



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

February 2005

Vol. XI, No. 1

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WFA Celebrates 10th Anniversary

With a Party for Larry.....

by Wayne Bowman

The dedication and vision of one man led to the founding of the Wolfensberger Family Association in 1995. On January 15, 2005 that man, Larry Jones, surrounded by family and friends celebrated the success of those efforts . . . and ten years of WFA growth.

Despite a cold, blustery day in Oklahoma City there was warmth and laughter as several residents of The Fountains at Canterbury Living Center assembled to watch as Larry Jones received heartfelt thanks and good wishes from all WFA members expressed very eloquently by WFA Board Member W. Frank Wolfinbarger. Larry's immediate family, sons Ricky and Rey and their wives along with grandson, Matt; listened intently as Frank spoke of how Larry's actions had meant so much to so many people who now recognize and celebrate their common ancestry.

Gretchen Doll, also a WFA Board Member, presented Larry with a fruit basket from the WFA in recognition of the occasion. WFA member and Oklahoma City resident, Wayne Bowman delivered a bouquet of flowers from WFA President, Myrna Liddell, to Larry.

Framed by a United States flag and the WFA banner, Larry smiled as WFA commemorative mugs, filled with orange juice, were raised high while Frank Wolfinbarger toasted the man deserving of our admiration and gratitude. Family members then adjourned to a private room for a more personal visit. While Larry's speech may not be as clear and concise as many of us remember, there was no

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The President's Letter....

by Myrna Liddell, WFA President

Dear Family,

We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary as the Wolfensberger Family Association. As such, we have honored five distinguished people, by awarding the "Wolfensberger Family Association Heritage Award" to them. In this newsletter, you will read about each one, and their significant contribution to WFA.

Mrs. Myrtle Mae Wolfinbarger Braun - genealogy research- received by her daughter, Bonnie Aspenson, Oklahoma

Mr. William Murlin Creasy - genealogy research- received by his grand nephew, Albert Creasy, North Carolina

Mr. George Wolfensberger - genealogy research - received by his son, Charles Wolfensberger, Missouri.

Mr. Heinrich Wolfensberger - genealogy research - received by his great grandson, William Wolfensberger, Rigby, Idaho

Mr. Max Wolfensberger - our only living recipient -WFA memorial dedication in Bauma in 2001- a resident of Staefa, Switzerland

Our founder, "Larry", Lawrence M. Jones was the first recipient of the WFA Heritage Award. Each of these people has given of their time and talents to help our WFA families to know more about their heritage, and feel the touch of those who have lived before. We felt that this award would help us recognize such efforts and express our deepest gratitude for their unselfish services. Also, in celebrating this occasion, our friends/ cousins, board members, and Larry Jones' relatives

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Wolfensberger Family Association

Officers & Directors - 2004

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Myrna Liddell, *President*
Whidby, WA

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

David E. Wolfensberger, *Secretary*
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Honorary Life Members

Lawrence M. Jones
Oklahoma City, OK

Heini Wolfensberger
Bauma, Switzerland

WFA Recognizes Distinguished Family Members.....



The Wolfensberger Family Association HERITAGE AWARD, shown above (for Wm. M. Creasy) was also awarded to Myrtle Mae Wolfenbarger Braun, George Wolfensberger, Heinrich Wolfensberger, and Max Wolfensberger.

2005 Heritage Award Recipients are:

Myrtle Mae Wolfenbarger Braun 1898-1988

Myrtle Mae Wolfenbarger was born 29-10-1898 in Marion, KS. She was the daughter of Serelda Chadwell & Wilkerson Hilton Wolfenbarger who moved from Cumberland Gap, TN to Caldwell, KS about 1885 with their infant first born, a daughter Margaret, bringing along with them Serelda's mother and her 10 children.

Wilkerson drove a stage and freighted over the old Chisolm Trail, but in 1905 Serelda died leaving Wilkerson with the youngest child Willard, then Myrtle, three older sons named Isaac, Wilkerson and Peter, and the oldest child Margaret to rear alone.

