

Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

July 1999, Vol. 5, No. 3

Six Reunions in August, September Could Keep Wolfensberger Families On The Road

SIX REUNIONS of various branches of the Wolfensberger family are scheduled in August and September for family members eager to meet their kin.

Among the get-togethers is a reunion that is open to all members of the Wolfenbarger-Sparger and related families on Saturday, August 28, in Palo Alto, California.

New on the list of family reunions is an event recently scheduled on Saturday, September 18, near Knoxville, Tenn., for members of the Wolfenbarger family.

"We always encourage family members to call the reunion coordinator in advance to make arrangements to attend," said Larry Jones, Associa-

tion president. "It's never a good idea to drop in unannounced."

This year the one big all-family reunion is in Palo Alto on August 28. If you haven't made

SIX FORTHCOMING FAMILY REUNIONS

Aug. 15	Galax, Va.
Aug. 28	Palo Alto, Ca.
Aug. 29	Weatherford, Tex.
Sept. 4	Irvine, Ky.
Sept. 12	Blue Springs, Mo.
Sept. 18	Knoxville, Tenn.

arrangements in advance, call the coordinator, WFA board member **Bill Wolfenbarger**. His

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Marking Swiss Roots

We Explore Road Marker At Site of Swiss Family 'Castle'

WITH STRONG assistance from the Swiss branch of the family, the Wolfensberger Family Association took the first steps to erect an historical marker atop the mountain near Bauma, Switzerland, that gave the family its centuries-old name.

Envisioning a roadside marker that will bring family members to the site of the family's original mountaintop castle, now long vanished, members of the WFA Board of Directors, including **Max Wolfensberger** of Stafa, have been exploring the possibilities of constructing a German-and-English-language historical marker along

the road leading to the site near the summit of the Wolfensberg, source of the family name.

Mr. Wolfensberger met recently with **Heini Wolfensberger**, a lifetime WFA director from Bauma, and his brother, **Robert**, to discuss the Swiss family's interest in the project, which would be located a few kilometers from the village of Bauma (pop. 4,296).

There remain several obstacles to be overcome before the project can be realized, including obtaining permission of the current property owner, who is not a member of the

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If Plans Work Out,

Envision Marker for Original Family 'Castle'

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family, and consent by local and cantonal officials, who have expressed no objections to the marker.

- ✓ Another obstacle is to calculate the marker's cost. Under consideration is a bilingual plaque describing the family's origins that would be permanently attached to a large stone or masonry-and-stone structure. The marker would be erected along the road leading to the summit, and would direct visitors in German and English to the castle site, a short walking distance from the road.
- ✓ Another challenge is to raise funds to finance the plaque and stone structure, once cost estimates are available. To finance the marker, the association may conduct another fund-raising campaign as it did several years ago to finance a memorial stone in Schafferstown, Pa., marking the grave sites of John and Margaretha Wolfensberger, the first family members to emigrate from Europe in 1730.

A fund raiser?

The Wolfensberger Family Association board of directors will consider a fund-raising campaign to construct the historical marker in the near future, once necessary approvals and cost estimates are completed.

