

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

July 1998 Vol 2 No 3

FAMILY MEMBERS DEDICATE MEMORIAL STONE TO SWISS COUPLE WHO EMIGRATED TO COLONIES IN 1730 VOYAGE

6 The Daily News, Lebanon, Pa., Tuesday, May 26, 1998

LOCAL

Tribute... Wolfersbergers dedicate memorial to ancestors

By JOHN FRASER
For The Daily News
SCHAFFERSTOWN — De-

... a Swiss soldier was

passenger of first ship on its
voyage across the Atlantic. De-
whatever the circumstances, De-

Nearly 20 descendants of John and Anna Margaretha Wolfersberger gathered at the Schaefferstown, Pa., Lutheran Cemetery on Memorial Day to pay tribute to the Swiss immigrant couple who came to America over 260 years ago to start a new life.

On the grounds of the Lutheran Church the couple helped establish, the descendants dedicated a simple granite memorial stone to the Wolfersbergers, who migrated with their young family to the rolling hills of central Pennsylvania in the summer of 1730.

The memorial stone paid tribute to the Wolfersbergers and their seven children, from whom most members of the Wolfensberger Family Association descend. Four of the children were born in the Alsace before the 1730 voyage to the New World. Three other offspring were born in Lebanon County, east of Pennsylvania's state capital, Harrisburg.

The youngest son, John Philip, born in 1739, went on to make a name for his family as a citizen-soldier. As a teenager, John Phillip joined a Pennsylvania battalion formed in the French and Indian War. He marched into western Pennsylvania to aid the relief of Fort Pitt, under attack by the French and their Indian allies.

Later in the American Revolution, the French and Indian War veteran rose to lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army, taking part in battles against the British in Long Island and elsewhere.

After the Revolution, John Philip held various public offices. His son, Frederick, continued the family tradition of public service, serving as sheriff of nearby Dauphin County in Pennsylvania in the early 19th Century.

The Wolfersbergers' memorial stone, financed by contributions from two dozen family members, was dedicated to the memory of the family in a simple graveside

The Daily News of Lebanon, Pa., gave the dedication ceremony a prominent place in its May 28 edition. A half-page story with picture of Frank and Sandra Wolfensberger, Campbelltown, told of the Wolfensberger history and the family's memorial.

ceremony on Memorial Day. It rests next to an original stone, now weathered and worn with age, placed at the grave of Anna Margaretha in 1777.

Although there is no grave stone for John, he is believed to rest next to Anna Margaretha.

Officiating at the ceremony was the Rev. Larry Bergh, pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in which the Wolfensbergers were active members until their deaths.

Following the ceremony, the family members accompanied Executive Director Larry Jones to a cemetery in nearby Campbelltown, only miles from Hershey, where the graves of some 35 other members of the family are located.

SEE PICTURES, NEXT PAGE

List of 1996 Association Memberships: Are Your Family Members On The List?

Membership of the Wolfensberger Family Association on June 14 stood at 229 family members. The current membership includes:

A-E

Ruth Dyer Adams, Julietta, ID
Helen Z Alvord, Edinburg, TX
Sarah Arbon, Mesa, AZ
David Ash, Spring, TX
Bonnie Aspenson, Okla City, OK
Verde Atkinson, Indianapolis, IN
Elizabeth Beard, Houston, TX
Lavene Bell, Bellevue, WA
Marian D Bielski, Jefferson City, MO
Lynn Bingham, Jerome, ID
Cindy Spargur Blevins, Casper, WY
Roxanne Bohman, Houston, TX
Mildred Booth, Miami, OK
Ruby Braden, Eagle Lake, TX
Katherine Bradley, Chickamauga, GA
Norma Brake, Springfield, MO
Eleanor Brasseaux, Bay City, TX
Jeffery N Brown, Mesa, AZ
Paul Brown, Warner Robins, GA
Mary Ann Campbell, Newark, DE
Mildred Cobb, Irvine, KY
Regina Coble, Pasadena, TX
Tamara Cowan, Lopez Island, WA
Billie Plumlee Cox, Cincinnati, OH
Anna Ruth Crabtree, Neosho, MO
Albert Cressy, Normal, IL
Earline Cross, Hurst, TX
Sue Davidson, Weatherford, TX
Betty Jo DeLong, Jefferson City, MO
Joe F DeLong III, Jefferson City, MO
Gregory G DeLong, Springfield, MO
Alma Durham, Irvine, KY

