

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

September 1995, Vol. 1, No. 4

New Gravestone for First Settlers? Help Us Pay For a New Marker

Contributions are now being sought to build a permanent memorial to the first Wolfensbergers, who settled in the American colonies in 1730.

The memorial will be built at the Pennsylvania gravesite of John (Johannes) Wolfensberger and his wife, Anna Margaretha Ensminger.

Originally we considered simply replacing the weathered and unreadable sandstone headstone of Anna Margaretha in the Lutheran Cemetery in Schaefferstown, Pa.

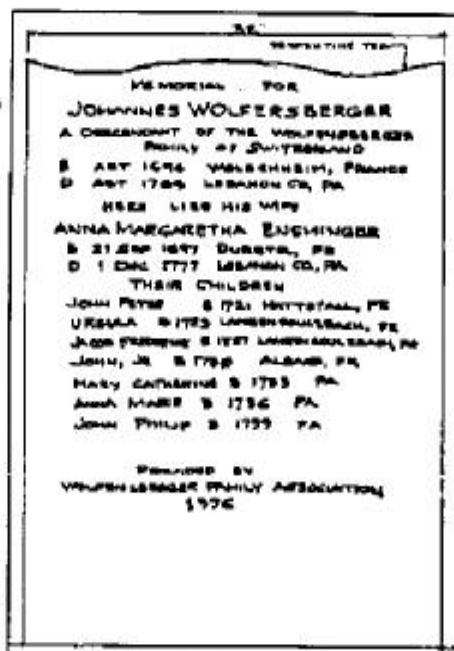
But at the annual meeting of our association, it was suggested we consider a combination memorial stone for John and foot stone for Margaretha.

Two Bids

We've now designed the stone and received two price quotations for stones of Vermont granite. Low bid is \$1,280, including the stones' installation. As we envision it, the memorial stone will be placed five feet from the present sandstone headstone, leaving the weathered stone in place.

The memorial stone for John will be 32" wide by 44" high by 8" thick. Lettering will face the same direction as the lettering on the present stone. The two stones will be set approximately five feet apart.

Currently, we have a total of



This could be the memorial to the first Wolfensbergers who arrived in America in 1730. Donations will replace a weathered sandstone headstone with a permanent granite memorial.

To Contribute, Simply Send a Personal Check

Please make your check payable to the Wolfensberger Family Association.

Send your check to:
Mr. Lawrence M. Jones
6400 N. Ann Arbor Terr.
Oklahoma City OK 73132

If you have questions, please call Larry at (415) 721-4383.

\$417.67 in contributions from 21 different family members, or about \$20 from each contributor.

In order to raise the cost of creating and installing the stones, we need additional support. We would appreciate any contributions to this historic family site.

Appeal To Ensmingers

In addition to this request of Wolfensberger family members, we are planning a direct mail appeal to descendants of the Ensminger family. There is always the possibility that someone might contribute \$500 or \$1,000.

In return for a \$1,500 contribution, we'll place the name of the contributor on the back of the stone.

INSIDE

My Favorite Cousin, Miss Maggie3

Revolutionary Soldier Shortchanged4

Looking For Lost Family Members?.....6

B. J. DeLong Story of Heritage2

B. J. DeLong: Short Story of My Life

(B. J. DeLong is a member of our association as well as her sister, Jeannette, of Shreveport, La., and their nephew, Dr. James Rand of San Antonio. B. J. lives in Jefferson City, Mo. with her husband, Joseph, owner of a steel fabricating company and other businesses.)

I was born Josephine Louise Meyer on October 6, 1923 in Sheridan, Wyoming. My mother was Thelma Louise Backus and my father was William Sylvester Meyer. He was the oldest son of Barbara Wolfenberger, the eldest child of William Sylvester Wolfenberger, later a Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

My father was a World War I veteran who was seriously injured in the war and was being treated at the Veterans Hospital at Sheridan. My mother was a Harvey girl who worked at Sheridan's Harvey House, a chain of restaurants on the Santa Fe Railroad. Two daughters were born to this marriage: Jeannette, born July 9, 1922, and me.

The Santa Fe tracks also ran through Arkansas City, Kans., where my father worked at Beard's Foundry with Grover Hargrove, with whom he later went into the plumbing business. My father's business was housed in a building that had rental rooms above. When my father had to be readmitted to the Veterans hospital, my mother stayed on in Arkansas City, where she worked at the Harvey House and rented a room from G. C.

