

Wolfensberger

News and information for the WOLFENBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Volume 17 Number 2 Fall 1997

NOW, ELECT YOUR DIRECTORS

In this issue of *Wolfensberger* is your chance to vote for the leadership of the Wolfensberger Family Association in 1997. But you must vote before November 15.

With WFA Board of Directors approval of a proposal to elect the association directors, members now have the opportunity to nominate or elect members to serve on the Board of Directors during 1997.

A ballot inside this newsletter offers paid-up association members a chance to vote for a slate of 14 nominees or to write in the name of another registered member.

Since the association was founded in 1994, this marks the first time that members have been able to elect the association's leadership, who serve as volunteers without pay.

The Board of Directors has 14 seats — the number of nominees recommended by the association's

Nominating Committee — but the board opened the process to member nominations in an effort to identify members willing to serve on the board in future years.

This year's nominees represent a cross-section of family members. They hail from virtually every major branch of the family and every section of the country.

Seven of the 14 nominees, if elected, will be newcomers to the Board of Directors, said Robert J. Wolfensberger, chairman of the WFA nominating committee.

"Our '97 Board nominees represent some of the most distinguished members of the Wolfensberger family," said Wolfensberger. "Each has made a significant contribution to the objectives of the association, especially in communicating research and news about the family."

Nominees for the Board, in alphabetical order, include:

- Mrs. B. J. Delong,
- Lawrence M. Jones,
- Mrs. Myrna Liddell,
- Mrs. Charlotte Lucas,
- Mrs. Ivylyn Martin,
- Vernon Osborn,
- William H. Sparger,
- William F. Sparger,
- Michael D. Wolfensberger,
- W. Frank Wolfensberger,
- Robert J. Wolfensberger,
- Col. Joseph Wolfensberger,
- Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger
- Mrs. Judy Wolfensberger.

Profiles of the nominees may be found inside the newsletter.

Take a little time to review the backgrounds of the nominees and return your ballot to WFA Executive Director Larry Jones soon.

Look For WFA On Internet's World Wide Web: You Can Find Us At www.icon.net/~wolfberg/

The Wolfensberger Family Association now has its very own Internet World Wide Web home page..

When construction of the home page is completed within a month or so, you can find it at: <http://www.icon.net/~wolfberg/>.

All work on the home page is

under the direction of Dr. Kevin Jones of Midwest City, OK.

Currently, no WFA funds have been spent on the project, although the board has approved plans for a home page. If your computer isn't World Wide Web-accessible, try a friend. Your comments on the page are welcome.

VOTE DEADLINE: NOV. 15





Ivylyn Sparger **MARTIN**
Director 1995-96



Bonnie Wolfinbarger **ASPENSON**
Director 1995-96



Vendrell W. **SPARGUR** - Life
Member 1996. "I will continue
to support the WFA with my
membership and contributions".



Shirley Baker Wolfenbarger
SUTPHEN - Director 1995-96



John W. **SPARGER**
Director 1995-96



Major General Willard Roland
WOLFENBARGER
12 December 1900 - 2 January 1975



Mary Kate Wolfinbarger **EDWARDS**
20 February 1896 - 22 July 1996



Myrna Wolfinbarger **LIDDELL**
Director 1995-96



Ralph Wolfinbarger **WILKINSON**
and spouse Pearl at Wilkinson
Wolfenbarger reunion
Blue Springs, MO

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION Nominees for 1997 Board of Directors

By Robert J. Wolfenbarger, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee

B.J. DeLong - 1107 Moreau Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Great grand daughter of William Sylvester Wolfenbarger, one of the first members of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma. B. J. and her late husband Joe, Sr. owned and operated two steel manufacturing companies in Jefferson City. B. J. still serves as a Director and Officer in both corporations. A new selection for our Board.

Lawrence (Larry) M. Jones - 6400 N. Ann Arbor Ter, Oklahoma City, OK 73132. He is the grandson of Nancy Lucinda Wolfenbarger. He is presently serving as the Executive Director of the Wolfensberger Family Association. He has served in many capacities in professional and volunteer organizations.

Myrna Liddell - 2747 E. Parkwood Drive, Langley, WA 98260 Daughter of Wilma Opal Wolfenbarger. Myrna has served for the past two years on our Board and has done a very good job. She and her husband, Rich, are active members of the LDS Church.

