



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

May 2002

Vol. 8, No. 2

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WFA Award Gains International Fame

President's Letter

Profiles in Courage

From Family Annals

Few family members are aware of the long and distinguished line of ancestors we share.

In Switzerland, our descendants fought for – and against – Swiss independence from their Austrian masters centuries ago. At least one was killed in an historic battle for independence. (Though he fought for the Austrians, perhaps he can be forgiven – since he was an Austrian nobleman at the time.)

In the United States, one Wolfensberger fought in the French and Indian War and at least two were in the American Revolution. Others were in the War for Texas Independence (yes, one was believed to have been at the Alamo *before* the massacre of Davey Crockett and the others). Many others were in the Civil War where they wore both the blue and the gray.

In fact, one family-related web site lists Major General "Fighting Joe" Joseph Hooker, one of President Lincoln's less well-known commanders of the Union's Army of the Potomac, as a close relation.

Two others were generals during and after World War II, including a two-star general who commanded the U.S. Eighth Air Force in postwar Germany.

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Announcing a New Book

Duey Huguenot Families In Europe and America, 1500 to 2000
by Rev. Charles J. Duey Sr., Th.M., D.Min.

This book, written by WFA member Rev. Charles Duey of Newington, CT, is the culmination of two years work by Rev. Duey and contains resources from the author's four decades of research in America and recent contacts and research in Europe. Fully referenced, it gives the reader the knowledge to continue research in related families and make new discoveries for Duey and other surnames. Picking up from a previous work, published in 1997/98, this book goes on into the resources available in Europe, especially France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Rev. Duey was born and raised in Miami, FL. After a 5 year tour of

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The Zuercher Wanderwege, Zuerich Canton hiking association that partnered with the WFA to build a memorial to the family on the Wolfensberg in Bauma, cited the memorial project in its 2001 Annual Report as an example of international cooperation. Included in its German-language annual report was the Association's Heritage Award which was presented to the Wanderwege at dedication ceremonies in September 2001. The citation is shown below. The Wanderwege is a non-profit organization that builds and operates hiking trails throughout Zuerich Canton, Switzerland's most populous canton. Construction of a hiking trail on the Wolfensberg brings the total mileage of trails to 2,687 kilometers, or about 1,500 miles.

The WFA recognized the Wanderwege for its "quiet leadership and unfailing support of the Wolfensberger Family Association.

By Bob Wolfenbarger
Pres, WFA



Als Zeichen der Anerkennung für ihren Einsatz bei der Markierung der Wanderwege, insbesondere im Zusammenhang mit einer Verlegung am Wolfensberg (Gemeinde Bauma), erhielten die ZAW von der amerikanischen-schweizerischen Wolfensberg-Familienstiftung eine Auszeichnung, den "Heritage Award", zu gesprochen.



Larry's Corner

New Members, Reunions, and In Memoriam

2002 FAMILY REUNIONS

A typical family reunion may include a get-acquainted period, introductions, discussion 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 reunion coordinator to inform them of your intention to attend and to obtain additional information on the reunion.

The following reunions are those that are knowledgeable at the time of this newsletter.

WOLFINBARGER - WOLFENBARGER

located in Hopper Park in Lincoln, Montana which is about 45 miles NW of Helena and about 70 miles E of Missoula. The reunion will be on Saturday and Sunday 13 and 14 July 2002. This reunion is especially

for the descendants of George Tillman WOLFINBARGER the son of William Walker WOOFENBARGER who left southwest Missouri in the about 1895 and moved to Montana. For more information contact Amy ALFORD, 439 Popham Lane, Corvallis, Montana 59828, tele 406-961-9114, email hccalford@aol.com.

SPARGER REUNION held on Sunday 18 August in Galax, VA. Starts at 1:00 PM with covered dish dinner. Coordinator Guy Mitchell SPARGER, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030, phone 336-786-6906, email gms@surry.net.

WOLFINBARGER – WOLFENBARGER REUNION held on Saturday 24 August 2002 in the Masonic Lodge in Irvine, KY. Registration starts at 10:00 AM, Covered dish dinner 1:30 PM. Coordinator is Ora KIRBY 84 Reece Street, Irvine, KY 40336, phone 606-723-4073.

