# Wolfensberger

Newsletter of the WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

January 2000, Vol 6 No. 1

# WFA Board Approves \$6,500 To Invest In Family Memorial

AMILY MEMBERS MAY SOON be able to visit in style the site of the long-vanished Wolfensberger family castle on the Wolfensberg near Bauma, Switzerland.

And if it's mealtime, hungry family tourists can even whip up lunch,

Through a partnership between the Wolfensberger Family Association with two tourist organizations, the family's Swiss relatives have negotiated an agreement to erect a memorial at the site where the family originated and build a pathway, picnic area and barbecue.

At its January meeting, the WFA Board of Directors approved a financing plan to contribute \$6,500 to the collaboration with two non-profit organizations, the Verkehrsverein Bauma, a tourist organization, and the Zuercher Wanderwege, a cantonal hiking organization. The association will match equal funding by the two organizations to construct paths, stairs, bridges and a barbecue area at the site.

To realize the association's contribution, the directors expect to contribute \$4,000 from the organization's bank account to the project and raise \$2,500 more from member contributions.

At the same time, the association is applying for Internal Revenue Service designation as a non-profit organization. When designated, it will permit member contributions to be tax-deductible.

Meanwhile, several members of the WFA Board of Directors and association members have pledged contributions for the portion of the project to be raised from the membership.

The family memorial project was brought to reality by a special WFA committee comprised of Swiss association members and a Bauma historian.

Under the leadership of Robert Wolfensberger, the chief

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SWISS COMMITTEE. In Bauma, this committee comprised of Swiss family members and a local historian have negotiated an agreement with two on-profit agencies to build pathways and a picnic area at the site of the family's castle. From left, Walter Sprenger, a Bauma historian, Max Wolfensberger, a WFA board member, Heini Wolfensberger, a lifetime board member, Robert Wolfensberger, Heini's brother, and Robert Wolfensberger, chief executive of the family's foundry in Bauma.

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## Memorial to Mark Family Castle

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executive of the Wolfensberger foundry in Bauma, the committee was comprised of Heini Wolfensberger, a lifetime honorary member of the WFA board, Robert Wolfensberger, his brother and father of the younger Robert, and Max Wolfensberger, the first elected Swiss member of the WFA board. The historian, Walter Sprenger, is an authority on local history.

"This partnership will allow us to celebrate our 700-year history as a Swiss family," said Larry Jones, WFA president. "Our Board of Directors took an historic step to develop a high-quality facility at the site of our family's first home in Switzerland."

"Future generations of the family can enjoy this site,"he said.

Several years ago, the WFA financed a memorial to the first Wolfensberger emigrants to the American colonies in 1730. With contributions from family members, a memorial stone today stands in a Lutheran Church graveyard in Schafferstown, Pa., where the first emigrants John and Margaretha Wolfensberger lie buried.

The Bauma memorial will feature a plaque in English and German that acknowledges the historic importance of the site. (See plaque text on page 3) A pathway with stairs and a bridge will allow hikers to walk from the road leading to the peak of the Wolfensberg to the castle site, located a few hundred yards off the road.

The facility will resemble a

similar picnic and rest area just north of Bauma on Alt Landenberg, It is part of a network of hiking paths and picnic areas that exist across Switzerland to encourage appreciation of the largely rural Swiss countryside.

Following the WFA board action, the Swiss committee will meet with the Bauma

Verkehrsverein and the Zuercher Wanderwege to move ahead on the project.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon discussion with the two Swiss groups, plans will be developed later this year for the project, meaning that construction of the pathway and picnic area could begin this year or next The Wolfensberger newsletter will keep WFA members up to

date on the construction schedule.

Board members heard a discussion of the preliminary project plans by Bob Wolfenbarger, WFA First Vice President, who predicted that a dedication ceremony would be held to open the facility, perhaps later this year or in 2001.

"If all goes well, we'll preserve a superb area of natural beauty for future generations to enjoy," said Wolfenbarger.

He paid tribute to the WFA committee in Bauma that negoti-



ated the project with the two Swiss associations. "We need to thank Robert Wolfensberger of Bauma and his relatives for their foresight in pressing ahead with this project."

### WFA Board of Directors Votes Uanimously, 9-0, to nvest in Swiss Memorial

The Wolfensberger Family
Association Board of Directors,
meeting in a teleconference in early
January, unanimously approved the
recommendation of a Swiss committee to pay an equal share of the
\$20,000 Swiss franc cost of a
pathway and picnic area at the site
of the family's earliest home, a
onetime castle on the Wolfensberg,
a hilltop site south of Bauma.

