



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

August 2001

Vol. 7, No. 3

Page 1

WFA Off To Switzerland

The Dedication

by Robt. Wolfenbarger, Pres. WFA

Swiss and American members of the worldwide Wolfensberger family will gather in Bauma, Switzerland, ancestral home of the family, on Friday, September 28 to dedicate a memorial stone at the site of the family's medieval castle.

At least 25 Americans are expected to join nearly twice that number of European Wolfensberger family members in a dedication ceremony and luncheon to celebrate the 700-year history of the family.

In its first international family reunion, the Wolfensbergers will come to the site of a long-vanished castle, a structure believed to have been a timbered fortress, to dedicate a one-ton stone bearing plaques with English and German legends that tell a brief history of the longtime Swiss family.

The memorial will be a permanent marker, high on the Wolfensberg, a mountain located near the 4,900-person village of Bauma, to the family that originally came to America in 1730. It is the second such memorial erected by the Wolfensberger Family Association, which built a memorial grave stone four years ago to the original Wolfensberger family who

cont. on page 3



The medieval castle in Rapperswil on Lake Zurich. Well known to the medieval Wolfensberger family, the castle was home to their overlords, the Counts of Rapperswil. The castle is on the tour of historic family scenes during the dedication of a family memorial in September in Bauma, Switzerland.



Dedication Schedule

September 28, 2001

8:30 a.m. American WFA members meet at the Sihlquai parking place adjacent to Zurich's main railroad station. A bus marked "Bauman-Reisen/WFA" will take Americans to Bauma's train station, where they will take a shuttle bus to the dedication site.

10:30 a.m. The memorial dedication ceremony begins with remarks by members of Bauma's village council and officials of the Verkehrsverein Bauma, a local tourist information agency, and the Zurcher Wanderwege, a Swiss association that operates hiking paths across Switzerland.

(cont. on page 7)

Shown at left, this hilltop on the Wolfensberg is the presumed site of the family castle, a stronghold held by the family believed to have dated back to the 13th & 14th century. The Wolfensberg castle was noted in a 1560 map of the region. For hundreds of years, the von Wolfsberg family held sway over the region under the over-lordship of the Counts of Rapperswil. A memorial with a large stone and cast plaques in German and English will be placed in this clearing.

**Wolfensberger
Family Association
Officers and Directors
Year 2001**

President

Robert J. Wolfenbarger

Vice President

Myrna Liddell

Treasurer

Albert H. Creasy

Secretary

William F. Spargur

Historian-Memberships

Lawrence M. Jones

Newsletter Editor

Richard L. Evans

Auditor

W. Frank Wolfenbarger

**OTHER
BOARD MEMBERS**

Virginia Wolfenbarger, PhD

Bill Wolfenbarger

Max Wolfensberger

Jim Lay Wolfenbarger

**Rudolf A. Wolfensberger,
PhD**

Robert Lee Wolfenbarger

Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD

Honorary Life Member

Heini Wolfensberger

**WANT TO KNOW
MORE!**

**Visit our Web
Site:**

www.members.home.net/



Larry's Corner

New Members, Reunions, and In Memoriam

OBITUARIES

Georgia Gladden Wolfenberger MONCURE – Born 3 July 1915 in Bastrop, TX, Lived most of her life in Bastrop, Died in Austin, TX, buried beside her husband Jack MONCURE in Hendrix Cemetery near Rockne, TX. Georgia is survived by daughter Billy Jo Moncure WEDLUND, sons Jack Oren MONCURE and Jimmy Norment MONCURE., 5 grand children and 9 great grand children. Georgia was one of six children of George Gladden WOLFENBERGER and Estelle Minnie TITTLE and was the last survivor of these six children. The father of George was Charles, the son of Samuel WOLFENBERGER, born April 1804 in Wythe County, VA. Samuel arrived in Bastrop, TX prior to 1830 and was the son of Benjamin WOLFENBARGER the son of John WOLFERSBERGER born in the Alsace in 1730.

