

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

January 1996, Vol. 2, No. 1

28 MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE TO STONE FOR FIRST WOLFENSBERGERS' GRAVES

As of 9 November our contribution fund for a permanent memorial to the first Wolfensbergers stood at \$791.67. That leaves us about \$500 short of having enough for the stone in the Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania, cemetery. You will notice how that fund has grown in the past quarter. I wish to thank all of you that have made a contribution. These contributions were made by 28 members, who gave almost \$30 each.

Here's How To Contribute

Please make check payable to the Wolfensberger Family Association and mail it to:

**Wolfensberger Family Association
6400 N. Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73132**

If you have questions, call Larry Jones in Oklahoma City at (405) 721-4383.

To complete the drive, we need at least 20 more persons to contribute an average of \$30, or five willing to contribute \$100. Two members have already contributed \$100 to the fund.

Many members are giving our association membership to their children, their parents and cousins. You might consider adding some of your family members to the membership.

Remember all memberships are on a calendar year basis. That means that, as of December 31, 1995, all memberships expire. Regardless of when a person became a member in 1995, their membership

expires on 31 December 1995. Regardless of when they joined, however, every new member received all four quarterly newsletters for 1995. For those persons receiving this newsletter who are not members, it would be well worth another \$8 for copies of the 1995 *Wolfensberger* newsletters.

When we started the Wolfensberger Family Association no one knew how many members we would have after one year. My highest hope was for 200.

As of November 9, 1995, the association had 258 members. *It is now time to renew your membership.* I have received many letters from you the members saying how much you have enjoyed the newsletters.

These newsletters are the life blood of our association and Bob Wolfensberger, your editor is the biggest reason for them being so well received.

Larry Jones

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The Way West: By Covered Wagon From Oklahoma to Western Colorado

T*The following is based on reminiscences by Ola Wolfenbarger and the late Dr. D. O.*

Wolfenbarger, sons of Peter and Susie Wolfenbarger, about their travels from 1914 to 1915 by covered wagon from northeastern Oklahoma to Hotchkiss, in western Colorado.

"It was the late spring of 1914 when the doctor told my father he probably would not live unless he did something about it. The doctor told him to sell everything and get a wagon and some good horses and live outdoors for a few years.

"My mother's insistence that we move was so strong that it motivated my grandmother, three aunts, two uncles and two cousins to form the traveling group. Three canvas-covered wagons and a total of 14 men, women and children made up the caravan. Railroads at the time were inconvenient and impractical.

"The day we left Oklahoma was a happy day for all of us. We were glad to be leaving Oklahoma because it seemed we kids caught every disease that came around.

"First stop was Coffeyville, Kansas. My mother's sister lived in Coffeyville, which was just over the state line in Kansas. We stayed there a couple of days visiting. There, our cousin took both of us to a movie, the first one we had ever seen. It was very striking for us Oklahoma Sooners to see men and other things moving on a theater wall.

"It was striking, too, for us to

see the treeless areas of Kansas. The hills had disappeared. The flat areas were covered with short grass. Roads ran straight, without curves. Mile after mile of the country was flat-grass covered, without running streams.

"We passed through Wichita, Kingman, Pratt and Dodge City. Then someone suggested proceeding to Garden City, where there was a sugar factory and where some of us could find work. We put up in Garden City for the winter, where our father rented a dugout, a house with about one-half its height under ground.

"There, Ola came down with smallpox and a life-threatening high fever. There, too, the school age children attended school in the winter. We saw some differences between our Oklahoma schools and the Garden City schools. The Sooner schools we attended were small, one-room affairs with one teacher, where each student learned from the lessons of more advanced classes. In Garden City, the classes were separated, where the children in the room all had the same lesson.

Spring Arrived

"When spring arrived with warmer weather, we formed up the caravan again and continued our journey to western Colorado. As we traveled west, the blue haze of the distant mountains soon gave way to clearly visible rock formations. We traveled down a rocky gorge along the river. In some places the gorge was tight. In oth-

ers the river was wider and made room for a country store, dwelling and small farms.

"As we headed west, we were climbing rather steadily, increasing our altitude. Fortunately, there was no wagon trouble and no harness broken on the trip. After passing through Lamar, Colorado, we camped one night close to a small town. During the night there was a lot of shooting, yelling and carrying-on, so the folks were kind of worried. The next town was Vineland, a little town east of Pueblo. Very soon we moved on up into the mountains west of Canon City.

"Before we reached Salida, our mother complained she couldn't breathe and get enough oxygen. We turned around and returned to Vineland. The other two wagons went on to Salida and waited there for us. When we thought Mother could withstand the high altitude, we caught up with the other wagons, then crossed Monarch Pass, 11,312 feet high. This was in August, but in the higher elevations, snow still remained on the ground.