E-J

Mary Edwards, Irvine, KY
James Edwards, San Angelo, TX
Kenne Spargur Ellis, Oakdale, CA
Nita Fennessy, Conroe, TX
Lisa Spargur Flenry, Sunnyvale, CA
Teresa Forster, Maryville, TN
Mary Frazier, Lake Elsinore, CA
Gail Gardner, Alexandria, VA
Marval Spargur Geddes, Redding, CA
Robert Geddes, San Jose, CA
Kahlia Jo Gilliland, Geneva, IL
Alfred Hamil, Ft. Gibson, OK
Roy Harris, Pratt, KS
Peggy W Heiderich, Menomonee, WI
Dorothy Higbee, Norman, OK
James R Hinote, Ava, MO
Cynthia Howard, Tulsa, OK

Opal Howerton, Boise, ID
Judith Hughes, Grand Prairie, TX
Anna Maye Ingram, Grove, OK
Sara A H Jeschke, Winchester, VA
Patricia Johnson, Oak Grove, MO
Don W Johnston, Durango, CO
Karin Lee Jones, Redmond, WA
Lawrence M Jones, Okla City, OK
Ricci Jones, Edmond, OK
Gary Jones, Yukon, OK
Reynold Jones, Oklahoma City, OK

K-O

Maxie Keck, Alexandria, VA
Jeannette Kelley, Houston, TX
Robert S Kelly, Toledo, OH
Ken S Kennerly, Midland, TX
Delores V King, Granbury, TX
Ora W. Kirby, Irvine, KY
Nancy Krimminger, Seal Beach, CA
Carla Weaver Kyle, Tulsa, OK
Darlene Laughlin, Stella, MO
Shirley Ruth Layton, Neosho, MO
James G Leonard, Okla City, OK
Marilyn Leonard, Edmond, OK
Sue Lessenberry, Littleton, CO
D D Lewis, Richardson, TX
Myrna Liddell, Langley, WA
Debra Lloyd, Lufkin, TX
Sue Loeb, Dunkirk, NY
Charlotte Lucas, Tulsa, OK
Lila Marston, Roseville, CA
Stacy Marie Martin, Clarkston, WA
Ivylyn Sparger Martin, Mt Airy, NC
Rebecca Mason, Port Lavaca, TX
Cynthia Ann May, Amarillo, TX
Virginia Mayes, Independence, MO
Estell Maynard, Olympia, WA
Jillie Miller, Austin, TX
Frances Moore, Houston, TX
Ida Spargur Morgan, Pensacola, FL
Patricia Nay, Cincinnati, OH
Nick Neal, Kirkland, WA
Wilma Neal, Kirkland, WA
Troy Neal, Carough, Switzerland
Richard Newman, Bixby, OK
Thelma S ODonnell, Vancouver, WA
Vernon Osborn, Magnolia, TX
Gloria Overbey, Berkshire, NY
Esther May Overby, Seattle, WA

P-Snow

Yolonda Spargur Palmer, Orlando, FL
Carlene S Phillips, Hillsboro, OH
Paul S Phillips Jr, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Todd L Powell, Springfield, MO
Nola W Provost, The Woodlands, TX
Goldie Iva Ramos, Sacramento, CA
Dr James Rand, San Antonio, TX

Barbara Rand, Fort Worth, TX
Ruby Reddick, Twin Falls, ID
Carmin Dean Reed, Bates City, MO
Mona Reigert, St Louis, MO
Jeanette Reynolds, Oak Grove, AR
George Ella Rogers, Coryton, TN
Judith D Ross, Macon, GA
Lilly Ann Ross, Macon, GA
Jean B Rowlett, Nashville, TN
Margaret E Sager, Wyncote, PA
Mirian J Sanford, Clarkston, WA
Greg Sanford, Spokane, WA
Rayenelle Sansing, Deer Park, TX
Becky Schabacker, Charlottesville, VA
Ruth Ann Schovajsa, Rosharon, TX
Barbara Snow, Miami, OK

Sparger

Maurice W Sparger, Spencer, NC
Randall Sparger Jr, Pfafftown, NC
William Sparger, Colorado Springs, CO
Marvin F Sparger, Mt Airy, NC
William A Sparger Jr, Harrisburg, NC
Dr H Merritt Sparger Jr, Salem, NC
James M Sparger, Tequesta, FL
Guy Mitchell Sparger, Mt Airy, NC
John W Sparger, Marion, VA
Joseph B Sparger, Mt Airy, NC
Collier B Sparger, Venice, FL
Capt John Sparger, Dallas, TX
Emil A Sparger, Spencer, NC

