

Wolfensberger in America

Frances C.B. Francis

WOLFENSBERGER IN AMERICA

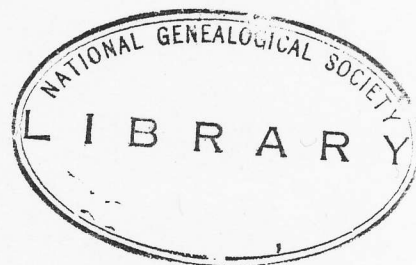
Compiled by

**Frances C. B. Francis
(Mrs. Samuel K. Francis)
3715 R Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007**

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FOREWARD

In preparing this little brochure about "Wolfer Spenger", passenger on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" to Philadelphia, 1730. I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness to Mrs. Heinz A. Braun, 623 East Noble Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma, 73044. Without her indefatigable and continuing interest in the Wolfensberger families, and her generosity in sharing her knowledge about them with me, I could not have assembled the enclosed material.

John Wolfensberger 3 (John 2, John 1) established his family in the Moravian settlement of Salem, North Carolina, and it was he who first used the abbreviated spelling "Sparger". After the death 1830 in Surry Co., N. C., near Mt. Airy of his wife, Christina, daughter of the Moravian, Valentine Frey, he went to Highland Co., Ohio where some of his sons had preceded him and there he died. The North Carolina families spell their name Sparger and the Ohio families use the spelling Spargur. The other sons of John 2, an immigrant with his parents, retained the original or some variant spelling of the name. It is interesting to note that for a few

generations, among those in Ohio who used the abbreviated spelling, the initial "W" was used by both men and women.

My grandmother was Sarah W. Spargur born Highland Co., Ohio who married Adam Bashore born Fairfield Co., Ohio, a descendant of John Bashore of Bethel, Lebanon County, Pa.

Mr. William Creasy's splendid compilation of the 1930s, while lacking in some records, has become the 'Guide', I might say, to all the descendants of the mysterious "Wolfer Sperger" of the ship "Thistle of Glasgow". It is entitled, "Sparger and Allied Families". The copies are limited but one is on file in the NSDAR Library, Washington, D. C.

Research continues on the family and anyone interested is cordially invited to address any inquiries to Mrs. Heinz A. Braun or to me. Mrs. Braun has spent years working on the family and was born a 'Wolfinsberger'. She knows many who are continuing the search, hoping eventually to add to "Sparger and Allied Families." If anyone can supply the maiden name of Hannah, wife of John 2, we would be most grateful to receive it.

Mrs. Braun joins me in hoping that this brochure will help to bring enlightenment to those descendants who haven't found their way through the intricate puzzle of the "Wolfer Sperger", Wolfensberger, Sparger, Spargur names which puzzle wasn't solved until 1962 in Germany.

WOLFENSBERGER IN AMERICA

Wolfer Sperger, "Thistle of Glasgow"

Pennsylvania German Pioneers, 1934, Strassburger - Hinke,
Volume III, Index. Wolfersberger - Volume I, pp. 31, 33, 34.

(List 11 A) Palatines imported in the Thistle
of Glasgow, Colin Dunlop, Mr, from
RottR, but last from Dover p Clearance
June 19th. (Qualified Aug. 29, 1730)
Wolfer Sperger

Phila Aug^t 29th 1730

Sworn to before The Honble Gov^r & Several of the City
Magistrates, R. Charles, Cl. Con.

In all 260 Men W. & Children

"At the Courthouse at Philadelphia, Aug^t
29, 1730, ... A list was presented with
the names of Seventy Seven Palatines,
who with their families, making in all
about Two hundred & sixty Persons, were
imported here in the Ship Thistle of Glas-
gow, Colin Dunlap, Mr., from Rotterdam, but
last from Dover, as by Clearance from that
Port." From the Minutes of the Provincial
Council, printed in Colonial Records, Vol-
ume III, p. 285.

