



# WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

October 2000

Vol. 6, No. 4

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## WFA Officers and Directors Year 2001

President  
**Robert J. Wolfenbarger**  
 Vice President  
**Myrna Liddell**  
 Secretary  
**William F. Spargur**  
 Finance Officer  
**Albert H. Creasy**  
 Finance Auditor  
**W. Frank Wolfenbarger**  
 Historian-Memberships  
**Lawrence M. Jones**  
 Newsletter Editor  
**Richard L. Evans**

## BOARD MEMBERS Year 2000

**Albert J. Creasy**  
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**Robert Lee Wolfenbarger**  
**Wolf Wolfenberger, PhD**

**Visit our Web Site:**  
[members.home.net/wolfensberger](http://members.home.net/wolfensberger)

## From the President's Desk:

by Bob Wolfenbarger

### A Letter to the Members

Your Wolfensberger Family Association, one of a growing number of family organizations created by history-minded clan members in the United States, has taken another step toward maturity.

Founded six years ago by Larry Jones of Oklahoma City, it brought together members of the Spargur, Sparger, Wolfenbarger, Wolfinbarger, Wolfenberger and Wolfensberger families who sought to learn about their rich history.

Although founded in the U.S., it now boasts members in Switzerland, the U.S., and several other countries who trace their ancestry back to the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and an Austrian Emperor who conferred knighthood on a family member in the 1300s.

Over the centuries, the Wolfensberger family has migrated from its roots in northern Zurich Canton, not far from the bustling financial center of Zurich, to neighboring countries, to the United States, and to many other countries around the world.

To one who believed the family was once small and isolated, I learned that the Wolfenbarger name - the most common in the clan - is listed as one of the U.S. Census Bureau's most common surnames.

Growing up in Florida, I believed that the family was originally German, as its name

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### New WFA Officers for year 2001

With the resignation of Larry Jones after six years at the head of the Wolfensberger Family Association, the WFA's Board of Directors elected a new president, Bob Wolfenbarger of Summit, N. J., and a new officer team.

Bob had been the board's First Vice President for several years. He is recognized by the family's genealogists as the family member who first discovered the Wolfensberger clan's Swiss roots, when he helped make connections with the Swiss family in 1962, while serving in the U.S. Army in Germany.

Jones resigned from the WFA presidency earlier this year, but remained in place to serve during the transition to a new president. In the new Board of Directors, elected to serve during 2001, Jones will become the WFA membership chairman and archivist, a new Board position. He is a member of the Wolfenbarger family.

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From the Editor

by Richard Evans

The appearance of the WFA Newsletter with this issue reflects the change of Editors as noted in the article by our new President, Bob Wolfenbarger.

Since I am using a different software, it was necessary to design the pages of the publication from the ground up. I hope you like the new format. As I get into this job of producing the WFA Newsletter each time, I will strive to maintain the quality and readability of the newsletter we have enjoyed in the past.

I will certainly appreciate any suggestions or comments you may have concerning the newsletter. Also, we will carefully consider any articles you may wish to contribute for inclusion in the publication that would be of general interest to our members. I am showing below, my mailing and my e-mail address where I can be reached. We hope to hear from many of you in the coming months.

Richard L. Evans, Newsletter Editor  
10903 Holly Springs Drive  
Houston, TX 77042-1310  
revans3335@aol.com

Visit our Web Site!

The Wolfensberger Family Association web site is now located at this address:

<http://members.home.net/wolfensberger>

Our mailing address is still:

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

Our e-mail address is:  
[wolfensberger@home.com](mailto:wolfensberger@home.com)  
Let us hear from you!

LARRY'S CORNER

by Lawrence "Larry" Jones

REUNIONS

Family Reunions during the year 2000:

**WOLFENBARGER** - 4 July - Knoxville, TN About 35 family members in attendance. Coordinated by Robert Lee WOLFENBARGER.

**WOLFENERGER** - 12 August - Bastrop, TX About 40 family members in attendance. Coordinated by Cloddie Nell WYATT.

**WOLFINBARGER** - 26 August - Irvine, KY About 55 family members in attendance. Coordinated by Ora KIRBY. This reunion had a very successful auction of articles brought by the attendees. It raised \$300 which paid the cost of the reunion.

