane, Elizabeth, Sarah "Sally", John, Eugene A., Lee Roy, Matilda J. and Maggie. I have been able to trace three of their sons.

William married Julia, surname unknown, about 1885. They had at least seven (7) children: Cora, Fanny B., Robert A., William Jr., John W., Charley D. and Hobert.

Eugene A. was born on Oct. 12, 1870 in Loudon County, Tennessee. He married a woman named Minnie J., surname unknown. They had at least eight (8) children: Annie E. who married Joseph

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WORLD WAR II PRISONERS OF WAR, 1941 - 1946

A continuation from Dec 2006

I am currently researching the members of our family that fought in the Civil War on both sides. In the course of my research on Ancestry I found that several of our relatives were prisoners during World War Two. Three were buried overseas and one missing in action. - *Charlotte*

WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN CONFLICT VETERANS INTERRED OVERSEAS

Name: Arnold F Wolfenbarger
 Inducted From: Tennessee
 Rank: Staff Sergeant
 Combat Organization: 22nd Infantry 4th Division
 Death Date: Nov 22, 1944
 Monument: Henri-Chapelle, Belgium
 Last Known Status: Buried
 U.S. Awards: Purple Heart Medal
 Additional Army Awards

Name: Theodore Wolfenbarger
 Inducted From: Tennessee
 Rank: Chief Boatswain's Mate
 Combat Organization: United States Navy
 Death Date: May 04, 1945
 Monument: Honolulu, Hawaii, United States
 Last Known Status: Missing
 U.S. Awards: Purple Heart Medal

Name: Wendell W Wolfenbarger
 Inducted From: Missouri
 Rank: Sergeant
 Combat Organization: 328th Infantry 26th Division
 Death Date: Jan 18 1945
 Monument: Luxembourg
 Last Known Status: Buried
 U.S. Awards: Purple Heart Medal
 Silver Star Medal
 Foreign Awards: Belgian - Croix De Guerre, with Palm

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QUERIES.....

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Christian, Temmie M., Lorna, and Delma who married Greer Fleming, Samuel, Pauline, Geneva and Robert. The names of the husbands of Annie and Delma are from census records where they were with other members of the family. His date and place of birth are from his WWI Draft Registration.

Lcc Roy was born 22 May 1875 in Loudon County, Tennessee. He married Betty, surname unknown. They had at least five (5) children: Hugh E., Lester R., Gladys B., Ada and Eula B. The spelling of his full name, date and place of birth are from his WWI Draft Registration.

If anyone has any information about either of these families or knows who George and or Matilda's parents are please contact me. I will gladly send a list of the documentation or family group sheets upon request.

Charlotte Lucas - Assistant Historian

WW2 and Korean Internments cont. from page 4

Name: Arlie C Wolfinbarger

Inducted From: Arkansas

Rank: Private

Combat Organization: United States Marine Corps

Death Date: Feb 04 1944

Monument: Honolulu, Hawaii, United States

Last Known Status: Buried

U.S. Awards: Purple Heart Medal

Source:

National Archives and Records Administration.
World War II and Korean Conflict Veterans
Interred Overseas [database on-line].

Submitted by: Charlotte Lucas - Assistant Historian

Editor's Note: We are in the process of digitizing all our documents, books, etc. If you would like to help in this effort by submitting material, please contact me. Thank you!!! -Jon

A Wolfensberger Ready To Fight!

When Andrin Micha Wolfensberger, from Pflun, Switzerland, visited for the first time, our castle site in Bauma and he saw our Memorial-stone, he had to do something. Together with his father Albert, his mother Susanne and his sister Vivienne Larissa, he was excited about the medieval place. Andrin replicated the Noble Knight Balderbert, who lived in the Castle Wolfsberg.



Newsletter Publication Dates

March, June, September & December

If you would like to submit items, such as stories, reunion announcements, etc., please submit them to me via mail or email prior to the month of publication. I'd like to have everything in hand on the 15th of the month prior to publication. For the June issue, May 15th would be that date. -Jon

Castle Boncourt

translated from German by Wolf Wolfensberger

Adalbert von Cahmisso was born in 1781 of a noble family in Castle Boncourt in the French Champagne region. When he was nine, his family fled to Germany during the French Revolution after 1789, and the castle was razed by the revolutionaries. In Germany, he was assimilated, and became a renowned romantic poet. In 1827, as a middle-aged man, he visited the castle site again, and in great sadness reconstructed it mentally, and wrote the following poem, which, in German, rhymes very nicely, but which I translated without trying to capture the rhyme, only the sentiment.

