

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

January 1998 Vol 4 No 1

Thirteen, Including First Swiss Member, Will Serve on WFA Board of Directors For 1998

Thirteen members — including a first, a Swiss member — were elected to the 1998 Board of Directors of the Wolfensberger Family Association in November,

bringing new leadership to the 321-member family organization.

In turn, the Directors, in a December 13, 1997 conference call, re-elected four directors to serve as

unpaid, volunteer officers of the association.

Re-elected President of the association was Larry Jones of Oklahoma City, founder of the organization. First Vice President is Bob Wolfensberger of Summit, New Jersey. Second Vice President is Myrna Liddell of Langley, Washington. Secretary is Bill Spargur of Palmdale, California.

In the WFA's second annual election, members elected a slate of directors that, for the first time, gives an international scope to the board with the election of Swiss member Max Wolfensberger, of Stafa, a suburb of Zurich. He is a student of family and Swiss history and a retiree of computer manufac-

Continued on page 2

Full-Color Map of Wolfensberger Home In Switzerland Available To Members

A full-color copy of a 1560 hand-painted relief map showing the site of the original Wolfensberger family castle near present-day Bauma, Switzerland, is now available *at cost* to family members.

The map, copied for exclusive distribution by the Wolfensberger Family Association, was donated by WFA director Max Wolfensberger. Depicting the ancestral homes of prominent Canton Zurich families, it places the family's red, silver and green crest at the site of *Alt Landenberg*, the family's original home. (See ad, next-to-last page)

The location is now atop the Wolfensberg, a mountain with three peaks near the present-day village of Bauma in northern Canton Zurich, near the German border.

Costs will vary depending upon the number of requests, but will range in price from \$30 (for 50 or more prints) to \$85 (for less than five prints). This price includes the

costs of a mailing tube and postage. Members may also make special arrangements for delivery by Federal Express.

Copies of the 22" x 24" color print are available at cost from Bob Wolfensberger, WFA first vice president. It is printed on a high-resolution ink jet printer. Depending on the number of requests, Bob will bill you for costs and ask you to make an advance payment.

When Bob receives payment from all interested members, he will arrange to print and ship the color map. Production could take two to three weeks.

Please advise Bob of your interest as soon as possible. Write him at 30 Harvey Drive, Summit, NJ 07901. You may reach Bob by phone at (908) 273-7631, fax at (908) 273-7738, or e-mail at wolfensberger@attmail.com.

Members may also arrange for lamination of the print for an extra \$32 to \$21 per map.

INSIDE STUFF

- I Remember "Daddy Butch".....2
- On Wolfensberger Road.....3
- The Worldwide Family.....4
- Genealogy Buff Cited.....7
- Map of Ancestral Home.....9

Members Elect 13 WFA Directors For 1998

Continued from page 1

turer NCR Corp. of Dayton, Ohio.

Max joins a dozen U.S. citizens on the board from 10 states spanning the continent.

Honorary Life Member of the board remains Heini Wolfensberger of Bauma, Switzerland, whose family published a family genealogy in 1927.

Other members of the 1998 WFA board are:

Mrs. B. J. DeLong, Jefferson City, MO
Larry Jones, Oklahoma City, OK
Mrs. Myrna Liddell, Langley, WA
Mrs. Charlotte Lucas, Tulsa, OK
Mrs. Ivylyn Martin, Mount Airy, NC
William H. Sparger, Colorado Springs,

CO

William F. Spargur, Palmdale, CA
Jim Lay Wolfenbarger, Clatskanie, OR
Bob Wolfenbarger, Summit, NJ
W. Frank Wolfenbarger, Irving, TX
Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger, Syracuse, NY
Mrs. Judy Wolfersberger, Point

Pleasant Beach, NJ

INFORMATION NEEDED

Carper - Wolfersberger.

Have you any information about the family of John Wolfersberger, born 1789 in Campbelltown, PA, who married Elizabeth Carper of Campbelltown?

The couple had nine children. If you know of descendents, please contact Larry Jones of the WFA.

