

# Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

February 1999, Vol. 5, No. 1

## WFA Members Elect Four New Directors To Run '99 Wolfensberger Family Association

*Attend One Near You ...*

### 1999 FAMILY REUNIONS

*If you would like to attend any of these family reunions please notify the event coordinator in advance.*

**JUNE 26. Wyandotte, Oklahoma.** Begins at 10:00 a.m. This reunion is for the **Wolfenbarger** and **Wolfinbarger** and any other families descended from Switzerland's Wolfensberger family. The event will be held in the Wyandotte Tribal Center on U S Highway 60

The 1999 event will be the third reunion of this group. Two previous reunions have been well organized and well attended. Coordinators are **Ann Crabtree**, 8080 Norway Road, Neosho, MO 64850, phone 417-451-5427; **Jo Wooldridge**, phone 918-678-2998; and **Millie Booth**, whose phone number is 918-542-1979.

**AUGUST 15. Galax, Virginia.** Starts at 1:00 p.m.. This reunion will be coordinated by **Guy Mitchell Sparger**, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030, phone 910-786-0906

**AUGUST 28. Palo Alto, California.** Begins at 10:00 a.m. This reunion will be held at the Elks Lodge picnic grounds in Palo Alto, a location easily accessible via highway 101. A driving map will be published in the July family newsletter. **Open to all.**

A \$15 per-person charge will pay for a luncheon of chicken, beans, corn-on-the-cob, salad, dessert and tea or coffee.

This reunion will be coordinated by **Bill Wolfinbarger**, 2641 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306, phone 415-326-7764; and **Earl Spargur**, 5802 Zileman Drive, San Jose, CA 95123, phone 408-629-1949.

**AUGUST 29. Weatherford, Texas.** Starts at 1:00 p.m. The **Wolfenberger** family of Weatherford will hold their family reunion in the Zion Hill Community Building, located four miles north of Weatherford. If interested, please contact the coordinator, **Lorene Rothrock**, of Weatherford.

Dozens of Wolfensberger Family Association members cast ballots last year to elect a new slate of directors for the Wolfensberger Family Association in 1999, electing four new family volunteer members to run the now-international family association.

Separately the directors re-elected on December 12, 1998, the association's officers in a nationwide telephone conference call, and added a new unpaid association position of assistant secretary to the list of officers.

Alphabetically, the 1999 slate of WFA directors is:

Elected a new director is **Richard L. "Buzz" Evans**, a member of the Sparger family, who

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# Fourteen Will Head Association In 1999

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lives at 10903 Holly Springs in Houston, Texas.

**Lawrence M. "Larry"**

## ***The '99 Schedule of Wolfensberger Family Reunions In The U.S.***

*Continued from page 1*

**SEPTEMBER 4. Irvine, Kentucky.** Begins at 10:00 a.m. The **Wolfenbarger** reunion will be held in the Irvine Senior Citizens Building, two miles west of Irvine. This was a well organized and well attended reunion last year. **Ora Kirby**, last year's coordinator, will also coordinate this event. She can be reached at 84 Reese Street, Irvine, KY 40336, phone 606-721-4073.

**SEPTEMBER 18. Knoxville, Tennessee.** This is a tentative date for a **Wolfenbarger** family reunion. Details will be included in the next family newsletter. Coordinator will be **Robert Lee Wolfenbarger** of Knoxville. His phone is 423-689-5433. He will be assisted by **Trula Berry**, phone 423-922-7004 and **Marie Cox**, phone 423-922-5912.

**SEPTEMBER 12. Blue Springs, Missouri.** Begins at 1:00 p.m. The **Wilkerson-Wolfenbarger** reunion will be held in the Womens Club House in Blue Springs. Coordinator is **Olen O. Wilkerson**, 900 W "B" Street, Blue Springs, MO 64051, phone 816-228-4183.

**Jones**, member of the **Wolfenbarger** family and founder of the WFA, who lives at 6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was reelected.