My white-haired head trembles
As I dream I am a child once again.
Oh how you pursue me, you mental pictures
That I deemed so long forgotten.

High above shady forests
Rises a shiny castle;
I so well know the towers,
The ramparts, the stone bridge, the gate.

The lions look down upon me
From the coat of arms above.
I greet these old friends
And hasten into the castle's court.

There by the old well lie the sphinxes,
Over there is the old fig tree,
And there, behind those windows,
I dreamt my earliest dreams.

I enter the castle's chapel
And look for the ancestors' graves;
There they are, and above them
Hang helmet, shield and sword.

As tears becloud my vision
I can hardly read the stones,
Though brightly the sun sends its rays
Through the window's colored glasses.

This is how my mind still sees you
O castle of fathers mine
--And yet, you have long vanished,
and the plough has drawn furrows upon you.

Be fertile, oh dearest earth;
I bless you with deep emotion,
Yea, twice-fold will I bless
Whoever will plough your ground.

Now I gather myself together;
With the lyre in my hand
I will roam across the earth,
And sing from land to land.

This poem has always reminded me of our two castle sites in Switzerland. The site of one (on the lower Wolfsberg) is indeed surrounded by shady forest, and once must have risen above it; on the other one (on the upper Wolfsberg) grass grows, and cattle can now graze there.

- Wolf Wolfensberger

Editor's note: Thanks Wolf for such a lovely poem that does remind us of our family's castle site.

The Wolfensburger Road

Recently, a few of us researching the family came across the Wolfensburger Road in Colorado and were curious about why and who it was named after. The Colorado DOT recently made improvements to the road, so many internet hits are available. However, there wasn't really anything on this Wolfensburger.

I queried the local historical society and this is what they sent me. My thanks to Shaun Boyd, Archivist of the Douglas County History Research Center in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Jacob Wolfensberger's wife Martha Bengston homesteaded a piece of land on what is now Wolfensburger Road. The house is still there on the south side. She received her final certificate October 15, 1894. Jacob and Martha were married
continued on next page

Wolfensburger Road cont.

July 17, 1891 by Rev. B.F. Todd. Martha died in 1931 and is buried at the Cedar Hill Cemetery on Wolfensburger Road.

Jacob was born March 17, 1865 in Switzerland. He came to America at age 18. His mother died when he was 6 months old and his father, Henry, died when he was 8 years old. He lived with a brother and sister while attending school until age 10. He then went to work for a shoemaker until he was 14. He was given 150 francs and went to work in Germany for six months, where he earned another 150 francs. In 1883, he emigrated to New York, then went to Michigan, where he lived with a brother, before making his way to Colorado in 1886. He homesteaded a piece of land on Daniel's Park Road and then married Martha Bengston.

Jacob and Martha had one son, Edwin, who was born Feb 20, 1888. Ed married Martha Brown of Sedalia. Ed passed in December 1982. They had no children. Ed kept up the ranch, was a charter member of the Castle Rock Volunteer Fire Department, and helped with the paving of US Highway 85 to Colorado Springs and I-25 through Castle Rock.



We are considering another order of family flags. Our flags are currently sold out. We would like to put in another order, but would like some commitment from our members interested in ordering one. They would be sold for about \$40, which includes shipping to you. If you are interested in a flag, please send an email to David Wolfensberger or Jon Rhan. Email addresses are on the address label page of the newsletter.

Check out our family website!!!!



www.wolfensberger.org



**Shopping
Wolfensberger
Medallion
\$25.00 ea.
includes
shipping costs.**



**Wolfensberger
Crest
Cloth Patch
\$2.00 ea.
includes
shipping costs.**

**Send your order to
David Wolfensberger!**

Welcome New Members!!! The following people have joined our family association:

Annette Hagopian - CA (Wolfensberger)
Melinda Wright - IL (Wolfensberger)
Thelma Fyffe - OH (Wolfensberger)
Hansruedi Wolfensberger - Switzerland

WELCOME ALL!!!!

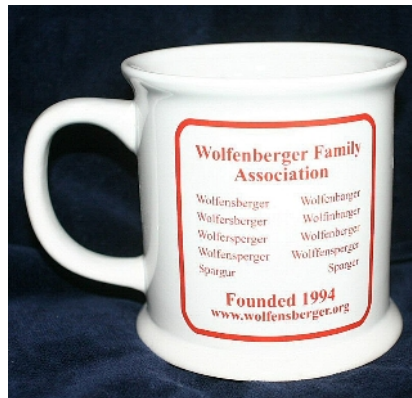
Anniversary Mugs Again Available!!!

