



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

November 2004

Vol. X, No. 4

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President's Letter.....

by Myrna Bingham Liddell, Pres.

Our 10th Year Anniversary as the Wolfensberger Family Association is being celebrated on Saturday, the 15th of January, 2005. Since we will not have another newsletter until after the anniversary celebration, I am writing to ask you a special favor.

We invite all the members of the Wolfensberger Family Association to join us in celebrating this significant event.

First, we are asking the WFA members to gather their families around them on Saturday, January 15th, 2005 to "toast" the Wolfensberger Family. Our suggested toast is as follows, however, feel free to do so in whatever way is comfortable to you and yours.

"Today we honor the Wolfensberger families of the Past, and of the Present and of the Future, regardless of how we spell the name. We honor our forbearers, and those who today make us proud to hold this name, and we honor those descendants who are yet to come. We toast the Wolfensbergers, the Wolfenspergers, the Wolfenbargers, the Wolfinbargers, the Spargurs, the Spargers, and all related families. We also honor Larry Jones, our founder, mentor, and friend."

Secondly, we wanted you to know all the other ways the WFA will be celebrating this event:

A group of several WFA members, with Frank Wolfenbarger, and Gretchen Doll, both WFA board members, will be visiting Larry Jones, in Oklahoma City the morning of January 15th. They will bear our good wishes to Larry and his family, and "toast" him and the Wolfensberger family at that time. We are very

(cont. on page 9)

WFA Board Election for 2005

by Bob Wolfenbarger, WFA Board Member

It's December and it's that time again to elect members of the WFA Board of Directors. We urge all Wolfensberger Family Association members to turn to page 8 of this newsletter to find that ballot to use in voting for the Association's slate of directors. You may vote for all 14 nominees, some of them, or a slate of your own.

To qualify, any nominee simply has to be a paid member of the Wolfensberger Family Association.

You may nominate yourself, a member of your family, or a longtime friend. We'd love to invite other WFA members to join the board – if not this year, some future year. Board meetings are neither time consuming nor hard work. We usually hold four conference call meetings (paid by the membership) a year, often for an hour or less.

Each of the 14 members listed below is a member of our 2004 board. Some have served on the board for a decade; most for shorter periods. All are good people, hard-working members, all of whom have made contributions of their time and interest to the Association

Maybe it's your time in 2005. It's a great way to learn about your heritage in Switzerland and in the United States.

If you're interested in joining us, why not write in your own name or a family member's? Complete the ballot and mail it back to Treasurer Al Creasy at his home address.

After marking your ballot, turn to page 7 on the reverse side and, if your membership expires at the end of this year as indicated by the date on the mailing label, fill in the spaces on this membership form, remove the page and send it to WFA Treasurer Al Creasy at the address shown

We look forward to a great year 2005 as we celebrate our 10th year as a family association.

I wish all a Happy Holiday Season! RJW

**Wolfensberger Family Association
Officers & Directors - 2004**

Executive Committee

Myrna Liddell, *President*
Whidby, WA

Richard L. Evans, *Vice President*
Houston, TX

David E. Wolfensberger, *Secretary*
St. Louis, MO

Albert H. Creasy, *Treasurer*
Tryon, NC

Other Board Members

Mickey Burleson
Temple, TX

Gretchen Doll
Grapevine, TX

Barbara J. Jackson
Norfolk, NE

Wendell J. Wolfenbarger O'Reilly
Chattanooga, TN

William F. Spargur
Palmdale, CA

Robert J. Wolfenbarger
Summit, NJ

W. Frank Wolfenbarger
Irving, TX

Peter Wolfensberger
Zumikon, Switzerland

Rudolf A. Wolfensberger
Solothurn, Switzerland

Wolf Wolfensberger
Syracuse, NY

Bill Wolfenbarger
Palo Alto, CA

Wendell J. Wolfenbarger O'Reilly
Chattanooga, TN

Honorary Life Members

Lawrence M. Jones
Oklahoma City, OK

Heini Wolfensberger
Bauma, Switzerland

Members.....