Mrs. **Myrna Liddell**, member of the **Wolfenbarger** family, of 2747 East Parkwood Drive in Langley, Washington, was reelected.

A new director is Ms. **Ellen Roads**, a member of the **Spargur** family who lives at 233 North Clinton Street in Pittsfield, Illinois.

**William F. Spargur** who lives at 4561 Grandview Drive, Palmdale, California, was reelected.

**Jim Lay Wolfenbarger** of 18445 Coop Road, Clatskanie,

Oregon, was reelected.

Reelected a director is **Robert J. Wolfenbarger** of 30 Harvey Drive, Summit, New Jersey.

Elected a director for the first time is **Robert Lee Wolfenbarger** of 6017 North Broadway in Knoxville, Tennessee.

**W. Frank Wolfenbarger** with offices in 2520 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas, was reelected.

Another new director is **Dr. Virginia Wolfenbarger** of 11215 Sagetrail in Houston, Texas.

Reelected director is **Bill Wolfenbarger** of 2641 Bryant Street in Palo Alto, California.

Also reelected a director is **Max Wolfensberger** of Zehnentrotte in Staefa, Switzerland.

Another reelected director is **Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger** of 301 Scotsholm Boulevard in Syracuse, New York.

Five of these directors were elected as officers of the family association by the WFA Board of Directors.

**President:** Larry Jones of Oklahoma City.

**First Vice President:** Bob Wolfenbarger of Summit, NJ.

**Second Vice President:** Myrna Liddell of Langley, Wash.

**Secretary:** William F. Spargur of Palmdale, California

Richard L. "Buzz" Evans was elected to the new position of **Assistant Secretary**.

The WFA board holds its regular meetings by conference telephone calls four times a year. Meetings are scheduled March 6, June 5, Sept. 18 and Dec. 11.



August 1999. All descendants of Swiss-born Hans zu Wolfenberg, progenitor of the international Wolfensberger family, whether European or American, are invited to next year's family reunion in Palo Alto, California. See page one for additional details.

Interested in coming to Palo Alto in 1999? Contact **William Wesley (Bill) Wolfenbarger**. Address: 2641 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, California 94306-2307. Phone: 650-326-7764.





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1. **Drawing of Bauma, Switzerland** – I found this drawing of Bauma, Switzerland while surfing on the Internet. I sent a copy to Max Wolfensberger in Staefa, Switzerland to determine the authenticity of the drawing. Max went to the library in Winterthur, Switzerland, where he found the original. The person that made this pen and ink drawing in 1841 was Jakob Hofmann. This drawing shows the village of Bauma behind the forest on the hill. What was left of the Wolfsberg Castle at that time can be seen near the top of a distant mountain.
2. **Darlene Riddell** – Born in Irvine, KY the daughter of Irene Wolfinbarger and granddaughter of Otis Wolfinbarger
3. **Top Joseph Bingman Sparger** – Born 22 Nov 1864 in Mount Airy, NC, died 13 Sep 1947 in Winston-Salem, NC. See article in this issue concerning Joseph and the great genealogical work he did for the family while working with William Murlin Creasy, Sr., **Left William Eugene Sparger** – Born 27 Nov 1899 in Mount Airy, NC, died 8 Aug 1953 in Mount Airy, NC. He was a son of Joseph Bingman Sparger., **Right Randall Worth Sparger, Sr.** – Born 27 June 1895 in Mount Airy, NC, died 28 June 1954 in Durham, NC. He was a son of Joseph Bingman Sparger.
4. **L to R Elizabeth Ann Kirby**, Irvine, KY daughter of Ora Kirby; **Ora Wolfinbarger Kirby**, of Irvine, KY daughter of Peter Abraham Wolfinbarger. Ora was the coordinator of the family reunion in Irvine in 1998 and again in 1999; **Wilma Wolfinbarger Cavins**, of Dry Ridge, KY is the daughter of Otis Wolfinbarger.



