

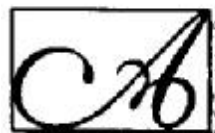
Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

June 1995, Vol. 1, No. 3

From Association Director Larry Jones

'95 WFA Membership Nears 200



Association membership reached 195 in May, following 27 new members who joined in recent months. Membership includes our single honorary member, Heini Wolfensberger, of Bauma, Switzerland.

Membership also includes five complimentary members, including Frank Wolfensberger of Bastrop, TX; Mary Edwards of Irvine, KY; Ora Kirby of Irvine, KY; Maggie Wolfenbarger of Irvine, KY and Dr. D. O. Wolfenbarger of Homestead, FL.

Currently, we are also sending complimentary copies of *Wolfensberger*, this family newsletter, to the Mormon Church's LDS Family History Department in Salt Lake City; the Southern Ohio Genealogical Society of Hillsboro, OH; the Surry County Genealogical Society of Dobson, NC; the Highland County Genealogical Society of Hillsboro, OH; the Public Library of Hillsboro, OH; the East Tennessee Historical Society of Knoxville, TN; the Public Library of Knoxville, TN; Oklahoma Genealogical Society of Oklahoma City; the Union County Historical Society of Maynardville, TN and the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society of Philadelphia.

On May 15, our bank account contained \$767.44, including contributions of \$322.07. Since we are almost out of Wolfensberger Family Badges, we ordered another 500 at a cost of \$515.00. The purchase leaves a working balance of \$445.37, sufficient to publish and mail the 3rd and 4th quarter newsletters.

As noted, our account includes a separate accounting of contributions to the Association, which I suggest be used to purchase a new headstone for Anna Margaretha Ensminger Wolfensberger, wife of John, the original immigrant to the American colonies who emigrated from Switzerland (via Germany) in 1730. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 this year to purchase and install the headstone. If you share our interest in celebrating the life of the family's distinguished pioneer, I welcome your contributions.

Your Board of Directors has explored the possibilities of registering an official Wolfensberger Family Coat of Arms with two United States organizations that register Coats of Arms. Unfortunately, neither organization registers arms to an organization, only to individuals. There does not seem to be any problem with us using the heraldic symbol created in Switzerland earlier in this century. Protocol requires that we call it a

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The Summer of '95: *Eight Family Reunions On Tap For Family*

At least eight Wolfensberger family reunions are scheduled between June and late September. Details of these scheduled reunions may change, so you're advised to contact the reunion coordinator if you're interested in attending. Attendance at one reunion -- in Bastrop, Tex. in July -- is by invitation only.

According to the latest information available, these are the reunion dates and the names of coordinators:

June 17 - Seneca, Mo.
Wolfenbarger-Wolfensberger Family
Contact: Anna Ruth Crabtree
(417) 451-5427

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Planning for Summer? 8 Family Reunions on Tap

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June 24 - Grainger Co., Tenn.

Wolfenbarger

Contact: Donna Long

(615) 637-1427

Aug. 12 - Hillsboro, Ohio

Spargur

Contact: Jim Spargur

(513) 897-5936

Site of 1995 WFA Annual Meeting

Aug. 26 - Weatherford, Tex.

Wolfenbarger

Contact: Lorene Rothrock

816 Alamo St.,

Weatherford TX 76086

July 15 - Bastrop, Tex.

Wolfenbarger

Contact: Vernon Osborn

(713) 356-3211

(By invitation only)

Aug. 20 - Galax, Va.

Sparger

Contact: Ray Webb

(910) 835-2421

Sept. 10 - Blue Springs, Mo.

Wolfenbarger-Wilkinson

Contact: Olen Wilkinson

(816) 228-4183

Director's Letter

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family badge instead of a coat of arms.

I plan to attend five family reunions this summer, including the reunions in Seneca, MO; Grainger County, TN; Hillsboro, OH, Blue Springs, MO and Irvine, KY. I hope most of you will be attending at least one family reunion. The annual meeting of this Association will be held Saturday, August 12 in Hillsboro, at the Spargur Reunion. All are welcome to attend the annual business meeting, where we will discuss the organization's role and elect members of the Association's Board of Directors. All registered Association members who attend this business meeting are eligible to vote.

