



WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

September 2006

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Wolfenbarger Reunion Held!

Grainger County, Tennessee was the site of a celebrated Wolfenbarger family reunion on June 10, 2006. Organized by and for the descendants of Peter Wolfenbarger, the gathering remembered this Tennessee pioneer and Revolutionary War veteran who left his birthplace in Virginia and went to Tennessee with his large family after the war.

Organized by Dick Gault, the site of the reunion was a church center in the shadow of the beautiful Clinch Mountain not far from the Clinch River. It was the Clinch River valley that drew Peter from his home in Virginia, and it is around this river that a large number of his descendants lived and live still today.

Having toured our *Heimat* in the *Zuerich Oberland* I can attest that what Peter and his descendants found there was not very different geographically than that beautiful area of Switzerland his ancestors had left. Perhaps, though, here there were more snakes and fewer tall pines!

The reunion was well attended with many traveling a great distance to attend. In the Swiss traditions of thrift and community, all brought a covered dish for a communal meal.

During the course of the meal, family news was exchanged, stories and legends were told and new friendships were struck. In this convivial environment, multiple generations shared their lives with their kinfolk.

After the meal, all introduced themselves to those they did not have the opportunity to meet one-on-one, and those who brought family photographs and other family history materials reviewed these items and learned about how Peter's descendants had lived and are living.

The Civil War had a profound effect on the family. Most of Peter's descendants had supported the Confederacy. Several male descendants were killed, died or were wounded and many families were left in financial ruin by the war. After the war, the hardships of life in that area caused many to abandon East Tennessee and go West.

Among the more memorable stories recounted was that of an unfortunate soul hanged by a lynch mob for allegedly shooting a sheriff. However, the consensus of those who have investigated the history conclude that the mob hanged the wrong man and that our relation was, in fact, innocent. This will make an interesting research project for our historians!

Altogether, it was a most enjoyable occasion where young and old rekindled bonds of friendship and kinship. Dick and all the volunteers can be justly proud of the excellent job they did in organizing the reunion and in publicizing it.

I hope to share some more stories and good food with these cousins for many years to come.

- submitted by Wendell O'Reilly
(see page 5 for more pics!)





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Member's Notes.....

Norman Wesley Koller: Norm was born on November 26, 1916 in Florin, West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He died in Liverpool, PA on June 1st, 2006 at the age of 89-1/2 years.

After his birth, Norm lived with his parents and brother David on a tobacco farm. In 1918, his mother Ruth died in the flu epidemic and that event changed his destiny. His dad, William, then sold the tobacco farm to his grandfather for \$500. Following the sale, William began working for the PA Railroad in Enola. At that time, Norm and David went to live with Aunt Lizzie (William's sister), Uncle Jim and their five children one mile outside of Columbia. When he was 7-1/2 years old (1923), his father remarried and Norm and Dave were taken from Aunt Lizzie to live in Progress with their dad and stepmother, Esther. This is where he met future brother-in-law, Bob Smeltzer, and life-long friends Dot and Forry Straw.

As a boy, Norm would caddy every day at the Old Colonial Country Club (present location of the Colonial Mall.) Norm attended the Susquehanna Schools until the tenth grade. In 1929, after the stock market crash, he worked at a truck farm weeding celery for 5 cents an hour (\$2.00 per week.) The family moved to Enola where he graduated from high school. Soon after graduation, he went to Columbia to work with a cousin who was a mason contractor. After 1-1/2 years, he missed his friends in the Harrisburg area. He returned to Progress and secured employment at Hoak's Dairy where he met Janet Gabel, his first wife. A year prior to their marriage, on October 23, 1939, he was hired by the PA Railroad in Enola.

Norm and Janet were married on October 12, 1940. In 1941, they bought a farm in Liverpool, where he raised Christmas trees. Two daughters were born: Donna and Judy. During these years, he was active at Barner's Lutheran Church, where he became President of the Council. At the time of the Liverpool Lutheran parish merger, he and his family joined The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Norm was active in the Liverpool Lions Club of which he is a past president. He was an avid fisherman, both on the Susquehanna River and the Caloosahatchee River in Florida. Golf was another love of his life. He belonged to the Newport Club and later the Lost Creek Golf Club, where he made many friends with whom he created many memorable experiences.