Charlotte Lucas - 1843 N. Oswego Place, Tulsa, OK 74115-4803. A very active member of our association. Serves on the Board of the Tulsa Genealogical Society. Operated a display for our association at a recent genealogical fair in Claremore, OK. Her father was Hubert Lewis Wolfenbarger. A new selection for our Board.

Ivyllyn Martin - 4588 West Pine Street, Mt. Airy, NC 27030. Daughter of Walter Creasy Sparger. Served as the Surry County, NC dietitian. Served as a member of our Board in 1995 and 1996.

Vernon Osborn - 10123 Caddo Drive, Magnolia, TX 77355. Formerly president of an overhead crane manufacturing firm before it was sold to another business. Serves as manager of this facility. Vernon served in 1995 and 1996 on our Board. Vernon's mother was Willie I. Wolfenbarger.

William Harry Sparger - 2790 Rossmere Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Vice President of Engineering of Interstate Gas Company a subsidiary of Costal Corp. A new selection for our Board.

William F. Spargur - 4561 Grandview Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551-1165. Retired military officer and at present is a security officer at a military installation. organization. A new selection for our Board.

Michael Dalton Wolfenbarger - 1020B Milo Circle, Lafayette, CO 80026. Long been active in the genealogy of his family, he has produced some fine genealogical work of his families in the Knoxville, TN area. A security officer for a branch of the Federal Government. A new selection for our board.

W. Frank Wolfenbarger - 2520 W. Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061. Operates his own CPA firm in Irving, TX. He was a major contributor for the memorial stone we placed in Schaefferstown, PA and he attended the dedication ceremony. A new selection for our board.

Robert J. Wolfenbarger - 30 Harvey Drive, Summit, NJ 07901. Retired Public Relations manager for AT&T and now owns his own Public Relations company. Bob has served as our newsletter editor and publisher for the past two years. Served as the Nominating Committee chairperson in 1995-96.

Joseph Wolfenbarger, Col. U. S. Army, Retired - 120 W. 18th Street, Hutchinson, KS 67502. Served in many professional and volunteer positions over his military life and since retirement. A new selection for our board.

Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger - 301 Scottholm Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13224. Professor of sociology at the University of Syracuse. His position requires a lot of travel participating in conferences, but is able to attend most board meetings. Wolf is a very valued person on our board with his knowledge of the ancient history of our family. Wolf served as Director in 1995 and 1996.

Judy Wolfersberger - 117 Harvard Ave, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742. Represents the descendants of Rev. Jonathan Wolfersberger, who came to America in early 1840. Served as a board member in 1996.

Heini Wolfensberger - Bauma, Switzerland. Heini has been elected a honorary life member of the Board of Directors, therefore voting and his election is not required.

MARY KATE EDWARDS, BORN IN 1896, DIES AT AGE 100-PLUS IN KENTUCKY

With the Addition of 28 New Members or Renewals, Association Membership Rises To A 1996 High of 257 Members

With the arrival of new memberships as of September 21, the Wolfensberger Family Association membership rose to 257. Since the last edition of *Wolfensberger*, a total of 28 members were added to the rolls as a result of renewals or new family members.

Melbern J. CLARK (Wolfenbarger), Concord, CA
*Gretchen DOLL (Wolfenbarger), Grapevine, TX
*Jeffrey JONES (Wolfenbarger), Oklahoma City, OK
*Dr. Kevin JONES (Wolfenbarger), Midwest City, OK
*Lawrence M. JONES, III (Wolfenbarger), Lancaster, MA
*Lisa Marie JONES (Wolfenbarger), Lancaster, MA
Annette KULESZA (Spargur), Rapid City, SD
Donna F. LONG (Wolfenbarger), Knoxville, TN
Cynthia MARSHALL (Wolfenbarger), Alphaetta, GA
*Patricia Rand PIERSON (Wolfenbarger), Danville, VA
*Shirley ROUSE (Wolfenbarger), North Augusta, SC
*Geneva Ruth SEAY (Wolfenbarger), Chickasha, OK