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1. **Richard L. Evans** born in Waco, TX, degree in Electrical Engineering from Kansas State University. Served in management with General Motors, AT & SF Railroad and Texaco where he retired in 1987. Richard is a direct descendant of John W. Sparger and Sarah Lyon of Surry County, NC. Richard has done a lot of genealogy work on his Sparger family and is a 1999 member of our Board of Directors
2. **Virginia Wolfenberger, Ph. D.**, born in Fort Worth, TX the daughter of Winston Lee Wolfenberger. Virginia is a great grand daughter of Samuel Wolfenberger who was the patriarch of the Wolfenberger family of Weatherford, TX. Virginia received her Doctorate Degree from Texas A & M. She is a 1999 member of our Board of Directors. Virginia lives in Houston, TX
3. **Albert H. Creasy** - Served in management with State Farm Insurance in their headquarters in Normal, IL until his retirement in 1997. He now lives with his wife in their recently built home in Tyron, NC. Albert was born in Wilmington, NC and is a great grandson of Walter Scott Creasy and Edith Eliza Sparger. Albert has provided an Article for this newsletter on his ancestor William Murton Creasy who did such a remarkable research job on the Sparger - Spargur family.
4. **Ellen Roads** lives in Pittsfield, IL. She is the daughter of Delmar Henry Roads and Carrie Heightman. She is a great grand daughter of Daniel Roads and Maletha W. Spargur. Ellen is a 1999 member of our Board of Directors.
5. **Pierre Wolfenberger** lives in Renens, Switzerland. See article in this newsletter concerning Pierre.
6. **William Allen Wolfenberger** lives in Maryville, TN with his wife Rebecca and their two sons. William is the son of John Hamilton Wolfenberger and Alameda Tilson. William is a great great grand son of Peter Amos Wolfenberger.

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# *Feeling Safe On The Frontier: All it Took Was Two Rifles, An Axe, A Knife and A Dog*

And you thought being alone at night was scary!

Life was tougher for our ancestors. Here's one to remember.

**Joseph W. Sparger, Sr.** the third of nine children of **John Wolfersberger Sparger** and **Christina Frey**. **Joseph** was born March 1, 1781, in Surrey County, NC and died March 6, 1845 in Highland County, Ohio.

**Joseph's** first marriage was to **Rachel Sumner** in May 1801. She died in 1823. **Joseph** and **Rachel** had 10 children, all of whom were born in Highland County.

**Joseph's** second marriage was to **Abigail Moore** on December 26, 1823, in Highland County. **Joseph** and **Abigail** had eight children, all born in Highland

County. At birth, **Joseph** spelled his name Sparger. In Ohio, he changed the spelling to Spargur as did the rest of the Highland County family.

WFA member **David J. Dalton** of Ghanna, OH, recently sent an e-mail message containing a passage that he found on page 93 from a 1890 edition of "*A History of the Early Settlement of Highland County, Ohio*" by Daniel Scott. It reads as follows:

**"Joseph W. Spargur** emigrated from Surry County, North Carolina, in the fall of 1804, and settled in Highland County on the farm known as the Odell place, southwest of the present town of New Petersburg.

"Mr. Spargur was a millwright

by trade and pursued his profession whenever he could find employment. Game was plentiful in the vicinity and Indians were seen more frequently than whites. Indians passed by almost daily, either singly or in small parties.

"Since **Rachel Spargur** knew almost nothing about Indians except the stories she heard about their savage and bloodthirsty nature, it was expected that she would be very fearful in her husband's absence. In fact, she was.

"When **Joseph** was late coming home from work, **Rachel** barricaded herself in the cabin, arming herself with two loaded rifles, an axe, a butcher knife and a dog. Only then did she feel secure enough to sleep."

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## *"They Served Aply and Unselfishly"*

# ***OUR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S LETTER***

By **Larry Jones**  
President, WFA

At the meeting of your Board of Directors on December 12, 1998, your Secretary Bill Spargur was out of town on business, so I requested another board member, B. J. DeLong, to take the minutes. She accepted and, of course, did a fine job.