In the clear, dry air, we could see for miles, east and west. We enjoyed the drive from Salida to Gunnison. We followed the Gunnison River for a distance, then took a narrow road along the side of Black Mesa. It was a poor road whose outer edge in places was only inches from the edge of the cliff over what is now the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Below us a thou-

(Continued on page 3)

Death Claims Family Historian, 5 Others

with find
Sarah Virginia Perkins Wolfersberger. Born 1925 in Sutton, VA, died December 1994 in Orange Park, FL. Virginia is survived by her husband, Harry James Wolfersberger, and son, Harry Kent Wolfersberger, both of Orange Park, FL. Harry is a descendant of Rev. Johnathan Wolfersberger, who came to America in the early 1840s from the Baden-Baden area of Germany. Virginia was probably the most knowledgeable person in that family about their family's history.

with find
William Dale Spargur. Born 24 Sep 1923 in Grant County, MO, died in Edmonds, WA 29 Jan 1995. William's great grand father was John Carson Wolfer Spargur born 25 Feb 1814 in Highland County, OH. Survivors include wife Cherie, sisters Esther May Spargur and Thelma O'Donnell of Vancouver, WA. William was a member of our association.

with find
Velma Wolfenberger Shirley. Died at age 90 of Manchaca, TX, on 16 Sep 1995. She is survived by a son Nolan Murchison of Manchaca, TX; daughters Dorothy Davis of Granbury, TX, and Lois Smith of Little River, TX; brother Frank Wolfenberger of Bastrop, TX, and Georgia Mancure, also of Bastrop.

with find
Daniel Otis Wolfenberger, Ph.D. Born 22 June 1904 in Ottawa County, OK, died 23 November 1995 in Homestead, FL. Dr. Wolfenberger was the father of our newsletter editor, Robert J. Wolfenberger of Summit, NJ, as well as Dan Wolfenberger of Brownsville, TX, and Mary Ann Campbell of Newark, DE. (See article, page 2)

with find
Jimmie Phil Wolfenberger. Born 19 June 1925 in AR, died 5 Nov 1995 in Oklahoma City. He was a descendant of Benjamin

Wolfenberger who died in Wythe County, VA. He was an electrical contractor in Bethany, OK. Jimmie is survived by a son, Phil, of Bethany, OK; a brother, Claud, a sister, Lexie Nolan, both of Oklahoma City and a sister, Mable Massey, of TX.

with find
Lucille Wolfenberger. Born 21 Feb 1921 in Cyril, OK, died 9 Nov 1995 in Oklahoma City. Survivors include nieces and nephews. She was a first cousin of Jimmie Phil Wolfenberger and was also a descendant of Benjamin Wolfenberger who died in Wythe County, VA, about 1812.

77 Attend Wilkinson-Wolfenberger Reunion

Seventy-seven descendants of Alexander Wilkinson and wife Elizabeth Frances Wolfenberger and friends gathered on September 10, 1995, for the 90th reunion of that family. The reunion was held at the Women's Building at Lake Tapawingo, Blue Springs, MO.

Three of the original 26 grandchildren of Alexander and Elizabeth were present, including Olen and Ralph Wilkinson of Blue Springs and Carmin Dean Reed of Bates City, MO.

Hosting the affair were William Wilkerson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilkerson of Lone Jack, MO and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Adams of Oak Grove, MO.

Hosting the reunion next year on September 8, 1996, will be Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stokes of Blue

(Continued on page 4)

The Way West To Colorado...

(Continued from page 2)

sand feet or so roared the Gunnison River.

"I'll never forget that day. The Gunnison River and the railroad track at the bottom seemed miles below us in the canyon. The road, I am sure, was made with a pick and shovel. It was just a few inches wider than the wagon wheels. It was scary. I was scared and so was Mother, but she took the reins in her hands and started out with the rest of the wagons along the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. We

inched along for miles until we came to the margin of Black Mesa and began our descent through breaks in the mountain.

"A few miles ahead lay our destination: Hotchkiss. By this time, we had run out of both money and food. Since we were in a forested area of the mesa, my father went out hunting and brought back a porcupine, which we dressed, cooked and ate. With day, we rolled out of camp one last time, making Hotchkiss by the end of day.

WFA Board Pledges Gravesite Ceremony

77 Attend Wilkinson-Wolfenbarger Reunion

(Continued from page 3)

Springs, and Mrs. Harold Reed of Bates City, MO.

The business meeting was conducted by president, Olen Wilkinson, the present officers were re-elected: Olen Wilkinson, President and Carolyn Banks, Secretary-Treasurer.