**SPARGER** - 27 August - Galax, VA About 33 persons were in attendance. Coordinated by Guy Mitchell SPARGER.

**WOLFENBARGER - WILKERSON** - 10 September - Blue Springs, MO. About 90 persons were in attendance. Coordinated by Olin WILKERSON.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined WFA since the last Newsletter.

Wayne **WOLFINBARGER, Jr.** resides in Dry Ridge, KY, and is a son of Otis WOLFINBARGER.

Matthias **WOLFENBERGER**, resides in Stafa, Switzerland. A member of the Board of Directors of the WFA.

Arline F. **PETKUS**, resides in Sheboygan, MI, probably a descendant of Hans Jakob WOLFENBERGER, born in 1882 in Wollishofen, Switzerland.

Sherry **WOLFENBERGER**, resides in Arlington, TX. A descendant of the Wolfenberger family of Weatherford, TX

Nancy **GORDON**, resides in Des Moines, IA. A descendant of Mary W. SPARGUR and James GREENFIELD.

Gordon Allen **SMITH**, resides in Kerrville, TX and is a descendant of the Wolfenberger family of Bastrop, TX.

Anna E. **SCOTT**. Resides in Ozark, MO and is a descendant of the Wolfenberger family.

Clotine **KISSICK**, resides in Paris, KY and is a descendant of the Wolfenberger family.

Katherine **KISSINGER**, resides in West Liberty, KY and is a descendant of the Wolfenberger family.

Christoph **WOLFESPARGER**, resides in Emmendinger, Germany.

Siegfried **WOLFESPARGER**, resides in Emmendinger, Germany.

Mellisa Wolfenberger **MATHIS**, resides in Arlington, TX. Her father is Boone WOLFENBERGER. They are descendants of the Wolfenberger family of Weatherford, TX.

John **FOWLER**, resides in McKee, KY and a descendant of the Wolfenbarger family of Irvine, KY.

Hertha **SMITH**, resides in Florence, KY and is a descendant of the Wolfenbarger family of Irvine, KY.

Eric **WOLFINBARGER**, resides in Irvine, KY

Duff **WOLFINBARGER**, resides in Irvine, KY

Herbert **WOLFINBARGER**, resides in Irvine, KY

Joy Di Mio **NEWMAN**, resides in Richmond, KY and is a sister of Eric, Duff, Herbert and Adair WOLFINBARGER.

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**TOP LEFT: Wolfensberger Cemetery.** This cemetery is located about 5 -6 miles southwest of Bastrop, TX on FM 20. The cemetery contains the grave of Samuel WOLFENBERGER and many of his descendants. The cemetery sign was provided and installed by Vernon OSBORN, a former member of the Board of Directors of the WFA. Frank WOLFENBERGER, who died recently, provided the maintenance of the cemetery for about 50 years.

**TOP RIGHT: Historical Marker for Samuel WOLFENBERGER.** This marker was provided and installed by the Texas Historical Society and is located on FM 20 about 5-6 miles SW of Bastrop, TX and 1 mile west of the Wolfensberger Cemetery.

**BOTTOM LEFT: Calvin and Clodie Nell Wolfensberger WYATT.** This couple lives in Bastrop, TX. Clodie Nell is niece of the late Frank WOLFENBERGER and a daughter of Pallie Marie Wolfensberger REEVES.

**BOTTOM RIGHT: Georgia Gladden Wolfensberger MONCURE** lives in Bastrop, TX and is the daughter of George Gladden WOLFENBERGER and a sister of the late Frank WOLFENBERGER



TOP LEFT: **John FOWLER** with a part of his family. He is a great grandson of Peter Abraham WOLFENBARGER. John and much of his family live in McKee, KY. John is second from the left.

TOP RIGHT: This photo was taken at the **Wolfenbarger Family Reunion** held in Irvine, KY on 26 August. This photo is a part of the gathering of the Wolfenbarger Family in Irvine, KY.