Hargrove. My sister, Jeannette, moved to live with my father's parents in Mena, Ark.

Since I needed day care and the Hargroves had only one daughter six years older than I, he suggested that his wife, Iva, care for me while my mother worked.

I was 23 months old at the time. My first memory is of feeling so secure in the arms of Grover Hargrove. The Hargroves had cats, dogs, cows, a beautiful rose garden, fruit orchard and a large vegetable garden. I remember spending time out-of-doors following G. C. everywhere.

When I was four, my mother moved to Wichita, Kans., where she became ill. She begged the Hargroves to continue caring for me until she returned. Just before I started kindergarten, the Hargroves tried unsuccessfully to locate my mother.

The Hargroves knew it would be difficult for me to be reared by the Hargroves and carry my real name, so they applied for adoption and decided to change my name to Betty Jo Hargrove.

Family Values

Growing up on the Hargrove's large farm in Severt, Kans., I learned the values of work, honesty, goal setting, responsibility and being part of a team. I was a fairly good student and participated in many activities. Among other things, I was crowned school queen and voted the most likely to succeed in my 1941 high school graduating class. After high school,

I went to Wichita where I attended Wichita Business College and worked at a dress shop as World War II unfolded.

Since this was wartime, I decided I should have my birth certificate. Mom and Dad Hargrove intervened for me, helping to explain my adoption. In Wyoming, we found my original certificate with my real name, Josephine Louise Meyer. At our request, Wyoming issued a second birth certificate. I was now Betty Jo Hargrove.

In Wichita, I met Frederick Joseph DeLong. At the time, he was a foreman but would soon become Superintendent of Cessna Aircraft in Hutchinson. We met in December, were engaged in February and planned to marry in June of 1942.

Picture Like Me

In April, I received a letter at home with a picture of someone who looked very much like me. She wore a queen's gown and a crown. The letter was signed by my sister, Jeannette Meyer, who lived with her grandmother in Arkansas. She had located me through the superintendent of mails of Arkansas City.

My sister and grandmother had been able to find me because they stayed in touch with the wife of a the bookkeeper in Dad's plumbing business. Jeannette also located our real mother (who now called herself Lois) in Sonoma, Cal. The two of them came to Hutchinson to visit us

(Continued on page 6)

She's My Favorite Cousin: Miss Maggie of Irvine, Ky.

By Larry Jones

One of my favorite cousins is Margaret, or "Maggie", Wolfenbarger of Irvine, Kentucky.

Born August 19, 1902, in Wagersville in Estill County, Kentucky, Maggie lived the greater part of her life in the Estill County community of Irvine.

She is the daughter of Peter Abraham Wolfenbarger, born 1862; who was the son of Peter Wolfenbarger, born 1840.

He was the son of Joseph Wolfenbarger, born 1819; who was the son of Peter Amos Wolfenbarger, born 1796.

Peter Amos, in turn, was the son of Peter Wolfenbarger, born 1752; the son of John Wolfenbarger, Jr., born about 1730 in the Alsace region of today's France.

Maggie is one of ten children born to Peter Abraham Wolfenbarger and Susan Parrott. Of these children, the only survivors are Maggie and two sisters, Mary Edwards, born 1896, and Ora Kirby, born 1914.

Climb To School

Maggie went to a small school in Estill County's Barnes Mountain. To reach school, she had to walk -- or more accurately, climb -- 14 miles a day, holding onto rocks along the pathway.

After graduation from high school, Maggie went on to Kentucky's Berea College and Bowling Green University. Her first job was as a teacher at the Harris School on

Barnes Mountain. Later she became the assistant postmaster for Ravenna, Kentucky. She later became postmaster for Ravenna, serving until 1935, and subsequently worked in the sheriff's office.

In 1941, at the suggestion of her brother, Maggie took the political plunge, announcing her candidacy for the office of Estill County Court Clerk.

Prayerful Campaign

Maggie's style of campaigning was unusual, to say the least. In her first campaign, she visited every home in the county. At each house, she'd stop and say a little prayer with each family. For her part, she prayed she'd be able to persuade each voter to vote for her.

The prayers apparently worked. Winning by a landslide in her first campaign, Maggie went on to hold office for four decades until her retirement.

Leaving public office, Maggie worked in her brother's law office for a period of seven years. Overall, Maggie has given over a half century of public service to the people of Estill County.

Currently, Miss Maggie is ambulatory but has all of her faculties.

Everyone in Irvine and Estill County knows and respects Miss Maggie.