New Members: The following persons have joined the Wolfensberger Family Association since the last newsletter.

Frederick James SPARGER III of Wadesboro, NC.

Frederick is a descendant of John W, Sparger of Surry Co. NC.

Ottoliena Wolffensperger ALLCORN of Bexley, Kent England. Note the different spelling of her family name. This is the first time we have seen this spelling. Perhaps Ottoliena will send us more information about her recent ancestors.

In The Service: Donna Anders ends us the photos of several of her family currently serving in the U. S. Armed Forces, recently in the middle east.

Corey CALLISEN is the son of Jackie Johnson, his grandmother is Norma Shaw and his great grandmother is Daisy Wolfenbarger Whitsell. He is in the Red Horse squadron of the U.S. Air Force. He has served in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and is now stationed at Fort Nellis, Las Vegas, NV.



Levi STARMAN is in the U. S. Marine Corp. He was in Iraq and was rotated home in September and is scheduled to return next year. He is currently stationed at Twenty Nine Palms, CA. His mother is Sherry Starman, Norma Shaw is his grandmother and Daisy Wolfenbarger Whitsell is his great grandmother.



Justin KRAMER is the son of Clarence Kramer, Ida Wolfenbarger Vigen is his grandmother, Justin is in Bravo Troop, Cavalry, U. S. Army serving in Iraq in this photo. Returned to US in October and stationed at Fort Lewis, WA.



The Thistle of Glasgow.....

by David Wolfersberger

It is well known in our family history and lore that the first emigration of Wolfensberger family members occurred in 1730 when Johannes Wolfensberger, his wife Anna Margaretha, and 2 children, Johann Peter and Jacob Friedrich, arrived in Philadelphia on August 29, 1730 on the ship The Thistle of Glasgow. This completed a trip of some 3 months at sea.

One reference I found indicated the total trip could have taken up to 6 months. The trip from the family's home in Alsace down the Rhine to Rotterdam involved passing through some 26 custom houses, each of which would have required payment, making this part of the journey perhaps 4 to 6 weeks.

Then, in Rotterdam, there would have been further delays of several weeks until the ship could be boarded. Finally, after departing Rotterdam, there was one more stop in England. For the voyage of the Thistle in 1730, the records indicate it stopped in Dover, although one mentions Cowes on the Isle of Wight, which I think is an error.

The Thistle's master was Colin Dunlap. There were 260 people on board. There were 2 other references found for a ship named Thistle: One arriving September 19, 1738 with 300 people (via Rotterdam and Plymouth); and one arriving October 28, 1738 with 114 people (via Rotterdam and Cowes). Obviously there is some error in these dates or ship names as it would not be possible for a ship to land in North America twice in a 6 week period. There is also no way of knowing if this is these were same ships as that which carried Johannes and family.

Regardless, it must have been an arduous journey. The ship was apparently tightly packed and sanitation conditions not good.

Those who were coming to the

British colony in North America from the Palatine region of Germany were being recruited by William Penn to inhabit his concession of some 40,000 square miles in what is now Pennsylvania. This land was given to Penn by the King of England to settle a debt owed his father. The people leaving were seeking religious and political freedoms. However, the British in charge in this area became concerned about the large number of non-English speakers who were arriving. In 1727, they began to require that all males age 16 and over arriving submit to an "Oath of Allegiance" as well as an "Oath of Abjuration".

The Oath of Allegiance that Johannes signed is very short and if I can read the handwritten text properly, basically says that those signing pledge fidelity to King George II and the governor, and will be subject to the laws of the province. The Oath of Abjuration was much longer. Those taking this oath acknowledged King George II as king and would be faithful to him. The oath also denounced an authority of the Pope or the See of Rome. Records were kept in Pennsylvania of those taking this oath up to its end in 1775.