In a 9-0 vote, the directors approved a motion that the association pay up to \$6,500 for its share of the facility cost. In the future, the pathway and picnic area will be maintained by the Verkehrsverein Bauma and Zuercher Wanderwege.



SITE WILL LOOK LIKE THIS. The nicnic area and barbecue at the ite of the Wolfensberger family castle site will look like this. This is a similar site.

### What the WFA Historical Marker In Bauma Will Say

#### PROPOSED TEXT

Historical Marker in Bauma, Switzerland Commemorating the 13th Century Ancestral Home of the

Wolfensberger Family

#### **ENGLISH**

"This is the site of the original ancestral home of the Wolfensberger family, an ancient Swiss family whose origins can be traced to the 13th Century. Family history identifies the first of the Wolfensberger line as Knight Baldebert of Wolfsberg (1233-1259). A 16th Century map of northern Switzerland depicts a Wolfensberger family castle on this site as well as a family crest that is applicable to all descendents of this international family."

THE WOLFENSBERGER
FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Of the United States of America
Year 2000



#### GERMAN

"An dieser Stelle stand einst die Burg der Wolfensberger, einer Familie deren Ursprünge bis ins 13. Jahrhundert zurückverfolgt werden können. Geschichtlich festgehalten ist Ritter Baldebert von Wolfensberg, 1233-1259. Eine Schweizerkarte, hergestellt von Maurer von 1566, zeigt die Familienburg, sowie das Familienwappen, welches selbst heute noch für die Nachkommen dieser Familie Gültigkeit hat. Die Wolfensberger leben heute noch in Bauma und Umgebung, überall in Europa und auch in Amerika, wo sich der erste Nachkomme im Jahr 1730 niederliess. Die dort lebenden Wolfensberger haben sich zu einer Vereinigung zusammengeschlossen und diese Tafel zur Erinnerung an ihren Ursprungsort gestiftet."

THE WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION Of the United States of America Jahr 2000

Our Web Site

www.icon.net/-wolfberg/

After 18 Feb

members.home.net/wolfberg2/index.htm

# Planning a Reunion? So Tell Us About It

The schedule of family reunions is omitted from this newsletter but will be listed in the next newsletter.

If you are coordinating a reunion, please contact Larry Jones (see back page for his address and phone number) with details. He'd like to know the date, time, food, location and other details, including the fact that the reunion will be by invitation only or only for certain families ora specific Wolfensberger descendant.

In the next issue of this newsletter we will list any restrictions and other information.

Attendees are urged to bring photos of their ancestors and other family information. All those attending a reunion should contact the coordinator of that reunion and let them know of their intention of attendance.

### Some Resources to Help Plan Reunions

Some 200,000 extended families clogged state parks and VFW halls last summer for family reunions that brought together relatives who've never met who spent a lot of time discussing relatives who you'll never meet.

From all indications, the millennium years – 2000 and 2001 – will be even bigger years for reunions, according to organizations that specialize in helping families plan events for the

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### WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2000 Board of Directors

Lawrence "Larry" Jones, President Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Robert J. Wolfenbarger, First Vice President Summit, New Jersey

Myrna Liddell, Second Vice President Langley, Washington

William F. Spargur, Secretary Palmdale, California

Richard L. "Buzz" Evans, Assistant Secretary Houston, Texas

Albert Creasy Tryon, North Carolina

Jim Lay Wolfenbarger Clatskanie, Oregon

Robert Lee Wolfenbarger Knoxville, Tennessee

W. Frank Wolfenbarger Irving, Texas

Virginia Wolfenberger, PhD Houston, Texas

Bill Wolfinbarger Palo Alto, California

Max Wolfensberger Stafa, Switzerland

Rudolf Wolfensberger, PhD Solothrun, Switzerland

Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD Syracuse, New York

Heini Wolfensberger, Honorary Life Member Bauma, Switzerland

### Some Resources to Help Plan Reunions That Really Click

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family clans of every nationality.

The Wolfensberger family itself is host to more than a dozen family reunions. Events in such places as Galax, Virginia; Weatherford, Texas; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Irvine, Kentucky; to name a few, attract hundreds of Wolfensberger and Sparger descendants each year.

Reunion Research, a San Francisco-based resource, suggests reunion planners begin early in the year to select sites and invite participants. With greater competition for venues and to give families time to schedule their acations, the resource suggests that planners start now to select a site and find distant relatives.

Specialized reunion source books available in many local libraries offer tips on how to plan these events. In addition, two useful Web site resources are Reuniontips.com and Reunionsmag.com. A Time website, time.com/personal, offers more tips on planning family reunions.