(List 11 B) Palatines imported in the ship Thistle
of Glasgow, Colin Dunlop, MR, (Quali-
fied Augt 29th 1730)*
Wolfer (A) Sperger

(List 11 C) Palatines imported in the ship Thistle,
Colin Dunlop, MR, from Rottr, but last
from Dover.
Wolfer (A) Sperger

Philadia Augt. 29th 1730

The foregoing qualifications were taken & subscribed by the
several Palatines whose names are contained
in this & preceding page, before the Honble
Governr & several of the Magistrates.

*The endorsement on the back of the list is here used as
the heading.

The following treatise by Dr. Fritz Braun, professional genealogist in Germany, was written in 1953. Since that time he has found that Wolfer Sperger on the ship's list was an incorrect spelling of the name Wolfersperger, a well-known Swiss name. Since the emigrants could not read, write or speak English, and evidently the Scottish Captain could speak no German, the name was written in two words instead of one, and who can blame him?

.....mwb¹

A translation of the treatise written by Dr. Fritz Braun concerning the ship, "Thistle of Glasgow".

Emigrants from the vicinity of
Ludwigshaven on the Rhine,
sailing on the ship,
"Thistle of Glasgow" in 1730

In the middle of June 1730, the sailing ship "Thistle of Glasgow" in command of Capt. Colin Dunlap, sailed from Rotterdam on a voyage to America. There were 77 families and a number of single persons on board, altogether numbering 260.

On the 19th of June 1730, the ship arrived at Dover, and after 73 days of sailing, it arrived in Philadelphia on the 29th of August 1730. In the News of the History of Emigration of the Phalzers, 1953 Volume, the passenger list of this shipload of emigrants was published. It in turn was taken from the 508 lists published in the three volume work, entitled "Pennsylvania Pioneers" written by Strassburger and Hinke and published in Norristown, Pennsylvania, around 1934. Most of the passengers on this list came from around the area of Ludwigshaven, which made it possible to almost pinpoint the point of origin at that time.

¹Myrtle Wolfinsberger Braun

For those making inquiries, one of the most vital and profitable sources of information on a ship's list is specific points of origin. This information, unfortunately, was lacking on these lists. Also on the lists in the Courthouse in Philadelphia, where the immigrants had to register, this information is lacking. The general remarks on the records of the individual ships carry information about the name of the Captains, the point of sailing, departure, intermediate landings and the date of arrival in Pennsylvania.

Also there are plentiful references to the point of origin of the groups but only in general terms defining the general area from whence they came. For example, often after the name and designation "passenger", we can read the remark, "Phalzer", "Zweibrucken", "Wurtemberg", or similar phrases.

In this connection we must remember that the word "Phalz" was used in those days meaning "lands belonging to the Kurphalz" and not strictly the area now known as the "Phalz". The word "Phalz" in connection with these passengers is to be accepted in the broadest sense, and does not exclude the possibility that emigrants from other German provinces could be among those designated as "Phalzers". For the record of the "Tittle of Glasgow" it merely states that they were Phalzers.

For those who study family names, the deductions regarding the origin of the passenger lists of a ship can be greatly

narrowed down by the names themselves, which are often a specific characteristic of a specific part of the Fatherland. Furthermore, for the Phalz itself, names can indicate the particular part of the Phalz that the people came from. (Phalz is the region west of the Upper Rhine.)

History also shows that in those days ships' passengers or groups of passengers were usually assembled from rather narrow areas. There are many reasons for this, aside from the desire to emigrate. The working areas of artisans, the necessity for grouping between friends and relatives in order to insure the great adventure and successfully accomplish the voyage - the faith in persons with leadership, and the desire to go in the company of like customs and tastes were all important considerations in the 18th Century.

Even though the Ships' lists could only give heads of families or the first and family names of the males over 16 years of age, it is only on a few lists that the women and children or the age of a passenger list is given, nevertheless, there are enough ways to achieve a comparatively clear picture of the origin of the passengers.

As early as 1953, the author had established the fact that the origins of the passengers of the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" could be found in a comparatively small area around Ludwigs-haven. A close consideration and assembly of life dates in

local records and in the United States, particularly in Pennsylvania and Maryland, showed a very satisfactory result and the author hopes, as time goes on, he can furnish more information based on connections between the immigrants through marriage before and after the voyage. This example will show what can be done through the bare skeleton of a ship's list.