On a personal note, many people have asked whether the tragic bombing of Oklahoma City's Murrah Federal building killed or injured any of my family. My youngest son, Gary, was only three blocks away from the building at the moment of the blast, and was headed there next. Thanks be to God that he was five minutes late.

**If You Want
To Attend
A Family Reunion,
Always
Contact
The Reunion
Coordinator**

September - Irvine, Ky.

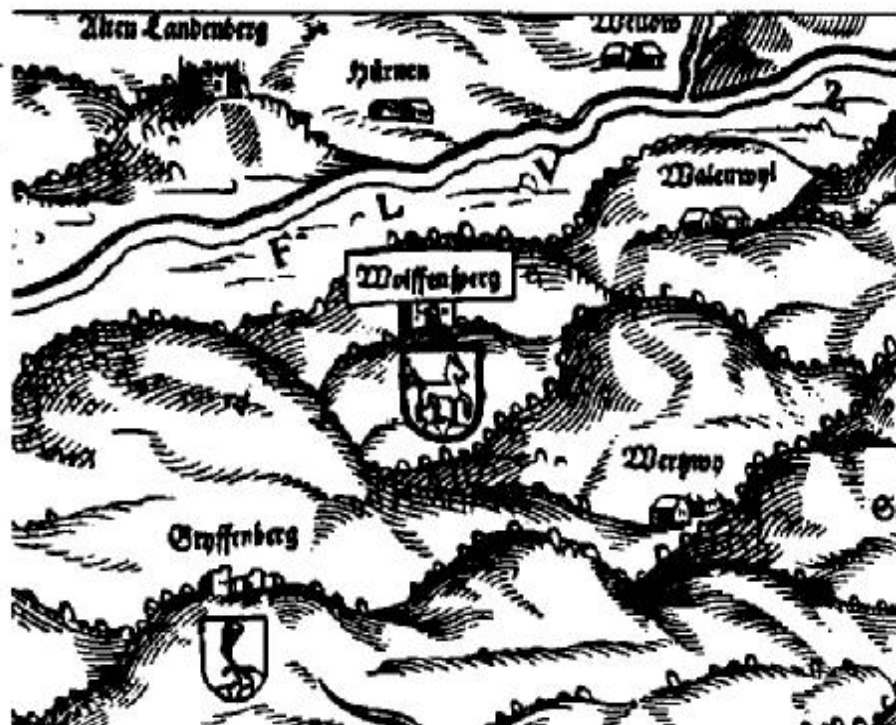
Wolfenbarger

Contact: Dick Gault

P.O. Box 295

Trenton OH 45067

If you plan to attend, remember to bring along photos and family records. It's a time for sharing family histories and making friends.



An historic map of Switzerland's high plateau region northeast of Zurich shows the location of the Wolfens-

berger "castle", medieval home of the family's Swiss forbears. Modern-day Bauma lies a mile or so from the site..

Harold Wolfenbarger, Jr., Prize-Winning Western Artist, Captured Cowboy Spirit Of The Old West

By Bonnie Aspenson

Some years ago, my mother Myrtle Wolfenbarger Braun of Guthrie, OK, corresponded with Mr. Harold A. Wolfenbarger, Sr. of Denver, CO. He was an amateur artist and sent her one of his oil

paintings of a Colorado snow scene. He also sent a biographical pamphlet about his son, Harold A. Wolfenbarger, Jr., who was a professional western artist and had acquired considerable fame. This is a partial text of the pamphlet, apparently written 30 to 40 years ago:

"From the time, when, as a high school student, he won a national cartoon contest, Harold A. Wolfenbarger's life has been devoted to drawing, painting and illustrating. Passionately fond of the West where he was born, he found no reason to leave it, and traveled from Mexico to Montana painting and striking landscapes, the wild animals which still abound in various areas, and the adventurous life of the cowboy with which he has intimate acquaintance. In his beautiful paintings, this artist captures the spirited colors and true atmosphere of the west. His excellent illustrations for historical books and magazine articles has made him internationally known.