There is no visible evidence

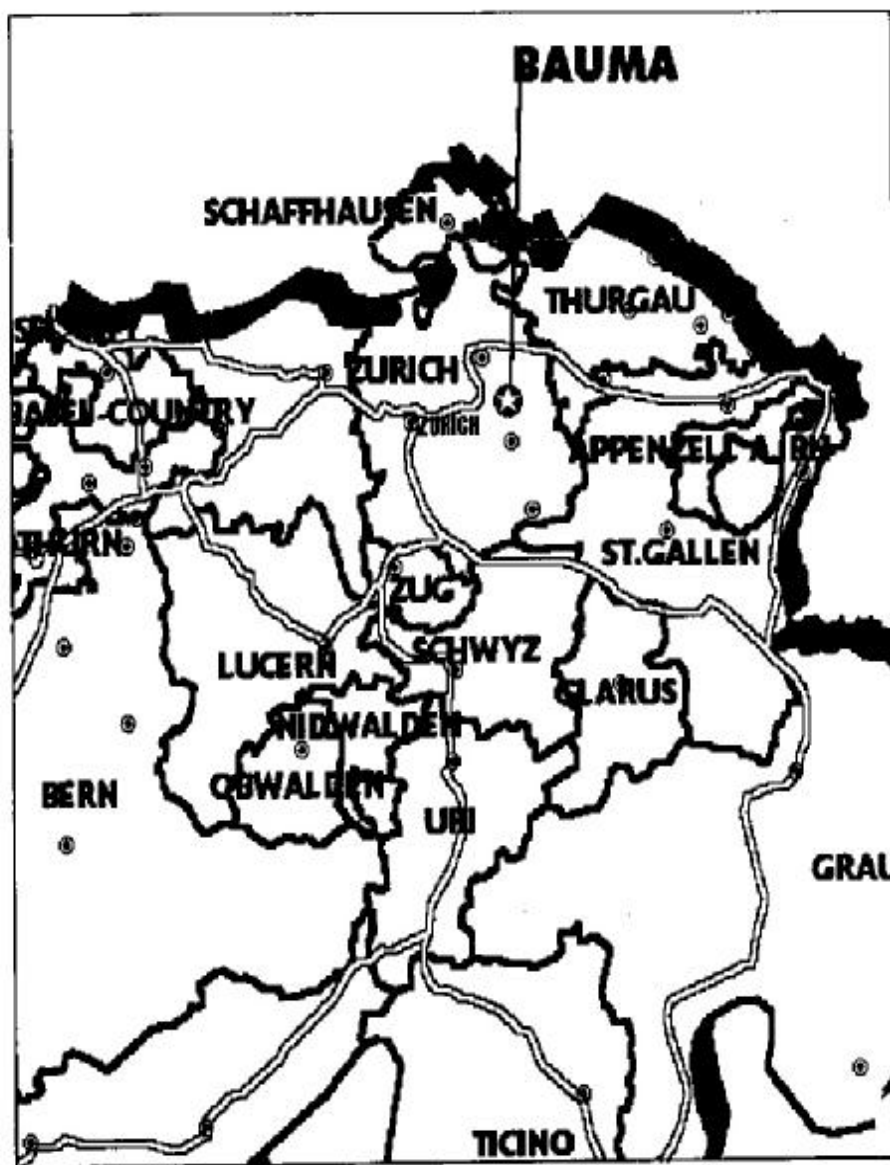
of the castle today, which was last depicted in a 1566 map of northern Switzerland. The original castle may have been either a wooden or stone structure. If it were a stone structure, its stones may have been used in constructing nearby contemporary homes.

Great interest

"There is a great deal of interest in recognizing the original site of the ancestral home of the

Wolfensberger family," said Larry Jones, WFA president. "just as there was several years ago for the memorial stone to John and Margaretha Wolfensberger".

Now that the Swiss branch of the family, some of whom live near the proposed site, is in agreement to proceed on the project, this newsletter will keep association members informed about progress toward construction of the Swiss marker.



The site of the original Wolfensberger family castle, long-vanished, may be marked by an historical marker outside Bauma, near Zurich.

If You Like Parties, There's

Still Time To Attend 6 Reunions

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phone number is (415) 326-7764.

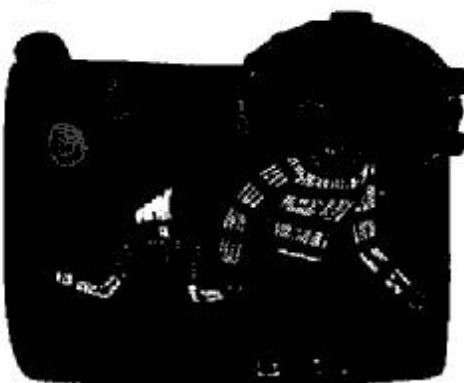
A **Sparger** family reunion will be held Sunday, August 15 in Galax, Virginia. The coordinator of this reunion is **Guy Mitchell Sparger**, who can be reached at (910) 786-0906.