I had no idea that B.J. was having physical problems until I received a card from her shortly thereafter. She told me that she had

her third chemotherapy treatment on the Monday after our meeting. I am so glad that B.J. was able to serve on the board, and our prayers are with her that she will enjoy a complete recovery.

I'd also like to recognize three other Wolfensberger Family Association members who served so ably and unselfishly on our board.

They are **Charlotte Lucas**, **Ivilyn Martin** and **Judy Wolfensberger**.

Your services are greatly

appreciated and you can be assured you will be called again for service to your family association.

I would also like to congratulate the four new members who were elected to the Board of Directors to serve in 1999. They are

- ◆ **Richard L. Evans** (Sparger),
- ◆ **Ellen A. Roads** (Spargur),
- ◆ **Robert Lee Wolfenbarger**
- ◆ **Virginia Wolfenbarger**, PhD.

Welcome to you all.

February 1999



## Family Historian, Dr. Raymond Bell, Is Finally Located

A long sought-after family historian and genealogist has been discovered with the help of an important reference publication.

**Dr. Raymond Martin Bell**, author of several important genealogical studies about the Wolfensberger–Wolfensberger family, served on the faculty of a university in Washington, Pennsylvania for many years.

Larry Jones recalls, "I tried to contact Dr. Bell for several years, but all of my efforts were in vain. Recently, we placed a Wolfensberger Family Association advertisement in *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, an important genealogical reference publication.

### *A card in the mail*

"A few days after the magazine came out, I received a card from Dr. Bell, who had seen our ad in the magazine. I immediately called him.

"I felt that was our lucky day. That day we located a person who has done so much to tell the story of our early family in Europe and in America.

"I brought Dr. Bell's presence to the attention of our Board of Directors in December. "The board bestowed upon him a Life Membership in our association.

We hope to have a longer article on Dr. Bell in a future newsletter. Dr. Bell is now 91 and lives in Coralville, Iowa, where his son is a physician.

## *New WFA Members Include A Swiss Relative of U.S. Pioneer*

### **Kenneth P. Duncan.**

Kenneth is a descendant of the Wolfenbarger family of Irvine, Kentucky. He lives today in Advance, North Carolina. His wife is **Joy Elaine Rogers**. Their children are **Joy Denise Duncan Conrad** and **Kenneth Shane Duncan**. The Duncan family e-mail address is [Trap2shoot@aol.com](mailto:Trap2shoot@aol.com). See the family photograph in this newsletter.

**Neil Harkleroad.** Neil is a descendant of Nancy Hackleroad, born December 17, 1789, the wife of Joseph Peter Wolfenbarger, who was born October 12, 1780 in Shenandoah, Virginia.

Joseph Peter was the son of Peter Wolfenbarger, born about 1752 in Lebanon County, Pa.

Joseph Peter and Nancy Hackleroad had eleven children: Louvina Melvina, Mary, Peter, Tandy, Susannah, Katherine, Joseph William, Robert Wesley, Lucinda and Philip.

Such is Nancy Hackleroad's influence on the family that there is a five page listing of descendants. Any descendent who would like a copy of this list may request one free of charge from Larry Jones.

**Pierre Wolfensberger.** Pierre lives at Ch des Pallettes 8, CH-1020, Renens, Switzerland. Renens is a suburb of Lausanne which is in the French-speaking area of Switzerland. His e-mail address is [pwolfensberger@vtx.ch](mailto:pwolfensberger@vtx.ch) on

December 12. He is an engineer with a Swiss manufacturing company.

Ironically, Pierre is from the same branch of the family that came to the United States in 1883 and later settled in Castle Rock, Colorado. (See the January 1998 issue of this newsletter for the article on **Jakob Wolfesberger** of Castle Rock)

Pierre speaks French and English and some German.

**Ellen M. Wolfensperger** – Ellen lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her e-mail address is [ewolfensperger@critpath.com](mailto:ewolfensperger@critpath.com).

Ellen has one brother, Bob, and three sisters as well as an aunt who lives in Dallas, Texas.