Spargur

Michael J Spargur, W St. Paul, MN
Rev. Arlie V Spargur, Painesville, OH
Earl W Spargur, Yukon, OK
James E Spargur, Waynesville, OH
Robert E Spargur, Belleville, IL
Perry M Spargur, Tucson, AZ
Mrs Harry Spargur, Shenandoah, IA
William F Spargur, Palmdale, CA
Joe Ed Spargur, Moose Lake, MN
John Henry Spargur, Powell, WY
Geraldine Spargur, Scottsdale, AZ
Jon Leighton Spargur, N Bethesda, MD
Richard K Spargur, Australia
Jim Spargur, Hill City, SD
Earl W Spargur, San Jose, CA
Kimberly Spargur, Louisville, KY
Col. Vendrell Spargur, Dayton, OH

Sprague - Winters

Tamara Sprague, Logan, UT
Marietta Stallard, Elliston, VA
Varva Steele, Kanab, UT
Shirley Sutphen, Montrose, CO
Linda Sutton, Bryan, TX
Loren W. Tabor, Denver, CO
Russell VanAsperen, Alexandria, VA
Esther Walter, Allenspark, CO



L - R: Larry JONES, Pat JOHNSON, W. Frank WOLFENBARGER, Bob WOLFENBARGER, Mary Ann CAMPBELL.



Front of Memorial Stone



Bill WOLFERSBERGER, Frank and Sandra WOLFERSBERGER, Betty WINTERS. Hiding behind Betty is Dick WINTERS



Back of Memorial Stone



Grave of John Philip WOLFERSBERGER in cemetery at the Reformed Lutheran Church in Campbelltown, PA



Standing L-R, Bill WOLFERSBERGER, W Frank WOLFENBARGER, Dr. Betty WOLFENBARGER, Judy WOLFERSBERGER, Leonard CAMPBELL, Joe WOLFERSBERGER, Dick WINTERS, Frank and Sandra WOLFERSBERGER. Everett JOHNSON, Jean and Herbert ROWLETT. Rev Larry BERGH. Seated, Alyce WOLFERSBERGER, Betty WINTERS, Mary Ann CAMPBELL, Pat JOHNSON, Bob WOLFENBARGER. Taking photo Larry JONES

LETTER FROM LARRY JONES TO THE MEMBERSHIP

I will always be proud to have been a part of the dedication ceremony for the memorial stone that the Wolfensberger Family Association provided for Johannes Wolfensberger and Anna Margaretha Ensminger in the Lutheran Cemetery at Schaefferstown, PA. I am sure that all of the others that attended this dedication feel the same. There were many others that expressed to me their desire to attend but were unable for various reasons. Now anyone wishing to find and see the memorial for these two ancestors can easily find and see what we have provided for our descendants for centuries to come. The photographs on the other side of this page show what to look for when you visit the cemetery. The list of contributors to this memorial are as follows: W Frank Wolfenbarger, Lawrence M. Jones, Michael Dalton Wolfenbarger, Robert Wolfensberger, Jeannette Kelley, Robert J Wolfenbarger, Vernon Osborn, Col Vendrell Spargur, Maggie Wolfenbarger, Albert H Creasy, Kenne Spargur Ellis, Marvin F Sparger, Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, John W Sparger, Betty Jo DeLong, Col Joseph Wolfenbarger, Mona Riegert, Dr H Merritt Sparger, Gail Gardner, Frank Wolfenbarger, Mark H Wolfenbarger, Boone Wolfenbarger, Sue Davidson, Bonnie Aspenson, Shirley Sutphen, Ivytyn Martin, Ora Kirby, Elizabeth K Winters, Judith K Ross, Jack W Wolfenbarger, Bill Wolfenbarger, Jean Rowlett, Myrna Liddell, Jeri Spargur, William Whitman, Mildred Booth, Thelma O'Donnell, Marilyn Leonard, John F Wolfenbarger, Varva Steele, Virginia Mayes, Charlotte Lucas, Patricia Johnson, Ernest L Wolfenbarger and Billie Phumlee Cox. There were several contributions of less than \$10.00.

Your Wolfensberger Family Association is considering having a "Home Page" on the Internet. Your Board of Directors will be receiving information on this item soon. This "Home Page" would very short and simple. Just something to let the world know who to contact for information on our family.

