

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

May 1998, Vol. 4, No. 2

IT'S SUMMER, SO IT'S REUNION TIME FOR WFA FAMILY MEMBERS

SUMMER IS APPROACHING and the season of family reunions isn't far behind.

This year, the family will celebrate at least five reunions between May and September. Some

welcome all members of the family, but others celebrate the reunions of modern branches of the family. Some may be limited to close family.

In every case, it's hospitable to

contact the reunion coordinator first before arriving. In some cases, it's desirable to bring refreshments and food for your own family.

If a reunion is in your plans this summer, it's a good idea to start planning now. Below is a list of reunions known to the Wolfensberger Family Association:

New Order Deadline: June 1

WFA Member Orders Drive Down Price of 1560 Full-Color Swiss Map To \$45

Enough WFA members have ordered a full-color copy of a 1560 map of the original Wolfensberger family castle site near present-day Bauma, Switzerland to bring the price down to \$45, half the maximum possible price.

The copy is a 22" x 24" reproduction of an original photograph which has been printed on a high-resolution ink jet printer.

Orders for the reproduction will be accepted until June 1, says Bob Wolfensberger, first vice president of the association, who is arranging to produce the map for WFA members at cost. The price includes handling and postage.

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 the original family castle.

If you are interested, please contact Bob by June 1. Write him at 30 Harvey Drive, Summit, NJ 07901. Or contact him by phone at (908) 273-7631, fax at (908) 273-7738, or Internet e-mail at wolfensberger@attmail.com.

1560 SWISS MAP. This illustrates a part of the map showing the site of the family's Swiss ancestral home.



May 16: WOLFENBARGER

Will be held on Saturday, May 16, starting at 1:00 pm in the Gibbs Ruritan Park, 10 miles north of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Coordinator: J. C. Wolfensberger, 2527 Keith Ave, Knoxville, TN 37921. Phone 423-525-2936. Assisting is J.C.'s sister, George Ella Rogers, 7521 E. Emory Road, Corryton, TN 37721.

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Five '98 Family Reunions Are On Tap

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Phone 423-687-5338.

All families of all family branches are welcome to attend. Since 200 people are expected to attend, please notify J. C. or George Ella in advance to register.

All drinks and utensils will be provided, but families planning to attend should bring a covered dish of meat, vegetable or desert for your own family.

August 16, SPARGER

Will be held on Sunday,

August 16, beginning at 1:00 pm in Galax, Virginia.

Coordinator is Guy Mitchell Sparger, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030. Phone 910-786-6906

August 30, WOLFENBERGER

Scheduled on Sunday

August 30 at 1:00 pm in the Zion Hill Community Building four miles north of Weatherford, Texas. This reunion is for the descendants of Samuel Wolfenberger, born in 1820 in Grainger County, Tennessee.

Coordinator is Lorene Rothrock of Weatherford.

September 5, WOLFINBARGER

Will be held Saturday

September 5 beginning at 1:00 pm. Reunion site is the Senior Citizens Building, about 2 miles west of Irvine, Kentucky.

Coordinator is Ora Kirby, 84 Reese Street, Irvine, Kentucky,

40336. Phone 606-712-4073.

September 13, WILKINSON-WOLFENBARGER

Will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 1:00 pm in the Women's Club House in Blue Springs, Missouri. This reunion is basically for the descendants of Alexander Wilkinson and Elizabeth Frances Wolfenbarger.

Coordinator Olen O. Wilkinson, 900 W. "B" Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, phone 816-228-4183.



Big 1999 Reunion, Open To All, Is Set For California Site

Mark your 1999 calendars for this big reunion.

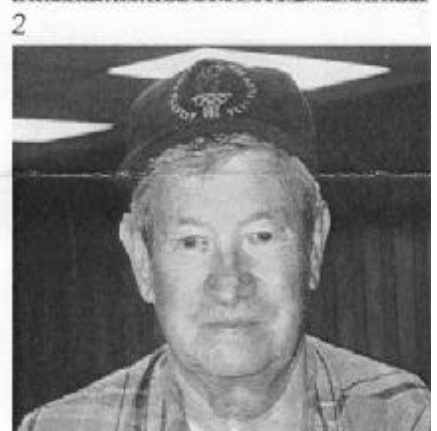
A large West Coast reunion is planned for an unspecified site at Palo Alto, California, in August of 1999. All descendants of Hans zu Wolfsberg, whether American or European, are invited. Future issues of this newsletter will update plans.