Putting together the names and dates from the Phalz, America and even from Switzerland, produces substance to which may be added haphazard and seemingly unrelated material, thus re-establishing forgotten family connections. In addition it furnishes valuable information about the history of the wanderings of the Phalzer.

This research definitely establishes the fact that the Swiss who were not yet firmly or deeply established in the area, were, comparatively, communally interested as a group for further emigration.

All names on the passenger list are set forth even in cases where no further connections have as yet been established. In the spelling of the names, the author will rely on the publication of Strassburg and Hinke. For the passengers there are three lists; one, the ship's manifest and the two lists under oath in Philadelphia.

John Wolfensberger
born circa 1695
arrived Philadelphia August 1730
on
the ship "Thistle of Glasgow"

John Wolfensberger's wife was Margreda born September 21, 1697, died December 1, 1775. She is buried in the Lutheran Cemetery, Schaefferstown, Lebanon County, Penna., and although there is no tombstone for John 1, died ca. 1761, we believe he is buried beside her.

Children of John 1 and Margreda Wolfensberger:

Peter, born in Europe, married Apollonia Brunner (His widow 1802 was Elizabeth).

Frederick, born in Europe, married Elizabeth Smith.

John, born in Europe about 1724, died November 8, 1788, Woodstock, Virginia, married Hannah.

Phillip, born February 14, 1739, Heidelberg Township, Lebanon Co., Pa., died July 14, 1824. Married (1) Susannah. Phillip was Lt.-Col. during the Revolutionary War.

Catherine, born in Penna., married Jacob Frey.

Anna Maria, born in Penna., married Martin Heffelfinger.

.....Various Court Records

John, the immigrant father, was naturalized September 12, 1744. His name is spelled Wolfersperger.

Peter Wolfensberger, naturalized Quaker, September 24, 1755.

Friederich Wolfensperger, Lancaster County, naturalized 1761.

John Wolfersberger, immigrant son, was naturalized September 10, 1761.

.....Pa. Archives

Excerpts from a letter written in 1965 by Mrs. Heinz A. Braun, 623 East Noble Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma to Mrs. Samuel K. Francis, 3715 R Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20007.

"It sounds like it could not be true, but the story of how I found out about the Swiss connections is really miraculous. Some years ago I had gotten in contact with Dr. D. O. Wolfenberger, an entymologist with University of Florida. He lives in Homestead, Florida, and is in charge of their sub-station there. He has delivered papers in Vienna and is often called all over the world to solve some insect problem. His son, Bob, was going to have to do his stint in Germany in 1962, and Dr. Wolfenberger wrote me while Bob was there and asked me to send a letter to him informing him of what we had on our immigrant and to see if he could find anything else at that end of the line. When I wrote, it seems that Bob was almost ready to come home, about three weeks from sailing time, but he made some inquiries and found that there was a Dr. Braun (no relation) in Kaiserslautern, where he was stationed, who was a professional genealogist, and he made an appointment to talk to him.

"Now this is the unusual part - Dr. Braun had written his thesis for his degree on 'The Thistle of Glasgow', the ship that brought our immigrant to America, and had made a detailed study of the immigrants who were on it. As you probably know the ship's record had the name Wolfer Sperger,

and he had never been able to trace this man, but had identified all else. When Bob told him that this man had used the name Wolfersberger after he landed in Philadelphia, Dr. Braun saw immediately that the Ship's Captain, being Scotch and knowing no German, had had to wrestle with that long name and came up with Wolfer Sperger. Dr. Braun saw, too, that it was a Swiss name, and the old records around there showed an Ann Wolfersperger from Switzerland. Dr. Braun had found in his study of the immigrants that they all had come together and stayed some months in Germany before sailing. Dr. Braun immediately put in a call to Switzerland to a genealogist whom he knew and this genealogist got in touch with the family at Bauma, and they in turn asked Bob to visit them for a week. The Army sent him with an interpreter and paid all of his expenses, and the ones incurred by the interpreter, as well. The old Jakob, head of the family spoke French, Italian and German but no English. The story was written up both in the local Kaiserslautern and the U. S. Military paper there.