The members of the WFA that have e-mail capabilities, that I have knowledge of are as follows: Opal Howerton (a son) <72342.1355@compuserve.com>; Larry Jones lmj1s@icon.net (the 1 before the s is a # one); Myrna Liddell rldome@whidbey.com ; Donna Long DonnaFLong@aol.com ; Charlotte Lucas rlucas@iamerica.net ; Jean Rowlett wil87@aol.com ; William F. Spargur wfspar@qnet.com ; Russell VanAsperen renik@erols.com ; Jimmy L Wolfenbarger wolfen@aol.com . Others that have e-mail facilities should let me know so that you may be listed in the next newsletter.

Many of you have provided me with your family information and that I have placed in my computer. I have then made gedcom files with all of the family information that is in my computer at that time and sent many copies to family members. This requires two 3 1/2" diskettes. To help cover the cost of the diskettes and postage there is a \$5.00 charge for the gedcom file. Very little personal information have I received from anyone. I am planning on starting a book of our family later this year with a target date for distribution of 1998. The family information that I have received is names with dates. While these names and dates are a must, to have a book that is interesting there must be personal items for many of the entries. The personal items are where lived as a child and as an adult, what your parents did as a livelihood, where and amount of education, church membership, civic involvement, awards and recognitions along with any other item that you and others would like to see under your name in the family history. The submittal of this requested information is entirely up to you. I plan on starting with the entering of this information when received. Editing will obviously be needed on most entries. Your submittal could be from one paragraph to two pages. Please attempt to have your items to me by 30 September 1996.

Michael Dalton Wolfenbarger has just finished a family history book. This is about a 100 page book, and a fine job he did. The book covers his family and my family. He gave a copy to me and to his uncles and aunts at his family reunion in Knoxville on 22 June 1996. There were about 100 persons in attendance from Georgia, Michigan, California, Tennessee, Colorado, Oklahoma and other states.

1996 Membership Nears 230; Acquiring a Global Character

Frieda Wells, Mt Shasta, CA
Tinsley Wert, Baldwin city, KS
Doris M West, Jonesville, PA
Conna Sparger Weyen, Kendrick, ID
Nola White, San Andreas, CA
William Whitman, Sparta, MO
Ralph Wilkinson, Blue Springs, MO
Grace Sparger Wilson, Fort Worth, TX
Elizabeth K Winters, Pittsburgh, PA

Wolfenbarger

Zelta L Wolfenbarger, Canyon, TX
David L Wolfenbarger, Tahlequah, OK
Richard A Wolfenbarger, Tulsa, OK
W Frank Wolfenbarger, Irving, TX
Jay Wolfenbarger, San Marcos, TX
Michael D Wolfenbarger, Lafayette, CO
Fred M Wolfenbarger, Albuquerque, NM
Robert J Wolfenbarger, Summit, NJ
Jimmy L Wolfenbarger, Clatskanie, OR
Ernest L Wolfenbarger, North Whittier, CA
Roy Wolfenbarger, Fayetteville, AR
Robert J Wolfenbarger, Rock Hill, SC
Melvin Wolfenbarger, Mt. Shasta, CA
William J Wolfenbarger, Tacoma, WA
Bob Wolfenbarger, Pocatello, ID
Teddy Joe Wolfenbarger, Fort Worth, TX
Dick Wolfenbarger, Harriman, TN
Joseph David Wolfenbarger, Raymond, WA
Rubie Lee Wolfenbarger, Homestead, FL
Gale L Wolfenbarger, San Jose, CA
Stephen L Wolfenbarger, Nashville, TN
Alfred L Wolfenbarger, LaPorte, IN
Raymond Wolfenbarger, Oak Ridge, TN
David Carl Wolfenbarger, Knoxville, TN
William C Wolfenbarger, Belleville, IL
J C Wolfenbarger, Knoxville, TN
Edith Wolfenbarger, Hiawatha, KS

Wolfenberger

Frank Wolfenberger, Bastrop, TX
Col Joseph Wolfenberger, Hutchinson, KS
James D Wolfenberger, River Oaks, TX
Boone F Wolfenberger, Arlington, TX
Mark Hughes Wolfenberger, Weatherford, TX
Dr Virginia Wolfenberger, Houston, TX

Wolfensberger - Wolfersperger

Heini Wolfensberger, Bauma, Switzerland
Edward L Wolfensberger, Tucson, AZ
Bill W Wolfensberger, Rigby, ID
Dr Wolf Wolfensberger, Syracuse, NY
Charles H Wolfersberger, Shelby, OH
Stanley J Wolfersberger, Gahanna, OH
Orville O Wolfersberger, Trenton, IL
Harry Wolfersberger, Orange Park, FL
Robert D Wolfersberger, Fairfield, CA
Robert L Wolfersberger, Oroville, CA
David E Wolfersberger, St Louis, MO