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## *A French Connection And Their Swiss Roots*

WFA member **Charles Wolfensberger**, of St. Louis is a descendant of **George Wolfensberger**, born about 1735 in Hartzviller in eastern France.

Until now, he's been unable to find his Swiss connection.

Enter **Art and Rosie Rideout**, of Fallbrook, California, also descendants of the original **George**.

Recently **Art and Rosie** were joined in their search by **Jean-Louis Thomas** of a Paris suburb, also a descendant of the Hartzviller Wolfensbergers. Can anyone else help in the search?

## **W. M. Creasy: Family Historian and Railroad Man**

*By Albert Creasy*

Over the years, many Sparger researchers have come across a



### **Tommy Lynn Wolfenbarger.**

Tommy was born May 23, 1953, in Oklahoma City, OK. He died December 27, 1998 in Oklahoma City, OK. He was preceded in death by his father, Munford Wolfenbarger, Jr.

He is survived by his mother, Bernice Bruer Wolfenbarger, sister Janice and brothers Timmy and Terry, all of Oklahoma City.

Tommy was the great great grand son of William Walker Wolfenbarger, born in 1838 in Grainger County, Tennessee.

**John Emmett Wolfenbarger** was born May 29, 1907 in Neosho, Missouri, and died Jan 19, 1999 in Clatskanie Oregon.

He married Edna Mae Housley Oct 19, 1930 daughter of Nathan Housley and Emma Haynes.

Children of John and Edna are: Helen Phyllis Wolfenbarger Saracco born September 28, 1931 in Neosho, MO; Donald Larry Wolfenbarger, born April 1, 1933 died December 20, 1936 in Missouri; Jimmy Lay Wolfenbarger, born January 1, 1935 in Neosho, MO; and Sally Lou Wolfenbarger Smith, born August 11, 1937 in Neosho MO.

John Emmett was the son of John Peter Wolfenbarger and Alice Taiclet.

genealogical work entitled "Sparger and Allied Families" compiled and published by W. M. Creasy (my great uncle) and James Bingman Sparger that was completed in the mid-1930s.

William Murlin Creasy, Sr. was born September 14, 1868 in Surry County, North Carolina, the oldest of seven children seven children of the Reverend Walter Scott Creasy and Edith Eliza Sparger.

He was reared in Patrick County, Virginia, but much of his adult life in Wilmington, North Carolina. William was an active member of Grace Methodist Church (which had been founded by his father in 1887) and was a member of the board of Stewards.

### **Joined railroad in 1889**

William's first job was in the accounting department of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad Company in Wilmington. He joined the railroad on February 4, 1889, and eventually rose to the position of Supervisor of Joint Facility Accounts.

He married Gertrude Medernach Bagby in 1901, and they were the parents of William Murlin Creasy, Jr. and Helen Dunn Creasy Hunter (now both



deceased). The Creasys built a neat two story frame house at 805 Ann Street in Wilmington in 1906. Recently that house underwent extensive restoration and was awarded a plaque citing it as a part of Historic Wilmington.

In addition to the Sparger history, W. M. Creasy also compiled a "Creasy Family History" which traces that family back to the immigrant ancestor John Creasy (Henrico County, Virginia) in the mid-1600s.

The North Carolina Archives in Raleigh has copies of both histories. I am presently working to republish both histories updated with information collected over the years.

W. M. Creasy died March 27, 1939, and his wife Gertrude died January 31, 1945. Both are buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte, North Carolina.

*For further information, contact:*

Albert H. Creasy  
276 Howard Gap Road  
Tryon, NC 28782  
Phone 828-859-0208  
E-mail: [alfracre@teleplex.net](mailto:alfracre@teleplex.net)

An article in our July 1998 WFA newsletter was about J. B. (Joseph Bingman) Sparger, the "Good Roads Man."

For completeness, that article should have mentioned that one of the most important tasks J. B. Sparger accomplished for the family was to assist W. M. Creasy with the Sparger part of the history of the family.

