



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

August 2003

Vol. IX, No. 3

Page 1

From the Editor.....

by Richard Evans

Support Your Ancestor's Cemeteries

During my recent visit to Mount Airy, NC, I visited the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery where many of the Sparger ancestors are buried. At the entrance to this well kept cemetery was a small sign which is shown on page 7. I felt it would be appropriate to include it in this Newsletter since it would be a way for many Sparger descendants and WFA members to learn about a pressing need. This sign brought to mind my experience several years ago.

I was searching for my great grand-father's (Milton Evans) grave which the family Bible said was in the Kirkland Cemetery in Kirkland, TX. Kirkland, TX was not much more than a railroad siding with a grain elevator. This small cemetery was located just off US Hwy 287 near Childress, TX out on the prairie. The gate had fallen down and the surrounding fence was in bad repair. While the grass was cut, the weeds were making a great effort to reclaim this small plot of prairie. I visited the lady who had the plat of the cemetery and she told me of the problems they were having to maintain this small cemetery. When I returned home, I sent her a small donation.. Soon after, I received a nice letter from the Kirkland Cemetery Association which was formed to raise funds to provide upkeep for the cemetery. I encouraged my family members to donate to this association. Since that time, I have received an annual reminder from the KCA and always send them a donation. Now I find the fence has been replaced, the gate repaired and a lot of landscaping has been repaired and installed.

I feel many WFA members could and would support the Cemetery Committee of the Salem United Methodist Church with a small annual donation of \$5, \$10, \$25 or \$50 to help

(cont.page 7)

From the President's Desk.....

by Robert J. Wolfenbarger, WFA President

WFA Incorporates

The Wolfensberger Family Association took another step forward in recent months as our Board of Directors voted to incorporate the organization as a 501 (c)(7) non-profit organization in Texas.

As of May 1, the organization took on the legal name of the Wolfensberger Family Association, Incorporated. Despite the change, the corporation retains the same purpose: "to bring the members of the Wolfensberger family into closer association through family reunions and other social activities revolving around matters of common historical and genealogical interest"

In my mind, it is a coming of age to the family association because it provides greater protection of our assets against frivolous lawsuits. But it also makes the family corporation a stronger non-profit organization. In its new guise, the association corporation is much like a common 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, except that its focus is family history and genealogy rather than social services.

I wish to thank WFA board member W. Frank Wolfenbarger of Irving, Texas, who worked under Board of Directors direction with a local attorney, Scott D. Curry of Irving, to draft articles of incorporation and obtain certification from the Texas Secretary of State on May 1, 2003.

Incorporation not only describes the purpose of the WFA as a family genealogical society, but also provides protection against potential lawsuits. More importantly, it gives permanence to the WFA as an international family association.

(cont. page 2)

WFA Incorporates.....

(cont. from page 1)

It's important for U. S. members, who hold the predominate membership in the Association, to realize that the WFA is also an international organization. Approximately 30 members live in Europe, most of them in Switzerland. Two directors – Dr. Rudi Wolfensberger of Solothurn and Peter Wolfensberger of Zumikon – are also active members of the WFA board.

In our most recent Board of Directors meeting, board members voted to reschedule our next quarterly conference call to a Friday night (November 21, 2003) instead of our customary Saturday night. Even with the six-hour time difference, this change should make it easier for our European members to participate.

It's also important to remember that the WFA erected a memorial in September 2001 in Bauma, our historic family home, on the site of the original Wolfensberger family castle built there in medieval times.

We are an international family – one which can be traced to the 14th Century in the Zurich area. Our original ancestors, John and Margaretha Wolfensberger, came to this country in 1730 from the Alsace-Lorraine region of France, settling in the area around Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

The change to an incorporated status gives this six year-old association a permanence and protection never before available. With challenges ahead, we welcome volunteers willing to work to build a larger, stronger association with a passionate interest in the family's history and genealogy.