Organizer is William Wesley (Bill) Wolfinbarger. He lives at 2641 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, California 94306-2307. Phone 650-326-7764.

New WFA Members Raise Total To 375

In chronological order of membership, these are the newest individual members of the Wolfensberger Family Association. They bring WFA membership to a total of 375.

MAXEY, Jeannette, (Wolfensberger) MI
FRASER, Joan C., (Wolfensberger) CA
ROADS, Ellen A., (Spargur) IL
PERIN, Joan, (Spargur) OH
WOOD, Linda, (Wolfenbarger) TN
MORGAN, Charles R., (Spargur) AL
WOLFENBARGER, Timmy L., OK
BERRY, Trula, (Wolfenbarger) TN
LUCAS, Alma, (Wolfenbarger) CA
GEARY, Gail, (Wolfensberger) GA
KENERSON, James S., (Sparger) SC
WOLFINBARGER, Melinda, TX
WOLFINBARGER, James O. Sr., TX
CHILDERS, Darlene, (Wolfenbarger) UT
SPARGUR, Donald E. OR
BREUER, Margret M., (Sparger) CO
PETER, Norma J., (Sparger) NY
MILLEN, Robert, (Sparger) WA
WOLFENBARGER, Carl E., TN
METZGER, Mary Louise, (Spargur) OH
SKINNER, Sharon, (Wolfensberger) TX
LICKLITER, Darryn, (Wolfenbarger) MD
KOVALCHICK, Janet, (Wolfensberger) CA
HODGES, Nancy, (Wolfensberger) CA
WELCH, Junior, (Wolfenbarger) TN
RHAN, Nancy, (Wolfensberger) PA
O'DONNELL, Steven D., (Spargur) WA
SHELTON, Donna J., (Wolfenbarger) OR
WOLFENBARGER, Charles C., OH
MYERS, Shirley Dawson, (Wolfenbarger) WA
SPARGUR, Craig, CA
BROCKMAN, Joni, (Wolfenbarger) CO
COATS, Wilma Faye, (Wolfenbarger) TX
O'REILLY, Wendell, (Wolfenbarger) NF, Canada
WOLFENBARGER, Wendell, KY
HERALD, Robert F., (Wolfenbarger) CO



FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Sons of J. C. WOLFENBARGER and Hope FARMER of Knoxville, TN. L to R., Michael Wayne of El Paso, TX; William Calvin of Belleville, IL; Stephen Jay of Knoxville, TN; Dennis Allen of Knoxville, TN. J. C. is the coordinator of the reunion in Knoxville on 16 May. The four sons are 6th great grandsons of Peter WOLFENBARGER, born 1752 in Lebanon County, PA. 2. Sarah WOLFERSBERGER, (17 Mar 1807 - 30 Nov 1873). Sarah was the daughter of Philip WOLFERSBERGER (5 Feb 1778 - 3 Aug 1846) and Maria Elizabeth HAACK (30 Aug 1774 - 12 Oct 1824). Sarah married Samuel BOWMAN. 3. Family of William Walker WOLFENBARGER (23 Jan 1830 - 5 Mar 1912) a grand son of Peter WOLFENBARGER born 1752 in Lebanon County, PA. and Katherine Elizabeth BROCK (10 Aug 1823 - 11 Dec 1895), bottom row - L to R, William Walker, Katherine Elizabeth; Millard Filmore (1859 - 1910); Joseph (1856 - 1907); Top Row, Amanda (1864 - 1912); Mary Elizabeth (1858 - 1943); Nancy Lucinda (1858 - 1902); James Peter (1852 - 1940); Robert Walker (1865 - 1958); Rowan Claire (1862 - ?); Samuel Lafette (1867 - 1951). Son George (1853 - ?) not in photo. All were born in Grainger County, TN and all moved to Newton County, MO in 1876. Photo taken about 1890. 4. Gerald G. HOPKINS and wife Eunice ASSUM. See article in this newsletter. 5. James HINLINE lives near Eva, MO. He is a 4th great grandson of Peter WOLFENBARGER born 1752 in Lebanon County, PA. James is holding a plaster cast of a bear track found near his farm; 6. James Roy WOLFENBARGER, see memorial on James in this newsletter.



FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Family of Luther Gabriel WOLFERSBERGER, Jr.; L to R Son, Michael Jon WOLFERSBERGER; Wife Lois MONISMITH; Luther Gabriel WOLFERSBERGER, Jr.; Daughter, Susan Rebecca MANNING, all born in Mechanicsburg, PA: 2. Children of Nancy Louise Wolfersberger RHAN and George RHAN, all born in Mechanicsburg, PA, David Alan RHAN, Eric Brian RHAN, Marc Edwin RHAN and Jon Adam RHAN. Jon and his mother Nancy has provided much information on the WOLFERSBERGER families of PA: 3. Luther Gabriel WOLFERSBERGER, Sr. and wife Daisie MEREDITH: 4. Nancy Louise Wolfersberger RHAN and husband George F. RHAN of Mechanicsburg, PA. Nancy is a 4th great granddaughter of John WOLFERSBERGER and Elizabeth CARPER and a 5th great granddaughter of Philip WOLFERSBERGER, born in 1739 in Lebanon County, PA: 5. Collier Bryson SPARGER, born 3 Nov 1900 and his wife Alta. They live in Venice, FL and seem to be in great health. Collier is a son of Joseph Bingman SPARGER. Collier was born in Mount Airy, NC and is a 3rd great grandson of John Wolfersberger SPARGER and Christina FREY: 6. Donna Sparger WEYEN born in Asotin, WA, the daughter of Claud Davis SPARGER and Hattie Eleanor JOHNSON. Donna and her husband Theodore WEYEN live in Kendrick, ID. Donna is a 4th great granddaughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER: 7. Margaret Rose WEBB and Ray J. WEBB. Ray was born in Mount Airy, NC and is the son of Annie Maude SPARGER and William WEBB. Ray is a 3rd great grandson of John Wolfersberger SPARGER. Ray and Margaret live in Elkins, NC: 8. Nita Spargur BAKER born in Lincoln Acres, CA, the daughter of Robert Clair SPARGUR and Vera May COTTON. Nita is a 4th great granddaughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER. Nita lives in Vancouver, WA.

Family Grieves Six Loved Family Members

Can't Find **Margery Hood Spargur.** Margery Spargur, 82, wife of Earl W. Spargur, died on March 7, 1998. Margery was born May 15, 1916.

Both Margery and Earl attended the 1997 Wolfenbarger Family Reunion in Clatskanie, Oregon.

Earl said she was feeling well at the time of the reunion, but later said she had become seriously ill. Margery died of cancer. Earl Spargur lives at 5802 Zileman Drive, San Jose, California, 95123.

✓ **The Rev. Carl V. Wolfenbarger.** The Rev. Wolfenbarger, 77, of New Market, Tennessee, died on Saturday, April 11, 1998 after a brief illness. He died in the Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. He had served for 46 years as pastor of Baptist churches in Jefferson, Grainger and Knox counties in Tennessee. He is survived by Virginia Nell, his devoted wife of 57 years as well as six children and nine brothers and sisters. He is interred in the Mill Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

Can't Find **Kathryn Wolfenbarger Sweet,** Kathryn "Kitty" Wolfenbarger Sweet, 73, died

Keep In Touch



December 12, 1997, in the University Medical Center in Tucson, Arizona.

She had been a resident of Sierra Vista, Arizona, for the past 17 years.

Kitty was born September 4, 1924 in Raytown, Missouri. She received a degree as a registered nurse at the University of Kansas. She worked on public health projects in Africa and assisted in Red Cross projects at the many bases where she accompanied her husband during his tour of duty in the Army.

Kitty, active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and other organizations, also had an abiding interest in genealogy.

She will be remembered as a person who gave wholeheartedly to any project she undertook, not the least of which was love and support for her husband of 53 years, Tom Sr, and their three children.