Time reporter Amy
Dickinson, in a magazine article last
summer, suggested a number of
planning tips. Avoid sticky
ownership problems, she said, by
selected a site on neutral ground –
an attractive location equally
convenient to most of the clan.
Enlist as many relatives as possible
to put on the show, whether to

cook, deliver a toast, or plan childrens' events.

One of the bigger events of any reunion, Dickinson says, is childrens' play. Happy kids make for happy parents and grandparents, she says, so planners should think about softball games, relay races and water-balloon tosses. Enlist older kids to run the events.

Reunions, says Dickinson, offer participants a chance to take part in the ongoing story of their families. So it's important to make sure that family members bring along old scrapbooks, historic family letters, photo albums as well as old uniforms or artifacts used by ancestors.

Take lots of pictures and videotape conversations with distant relations who have long memories of relations on the shady side of the family tree. You can expect a little gossip, too. But be on your best behavior, because someone is likely to gossip about you, too.

### In Memoriam

IRENE WOLFINBARGER
CHARLTON, born 14 July 1930
in Estill County, Kentucky, passed
away October 13, 1999. Irene was
a resident at the Pattie A. Clay
Hospital, in Irvine, Kentucky,
where she passed away. Irene was
the daughter of Otis
WOLFINBARGER and the late
Birdie Rose. She was a homemaker
and a member of the Rice Station
Christian Church. She was
preceded in death by two

daughters, Patricia Jean
CHARLTON and Debra Fay
CHARLTON, and two sons,
Donald Eugene CHARLTON and
Jackie Lynn CHARLTON.

Survivors in addition to her father and stepmother Rubie INGRAM Wolfinbarger include four daughters, Virginia Irene HEDGES of Richmond, Kentucky, Sandra Kaye TURPIN, Darlene Marie YOUNG and Lori Renee JOHNSON all of Irvine, Kentucky; three sons, Frank CHARLTON, III, James Michael CHARLTON and Gene Allen CHARLTON all of Irvine, Kentucky.

She is also survived by four sisters Darlene CHILDERS of West Valley City, Utah, Juanita STEPHENSON of Crittenden. Kentucky, Wilma CAVINS and Peggy UPDIKE both of Dry Ridge, Kentucky; three brothers, James Otis WOLFINBARGER of Fort Worth, Texas, Wayne WOLFINBARGER of Covington, Kentucky, and Clayton WOLFINBARGER of Dry Ridge, Kentucky. In addition. she is survived by 27 grandchildren; 15 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. Irene was a member of our WFA as are many of her survivors.

A photograph of Irene along with her first child, Virginia Irene is on a photograph page of this newsletter.

Irene's father, Otis, was the son of John Wilburn WOLFINBARGER, born in 1866 and Nancy Ann HORN WOLFINBARGER. The father of John was Peter WOLFINBARGER and Sarah

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### WFA Marks Charlton, Deason and Cox Deaths

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HELTON. The father of Peter was Joseph WOLFENBARGER. The father of Joseph was Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER, born in 1796 in Greenbriar County, West Virginia.

#### CARL CARMON DEASON,

born 25 October 1914 in Grove, Oklahoma, and died 9 November 1999 in Jay at the age of 85. Carl was the son of Eddie Lee DEASON and Minnie Francis CLANTON. Carl was a great grand son of William Walker WOLFENBARGER. Carl is survived by his wife Ruth Lahoma HOPPER DEASON and Carolyn BROWN of Delaware County, Oklahoma, Carl DEASON, Jr of Grove and Tonya HUGHES of Miami.. Carl was preceded in death by his parents, a brother Jesse DEASON and a daughter Marlene COBLE who died in 1994 in Delaware County, Oklahoma.

#### BILLIE RUTH PLUMLEE

COX. On January 7,2000, we received a call from Charles COX telling us that his sweet wife Billie had died 9 October 1999. Billie was born 2 September 1925 in St.

Louis, MO. Billie died 9 October 1999 after a brief hospitalization..

Billie Ruth was the daughter of William Cravens PLUMLEE,

M.D., born 1900 in Bethpage,
Missouri, and Effie Dallas
BULLARD, of Cloud Craft, New
Mexico. William PLUMLEE was
the son of Carus PLUMLEE, M.D.
and Mary Etta MOORE. Mary was
the daughter of William Orlando
MOORE and Angelina Manila
WOLFENBARGER, born 17
January 1844 in Marysville,
Tennessee.

Angelina was the daughter of Peter WOLFENBARGER, and Lucinda WILLIAMS. Peter was the son of Joseph Peter WOLFENBARGER, born 12 October 1780 in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and Nancy HACKELROAD.