(continued on page 6)



Brighten your Holidays with a Wolfensberger Family Flag.....

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**Send your order to Al Creasy,
Treasurer WFA
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Order for yourself and your family.

No. Ordered	Price per Mug
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6	6.85



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The Bauma dedication video of the ceremony is still available for purchase at \$10 per VHS tape! Shipping is include.



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**Wolfensberger
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\$25.00 ea.
includes
shipping costs.**



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includes
shipping costs.**

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Flags	-----	-----
Medallions	-----	-----
Patch	-----	-----
Mugs	-----	-----

**INTRODUCE SOMEONE
IN YOUR FAMILY TO
THE WFA!**

FOR ONLY \$10 FOR ONE YEAR, \$18 FOR TWO YEARS OR \$26 FOR THREE YEARS, YOU CAN HAVE THE WFA NEWSLETTER SENT TO A FAMILY MEMBER. IT MAKES A WONDERFUL GIFT!!!

QUERIES.....

Charlotte Lucas, our resident researcher, has a question:

WHERE IS PETER NAPOLEON WOLFENBARGER?

The WFA WorldConnect page on Rootsweb, shows Peter Wolfenbarger and his wife Elizabeth Fletcher (called Betsy) having the following children: Jacob born 1830, John born 1833, Mary (called Polly) born 25 Oct 1834, George born 1838, Frances born 1840, Henderson born 1848, Peter Napoleon born 1850, Simpson born 9 Apr 1851, Sarah born 1853 and Josiah born 1857. In adding data to this family I have found a problem. Census records show the following about this family:

1850 Lee County Virginia Census - District 31 - Page 395B

Dwelling 1262	Family 1293
Line 9	Peter Wolfenbarger - age 40
10	Elizabeth - age 37
11	Jacob - age 20
12	John - age 17
13	Mary - age 16
14	George - age 12
15	Frances - age 10
16	Henderson - 2

1860 Hancock County Tennessee Census - The Four Mile District - Page 488B

Dwelling - 1136	Family 1073
Line 14	Peter Wolfenbarger - age 49
15	Elizabeth - age 46
16	John - age 26
17	Henderson - age 14
18	Simpson - age 9
19	Sary (Sarah) - age 6
20	Josiah - age 3
21	George Wolfenbarger (their married son) - age 21
22	Martha (their daughter in law) - age 23

1870 Hancock County Tennessee Census - District No. 14 - Page 94B

Dwelling - 26	Family - 26
Line 29	Peter Wolfenbarger - age 59
30	Elizabeth - age 56
31	Simpson - 18
32	Sarah - age 16
33	Josiah - age 13

Based on the above census records, Peter and Elizabeth had no son named Peter. That being the case whose child was he? If you have any information concerning this family, please contact me.

Charlotte Lucas - Assistant Historian - Email: wolfenbargers@yahoo.com

Query: Can anyone shed more light on this family? I received an email from Sissy ... who wrote:

"Matilda Wolfenbarger, daughter of Abner Wolfenbarger, born 1857 Washburn, Tennessee, and Minda Margaret ... born 1859, married a Mr. Isaac Widby aka Widsby/Woodsby.

2-children...Peter (Pete) & Mary Widby/Hurst born in the early 1900's. After Matilda passed on, "Pete" stayed with Isaac, his father. Mary was left with a "Williams" family in Grainger County. She was later given to Isaac's sister and grew up with her family. Matilda had other children. Vallen Wolfenbarger, Rosa Wolfenbarger, I believe there was another daughter. I am told they went by Matilda's maiden name. Also that her children were related to the Grainger County "Williams" family. I have her death record ...died July 13, 1917 @ age 37. She was the daughter of Abner & Mindy Wolfenbarger. I have been told Abner & Mindy were cousins."

Please email or contact our Historian, Myrna Liddell: myrnabl@whidbey.com

QUERIES..... cont.

Our Civil War Soldiers

I have started a directory of "Our Civil War Soldiers." This will hopefully include all of our soldiers, regardless of which side they fought for. We will use all spellings of our surname and it will be available from the WFA when completed. I will need help as I would like to include as much about each of them as possible. If you are interested in helping or if you have information you would like to contribute, please contact me.
Charlotte Lucas - Assistant Historian

Four Generations!