The **Wolfenberger** family of Weatherford, Texas, will hold its reunion near Weatherford on Sunday, August 29.

The **Wolfenberger** family and related families will hold their reunion on Saturday, September 4 in Irvine, Kentucky. The coordinator of this reunion is **Ora Kirby**, telephone (606) 721-

4073.

The **Wilkinson-Wolfenberger** family reunion will be held in Blue Springs, MO on Sunday, September 12. Call **Olen**



Wilkerson for details at (816) 228-4183.

A newly scheduled reunion of the **Wolfenberger** families will be held on Saturday, September 18, near Knoxville, Tennessee. The event will be held at the **Gibbs Community Center**, located 13 miles north of Knoxville on Tazewell Pike. For details, contact WFA board member **Robert Lee Wolfenberger** at (423) 689-5433.

Forty attended the recent **Wolfenberger-Wolfenberger** reunion in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The reunion was well organized by **Anna Ruth Crabtree** with help from **Jo Wooldridge** and **Millie Booth**.

When Jesse James Dropped In for Dinner

The **Wolfenberger** family unknowingly shared dinner with the notorious outlaw gang headed by **Jesse** and **Frank James** in 1880's Missouri and lived to tell about it.

That's according to a family legend handed down from generation to generation recently reported by WFA member **Varva Steele** of Kanab Utah.

In fact, the family of **John Franklin Wolfenberger**, unaware of the identity of the notorious outlaw, shared their dinner one evening with the **James gang** and permitted them to sleep overnight in the family barn. Only days later were they told of the

identity of the gang, which had robbed a train and shot a passenger days before.

Jesse James was active in northwestern Missouri in the years following the Civil War, when the **James brothers** were pro-Southern guerrillas raiding Union towns and farms along the borders of Missouri and Kansas.

The **Wolfenbergers** moved to Daviess County in Missouri in 1863 from Warsaw, Indiana. **John Franklin Wolfenberger** was the son of **George Wolfenberger**, who was born in Gallia County, Ohio, on July 21, 1823.

George was the youngest

son of **Philip** and **Christina Koontz Wolfenberger**. **George** married **Myranda Brunette Mathews** on March 3, 1846. **George**, **Myranda** and three daughters moved from Ohio to Indiana in 1851. The family moved to Daviess County in 1863, during the Civil War.

In 1881, the **James gang** rode into the **Wolfenberger** farm near **Winston, Missouri**, asking for food and shelter. Unaware that **Jesse** and brother **Frank** had robbed a train near **Winston** and killed a passenger that day, **John Franklin Wolfenberger** extended family hospitality to the gang that night.

Family Historian, 10 Others, Are Among Deceased Members of Wolfensberger Family

Carl Rogers, 73

Carl Edmon Rogers of Corryton, Tennessee, died April 22, 1999, at St. Mary's Medical Center, at the age of 73. He was a Baptist, a member of Corryton Masonic Lodge #32, a veteran of World War II, and a retired sales manager for Protection Services, Inc.

He is survived by his wife, George Ella Wolfenbarger Rogers as well as a son, Ronald, and daughter, Carol. George Ella is a member of our family association and a sister of WFA member, J. C. Wolfenbarger of Knoxville, TN. George Ella is a third great-granddaughter of Peter Amos Wolfenbarger.

Marguerite Gigoux, 93

Marguerite Griffin Gigoux, of Oklahoma City, was born June 21, 1906, and died on May 10. Marguerite was the granddaughter of Artemissa Wolfenbarger Griffin and a second great-granddaughter of Jacob Frederick Wolfensberger who was born in 1727 in France's Alsace region. She is survived by her husband Guy Gigoux and a sister, Evelyn Dishman, both of Oklahoma City. Marguerite and Guy lived most of their lives near Enid, Okla. She was an active worker in the Congregational Church. She was a past member or past officer of Rural Rotary, Farm Bureau, Wheat Growers Association, Garfield County Choral

Club and was a Patron of the Enid Symphony Orchestra.

