



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

May 2004

Vol. X, No. 2

Page 1

The Molecular Genealogy Research Project

by Myrna Liddell, WFA President

The **Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (SMGF)** has sent us a brochure regarding a new genealogical database they are developing.

The (SMGF) is a non-profit organization with the main objective of providing a free publicly accessible free database of genealogical and genetic information. Participation is free, safe, confidential, and voluntary. So far they have collected over 40,000 samples including genealogical generation charts. The goal is to compile hundreds of thousands. Molecular genealogy links individuals together in “family trees” based on the unique identification of genetic markers found in DNA. This is primarily done through the Y chromosome from the male/paternal line and the mitochondrial DNA from the female/maternal line. The website indicates that **they are particularly interested in DNA samplings of families from Switzerland, whether currently living in Switzerland, or elsewhere.**

In addition to a donation of DNA sample, the individual must be able to provide a “proven” biological genealogical pedigree with four or more generations, including at least all the great great great grandparents of the donor. (A note here, the WFA cannot guarantee that our database is “proven”, since we have accepted data from members without the requirement of documentation.)

This particular database is being compiled to construct a database, and **not** to answer particular genealogical questions. This

President’s Message...

by Myrna Liddell

We hope all is well with you and yours.

We have received some new members recently and one in particular has brought us a new family connection we were not aware of. I was able to visit with him and his wife personally when they traveled through the Seattle area a couple of months ago. It is very gratifying to find more cousins who have family information and stories to share. [see next newsletter re: A. Rasmussen]

Also, Bonnie Aspenson of Oklahoma City has shared this photograph with us, in hopes that we would be able to help her find out who some of the folks in the picture are and where the picture was taken and when? Many of the family resided in Lawrence County, Missouri and some were buried in Aurora, Lawrence, MO. Particularly she is hoping someone might be able to tell her if John Melton Wolfinbarger is in the picture? Please show this to your older relatives and if you require a digital copy, just send an E-mail and we'll send it right out. Especially those of you in Aurora or other areas of Lawrence county? [Does anyone see **Tennie** or **Tennessee Wolfinbarger** in this group or **Elizabeth Belle Wolfinbarger**?]

Here is the information we do know:

(unk = unknown)

back row: unk female, unk female, unk baby, **Jim ...** , **Alice Byrd Wolfinbarger, Susie Jackson Wolfinbarger** 1893-1980, unk girl, unk boy, unk boy;
front row: unk adult male, unk mature adult male , unk boy child in front of him, **Alvis Wolfinbarger** 1885-1921, **Peter Wolfinbarger** 1890-1957, on lap: boy child **Leroy Wolfinbarger** 1919-1974, **Grace Wolfinbarger** 1911-1974 a child, **Myra Shockley Wolfinbarger** 1852-1947, seated, unk girl standing, unk girl standing.

(cont. page 3)

**WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION**
Year 2004 Board of Directors

- Mickey Burleson (Sparger)**, 5101 Burger Rd., Temple, TX 76501
(254) 984-2265, Email: micnbob@vvm.com
- Albert H. Creasy**, (Sparger), 500 Beau Valley Lane, Tryon, NC 28782;
Tel: (828) 859-0208, Email: trebla1@alltel.net
- Richard L. (Buzz) Evans** (Sparger), 10903 Holly Springs, Houston, TX 77042;
Tel: (713) 977-4748. Email: revans45@swbell.net
- Gretchen Doll** (Wolfenbarger), 1802 Autumn Dale Drive, Grapevine, TX
76051; Tel: (817) 424-1643 Email: gretchendoll@comcast.net
- Barbara Jackson** (Wolfenbarger), 203 N. Victory Road, Norfolk, NE 68701.
Tel: (402) 379-1912; Email: bjjack3@yahoo.com
- Myrna B. Liddell** (Wolfenbarger), 2747 East Parkwood Dr.,
Langley, WA 98260. Tel: (360) 321-4971; Email:
myrnabl@whidbey.com
- William F. Spargur**, 4561 Grandview Drive, Palmdale, CA 93551
Tel: (661) 722-0282; Email: wfs1220@qnet.com
- Robert J. Wolfenbarger**, 30 Harvey Drive, Summit, NJ 07901
Tel: (908) 273-7631; FAX: (908) 273-7738; Email:
rwolfenbarger3@comcast.net
- W. Frank Wolfenbarger**, (Bus.) 2520 West Irving Boulevard, Suite 202,
Irving, TX 75061. Bus. Tel: (972) 986-5753, Boat Tel: (512) 790-
3730; Email: frank@fwfcpa.com
- David E. Wolfensberger**, 768 Chain Ridge Road, St Louis, MO 314-961-5032;
Email: dewolf2@swbell.net
- Peter Wolfensberger**, Raesweg 10, CH-8126 Zumikon, Switzerland
Physical mail address: Postfach (P.O.Box) CH-8126 Zumikon,
Switzerland, Tel. +41 1 919 0700 Fax +41 1 919 0701 Email:
Pcontour@swissonline.ch
- Rudolf A. Wolfensberger**, PhD, Schanzenstrasse 2, CH 4500, Solothurn,
Switzerland, Tel: 011-41-32-622-7711; Email:
RAWolfensberger@swissonline.ch
- Wolf Wolfensberger**, PhD, 301 Scottholm Boulevard, Syracuse, NY 13224
Tel: (315) 446-2944; Bus. Tel.: (315) 443-4264 Email:
nancyartz@msn.com
- Bill Wolfenbarger**, 2641 Bryant Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306;
Tel: (650) 326-7764; Email: wfnbrgr@sbcglobal.net
- Wendell J. Wolfenbarger O'Reilly**, 768 Flinn Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37412
Tel: (423) 553-7350 (H), (423) 756-3591 (O) Email:
mtnbarrister@yahoo.com

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS, WFA BOARD

- Lawrence M Jones**, c/o Reynold Jones, 12109 Blue Moon Ave.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
- Heini Wolfensberger**, Spitalstrasse 25, CH 8495, Bauma, Switzerland
Tel: 011-41-252-386-1437

NOTICE! NOTICE!
**Have you paid your
dues?**

As you read this May 2004 Newsletter, take a moment and look at the mailing label to see if your membership has expired. If it says "Paid thru 2003" your membership has expired as this is 2004! We will continue to send your newsletter hoping you will tie a string around your finger to remember to send a check for your 2003 and 2004 memberships. To help you do this, please see page 9 of this newsletter where we have placed a fancy membership application for you to use. Simply remove this page, fill it out and send it and your check to Al Creasy at the address shown there. We will thank you and you will feel better knowing you will continue to receive this great newsletter. RLE

Lost Members

The November Newsletter to the following members was returned "not delivered".

Kit Seay, Austin, TX

Rubie Lee Wolfenbarger,

Homestead FL

Jess & Jodi Wolfenbarger,

Monroe MI

Let us know if you know where these folks are.

Five Generations Celebrate Earl Spargur's 98th Birthday!



Shown at left are front row l-r, Brooke Ann and her mother Lisa Hamburg, Earl W. Spargur and Nancy Spargur Kriminger. back row, l-r, Roshelle, Stephanie, Greg Vanice, Bradley, and Jay. This group assembled in Yukon, OK recently to celebrate Earl's birthday. We appreciate Nancy sharing this event with us.

Earl W. Spargur of Yukon, OK celebrated his 98th birthday last June with family members who gathered for the party. Earl was born in Yukon, OK in 1905. He married Eva Merle Barrett of Yukon, who was born in 1910. The couple had three children, James Alden, Donald William, and Nancy Louise, before moving to California in 1935 and settling in the Los Angeles area near Monterey Park. Earl was in the lumber business in California. They raised their three children in California and in 1982, Earl and Eva returned to Yukon to live. Eva passed away in 1991. Son James Alden Spargur died in 1986. Donald lives in Salem, OR and Nancy lives in Southern California.