Lula Mae VOIGT WOLFENBERGER, Born 5 November 1913 in Red Rock, TX. She married Charles Pierce WOLFENBERGER in Bastrop, TX on 26 Sept 1931. She died 5 Jan 2001 in Mariners Health Center in Houston, TX. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Pierce WOLFENBERGER on 6 Nov 1974; granddaughter Cynthia Ann WOLFENBERGER and a sister Vertie MARSHALL. Survivors include: sons George and Charles; four grandchildren; three step grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; five step great grandchildren and sister Geneva ROBERDS.

Richard Burns WOLFERSPERGER, Born 10 April 1917 in Lindsey, KS lived most of his retired life in and died in Gulfport, MS. Richard was a retired Colonel in the U. S. Air Force and was the son of Daniel A. WOLFERSPERGER and Kittie Mae BURNS. Richard was one of eight children born to Daniel and Kittie. The only survivor of these eight is a brother, Ralph Anderson WOLFERSPERGER of Towanda, KS. Richard was married to Ida Mae Ebarbo. At this time the family information has not been sufficient to make the tie into the rest of the family, however with the information received from Ralph A. WOLFERSPERGER there is evidence that they tie into the Wolfensberger family of eastern PA. The information on the death of Richard Burns WOLFERSPERGER was provided by Michelle WOLFERSPERGER of Towanda, KS.

Marvin Franklin SPARGER, born 24 May 1920 in Surry County, NC, age 80, died 11 March 2001 in Hugh Chatham Nursing Center in Elkins, NC. Marvin resided at 314 Franklin Street in Mount Airy, NC where he retired as owner and operator of Sparger Insurance Agency. He was a member

Continued page 6

BE A VOLUNTEER, You can help!

"Compiler's Needed"

by Myrna Liddell, WFA Vice-President

1. We are in need of volunteer compilers who have a computer and some computer skills and are willing to help create GEDCOM files of the family lines found in the "Wolfensberger Translation" of the Geschlechterbuch.
2. This will be challenging work, and Myrna Liddell will be doing all she can to help those who volunteer to do this.
3. We have been entering data from the book onto a genealogical program called Legacy. It is actually FREE software, found on the internet at www.legacyfamilytree.com.
<<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>>
It is made by a very reputable company in Washington state.
(No, we are not selling this software, nor do we get any commission or points from your downloading it.)
4. This software allows the user to only enter a last name/surname or location, one time, and after that it pops up for when the first few letters are typed. This makes this program very user friendly!
5. You do not need to use this software. If you have a software (like FTM) that you prefer, you may use it, as long as it can create a compatible GEDCOM file.
6. When this is completed, the database we create will be available on disc to members of the association.
7. If you are interested in helping with this work, please contact Myrna via email at myrnabl@whidbey.com, or phone 360-321-4971
You will not need super computer skills to do this work and you can make a big contribution to the WFA and the Family History of the Wolfensberger family. You will be able to work at home and at your own speed. Lend a hand to this great task.

Dedication cont. from page 1

emigrated from Europe to colonial Pennsylvania before the American Revolution. That stone, in the Lutheran Cemetery in Schafferstown, Pa., is also available to family members who visit the region to learn where the family originated in the colonies.

The dedication ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the site of the castle, just outside Bauma. The family, represented by a WFA committee in Bauma, worked with two local organizations to construct hiking paths and a picnic area next to the memorial stone. WFA members contributed \$6,500 to build the memorial. WFA partners in constructing the memorial are the Bauma Verkehrsverein, a local tourist information agency, and the Zurcher Wanderwege, which has hiking paths criss-crossing Switzerland. A key partner in the enterprise is the Bauma Council, which represents the people of the Zurich Canton village.

Family members who are unable to come to Switzerland in September can visit the site at any time. All they have to do is to visit the Verkehrsverein office in Bauma and ask for directions to the Wolfensberger memorial on the Wolfensberg.