### Were Our Swiss Ancestors Braver Than We?

Our Swiss ancestors may have been more willing to take chances in battle than any of us. As in many other medieval Swiss families, the Wolfensbergers were willing warriors in the Middle Ages. But were they braver than their descendants?

There are at least two reasons why our ancestors were willing to take chances in battle. It is probable that some of them stood in the front row of a square of pikes -- the medieval battle equivalent of a front line -- where pikemen stood a high probability of death. But the plague, the Black Death, and the chances of accidental death surely encouraged our ancestors to accept higher risks, such as those facing a pikeman in the front row of a pike square. Another reason why our ancestors fought bravely was their

strong belief in God.

God for them was an active force who operated in strange and mysterious ways. Further, they believed that their brief lives on earth were simply part of a sojourn on the way to eternal bliss and a test of worthiness for Heaven.

This article was suggested by
Dr. Rudolf Wolfensberger, a lawyer
and notary in Solothurn,
Switzerland, a director of the
Wolfensberger Family Association

One of the bravest Swiss of the Middle Ages was a peasant named Winkelried. In the great Battle of Sempach, fought July 9, 1386, between the Swiss and the Austrians, Winkelreid fought as point man in a mass triangle of Swiss pikemen bearing light lances and halberds. At the point of the triangle, death was almost certain. Shouting to his fellow Swiss warriors, "Care for my wife and children," Winkelreid fell with dozens of lances piercing his body. But in his death, he opened a breach in the Austrian pike square. With the square broken, the Swiss charged into the Austrian formation, breaking up the attack.

The Austrian loss at Sempach was also due to Swiss flexibility and innovation. The Swiss switch in battle tactics, changing from a pike square to a triangle, shattered the Austrian formation. The Swiss use of light halberds and lances against the more heavily armed Austrians, was a victory for modern arms.









- File Phote

### The Waner Brothers

Pittsburgh's Hall of Fame Waner brothers shake hands with a pair of Yankees legends. At left, Lloyd Waner is with Babe Buth. Third from left, Paul Waner is with Lou Gehrig.

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- 1 Robert L. WOLFERSBERGER, lives in Fairfield, CA and is the son of Robert D. Wolfersberger of Oroville, CA and the grandson of Munden Oswald WOLFERSBERGER who lived in Somerset County, PA who was a descendant of John Philip WOLFERSBERGER, born 1739 in PA.
- Carroll GeneWOLFINBARGER, born in 1930 and now lives in Fontana, CA. Carroll was a son of Olin born 1911 in MO. Olin was a son of Leroy WOLFINBARGER born 1882 in MO, WOLFINBARGER a son of Tillman Filmore WOLFINBARGER 1852 in TN, a son of William WOLFENBARGER born in TN, a son of Poter Amos WOLFEN-BARGER born 1796 in WV.
- 3. Claude Eugene SPARGUR born 1921 now resides in Manteo, IL. Claude is a son of Calvin SPARGUR that was born in Mt Airy, NC. Calvin Was born a SPARGER but when he moved to IL he changed his name to SPARGUR. Calvin was a son of John, the son of William W., the son of John (Sparger) WOLFERSBERGER born 1754 in Lebanon County, PA.
- Baseballs Lloyd and Paul WANER (SPARGER- SPARGUR)
   See article on page 9 of this newsletter.









1. The photos above and on page 3 were taken at the Landenberg Rest and picnic area a short distance NW of Bauma where the Altenberg Castle once stood. The structures at and along the approaches to the Altenberg Castle site are similar to those planned for the Wolfensberg Castle site. The structures at the Altenberg picnic area are a stone cooking grill, seats made of split logs and a wooden bench.

- 2. Darlene Wolfinbarger CHILDERS and sister Irene Wolfinbarger CHARLTON Darlene was born in Irvine, KY on 2 January 1933. She has 3 daughters and 2 sons and now lives in West Valley City, UT. She is the daughter of Otis WOLFINBARGER and Birdia ROSE. She is the granddaughter of John Wilburn WOLFINBARGER, who was the son of Peter WOLFENBARGER, the son of Joseph WOLFENBARGER, who was the son of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER born in 1796 in WV.
  Irene Wolfinbarger CHARLTON – See her obiturary which is in this newsletter.
- 3. James Dalton WOLFENBERGER lives in Ft Worth, TX. He was born 29 March 1952 in Shreveport, LA the son of Paul Emerson born 1908 in Muskogee, OK, the son of Emerson WOLFENBERGER born 1879 in VA, the son of William Sylvester WOLFENBERGER born 1839 in VA, the son of Rueben W. born 1806 in VA, the son of Jacob born 1786 in WV, the son of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER
- 4. Michael W. WOLFENBARGER, born Knoxville, TN. A Retired Military Officer now living in El Paso, TX with his wife Dianne and their two daughters. Michael is a son of J. C. WOLFENBARGER and Hope FARMER. The father of J. C. was Calvin, Sr, the son of John Henderson, the son of John Melton, the son of William, the son of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER born 1796 in WV. The summer of 1999 Michael visited Bauma. He has previously provided an article for our newsletter regarding that trip. The photo shows Michael standing by a sign in Bauma showing 2.9 km to the Wolfensberg Castle.