I consider it a great honor that I have been able to visit Maggie several times and called her often. Perhaps the reason I love Maggie so much is that she reminds me of my mother in so many ways.

Reports From The 1995 Wolfenbarger Family Reunions

Wolfenbarger-Wolfenbarger Reunion. In this first-ever reunion for this family, 77 people came together in June in Seneca, Mo. Attendees came from Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Oregon, Washington and Texas.

This year's coordinator was Anna Ruth Crabtree. Coordinator at the next reunion in 1997 will be Anna Ruth Crabtree, with assistance by Karen Puckett and Lang Franks.

* * *

Wolfenbarger Reunion. Fifty-one descendants of Huey Wolfenbarger met in Grainger County, Tenn., in June.

Reunion coordinator was Donna Long. Another reunion is planned at the same time and place in 1996.

* * *

Wolfenbarger Reunion. Fifty-one people attended this reunion in Bastrop, Tes., in July. An auction was held to raise money for the maintenance of the Wolfenbarger Cemetery.

This year's reunion coordinator was Vernon Osborn. Next year's coordinator will be Clodie Nell Wyatt.

(If the coordinators of other reunions wish to report news of their reunions, please contact Larry Jones, Association Director, at (405) 721-4383.)

Revolutionary Soldier: Peter Wolfenbarger, Patriarch of The Tennessee Wolfenbargers

By Shirley Sutphen

Peter Wolfenbarger, patriarch of the Tennessee family, served in the American Revolution's waning days while word was getting around about Lord Cornwallis' surrender to George Washington at Yorktown in 1781.

But at the age of 81, his application for a veteran's pension was rejected, apparently due to a classic bureaucratic mixup.

Peter Wolfenbarger was born about 1752 in Pennsylvania, probably in Lebanon County, the son of John Wolfersberger, Jr. and Hannah Summer. Peter is thus the grandson of the original emigrants John

(Johannes) Wolfersberger and Anna Margaretha Ensminger.

By the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Peter Wolfenbarger had moved from Pennsylvania to the Appalachian foothills of Shenandoah County, Virginia.

There he met and married Susanna Miller (daughter of Jacob and Barbara Miller/Mueller) in 1773, and they had the first of their ten small children during the early years of the American Revolution.

Evaded Active Service

As a young father, Peter successfully -- and legally -- evaded active service until the last days of the war.

According to Peter's pension (Va. R11770) application, submitted in 1832 when he was 81, Peter was actually drafted three times into rebel forces, each time for three months' service. The first two times he hired substitutes, an acceptable procedure in Revolutionary War times. It was not unusual for men with responsibilities at home to hire substitutes to serve.

The third time Peter accepted the draft call. He served under a Capt. Darby in Col. John Tipton's Regiment. This must have been in 1781, because while his regiment was marching toward Richmond, Peter learned of Cornwallis' surren-

(Continued on page 5)

How To Reach Your Directors

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

James L. Rand, PhD
23350 South Fork
San Antonio TX 78255
(210) 698-2341

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

Judy Wolfersberger
117 Harvard Ave.
Point Pleasant Beach NJ 08742
(908) 892-0732

Revolutionary Vet Shortchanged In Snarl

(Continued from page 4)

der from a victorious colonial soldier returning from battle.

As a result, Peter was honorably discharged and credited with a full three months' service, although he probably served less time.

In 1790, Peter moved to Greenbrier County, Virginia (now West Virginia). Apparently Peter's wife, Susanna, died at about this time, although it isn't known where she was buried.

On Feb. 27, 1807, Peter married his second wife, Milly Hanson, apparently in Lee County, Virginia. Six years later, Peter lived in Knox County, Tenn. At the time, Knox County included Grainger County and several other counties.

Peter applied for his Revolutionary War pension on August 24, 1832. He signed his application with a mark, meaning he was unable to read or write.

Bureaucracy Steps In

Then the early American bureaucracy stepped in.

Months later, he learned his pension request had been rejected on 17 Dec 1832. The official reason was because the Knox County Clerk did not "use an official seal of office" on the pension request. A review of the original application includes this statement:

"I William Swan, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Said County of Knox and State of Tennessee do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceedings of the said court in the matter of the application of Peter Wolfenbarger for a pension and that the said

Court is a Court Record. In Testimony which I have hereunto set my hand and private seal, having no seal of office at office in Knoxville this 25th Day of August 1832."