Any one knowing of other marriages or descendants should contact Joan C. Fraser, 1951 O'Farrell Street #421, San Mateo, CA 94403.

I Remember "Daddy Butch" And Everything He Taught Us

BY TINA HAY

Ms. Hay's article originally appeared in the March/April 1997 Penn Stater magazine, the PSU alumni publication. Tina, editor of Penn Stater, is a niece of William Wilson Wolfersberger.

It's March and I'm feeling faintly guilty. By now I should have several flats' worth of flower and vegetable seedlings growing under fluorescent lights in my utility room. I should be watering them daily with a turkey baster, raising the grow lights as the seedlings get bigger, spending a Saturday morning transplanting the delicate little plants into larger containers.

When I bought a house six years ago, I quickly discovered some of the auxiliary enterprises associated with home ownership. I planted flowers for the first time - and then the following winter, tried growing them from seed. I put up a bird feeder, and suddenly the birds in my backyard (formerly divided into cardinals, blue jays and All Those Other Birds) started to have names: juncos, titmice, white throated sparrows and Carolina wrens.

Family's Bird Watcher

In both activities, it turns out, I formed a sort of kinship with my grandfather, even though he's been gone for twenty years now. My mother's father, Harry Wolfersberger, was the family's original bird watcher and gardener.

He was a tall, lanky, quiet man who made bird feeders by hand and spent many hours in an easy chair next to his living room window, smoking his pipe and watching the birds. And he surely had the most incredible garden in all of Somerset, Pennsylvania. Tomatoes, lettuce, all kinds of flowers, most of them started from seed at his kitchen table and nurtured under the grow lights in his upstairs den. He and my grandmother used to drive two-and-a-half hours to the Penn State Flower Gardens to get ideas, then stop at the creamery afterwards for an ice-cream cone.

I paid little attention to all of this I was just a kid and had much more interest in basketball and touch football than birds and plants. What's more, as is often the case, I didn't fully appreciate the concept of grandparents.

A Million Questions

It wasn't until years later that I found myself discovering some of the same interests that had brought Daddy Butch (that's what we grandkids called him) so much pleasure, and it somehow connected me to him in a way I never felt before. I imagine what it would be like if he were here today and I, now an adult, could get to know him. I'd have a million questions for him: Why do my snapdragons fall over in the first rainstorm of the summer? What's your strategy for keeping the squirrels away from all

Continued on page 5



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IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Robert J. WOLFENBARGER, Summit, NJ, Robert is a fifth great grandson of Peter, born 1752 and our First VP, Editor and Publisher of our Newsletter, 2. Mark and Boone WOLFENBERGER, Son and Father. Mark of Weatherford, TX, Boone of Arlington, TX. Boone is a third great grandson of Peter born 1752. 3. Geraldine Spargur POULLETTE and Ellis POULLETTE, Newport, OR. Geraldine is a fourth great grand daughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER, born 1754. 4. Frank and Sandra WOLFERSBERGER, Palmyra, PA. Frank is a third great grandson of Philip, Sr. Born 1775. 5. Richard WOLFENBARGER, Tulsa, OK. Richard is a fourth great grandson of Peter born 1752. 6. Anna Maye INGRAM, Grove, OK a third great grand daughter of Peter Wolfenbarger, born 1752. 7. The memorial stone of Johannes WOLFERSBERGER and Anna Margaretha ENSMINGER provided by the WFA in Schaefferstown, PA on Memorial Day 1996.