The photo above was taken in November 2005. It shows four generations of the O. J. Wolfenbarger family of Blythe, California. From left to right are: **Richard Olin Wolfenbarger, Olin Junior Wolfenbarger, Mason Olin Wolfenbarger (6 mos.) and Richard Olin Wolfenbarger, Jr.** O. J. is a new member of the association! - submitted by Dayleen Wolfenbarger Miracle.

Olin J. Wolfenbarger, 78, is the oldest son of the late Olin and Jesse Wolfenbarger of Chino, California. Olin owns and operates OJ Wolfenbarger hay sales. His son, Richard, and grandson, Richard, Jr., work for the firm. He has enjoyed living by the Colorado River in a rural atmosphere, which allows him to raise mules.

Mason Olin is his first great-grandson to carry the Wolfenbarger name.

In addition to the family members pictured, this branch of the Wolfenbarger's includes Olin's wife of 59 years, Vera. They have several children, just shy of a dozen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren!! They include: Deborah Wolfenbarger Gilmore with her husband Rick, her children and grandchildren, of Grants Pass, Oregon, Deanna Wolfenbarger Schacklett with her husband Bill, her children and grandchildren, of Pomona, California, Dayleen Wolfenbarger Miracle with her husband Larry and her children of Canyon Lake, California and Richard Wolfenbarger with his wife Debbie, his children and grandchildren, of Blythe, California.

Wolfenbarger Reunion

from page one



On the left, above, is a photo of Dick Gault and Wendell O'Reilly(left) at the reunion. On page one, we showed the photo of the multiple generations of Wolfenbargers who attended the reunion. The reunion was held in this beautiful country church in Grainger County.



Member's Notes.....

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Norm worked for the PA RR for 33 years, after which he retired. In 1973, the farm was sold and he, with Janet, moved to Ft. Myers, Florida. They were married for 35 years. Janet passed away on September 22, 1975.

Norm has four grandchildren: Eric Grubb, Erin (Grubb) Hanshaw, Cynthia Yeiser and Kristen Yeiser Maloney. His great-grandchildren are: James Wesley Grubb, Allie Hanshaw, Katie Hanshaw, Ryan Hanshaw, Spencer Hooper, Mason Hooper, Evynn Maloney and Kellen Maloney.

On October 29, 1976, Norm married Julia Long Zaring, who has two daughters: Sharon and Mary Louise. Sharon is married to Charlie Campbell and has two children: Amy and Justin. Mary Louise is married to George Troup and has two children: Joshua and Olivia. Norm and Julia then continued to reside in Florida for the winter months and came to Pennsylvania to Julia's home during the summer season. Their years in Florida involved golfing together at Oxbow Golf Course and entertaining many family members and friends who visited frequently. Norm continued to fish as much as possible until they returned to Pennsylvania full time in June of 2000. During their stay in Florida, they had many friends, among them the Gessners, the Wallis families, the Scotts and the Feltys. Leroy and Betty Felty, through their unending help, packed up Norm and Julia's household furnishings, moved and accompanied them back to Pennsylvania.

Since that time, Norm spent his time in a relaxed mode, enjoying occasional fishing and golfing when able, taking care of the lawn and small garden, and bird watching.

Check out our family
website!!!!



www.wolfensberger.org

A Centenarian Passes Away

Spargur

Earl W. Spargur, 100, passed away March 14, 2006 at his home. He was born June 27, 1905 in Yukon to James and Nettie (Ferguson) Spargur. Earl graduated from Central high School in Yukon in 1923 and went to work for H. E. Katchum Lumber Company for 12 years, also known as Yukon Lumber Company. He later moved to Huntington Park, California in 1935 and became a sales manager for E. K. Wood, a large lumber distributor. He remained in California for 47 years. He returned to his home in Yukon in 1982 at the age of 77. He stated he started here in Yukon and wanted to finish here. He is survived by his son Don Spargur and wife Carolyn of Huntington Beach, California; daughter Nancy Kriminger and husband Don of Seal Beach, California; five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Graveside services will be 1:30PM, Sunday, March 19, 2006 at the Yukon Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Smith & Turner Mortuary, Yukon.

- submitted by Nancy Kriminger. Transcribed from The Yukon Review(Oklahoma), Saturday, March 18, 2006.