After the dedication ceremonies, members are invited to attend a luncheon at the lakeside resort hotel, the Schwanen, in nearby Rapperswil overlooking Lake Zurich. Heribert Wolfensberger, cousin of WFA board member Max Wolfensberger, is hosting the luncheon for American visitors.

Rapperswil is an important place to the Wolfensberger family. It was once home to the Counts of Rapperswil, overlords of the family in the 13th through 14th Century that ruled that part of Europe, then part of the medieval Hapsburg Empire ruled from Vienna.

A bus will be available to American tourists who plan to attend the memorial to take them from Zurich to Bauma and return. Shuttle buses will take Swiss and American family members to the castle site and return them to Bauma. As an alternative, many members may board a ferry at Rapperswil to take a colorful lakeside voyage back to Zurich.

American members of the family who have not made plans yet to attend the dedication still have time to make flight and hotel reservations. The WFA has arranged with the Ambassador Group, West Coast travel agencies, to help U.S. travelers make their own arrangements. For assistance, contact Gwen Henstridge at 1-800-325-7103, Ext. 5966.



ABOVE: Hertha SMITH and spouse William Lester SMITH reside in Florence, KY. Hertha is the daughter of Olive Wolfinbarger ROGERS, she has served as an assistant coordinator to Ora KIRBY in the Wolfinbarger family reunions in Irvine, KY and is a descendant of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER born in 1796.

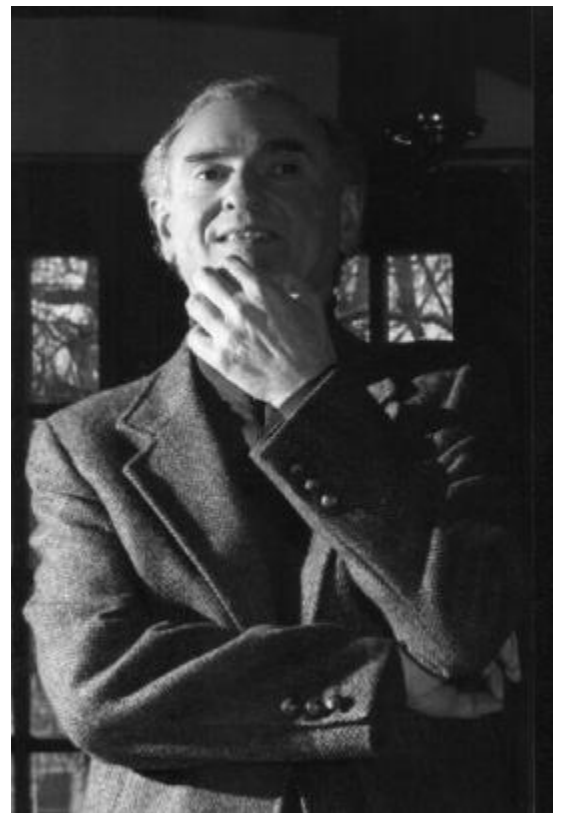
PHOTO PAGE

RIGHT: William Harry SPARGER born in Durant, OK, the son of Allen Jeff SPARGER. William is a 3rd great grandson of John W. Sparger born in Frieberg, NC. He resides in Colorado Springs, CO and is the Vice President of Engineering of Costal Interstate Gas Co. He has previously served as a member of the Board of Directors of the WFA.



ABOVE: Gregory SANFORD, Phd. Gregory was born in Lewiston, ID and now resides near Spokane WA in the summer and in AZ in the winter. He is a 4th great grandson of William H. SPARGER born in 1797 in Surry County, NC.

RIGHT: Wolf P. WOLFENSBERGER, Phd. Wolf and spouse Nancy ARTZ reside in Syracuse, NY where he is a professor at Syracuse University. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the WFA since its beginning.





ABOVE: E. Manford WOLFENBARGER and brother Charles William WOLFENBARGER. Both born near Neosho, MO. They were the sons of Joseph WOLFENBARGER and Sarah WILSON. Manford was born June 1888 and died June 1968. A daughter of Manford, Shirley Ruth LAYTON and a daughter of Charles, Mona Ruth REIGERT and other descendants are members of the WFA. The brothers were grandsons of William Walker WOLFENBARGER born in 1830 in Grainger County, TN and relocated to SW MO in 1873.