Joe & Judy Wolfersberger, Point Pleasant
Beach, NJ
Ralph A Wolfersperger, Towanda, KS

Wolfinbarger-Young

Maggie Wolfinbarger, Irvine, KY
Jack W Wolfinbarger, Channahon, IL
Phillip Wolfinbarger, Joliet, IL
Jimmy E Wolfinbarger, Clever, MO
Jerry Lee Wolfinbarger, Chino, CA
Frank D Wolfinbarger, Eureka Springs, AR
John F Wolfinbarger, Hong Kong
Gene Wolfinbarger, Fontana, CA
Bill Wolfinbarger, Palo Alto, CA
Cory Wolfinbarger, Salt Lake City, UT
Edford A Wolfinbarger, Irvine, KY
Bill Wolfinbarger, Clarkston, WA
Helen Jo Wooldridge, Wyandotte, OK
Clodie Nell Wyatt, Bastrop, TX
Mildred Young, Falls Church, VA

Should You Be On This List?

If you're a Wolfensberger Association Family member and your name *isn't* on this list, please call Executive Director Larry Jones at (405) 721-4383

New WFA Policies Set

Under proposed new policies for the election of the Wolfensberger Family Association Board of Directors, association members may soon nominate and elect directors.

The present Board (right) will soon receive a proposed amendment for review. If it is approved, ballots will be included in the January 1997 issue of *Wolfensberger*.

Nominations for the 1997 Board of Directors will be accepted from the entire membership.

Nominating committee chairperson is Bob Wolfenbarger of Summit, NJ, who may be reached at (908) 273-7631. You may submit nominations to Bob at any time.

Bonnie Braun Aspenson
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
(405) 751-5491

Lawrence M. Jones,
WFA Executive Director
Oklahoma City Oklahoma
(405) 721-4383

Myrna Liddell
Langley, Washington
(360) 321-4798

Ivylyn Martin
Mt. Airy, North Carolina
(910) 352-4180

Vernon Osborn
Magnolia, Texas
(713) 356-3211

James L. Rand, PhD
San Antonio, Texas
(210) 698-2341

John W. Sparger
Marion, Virginia
(703) 783-7570

James E. Spargur
Waynesville, Ohio
(513) 897-7491

Shirley Sutphen
Montrose, Colorado
(970) 249-3760

Robert J. Wolfenbarger
Summit, New Jersey
(908) 273-7631

Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD
Syracuse, New York
(315) 446-2944

Judy Wolfersberger
Pt. Pleasant Beach, NJ
(908) 892-0732

Tennessee Stories: Me and Papaw Buck

By Michael D. Wolfenbarger

This is the second of a collection of memories by Michael Dalton Wolfenbarger, who grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Michael is descended from Peter Wolfenbarger, who was born in 1752 in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the son of John and Anna Margaretha Wolfersberger.

Bows and Arrows

Near the back of our yard in Knoxville, a bush grew long, straight branches averaging 18 to 24 inches long. When my father came home from work in the evenings, he usually walked up the alley and into the back yard where my brother and I were waiting for him.

"Dad would you please make us a bow and arrow that we can play cowboy and Indians?", we asked breathlessly, knowing Dad would.

We'd watch Dad reach into his left pocket and remove a small pocket knife. Then he'd cut the branches to make the bow and explain that an arrow had to be straight to fly straight. He notched the end of the arrow so that it would fit properly on the bow string. But he never sharpened the other end, explaining that he did not want "you boys to put your eyes out".

We used the ever-present twine for the bow strings. The entire process took less than twenty

minutes. We were happy, our father loved us, and he had a chance to rest while we played before supper. To this day, I wish I had the ability to accomplish what my Dad did in such a short period of time.

Unfortunately, the bows and arrows didn't last more than a day or two, but that wasn't important. What was important, and what has always lived in my memory was that Dad could meet our needs in such a quick and resourceful way.

My Papaw Buck

There are a great many great story tellers in my family, but one of the best is Aunt Grace's son, Charles. Charles tells stories in an unassuming way, simply relating the facts of the matter. He has a wizened look, a melodic voice, and the tone of authority that makes all of his stories informative and believable.

I was listening to him talk with my Dad one time and tears of laughter ran down my face, partly because I could not laugh any more and partly because I realized that I was a witness to a treasure.

Here is a story Charles told me about my grandfather, Huey Wolfenbarger, better known as "Papaw Buck".