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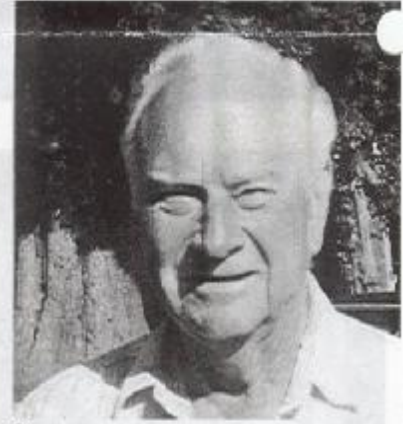
5



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IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Family of Matthias WOLFENBERGER, Staefa, Switzerland. Matthias is the son of Max WOLFENBERGER who is one of our Directors. With Matthias is his wife Monique and their children Zoe, Jeremy and Isabelle. Monique was the person that translated "The Legend of the Golden Plow" and another article which appeared in newsletter Vol 3, Issue 3. 2. Jack O'DONNELL and Thelma Spargur O'DONNELL, Vancouver, WA. Thelma is a third great grand daughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER born 1754. 3. Gregory SANFORD, Ph.D., Spokane, WA. Gregory is a fifth great grand son of John Wolfersberger SPARGER born 1754. 4. Marian Sparger SANFORD, Clarkston, WA. She is the mother of Gregory SANFORD and is a fourth great grand daughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER born 1754. 5. William Roy WOLFENBARGER, Clarkston, WA is an uncle of our Director Myrna LIDDELL. He is a fourth great grand son of Peter WOLFENBARGER born 1752. 6. Thomas C. WOLFENBARGER with his infant daughter Cheyenne Elizabeth. They reside in Franklin, OH. Thomas is a sixth great grand son of Peter born 1752. 7. Marvin SPARGER of Mount Airy, NC. He is a fourth great grand son of John Wolfersberger SPARGER. 8. William Wesley WOLFENBARGER of Palo Alto, CA. He is a fourth great grand son of Peter WOLFENBARGER born 1752.

Memories of "Daddy Butch"

Continued from page 2

my bird feeders?

For two people whose lives barely overlapped, my grandfather and I share an uncanny number of interests. Folk music is one: for years I've hosted a folk music program on Penn State's public radio station, and as a student at Gettysburg College, my grandfather played the mandolin, a 1909 Gibson A model that's the envy of my folk-musician friends. I don't actually know what kind of music they played in that mandolin club; it could have been classical, or perhaps the popular music of the day. But I'd like to believe it was "When the Roses Bloom in Dixieland" and "Lamplighting Time in the Valley."

Weakness for Maple Syrup

Daddy Butch and I also shared a fondness for maple syrup — actually, the whole family has that weakness. Every spring I organize a family trip to southern Somerset County to stock up on syrup, taffy, and other treat at a maple syrup camp where my grandparents once were regular customers. The owners still have stories for us about Harry and Marie.

I hope he'd find it amusing, not disrespectful that I named one of my two cats, Harry. (The other is Hannah after a more distant Wolfensberger.) And I hope he doesn't mind that around Memorial Day this year, I'll head out to the greenhouse and buy some bedding plants that someone else so carefully raised from seed, and slap

Story of Colorado Interstate's Wolfensberger Road Exit Signs

The biography of Jakob Wolfensberger was written by Elmer W. Coyer for the Colorado Genealogy Society in 1997.

Ever seen the exit sign for "Wolfensberger Road" on the interstate highway south of Denver near Castle Rock? Here's its story.

The highway is named for Jakob Wolfensberger, born in Wollishofen, Switzerland, on March 17, 1865, the tenth child of eleven. His parents were Heinrich Wolfensberger (1826-1874) Wollishofen, Switzerland and Katherina Asper (1825-1871) of Zurich. He is descended from Swiss Hans zu Wolfsberg, who was born about 1395 in Ober Wolfsberg.

Orphaned at the age of nine, Jakob and two sisters were taken in by their eldest brother, Hans Rudolf Wolfensberger.

them into the ground in a relative quick weekend's project. I guess my life has just gotten a little too busy to do otherwise.

And, although he didn't attend Penn State (his son — my Uncle Bill, — and I are the only Penn Staters in the family), I think he'd be pleased to know that a photo of him in the Gettysburg College mandolin club hangs on the wall in my office in Old Main. It serves as a reminder to me about how I came to be who I am. About honoring and continuing traditions. And about people who give us gifts that may take years to realize we've received.