Money was donated to purchase a head stone for the grave of James Stanley Wilkinson, father of Alexander Wilkinson.

Elizabeth Wolfenbarger was the daughter of John R. Wolfenbarger, born 1815 WV; son of Philip Wolfersberger, born 1761, PA; son of John Wolfersberger, Jr., born 1730 in the Alsace.

The Board of Directors of the Wolfensberger Family Association met by conference call on Saturday, December 2, 1995, to review the organization's operations.

Among other actions, the Board unanimously approved a change in the title of the association's unpaid volunteer administrator, Larry Jones. The change makes Jones the Association's Executive Director.

The board also agreed upon an unveiling ceremony, open to family members, for a memorial stone at the Schaefferstown, PA, graves of the first Wolfensberger family members to come to the United States. When funds to create and erect the stone are available, the ceremony will be announced in this newsletter to give interested family members an opportunity to attend.

The board is investigating the feasibility of aerial photography to discover the site of the original Wolfensberger family castle in Switzerland.

Executive Directory Larry Jones reported to the board that all Association memberships expire automatically on December 31, 1995. Regardless of when members join, the Association sends them four issues of this newsletter, whose cost is the association's largest expense. Notification of the membership expiration will be included in this newsletter.

Jones also discussed the publication schedule of this newsletter, asking board approval of a timetable that would deliver issues to the membership by the 20th of January, April, July and October of 1996.

How To Reach Your Directors

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Meet The New Association Members!

*Association Membership Continues To Grow,
Reaching 258 Members in November 1995.
Now It's Time To Renew Membership For 1996.*

A - C

Verda Atkinson (Spargur)	Indianapolis, IN
Amy Jo Baker (Wolfenberger)	San Antonio, TX
Roxanne Bohman (Wolfenberger)	Houston, TX
Jeffrey Brown (Sparger)	Mesa, AZ
Mary Ann Campbell (Wolfenberger)	Hillside Hts, DE
Mildred Cobb (Wolfenberger)	Irvine, KY
Billie Plumlee Cox (Wolfenberger)	Cincinnati, OH

D - F

Sue Davidson (Wolfenberger)	Weatherford, TX
Kenne Ellis (Spargur)	Oakdale, CA
Kelly Franks (Wolfenberger)	Neosho, MO
Lang Franks (Wolfenberger)	Neosho, MO
Mary Frazier (Wolfenberger)	Lake Elsinor, CA
Juanita Frye (Wolfenberger)	Washburn, TN

H - K

Adah Hennick (Wolfenberger)	Neosho, MO
Arlene Idol (Wolfenberger)	Washburn, TN
Sara Jeschke (Wolfersberger)	Winchester, VA
Karin Lee Jones (Wolfersberger)	Bellevue, WA
Nancy Kriminger (Spargur)	Seal Beach, CA
Annette Kulesza (Spargur)	Rapid City, SD

L - R

Darlene Laughlin (Wolfenberger)	Stella, MO
Cindy Kelley Marshall (Wolfenberger)	Alpharetta, GA
Esther Overby (Spargur)	Seattle, WA
Todd L. Powell (Wolfenberger)	Springfield, MO
Goldie Ramos (Wolfenberger)	Sacramento, CA
Barbara M. Rand (Wolfenberger)	Fort Worth, TX
Janette Reynolds (Wolfenberger)	Oak Grove, AR
Judith Ross (Spargur)	Macon, GA

Sparger

Johnathan Sparger	Bristol, VA
Christopher Sparger	Bellflower, CA

Earl W. Spargur	Yukon, OK
Jon L. Spargur, Sr.	N. Bethesda, MD
Marvin H. Sudduth (Wolfenberger)	Oak Grove, MO
Kathryn Sweet (Wolfenberger)	Sierra Vista, AZ

T - W

Heidi Ann Maple Thorpe (Wolfenberger)	Milton-Freewater, OR	
Frank Tipton (Wolfenberger)		Neosho, MO
Esther Walter (Wolfersberger)		Allenspark, CO
Tinsley Wert (Sparger)		Baldwin City, KS
Bill Wilkinson (Wolfenberger)		Lone Jack, MO
Larry Wilkinson (Wolfenberger)		Memphis, TN
Olen Wilkinson (Wolfenberger)		Blue Springs, MO
Ralph Wilkinson (Wolfenberger)		Blue Springs, MO