BOTTOM LEFT: This photo shows six of the sixteen children of **Troy DANIEL and Stella FLYNN** as they lead in singing at the Wolfenbarger Family Reunion in Irvine, KY. All sixteen of his family are alive and well as of this date. Most of this family live in or near Cincinnati, OH. Stella was the daughter of Sarah Jane WOLFENBARGER who was a daughter of Peter Abraham WOLFENBARGER.

BOTTOM CENTER: **Dr. Kevin Jones**, born in St. Albans, L.I. NY. Now resides in Oklahoma City. He is a grandson of Lawrence M. JONES. Kevin is the manager of our Web Page. He has received many awards for his long distance running. His most notable recognition was coming in 8th of the USA finishers in a New York City marathon race.

BOTTOM RIGHT: **Richard "Buzz" EVANS**, with his wife Nancy reside in Houston, TX. Buzz has been a member of the WFA Board of Directors for 4 years and he is now the editor of our Newsletter. Robert Wolfenbarger had this position since the start of the WFA. Buzz is the son of Thomas Homer EVANS and Vivian AKIN. Mary SPARGER was his great grandmother born in 1834 in Mt. Airy, NC.

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**WFA**  
**BOARD of DIRECTORS**  
**Year 2001**

*Please place your mark in box next to name , or check box for All Nominees.*

**ALL NOMINEES**

**Albert H. Creasy**

**Richard L. Evans**

**Lawrence M. Jones**

**Myrna Liddell**

**William F. Spargur**

**Jim Lay Wolfenbarger**

**Robert J. Wolfenbarger**

**Robert Lee Wolfenbarger**

**W. Frank Wolfenbarger**

**Virginia Wolfenbarger**

**Max Wolfensberger**

**Rudolf A. Wolfensberger**

**Wolf Wolfensberger**

**Bill Wolfenbarger**

(NOTE: All the above nominees are incumbents.)

**WRITE-IN NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD:**

In addition, I hereby nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send all ballots before December 1, 2000 to :

Robert J. Wolfenbarger  
30 Harvey Drive  
Summit, NJ 07901

## LARRY'S CORNER, cont.

Dallas **DANIEL**, resides in Cincinnati, OH and is a descendant of the Wolfenbarger family of Irvine, KY

Amos E. **WOLFENBARGER**, resides in Seneca, MO and is a descendant of William Walker WOLFENBARGER.

Dr. Charles **DUEY**, resides in Newington, CN.

## OBITUARIES

**Norma Ruth ROADS Tiedt** of Dayton, Ohio died 31 January 1999 and was buried in the Miami Valley Memorial Gardens near Dayton, OH next to her late husband. She was born 13 November 1912 near New Vienna, OH, a twin of Erma Ann ROADS and the daughter of Sterling L. ROADS and Edith T. MEDSKER. Sterling was the son of Noah ROADS, the son of Daniel ROADS born 1814 and Maletha W. SPARGUR.

At an early age Norma and her twin sister became skilled violinists. Her brother Paul remembers during evenings taking turns in turning the cream separator while listening to the violins. He thought heaven could not be any better than life on the farm and listening to the violins.

Norma attended an Office Training School in Columbus, OH and later worked at Rikes Department Store in Dayton. She later worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton from 1940 to 1994. She married Robert TIEDT of Dayton on 13 November 1939.

Her parents and most of her sisters and brothers preceded her in death. Survivors include her brothers Noah ROADS of Houston, TX and Paul C. ROADS of Lafayette, CO. Norma and her brothers and sisters helped heroically in the war effort during World War II and received many medals and awards for their efforts. (Norma's brother Paul C. ROADS provided this obituary)

**Jerry D. WOLFENBARGER** age 65 of Austin, Texas passed away at his home on 17 August 2000, after a lengthy illness.

Jerry was born 11 September 1943 near Neosho, MO. He served his country in the U. S. Navy during the Korean War. In 1960 he moved his family to Waco, TX then moved to Austin, TX. Jerry married Mildred REYNOLDS. He enjoyed a long career in the electronic industry, retiring from Texas Instruments in 1991. A second career in real estate was shortened by health problems.