WILKINSON – WOLFENBARGER REUNION Sunday 8 September 2002 in the Ladies Club House, in Blue Springs, MO. Covered Dish Dinner starts at 1:00 PM. Coordinator Olen WILKINSON 900 W “B” Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015, phone 816 228-4183

WOLFENBERGER REUNION Sunday 20 October 2002 in the Zion Hill Community Center about 4 miles NW of Weatherford, TX. The covered dish

dinner starts at 12:30 PM. The coordinator is Jimmy ROTHROCK, Cool, TX, phone 940-682-4945.

NEW MEMBERS

Russ VAN ASPEREN, (Wolfensberger) Rosebud, MO
Rodger E. ESPY, (Wolfenbarger) Burlington, IA
Steven Dwayne WOLFENBARGER, Newport, MI
Mrs. Lee REEVES, (Wolfenbarger) Pensacola, FL
Mrs. Dia TANNER, (Wolfenbarger) Pensacola, FL
Bill EDELEN, (Wolfenbarger) Santa Rosa, CA
Nancy GORDON, (Sparger) Des Moines, IA
Thomas H. EVANS, Jr., (Sparger) Waco, TX
Mary ASADIURIAN, (Sparger) Torrence, CA
Mrs. Lee PRIER, (Sparger) Fountain Valley, CA
Mickey BURELSON, (Sparger) Temple, TX
Donna VAN ASPEREN, (Wolfensberger) Battle Creek, MI
Peter MEGREW, (Wolfenbarger) Amarillo, TX

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Dalton WOLFENBARGER age 54 of Erie, CO died of a massive heart attack on 25 February 2002 in Louisville, CO. Michael was born in Knoxville, TN on 17 Jan 1948. He was in the military intelligence for the U S Army until he retired in 1989. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Knoxville, TN and in Doric, Germany. Survivors include his wife Nan WOLFENBARGER of Eric, CO, a son Christopher of Knoxville, TN, brothers John R. WOLFENBARGER of Macon, GA and Robert WOLFENBARGER of Knoxville, TN. Michael was the son of Johnnie Burchell WOLFENBARGER and Zululee Dalton WOLFENBARGER. Michael served on the Board of Directors of the Wolfensberger Family Association for two years. Michael was buried in the Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO.

Donald (Bud) Dale WOLFERSBERGER born 8 April 1927 in Battle Creek, MI, died 20 Nov 1999 in Battle Creek, MI, burial in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek, MI.

Jerry Lee WOLFERSBERGER born 16 Jan 1935 in Barttle Creek, MI. Died 15 Jan 2002 in Haines City, F, buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Battle Creek, MI. Jerry was a member of the Wolfensberger Family Association. This family information on Donald and Jerry was provided by their uncle Russ VAN ASPEREN.

Molly Francis Hale WOLFENBARGER of Irvine, KY, age 95 born 8 Feb 1907 died, after
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**Wolfensberger
Family Association
Officers and Directors
Year 2002**

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HONORARY

LIFE MEMBER

Heini Wolfensberger

Larry's Corner.....(cont. from page 2)

a long illness, Sunday 3 March 2002 in Marcum Wallace Memorial Hospital Irvine, KY. Molly was the widow of Joseph WOLFENBARGER. Survivors include two daughters Joanna W. MOORE of Lexington, KY and Alma W. DURHAM of Irvine, KY

From The Decatur County Journal, Thursday, Feb. 17, 1921, Author Unknown

Allen W. Spargur was born in Highland County, Ohio, August 26th, 1838. He was the son of JOSEPH and NANCY M. SPARGUR, and was one of a family of 14 children. One brother and sister survive him. He was the father of 11 children, five of whom are still living, 3 sons and 2 daughters, MRS. W. A. HENDERSON of Greybull, WY; MRS. F. E. KIRK, of Monte Vista, CO; and CHARLEY W. SPARGUR of Sterling, CO and HENRY W. SPARGUR, of near Davis City, IA.