She is survived by her husband, Tom, of Sierra Vista; two sons, Tom Jr. of Sierra Vista, and Larry Dale Sweet of Tucson; a daughter Sharon Sweet Francis of Folsom, CA; one brother Orlie K. Wolfenbarger, Jr of Mertzon, TX; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She was the daughter of Orlie Kenneth Wolfenbarger, Sr and Alice Lillian Keplar and a fourth great granddaughter of John Wolfersberger, Jr, born 1730.

Kathryn was a charter member of the Wolfensberger Family Association and provided

research for our family records. This obituary of Kathryn was provided by Varva Steele of Kanab, UT.

Can't Find **Geraldine Spargur Kirk Poullette,** Geraldine Poullette, 91, died November 28, 1997, in Newport, Oregon. She was born 31 December 1915 in Colorado Springs, CO, a daughter of Floyd Earl Kirk and Mary Alice Spargur.

Geraldine was raised in the San Luis Valley of Colorado and attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. She earned her bachelor of music degree from Colorado University and later taught elementary music in Craig, Colorado, when she married Ellis Poullette.

Later, Geraldine was a teacher in the Hillsboro, Oregon, school district for 21 years before retiring in 1977. In Hillsboro, Geraldine was the organist at the All Saints Episcopal Church and gave piano lessons to numerous Hillsboro children.

After retirement, she and Ellis moved to Newport, Oregon. There, she provided music for the Saint Stephens Episcopal Church and the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband Ellis; two daughters, Victoria Jicha and Valerie Poullette; two grandchildren, Rachel Yurk, and Richard E. Graef; and two great grandchildren, Richard Jonathan Graef and Austin Riley Graef.

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Please Keep Sending Your Photos and Biographies

By Lawrence M. Jones, WFA President

Our paid membership is now for 375 families. This is very good especially for a family with the unusual spelling that of our ancestors. We get many letters and notes telling us how much they enjoy the newsletter that is produced by our editor, Bob Wolfenbarger.

We have received several photos of our members along with short bios of themselves. We appreciate it! Keep it up. You can see the results of some of these

photos and biographies in these quarterly newsletters.

Anyone who misses a newsletter or promise that has been overlooked should contact me and I will give that immediate attention.

One of my efforts has been to provide a pedigree print out for each member. Generally I have been successful, but occasionally those who have not received their pedigree print-out because I have not received sufficient family information to make the connection to the

family. Some times the reason for not receiving the pedigree is that I have not been able to get your family information into the computer. I am in hopes that bottleneck is on the way to being solved. Our Board member, Jimmy Wolfenbarger of Clatskanie, Oregon, has agreed to follow up on these backlogged entries and get them into the computer. Jimmy will be sending me files on these individuals to me on a gedcom file and that should solve many problems.

Family Mourns Six Loved Ones in Death

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Geraldine's daughter Victoria Jicha recalls, "my father saw the photograph of he and Geraldine taken at the August 1997 reunion in Clatskanie, Oregon, and remembered what a wonderful experience it was for them on their last trip. I wish to thank everyone for making it such a happy occasion for my parents."

Geraldine was a great grand-daughter of Joseph W. Spargur, Jr, born in 1809. The photograph of Geraldine and Ellis was in a recent newsletter.

✓ **Charles Franklin Spargur**, 78, of New Carlisle, Ohio, died at his home on November 30, 1997. He was born April 27, 1919, in Highland County, Ohio, the son of Faye Spargur and Elsa McNary. He was a U. S. Army veteran of World

War II. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Mary McClelland. Charles was a great-great-grandson of Henry W. Spargur, born December 1, 1789, in Surry County, North Carolina.

He is survived by a son, Leigh Spargur, and daughter-in-law, Florence, of Chicago, Illinois; a daughter, Nancy Spargur and son-in-law Eugene Crawley of Woodbridge, Virginia, and three grand children.

Charles was a member of the Wolfensberger Family Association.

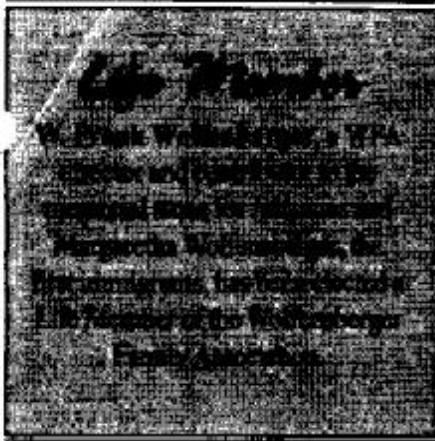
This obituary was provided by Paul Brown of Warner-Robins, Georgia.