Born in Denver, Mr. Wolfenbarger went to school there, graduated from South High School and attended Denver University. He was art editor of the yearbook at both institutions. During summer vacations, he worked as a ranch hand, cowboy and trail rider becoming familiar with this mode of life which makes his paintings of western subjects authentic. Before finishing school his work became so much in demand that his future as an artist was secured at an early age. Except for a period of eighteen months after his high school

graduation when he worked as an apprentice to a leading Denver commercial artist and as a monitor in the Denver Art Institute, he has been a successful professional freelance artist executing commissions for the leading industrial and business firms of Colorado and private individuals.

He had advanced art study at the Art Student's League in New York City, studying under Frank Vincent DuMond.

Mr. Wolfenbarger's career has been long and distinguished. His designs, illustrations and paintings have won national, regional and local awards in both Advertising and Fine Arts. The book, "Matadors of Mexico" by Ann D. Miller of Tucson, Arizona (published by Dale S. King of Tucson, Arizona), which he designed and illustrated, was acclaimed internationally. His paintings hang in many private collections and have been exhibited in many art museums. He was a member of the Denver Artist Guild for many years and served as president of that organization in 1957 and 1958.

"The art philosophy of Mr. Wolfenbarger is summed up in these two wonderful sentences of his: 'The adventure in life is a grand one and for an artist it is so grand that he must give outlet to it that others may feel also the uncontrollable magnetism that brings people to nature for peace and happiness. In my paintings, I hope to create that lingering and haunting beauty of an experience which will never be forgotten as long as there is life.'"

New Members Raise Association Rolls to Near 200

As word spreads, membership in our Wolfenbarger Family Association continues to increase. We now have 195 paid members. Members joining the Association since our last newsletter are:

James R. Edwards, Bedford, TX
Lisa Spargur Flentry, Sunnyvale, CA
Robert E. Geddes, San Jose, CA
Roy D. Harris, Pratt, KS
Judith R. Hughes, Grand Prairie, TX
Sue R. Loeb, Dunkirk, NY
Donna Fay Long, Knoxville, TN
Charollette Lucas, Tulsa, OK
Delores Gene Mathews, Wichita Falls, TX
Helen Fay McCormack, Calico Rock, AR
Francis A Moore, Houston, TX
Carlene Phillips, Hillsboro, OH
Carmin Reed, Bates City, MO
Maurice W. Sparger, Spencer, NC
Jim Spargur, Hill City, SD
Joe Ed Spargur, Moose Lake, MN
Jon L. Spargur, Sr. North Bethesda, MD
Rick Spargur, Costa Mesa, CA
Linda Louise Sutton, Bryan, TX
Loren Braun Tabor, Denver, CO
Nola Wolfenbarger White, San Andreas CA
Gale Wolfenbarger, San Jose, CA
Kenneth L. Wolfenbarger, Jacksonville FL
Loren Wolfenbarger, Milwaukee, OR
Richard A. Wolfenbarger, Tulsa, OK
Markus A. Wolfenbarger, New York, NY
Arville Wolfenbarger, Trenton, IL
Stanley L. Wolfenbarger, Gahanna, OH

Meet Wolfensberger Association Directors

BONNIE BRAUN ASPENSON

Born and raised in Guthrie, Okla.; the daughter of Myrtle Wolfinbarger Braun and Heinz Adolph Braun. Bonnie inherited her interest in the family's genealogy from her mother, a distinguished genealogist. Before Mrs. Braun died in 1988, she intensely researched the family's history. Bonnie later presented her mother's research to Larry Jones.

Bonnie seeks to further her mother's ambition to publish a detailed family history. She attended the Guthrie schools, Christian College in Missouri and the University of Oklahoma.

LARRY JONES

Born in southwestern

Oklahoma, Larry is the son of Luther M. Jones, an automobile dealer, and Nannie Clanton; also the grandson of Nancy Wolfenbarger. He attended schools in Oklahoma City and the University of Oklahoma.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, he returned Oklahoma City to form a construction company. He later joined AT&T in Oklahoma City, where he retired as an engineer in 1990.