When my papaw was a younger man, maybe 45 or 50, he worked for a short time for a railroad in East Tennessee laying rail and ties. Much of the work was done by hand. Papaw and one of his coworkers were carrying a rail

in their arms, Papaw at one end and the other man at the other. Papaw's co-worker had been pestering him for the makings of a cigarette for some time.

This was in a time before people smoked pre-rolled cigarettes. Tobacco was carried in a small, draw-string pouch with a slit on the side for cigarette papers. The secret of hand-rolling a cigarette was to hold the paper just right and to put just the proper amount of tobacco in the half-rolled paper.

While Papaw and his companion were walking ahead with a rail in their arms, the coworker again asked Papaw for a cigarette. Holding the rail on one forearm, Papaw reached in his pocket and placed the cigarette pouch on top of the rail six inches from his body, well out of reach of the other man. Papaw knew the other man couldn't hold the rail with only one arm. And the man couldn't reach the tobacco himself without first laying the rail on the ground, which he was not going to do.

Papaw looked over to the man and reportedly said, "Now that ought to fix you, you son of a".

I'm not sure when Charles told me this story. Maybe it was on a trip to the country in 1991, with my son Chris. The three of us walked up the side of a steep ridge to see Charles' cattle. The walk also afforded us a tremendous view of the south side of Clinch Mountain. Looking back at the mountain and

Continued on page 5

Mo and Papaw Buck

IN MEMORIAM

Continued from page 4

the valley below, I was reminded that the phrase, "God's Country", referred to this valley spanning Grainger and Union Counties of East Tennessee. Maybe that's when we started to talking about Papaw.

Charles' story about Papaw and his legendary strength reminded me of another event I recall when Papaw was 65. I had gone to Papaw's place in the summer to cut fire wood for our home in Knoxville. I had little more than a rudimentary knowledge of how to chop wood without cutting off my foot. Papaw took me up in the woods behind his house where we chose two hickory trees standing about thirty to forty feet high. Heeding Papaw's instructions, I cut down both trees without hurting myself -- or him.

Once the trees lay on the ground with branches trimmed, I realized that we had no way to bring the logs back to the house, more than a mile away.

No problem. Papaw simply reached down with one hand and yanked the end of one log up to his shoulder; then he picked up the other log and laid it atop his other shoulder. Then, together, we walked down the ridge to the house.

I stood there dumbstruck. I had never seen a man pick up a log and drag it, let alone two logs. Apparently this was no big thing to Papaw. He never said anything about it, and he didn't even look

tired when he got to the house.

Papaw was man of about 5'8" or 5'9". But he had big hands that were rough and scratched. His fingernails were thick and splayed. He was wiry, with hard and flat upper muscles. At his funeral, one of the ministers recalled Buck Wolfenbarger as "a little man with a big heart". All of us who knew him knew what the minister meant.

My Dad told me that Papaw only went to school only one day in his entire life. He went to school the first day, didn't like it, and never went back. His parents didn't care about such things.

My father, only twenty years younger than Papaw, taught him to read a little and sign his name.

In the world of his time, Papaw was a throwback to times long past. What it took to support a family of ten children was a lot of determination and hard work. By some estimates, my Papaw was ignorant, but he didn't know that. He had a sense of himself and knew what had to be done.

Having gone to school and knowing about weights, fractions, and other technical things, I knew that a man of Papaw's weight could not pick up two forty-foot logs and drag them anywhere, But he didn't know he couldn't.

I guess that was why I was so surprised when he lifted the two massive tree trunks. I didn't take into account his heart. Sometimes it's amazing what a person can do when he is not aware that he cannot do it.

Can't find

FREDERICK J. DELONG, JR.

Frederick Joseph Delong, Jr. of Jefferson City, Missouri, died February 15, 1996. Born November 27, 1920 in Jefferson City, Mo., he was very active in his community and belonged to many civic groups, which honored him for his leadership.

He is survived by his wife Betty Jo (Wolfenberger) of the home a daughter Mirian and son Joe, III; both of Jefferson City, Mo. and a son Gregory G. of Springfield, Mo. Betty Jo is a descendant of William Sylvester Wolfenberger of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

GEORGE GEDDES

Can't find
George Geddes of Redding, Calif. died in December 1995. George is survived by his wife, Marval Spargur Geddes, of Redding, Calif. and a son, Robert Geddes, of San Jose, Calif.