ABOVE: Joy Di Mio NEWMAN is the daughter of Edford A. WOLFENBARGER. She lives in Irvine, KY and is the sister of Adair (shown at right), Duff, Eric and Hulbert WOLFENBARGER.

RIGHT William Claude WHITMAN and spouse Bernice reside near Sparta, MO. They lived in San Diego, CA for much of their adult life. When he retired they built a home near Sparta. William is the son of Grace WOLFENBARGER and William Clinton WHITMAN. Grace was the daughter of Millard Filmore WOLFENBARGER who was the son of Wm. Walker WOLFENBARGER born Grainger County, TN in 1830 and relocated to SW Mo in 1873.

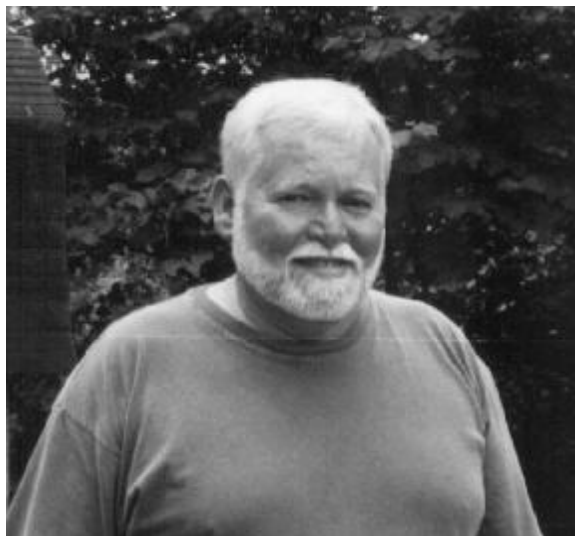
PHOTO PAGE



RIGHT: Ruth Ann BLACKWELL resides in Irvine, KY. She is the daughter of Arthur WOLFENBARGER and the grand daughter of John Wilburn WOLFENBARGER. Photo taken at Wolfenbarger reunion summer of 2000. She has visited the castle site in Bauma.



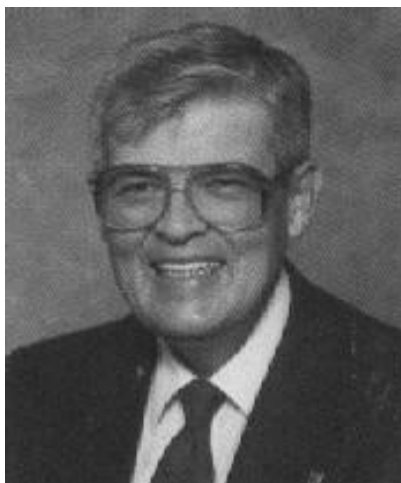
RIGHT: Adair WOLFENBARGER and spouse live in Irvine, KY on the bank of the Kentucky River Adair is the son of Edford A. WOLFENBARGER and a descendant of Peter Amos WOLFENBARGER and a brother of Eric, Duff, Hulbert and Joy (shown at the left).



Larry's Corner continued from page 2

of the Flat Rock Ruritan Club, Mount Airy Kiwanis Club and the Central United Methodist Church. Marvin was the son of Marvin Hamilton SPARGER and Nancy Emma MERRITT. Surviving are two nieces; Nancy Sparger BARKER of Abingdon, VA; Sarah Sparger STALEY of Marion, VA; two nephews; H. Merritt SPARGER, Jr. of Salem, VA and John W. SPARGER of Marion, VA who was a member of the WFA Board of Directors for two years. In addition to his parents Marvin was preceded in death by a brother, Haywood M. SPARGER and by one nephew, Robert H. SPARGER. He was a grandson of Benjamin Franklin SPARGER, the son of John W. SPARGER, Jr., the son of John W(olfensberger) SPARGER, born 1754. His funeral service was on 13 March 2001, with burial in the Oakdale Cemetery in Surry County, NC.