Currently he devotes most of his volunteer time to the Wolfensberger Family Association.

MYRNA B. LIDDELL

Born and raised in Idaho, Myrna is the daughter of a Wolfinbarger who has traced her ancestry to the Johannes

Wolfensberger and Anna Margaretha Ensminger. Her paternal line followed the trails south to Grainger County, Tenn., and on to southern Missouri where her grandfather, William Amzy Wolfinbarger, was born.

She is a graduate of Brigham Young University. Today Myrna and her husband own and operate a medical equipment supply company on Whidby Island, Washington, where the couple lives.

IVYLYN SPARGER MARTIN

Born in North Carolina to Walter C. Sparter and Sara Snow, Ivylyn graduated from Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

She retired as the Surry County (N.C.) School Food Service

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Bonnie Braun Aspenson
11205 Leaning Elm Road,
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73120
(405) 751-5491

Lawrence M. Jones, Director
6400 N. Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73132
(405) 721-4383

Myrna Liddell
2747 East Parkwood Drive
Langley, Washington 98260
(360) 321-4798

Ivylyn Martin
4588 West Pine
Mt. Airy, NC 27030
(910) 352-4180

Vernon Osborn,
10123 Caddo Drive,
Magnolia, Texas 77355,
(713) 356-3211

John W. Sparger
188 Locust St.
Marion, Virginia 24345
(703) 783-7570

James E. Spargur
P.O. Box 576
Waynesville, Ohio 45068
(513) 897-7491

Shirley Sutphen
2392 East Miami Road,
Montrose, Colorado 81401
(303) 249-3760

Robert J. Wolfenbarger
30 Harvey Drive
Summit, New Jersey 07901
(908) 273-7631

Wolf Wolfensberger, Ph.D
301 Scottholm Boulevard
Syracuse, New York 13224
(315) 446-2944

WFA Annual Meeting
August 12, 1995
Hillsboro, Ohio
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet Wolfensberger Association Directors

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Director and is a former home economics teacher.

She is married to Ned Martin, a retired dairy farmer and has two children and two grandchildren. Today she enjoys traveling and keeping her grandchildren.

VERNON OSBORN

Born and raised in Bastrop County, Tex., Vernon moved to Houston in 1964 after service in the U.S. Army. Today he is president of Osborn Industries, a subsidiary of Standard Industrial Structures Corp.

Osborn Industries designs, manufactures and installs overhead cranes and material handling equipment.

In his youth, he owned and raced drag racers. Currently he is an active hunter and fisherman.

JOHN W. SPARGER

John was born in Marion, Va., where his father, Haywood Merritt Sparger, moved in 1943 from North Carolina.

He married his next-door neighbor, Rebecca Patterson, and the couple have one son, John Adam.

John graduated from Emory and Henry College and obtained his Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter designations at the University of Pennsylvania.

He is an insurance agent for Northwestern Mutual.

JAMES E. SPARGUR

Born and raised in Highland County, Ohio, James married Jane Ann Pavey in 1968. The couple have a daughter, Lisa Ann Spargur, and now live in Waynesville, Ohio. The family owns and operates the Spargur Insurance Agency, which is an agent for Nationwide Insurance.

James has been active in numerous civic and fraternal and genealogical organizations. He is a member of Southern Ohio, Warren County and Highland County genealogical societies.

He's also a member of the York Rite Masonic Bodies, the Scottish Rite and the Antioch Shrine of Dayton, Ohio.

He was recently named an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

SHIRLEY SUTPHEN

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Shirley retired in 1991 from the U.S. government, where her last position was Chief of the Efficiency Review Team of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She recently completed a genealogy course sponsored by the National Genealogy Society, and has been an active genealogist for ten years.

She is past president of the Fore-Kin Trails Genealogy Society and a member of a dozen other societies and family associations.

In addition, Shirley edits two family newsletters and is currently

an officer of the National Writers Association's local chapter.

Her first family history, *Baker Footprints on Hidden Trails*, was published in 1994.

ROBERT J. WOLFENBARGER

Born in Morristown, N.J., Bob was raised in Homestead, Fla. He is a graduate of Florida State University and New York University's Stern Graduate School of Business.