Arriving ships kept 3 separate lists of passengers: The "captain's list" was a list of all on board. The law at the time required that all on board be listed, but apparently only a few ships listed women and children. The Thistle had only men on their list. The second list was those taking the Oath of Allegiance, while the third was those who took the Oath of Abjuration.

I found a copy of the second and third lists for the Thistle. There is found the name Wolfer A Sperger. Another reference notes this is not a signature but a mark and the name written by a clerk. This name, Wolfer Sperger, also appears on the captain's list. This has been quite an interesting search. My next attempt will be find a drawing of a ship similar to the Thistle.

(cont. page 9)

Wolfersberger's Visit Switzeland

by Richard Evans, Editor

Bob and Florence Wolfersberger of Oroville, CA and Windber, PA recently had a wonderful 7 day trip to Switzerland. I quote from Bob's letter the newsletter received when they returned:

"I want to tell you that Florence and I had a wonderful 7-day trip to Switzerland! We left Atlanta On Sept. 22nd and 9hrs. and 40 min. later we were in Zurich! We were bussed from there to Berne where we stayed for 7 days and did our touring from there to the numerous points of interest; churches castles, museums, spectacular mountain top scenes of the valleys below.

I wrote to Dr. Rudolf and Peter Wolfensberger before leaving the US but they were both on vacation and business in Spain and the Balkans, but their secretaries replied and said they would like to meet us. So when we arrived in Berne, I called both but they were still away.

On Sunday, Sept. 26th, Rudolf called and wanted to meet us at the hotel to show us around parts of Switzerland. About 3:15 PM, Rudolf drove into the hotel driveway where we were waiting for him. I went out to greet and meet him and what a charming individual he is. He took us to Hotel Beatus in Merligen, a lovely lakeside resort for coffee and then on to a mountain resort, Grindelwald where we could admire the three famous mountains: Jungfrau, Moench and Eiger (with its famous north-wall), then to the bottom of the glacier, the "Oberer Grindelwald gletscher". The glacier is between the mountains "Schreckhorn" and Finsteraarhorn" (4247 m. alt.) What wonderful scenery of Alps peaks and glaciers. As it grew dark, we had a special dinner at this resort. After a wonderful day, Rudolf dropped us back at our hotel. We sure saw a lot of Switerland during the time we were with Rudolf. and certainly enjoyed his dissertation as we travelled about the countryside. Because of the late hour, we were unable to visit Bauma and the Wolfensberger memorial stone there."



Bob and Florence admire the Alpine scenery at "Oberer Grindelwaldgletscher"



Bob takes a photo of Florence and Rudi as they prepare for dinner at the restaurant "Oberer Grindelwaldgletscher"



Rudi returns the favor as he takes a photo of Bob and Florence about to have dinner



Larry Jones, founder of the Wolfensberger Family Association, is shown smiling after admiring the WFA Flag which now adorns his room. Larry is doing as well as can be expected and is very aware, but has some difficulty with his speech. He values the cards and letters he receives from WFA members and his many friends.



Johann Jakob Wolfensberger:
Tempel des Jupiter Olympius mit Akropolis, Athen 1832/34

**JohannJakob Wolfensberger
Tempel des Jupiter Olympius
mitAkropolis
Athen 1832/34**

Johann Jakob Wolfensberger was a gifted painter in watercolors who worked most often for the Nobles in Italy, Greece, and the Mediterranean region. He was also a scholar of Archaeology. He painted the
(cont. page 10)

**WOLFENSBERGER Centennial
Coffee Mug**

The Wolfensberger Family Association Board decided at a recent meeting to have ceramic coffee mugs made featuring the Family Crest in color and a listing of the families associated with the WFA in bright red to celebrate the Association's 10th anniversary. The Crest and listing are shown at right. The Crest will be on the front panel and the list will be placed on the back panel of the mugs.

See the Order Form on page 7 of this newsletter for ordering information and prices.