Wolfenberger - Wolfenberger

Bruce Wolfenberger	Cedartown, GA
David Lee Wolfenberger	Tahlequah, OK
Eric P. Wolfenberger	Woodhaven, MI
Hugie Wolfenberger	Romulus, MI
Teddy Joe Wolfenberger	Fort Worth, TX
Vernon Wolfenberger	Monroe, MI
Boone F. Wolfenberger, Jr.	Arlington, TX

Wolfensberger

Stefan Wolfensberger, Ph.D.	Brussels, Belgium
Robert Stephen Wolfersberger	Saint Louis, MO
Stanley J. Wolfersberger	Gahanna, OH

Wolfenberger

Edford Wolfenberger	Irvine, KY
Frank Wolfenberger	Wyandotte, OK
Gary Wolfenberger	Neosho, MO
Samuel Wolfenberger	Lee's Summit, MO

Memories From A Famous Family Historian: George Wolfersberger

by Larry Jones

George Wolfersberger was one of our family's best genealogists. Much of his research was done while he was an employee of the Ford Motor Company in Detroit. This article pays tribute to a man who worked for many years to research his family history.

Probably his biggest disappointment was not being able to successfully research his family in Europe, although he wrote many letters to Europe in this effort. George knew that his great grandfather, Martin, came to America from the area of Hertzviller in the Moselle River region of France.

Hertzviller is about 48 km (30 miles) from Strasbourg. George was born 2 October 1919 near Mascoutah, Illinois to Julius Wolfersberger and Elizabeth Laquet and died 24 June 1992 in Ironton, Missouri, and buried in the Mascoutah, Illinois Cemetery. George married Aquina Dantzer and to this marriage a son Charles and a daughter Anne was born.

I spent some time researching this family while I was in France in 1994, but with no success. The International Genealogical Index as published by the LDS Church has some information on the Wolfersberger family in the area of Hertzviller, France. This information appears to be correct and is found in Library Call #1553302, Batch # 2360275, Sheets 8 and 23.

This IGI information shows a Martin Wolfersberger born in 1800 in Hertzviller, Moselle, France whose father was Charles, born about 1780 in Hertzviller, whose father Martin, born about 1757 in Hertzviller, whose father George, born about 1735 in Hertzviller. Before these persons and dates can be taken as fact there needs to be further investigation.

George had one son, Charles, that is an engineer in Saint Louis, MO. It is through Charles that I have obtained the information for this article.

Exerpts of the paper by George Wolfersberger is as follows:

"Martin Wolfersberger, his wife Katherine Sherrer and a five year old son, Franz, came from Lorraine to America in the year 1843. They entered this country at New Orleans and came up the Mississippi River on a flatboat to St. Louis, Missouri. First they settled in French Village, Illinois, then moved to a farm two miles north of Mascoutah, Illinois in Saint Clair County. Martin was born in January 1800 in Hertzviller, France and died 27 February 1860. Katherine died in 1880. Both are buried in the old Catholic Cemetery two miles west of Mascoutah, Illinois.

"Katherine had a brother that came to Saint Clair County four years previously. Undoubtedly he influenced his sister and her husband to leave Europe and come to America.

"Martin and Katherine had the

following children: Franz, born December 1838 in Hertzviller, France, died March 1870; Michael, born January 1844, died 23 October 1911; Christina, born May 1849, died February 1903; Joseph, born April 1850, died January 1882; Caroline, born 1854, died 1944; Lillian, no information.

"Franz married Elizabeth Huling. He died at the age of 32 with small pox. Apparently they had two children Christine, born 1865 and Marcel, born 1867. These children are listed in the 1870 census. After the death of Franz his widow married a man named Boehm who had two children by a previous marriage. They moved to California.

"Michael married Louisa Braun who was born in Stuttgart, Germany who came to America with her parents. Louis was three years old when her mother died in New Orleans due to an epidemic. Her father took her to Saint Louis where he died when she was eleven years old also due to small pox. A family named Seifert raised Louisa. Michael and Louisa had nine children who were Frank; Julius, born 4 June 1870., died 29 June 1944; Anna; Emil; Mary; August; Otto; Ottilie and Lucy.

"Christina married Nicholas Poirot of Belleville, Illinois. Their children were Louisa, Carolina, Edmund, Anna, Otto, Raymond, Walter, Adolph, Oscar and Edna.

"Joseph married Margaret Hopfinger. He died at the age of 32

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Anyone Know Of This Sparger Family?

(Continued from page 6)

due to small pox. They had three children Ida, Isidor and Matilda.

"Caroline married August Staub. They had three children Herbert, Edmund and Tinna. Caroline then married Julius Christ and they had six children, Erwin, Oliver, Lorraine, Edward, Henry and Lawrence.

"Lillian married Anton Jung of Murphysboro, Illinois. They had five children Minnie, August, Anton, Sigmund and Julius.