RJW

WFA Memorial Dedication Videotape

by Robt. J. Wolfenberger

The Wolfensberger Family Association is offering a modestly-priced videotape of its 2001 dedication of the memorial celebrating the family's original castle in Bauma, Switzerland. Added to photography of the event are pictures depicting colorful scenery of the Wolfensberg mountain and region. The hour-long videotape also tells stories of the family's often heroic role

This program was originally produced and sold as a computer compact disc. For those of our members who do not have a computer but have a video cassette player, the CD has been converted to videotape suitable for a VCR by Mrs. Gretchen Doll, board member of the Wolfensberger Family Association. With new music background and additional enhancements, the tape is available for families who requested copies suitable for playing on their home video recorders.

A photo of the offered video cassette is shown below. This cassette will play on any VHS video cassette player and viewed through your TV.

(cont. page 6)



The Family Corner.....

Marriage:

Robert Lee WOLFERSBERGER of Oroville, CA and **Florence (YEAGER) KAUFMAN** of Windber, PA were united in marriage at 6:00 PM on April 14, 2003 at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Windber, PA by Rev. Arthur Moffat. A reception followed at a local restaurant. Robert and Florence entered grade school together in Windber, PA and graduated from high school there in 1937. They were re-aquainted when they met at their 65th high school reunion last year. Florence has two sons, one resides in Texas and the other lives in Indiana. Bob has four children, a son and two daughters reside in CA and a daughter lives in Wisconsin. See photo at right.



*Robert Lee and Florence
Wolfersberger*

Anniversaries:

Ray and Margaret WEBB of Elkins, NC celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on August 17, 2003 at the Sparger family reunion held at the Fairview Ruritan Club in Galax, VA.

Sam and Elaine EAST of Galax, VA celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary which was August 18, 2003 at the Sparger family reunion held at the Fairview Ruritan Club on August 17, 2003.

Dennis and Charlotte EAST of Galax, VA celebrated their 17th wedding anniversary at the Sparger family reunion held August 17, 2003 at the Fairview Ruritan Club in Galax, VA

See photo at right.

Reunions:

The SPARGER family reunion was held at 1:00 PM, Sunday August 17th at the Fairview Ruritan Club in Galax, VA with about 40 in attendance. A delicious covered dish dinner appeared dish by dish as each family arrived.



From l. to r.: Ray Webb, Margaret Webb, Charlotte East, Elaine East, Dennis East, and Sam East at the SPARGER Family Reunion at Galax, VA

A great time was had by all in celebrating three wedding anniversaries as the assembled group serenaded the three couples. The Spargers welcomed WFA treasurer Al & Fran Creasy from Tryon, NC, WFA Newsletter Editor Richard "Buzz" & Nancy Evans from Houston, TX and Jim and Tess Kenerson from Columbia, SC. See Photo Page on page 4 for pictures of this event.

(cont. page 8)

PHOTO PAGE

Sparger Family Reunion, Galax, VA August 17, 2003



Table Scene: Jos. B. Sparger, Goldie Sparger, Emil Sparger, Ivylyn Sparger Martin, Ned Martin



Table Scene: Gail M. Shelton, Christy Shelton and Jonathon Shelton



Table Scene: Steve Petlitz, Mary Sparger Petlitz, Jerry Mink, Mary Sparger, Elaine and Sam East, Donna East Mink, Faye and Jim Banks



Table Scene: Nancy Evans, Fran and Al Creasy, Guy M. Sparger, Tessie and Jim Kenerson



Table Scene: Kelly & Joyce Patton, Faye Webb, Terri Morris, Roy Clifton, Ruth McHone, Jack Morris, Ray & Margaret Webb