Jakob attended school in Wollishofen until he was 10, then was apprenticed to a master shoemaker. Upon leaving the apprenticeship four years later, he was paid 150 Swiss francs. Migrating to Germany, the 17 year-old worked another six months to earn passage to America.

In 1883, Jakob arrived in New York City. He quickly headed west to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to join his brother, Hans Rudolf, who now lived there.

After 18 months of working on a farm, Jakob entered school to improve his English. By July 1891 he had saved \$300 and moved west again, this time to Denver. There, he engaged in various trades before he settled on a homestead near Sedalia, Colorado. Jakob lived on there for five years before moving to a Castle Rock ranch where he spent the rest of his life.

In Sedalia, Jakob met and married Martha Bengtson, daughter of Swedish immigrants. Seeking a new life, the couple moved to the Castle Rock area and raised three children: Edward, Torgny and Alice.

In recognition of Jakob's many civic contributions, the road headed west from Castle Rock was named for him, probably in the early 1900s. In addition to Wolfensberger Road, a nearby hill is also named Wolfensberger Hill. The date of Jakob's death and his burial site is unknown, but it is assumed he is buried in Bear Canyon Cemetery near Castle Rock.

Meet The Worldwide Wolfensberger Family Association, Now More Than 300 Members Strong

Who belongs to the Wolfensberger Family Association? And where do they live?

Some 300 family members live in communities stretched across the globe from the Pacific to Switzerland. Here's a list of current members.

ADAMS, Ruth (Wolfenbarger), ID
ALTMAN, Valerie, (Spargur), LA
ALVORD, Helen (Wolfenbarger), TX
ARBON, Sarah, (Wolfenbarger), AZ
ASPENSON, Bonnie, (Wolfenbarger), OK
ATKINSON, Verda, (Spargur), IN
BAILEY, Betty, (Spargur), LA

B-C

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BASTIAN, Milton, (Spargur), WA
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BEARD, Elizabeth, (Wolfenbarger), TX
BELL, Lavene, (Wolfenbarger), WA
BERRY, Trula, (Wolfenbarger), TN
BIELSKI, Marian, (Wolfenbarger), MO
BINGHAM, Mr. and Mrs., (Wolfenbarger), ID
BLEVINS, Cindy, (Spargur), WY
BOHMAN, Roxanne, (Wolfenbarger), TX
BOOTH, Millie, (Wolfenbarger), OK
BRADEN, Ruby, (Wolfenbarger), TX
BRADLEY, Katherine, (Spargur), GA
BRAKE, Norma, (Spargur), MO
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COBLE, Regina, (Wolfenbarger), TX
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CROSS, Earline, (Spargur), TX
DAVIDSON, Sue, (Wolfenbarger), TX

D-H

DAVIS, Dorothy, (Wolfenbarger), TX
DAVIS, William, (Spargur), MD
DELONG, Betty Jo, (Wolfenbarger), MO
DELONG, Joe, III, (Wolfenbarger), MO
DELONG, Gregory, (Wolfenbarger), MO
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HAY, Amy, (Wolfenbarger), PA

Continued on page 7

IN MEMORIAM

If a relative passes away and you wish to include them in this column, contact WFA President Larry Jones in Oklahoma City.

Can't Find

Hubert Stanley

Wolfenbarger, age 78, died December 6, 1997 in Joplin, Missouri, after a brief illness.

Hubert was born June 1, 1919 in Neosho, MO and had lived since 1984 in Joplin. He married Marjorie Sandwell in 1943.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie and three daughters: Martha Wolfenbarger, Shelly Wolfenbarger Loyd and Shirley Wolfenbarger all of Joplin; a son, Steve, of Joplin and a brother, John E. Wolfenbarger, of Clatskanie, Oregon. Also sisters Eva Wolfenbarger Hadley of Joplin and Aileen Wolfenbarger Lincoln of Silver City, NM.

Hubert's nephew, Jim Lay Wolfenbarger, is a member of The Wolfenbarger Family Association board of directors.

William J. Durham, age 74, died 25 October 1997 in Irvine, KY after a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his wife, Alma Wolfenbarger Durham, of Irvine, KY; as well as his daughter, Cathy, and son, Joe Bill.