William N. SPARGUR, Jr., Elko, NV
*Dwain VICE (Wolfenbarger), Bristow, OK
Ray WEBB (Sparger), Elkins, NC
William T. WILKINSON (Wolfenbarger), Lone Jack, MO
Doris WILLIAMS (Wolfenbarger), Coleman, TX
Alfred L. WOLFENBARGER, Sr., LaPorte, IN
*Alfred L. WOLFENBARGER, Jr., New Carlisle, IN
*Michael W. WOLFENBARGER, El Paso, TX
Vernon WOLFENBARGER, Monroe, MI
William D. WOLFENBARGER, Corning, CA
Joseph H. WOLFENBERGER, Hutchinson, KS
*Winston L. WOLFENBERGER, Houston, TX
Dr. Stefan WOLFENBERGER, Brussels, Belgium
Douglas R. WOLFERSBERGER, Urbana, IL
*Larry Dale WOLFERSBERGER, Battle Creek, MI
Robert S. WOLFERSBERGER, St. Louis, MO

* New members

✓ **Mary Kate Wolfenbarger Edwards**, born February 20, 1896, in Wagersville, Estell County, Kentucky, died July 22, 1996, in Irvine, Kentucky. She was 100 years, 5 months and 16 days old.

Mary was the fifth child of Peter Abraham Wolfenbarger and Susan Parrett. Mary had four sisters; Sarah Jane, Paulina, Maggie and Ora and five brothers; James M., Thomas Jefferson, Joseph, Comealius and Ambrose.

She is survived by sisters Maggie and Ora of Irvine.

Mary and her late husband, James Corbett Edwards, were the parents of seven children. They include **Rubye Edwards Strong and Olive Edwards Rogers** of Richmond, KY; **James Everett Edwards** of San Angelo, TX; **Leo "Pete" Edwards** of Chattanooga, TN; **Mary Elizabeth Edwards Frazier** of Lake Elsinor, CA; **Margaret Sandra Edwards Crawford** of Loudon, TN; and **Owen Wayne Edwards** of Richmond, AL.

Mary and her husband made their home at 420 S. Madison in Irvine, where she lived for over 75 years. Mary always had a smile for everyone. She undoubtedly was a wonderful mother because of the fine character of all of her children. Mary was a complimentary member of the family association.

find can't **Norma R. Wolfenbarger**, 57, wife of **James Wolfenbarger**, died August 4, 1996. The couple lived in Salinas, CA.

RECOGNIZE A RELATION? WANT TO HELP SOMEONE?

Want To Make Cyberspace Connections? Add Your Address?

Many Wolfensberger Family Association members are accessible through cyberspace, either via the Internet or a commercial online service.

To add your e-mail address to these, simply contact WFA Executive Director Larry Jones (wolfberg@icon.net).

Remember that e-mail isn't foolproof. Some software may not connect with other packages, and some e-mail addresses may be incorrect.

Jimmy L. Wolfenbarger,
wolfen@aone.com

Lawrence (Larry) M. Jones,
wolfberg@icon.net

William C. Wolfenbarger,
volwolf@aol.com

Billie Plumlee Cox,
pgjx57b@prod.com

Richard Spargur,
spargur@netlink.com.au

R. Matthew Jones,
matthewj@theshop.net

Jeffrey Brown,
jbrown5050@aol.com

Dr. Kevin Jones,
drrunde@icon.net

Robert J. Wolfenbarger,
wolfenbarger@attmail.com

Reynold M. Jones,
reyj@icon.net

Susanna Shanafelt, daughter of Henry and Susannah (Sailor) Shanafelt, married **Joseph Wolfersberger** around 1825 in Maryland. They had three children: **Susan, Henry and Mary Wolfersberger.**

Susan Wolfersberger married someone named **Ziegler** and had four children: **Mary, Anna, Jacob, and Abigail Ziegler.** Then she married a **Barnhardt.** They had one child, **Emma Barnhardt.**

If anyone recognizes a connection to any of our Wolfensberger family, please contact **Mrs. Peggy Lee, 10112 Woodward Ave., Sunland, CA 91040-3342.**

Does anyone have — or know where I may obtain — official verification that **Reuben Wolfenbarger** was the son of **Jacob and Nancy Wolfenbarger?** Reuben was born January 22, 1806, or 1809, in Lee County, VA.