Lilly Wolfenbarger, 102

Lilly Sipes Wolfenbarger, of Oklahoma City, born February 24, 1897, died 30 April 1999 at the age of 102. She was the wife of Claude Wolfenbarger.

Roberta Franks, 84

Roberta M. Wolfenbarger Franks, age 84 of Neosho, Missouri, died on Sunday August 10, 1997 at her home after a short illness. Mrs. Franks was born in Stella, Missouri, on September 5, 1912. She married Charles P. Franks, who died March 23, 1989.

Survivors include two sons, Lang Franks of Neosho and Barry Franks of Joplin, a sister Adah Wolfenbarger Hennick of Neosho; eight grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren. Her burial was in the Macedonia Cemetery near Stella.

She was the daughter of Samuel Lafette Wolfenbarger and Nellie Shuff and the granddaughter of William Walker Wolfenbarger

Dr. Raymond Bell, 92

An eminent family historian, **Dr. Raymond M. Bell** died of a stroke April 12, 1999, at the age of 92, according to Dr. Edward Bell, his son.

Dr. Bell will always be remembered for his outstanding work on the history of the

Wolfensberger family in Switzerland and America. He produced several papers on the family, including his most famous family work: "The Wolfensberger-Wolfensberger Family of Switzerland, Alsace and Pennsylvania." A copy of this 17-page paper will be sent free to members upon request.

Pathways History and Genealogical Journal of the Union County (Tenn.) Historical Society recognized five members of the Wolfenbarger family who died in 1998:

Wolfenbarger, Harry M., age 68, died Feb 19, Greenwood Cemetery.
Wolfenbarger, Samuel Wesley, Jr., age 33, died April 1, Dyer Cemetery.
Wolfenbarger, Boyd Clifton, age 60, died April 2, Dyer Cemetery.
Wolfenbarger, Ruby Wilmouth, age 86, died July 1, Greenwood Cemetery.
Wolfenbarger, Opal Inez, age 75, died Aug. 19, Clear Branch Church.
Larry Jones, WFA president, has information on Boyd Clifton, but would like information on the other deceased family members.

Gloria Wolfenbarger, 73

Gloria M Wolfensperger, age 73, beloved daughter of the late Elmer and Mary (Conway) Wolfensperger, dear sister of Anna Mae Westerkamp and Catherine Vaughn. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews. Buried in St. Bernard's Church, Gate of Heaven, in Cincinnati. Information provided by Billie Cox of Cincinnati.



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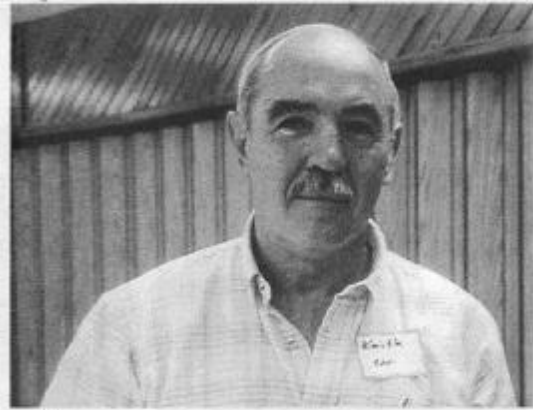


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1. **Sally Wolfenbarger ROLLINS** – daughter of Lloyd and Rose WOLFENBARGER of Neosho, MO. Sally resides in Miami, OK where she teaches school. She is very involved in civic and cultural affairs and is a great grand daughter of William Walker WOLFENBARGER.
2. **Charlotte Wolfenbarger LUCAS** – Resides in Tulsa, OK with her husband Robert LUCAS. Charlotte is serving on the board of directors of the Tulsa Genealogical Society, has served on the board of the WFA. She is a 3rd great grand daughter of Jacob WOLFENBARGER born 1786. This photo was taken at the reunion in June 1999 at Wyandotte, OK. Charlotte led in singing at the reunion.
3. **Terry Crabtree DIRLAN** – Is a daughter of Anna Ruth and Ray CRABTREE who live in Neosho, MO. Terry is a 3rd great grand daughter of William Walker WOLFENBARGER. Terry painted the family crest that she is holding.
4. **Robbie and Melanie ROLLINS** – Robbie is the son of Sally Wolfenbarger ROLLINS and a great great grand son of William Walker WOLFENBARGER born in Granger County, TN. They reside in Miami, OK.