"Julius, the son of Michael and Louisa, married Elizabeth Laquet and they had six children, the youngest was George, born 2 October 1919 in Mascoutah, Illinois.

A Final Note

"This is the last revision that I will ever make of the Wolfersberger family history. It began in 1954 and is ending in 1984.

"I can feel the chill wind of the autumn of my life, and watch the leaves slowly drifting to the ground, from which they came.

"I have spent countless hundreds of hours on this history, hours which I perhaps should have spent with my wife and children when they were young.

"There were many trips to libraries in Chicago, Jackson, Ohio and to the downtown libraries of Detroit. I have spent many hours visiting and talking to different people, some of which I never knew before.

"I have stood by the graves of many people that once had the name of Wolfersberger. At least one* family member fought in the

Revolutionary War. That trip alone cost me a week out of my life - and I shed tears when I stood there at his burial site. We were not related in this country, but we did have one thing in common. A name.

"I have derived much pleasure and a grand sense of accomplishment for the past 30 years, and now it has come to an end.

I met two brothers** in the late 50s who came to America for a visit. They came from Switzerland to Detroit and I found them after searching for three days in the downtown hotels. Can you imagine how I felt when I met these men - our families have been apart since the 1500s, when my ancestor left that country and migrated to Lorraine.

I only ask two things. Keep this history for your generations to come, and keep up making additions to the history as new ones are born.

Even as I write this, new children are being born, and some of the others are preparing to leave this world. A family history is never complete.

George Wolfersberger
December 12, 1984

*This Revolutionary War figure was John Philip Wolfersberger, born 14 February 1739 in Lebanon County, PA, died and is buried in the cemetery at the Reformed Lutheran Church in Campbellstown, PA. He was a colonel in George Washington's army.

** Heini and Robert Wolfersberger, of Bauma, Switzerland.

I have a copy of this 14 page

Over the past year I have received several requests for information concerning a Sparger family without an apparent connection to our Sparger family. All of the Sparger or Spargur families that I have heard of were of our family.

Two inquiries have come from members of our association. They are Earline Bailey Cross of 1240 W. Cheryl Ave, Hurst, TX 76053 and Marietta Stallard of 2723 Seneca Hollow Road, Elliston, VA 24087.

Their research shows the 1860 census for Walker County, Georgia lists a Samuel Sparger age 48, farmer, born in VA, died 12 Jan 1893 in Colleyville, Tarrant, TX and buried in the Smithfield Cemetery, Tarrant County, TX. His spouse was Susan (last name unknown). Their oldest son was Harvey Richard Sparger, born 16 Oct 1833 in Marion County, TN. He died 15 Feb 1914 and is buried in the Smithfield Cemetery, Tarrant County, TX. Harvey Richard spouse was Mary Ann Hamilton.

Any one having information on the parents of this Samuel Sparger should contact one of the two persons listed above or Larry Jones.

history as written by George Wolfersberger. If anyone wants a copy of this history, please send a \$5.00 check to the Wolfersberger Family Association to cover postage and handling.

If you wish to contact George's son, write

Charles Wolfersberger,
34 N. Maple
Ferguson, MO 63135

Register Now for 1996!

This not-for-profit association was formed for the purpose of providing communications about family events, reunions, queries, obituaries, family histories and news of interest to families descended from the Wolfensberger family of Switzerland.

All association memberships expired at the end of 1995. All received a family badge and four newsletters, regardless of when they registered.

To register for 1996, simply fill out this form

Name _____
Address _____

Telephone _____

I want to join the WFA in 1996
I want all 1995 WFA newsletters at \$8

Please send check for \$8.00 for a full year's membership in the Wolfensberger Family Association. Make check payable to the

and return it with a check for \$8 per person per year to the address at the bottom of the form. New members will receive a free six-color embroidered family badge.

The 1996 registration fee will cover the cost of four family newsletters. Those registering before March 31, 1996 will be listed as a first quarter registrant; later registrants will become members by the quarter in which they join.

Please circle the name of your family:

WOLFENSBERGER WOLFENBARGER
WOLFERSBERGER WOLFENBARGER
WOLFERSPERGER WOLFENBERGER
SPARGER

SPARGUR
or other variations of the family names

Wolfensberger Family Association and mail with completed form to WFA,
6400 N. Ann Arbor Terr., Oklahoma City OK 73132.

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Wolfensberger
A Not-For-Profit Association - 5530147 - U.S. E.I.P.P.

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City OK 73132
Executive Director, Lawrence M. Jones
(405) 721-4383



Family Ties: Anyone Know of a Samuel Sparger Family?
See page 7 for details.

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