As a result, a bureaucratic requirement for an official seal, (apparently one wasn't available), kept 81 year-old Peter Wolfenbarger from drawing his deserved Revolutionary War pension,

It is believed that Peter died in 1834 in Knox County, although his burial site has never been located.

No information is available either about the death and burial of his second wife, Milly, with whom he had six more children.

Many of Peter's 16 children settled in Eastern Tennessee. Most of Peter's descendents spelled their name as Wolfenbarger, including my ancestor, Joseph Wolfenbarger (fourth child of Peter and Susanna).

He married Nancy when the family lived in Lee County, Virginia. Joseph and Nancy ultimately lived in Grainger County.

First Family

Peter and Susanna were the parents of the following children:

Susan, born about 1775 in Woodstock, Shenandoah Co., Va., married Adam Fuel, 12 Apr 1791.

Mary, born about 1776 in Woodstock, married Henry Barnhart, 5 Apr 1795

Elizabeth, born about 1778 in Woodstock, married Samuel Merrit, 9 Mar 1829

Joseph, born 12 Oct 1780, in Shenandoah Co., Va., married Nancy Hackelroad 8

Mar 1807, probably in Lee Co. VA

Jacob, born 10 Oct 1787, married Nancy Sloan

Peter Amos, born 15 Sep 1796, Greenbrier Co., Va., married Nancy Dyer, 19 Dec 1815, Washburn, Tenn.

Barbara, born 1798, married Samuel Merrit, 14 Feb 1814. (Is this the same Samuel Merrit who married Elizabeth?)

Philip, born 1799, Greenbrier County, Va. (now West Virginia)?

Sarah, married Alexander Hinote in Grainger Co., Tenn.?

Rebecca, born about 1802, Greenbrier Co., married Elisha James. ?

Second Family

Peter and second wife Milly were the parents of:

Milly, born about 1814, Lee Co., Va., married William Beeler

Catherine, born 1816, Grainger Co., Tenn., married William McWilliams

Andrew, born 1818, Grainger Co., Tenn., married Dorcas Murphy

Samuel, born 1 Feb 1820, Grainger Co., Tenn., died 16 Jul 1889 in Parker Co., Tex., married Margaret Dugan

Nancy, born 1822, married Matthew Rhodes 2 Aug 1841

Rosanna, born 1825, married Matthew Rhodes 22 Feb 1852. (Is this the same Matthew Rhodes who married Rosanna's sister Nancy nine years earlier?)

Question marks (?) indicate inadequate data.

Know Any Genealogy Software? FAMILY TIES

Know of a good genealogy computer software program? Or know how to customize a program to do one of the following tasks?

Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, a board member and a Syracuse University professor, is looking for a program capable of performing such functions as these:

- Display information on all persons in the database of the same first and last names.
- Print names of all people with the same names by birth date.
- Calculate a death date when

age at death is given in terms of years, months and days and the birth date is known.

- Print names of people born in specified years or dates.
- Draw genealogy charts depicting family relationships automatically.

If you know such a program, contact Wolf at his home:

(315) 446-2944.

And why not write a software review for this newsletter? Contact Bob Wolfenbarger at (908) 273-7631.

Know the parents of Maria Wolfensberger? Born 14 Dec. 1771. Died 16 Jun 1845 in Dickinson Township, Cumberland County, Pa., after marriage to Henry Peffer. Contact Pat Searight, 6117 Calumet Road, Amarillo, TX 79106.

Any information about the parents of Mitaldia J. Wolfenbarger? She was born 29 Dec 1840 in Tenn., and died on 1 Sep 1905. Contact Gail Gardner 2948 Viewpoint Road, Alexandria, VA 22314.

B.J. DeLong: Short Story of My Life

(Continued from page 2)

the day after our marriage, June 27 1942.

It was a great reunion. We were amazed how much we favored each other, and our mother cried when she realized what young women we had become.

Joe and I moved to Jefferson City, Mo., his home town, in November 1944. There he launched DeLong's, Inc., a steel fabricating business. Between 1950 and 1955 we had three children. F. Joe, Jr. is now an attorney and President of DeLong's., Mozelle is also an attorney and chairperson of the board of Metal Culverts, Inc., another business we passed along. Our youngest son, Gregory Grover, with a masters in finance, is now a partner and representative of Edward D. Jones of Springfield, Mo.

Joe and I have been married 53 years and have eight grandchildren.

Joe is still chairman of the board of DeLong's Inc. and I am corporate secretary.

We spend four months in Florida where we play a great deal of bridge. I still play golf both in Missouri and in Florida.