Enjoy the Christmas holiday sipping your favorite coffee or tea from this beautiful ceramic mug. The mugs will make great gifts for family members.



**Wolfensberger Family
Association**

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|---------------|----------------|
| Wolfensberger | Wolfenbarger |
| Wolfensberger | Wolfinbarger |
| Wolfensperger | Wolfenberger |
| Wolfensperger | Wolffensperger |
| Spargur | Sparger |

Founded 1994
www.wolfensberger.org

John Wolfenberger's Rifle

by David Wolfersberger

I read with interest the short article in the August Newsletter about the rifle sold to John Wolfenberger, Bureau, IL. Here are some comments. According to information that I have, Charles and Philip Wolfersberger, sons of John Wolfersberger (II?), born 1789) moved from Campbellstown, PA to Bureau County, IL in 1851 or 1852. Charles had 2 sons: John (III?) born 1850, and my grandfather, George S. Wolfersberger born 1870. John III had 1 son, Newell who was injured when a church bell he was helping to install in the Methodist Church in Malden fell. My father told me this caused him to have a hunched back; he never married.

I wonder if the John Wolfenberger mentioned in the ad is indeed the John Wolfersberger who is my great uncle? His location is noted as Bureau, IL. I know of Bureau County where my father was born, and Bureau Junction, a city also in Bureau County. Bureau Junction is located not very far from where my father was born, which was on a farm near Malden, IL. Perhaps the Wolfenberger in the ad is just another example of how our name got changed from time-to-time.

I don't recall my father or his sisters mentioning a John Wolfenberger in the area, but I also don't recall much if any discussion about my great uncle John either.

One other little piece of information. I have an old Colt 22 rifle with an octagon barrel that belonged to Newell Wolfersberger, then was given to my father on Newell's death. It hasn't been fired in years; in fact I probably am supposed to have a permit for it which I don't.

Perhaps you can forward this to Charlotte Lucas. I don't have her e-mail or PO address.

Just thought you and Charlotte might be interested in this. This probably also gives me reason to get up to Princeton, Bureau County seat and do a little research.

Newsletter By E-Mail.....

At the Board meeting June 27th, the delivery of the Wolfensberger Family Association Newsletter by e-mail was discussed and approved. Any WFA member who has a computer that is "ON-LINE" and has the software Adobe Reader may request to receive the Newsletter by e-mail. There are

OUR UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Name: **Peter WOLFENBARGER**

Born : 8 May 1840 in , Grainger Co., TN. Died: 20 Jan 1921, burial , Grainger, TN.

General Notes: Peter WOLFENBARGER, Sgt Co E, 47th KY Infantry, buried in the Clapp Cem at Crackers Neck near Washburn, TN. A dedication service and a grave marker was placed 5 June 1999 by Dick GAULT, Rony WOLFENBARGER and Michelle COLLINS. Unable to determine his parents, marriage or descendants in June 1999. (LMJones)

Please contact our President and Historian, Myrna Liddell myrnabl@whidbey.com or 360-321-4971 if you have any further information.

(cont. from below left)

several advantages to receiving your newsletter this way. First, it is cheaper. There is no expense to this method of delivery. Next, it is faster. Further, many of the photos in the newsletter are in color which does not come out in the printing as color copies are MUCH MORE expensive than B & W copies.

There are several considerations to receiving the newsletter via e-mail. You must have an e-mail address and a mail box large enough to receive the newsletter file, which usually runs about 200-500 KB in size. The size depends on the number of pictures in the issue. Your computer must have the Adobe Reader software installed as the newsletter will be sent as a .pdf file which can be opened by the Adobe Reader.

Adobe Reader software is free at the Adobe web site at www.adobe.com. Click on the Adobe Reader label which will take you to the Adobe Reader page. Follow the downloading instructions to install the READER on your computer. When you receive the e-mail with the newsletter attached, save to newsletter on your hard drive. Note where the newsletter .pdf file is saved. Then click on open, your computer should find the Adobe Reader software and open the newsletter. You can then print the newsletter on your printer in B & W or in Color as you wish.