MR. SPARGUR, in company with a number of other families, left Ohio and came to Iowa in March, 1870, He settled first near Villisca for about a year, then came to Decatur Co. and settled near Woodland. He lived in that area for many years, in both Wayne Co. and Decatur Co. About a year ago he moved into Davis City where he died on February 11th, 1922 aged 82 years, 4 month, and 15 days. His occupation during his lifetime was that of a farmer. He leaves to mourn his departure his aged wife, who is in poor health, 3 sons, 2 daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

A short religious service was held at the home of the writer hereof and the remains were taken to the Hamilton Cemetery near Pleasanton and buried near friends who preceded him to the great beyond. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia. Thus, one by one, the old land marks are fading away. Obituary received from Nancy Gordon, Des Moines, IA.

Web Site <http://members.cox.net/wolfensberger>

Visit our Web Site!

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

*<http://members.cox.net/wolfensberger>
(See the comments in President's Letter)*

Our mailing address is still:
*Wolfensberger Family Association
6400 North Ann Arbor Terrace
Oklahoma City, OK 73132
Our e-mail address is:
wolfensberger@cox.com*



New Book..... (cont. from page 1)

service in the U.S. Navy, he graduated from the Univ. of Miami with a Teaching Degree. He then studied at various seminaries, earning several advanced degrees. His professional ministry began as a missionary teaching in an Eskimo village in northern Alaska, then 8 years as a minister and teacher in Ecuador. In 1967, he located in West Harford, CT where he pastored a church for 20 years and served 8 years as interim minister at various Congregational (United Church of Christ) tradition churches. Since retirement, he has worked tirelessly in family research. He and his wife, Ellie (Eleanor Johnson), shown above, live in Newington, CT near 4 of their adult children. A fifth, Charles, Jr., lives near Philadelphia, PA.

From Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia we note that *Huguenots* was a name given to the Protestants of France from about 1560 to about 1630. The sharp rise in the number of French Protestants during this time excited the alarm of the French Roman Catholics which was intensified by the political rivalry between the two groups. After 1630, the Huguenots found life almost intolerable in France and many of them came to America to escape the persecution. The total emigration from France is believed to have been from 400,000 to 1,000,000, with many of them coming to the English colonies in America.

Rev. Duey is a direct descendant of Johan Jacob Duey, who married Mary (some say Anna) Catherine Wolfensberger about 1750 in Pennsylvania. She was the daughter of Johannes and Anna Margretha (Ensminger) Wolfensberger who came to America aboard the "Thistle of Glasgow" in 1730. Since the Huguenots and the Reformed Church members were spiritually very similar, it is not surprising that Johan Duey and Catherine Wolfensberger were wed. Catherine Duey lived many years and produced many Duey sons who populated the Pennsylvania area from Lebanon to Harrisburg and down to Shippensburg. These people eventually moved on to Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Nebraska mostly.

Rev. Charles J. Duey and other family members are financing the publication of his book. For those who may have an interest and wish to obtain a copy of this fine work, he may be contacted by mail to: 125 Goodale Drive, Newington, CT, 06111-3122, by phone at: 860 665-1140 and by e-mail at: chuckduey@aol.com concerning the publication of his book and its availability.

We are indebted to Rev. Duey for sharing his information with us for this article.

by Richard Evans, Editor

Notice! MEDALLIONS Notice!

The medallions have been ordered and should be mailed by the middle of June. If there others that have not previously ordered, that would like to have one or more of these medallions then you should contact Larry JONES, 6400 Ann Arbor Ter., klahoma City, OK 73132, as it is likely that there will be sufficient requests for medallions that an extension to the present order will be necessary. The cost will be \$20 for each medallion. See the immediate last two newsletters for additional information.

SHARE YOUR REUNION

We invite all our members who attend Wolfensberger, Sparger, and Spargur family reunions this summer to share the event with other members by sending me a snapshot or two taken at the reunion for including in the Fall-Winter issue of our newsletter. You may send the photos to me by mail or by e-mail. All photos received by US Mail will be returned in good condition to the sender. E-mail photos can be in .jpg, .bmp., and .tif format. You may send along the reunion and location, names of "cousins" in the photos, and a note about the activities.