Jerry was a son of Wayne Curtis WOLFENBARGER, the son of Claude Ernest WOLFENBARGER the son of Millard Filmore WOLFENBARGER the son of William Walker WOLFENBARGER, who was born in 1830 in Grainger County, TN.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Patricia, son Mark and daughter-in-law Becky; daughter Sheryl ODOM; daughter and son-in-law Wendy and John Onken; sister and brother-in-law Joan and Frank TIPTON.

Jerry was buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Neosho, MO.  
(Frances MOORE of Bastrop, TX provided this obituary)

**Eva Mae HAMILTON Bates**, born in McMinville, Oregon on 9 Dec 1912, Died 8 June 2000 in Salem, OR. Graduated from Western Oregon University in 1933. Her husband, Walter, whom she married in 1933, died in 1995. Survivors include a daughter Sharon SCHUTTE of Keizer, OR and a son Ronald BATES of Salem, OR. Eva Mae was the daughter of Arminda WOLFENBARGER; the daughter of Joseph Peter, born 1852; the son of Joseph Peter, born 1820; the son of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER, born 1796, making Eva a great great grand daughter of Peter Amos. (This obituary was provided by Margaret BATES of Salem, OR.)

**Frank WOLFENBERGER**, had been honored as a Life Member of the Wolfensberger Family Association. Frank was born 3 September 1903 in Bastrop County, TX and went to sleep and never awoken on 28 September 2000 in a nursing home in Bastrop, TX. The funeral was held on 2 October in Bastrop. Frank was a very highly respected man. Many of the businesses in Bastrop, a town of 3,500, shut down during the funeral. The house where Frank was born is still standing about a quarter mile from the Wolfenberger Cemetery. Frank's wife Annie died 4 October 1999. They are buried side by side in the Bastrop Cemetery. To the marriage of Frank and Annie was born a daughter Frances Ann. Frances and husband, Robert MOORE, live in Bastrop, TX. Frank was the son of George Gladden WOLFENBERGER and Estelle Minnie TITTLE. George was the son of Charles WOLFENBERGER and Mary LITTON. Charles was the son of Samuel WOLFENBERGER and Caroline FLESHEART. Samuel was born in 1802 in Wythe County, VA, the son of Benjamin WOLFENBARGER

**Zona Lee WOLFENBARGER Beeler**, age 102 of Rutledge, TN died 11 September 2000. Interment was in Andrew Johnson National Cemetery. Zona was preceded in death by her husband Daniel Schubert BEELER and sons Carroll and D. S. BEELER. She is survived by her daughters Imogene LIPFORD and Kathleen KINDEL; son Norman Lacy BEELER; 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

**Cornelia Fay MANESS**, age 91 of Dallas, TX died there April 24, 2000. She was the dau. of Rev. Edgar A. Maness and great grand-daughter of Mary SPARGER Evans. Mary Sparger was the grand-daughter of John Wolfenberger, who settled in Surry Co., NC, changed his name to John W. Sparger to begin the Sparger and Spargur families in America. Cornelia was a graduate of East Texas State Univ. at Commerce and a public school teacher until her retirement. She is survived by her two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Morgan of Brookland TX and Mrs. Sue Moore of Dallas. Burial was in Hillcrest Cemetery, Dallas next to her parents. (Obituary by her cousin, Richard L. Evans, a WFA member.)

President's Letter (cont. from page 1)

appears to most Americans. Only after I lived in Germany and grew acquainted with a genealogist 35 years ago did I discover that our roots lay in northern Switzerland.

With the dramatic growth of interest in family genealogy in recent years, many family members wished there was some sort of organization to bind all the clans of the Wolfensberger family together under a single name.

I'm proud that Larry Jones, who found my name in a family history, got in touch with me and others to see if there was a common interest in an organization that would bring us in touch with our rich history and genealogy.

There clearly was. And there clearly is. It is in the membership of the Wolfensberger Family Association. Like most other Association members, I am not a genealogist by training or interest. Instead, I was always interested in my family's history. By tapping into our history, I found out who we were. And I found out who I was.

Over the past six years we discovered some remarkable ancestors in the stories contained in our newsletter. We found Revolutionary Army officers, soldiers in the French and Indian War and the War of 1812. We found generals and cabinet officials, Hall of Fame baseball heroes and professional football stars. We also found teachers, artists, writers, storekeepers and policemen as well as other public-spirited civil servants. Our families moved across America, taming the frontier. Few made the pages of history, but we made history. In short, we found a cross-section of America in our family.