Finding My People

Through my mother and sister, I began to find out about my "real" people. I had always wondered and Mom and Dad were great about telling me as much as they knew. They also encouraged me to get to know as many relatives as possible. Very soon I visited Jeannette in Mena and met grandmother Meyer.

My father at this time was in a VA hospital in San Francisco. He called Joe and I and sent me a letter shortly after we were married. It was my first and only conversation with my father. He died in the hospital at 57 in November, 1951.

Through information I received

through these family connections, I ultimately met my father's brother, Tony, who visited us in Jefferson City. I also met my father's sisters, Jeannette and Elizabeth. We have had many visits with Lois and her husband Pete in Sonoma.

One of the most delightful individuals that I visited was my great aunt Hazel Wolfenberger. She was grandmother Meyers' youngest sister. She never married and lived in the family's home in Muskogee, Okla.

Hazel gave me lots of historical data and put me in touch with Col. Joe and Mary Wolfenberger of Hutchinson, and Myrtle Braun, of Guthrie, Okla.

Jeannette Kelly, my sister lives in Shreveport, La. Both our parents are now deceased. Mom and Dad Hargrove are also deceased. Bernice, my foster sister, is now almost 78 and lives alone in the family home in Arkansas City.

This newsletter is also being mailed to over 300 family descendants that are not now members of the Wolfensberger Family Association and this letter is addressed to them.

For many years I had hoped that there would be a family association for our family and any of the descendants of the Wolfensberger family of Switzerland. This family name now has many variations in the spelling of its name. A few of these spelling variations were made in Switzerland, some in the Alsace, but mostly in America. Some of the spelling variations are Wolfenbarger, Wolfenberger, Wolfinbarger, Wolfinberger, Wolfersberger, Wolfersperger, Sparger and Spargur.

During the last three months of 1994 I started the organization of this the Wolfensberger Family Association by selecting a Board of Directors, drafting the proposed guide lines for the association and getting a mailing list of persons to invite as members of the association. There are now over 250 members in our association. I was selected as the executive director of the association which is a full time volunteer position. I receive no monetary compensation and spend a lot of my money in support of the association, yet it is a job that I enjoy.

The purpose of this organization is to provide a communication between all members of the association with ancient family history, more recent history and current happenings within our family such as reunions and deaths through a newsletter that is published quarterly.

It is requested that all new members provide at least three generations of their ancestors so that your family may be tied in to the total family. Your family information will then be placed in my computer. Every effort is then made to provide one person in each family with a pedigree chart and a descendency chart when desired. No charges are made for this extra service, however a contribution to the project fund would be accepted. All members are invited to provide a portion of their family history that may be used in the newsletter.

The fee for membership in the association is \$8.00 per calendar year. This membership fee is used in its entirety in support of the association. The association does have a project fund where any person may make a contribution. This fund will be used entirely on projects. Our first project will be the grave stone at the grave of Anna Margaretha Ensminger Wolfensberger in Schaefferstown, PA. This stone will also be a memorial to the patriarch of most of the descendants of the Wolfensberger family in America, Johannes Wolfensberger, the spouse of Anna Margaretha.

All of the persons receiving this newsletter that are not a member of the Wolfensberger Family Association are invited to become members. As stated above the yearly membership is \$8.00 per calendar year. All new members will receive free a five color embroidered cloth family badge. This badge is patterned after the Family Coat of Arms. All persons interested in their family history should have these other three newsletters. It is hoped that all new members would join for both 1995 and 1996 which would be a total of \$16.00. An application blank is in this newsletter. In filling it out be sure to indicate if your membership is for 1995 and/or 1996. Those indicating 1995 only will receive the other three 1995 newsletters. Those indicating only 1996 will receive the four 1996 newsletters quarterly. Those indicating both 1995 and 1996 will receive the other three 1995 newsletters and the four quarterly 1996 newsletters when published.

Sincerely, Lawrence (Larry) M. Jones



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

WOLFENBARGER

WOLFENSPERGER

WOLFENBERGER

WOLFENBARGER

SPARGER

SPARGUR

Or other variations of the family name

Membership for 1995 ___ and/or 1996 ___

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.

Page 8

Wolfensberger
WOLFENBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WOLFENBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace

Oklahoma City OK 73132

Director, Lawrence M. Jones

(405) 721-4383



Revolutionary.

Want to find a lost family member? Try "Family Ties", a new column beginning this issue. We'll print your query.

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