"It happened that Jakob was an avid genealogist, and had overseen the printing and publishing of a privately printed genealogy that took the history back to 1200. He gave Bob a copy which I had for some months and then returned to Bob. It was all in German and I had much of it translated, many old wood cut engravings made in the 1500's and 1600's - it was simply fabulous, but of course not for sale. Some branches had

broken off and settled in Germany, but all were originally Swiss. Bob had business in Oklahoma City the next year, and I got to spend an evening with him and hear all of the details of the visit. Can you believe that he walked right in to the man, and the only man in Europe, who could have given him any information, and who could give us such a wonderful record?

"It seems that many Pennsylvania people had contacted Dr. Braun about their ancestors who came on 'The Thistle', as there were about 275 people on it, and he had developed quite an interest in that particular ship. I still think it was the most unusual thing that I ever heard of for Bob to fall into such a thing. As Dr. Braun said, 'Bob accomplished in a few days what ordinarily would have taken years'. I will get copies of some of the articles and translations off to you just as soon as I can get to it.

"The Swiss record is carefully documented from old records with all dates and places. Of course all records were right there at Zurich as the original family, or part of it, have always resided in that Canton."

s/Myrtle

The following translation was made April 11, 1967 by Prof. Calvin D. Gruver, P. O. Box 23, State College, Arkansas, 72467.

In commenting about the translation, Prof. Gruver said, "I was puzzled by how Hans (John) Wolfensberger was a common ancestor of the Swiss and American families. Did he leave part of his children in Switzerland? Perhaps the reporter made an error, but that is definitely what the article said."

The translation is just as Prof. Gruver did it for me. The reporter did make the error in designating the 'common ancestor' who was not John who came to America with his wife, Margaretha, and three small sons born in Europe before 1730. The 'common ancestor' of Bob Wolfenberger of Homestead, Florida, and Heini Wolfensberger of Bauma, Switzerland, is one who lived before John, the Immigrant on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow", was born.

C O P Y

C O P Y

Page 6

Pfälzische Volkszeitung Wednesday

March 14, 1962

BOB FOUND HIS ANCESTOR IN SWITZERLAND. Dr. Fritz Braun Helped a Young American With His Family Research - Pedigree Back to 1233.

Kaiserslautern - For the first time on Tuesday of last week, an American Wolfenberger shook hands with a Swiss Wolfensberger 232 years after their common ancestor, Hans Wolfensberger left his native Switzerland and, via the Palatine, landed with 270 Palatines in Philadelphia in 1730, on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow". The meeting between Heini Wolfensberger and his American cousin, Bob Wolfenberger, who served two years in the U. S. Army Bureau of Information at the Panzer Barracks in Kaiserslautern, was the first meeting between descendants of this line from the Old and the New Worlds since that

Wolfensberger, at about the beginning of the Eighteenth Century, left his native Canton, Zurich.

Robert Wolfenberger first learned here in Kaiserslautern of the true place of origin of his family. With the help of Dr. Fritz Braun of the Heimatstelle Pfalz in Kaiserslautern he was able to determine that his ancestors were Swiss and not Palatines as he had believed. The passenger list which contained the name of Bob's ancestor gave Dr. Braun important clues, since Dr. Braun had written in 1959 an excellent work on just this ship, "Thistle of Glasgow", and its emigrants. Following the advice of Dr. Braun, Bob Wolfenberger located in the marriage register of the church book for Heidelberg, an Anna Wolfensperger, who came from the Zurich area. Several telephone calls to Swiss genealogists followed, which named Bauma, in the Canton of Zurich, as the residence of the present Wolfensberger family. Bob Wolfenberger journeyed there six days ago as a guest of the Wolfensbergers, who are now highly respected and wealthy manufacturers, property owners, and operate an iron foundry according to the most modern methods.