Guy M. Sparger and Richard "Buzz" Evans

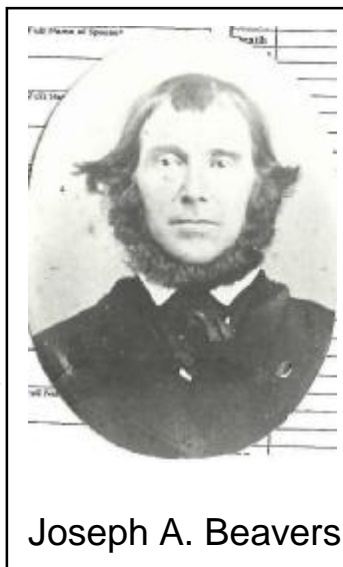
The Joseph W. Spargur Limb of the Wolfensberger Tree

by Ardith Earl

Joseph W. Spargur, born 1 March 1781 near Mount Airy, North Carolina, married Rachel, daughter of Bowater and Rebecca (Burris) Sumner. In 1804 Joseph W., his wife Rachel, their small children, accompanied by his brother Reuben & Rachel's Uncle Bowater Sumner set out for the "Western Frontier". They settled in a log cabin on Fall Creek, near the present site of New Petersburg in Highland County, Ohio. They cleared several acres of land and established a mill near their home. Reuben, who never married, made several trips back home. In 1815, while visiting his parents near Mount Airy, he became ill and died. He was buried near his parent's home. Joseph sold this mill to Milton Worley. He then cut a road through the unbroken forest to a location on Rocky Fork Creek, south of the place where Puncheon Run emptied into it. Spargur and David Reese soon had a sawmill, grist mill and a carding mill in operation. Joseph W. Spargur erected a commodious brick home for his family near the mill site.

He dreamed of a village around the mill location. On 11 March 1818, he had surveyed and laid out a town on 15 acres and nine poles, with four main streets. The name chosen was Mount Airy after his birthplace in North Carolina. For several years the Hillsboro newspaper carried a Mount Airy column, reporting the happenings around Spargur's mills. Phillip W. Spargur, Joseph's brother, joined him in Ohio in 1809. In 1833, Joseph's brother Henry W. decided to go to Ohio and his 79 year old widowed father, John W. Sparger, accompanied his son's family all the way to Ohio on horseback, where he lived until his death 17 November 1840.

Joseph's daughter, Christina, married Joseph Allen Beavers 23 March 1837 in Highland County, Ohio. Joseph & Christina left Highland County in the fall of 1855 and went to Iowa,



Joseph A. Beavers



Christina Spargur

two miles west of High Point and seven miles east of Leon, Iowa. It was wooded land bordering the Walden River. He secured the land directly from the U.S. Government, which was kept in the family until 1967. They made the trip with their 11 children in 2 covered wagons.

Thomas Hamer Beaver was 8 years old when he came to Iowa with his parents. When he was 18, he went to Illinois to visit an Uncle and Aunt, John and Mary Spargur Wise, where he met Sarah Amanda Painter, daughter of William and Mary Ann (McCoy) Painter. They were married 26 December 1875 in Knoxville, Illinois.

(cont. page 6)



Thomas Hamer Beavers



Sarah Amanda Beavers

Jos. Spargur's Limb.....(cont. from page 5)

In 1879 or 80 they moved to Page County, Iowa, where they lived until their deaths. Joseph Elvin Beavers was 2 years old when his parents came to Iowa. He married Mabel Clare Higgins 8 September 1910. They had 5 daughters, Esther Roberts, Leta Greenfield, Marjorie Howard, Irene Stackhouse and Ardith Earl. I am Ardith (Beavers) Earl and I live with my husband Neil at 8072 67th Street West, Mojave, California 93501-7191.

Editor's Note: Joseph W. Spargur was the son of John and Christina (Frey) Wolfesparger, who changed his name after 1802 to John W. Sparger(ur). He was the grandson of Johann and Margaretha (Ensminger) Wolfesparger, the immigrants who came to America in the 1730's and who was sworn as a British citizen in Philadelphia in April 1744. John W. Sparger's sons, who went to Ohio adopted the surname spelling Spargur and those children who remained in North Carolina used the spelling Sparger. Our special thanks to Ardith Earl of Mojave, CA for this bit of Spargur history.