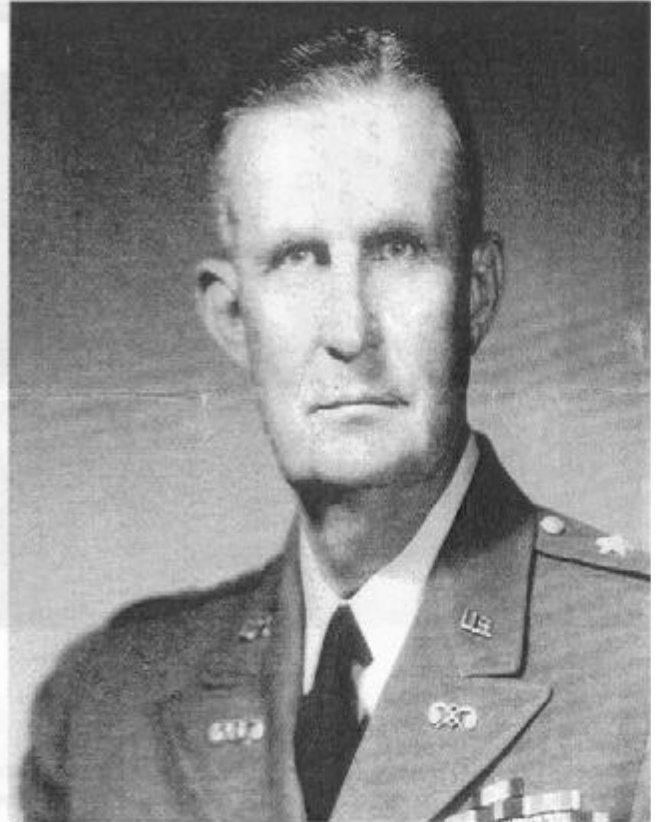
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1. **Earl W. SPARGUR and Marg** – This photo was taken at the reunion in Clatskanie, OR in 1997. Since then Marg has died. Earl still lives in San Jose, CA. Earl is an assistant to Bill WOLFENBARGER as coordinator of the reunion that will be held in San Jose on 18 August. Earl is the son of Robert W. SPARGUR, born in 1890, the son of Gurley SPARGUR, the son of Thomas, the son of Bowater, the son of Joseph, the son of John Wolfersberger SPARGER.
2. **Jesse Keith WOLFENBARGER** – Born in Horton, KS. He is the son of Jesse Benton WOLFENBARGER and Edith TORKELSON. Jesse is a 3rd great grand son of Jacob WOLFENBARGER, born in 1786. This photo was taken at the reunion in June of this year at Wyandotte, OK.
3. **Col. Harry B. MUMFORD** – Harry is on the right of the photo. Harry was born 26 February 1918 in Altamont, MO. Harry's grand mother was Artemessa WOLFENBARGER and a 4th great grand son of Jacob Frederick WOLFERSBERGER, born 1727 in the Alsace area of what is now France. Harry was the mission commander that made the first daylight raid on Berlin in WW 2 which was made on 4 March 1944, while listening to the shrapnel hitting the plane and looking at a gaping hole in the left wing made by an 88 mm shell that had gone through the plane without detonating. This photo was provided by Harry's sister Varva STEELE.
4. **General William Murlin CREASY** – born 26 April 1905. See article concerning General CREASY in this newsletter. This photo was provided by Albert CREASY of Tryon, NC.

Two-Star General Creasy, a Sparger, Was Top U.S. Army Chemical Officer in the Cold War

ONE DISTINGUISHED member of the Sparger family, a 1926 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, played a key role in defending the nation from chemical warfare during World War II and the critical years of the Cold War.