James Edward SPARGUR, 58, of Hillsboro, OH, died Friday 6 July 2001 of a heart attack while mowing his lawn with his riding mower. He was born 19 May 1943 in Hillsboro, OH, the son of the late Harold William SPARGUR and Josephine M. Rhoads. He was a grandson of James E. SPARGUR, the son of Joseph W. SPARGUR, son of John W(olfensberger) SPARGER of Surry Co., NC and born 1754



Jim had served on the Board of Directors of the WFA for two years. Jim was a Nationwide Insurance Agent in Waynesville, OH for 25 years, prior to moving back to Hillsboro. He was an associate with Russ Newman Nationwide Insurance, Realestate Agent for Classic Real Estate Company and worked at Weastec in Hillsboro. He was a member of the Hillsboro First Baptist Church, Highland Lodge #38F&AM, Hillsboro Chapter #40 RAM, Hillsboro Council #16 RSM, Highland Commandery #31 Knights Templar, Scottish Rite Valley of Dayton, Antioch Temple of Dayton, Kentucky Colonel and the Highland County Historical Society. On 15 September 1968, he was united in marriage to Jane PAVEY who survives. He is also survived by a daughter Lisa Ann SPARGUR of Dayton, OH. Funeral services were held on Wednesday 11 July at the Hope Miller- Thompson Funeral Home in Hillsboro. The family requested memorials to be made to the Harold W. Spargur Memorial Scholars, c/o First Firststar Bank, Main and High Streets, Hillsboro, OH 45133. To sign the online register book, visit www.thompson-funeralhomes.com.

(cont. above right)

REUNIONS- A typical family reunion may include a get-acquainted period, introductions, discussions on family history, games, singing, recognition awards, a short business session and a covered dish dinner.

As a courtesy and to assure you of a fun time, anyone planning to attend a reunion should contact the coordinator to inform them of your intention to attend and to obtain additional information on the reunion

SPARGER – SPARGUR; Galax, VA; Sunday 19 August, Starts Sunday at 1:00 PM; Covered dish dinner; Coordinator: Guy Mitchell SPARGER, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030, Phone 336-786-6906
WOLFINBARGER - WOLFENBARGER; Irvine, KY, Saturday 25 August, Registration 10:00 AM a covered dish dinner at 1:30 P M. In the Masonic Lodge in downtown Irvine; Coordinator: Ora KIRBY, 84 Reese Street, Irvine, KY 40336, Phone 606-723-4073
WILKINSON - WOLFENBARGER; Blue Springs, MO; Sunday 9 September, starts at 1:00 PM in the Women's Club House, Covered dish dinner; Coordinator Olen WILKINSON, 900 W. "B" Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, Phone 816-228-4183
WOLFENBERGER; Weatherford, TX, 21 September in the Zion Hill Community building about 4 miles northwest of Weatherford. Registration will begin at about 11:00 AM with a covered dish dinner at 1:30 P M. Coordinator is Lorene ROTHROCK, Weatherford, TX

The following **NEW MEMBERS** have been received into WFA since April 1, 2001: Judy MOSELEY (Sparger), Dallas, TX
 John J. CHARRON (Wolfesperger), Webster Groves, MO
 Derek Wayne SPARGER, Mount Airy, NC
 Marjorie MITTAN (Wolfenbarger), Springfield, MO
 Nancy ALLEN, (Spargur), Fort Collins, CO
 Erma SCHWEINSBERG, (Wolfsberg), Pohlheim, Germany

Dedication Schedule cont. from page 1

11:45 a.m. A shuttle bus returns American visitors to the Bauma train station where they will board their Bauman bus to take them to a luncheon at the Hotel Schwanen, a lakeside resort on Lake Zurich in Rapperswil.

1:00 p.m. The luncheon begins at the hotel in a dining room overlooking scenic Lake Zurich. American visitors are guests of Heribert Wolfensberger, a cousin of Max Wolfensberger, WFA board member. Luncheon ends at about 3 p.m.