Following his retirement from the AT&T Corp., he established a public relations consulting firm.

Bob is also a former officer of the N. J. State Board of Education, the National Assn. of State Boards of Education, and the Union County (N.J.) Industrial Pollution Control Financing Authority.

WOLF WOLFENSBERGER, PhD

Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger was born in Mannheim, Germany, and emigrated to the U.S. in 1950.

He graduated from Siena College and St. Louis University, before receiving his PhD in psychology from George Peabody College for Teachers.

A mental retardation research scientist, he is currently a professor of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Syracuse University and Director of the Training Institute for Human Services Planning, Leadership and Change Agency.

Early Texas Hero and Onetime Texas Ranger, Samuel Wolfenberger, Earns Belated Fame



The pantheon of Texas heroes is long and glorious. From the martyred heroes of the

Alamo to Sam Houston and Steven Austin, icons of the Texas War of Independence, history has brought lasting fame to dozens of Texan patriots.

Others, like Samuel Wolfenberger, the great-grandson of John and Anna Margaretha Wolfenberger, linger in the shadows of obscurity, long neglected by Texas historians but a forceful figure in colonial Texas and in the early days of the Republic of Texas.

Only now is the story of Samuel Wolfenberger in the creation of the Texas Republic coming to light, although few contributed more to the welfare of the republic and later State of Texas.

Bastrop marker

Today a simple marker erected to his memory in Bastrop, Texas, says simply that he fought in the 1835-1836 Texas War of Independence battle of Velasco and participated in the capture of the Mexican stronghold of Bexar before joining the precursor of the famed Texas Rangers.

Born in Wytheville, Virginia in 1804, Samuel Wolfenberger left home at 19, a grown man, to begin an eight-year odyssey that would take him westward across six states. In his travels, he learned the skills of a wagonmaker and wheelwright, and later rode to the defense of the

Alamo -- and into the pages of Texas history.

By 1825, Samuel was in Tennessee, engaged in trading with a John Seaver, who historians believe to be John Sevier, one of Tennessee's founders. Later, in Hawkins County, he would meet and marry Caroline Flesheart. She moved westward with him to Texas in 1831 to settle in what is now known as Bastrop County in eastern Texas.

Natural leader

The stocky six-footer was later remembered as a natural leader who inspired the confidence of others due to his courage, judgment and willingness to tackle dangerous tasks. As a wheelwright Samuel found ready employment as well as spare time to take part in colonial Texas' political, military and civic affairs. By 1834, Samuel was prominent enough to be named alcade, or mayor, of the settlement of Mina, today's Bastrop. There, he formed a local unit of the Texas Committee on Safety and Correspondence, a group modeled on American Revolution committees.

Within weeks of the start of hostilities on October 2, 1835 against the repressive Mexican regime, Samuel enlisted in the Mina volunteers in the campaign against Mexican forces in Bexar County. As Santa Anna marched toward San Antonio, Samuel was brought home from the defense of the Alamo to organize a unit of the Texas militia in the Mina area. It is easy to spec-

ulate that perhaps his appointment -- to help recruit Texan volunteers -- spared him from the fate of other Alamo defenders.

Once the Texas War of Independence was won, Samuel joined the Texas Ranging Service, forerunner of the modern Texas Rangers, where he served as a non-commissioned officer. The service had been organized to protect the infant Republic's borders, defend against Indian raiders and enforce the law. In 1837, Samuel served for much of the year as second sergeant in a fort on the Colorado River, deep in Indian territory.

While serving on Texas' western frontier, the people of his community again called him home to higher duties. Summoned home from Coleman's Fort on the Colorado River, Samuel was designated County Coroner for the newly formed Bastrop County. In 1839, he was named county tax collector, and six years later, was appointed to the county government's finance committee.

Set Up Cemetery

As he prospered at home in Bastrop County, Samuel and his family established one of the earliest family cemeteries in Texas. It lies a few hundred yards north of Samuel's original cabin on Walnut Creek, part of the extensive landholdings near modern Bastrop owned by him after the end of the Texas War of Independence.