Margaret promptly married, and Myrtle's father wanted to take the older boys with him to go west to work on railroads in Colorado and Utah, so asked a neighbor, named Judge

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Myrtle Mae Wolfenbarger Braun

Dickerson, to find homes for his two youngest children. Willard and Myrtle were each placed with different farm families miles apart. They were not even in the same country school until they attended high school in town, and that was for only one year. Mother skipped a grade and graduated early from high school then, going to Arkansas City where her aunt and uncle lived, to work as a secretary in an Ice plant. My grandfather Henry Braun of Guthrie, OK owned an interest in that Ice plant and sent his son Heinz to audit their books. As a result, Heinz later asked Myrtle to marry him, and move to Guthrie, OK, where she lived the rest of her life. Heinz was a widower with two children, and after marrying Mother, my sister Elizabeth and I (Bonnie) were born.

Having been separated from her own family at such a young age, Mother put great store in "family", and felt a need to learn more about her ancestors. She spent years researching and gathering material, and co-authored a genealogical book on her mother's family entitled, "Chadwell Heritage". All the while she was also researching her father's ancestors and had compiled voluminous files on Wolfensbergers and families with variations of the spelling, as well as Spargurs, and associated

families, intending to someday publish. Mother had corresponded with [her cousin,] Dr. Wolfenbarger in Florida and learned from him that his son Bob [Robert Joseph] in Germany was to leave there soon to return home. She gave Bob's father the name of a genealogist in Germany with whom she had corresponded concerning my father's German ancestors, and asked that he urge Bob to contact this man to perhaps learn something about the Wolfensbergers. Bob did meet Dr. Fritz Braun (no relation) and found that he had written his thesis about the very ship on which our early ancestor & family sailed to America - "The Thistle of Glasgow". [see article "*Auswanderer aus der Umgebung von Ludwigshafen a. Rh. auf dem Schiff "Thistle of Glasgow" 1730, by Fritz Braun.*]

From OUR SWISS ROOTS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED!"

by – Bonnie Aspenson

William Murlin Creasy 1868-1939

William M. Creasy was an early compiler of Wolfensberger family history. Assisted by James Bingman Sparger of Mount Airy, North Carolina, he researched, typed, and published a work titled "Sparger and Allied Families" in the middle 1930s which traced his maternal lineage back to John W. Sparger (born John Wolfenbarger, 1754 – 1840). This work consists of 126 legal size pages, originally typed on onion skin paper using carbon paper—extremely labor intensive, and with no computer to help out. The other families documented in this work are Frey and Binckele. Will was a compulsive family researcher, as he also compiled histories of the Creasy family and his wife's family-Bagby. Copies of all his works are in the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Will was born in Surry County, NC (near Mount Airy), and spent most of his adult years in Wilmington, NC. Incidentally, his middle name came from his grandfather Murlin

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William Murlin Creasy. 1868 - 1939.

Sparger (1817 - 1877), who was a prominent citizen of Mount Airy. Will began work for the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company in the Accounting Department where he eventually rose to the position of Supervisor of Joint Facility Accounts. He married Gertrude Medernach Bagby and they were the parents of William Murlin Creasy, Jr. (a 1926 graduate of West Point and two-star General, head of the Army's Chemical Corps), and Helen Creasy Hunter (a civic leader in Charlotte, NC), now both deceased. Will and his wife are buried in Elmwood cemetery in Charlotte, NC.

by Albert H. Creasy

(Editor's Note: My own interest in family research began when I was given my grandmother's copy of Wm.M. Creasy's Sparger History which was dated 1932.)

RLE

George Wolfersberger 1919-1992

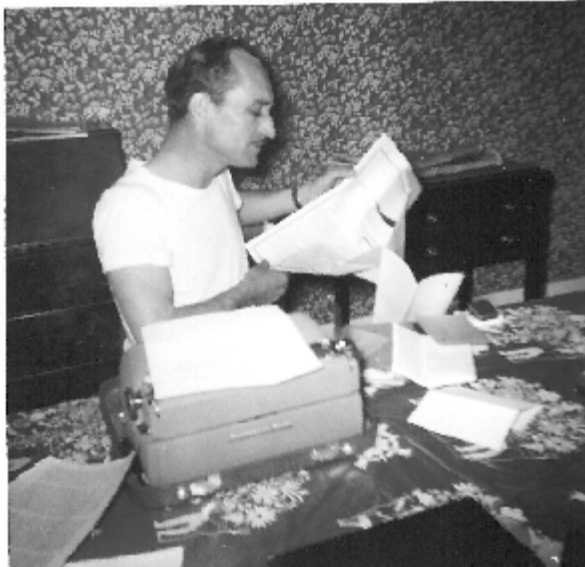
George's interest in our family's history started in 1936 when, as a teenager living in Mascoutah, IL, a small town near St. Louis, he saw a wedding announcement for Earl Wolfersberger in the St. Louis Globe Democrat. After checking with family members, he found that Earl was not directly related as far as anyone knew, even though he had the same unusual last name. That got him wondering about the origin of the family and its history.