Send this to either:

Larry Jones or Richard Evans, Editor WFA
6400 Ann Arbor Terr. 10903 Holl Springs Dr.
Okla. City, OK 73132 Houston, TX 77042
e-mail:
wolfensberger@cox.net revans45@swbel.net

Lets make this issue a "keeper" with great photos of your reunion!



Robert Lee WOLFENBARGER (above) resides in Knoxville, TN with his wife Bonnie. Robert is a member of the Board of Directors of the WFA and does a great job in recruiting members and attending family reunions. He discovered, for the WFA, the Wolfspurger family of Emmendingen, Germany. This photo taken at the Wolfinbarger reunion in Irvine, KY in 2000.

PHOTO PAGE

Otis WOLFENBARGER (Shown below) This photo taken in summer of 2000 at his home near Dry Ridge, KY. Otis was 92 at that time. He died 7 March 2001. Otis was the son of John Wilburn WOLFENBARGER.



Nadja and Patrick WOLFENSBERGER (at left) daughter and son of Rudolf and Sylvia WOLFENSBERGER. They live in Solothurn, Switzerland . This photo taken at their home in Solothurn 1 Aug 1999. Their father is Rudolf WOLFENSBERGER a member of the Board of Directors of the WFA.

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Ollie ELLISON and spouse Robert ELLISON (above) reside in Knoxville, TN. Ollie is a descendant of Almarinda WOLFENBARGER a daughter of Robert Wesley WOLFENBARGER a grandson of Peter WOLFENBARGER born 1752 in Lebanon County, PA. Both Ollie and Robert are very active in civic affairs and in genealogy they spend a lot of time recording cemetery information.



Otto KIRCHER and spouse Wilma Wolfenberger KIRCHER (above) who reside in Cincinnati, OH. Wilma is a granddaughter of Sara Jane WOLFENBARGER who was born in Estill County, KY in 1888. This photo was taken at the Wolfenberger reunion in Irvine, KY in the summer of 2000.

Pres. Letter... (cont from page 1)

On both sides of the Atlantic, the Wolfensberger family – in variations of the family name – were a distinguished lot with a long and rich history of participation in nation-building wars.

Maybe a popular family history will one day offer a profile in courage of these brave ancestors. But until there is such a history, there is an illustrated history of the family's Swiss origins under development.

One of the Association directors, Dr. Rudi Wolfensberger of Solothurn, Switzerland, is putting final touches on a slide presentation that we'll try to offer to computer users on a CD-ROM and to others on a VHS videotape that can be shown on their home television sets.

Dr. Wolfensberger has put together a superb presentation about the family's Swiss origins that will give family members a new perspective about where the family came from and what it contributed to Swiss history. With more than 100 photos and illustrations, the presentation brings life to the family's history in the foothills of the Alps. Many photos are from the dedication of the Association's memorial in Bauma, Switzerland, on September 28, 2001 at the site of a family castle. Others are from archives depicting historic events that shaped Switzerland's medieval history.

Among the images is a blown-up drawing of the family's original castle on the Wolfensberg, a mountain just outside Bauma village. It shows a moat and fortified tower that kept vigil over a valley that runs through the region. The drawing, taken from a 1560 map of the region, may end the discussion about the appearance of the family's castle. It appears to be a fortress, surrounded by moat and dominated by watchtower.

Not a trace of the original wooden fortress remains today. But the flattened hilltop testifies to the existence of a large structure that once stood there. If you visit Switzerland in search of the

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Pres. Letter.... (cont from page 6)

memorial, go first to the Verkehrsverein, a tourist information office, in Bauma's Town Hall. They will give you a copy of driving directions to the site, a few miles from the office.

The WFA expects to offer the CD and videotape at a nominal cost of a few dollars sometime within the next few months. Look to this newsletter for word of the offer.

This newsletter also announces the updating of our WFA family web site.

We're also revising our web site, <http://members.cox.net/wolfensberger>. Thanks to WFA member Russell Van Asperen, our site is now being brought up to date. Dr. Kevin Jones, grandson of former WFA President Larry Jones, originally set up the site and kept it up to date. Now Russ expects to keep it updated, making it useful to current and prospective Association members and students of the Wolfensberger genealogy.