As shown in the photograph, Earl's birthday celebration was attended by his daughter, Nancy Louise (Spargur) Kriminger, his grandson Greg and his wife,

Stephanie, his three great grandchildren (Greg's children), Roshelle, Jay and Lisa and his two great grandchildren (Lisa's children), Bradley and Brooke Ann. Also in attendance but not shown in the photo was Earl's grand niece, Lory Spargur Lewis and her three sons, Blake, Trey and Tad.

Earl W. Spargur is the son of James W. and Nettie Mae (Ferguson) Spargur of Highland, OH and a direct descendant of John Spargur (Wolfensberger) who settled in Surry Co. North Carolina and after the death of his wife, Christina, went to Highland County, Ohio where he is buried.

The family is looking forward to a big celebration next year.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE
at

www.wolfensberger.org

David Wolfersberger Elected Secretary on WFA Board



David and Kathleen
Wolfersberger

David E. Wolfersberger of St Louis, MO was elected Secretary to the Wolfersberger Family Association Board for 2004. He was first elected to the WFA Board in 2002 and became Asst. Secretary in 2003. During his short time on the Board, David has readily accepted responsibilities to assure the continued success of our family group.

David, shown with his wife Kathleen at left, was born in 1945 and retired 3 1/2 years ago after 32 years in the chemical industry with jobs in process and project engineering, production planning and manufacturing management. The last 18 years he was Quality Assurance Manager for the agricultural chemicals part of Monsanto Company. Kathleen and David have been married almost 37 years and have 3 children - Cheryl, Matthew and Rebecca. Rebecca is expecting their first grandchild this fall. (cont. on the following page)



Front row, l-r: Ryan Nordhaus, Kevin Nordhaus, Shannon Shipp, Matthew Wolfersberger. *Second row, l-r:* April Nordhaus, Carrie Thompson, Heather Nordhaus holding Colin Nordhaus, Elizabeth (Wolfersberger) Nordhaus, Jamie Shipp, holding Avery Shipp, Rebecca Daly, Michelle Wolfersberger. *Back row, l-r:* Harry Thompson, Tyler Thompson, Cal Thompson, Paul Thompson, Dieter Keltner, Cheryl Wolfersberger, Jim Nordhaus, Joe Daly, Kathleen Wolfersberger, David Wolfersberger

Thoughts From the Editor

by Richard Evans, Editor

David Wolfersberger.....(cont from previous page)

His hobbies include golf, wood working and stamp collecting, as well as some family research.

From information provided by Larry Jones, the late George Wolfersberger of Detroit, and other family records, David's family is traced back to John Phillip Wolfersberger of Schaefferstown, Pennsylvania. The best it can be determined, John Phillip's great-grandson Charles moved to northern Illinois about 1862. His grandfather was born in 1870 and his father in 1906. As often happens in families, his father, himself and his son are all the only males in their branch of the Wolfersberger family, so carrying on the Wolfersberger name in this part of the family is on a small thread!

The photo at the bottom of the previous page was taken at a family reunion recently held in St. Louis. Shown are many members of David's extended family. David tells us, that at the time of the reunion shown in the photo on the previous page, his mother, Mary Ellen (Thompson) Wolfersberger was quite ill and was unable to attend the reunion with the family. Mary Ellen Wolfersberger peacefully passed away on May 5, 2004 soon after the reunion. Many of the family members were at her bedside when she died. We extend our sympathies to the Thompson and Wolfersberger families.

We appreciate David and Kathleen sharing this reunion with us. RLE

As I began to plan the May issue of the Wolfensberger Family Association Newsletter, I was completing a project that I started earlier this year.