Cont find
James Roy Wolfenbarger, 82, of Miami, OK died on February 18, 1998 at St. Johns Regional Hospital in Miami, Oklahoma, after a short illness. Mr. Wolfenbarger

was born 20 February 1916 in Joplin, Missouri. He had lived in Miami for the last 53 years. He was the son of Homer and Freda Wolfenbarger and the great-grandson of William Walker Wolfenbarger and Catherine Brock who were born in Grainger County, Tennessee, in 1830.

Survivors include a son, Glen R. Wolfenbarger of Noble, Oklahoma, and a daughter Greta Wolfenbarger Dawson of Miami, Oklahoma. Also three brothers, Lloyd Wolfenbarger of Neosho, MO, Amos Wolfenbarger of Seneca, Missouri, and Frank Wolfenbarger of Tiff City, Missouri; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

James was a member of the Wolfensberger Family Association. This obituary is from Greta Dawson of Miami, Oklahoma.



No Kidding! The Great Frankish King, Charlemagne, Could Be Distant Relation

Remember Charlemagne?

If you're a student of European medieval history, you probably do. But you may not know that you could be related to this famous Frankish king.

At least half of all people of German stock are descendants of

Charlemagne, according to a German professor. Since German-speaking Switzerland and the Alsace were once part of the German empire, at least half the members of the WFA also number Charlemagne among their ancestors.

Submitted by Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger.

Joseph and Ida Wolfenbarger

Another Swiss Family Comes To 20th Century U.S.

At least one other Wolfensberger family emigrated to the United States from Switzerland in the Twentieth Century. Like so many immigrants, they moved to California and remained there for generations.

Josef Wolfensberger was the patriarch of a Swiss immigrant family that arrived in America in 1920 at the age of 30. Josef was born March 29, 1890, in Arth, Switzerland, the second of 14 children born to Jakob August Wolfensberger and Jakob's wife, Agatha Fakler.

In Switzerland, Josef married Ida Eberhard on April 24, 1920 and shortly thereafter, the couple emigrated to America.

Started Life In America

Josef and Ida started their life in America in Calexico, California, where they lived until about 1971. They later moved to Pleasanton, California, where many of their descendants still live. Josef died January 18, 1972, in Pleasanton.

The couple lived in Calexico

only a short time before Josef changed the spelling of his name to Wolfenbarger, omitting the "s" that remains in most Swiss names today.

In Calexico, they had three children: Joseph Antone Wolfenberger, born March 12, 1922; Martin Wolfenberger, born June 28, 1923, and Ida Wolfenberger.

Joseph Antone Wolfenberger subsequently married Barbara Lanani who was born in Livermore, California. Barbara and Joseph had four children where were also born in Livermore.

The children were Steven Wolfenberger, Joel Henry Wolfenberger, Alan Joseph Wolfenberger and Joan Marie Wolfenberger. Joseph and Barbara attended the reunion in Clatskanie, Oregon, in 1997.

Son of Heinrich

Joseph's father, Jakob, was the son of Heinrich, who was born in 1835 in Uster, Switzerland. Heinrich was also the son of a Jakob, who was born in 1808 in Lipperschwandi, a small village

located a few kilometers from Bauma, Switzerland.

This Jakob was the son of another Jakob, born in 1778 in Lipperschwandi. He was the son of Hans Jakob born in 1745, who was the son of Heinrich born in 1712, who was the son of Hans Jakob born in 1667.

Hans Jakob was also the son of a Hans Jakob, who was born in 1634, who was the son of Hans born 1592, who was the son of Peter born in 1548. Peter was the son of Heinrich, born in 1498, who was the son of Hermann. Herman, born in 1436, was the son of Hans zu Wolfsberg, who was born in about 1395. The last several generations were born in Lipperschwandi,

We are aware of more of our families from Switzerland that have come to America but are awaiting to make their connections to the family. This family information was provided by Joseph and Barbara Wolfenberger along with information contained in the book "Wolfensberger aus Wolfensberg im Kanton Zurich"