✓GEORGE E. SPARGER

George Edward Sparger, 82, a long time resident of Mount Airy, North Carolina, died June 1, 1996. He was born in Surry County, N.C., on August 6, 1913. Owner and operator of Sparger Realty, he was active in the Mount Airy Realty Assn., the Mount Airy Kiwanis Club and Central United Methodist Church.

He is survived by Mary Cox Sparger, two daughters, Janis and Bonny, and four grandchildren.

WITH VITAL AID FROM A HELPFUL GERMAN GENEALOGIST, HE FINDS FAMILY'S SWISS ROOTS

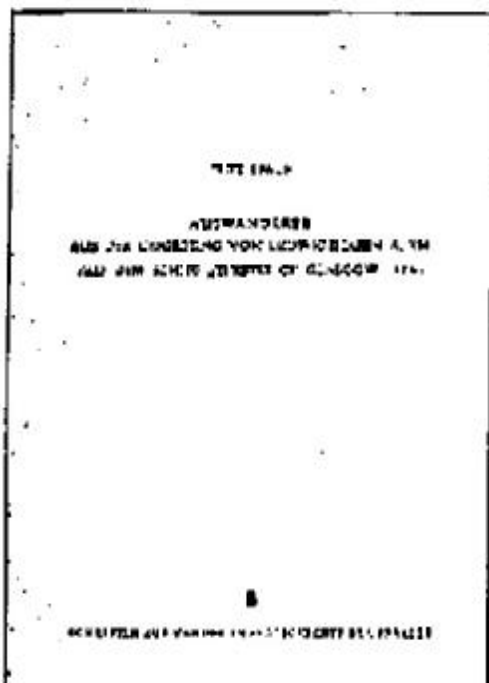
By Bob Wolfenbarger

A slim 24-page German-language brochure describes the summer 1730 voyage of the "Thistle of Glasgow" that brought Johannes and Anna Margaretha Wolfensberger and their four young children to America.

Written in 1959 by Dr. Fritz Braun, the German genealogist who directed me to our Swiss roots, the slim volume provides an invaluable history of The Thistle, the voyage, and the immigrants who boarded the ship at Ludwigshafen, now an industrial city on the Rhine, on June 30, 1730.

At the time, Dr. Braun was the state genealogist for the German state of Rhineland Pfaltz, with an

An American Migration



This pamphlet tells of the Wolfensberger family's 1730 voyage to America.

office in Kaiserslautern, where I was then stationed in the U.S. Army.

I still recall meeting Dr. Braun in 1962, weeks before I was scheduled to return from Germany.

Not expecting a reply, I asked idly, "Do you know anything about a ship called the 'Thistle of Glasgow' that picked up German immigrants at Ludwigshafen and carried them to Pennsylvania in the early 18th Century?"

But What Year?

His reply was electrifying. "Yes I do, but what year?" From memories of research by family historians like Myrtle Braun (Bonnie Braun Aspenson's mother), I recalled the year, 1730.

Speechless, Dr. Braun looked at me in disbelief. "Do you know that I studied that voyage of that very ship and have been trying to track down the descendants of every immigrant family who emigrated from Germany to America?"

"Your family is one the few I could never track down," said Braun. "But let's see if we can find it. Your family may not be German."

With that, he pulled out the brochure and pointed to a name on page 17. "See here, here's an entry for a man who evidently couldn't write his name." The entry read, "SPERGER (a) Wolfer."

"Would you like me to find out more about the family?" he

asked. "Certainly," I said.

I left his office hardly believing the incredible coincidence. The odds were one chance in a million that someone knew something about my family and its history.

Of all the voyages that carried immigrants from Europe to America in the eighteenth century, Dr. Braun had unwittingly studied the very ship and voyage that brought my family to the New World.

Now he promised to help me find my roots -- wherever the search took me in the last few weeks of my assignment in Germany. Within weeks, I was on my way to Switzerland to visit the Swiss Wolfensberger family. And there I found my roots.

Want to Translate This Booklet Into English?

The story of the 1730 voyage of the "Thistle of Glasgow" is in German, written by genealogist Dr. Fritz Braun nearly 40 years ago.

The ship, under Captain Colin Dunlop of Rotterdam, carried 77 families and a total of more than 200 immigrants from the region around Ludwigshafen, then a port on the Rhine River, to America.

The emigrants doubtless learned of the rich farmland available in Pennsylvania from German yeoman farmers who helped settle 18th Century Pennsylvania.

Contact Bob if you're willing to translate the pamphlet.