The children of Joseph E. and Mabel Clare (Higgins) Beavers:
(top, l-r) Leta Alimeda and Esther Pauline,
(bottom, l-r) Mildred Irene, Ardith Jo, and Marjorie Helen.

WFA Memorial Dedication**Videotape.....** (cont. from page 2)

One highlight of the tape is its depiction of the medieval frame castle that stood on the Wolfensberg mountain site as late as 1566. No one knows when the castle was originally built, but it served as home to generations of Wolfensbergers in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth centuries. There is no longer a trace of the castle.

Board member Dr. Rudi Wolfensberger, of Solothurn, Switzerland, originally created the CD using still photographs from the Bauma dedication ceremony and luncheon in nearby Rapperswil.. Photos by Peter Wolfensberger of Zumikon, Switzerland, also a board member, tell the story of the event and depict the scenery of the rural mountain country of northeastern Switzerland.

To order videotape copies, send a \$10 check payable to the Wolfensberger Family Association to WFA Treasurer Albert H. Creasy at 500 Beau Valley Lane, Tryon, N.C. 28782. For questions about the videotape, contact Mrs. Doll in Grapevine, Texas, at (817) 424-1643.RJW

REUNION NEWS

There were several other family reunions this summer in addition to the ones reported in this issue of the *WOLFENSBERGER*. We have not received reports on these gatherings in time for this issue. However, we urge those attending other reunions to send along a note and pictures to be included in the November issue. In addition, we also understand member Robt. Lee Wolfenbarger visited with Larry Jones recently and we will get a report from him.

FROM THE EDITOR....

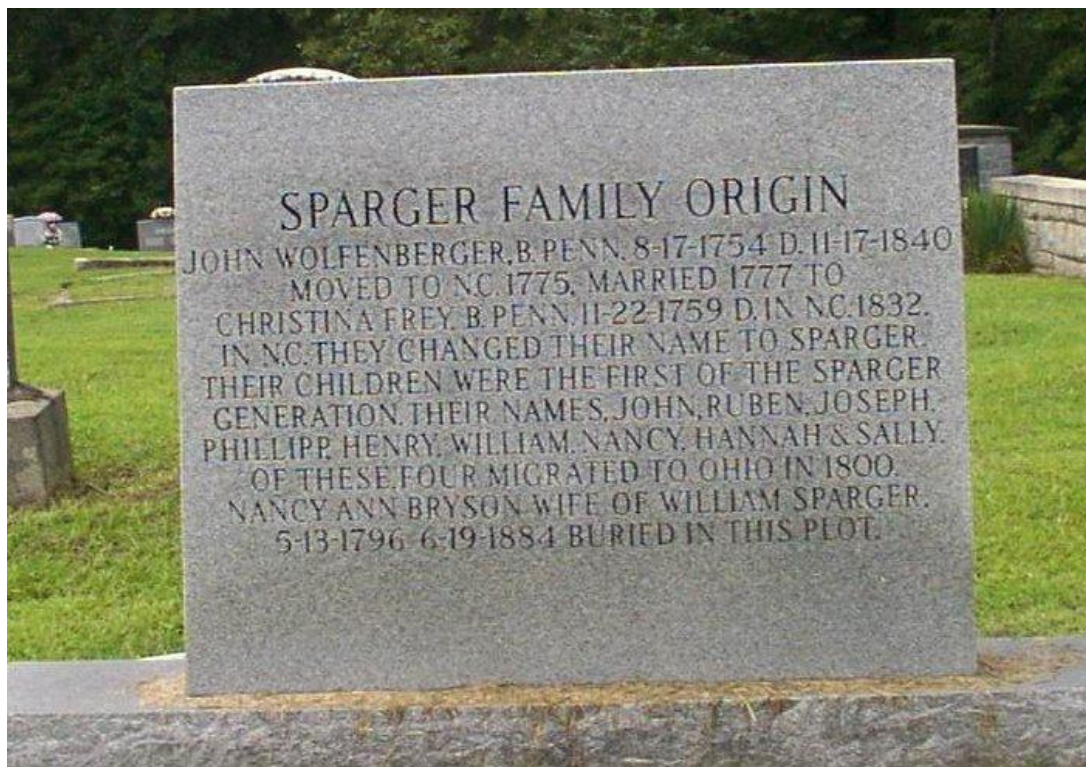
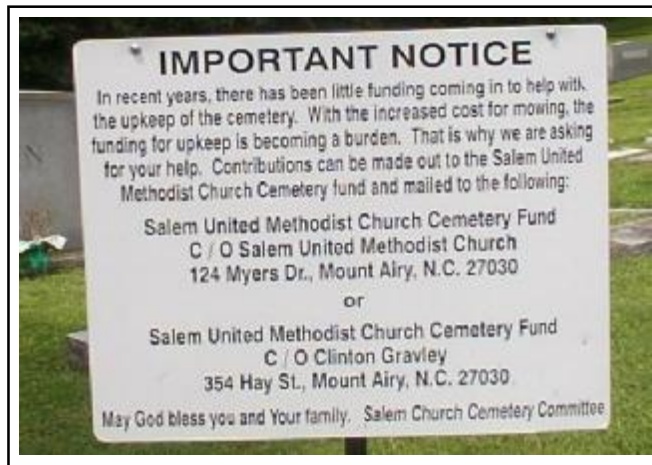
(cont. from page 1)