Order for yourself and your family.

No. Ordered	Price per Mug
1	\$11.00
2	9.00
3	8.00
4	7.24
5	7.00
6	6.85

The Wolfensberger Family mugs have been received from the manufacturer. We are sorry for the delay in shipping them out. There was a delay in approving the artwork and Buzz Evans' hospital stay. It took longer than expected to receive them. Buzz reports that he has inspected the mugs for damage and is in the process of filling orders. Thanks for your patience!!!!

Place your orders with WFA Treas. David Wolfersberger, 768 Chain Ridge Road, St. Louis, MO 63122.



Editor's Note: The new mugs order will have one correction: The spelling in the back of the mug will be corrected to read: Wolfensberger Family Association.

Anniversary Mugs Order

Mail to: David Wolfersberger, Treas.

**768 Chain Ridge Road
St. Louis, MO 63122**

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Mugs Ordered _____ Amt. enclosed _____

Number of Patches _____ Number of Medallions _____

Stories, pictures, announcement?

Do you have stories, pictures, announcements of upcoming reunions you would like to share with your extended family? We encourage you to do so!!! Let me tell you how.

If you have something to share, you can mail it directly to me. My address is on the return of the newsletter. I'll include it here as well:

4 Acropolis Avenue
Londonderry, NH 03053-3242

You can also choose to email anything. My email address is: jon_rhan@mentor.com. For announcements, feel free to send me the announcement you are using for your family. I can read publisher, word and word perfect documents with no issues. I don't have any issue with file size with this address, so you can send everything in one email, such as photographs.

Speaking of photographs, if you mail them to me, please send them with card stock or cardboard so they are difficult to bend. Please mark the envelope accordingly. Let me know if they are to keep or if you want them returned. I will scan them and return them to you. If you do scan them, please scan them at you highest resolution and save them as a jpg or png file format. If you have questions here, please email them to me. Pictures are so important to our history. Please share!!!

Finally, stories. As you see in this issue, stories can be fun. Stories are what make us who we are or who our ancestors were. You will see more of these in the future, but there are many of you out there who have wonderful stories that you should share! Attending the World's Fair. Experiences during the wars. Growing up in the Great Depression! Many, many things. These stories can be lost. Please help your extended family preserve this history. Its important to our children and our cousins. You can send me letters, news clippings which can be returned, or email me.

From your Editor - Jon Rhan(Wolfensberger)

Notes From The Treasurer

Please check the mailing label to see if your membership has expired. There are currently 33 members whose memberships expired at the end of 2005 and 75 whose memberships expired at the end of 2006. Those whose memberships were up at the end of 2005, please submit \$18 to cover dues for 2006 and 2007. If your membership expired at the end of 2006, you may submit dues for 1, 2 or 3 years (\$10, \$18, and \$26 respectively). Please take a minute now to send in your dues so the Wolfensberger Family Association can continue to provide valuable information about our family.

- David Wolfensberger

The
"Wolfensberger Translation
Deutsch-Schweizerisches Geschlechterbuch /
German Swiss Lineage Books, Revised Edition,
Vol 4, 1929",
2006, by Myrna Bingham Liddell

Is now available for purchase.
347 pages, includes Index of names.

This Revised Translation of the original Gothic German text into English is the genealogical lineage book of those Wolfensberger citizens of Canton Zurich, whose genealogies were commissioned, researched and recorded by the Wolfensberger family of Bauma in 1929. These are the ancestors of most of our Wolfenbarger, Wolfinbarger, Spargur, Sparger families. [See www.wolfensberger.org for short histories to see which families came from Switzerland.]

softbound: \$32.50 plus priority mail \$5.15

hardbound: by request

(If you purchased the first edition, please contact me.)

Contact:

myrnabl@whidbey.com

360-321-4971

Myrna Liddell
2747 Parkwood Dr.
Langley, WA 98260



**WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Wolfensberger Family Association

March 2007

Officers & Directors - Year 2007

W. Frank Wolfenbarger
Richard L. Evans
David E Wolfensberger
Myrna Liddell
Jon Rhan

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Secretary/Treasurer
Past Pres. & Historian
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