WFA WEB SITE

Worldwide Wolfenbarger Association (Cont.)

Continued from page 6

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LAYTON, Shirley Ruth, (Wolfenbarger), MO
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MOORE, Frances, (Wolfenbarger), TX
MORGAM, Charles R., (Spargur), AL
MORGAN, Ida, (Spargur), FL
MULKEY, Patsy, (Wolfenbarger), MO
NAY, Patricia, (Spargur), OH
NEAL, Nick, (Wolfenbarger), WA
NEAL, Troy, (Wolfenbarger), Switzerland
NEAL, Wilma, (Wolfenbarger), WA

O-S

O'DONNELL, Thelma, (Spargur), WA
OSBORN, Vernon, (Wolfenbarger), TX
OVERBEY, Gloria, (Wolfenbarger), NY

Continued on page 8

Worldwide Wolfensberger Family Association (Cont.)

Continued from page 7

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SPRAGUE, Tamara, (Wolfenbarger), UT

Continued on page .

In Genealogy There's History, Says Wolfensberger Historian

Genealogy has given Charlotte Lucas Wolfenbarger of Tulsa a keen sense of history as well as an appreciation for the sacrifices of her forefathers.

In a recent interview published in her hometown *Tulsa World*, Charlotte, a Wolfensberger Family Association director, says she's found happiness in unveiling Wolfensberger family history.

Along with happiness, Charlotte has gained a widening reputation for uncovering stories about family secrets that others might not so willingly unveil. She won a blue ribbon at a recent Tulsa State Fair for an exhibit telling the secrets of her grandfather and uncle who won infamy as a two-man chicken rustling gang in the Depression.

Human Frailties

"It makes them human beings," Charlotte told the *Tulsa World*, who recently recognized her achievements in genealogy and featured her in a two-page interview. "They had human frailties.

"My family has always been very poor but rich in love and music," she explained.

Her studies, according to the article, have also given her a strong sense of history through the association of ancestors with important historic events.

Charlotte's great-grandmother, for example, married a former Confederate cavalryman who

served with her brother in the Civil War.

Two great-great uncles died in the infamous Mountain Meadows massacre in southern Utah in 1857 when a wagon train was ambushed by a breakaway Mormon sect.

Charlotte's aunt, married to a husband of Japanese origins, suffered internment during World War II in the infamous Manzanar, California, Japanese internment camp.

In Every War

And ancestors fought in almost every U.S. war from the American Revolution to the Civil War.

Charlotte lives with an appreciation for the legacy of her forefathers. "We're never really gone. We're living in our ancestors."

It's an insatiable curiosity about her ancestors and history that keeps her searching for more and more answers to her family's past. In her interview, Charlotte told why she had gotten so deeply involved in studying her family's history.

She likes to study the time period in which her ancestors lived, and ponder what clothes they wore, what kind of house they lived in, and what kind of household items they used.

"There's nothing like standing on the property your family owned over 140 years ago. You look and know this is the scene they saw. It's part of you," she says.

Wolfensberger Family

Continued from page 8

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Continued on page 10

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Continued from page 9

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www.icon.net/~wolfberg/

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE EMBROIDERED FAMILY BADGE!

WFA Membership Application

**Join
Now!**

Send this completed form and a check for \$10 to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

Please send us a photo of you and your family.

Memberships are for a calendar year. Annual dues are \$10 per person. Memberships expire at the end of each calendar year, regardless of when you join.

Members who re-join later in the year will receive all four quarterly issues of this newsletter.

New members receive a six-color embroidered family badge based on the Wolfensberger coat of arms. Absolutely free!

Membership is open, but not limited, to members of these families:

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WOLFERSBERGER
WOLFERSPERGER
WOLFENSBERGER
SPARGER**

**WOLFENBARGER
WOLFENBARGER
WOLFENBERGER
SPARGUR**

Wolfensberger
WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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January 1998



January 1998, Vol.4, No. 1

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