In 1941, George was stationed at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey as a soldier in the U.S. Army. While there, he noticed that there were several Wolfersbergers listed in the New Jersey and New York phone books. He eventually made contact with two of them, but this only served to deepen the mystery about our ancestry. Neither of them knew much about their heritage and there seemed to be little in common with George's roots. In the mid-1950's George continued his efforts by visiting the Bell Telephone Library in Detroit; they had copies of every phone book in the U.S. After a considerable amount of work, he found thirty-five Wolfersbergers living in fifteen states. He then wrote each person and explained that he was collecting information about the family origins and needed their assistance. This opened the floodgates and the information began to pour in.

The only problem was that the more George learned about our ancestry, the more he realized what he didn't know. He broadened his search by visiting the Burton Historical Collection in Detroit and the Newberry Library in Chicago. He also traveled to Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania to view public records and stopped to visit several cemeteries.

Through correspondence, George found that there were four efforts underway to study our family history. One of those who wrote to him is another recipient of the 2005 Heritage Award - Mrs. Myrtle Braun. Mrs. Braun suggested that he get in touch with Bob Wolfenbarger, an American soldier stationed in Germany [and a past President of WFA], to obtain more information.

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George Wolfersberger at work in 1953

George did this and Bob quickly wrote back to inform him that two brothers, Bob and Heini Wolfensberger (lifetime member), would be taking a business trip to the United States in about a month. They operated a foundry in Bauma and were planning to attend a convention in Detroit, Michigan. They knew a lot about our Swiss origins and would be a good source of information.

When the time arrived, George met the brothers in a downtown hotel and gave them a grand tour of the city. He also arranged a private trip to the Ford Rouge plant foundry and the Ford Livonia Transmission plant where he worked. During their visit, George, Heini and Bob traded family stories back and forth for many countless hours. It was a historic occasion - the first reunion of this family branch in over 450 years!

[George Wolfersberger was the son of Julius Wolfersberger and Elizabeth Laquet. Julius was the grandson of Martin Wolfensberger, who with his wife Katherine and five year old son, Franz, came from Lorraine, France to America in the year 1843. He died in 1992.]

by Charles Wolfersberger

Heinrich Wolfensberger 1852

Heinrich Wolfensberger [aka Wolfensperger], son of Johannes Wolfensberger and Barbara Bauman, was born 2 April 1852, in Uster, Zurich, Switzerland. He grew up there and learned the jewelers trade. On 25 March 1878, he married Maria Anna Lehman. The couple had five children.

Heinrich and Maria accepted a new religion, and wanted to come to America. As Heinrich's finances were limited, he sent his two oldest sons, Johann Henrich and Carl, ahead with some friends who were coming to America. In this way Johann and Carl could pay their way over by helping out Heinrich's friends. The rest of the family came to America in 1893, after being delayed longer than they had planned. They made their home in Salt Lake City, Utah

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Heinrich Wolfensberger

About 1900 Heinrich moved to Rexburg, Idaho where he set up a jewelery store. He made good at his trade and was known quite well by the people in Rexburg.

For some reason Heinrich changed his name from Wolfensberger to Wolfensperger, but his son, Otto, changed it back to Wolfensberger after he returned from a mission in Switzerland. Heinrich was known as "Henry Wolfensperger" to the people of Rexburg.

Heinrich's wife Maria died on 25 February 1914. He married Rosa Clara Bergner on 7 January 1916. Rosa was born 22 September 1876 in Germany. Heinrich spent years doing research on his direct ancestry line, which he documented back to Peter, born in 1548, great grandson of Hans von Wolfsberg born about 1396. Later, he and his wife moved to Logan, Utah. He was active in his church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and served his family faithfully. This line is clearly delineated in the Wolfensberger section of the Geshlechterbuch, Vol 65.

Max Wolfensberger

Max Wolfensberger, a retired executive for an American computer firm in Switzerland, played an instrumental role in helping create in September 2001 the memorial to the Wolfensberger family on the historic Wolfensberg, less than a mile from the heart of Bauma.