Finally, this edition asks those who ordered Wolfensberger family flags to let us know how many flags they ordered. We need to know who ordered the flags and how much you paid for them. If you have a cancelled check for the purchase, please save it.

by Rob. J. Wolfenbarger, Pres. WFA

DEMONS

by Richard Evans, Editor

I thought those of you who read this newsletter would be interested in a recent experience the editor had with the machine called "a computer" which is used to assemble this publication. If you do not own a computer and do not waste your valuable time playing Free Cell or Solitaire, the following story may be of little interest to you. But for those of you who spend even a little time playing computer games, getting "on line", and exchanging e-mail with friends and loved ones, it may catch your interest, bring on a laugh or two or recall similar experiences.

Late last year as I finished composing the November Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association on my old 486 computer, I decided I needed a new computer to handle the large files of the newsletter program and the pictures that I send and receive. I found that graphics can consume the capabilities of an older machine and cause delays in working with such large files. So, I did a little shopping and decided on a new lightening fast machine with a Celeron processor and most of the bells and whistles offered on the newer computers at local stores. (cont. above)

Deamons....

The installation of a new computer by a non-nerd (my assessment) and the transfer of all the valuable "stuff" one accumulates on the hard drive makes this quite a chore as one must save all the "stuff" that is on the old machine and after installing the program software on the new one, the "stuff" is then put in the new machine, if you can remmber where you put it all. It is something like moving to a new house. All the valuable "stuff" one accumulates over the years must be packed, moved, then unpacked in the new house, if you can remember which box is which. These would include the letters you write and save, the genealogy files that hold the family tree information, your address book and, of course, the files of the WFA newsletters. This also included the things I had been saving to put in future WFA Newsletters due to be mailed in February and beyond. It takes several days to install all this in the new machine and it took me much longer than usual as I seemed to have a number of error message windows open up that I did not understand. In fact, there were so many of them that, after only only 3 days, I took the machine to the service desk at the store where I bought the computer and asked them to make it stop doing these strange and odd things.

Since I live on the west side of Houston and the store was on the north side, it was a journey of an hour or more depending in the traffic. (Since the 2000 election campaign, most of you know what terrible conditions we live in here in Houston, TX.) The service rep called a few hours later and tried to explain what had happened to cause the problem and to assure me the problem was fixed. I returned to the service dept. and took the machine home and connected all the wires and cables again. At first, I thought the problem had been fixed as I could play Free Cell for an hour or more without being interrupted. But, lo and behold, as soon as I began to work on the February Newsletter, the error message windows began again.

Since the Service Rep had assured me the computer was okey, I thought the problem may be a software problem, so I began to share my problem via e-mails and error reports with Microsoft to see if the problem could be the new operating system called Windows XP that was on this new computer. After several weeks or more exchanging e-mails with faceless folks at Microsoft without any improvement in the behavior of my new computer, I disconnected all the wires and cables again and took it back to the service desk.

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Demon.... I was becoming convinced that demons had taken residence in my computer and that I was losing control of it. I carefully explained my problem to the clerk and left the computer to be fixed, hoping they had a competent exorcist on staff who would know how to deal with my problem. Several hours later, the service rep. called to discuss the problems and to assure me the machine was now fixed. I didn't ask about the exorcist. However, as soon as I turned on the "fixed" computer at home, the error messages re-appeared. It was obvious the demons were alive and well in my computer. With a sinking feeling, I turned the machine off over the weekend knowing full well that I was the owner of a machine that was possessed by demons. When I turned the computer on Monday morning, instead of the Windows desktop, I got this horrible blue screen telling me that I had committed a grievous sin and the computer would be shut down NOW! When the computer automatically restarted, the same ominous blue screen appeared to tell me of my recent sin. It took me several minutes to regain my equilibrium and just pull the plug. I then decided to return the machine to the service department again and plead for help.

(This scary story of DEMONS and WITCHES will be resumed in a future issue. RLE)

Did You Order a Family Flag?

If you ordered a flag emblazoned with the Wolfensberger family crest, please find the insert with this newsletter, fill it out and send it to Robert J. Wolfenbarger, WFA Pres. to the address shown on the insert. Thanks!

Wolfensberger

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Houston, TX 77042-1310

FIRST CLASS MAIL