William Murlin Creasy, Jr., was born in Wilmington, North Carolina on April 26, 1905, and graduated from high school there in 1922. Appointed to the U. S. Military Academy, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Service in 1926.

He was the son of William Murlin Creasy, Sr., who compiled much of the Sparger family history.

Entered Air Corps

After receiving his commission, General Creasy entered the Army Air Corps Flying School before he was assigned to field artillery units at Fort Sam Houston and Fort McIntosh, Texas. In 1929, he was transferred to the Chemical Warfare Service (later the U.S. Army Chemical Corps), where he rose in rank to major general, a two-star flag officer.

General Creasy's first assignment with the Chemical Warfare Service was the First Chemical Regiment at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, in 1930.

In January 1931, he was transferred to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Two years later he returned to Edgewood Arsenal,

This article was written by Albert H. Creasy, 276 Howard Gap Road, Tryon, NC 28782. His e-mail address is alfracre@telwplex.net. Al has been retired for about three years from management at the State Farm Insurance home office in Normal, Ill.

where he was responsible for chemical weapons development and production.

Selected for his potential as a general officer, he entered the Command and General Staff School at Leavenworth, Kansas, in August 1939, and upon gradu-

At the height of the Cold War, West Point graduate General Creasy was the U.S. Army's Chief Chemical Officer.

In 1955 the Corps was reorganized on the basis of his recommendations.

ation in February 1940, became chemical officer for the U.S. Army's IX Corps.

In July 1940, General Creasy returned to Hawaii's Schofield Barracks as the commanding officer of the First Separate

Chemical Battalion. In December 1940, he was named chief of the Engineering Division at Maryland's Edgewood Arsenal, and in November 1941, he became the officer in charge of technical design and acceptance during the initial construction period of Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas, and was made the first chief of the Production Division.

Inspection Organization

In June 1943 he was assigned responsibility for creating an inspection organization for the Chemical Warfare Service with headquarters at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.

General Creasy was then transferred to the China-Burma-India theater of operations as assistant chief of staff for plans of the U.S. Armed Forces there, with headquarters at New Delhi, India. In November 1944, he was appointed chief of the U.S. Plans Section of the Allied forces in southeast Asia, with headquarters in Ceylon.

In May 1945, General Creasy was named chief of the Planning and Control Division of the Headquarters, Service of Supply, U. S. Forces in the China theater. Three months later, he became deputy commander of the service and in November assumed command of the entire Services of Supply after the close of World War II in Asia.

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A Marker Honors Kentucky Civil War Soldier

The dedication of a military grave marker for **Sergeant Peter Wolfenbarger**, born May 8, 1840, and died January 20, 1921, was held June 5, 1999.

Sergeant Wolfenbarger was a non-commissioned officer in Company E, 47th Kentucky Infantry in the Union Army in the Civil War. The ceremony was held in the Clapp Cemetery in Grainger County, Tennessee. It was coordinated by Dick Gault, Trenton, Ohio, and Rondy Wolfenbarger of New Tazwell, Tennessee, and Michelle Collins.

No information is available at this time as to the parents,

marriage or descendants of Sergeant Wolfenbarger.

Any one having further information about Sergeant Wolfenbarger, please contact Larry Jones. This information provided by J. C. Wolfenbarger of Knoxville, Tenn.

13 New Members Join Wolfensberger Association

Thirteen members of the Wolfensberger family joined the WFA within recent months.

Craig Arey, (Wolfensberger), Walnut Cove, NC,

Katherine Benner, (Wolfensberger), Juneau, AK, JuneauArt@aol.com

Wayne Bowman, (Sparger), Edmond,

OK, wbowman@Theshop.net

Irene Charlton, (Wolfenbarger),

Irvine, KY

Bettie Confer, (Wolfensberger), St.