In beautiful Bauma, the Swiss sat with their American cousin, talking many hours about their common pedigree, which names as its first ancestor Knight Baldebert von Wolfsberg, who appears for the first time in documents in 1233 as the freeman Greifenberg and performed the duties of castle-overseer for

the Count von Rapperswil. Together the descendants studied the many-branched family tree, where the Wolfensbergers went from knights to farmers, marriage arbitrators, cheesemakers, craftsmen, and then later again skilled laborers, and finally became industrialists. Meanwhile, Bob related the adventures of the American Wolfensbergers that began with John Wolfensberger who swore allegiance in Philadelphia in 1730, received citizenship from the state of Pennsylvania in 1744, and became progenitor of today's Wolfensbergers. The Wolfenbergers over there fought in the Revolutionary War, emigrated about 1790 to Tennessee, where they experimented with their changing luck as farmers, cowboys and gold-seekers. About the turn of the Nineteenth Century, there came into the family history a distinguished Wolfenberger who secretly made liquor (called "moonshine") and, when discovered in the act, simply overthrew the sheriff and appointed himself the new sheriff.

In the American Civil War (1861-1865), Wolfenbergers fought on both sides. The Grandfather of our Bob moved out of impoverished Tennessee after the war and into newly opened Oklahoma, where he searched fifteen years for oil in vain. He wandered farther on toward Colorado, with the whole family along, and finally settled down in Grand Falls as Sheriff. After a few years, Grandfather Wolfenberger gave up the dangerous occupation of a frontier sheriff and opened a general store, the mixed-market place of the wild west. Father

Wolfenberger studied and works yet today in Homestead, Florida as an expert in entomology, while his son Robert - yes, our Bob - will end his studies in Public Relations in New York, where he will arrive on March 23rd.

Together with his Swiss cousins, Bob Wolfenberger climbed the Wolfensberg mountain and stood on the place where the Wolfenburg Castle had stood. Together with them, he will now bear the coat of arms, a wolf which stands on three green mounds and crowned by a knight's helmet. And a joint meeting is already planned for the 24th of April, in New York, when Heini and Robert Wolfensberger from Switzerland go to the U.S.A. for an international convention of iron-foundries. Then, not only Bob Wolfenberger and his young wife, Dawn, will be present, but also certainly a few of the Wolfenbergers from Florida, Tennessee, or Oklahoma will celebrate a joyful family fest on their behalf.

Our photograph shows Bob Wolfenberger, who met his cousins in Switzerland. Right is Dr. Fritz Braun, Director of the Heimatstelle in Kaiserslautern. As this picture was "shot", Dr. Braun said happily, "such luck - Bob has accomplished in three weeks what would otherwise take years".

The compiler regrets that she cannot include the photograph of Dr. Braun and Bob which appeared with the article in "Pfälzische Volkszeitung".

A translation of the letter written by Dr. Fritz Braun which is given on the following page:

den 29.8.1963

Herrn
Jak. Wolfensberger
Bauma, Kanton Zurich.
S c h w e i s

Dear Mr. Wolfensberger!

My researches on Wolfensbergers is proceeding very slowly.

Nevertheless, I can report a good result from Hasloch which will perhaps clear up the mystery of the emigrant John Wolfensberger of 1730. In the baptism register of Hasloch (church record) I found the following entry:

Jacob Wollesberger
from Winterberg, area of Zurich

He went to the evening ceremonies on Easter 1717 in Hasloch. Apparently he attended for the first time and was therefore registered. We can assume that he had just recently arrived from Switzerland.

In the "Geschlechter buch" (note, this is the red book in German with the coat of arms, which you have) I have not found a Wolfensberger from Winterberg. I am convinced, however, that this reference to a Wollesberger really deals with a Wolfensberger and Winterberg is in the area where your branch of the family is at home.

It is not unnatural to assume that this John and Jacob were closely related since John emigrated on the ship "Thistle of Glasgow" (1730) and I believe my earlier discoveries will convince you of this possibility.

Would you please send me what information you can gather in Winterberg and particularly the birth date of this Jacob? Perhaps John is recorded there too?

