



# WOLFENSBERGER

*Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association*

March 2007

Vol. XIII, No. 1

Page 1

## 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 descendants 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

continued on page 3.....

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> Century, a time of turmoil in the Alps as the country separated from

the Austrian Empire. They told me of 14<sup>th</sup> 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.....

continued from page 4

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.

Lee 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 Pfyn, 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

## 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](http://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 (Wolfenbarger)  
**Hansruedi Wolfensberger** - Switzerland

**WELCOME ALL!!!!**

## *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](mailto: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(Wolfersberger)

## *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 Wolfersberger

**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](http://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](mailto:myrnabl@whidbey.com)

360-321-4971

Myrna Liddell

2747 Parkwood Dr.

Langley, WA 98260



**WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION**  
4 Acropolis Avenue  
Londonderry, NH 03053-3242

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

Vol. XIII No. 1

Page 10

**Wolfensberger Family Association**

March 2007

## **Officers & Directors - Year 2007**

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

### Executive Board

*President*  
*Vice Pres.*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
*Past Pres. & Historian*  
*Newsletter Editor*

*wfw8bmw@comcast.net*  
*revans45@swbell.net*  
*dewolf2@swbell.net*  
*myrnabl@whidbey.com*  
*jon\_rhan@mentor.com*

Mickey Burleson  
Albert H. Creasy  
Gretchen Doll  
Wendell J. Wolfenbarger O'Reilly  
Robert J. Wolfenbarger  
Rudolf A. Wolfensberger  
Wolf Wolfensberger  
Charlotte Lucas

### Other Board Members

*micnbob37@clearwire.net*  
*trebla1@alltel.net*  
*gretchendoll@comcast.net*  
*mtnbarrister@yahoo.com*  
*rwolfenbarger3@comcast.net*  
*RAWolfensberger@swissonline.ch*  
*Syracusewolf1@aol.com*  
*wolfenbargers@yahoo.com*

Heini Wolfensberger  
Lawrence M. Jones

### Honorary Life Members