In the years leading up to his

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William Sylvester Wolfenberger, Oklahoma Justice

Larry Jones wrote this article about Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice William S. Wolfenberger, based on information provided by James Denton Wolfenberger of FT Worth, TX, Jeanette L Kelley of Shreveport, LA and others.

Future Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice William Sylvester Wolfenberger was born in Estellsville, Vir-

ginia, on December 1, 1840. He was one of seven children born to Rueben and Nancy Strange. All of the children were outstanding citizens of their community.

He was the son of Reuben Wolfenberger; the son of Jacob Wolfenberger; the son of Peter Wolfenberger; the son of John Wolfersberger, Jr.; the son of John Wolfersberger born about 1694 in Germany.

William married Katherine Lane on

April 8, 1867 in Scott County, Virginia.

William and Katherine had ten children. Barbara, John, Emerson and Mary, were born in Virginia. Abraham and Wilkeson were born in Tennessee. The remainder of their children, Minnie, Beulah, Hazel and Grover were born in Arkansas.

Admitted to bar

William received his degree at Emory and Henry College in

Abingdon, Virginia, while teaching school. He was admitted to the bar and licensed to practice law in 1875.

After practicing law for several years in Virginia, he moved first to Tennessee, then to Ft Smith, Arkansas in 1884, then he and his family moved to Muskogee, Indian Territory, in 1902.

He practiced law in all the federal and state courts, eventually being selected as one of the first Justices of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

He established his home at 2616 West Okmulgee Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, where he finished raising his family and died at his home on 19 June 1923. He was buried in the Greenhill Cemetery in Muskogee.

William and Katherine were both charter members of the First Methodist Church.

In addition, William was a Mason and Shriner, while Katherine was an active member of the Eastern Star.

Both William and Katherine were active in the church and community, contributing greatly to the development of young Muskogee.

It is interesting to note that William's father as well as his grandfather and great-grandfather both spelled their names as Wolfenbarger.

However, the name engraved on William's gravestone is spelled Wolfenberger as well as some dozen of his descendants. All now spell their names as Wolfenberger.

Texas Hero ...

(Continued from page 6)

death in 1860, Samuel again took time out from his wagon-making trade, contributing time and money to the creation of schools in rural Bastrop County. In August 1854, he was appointed one of three trustees for Bastrop's School District No. 19.

At ceremonies to dedicate a historical marker to his memory in 1972, historian Deed L. Vest, Dean of Students at St. Mary's University, said, "today, we finally recognize Samuel Wolfenberger as one of the great men of Texas history and one of the true benefactors of all those who now inhabit this beautiful state. It should be a long time before his name is forgotten."

Tennessee Historical Society Is Searching For Descendents of State's First Families

In honor of Tennessee's 1996 bicentennial, the East Tennessee Historical Society is seeking to recognize descendents of the state's first families who lived in Tennessee before the state was admitted to the Union in 1796.

To qualify for membership in "First Families of Tennessee", applicants must be able to prove descent from an ancestor who lived in the state before June 1, 1796.

Contact the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville at (615) 544-5732 for additional information.

Join Now!

Register now to join the Wolfensberger Family Association, a not-for-profit organization whose primary purpose is to provide communications of family events, reunions and news of interest to members of the families descended from the Wolfensberger family of Switzerland.



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please circle the name of your family:

WOLFENSBERGER

WOLFINBARGER

WOLFENSBERGER

WOLFENBERGER

WOLFENBARGER

SPARGER

SPARGUR

Or other variations of the family name

Please send check for \$8.00 for a full year's membership in the Wolfensberger Family Association. Make check payable to the Wolfensberger Family Association and mail with completed form to WFA, 6400 N. Ann Arbor Terr., Oklahoma City OK 73132.

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Wolfensberger
WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City OK 73132

Director, **Lawrence M. Jones**
(405) 721-4383



Meet Your Directors, pages 4-5

Want to attend a family reunion this summer? (As a courtesy, first notify the reunion coordinator)

Editor, Robert J. Wolfenbarger
30 Harvey Drive, Summit NJ 07901
Phone: (908) 273-76331. FAX: (908) 273-7738