Francis, KS, bconfer@ruraltel.net

Verla Edens, (Wolfenbarger), Granby, MO

Barbara Galentin, (Spargur), Houston, TX, celticfire1@juno.com

Catherin Kenerson, (Sparger), Vista, CA, cathryan@pacbell.net

Lawrence Kenny Pendergraft,

(Wolfenbarger), Granby, MO

Norma Shippee, (Wolfenbarger),

Winter Haven, FL,

Nshi770452@aol.com

Shirley Findley, (Spargur), Loveland,

CO, Dfind727232aol.com

Robert Spargur, Cumberland, IN,

RSPAR@aol.com

Robert L. Wolfenbarger, Knoxville,

TN, RWolfe1051@aol.com

A Sparger Was Army's Top Chemical Officer

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Served in China

Later, he became chief of the Logistics Division of the newly created Military Advisory Group for China.

In July 1946, General Creasy was appointed chief of the Supply Procurement Division in the Office of the Chief Chemical Officer at Washington, D. C. In October, he transferred to the Research and Development Division of the War Department General staff. In July 1947, he became Deputy Director for Research and Development for the War Department.

In May 1948, General Creasy returned to Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland as chief of the research and Engineering

Division of the Chemical Corps. In October 1951, he assumed command of the newly created Chemical Research and Engineering Command and of the Army Chemical Center.

On 8 May 1954, General Creasy became the U.S. Army's Chief Chemical Officer, and was promoted to the rank of major general in 1950.

As Chief Chemical Officer, General Creasy stressed the importance of working closely with industry and universities throughout the country.

As a part of his efforts to increase the effectiveness of the Chemical Corps, General Creasy, invited representatives of industry, government and education to make recommendations for the postwar reorganization of the

Corps. The Corps was reorganized in 1955 on the basis of these recommendations.

Early in his Chemical Corps career, General Creasy attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, earning an M.S. degree in Chemical Engineering Practice in June 1936.

Among his decorations, General Creasy wore the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Ribbon, as well as many foreign decorations.

In 1958, after completing service as Chief Chemical Officer, his tour of duty was extended two years, until 1960 by President Eisenhower.

General Creasy died in 1987 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.



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1. **William Forrest SPARGUR** – Born in riverside CA, son of John Herman SPARGUR and Katherine LUTZ. Bill is a 4th great grand son of John Wolfersberger SPARGER. I understand that Bill has joined, as a volunteer, a group similar to a Riot Squad and has to jump out of helicopters after bad guys. I have cautioned Bill to be careful as we would hate to lose him as our Secretary where he has served for two years. Bill his wife, Marta and sons live in Palmdale, CA.
2. Six sons of Joseph Allen BEAVERS, born in Highland County, OH and Christina SPARGUR, born in PA. Top row: **Charles Preston, Joseph Allen Jr, Layton Wesley**, Bottom Row: **John William, James K, Thomas Hamer**. Joseph and Christina had 13 children. Christina was the grand daughter of John Wolfersberger SPARGER.
3. **Varva Mumford STEELE and E. M. STEELE** – Varva is the daughter of Harry MUMFORD and Louisa GRIFFIN. She is a sister of Col. Harry G MUMFORD. See article in this newsletter on Col. MUMFORD. Varva was born in Marshall, TX. and is the grand daughter of Artemessa WOLFENBARGER. She and E. M. reside in Kanab, UT.
4. **Kenne Rhodes Spargur ELLIS** – In the photo with Kenne is her 93 year old father Charles Rhodes at her home in Oakdale, CA. Kenne was born in Stockton, CA. Kenne is a great grand daughter of Naomi J. SPARGUR.

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:

**WOLFENSBERGER
WOLFERSBERGER
WOLFERSPERGER
WOLFENSBERGER
SPARGER**

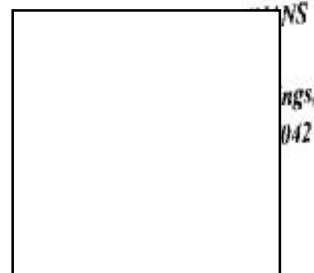
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SPARGUR**

Wolfensberger
WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



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

Phone: (405) 721-4383



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Editor: Robert J. Wolfenbarger
30 Harvey Drive, Summit NJ 07901
Phone (908) 273-7631 FAX (908) 273-7738
E mail: bobwolfenbarger@worldnet.att.net