As the Board of Directors' representative on a Swiss family committee in Bauma, Max played a critical role in helping win village approval of the memorial, obtaining the large memorial stone and putting together the colorful memorial ceremony and luncheon to mark the event. He and Bob (New Jersey) were able to set up a



Max Wolfensberger (background), Son Matthias and Grandson Jeremy

Swiss bank account to pay for the memorial stone project and brass placard. This account was closed after the project was complete.

Max lives on Lake Zurich in Staefa, one of the beautiful communities lining the lakeside east of Zurich, with his wife, Esther. Near his three-story home lives his son Matthias and his wife, a native of New Zealand, and their children. On many days, you'll see the Wolfensberger family flag flying over Max and Ester's home. Under Swiss law, Max is a dual resident of Bauma, as well as, Staefa, Switzerland. He and his Esther winter at Zuos, a village in the Engadine region of Switzerland, east of St. Moritz in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

by Robert J. Wolfenbarger

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*Just ask Al Creasy to send your
 WFA Newsletter by e-mail instead of
 postage. It's much faster!*



Charlotte Lucas, WFA member from Tulsa Oklahoma shown at her display table at the Muskogee Ancestors Fair held last September

The Ancestor's Fair in Muskogee....

The Ancestor Fair on September 25th in Muskogee, Oklahoma was a bit of a disappointment. At an Ancestor Fair you expect to see surnames represented by researchers. Unfortunately nearly all of them were vendors. My friend, Annette Hixenbaugh, had information about the origins of two Scottish families. However, this was not her direct genealogy. Consequently the Wolfensberger booth was a sensation. Everyone gravitated to my table to look at the maps after seeing our flag. Mine was the only booth actually devoted to a family. Didn't run into any relatives this time but hopefully next time I will.

The next Ancestor Fair I will attend will be on April 9, 2005 in Oklahoma City from 9:00 to 5:00. The official name is "Scottish History/Genealogy Fair". I have been asked to be a speaker and I will have a Wolfensberger/ Wolfenbarger booth. It will be held at:

5600 NW 63rd Admission Free
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I may have more information for the next newsletter. I hope some of you can be there.

Charlotte Wolfenbarger Lucas

The President's Letter.....

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all joined in honoring him and celebrating the event at the Fountains of Canterbury in Oklahoma City where he lives. We thank his son, Rey and his wife Tammy, for making all this possible. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Frank Wolfenbarger, and Gretchen Doll, WFA board members, plus members Wayne and Scarlett Bowman, who represented the Wolfensberger Family Association, and the members of Larry's family as well as employees of the home where Larry lives for attending.

We would love to hear from you to hear how you "celebrated" this 10th anniversary, too. Please send your notes to Buzz Evans, editor, so we can enjoy your personal reports in the next newsletter. <revans45@swbell.net>

We thank the members of the WFA board for serving in 2004. We are even more grateful that many have consented to join us in 2005 as board members, too. We will miss those who are unable to serve, especially, Peter Wolfensberger, of Zumikon, Switzerland.

Due to pressing circumstances, we have yet to elect officers for the 2005 term, and will do so at our next WFA Board meeting. We appreciate your patience in this regard. We thank you for your support as members of the Wolfensberger Family Association. Many members are still researching, and finding new proofs on family lines, and locations of cemeteries, old buildings, etc. We hope that several of you will consider preparing family reunions this summer, to invite "WFA cousins" – whatever the spelling of your name. Please let us know of any interest you may have in this regard.

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Larry's Party.....

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way to misunderstand his comments. He was grateful for our visit and he is proud of the WFA and all those brought together by it. He may not be as agile and glib as he was but he is still quick with a smile and he has a twinkle in his eye.

So, on behalf of all of us,
THANKS, LARRY!

WB

Editor's Note.....

We urge all members of the Wolfensberger Family Association to send a letter, note, or greeting card, to Larry Jones as appreciation for the founding of our family group. Send your mail to: Larry Jones, %Rey Jones, 12109 Blue Moon Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73114

Larry continues to have a great interest in the WFA, and he would be lifted up by hearing from his many "cousins" around the country and the world. Drop him a note today!