Jacob was not confirmed (at the Easter ceremony) therefore unfortunately his age is not shown.

I am most anxious to hear what you may be able to find for me.

s/Dr. Fritz Braun

C O P Y

den 29.8.1963

Herrn
Jak. Wolfensberger
Bauma, Kanton Zürich,
S c h w e i s

Sehr geehrter Herr Wolfensberger!

Meine Wolfensberger-Forschung geht nur langsam heran.

Immerhin kann ich über einen schönen Erfolg aus Hasloch berichten, der uns vielleicht Aufklärung über den 1730 ausgewanderten John Wolfensberger bringt. Im Taufregister des ref. Kirchenbuches Hasloch fand ich folgenden Eintrag:

Jacob Wollesberger
von Winterberg, Zercher Gebiths

Ergeht Ostern 1717 in Hasloch zum Abendmahl. Da er wahrscheinlich erstmalig zum Abendmahl geht und deshalb eingetragen ist, darf angenommen werden, das er wenige Zeit suver aus der Schweiz nach Hasloch gekommen war.

Im Geschlechterbuch habe ich kein Wolfensberger-Vorkommen aus Winterberg gefunden. Ich bin aber dennoch sehr davon überzeugt, das es sich bei diesem Wollesberger um einen Wolfensberger handelt, sumal Winterberg in dem Berich liegt, in dem Ihr Zweig der Wolfensberger zu Hause ist.

Es ist nicht von der Hand zu weisen, das Johann und Jacob Wolfensberger sehr nahe Verwandte sind, da Johann auf dem Schiff "Thistle of Glasgow" (1730) ausgewandert ist, auf dem viele Auswanderer aus Hasloch waren, wovon Sie sich in meiner früheren Veröffentlichung überzeugen konnten.

Darf ich hören, ob Sie mir über das Namensvorkommen in Winterberg berichten und allenfalls Lebensdaten dieses Jacob liefern können? Taucht dort auch Johann auf?

Jacob war kein Konfirmant. Wie alt er war, ist leider nicht angegeben.

Ich bin sehr interessiert, was Sie mitteilen werden,

Herzliche Grüsse

Ihr

(Dr. Fritz Braun)

The foregoing letter was copied from a typed copy made from the original by Mrs. Heinz Braun, no relation to Dr. Fritz Braun. Any words which may be wrong (I don't know if any are wrong), are entirely due to her or my typographical errors, and should not be credited to Dr. Braun.

fcbf

DIE WOLFENSBERGER IN DER MARKGRAFSCHAFT HOCHBERG

by

Von Hermann Oscar Pertsch, Genealogist

Translated from the booklet, "Badische Familienkunde, 1960",
obtained from
Dr. Fritz Braun
Heimatstelle Pfalz, Germany

(Foreword by the translator, WRW --- The names are spelled exactly in the translation as in the original Booklet. There are minor discrepancies such as the census dates in relation to the marriage dates, which could have been in the original copy or in type-settings, but not in the translation. This is a record of the Swiss family to Wurrtemberg and Bavaria and Baden.)

The Wolfensbergers came from Canton Zurich over the Voldsersteg der Baar around the year 1653 to Schweningen. They wandered there and from there in the 1680s to Sexau, Maleck and Emmendingen. In Bretten and Elztal, the name changed to Wolfsberger from Wolfensberger, and today they write it Wolfesperger throughout the entire area.

The town clerk from Ennet, Canton Baden, Switzerland, Paul Wolfensberger wrote in the year 1929 in Volume 65, "The German Family History", pages 286-522 and 559-734 in the section entitled "Wolfensberger Family Chronicals", the following: "the census record of October 18, 1661, stated that Hans Jacob

Wolfensberger and his wife and three children are now in the Wurrtemberg land."

Hans (John) Jacob Wolffensperger was married on October 28, 1665 to Anna Muller, daughter of the deceased Balthaser Muller, in the Evangelical Church in Schweningen (Baden, Germany). His brother Hans Wolfensberger, who also migrated at the same time, married on the 5th of May 1661, Verena Kaiser, oldest daughter of Martin Kaiser, from Thoningen by Schweningen. Hans is a son of Caspar Wolfensperger of Hitnau.