3:15 p.m. Americans may return by bus to Zurich -- or remain in Rapperswil to walk the streets of this medieval city. The old section of Rapperswil is very picturesque and may have been the home of many family members centuries ago. Rapperswil Castle, which dominates the city, was the home of the Counts of Rapperswil, overlords of the Wolfensberg family in medieval times.

5:25 p.m. The ferry returns to Zurich, sailing along scenic lakeside communities to give visitors a look at some of Zurich's most picturesque suburbs. The ship arrives at 7:30 p.m. at the Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich's main shopping street.



These windows look out from the dining room of the Hotel Schwanen in Rapperswil, a beautiful old hotel on the shore of Lake Zurich, where the Swiss and American Wolfensberger families will have a luncheon on September 28, the day we dedicate the family memorial in Bauma.

Who's Planning to Go!

The WFA needs to know who is planning to attend the dedication ceremony in Bauma and luncheon at the Hotel Schwanen in Rapperswil. Members are free to make their own travel and hotel arrangements, of course, but we have arranged with the Ambassador Group, a travel agency, to offer assistance. Our contact at the travel agency is Gwen Henstridge, who can be reached at 1-800-325-7103, Ext. 5966. If you plan to join other family members at the luncheon, please inform Bob Wolfenbarger, President of the WFA. He can be reached at (908) 273-7631 or via email to: Bobwolfenbarger@att.net.

You are encouraged to stay in the Zurich area and take our chartered bus from the Zurich main train station, the Hauptbahnhof, to Bauma and back. The bus, marked "Bauman-Reisen /WFA", will be in the Sihlquai parking place on the west side of Zurich's main train station. Once we know how many people will take the bus to Bauma, we can calculate individual fares. Assuming 25 people take the bus, individual fares should run about \$21-23 per person.

After the luncheon, you may choose to remain in Rapperswil for a few hours to walk the streets of this medieval city. Then many family members will take a ferry back to Zurich from Rapperswil, along scenic Lake Zurich. (This fare will be your responsibility.)

NOTE: Because the memorial site is in a rural area and there are no parking areas nearby, individual visitors should not drive to the dedication location on the Wolfensberg mountain.

To insure your participation in all these events, please let us know you are going to Switzerland so we can include you and your party in our planning.

WFA Board

**JOIN
WOLFENSBERGER
FAMILY ASSOCIATION
Today!**

Wolfensberger Family Flag !

If you've ever wanted to fly your own flag from your home flagpole, there may be a Wolfensberger family flag in your future.

Like those flags marking holidays or pets, or whatever, it's now possible to order a Wolfensberger (yes, that's the original name) to fly over your home. Three by five feet in dimensions, it depicts the grey wolf and three green peaks of the Wolfensberg, ancestral Swiss home of the family, against a red back-ground. The flag can be ordered by mail from Mrs. Jodi Wolfenbarger, 33 Stockton Drive, Monroe, MI 48162. She has arranged to have the flag made for family members by a major flag maker. She can be reached at (734) 777-1899 or through email, at: (wolfenbargerjodi_2000@yahoo.com)

The Wolfenbargers will price the flag simply to cover production and handling expenses. Per-flag costs will vary, of course, according to the number of orders placed. Assuming 25 orders, the 3'x5' heavy nylon flag should cost

about \$50 a flag, including shipping and postage. If you're interested in buying a flag, contact Jodi Wolfenbarger to place an order. When all orders are received, she will tell you what your flag will cost. Once you have paid in advance, she will order the flags from the manufacturer. Production will take about eight weeks.

"This will be a very sturdy, attractive flag like those holiday flags that fly over people's homes," said Mrs. Wolfenbarger. "We always wanted a family flag and this carries our authentic family crest on it."

The flag is sold under a new WFA policy that authorizes sales of family-related items to the membership at a price that simply covers costs.

This flag would make a great Christmas gift for family members!

Wolfensberger



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

Vol. 7, No. 3