Holding their Wolfensberger Anniversary Mugs, after toasting the 10th anniversary of the Wolfensberger Family Association and the contribution Larry Jones made are (l. to r.) Larry's grandson Matt, Wayne Bowman behind Mrs. Ricci Jones, Ricci Jones and Reynold Jones and his wife, Tammy, Gretchen Doll and Frank Wolfenbarger with Larry Jones,. (center)

HELP WANTED.....an ad!.....

by Richard Evans, Editor

At the January 23rd WFA Board meeting, I asked the Board's permission to begin a search for someone to take over the job of doing the Wolfensberger Family Association Newsletter. My reason for doing this was to begin a search for someone who has a strong interest in the WFA, who has a computer and the general skills needed to use the software to generate the newsletter, and who would be willing to begin now to gradually learn what it takes to publish an interesting newsletter.

Since I plan to do the newsletter for the foreseeable future (but my vision is not too good and I'm not making any rash predictions), anyone who would like to eventually take on this job would have plenty of time to learn what is required to do the newsletter and not be under a lot of pressure immediately, but would gradually grow into the job.

When I took on this job from Bob Wolfensberger in the Fall of 2000, I had the benefit of Bob's help in getting started. Most importantly, we had Larry Jones available with his many contacts and a wealth of information he received from our members. Because Larry knew most all our members personally, attended many family reunions and talked by phone with many of them often, he kept my inbox full of things to use in the newsletter. By the time Larry began to have health problems, I was able to continue to develop stories for the publication without any serious problems. The construction of the newsletter format was easy, but having items to put in the newsletter that are interesting and timely is most important. By beginning a search for someone now, we hope to continue to have a good newsletter.

The WFA will buy a copy of the Microsoft Picture It! software for anyone who would like to do this important job. This software program is easy to use and with both of us using the same software during the learning period, we would be able to exchange files so the new editor would be able to quickly learn how to compose an eight to ten page newsletter with a minimum of technical problems

This Microsoft program is a breeze handling both pictures and text. It would be a great time to learn how to adjust and print photos from digital cameras and allows one to exchange photos with friends and family. Also, the WFA reimburses any expenses incurred in producing the newsletter, including paper, ink, postage, phone calls, other supplies needed to do the newsletter.

I am asking all our members to give this matter some thought. If you know of someone, perhaps someone in your family, who just might like to work on the newsletter with me, ask them to contact me or send me their name and I will contact them to discuss the possibility of becoming involved in doing our newsletter.

Please contact me at 713 977-4748, or revans45@swbell.net or 10907 Holly Springs Dr., Houston, TX 77042 or any Board member. RLE

The President's Letter...

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Another note: We extend our sincerest hope and good wishes to those who have been severely affected by the hurricanes, and weather systems, wars, and devastations, that have occurred in these past several months. If you have family stories or pictures, that you would be willing to share, please send them Buzz Evans, our newsletter editor. We know several of our members have volunteered and contributed in many ways to help those with these special needs, in America and elsewhere. Please know that many have prayed for your welfare during these challenging times.

As you can see in this newsletter, our wonderful Editor, Buzz Evans, is looking for a volunteer/s to do the newsletter in the coming future. Buzz has done an incredible job of helping us "all stay connected" through the newsletter.

Again, thank you all for helping us celebrate this amazing 10th Anniversary of WFA.

Myrna B. Liddell, President



WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

10903 Holly Springs Drive
Houston, TX 77042-1310

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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The Wolfensberger Anniversary Mug is shown above. You really must see it in color to appreciate how beautiful it really is. You can contact WFA Treasurer Al Creasy at 500 Beau Valley Lane, Tryon, NC 28782, 828 859-0208 or trebla1@alltel.net.

Wolfensberger Anniversary Mugs Sell Out!

WFA Treasurer Al Creasy reported to the Board during the January meeting that the Anniversary Mugs proved to be extremely popular with our members. 144 Mugs were ordered, but due to poor packing a number were broken in shipment. These have been replaced by the supplier. All the Mugs have been ordered and shipped. The Anniversary Mugs were very well received by our members.

No decision has been made to order more Mugs, but if you want one or are interested in ordering more, please let Al Creasy know (his address is shown at left) and the WFA may order more Mugs later this year.

Those who have received one of these Mugs may have noticed the word "Wolfensberger" on the back panel was printed without the "s" as "Wolfenberger". We regret this typo and will make sure it does not happen if more are ordered.