cover the costs of mowing, trimming, and landscaping this lovely church cemetery. As noted on the sign, send your contributions to:

*Salem United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund
C/O Salem United or Church cemetery Fund
Methodist Church C/O Clinton Gravley
124 Myers Drive 354 Hay Street
Mount Airy, NC 27030*

This is an opportunity for all us Spargers to help this fine church maintain the final resting place of many of our ancestors. If you know of any of your ancestors buried in small church, small town or country cemeteries, find out who is maintaining the grounds and send them an annual donation to help cover the upkeep expenses. Our ancestors will certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

RLE



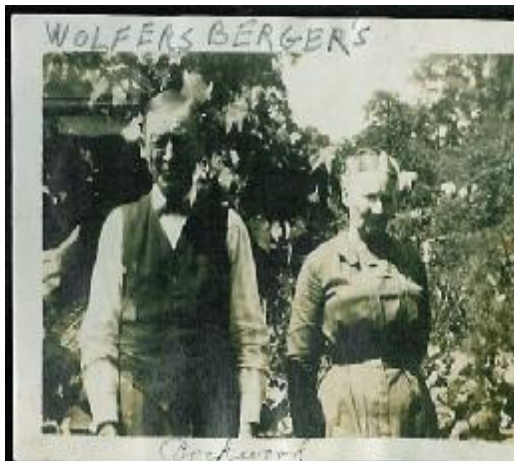
The SPARGER FAMILY MONUMENT in the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

Reunions:Cont. from page 3.

A **WOLFERSBERGER** family reunion was held in August of this year at the home of Raymond Dunmyer of Friedens, PA. Those attending were descendants of David Jerome and Maria (Miller) Wolfersberger of Somerset County, PA. They are shown at right.

We are indebted to Deborah Stewart of Stoystown, PA for this report. Attending the reunion was CWO Robt. Lee Wolfesberger USAF Ret. from Oroville, CA who Deborrah had been able to locate. In her family research, Deborah understood Bob was lost during WW II.

(cont. page 9)



David Jerome & Maria (Miller) Wolfersberger



Front Row: Munden Wolfersberger, Christian G. Eicher. back Row: Bertha Slag Wolfersberger, Annie Wolfersberger Eicher. Munden and Annie are children of David and Maria above.