RLE

2005 Membership Renewal

It is that time of year again to remind our members, if they have not already done so, to renew their membership in the Wolfensberger Family Association. The membership expiration date is December 31st of each year. Check the mailing label on this newsletter. The year shown on the label is the year your membership expires. To continue to receive this fine WFA Newsletter and the other benefits of WFA membership, please send \$10.00 for a one year renewal, \$18.00 for a two year renewal and \$26.00 for a three year renewal, along with this completed form to Al Creasy, WFA Treasurer. By doing so, you will continue your support for your family association. While you are at it, mark your ballot on the reverse side and vote for your Board members.

Mail this completed form to:

**Al Creasy, Treasurer
500 Beau Valley Lane
Tryon, NC 28782**

Your name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Membership for _____ Year(s). Amt. enclosed _____

Telephone No. _____ E-Mail _____

Order Form

No. ordered _____ Price _____

Wolfensberger Centennial Coffee Mug..... _____



(One mug--\$10.00, two mugs--\$16.00, three mugs--\$20.00, Four mugs--\$25.00, five mugs--\$30.00, six mugd--\$35.00 when shipped to the same address. Prices incl. shipping costs.)



Wolfensberger Family Flag..... _____

(Price \$37.00 ea. Incl. shipping costs)



Wolfensberger Medallion..... _____

(Price \$25.00 ea. Incl. shipping costs)



Wolf. Crest Cloth Patch..... _____

(Price \$2.00 ea. Incl. shipping costs)

Send this order along with your membership renewal and your ballot to Al Creasy at the address shown above.)

ORDER TOTAL _____

WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL BALLOT

Board of Directors Year 2005

*Mail this ballot, along with your membership renewal, to Al Creasy, WFA
Treasurer, at the address shown on the reverse side.*

_____ ALL NOMINEES * Denotes incumbent

_____ *Mickey Burleson, Temple, TX (Sparger)

_____ *Albert H. Creasy, Tryon, NC (Sparger)

_____ *Gretchen Doll, Grapevine, TX (Wolfenberger)

_____ *Richard L. (Buzz) Evans, Houston, TX (Sparger)

_____ *Barbara Jackson, Norfolk, NE (Wolfenberger)

_____ *Myrna Liddell, Langley, WA (Wolfenberger)

_____ *Wendell J. Wolfenberger O'Reilly, Chattanooga, TN

_____ *William F. Spargur, Palmdale, CA

_____ *Robert J. Wolfenberger, Summit, NJ

_____ *W. Frank Wolfenberger, Irving, TX

_____ *Rudolf A. Wolfensberger, PhD, Solothurn, Switzerland

_____ *Wolf Wolfensberger, PhD, Syracuse, NY

_____ *David Wolfersberger, St. Louis, MO

_____ *Bill Wolfenberger, Palo Alto, CA

*Denotes incumbent

Write-In Nominations: (In addition to those marked above)

President's Letter.....Cont. from page 1)

grateful to those who have responded so kindly to participate in this gathering.

We will honor the 10th Anniversary recipients of the Wolfensberger Family Association

HERITAGE AWARD. The announcement of those who receive these awards will be posted, along with articles about the recipients, in the January/February 2005 newsletter.

We will be focusing our efforts in 2005 on collecting Family Stories for a book that is being prepared by chairperson, William Forrest (Bill) Spargur, of Palmdale, California. The book will contain family stories from members all over the world. This book will be a monumental work, of the highest caliber. Please look for articles in the Jan/Feb 2005 newsletter, which have already been submitted, for this compiled work. Photographs will be included, so please take some family pictures on January 15, too.

Finally, we wish to have join us in well wishing to Larry Jones, by sending greeting cards to him, either for the holiday season, or to celebrate the 10th anniversary. Please send your good wishes to him at: Larry Jones, c/o Rey Jones, 12109 Blue Moon Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73162.