Also, does anyone have any verification that **Peter Wolfenbarger** was the son of **John Wolfersberger, Jr.?**

I am a member of the Tulsa Genealogical Society and am helping compile an Honor Roll of Revolutionary War Patriots, which will be a hard bound book. Both John, Jr. and Peter deserve to be in this book. With these two exceptions, I have all the documentation I need. Contact **Charlotte Lucas, 1843 North Oswego Place, Tulsa, OK 74115-4803, Telephone 918-834-8580 or 919-835-8908.**

**Family Association
Board of Directors**

PLAN NOW FOR 1997 FAMILY REUNIONS

WOLFENBARGER-WOLFINBARGER June 21, 1997

Wyandotte, Oklahoma
Coordinator
Anna Ruth Crabtree,
8080 Norway Road,
Neosho, MO

WOLFENBARGER June 28, 1997

Knoxville, Tennessee
No additional information

Know Father of Samuel Sparger, Born in 1810?

My great-grandfather, Harvey Richard Sparger, born in 1833 in Marion, County, TN was the son of Samuel Sparger, born in 1810 in Virginia. Harvey married Mary Ann Hamilton, born 1836 in Marion County, Tennessee.

Mary Ann was the daughter of William Hamilton, born in 1807 in Tennessee. It is believed that John Hamilton and Margaret Weatherspoon were the parents of William Hamilton.

Can anyone help me determine who was the father of Samuel Sparger, born about 1810 in Virginia. Samuel lived in Georgia before moving to Texas.

If anyone has information concerning any of these family members, please contact Marietta Walker Stallard, 2680 N. Fork Road, Elliston, VA 24087.

WOLFENBARGER-WOLFINBARGER SPARGER-SPARGUR August 9, 1997

Clatskanie, Oregon
(US Highway 30, about 12 miles
west of Interstate 5
from Kelso, WA)
Coordinator
Jimmy L. Wolfenbarger,
18445 Coop Road,
Clatskanie, OR 97016

SPARGER August 16, 1997

Galax, Virginia.
Coordinator
Guy Mitchell Sparger,
338 Sparger Road,
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

WOLFINBARGER September 6, 1997

Irvine, Kentucky
Coordinator
Dick Gault,
PO Box 295,
Trenton, OH 45067

WILKINSON-WOLFINBARGER September 14, 1997

Blue Springs, Missouri
Coordinator
Olen Wilkinson,
900 West "B" Street,
Blue Springs, MO 64015

(Anyone with knowledge of any other family reunions who would like that reunion date listed here, please contact Larry Jones.)

Pay '97 Dues Early, Save Two Dollars

Pay your 1997 Wolfensberger Family Association dues before the end of this year, and save two dollars.

That's the offer made by the Board of Directors when it approved an increase in annual dues to \$10 from \$8 a year, effective January 1, 1997. The increase will help pay higher postage rates and costs of printing and mailing this newsletter, said Larry Jones.

"We resisted raising membership dues, but the higher costs of doing WFA business leave us little alternative," said Jones.

Five Reunions Were Held During 1996

June 22, 1996
WOLFENBARGER
Knoxville, Tennessee

August 18, 1996
SPARGER
Galax, Virginia

August 25, 1996
WOLFENBARGER
Weatherford, Texas

September 7, 1996
WOLFENBARGER
Irvine, Kentucky

September 8, 1996
WILKINSON-WOLFENBARGER
Blue Springs, MO

From Underage Private to 2-Star General,

Willard Wolfinbarger Lived Life of Danger

By Bonnie Braun Aspenson

Willard Roland Wolfinbarger rose from an underage private on the battlefields of World War I France to the rank of a two-star major general in the Cold War.

In one of his last commands, he led the U.S. Air Force's Tactical Air Command in Weisbaden, Germany. Between the wars,

Willard Wolfinbarger learned to fly with Charles Lindbergh, helped defend air pioneer General Billy Mitchell, and served as an attache in Nazi Germany. One of the last Americans to leave the U.S. embassy in Berlin, he slipped out of neutral Lisbon in December 1941, just days ahead of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

In a life filled with danger, intrigue and excitement, Willard Wolfinbarger traveled far from his roots in the plains of Kansas but never left his hometown behind. Willard was born December 12, 1900, the youngest of six siblings, in the central Kansas community of Marion to W. Hilton Wolfinbarger and his wife, Serelda Chadwell.

Hilton and Serelda had earlier moved to Kansas from the Cumberland Gap region in Tennessee. Serelda died in 1904, leaving his father the difficult task of rearing young Willard and five older children.

A railroad man, Hilton took his eldest three sons and headed west. Willard and his sister, Myrtle, were placed with foster families.