Pictured above is Earl at his 100th birthday celebration with his granddaughter Kelsey Spargur.

Philip Wolfenbarger - Revolutionary War Veteran

continued from the May 2006 Issue

Editor's Note: In the May 2006 issue, we shared Philip's revolutionary war affidavits. In this issue, we share the rest of that research. This comes to us from Jim Kenerson, who did the research on Philip.

Transcript: Affidavit of Catharine Wolfenbarger, Pike County, OH Oct. 19, 1852.

The State of Ohio, Pike County ss:

On this 19th day of October Eighteen hundred and fifty two, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace within and for said County, Catharine Wolfenbarger a resident of Beaver Township in the County of Pike, aged Seventy Eight years, who being duly sworn according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by the act of Congress, passed July 29th 1848, -

Philip Wolfenbarger, her late husband was a Pensioner of the United States for services performed by him in the Revolutionary War, and drew ninety six dollars a year, in Pike County, until the 4th September last, which was the last time he drew a pension.

The said Philip Wolfenbarger her said husband died in said County on the first day of this present October 1852, leaving this declarant his widow.

She further declares that she was married to the said Philip Wolfenbarger, in Greenbriar County Virginia, on the 23 day of May in the year Seventeen hundred and ninety one, that her husband the aforesaid Philip Wolfenbarger, died on the first day of October Eighteen hundred and fifty two = that she was not married to him prior to his leaving the service, but the marriage took place previous to the second of January, eighteen hundred viz. about time above stated. She further swears that she is now a widow, and that she has never before made

(end of page)

application for a Pension. She does not know whether or not there is any record of her marriage,

but supposes that there is.

Her

Catharine X Wolfenbarger

Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me, the day and year above written, and I certify that the said Catharine Wolfenbarger is by reason of bodily infirmity unable to attend Court

Michael Gall JP

The State of Ohio, Pike County ss:

On this 19th day of October 1852, before me a Justice of the Peace in and for said County, personally came, John Butcher and Pamela Butcher, who being duly sworn according to law, make oath and say that they and each of them were well acquainted with Philip Wolfenbarger in his lifetime, and Catharine his wife - that the said Philip was a Revolutionary pensioner - that he died in said County on the first day of October instant (1852.) leaving the said Catharine his widow who has not since married, but now remains his widow. These affiants are not interested in the foregoing application.

John Butcher

Her

Pamela X Butcher

Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me the day and year first above written, and I certify that the said John Butcher and Pamela Butcher are credible witnesses.

Michael Gall JP

Transcribed by Jim Kenerson, May 22, 2006

Philip Wolfenbarger - Revolutionary War Veteran continued

Transcript: Affidavit of Elizabeth Taylor, Pike County, OH July 18, 1857

State of Ohio :
County of Pike : ss

On this 18th day of July 1857 personally appeared before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the County of Pike in the State of Ohio, duly authorized by law to administer oaths, Elizabeth Taylor a resident of Piketon in the County of Pike and State aforesaid, aged sixty three years XXX who being duly sworn, according to law, doth on her oath, make the following declaration, in order to assert the claim of her mother Catharine Wolfenberger to the benefits of the provision made by the Act of Congress passed on the 29th July 1848, ___ and also in order to assert the claim of her father Philip Wolfenberger to the benefits of the provision made by by the Act of Congress passed on May 15th 1828. That the said Philip Wolfenberger was a private under or in the Regiment of Lt Colonel William Washington and was a pensioner of the United States under the Act of March 18th 1818 on the Ohio Roll__ and her mother the said Catharine Wolfenberger was a pensioner of the United States

(end of page)

under the Act of July 29th 1848. That she makes this Declaration for the purpose of asserting the claim of her said father Philip Wolfenberger, (he having been pensioned at ninety six dollars,) to a pension of eight dollars and thirty three cents a month or one hundred dollars a year which was a private's pay in the Cavalry of which Corps was Lieut Colonel Washington's, in which he served

___ and also makes this Declaration for the purpose of asserting the claim of her mother said Catharine Wolfenberger to a pension of eight dollars and thirty three cents a month or one hundred dollars per annum____ or to the difference between ninety six dollars a year which her said father and mother were pensioned at and one hundred dollars a year. And she hereby relinquishes all claim to

pension in right of said Philip Wolfenberger under the Act of March 18th 1818. That her said father Philip Wolfenberger died in the County of Pike in the State of Ohio, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty two on the first day of October and her mother said Catharine Wolfenberger died in in the said County of Pike in the year

Page 1 (end of page)

Eighteen hundred and fifty five on the fourteenth day of February, and the declarant the said Elizabeth Taylor is her only child now living. All which will more fully appear by reference to the papers on file in the Pension Office with the papers of her mother said Catharine, under the Act of July 29. 1848, to which she respectfully refers.