Hans Wolfensperger went later with his family toward Alsace in the Schlettstadter region. Hans Jacob Wolfensperger in 1680 with his three sons, Jacob 1656, Balthasar 1657, and Melchior 1659, moved to Brettental and became the founder of the Wolfsberger family groups that flourish there to this day. They maintained family connections with Schweningen for a period of 150 years.

Christian Isaac Wolfsberger (1812-1876), the well known map-maker and co-worker of General Dufour, worked with the Swiss Federation, and was promoted to a high state position due to his labors. He stems from a branch of the Wolfsberger family that broke away in the year 1772. They were located in Emmendinger land, near Geneva and today the name is spelled Wolfsberger.

The Wolfensberger dynasty began with a Knight in 1230, the Lord of Rapperswil, Zurich Sea. On their family crest, a person can see a wolf standing on three green peaks. In Eber, Mohlen and Reichenbachle, near Brettentales, the Wolfesperger occupation is farming on a large scale. At the start of the 20th Century, we find these families in building work, teaching, graphic arts, and even artists. Frequently, members of the Wolfesperger families, around Sexau, served as council members and burgomeisters.

What was the reason that these hardy sons left beautiful Zurich Canton to migrate elsewhere? Was it because of the decline of agriculture toward the end of the 30 Years War? Were they so severely hit by the impact of that War?

The New Settlers in empty Hochberg were offered many opportunities that they could not get at home. With persistent efforts, and tenacity, belonging to the Swiss people, they started refounding their stately families and rejoiced in the things that they had accomplished.

WRW

Photographs in the Book

"Badische Familienkunde, 1960"

- Page 322, Johannes Wolfensperger, 1842-1911, Carton manufacturer of Zurich.
- Page 325, William Wolfensberger, 1889-1918, Minister of Rheinek.
- Page 380, Hans Rudolph Wolfensberger, 1827-1883, Minister at Zollikon.
- Page 508, 1. Probably treasurer (I am not certain of the term "rechnurgersekrtan").
2. Master builder.
3. Some sort of Judge.
4. Master builder.
5. Junior partner or head clerk.
6. Administrator (could be trustee or manager).
- Page 600, Wolfensberg in Zurich, built in 1910 by J. Wolfensberger, lithographer, and Salon for showing Art Exhibits.
- Page 648, Johannes Wolfensperger, 1845-1906, Professor in Zurich.
- Pages 496 - 497, Notes on Robert Wolfenberger and Heini Wolfensberger.

WOLFENSBERGER out of Wolfensberg in Canton Zurich

Coat of Arms: (Before 1500) red, a silver wolf on three green hills. A silver wolf's head with red and silver cape upon the helmet.

Evangelical: Living in (here follows a long list of villages and cities, including Buenos Aires, and Saigon in Chochin China).

The numerous and widely scattered family Wolfensberger has derived its name from the settlements in the communities of Bäretswil and Bauma. The ancient form of the word is Wolfesberg, Mount of the Wolf (or she-wolf). In the earliest written form, the name is Wolfensberger. This later took on many forms so we have numerous - Wolfensperger, Wolfesberger, Wolfelsperger, Wolfisberger, Wolfsberger. Today, most of the line that come from Wetzikon spell it Wolfensperger, while to the others, it is customary to spell it Wolfensberger.

Not far from Old-Landersberger, upon a steep hill, at the village Ober-Wolfensberg, the Castle Wolfensberg stood. The home of the noble Knight of the same name - Knight Baldebert of Wolfsberg, 1233 to 1259, as shown by the earliest records, was from Rapperswil and a subject of Briefenberg, a possession of the Counts of Rapperswil, who held feudal tenure from St. Gallen. Baldebert and probably others of his family endowed the cloister (monastery) Rütli, where their coat of arms were held, and where they now lie buried.

Another castellated hill by the settlement in Bad, westerly between upper and lower Wolfensberg, is also still listed in the Book of Castles (Zurich Castles).