Photo at above left:

l. to r. Deborah Stewart, Janet Thomas, Gene Eicher, Joanne Stutzman, Robert Wolfersberger, Lori Miller

Photo at left:

Back row: Beverly Strait, holding Mikayla Elder, Wanda Kerschner, Janet Thomas, Gene Eicher, Joanne Stutzman, Robert Wolfersberger, Beth Doyle, Lori Miller, Bryan Thomas, Deborah Stewart. Front row: Bradley Thomas, Thomas Griffith, Jessica Doyle

WFA Medallions

In the November 2001 issue of the WFA Newsletter, an article titled "WFA Medallions" described a pewter (cast metal) medallion that Larry Jones was ordering for those of our members who might like to have them. A picture of the Wolfensberger medallion is shown here. It measures 2 11/16 inches wide by 3 3/4 inches tall and is approx. 3/16 inches thick. This heavy metal piece would be suitable as a table decoration, for marking an ancestor's grave stone, a paper weight, something else to clutter up your desk, or any other decorative use. Several dozen of the medallions were ordered and shipped as promised. There are about a dozen medallions remaining of the original order.

The WFA wishes to offer these remaining pieces to anyone who wants them on a first come, first served basis. If there is sufficient demand, additional medallions can be ordered and made available to the members, as the manufacturer has the patterns and can make them promptly. The original medallions were priced at \$20.00 each plus \$5.00 for shipping, and this will be the price for the remaining pieces. If you want one or more of these medallions, contact WFA Treasurer Al Creasy by phone at (828) 859-0208 or by e-mail at trebla1@alltel.net. He will reserve your medallions and give you ordering instructions.

To apply the medallion to an ancestor's grave stone or other surface, I recommend you use a product like GOOP Auto Contact Adhesive or GOOP Outdoor Contact Adhesive which can be found in auto and hardware stores. Apply a bead of sealant around the perimeter of the back about half inch from the edge. Press firmly to the stone and hold for a few minutes. A small bead of sealant should ooze at the edges. Use a little more sealant if the stone is very porous to be sure to fill all the voids.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Take a photo of your ancestor's grave and send to me so we can show it in a future issue of the WFA Newsletter. To make it more interesting, give us a bit of family history about this ancestor.



Reunions:..... (cont. from page 8)

She had found in some family letters that Bob had been reported "missing in action". She was unaware that he had been taken prisoner by the Japanese and had spent World War II in a Manchurian prison camp. Deborah saw a notice in a local paper that a "Robert Lee Wolfensberger" had been married in Windber, PA. Her further investigations, including contacts with the WFA Newsletter Editor, revealed that Bob had indeed been married to Mrs. Florence Kaufman. She contacted Bob and he and Florence were joyfully included in the reunion festivities at Raymond Dunmyer's home in Friedens.

Editor's Note: Bob and Florence are currently living in Windber, PA and plan to travel via Amtrak to Oroville, CA in November to spend the winter in California.

**Wolfensberger Family Association
Officers & Directors - Year 2003**

Executive Board

Robert J. Wolfenbarger	<i>President</i>	<i>bobwolfenbarger@att.net</i>
Myrna Liddell	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>myrabl@whidbey.com</i>
William F. Spargur	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>wfspar@qnet.com</i>
David E Wolfensberger	<i>Asst. Secretary</i>	<i>dewolf@swbell.net</i>
Albert H. Creasy	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>trebla1@alltel.net</i>
Lawrence M. Jones	<i>Past President</i>	<i>wolfensberger@home.com</i>
Richard L. Evans	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>revans45@swbell.net</i>
W. Frank Wolfenbarger	<i>Financial Advisor</i>	<i>cpawolf1@flash.net</i>

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Rudolf A. Wolfensberger	<i>drwolfen@solnet.ch</i>
Wolf Wolfensberger	
Wendell J. Wolfenbarger O'Reilly	<i>mtnbarrister@yahoo.com</i>
Peter Wolfensberger	<i>pcontour@swissonline.ch</i>

Honorary Life Members

Lawrence M. Jones	Ora Kirby	Myrna Liddell	Vindrell Spargur
Elizabeth Winters	Robert J. Wolfenbarger		Heini Wolfensberger

Wolfensberger

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WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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FIRST CLASS MAIL