Her

Elizabeth

X Taylor

Mark

(end of page)

We XXXX Westfall and Jane Westfall residents of XXXXXX in the County of Pike in the State of Ohio upon our oaths declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by Elizabeth Taylor in our presence, and that we believe from the appearance and statements of the applicant, that she is the identical person she represents herself to be __ and we personally know from long acquaintance that she is the same person to whom the Certificate of Pension was XXX XXX XXXX of her Mother Catharine Wolfenberger widow of said

(end of page)

Philip Wolfenberger XXX XXXX
XXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXX.

Catharine Westfall

XXXXX Westfall

The forgoing declaration & affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year (continued on page 9)

Philip Wolfenbarger - Revolutionary War Veteran continued

above written; and I certify that I know the affiants to be credible persons; that the claimant is the person she represents herself to be, and that I have no interest in this claim, & words "July 29" & "June 7, 1832" 1st page, 14/18 lines were erased prior to execution.

State of Ohio :

County of Pike : ss Jno. Daniels Clerk of the Court of Probate holden at

Piketon in and for the County of Pike in the State of Ohio do hereby certify that satisfactory evidence has been exhibited to said Court that the only child now living of Philip Wolfenbarger and Catharine Wolfenbarger, late of this County deceased is Elizabeth Taylor and that the only grand children now living of the said Philip & Catharine Wolfenbarger are as follows- Pxxxxxxx

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Butcher John B. Taylor Catherine James Elizabeth Ann Brown Mary M. Taylor Philip W. Taylor all of Pike County Ohio, Susan Kinney Clarinda Hawley of Meigs County Ohio and Harriet Neff of Vermillion County State of Illinois all being children of the said Elizabeth Taylor.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Piketon in the County of Pike aforesaid this 20th day of July AD 1857.

Jno. Daniels Clerk of the Probate

Court P. C. O.

(end of page)

Transcribed by Jim Kenerson May 23, 2006

This is the last piece of the transcription on Philip. This Philip moved to Greenbriar County, Virginia around 1789, which is now West Virginia. He was born in Lebanon County, PA and moved to the Shenandoah County, VA with his father John and mother Hannah when he was about six years old. When Philip was 19, he joined Captain Moore's Company in the Lancaster County Militia. He also served with VA troops under Major Ridley for 18 months. - Editor

Treasurer's Report

As of this writing, 19% of our members have let their dues run out at the end of 2005. That's one in five! That's much too high!! Are you one of these members? To find out, look at the label used to mail this newsletter to you. If the second line of the label says "Paid thru 2005", then you need to pay your dues now to remain a member of the Association and continue receiving the newsletter.

Your financial support of the Association is essential. We need YOU!!! Don't let us down -- write that check today. The choice for how long to renew is yours: 1 year \$10; 2 years \$18; or 3 years \$26.

P.S. We're also happy to accept *early* dues payment from anyone who wishes to pay!

Welcome New Members!!! The following people have joined our family association:

Ralph H. Engle, Jr. - Mt. Joy, PA (Wolfenbarger)
Sharon Francis - Folsom, CA (Wolfenbarger)
John Firkins - Spokane, WA (Wolfenbarger)
MarilynJo Murray - Everett, WA (Wolfenbarger)
O. J. Wolfenbarger - Blythe, CA
Martha Powell - Shreveport, LA (Wolfenbarger)
William O. Wolfenbarger - Colusa, CA

WELCOME ALL!!!!

Lost Members: Can you help us find them?

Darlene Childers
Johnie A. Tomerlin

- send a note to the editor, Jon Rhan. Thanks!

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WOLFENSBERGER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION
4 Acropolis Avenue
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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Wolfensberger Family Association

Sept 2006

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