We'd love to hear about your personal family's celebration of this event. Please feel free to send articles and pictures to Buzz Evans, <revans45@swbell.net>.

We hope you will enjoy receiving some of the Wolfensberger Anniversary Mugs, and can give them as gifts this holiday season.

Remember to send in your ballot for the election of WFA Board members. We appreciate the many efforts of these devoted people, who are often unsung heros. Your ballot helps express our gratitude.

Last, but certainly not least, we want to wish a special belated Happy Birthday, to our "cousin" Earl W. Spargur, who just turned 100 years young! Earl W. Spargur is from Yukon, Oklahoma. Happy 100 years Earl!
MBL

.The Thistle of Glasgow.....

(cont from page 3)

References:

"1730 Thistle (sic) of Glasgow",
www.palproject.org/pa/1730thistle.htm

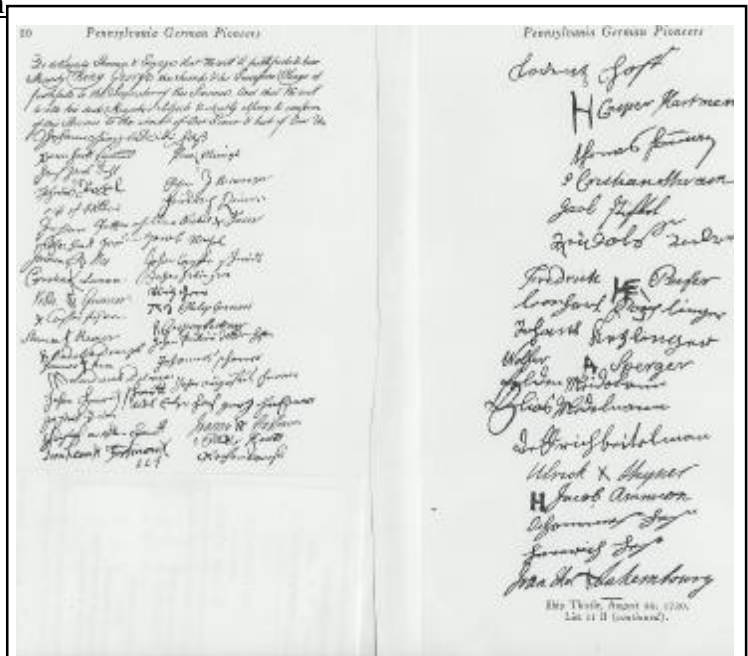
Pennsylvania German Pioneers,
Strassburger and Hinke, reprinted 1992,
3 volumes

Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the

Northern Alsace, Burgem, 1992

Names of Foreigners Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the Province and State

Pennsylvania 1727-1775, Engle, 1892
(Data from Pennsylvania State Archives)
DEW



"Master" Colin Dunlap's "Captain's List"



WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION
10903 Holly Springs Drive

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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JohannJakob Wolfensberger (cont. from page 5)

objects so ingeniously, and chose the background so well, that he is highly esteemed in Italy, even today, because he reported the earlier status of the artifacts in such a unique manner. He painted, for instance, the temple of Jupiter Olympus with Acropolis in Athens (shown above), the temple of Neptune, the Forum Roman in Rome. He was very busy between 1817-1843
Web site www.hmsg.ch/publikationen.html#17 is the Historisches und Volkerhudemuseum at St. Gallen and refers to a text by R. Frohne about Johann Jakob Wolfensberger
Dr. Rudi Wolfensberger
Solithurn, Switzerland

In the Service....

We were pleased when WFA member Donna Anders sent us the information about her family members who are currently serving in the Armed Forces of our country. Take a moment to read about these fine Americans in the "Members" column on page 3.

I'm sure there are many other family members serving our country and we would like to know about them. Send us a note about your family member currently serving in the Armed Forces and attach a photo we can use. All photos will be returned promptly and safely.
Editor