IN OKLAHOMA AT AN ANCESTOR FAIR

By Charlotte Lucas

In March 1996 my husband, Bob, and I drove to Claremore, Oklahoma, to take part in the Ancestor Fair held there by the Rogers County Genealogical Society. There we set up a Wolfenbarger table. Over 600 people came by visit and talk.

On the table I displayed all of the materials I have on the Wolfenbarger family: two notebooks, my pedigree chart and family records beginning with Johannes Wolfensberger and ending with myself.

Also on display were an album of old photographs; a bound book with all of the Wolfensberger Family Association *Wolfensberger* newsletters and a copy of a booklet written by Raymond Martin Bell. I also made a simple brochure describing our association.

My biggest attraction was maps! Everyone stopped to look at them. I had five maps on display: There was a map of Europe, with a line drawn to connect the country of our origins, Switzerland, to the United States, where our original family settled in 1730. Another map showed our family locations in Switzerland. Still another showed the Zurich Canton region around Bauma, our ancestral home in Switzerland and the site of our family castle. A fifth map showed the old province of Alsace and the villages where our ancestors once lived.

My goal in going to the fair was to find missing members of

our family. Regrettably, I didn't find any family members this time, but I made a lot of contacts with genealogical societies and historical societies. Now they know we're out here.

If you have any questions about participating in a similar event, I will be glad to help you participate. Either write me at 1843 Oswego Place, Tulsa, OK 74115-4803, or call me at (918) 843-8580.

Samuel Wolfenberger Marker Dedicated in April

Boone Wolfenberger of Arlington, Texas, tells of an April 28, 1996 dedication of a historical marker for Samuel Wolfenberger at Zion Hill, Texas, a few miles north of Weatherford. The roadside marker, dedicated as part of the state's sesquicentennial, notes:

"Zion Hill Church, School and Cemetery Zion Hill were named by early settler Samuel Wolfenberger, who deeded four acres here for a school/church and cemetery in 1877. Zion Hill School, established in 1868, operated until 1927 when it was merged with the Peaster school system. The school building also housed early church services. Zion Hill Church was organized in 1871. The first recorded burial is that of Wolfenberger's granddaughter, Margaret Lionberger, in 1879.

"The cemetery covers 6 acres and contains more than 700 burials including at least 8 Civil War

veterans and many veterans of World War I and World War II."

Samuel Wolfenberger was born February 13, 1820 in Grainger County, Tennessee, the son and fifth child of six children of Peter Wolfenbarger and Milly Hanson. Samuel had 10 half brothers and sisters by Peter's first wife, Susanna Miller.

Samuel later married Margaret Dugan. Together, they had five children; Elizabeth Jane, Harvey Matison, John Hughes, Nancy and Rosanna. Samuel and Margaret, along with many of their descendants, are buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery.

Two Life Members Named For Family Contributions

At the May 27 Wolfensberger Family Association Board of Directors meeting, two family members — Vendrell Sparger and Betty Winters — were named Life Members of the association.

Vendrell, of Dayton, Ohio, has been instrumental in organizing a record of the Sparger-Spargur families and in seeing that headstones were placed on early graves.

Betty, a descendant of John Philip Wolfensberger, the Revolutionary Army colonel, has helped gather records of his descendants.

They join fellow Life Members Frank Wolfenberger or Bastrop, Texas, and Maggie Wolfenbarger of Irvine, Kentucky.

Membership dues are paid for life for all Life Members.

SIGN UP TO BECOME A MEMBER

WFA Membership Application

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

To join, please complete this form:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Fax (if available) _____

Membership is open to any family member. Dues are \$8 per person per year, which covers the cost of four issues of *Wolfensberger*, this quarterly newsletter. Yearly memberships expire at the end of each calendar year, although members who register later in the year will receive all four issues of this newsletter. New members will receive free a six-color embroidered family badge based upon the family's centuries-old coat of arms.

Please circle or write in the name of your family:

WOLFENSBERGER
WOLFERSBERGER
WOLFERSPERGER
WOLFENSBERGER
SPARGER

WOLFENBARGER
WOLFENBARGER
WOLFENBERGER
SPARGUR

Registration Instructions: Please complete form and send check payable to the Wolfensberger Family Association for \$8.00 for a full year's individual membership. Mail form and check to the Wolfensberger Family Assn., 6400 Ann Arbor Terr., Oklahoma City OK 73132.

Wolfensberger
WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City OK 73132
Executive Director, Lawrence M. Jones



Phone: (405) 721-4383

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Editor, Robert J. Wolfensberger
30 Harvey Drive, Summit NJ 07901
Phone (908) 273-7631 FAX (908) 273-7738