Since I did not join the WFA until several years after it was formed by Larry Jones and many others, I did not have all the back issues of the newsletter. We recently received a request for back issues and I realized the Newsletter Editor did not have a copy of all the issues. Al Creasy was able to provide me with the back issues I did not have and I began to run them through my scanner to make the copies I needed. That was a lot of pages to scan.

I not only wanted copies to put in a binder so I could refer to back issues when necessary, but I also wanted computer file copies so that those who have computers could obtain computer file copies that they could print out with their own printer. Also, these files could be placed on a CD so that they will be a somewhat permanent record of our WFA Newsletters. I am now able to burn all the newsletter files onto a CD and mail them to those who would want them.

While doing this project and beginning to put the May newsletter on the computer, I realized that we will soon reach a remarkable milestone as an organization. That is our 10th anniversary. The May newsletter is Vol. X, No. 2 which means that next January will be the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Wolfensberger Family Association. As a family group we should do something special to observe this important milestone. I am asking all our members to think about this coming event and what we might do to observe it. Let me or Myrna or one other Board members know what you think might be appropriate for this occasion.

Visit our web site at: www.wolfensberger.org



WOLFENSBERGER MEDALLIONS are still available!

To obtain one of these heavy pewter medallions to mark a grave, decorate your door or use as a paper weight, send \$25.00 to WFA Treas. Al Creasy for each one. (Price includes postage. For shipment to Europe, ask Al Creasy for prices.)



WFA MEMORIAL DEDICATION VIDEO

This VHS cassette of the ceremony on the Wolfsberg near Bauma, Switzerland in Sept. 2001 is still available. Send \$10.00 for each one to WFA Treas. Al Creasy. (Price includes postage)



WOLFENSBERGER CLOTH PATCH

We have a supply of the Wolfensberger cloth patch you received when you became a member of the WFA. If you would like to have another for your new jacket, send \$2.00 (includes postage) to WFA Treas. Al Creasy for each one desired



WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY FLAGS

The beautiful 32X48 in. flags are now available for shipment. Fly your family flag this 4th of July with this beautiful flag! Send \$37.00 to WFATreas. Al Creasy for each one. (The price includes

THE FLAGS ARE HERE!

The Wolfensberger Family Flags are ready to ship. The price of the 32 in. X 48 in. banner is \$37.00 delivered by U.S Postal Mail. The quality, size, art work and colors make this a super family banner. These flags are printed on nylon material and the colors are bright and beautiful. For those of you who want to see the flag before deciding to purchase, there is a picture of this flag on the website. Just log on to www.wolfensberger.org to find the flag on display. We are sure all our members will be proud to display this beautiful family banner.

As a suggestion to those family groups holding reunions this year, we suggest you consider having a raffle or giving a door prize of one or more of the WFA Family Flags. This will add a little zest to the gathering if you display the flag during the reunion and hold the drawing for the flag as the reunion comes to a close.

So, fly your family colors this summer ! Send your order to WFA Treasurer Al Creasy, 500 Beau Valley Lane, Tryon, NC 28782

New Members.....

Since the previous list of new members published in the Nov 2003 newsletter, here are our new members:

Sharon Ann HARRELL
Port Aransas, TX , Sparger

Gene L. NICOLET
Redding, CA , Wolfinbarger

Allen B. RASMUSSEN
Magna, UT , Wolfensberger

William F. SPARGUR, II
Palmdale, CA

We welcome these new members to the Wolfensberger Family Association !

Obituary...

The WFA newsletter recently received the following obituary from William Harry SPARGER

“My mother, Ruth Sparger LYTTON, passed away on Jan 20, 2004. She was married to Allen Jeff SPARGER from 1936 until his death in 1961. Allen Jeff SPARGER was the son of Harry Dorsett SPARGER and Birdie Lee MOODY SPARGER of Durant, Oklahoma.”

A Word of Caution!