# "Little Poison" and "Big Poison" The Waners, Hall of Famers, Are Spargers

By Shirley Findley, Loveland Colo.

aseball Hall of Famers Lloyd James Waner and his brother, Paul Glen Waner, are icons of the Spargur family of Surry County, North Carolina.

As ballplayers, they played for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1920s and 1930s. Born on a farm near Harrah, Oklahoma, both were eventually elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, the highest recognition possible for baseball players.

Lloyd, "Little Poison", as he was called, and Paul, "Big Poison", were the sons of Ora Lee Waner and Etta Beavers. Etta was the daughter of James Beavers, Sr.

### Spargur Grandsons

In turn, James was the son of Seldon Beavers and Rachel W. Spargur. Rachel was the daughter of Joseph W. Spargur, born March 1, 1781, in Surry County, NC. Joseph was the son of John (Wolfersberger) Sparger, born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, and Christina Frey.

Paul died 28 August 1965 in Sarasota, Florida, and Lloyd, in 1982 in Oklahoma City at the age of 76.

Two of the best articles about the pair contain revealing facts about the Waner brothers. This is an excerpt by sports columnist Arthur Daley in September 1965.

"During World War II, baseball sent emissaries all over the globe to entertain the service men. and that's how Paul Waner

happened to find himself in India with a USO troupe.

"One day, they were in a huge mess hall when a bat-the flying animal and not the one that baseball players swing-came zooming out of the rafters. Everyone ducked under the tables. Paul Waner merely rolled up a newspaper and stood poised with it in his trusty left hand. The bat swirled toward him. Paul swung. End of bat.

"Why, Paul," said Patterson in mock horror, "think of your reputation as a great hitter. Suppose you had missed?"

"So what," said Paul with a careless shrug of his frail shoulders. "I still would have had two strikes left."

#### Productive Batters

It was the philosophy of this superior artist with an ash bat that he truly was. Only six men in baseball history produced more hits than his total of 3,152. Thrice the National League batting champion with a high of .380, he had a lifetime batting average of .333 and has long been in the Hall of Fame.

Paul won the nickname of "Big Poison" to differentiate him from his brother, Lloyd, also a Pittsburgh Pirate outfielder. Lloyd, three pounds lighter than Paul's 155 pounds, was called "Little Poison". They played side by side for 14 seasons and were lethal doses for all pitchers."

A second article is from a 1982 Sarasota newspaper.

"Oklahoma City (AP) -Baseball Hall of Famer Lloyd Waner, part of one of the greatest brother combinations ever to play the game, died Thursday of complications related to emphysema. He was 76.

"Nicknamed "Little Poison", the 18 year veteran batted .316 and teamed with his Hall of Fame brother, Paul-known as "Big Poison"—to lead the Pittsburgh Pirates attack in the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s.

"Lloyd, elected to the Hall of Fame in 1967, had 2,459 career hits.

### Set Major League Record

"Lloyd, recommended to the Pirates by his older brother, joined the Pirates in 1927and set a thenmajor league record with 223 hits while batting .355.

"Paul, who joined the Pirates the year before, hit .280 in 1927 as the Waners led Pittsburgh to the World Series, where they lost in four straight games to the vaunted "Murderer's Row" assault of the New York Yankees. That was the only World Series appearance for either Waner.

"Lloyd again hit.355 in 1928 and led the National League in singles for the second straight year. He hit over .300 his first six years in the majors. He was known as one of the best lead off hitters of his era. He had exceptional speed and a good eye at the plate, striking out only 173 times in his career."

### NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE EMBROIDERED FAMILY BADGE

### WFA Membership Application



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 WOLFENSBERGER SPARGER WOLFENBARGER WOLFENBERGER WOLFENBERGER SPARGUR

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION 6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace

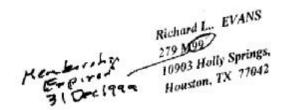
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73132 Lawrence M. Jones, President

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