Now we're able to learn about our Swiss ancestors, whose history and productivity were little different than their American relatives. The American branch of the family didn't know about our Swiss forbears until the middle of this century. Through this association and by way of this newsletter, we will learn more about them. In the process, we may become closer as members of a united family.

The Swiss family will be proud of their American relatives just as we are proud of our Swiss relatives, who've helped make our homeland a proud, independent nation.

Respectfully,

Bob Wolfenbarger, Oct. 23, 2000

P.S. Visit our Website!

New Officers.....

(cont. from page 1)

Jones led the formation of the family association and served as its first president for six years. During his term, Jones helped create the WFA newsletter, build roles for the Board of Directors, attract a host of new members, and generally strengthen the family association. He was instrumental in designing and erecting a memorial monument to the clan's "First Family", John and Margaretha Wolfensberger, in Schafferstown, Penn.

With Jones' resignation, the Board elected an entirely new officer slate during its October 14 meeting, bringing a set of new faces and familiar ones into new positions.

The 2001 slate of officers is drawn from the Sparger, Spargur, Wolfenbarger and Wolfenbarger families.

Elected WFA Vice President (the second-ranked officer position) is Mrs. Myrna Liddell, a member of the Wolfenbarger family, of Whidby, Wash. Myrna is completing an English-language translation of the family's earliest published history, printed over 70 years ago in Switzerland.

Reelected Secretary of the organization is Bill Spargur of Palmdale, Calif. A retired military officer, Bill serves as a deputy sheriff in Los Angeles County, California.

The association created a new Board position for the editor and publisher of the Wolfensberger Family Association newsletter. Replacing Bob Wolfenbarger of New Jersey as newsletter editor is Richard "Buzz" Evans of Houston, Tex. He is a member of the Sparger family.

The Board also created the position of Finance Officer to manage the organization's finances. Al Creasy, a member of the Sparger family, of Tryon, N.C., was elected to the position.

In addition, the Board created a new position as the organization's Finance Auditor, to help audit the association's finances. Elected was a certified public auditor, W. Frank Wolfenbarger of Irving, Tex.

## Swiss Project

by Bob Wolfenbarger

BAUMA -- As winter approaches in northern Switzerland, a Swiss family committee in this Zurich Canton village of 4,500, original home of the clan, is planning the first steps in the construction of a memorial at the site of the Wolfensbergers' long-vanished family castle near this village.

Delayed by a vicious winter storm a year ago, the project is expected to be built by the family association's Swiss partners during 2001. If no further delays occur, the Board of Directors hopes to dedicate the family memorial at a public ceremony late next year.

The project is the result of a partnership of the WFA and two Swiss non-profit organizations, the Verkehrsverein Bauma, a tourist organization, and the Zuercher Wanderwege, a cantonal hiking group. The WFA has committed \$6,500 in member funds to build the project, a figure matched by fundings from these two Swiss associations. When completed, the project will add another picnic area and hiking paths to a network of such facilities throughout Switzerland.

The family's representatives are part of a Bauma-based committee headed by Heini Wolfensberger of Bauma, an honorary member of the Board of Directors. Also a member is Max Wolfensberger of Stafa, a director of the WFA for the past four years.

The funds will construct hiking paths, stairs, bridges and a picnic area with a barbecue at the site of the onetime castle. A plaque in German and English will recognize the significance of the site to the Wolfensberger family.

To assist members who've pledged or contributed to the project, the WFA is seeking designation by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. When the IRS has finally determined the WFA's status, contributors will be informed of the change in status. Once designated as a non-profit, member contributions should be tax-deductible.

# 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**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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 rejoin later in the year will receive all 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**  
**Spargur**

**Wolfenbarger**  
**Wolfenbarger**  
**Wolfenbarger**  
**Sparger**

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**Wolfensberger**



**WOLFENSBERGER**  
**FAMILY ASSOCIATION**  
10903 Holly Springs Drive  
Houston, TX 77042-1310

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