One of our members forwarded to the Newsletter, a brochure received in the mail selling a “Year 2004 International Wolfensberger Family Yearbook.” This brochure promises all kinds of family data that may appear attractive to one who is doing family research of the Wolfensberger family. A picture of this brochure is shown here at right.

First, we want all our members to know that your Wolfensberger Family Association has no connection to this brochure. We know nothing about the contents of the book or the CD's promised in the ad and we have not contributed any family data to this book. Secondly, we urge any member who has an interest in this offer, to investigate it thoroughly before sending the \$39.85 or \$99.99 to place an order. Often, such offers are nothing more than a computer generated listing of all persons with the surname featured in the ad which is practically useless in researching family history.

So, we urge you to be cautious and investigate this offer before sending your money.
RLE

The Year 2004 International Wolfensberger Family Yearbook
A yearbook celebrating the last 200 years of Wolfensberger History
You are in it !
(Year 2004 edition)

Factual Information about
 Wolfensberger marriages, births, records, and gathering places.
 Wolfensberger births, which Wolfensberger family members were in the hospital.
 Wolfensberger records, which Wolfensberger family members were in the hospital.
 Wolfensberger gathering places, including the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.
 Wolfensberger records, which Wolfensberger family members were in the hospital.

PLUS A complete revision of the classic Wolfensberger Family History...

FREE !
The Wolfensberger Family CD-ROM
The Wolfensberger Family CD-ROM contains all the names of Wolfensberger family members who were in the hospital in 1800-1850. It also contains a complete revision of the classic Wolfensberger Family History.

ORDER FORM
The Year 2004 International Wolfensberger Family Yearbook
The Wolfensberger Family CD-ROM
YES, please register... I would like to know about Wolfensberger family history.



Wolfensberger Family Association

Visit our web site at: www.wolfensberger.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The WOLFENSBERGER Family Association is a not-for-profit association formed for the purpose of providing communications about family events, reunions, queries, obituaries, histories and news to families who are descended from the WOLFENSBERGER Family of Switzerland. To join, please complete this form:

Membership is open to anyone. Dues are: \$10.00 for one year, \$18.00 for two years, or \$26.00 for three years. Annual memberships expire at the end of each calendar year, although members who register later in the year will receive all four issues of this newsletter. New members receive a six color embroidered family badge based on the family's coat-of-arms. Absolutely free!

Name: _____

Residential

Address: _____

Phone No.: _____

E-Mail

Address: _____

Please circle or write in the name of your family.

WOLFENSBERGER
WOLFERSPERGER
WOLFENBARGER
WOLFENBERGER
SPARGER

WOLFERSBERGER
WOLFENSPERGER
WOLFENBARGER
SPARGUR

OTHER: _____

Date: _____

Registration Instructions: Complete this form, and send with your check payable to the WOLFENSBERGER Family Association (WFA) to Albert H. Creasy, Treasurer; WOLFENSBERGER Family Association; 500 Beau Valley Lane; Tryon, NC 28782. Questions? E-mail them to the Treasurer at trebla1@alltel.net or call at 828 859-0208.



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Vol. X, No. 2

Page 10

Wolfensberger Family Association

May 2004



Katie Clear Scores a Strike

Katie Clear of Fountain Valley, who is a direct descendant of John W. Sparger of Surry County North Carolina recently took part in a special day at the Fountain Bowl for children with disabilities.

Katie, age 12, and other members of her school class joined kids from other Orange County schools as guests of the Kiwanas Club at the Fountain Bowl of Fountain Valley, Calif. The Kiwanas Club of Santa Ana started this event some years ago and have continued to provide an entertaining day for these children with disabilities.

Katie Clear is the granddaughter of WFA member, Mrs. Lee Prier, of Fountain Valley, Calif. The photo was taken from the Fountain Valley View newspaper. She tells us that Katie was most excited when she scored a strike during her game at the bowling alley.

Thanks for sharing this with the WFA members.

RLE