Willard's older sister, Margaret, was married by that time and remained in Kansas.

Willard was placed with a German farmer and his spinster sister near Canada, Kansas, a small farming community west of Marion. Thereafter, Willard referred to the couple as "Aunt" and "Uncle".

As the only child in the household, Willard became the center of attention. The couple gave Willard every opportunity to grow into a self-sufficient, independent and responsible young man who spoke fluent German as a second language.

When he was only 14, they bought the family's first car so Willard could learn to drive them

into town and run errands for the farm.

Even though his sister, Myrtle, had been placed with a farm family some distance away, both attended the same high school and remained close over the remainder of their lives.

World War I broke out in Europe in 1914, and three years later America joined the war. Young men from across the country rushed to volunteer for service. Willard, too, answered the call — not waiting to come of age.

Years later, the *Kansas City Star* reported Willard's secret when he, then a general, belatedly confessed to having fudged a little on his age to join the Army. He joined Company M, 139th Infantry Regiment, 35th Division, and was soon at the front in France.

He observed his 17th birthday in France. Young Willard was one of the unit's runners, carrying messages back and forth across the front lines. During the 1918 Meuse-Argonne offensive, he was struck in the leg by a German bullet. In great pain, he stopped an officer and handed him the message. He lay wounded on the battlefield for three days before his rescue.

Taken to a hospital in Bordeaux, he convalesced from his wounds for seven months. After World War I, Willard returned to Marion to finish high school. He went on to the University of Kansas in Lawrence where he was a mem-

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Lucky Lindy Knew Him As 'Curley' (cont.)

ber of Delta Upsilon and Phi Alpha Delta fraternities.

After graduation, he remained in Lawrence to attend law school. He graduated with an LL.B degree in 1924 after winning election to the presidency of the law school's student body. Willard passed both the Kansas and Missouri bar exams, then briefly practiced law in Independence, Missouri.

But law couldn't hold Willard's attention for long. He jumped at a chance to become a flier, winning appointment as a flying cadet. Willard entered as one of more than one hundred cadets and finished as one of only 19 graduates.

After flight training at Brooks and Kelly Fields in Texas, Willard was commissioned a second lieutenant in the famous Army Air Force class of 1925. Several of the 1925 graduates went on to wear stars in World War II, but the most famous graduate was "Lucky Lindy", Charles A. Lindbergh, who startled the world by flying across the Atlantic in 1927.

The graduates kept up a peripatetic correspondence through a pass-it-along system of letters started by Willard, by then known as "Curley" to his classmates. One letter addressed to the class was from Lindbergh, then a household name.

Addressed to the Kelly Field "gang", Lindbergh's letter went on to say that "I am sorry to cause so much delay in our circulation, but my mail is held up considerably and have been waiting for your letter

since Curley told me he mailed it to St. Louis six weeks ago."

Curly earned his nickname from his flight school classmates because they said he didn't have enough hair to make a curl. The people in Marion still called him Bill.

One of the highlights of Willard's early Army Air Force career was a role in the court martial of air pioneer General Billy Mitchell. As a lawyer and pilot, he served as a defense attorney for Mitchell at his famous court martial in 1925.

Although Mitchell lost his court martial and ultimately left the military, Willard's path also crossed that of another famous

American. Future General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, then a major general, was the only judge to support Willard's client.

Willard formed another lifelong association in 1929. On June 29, Willard married Olga Isabella Imperatori in Pleasantville, New York. As the ceremony got under way, a loud-speaker equipped plane flew over the church playing Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

The couple had one child, Loren Gilbert Wolfenbarger (now Mrs. Douglas Tabor of Denver), born in 1939 in Newport News, Virginia.

Meanwhile, Willard's military career flourished. Promoted to captain in 1937, he held a series of assignments with Air Corps units in the U.S. and the Philippines.

Assigned as Assistant Military Attaché For Air to the U.S. Embassy in Berlin from 1940 to November, 1941, he attended receptions with Adolf Hitler, Herman Goering and the elite of the Nazi hierarchy.

While the U.S. remained neutral after the start of World War II, Willard observed the German invasion of France at close range.

With U.S. neutrality soon to end, Willard escaped Nazi Germany through neutral Portugal only days before December 7, 1941, as one of the last embassy officials to leave Berlin.

During the war, he served on the Army Air Staff in Washington. Until March 1942, when he trans-

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