On November 16, 1315, Hermann von Wolfensberg, while serving Duke Leopold of Austria, was slain in the battle of Morgarten, fighting the Swiss. In 1316 Dorothea von Wolfensberg was married to Walter von Shalken (Schalchen). In 1392 the noble von Hinwil leased his hof (house, yard, home) to his sons von Wolfisberg for a rental of 2 pounds annually from 1393 through 1394 and from then on 2 mütt, 1 malter.

From 1432 to 1438 Hof Wolfensberg was leased by the cloister Rütli to Konrad Senn. In 1434 Hans Wolfensberg (in residence at Wolfensberg) was a witness in a tithing case between Oswald Kündig of Wallenwil and Boszhart von Hornen in district of Bauma.

It appears that in 1439, HOF WOLFENSBERG was freed from the cloister Rütli, since from that year on there are no tax entries in the local tax books. A few years later, the old Zurich war broke out. Therefore, it is understandable that the inhabitants in that area, through the development of rights of citizenship, attempted to guard and protect the city of Zurich. Among the admissions to citizenship during this time, we find HANNS WOLFFENSPERGER, the weaver, admitted on Wednesday after Corpus Christi Day, June 22, 1446.

At about this time, we begin to lose the traces of the individual Rappersweiler von Wolfesberg, more and more, and in their place we meet more and more of the related name, Wolfensberger.

In 1463, Uli of Wolfysperg at Wallenwil paid 1 pound in taxes and in the same year Hans Wolfysperg in Ettingheusen paid 18 shillings. From here on are charts and records of individuals.²

²From Swiss Genealogy - a translation.

Note re the Foreword:

Not all of the things which Dr. Escher says are of interest to us who do not have the German-Swiss Genealogy, Volume 65 for which he wrote the Foreword. Some of the things he had to say seems as applicable now as at the time he wrote, therefore, I have included it here.WRW

Foreword to 65th Volume, German-Swiss Genealogy, by Dr. Hermann Escher, Director, Central Library, Zurich, Easter 1929.

The author and collaborators of this volume of German-Swiss genealogy, have had the kindness to request me to write a foreword. I am most happy to comply with this request, because I am aware of how valuable the presentation and publication of lines of descent are to the historical researcher and how helpful these books are to the Libraries who so often find themselves in a position of being able to show the way in this field, to information seekers.

Every person who attempts to fulfill his assigned tasks fairly and who wishes to fulfill his existence on earth, sometimes feels the need, while on the highway of life, to look backwards on the road he has trod. Be it in order to trace and recall in his thought, his own development, or be it in order that he may trace the genealogical history of those who have gone before him as far as he can. This in order to give himself an account of their ways and accomplishments, their doings and dealings.

This, in no way, should prevent him from viewing the future and giving his full attention and energy to the tasks which

the future will present him with. But, in order to find his way on this path that his forefathers have trod before him, generation through generation, the history of their lives will give him greater confidence in the many decisions which he himself will be forced to make.

To be permitted to look back upon one's ancestors, who were worthy and gave life their best efforts, is a valuable spiritual possession. Also, one which places a duty upon its possessor. Because the worth of a good name lies chiefly in the fact that it influences its possessor to be, in truth, what he appears to be, so, in looking backward at ancestors of might and industry, it behooves a man to develop, preserve and cherish this estate which bygone generations have bequeathed to him.

The German-Swiss genealogy has undertaken the task of revealing these aspects, and blood lines which are not restricted to provincial areas and relationships, but to explore wider source. This is thoroughly commendable.

This broadening of the scope typifies the course of development which our governments and business conditions have taken.

When we take honest pride in the basic decency of our ancestral people, and can see an accompanying profitable education in our common relationships, we must realize that the rural and original peasant stock must have their share of credit.

Even more than the ways and deeds of high levels of society, in our history, we must consider that the vigor of our stock is based on the health of a broad strata of society. Therefore it is only good and proper during these times when the growing trend toward the cities, and the danger of international government threatens, that the descendants of country bred generations remain aware of their heritage and connection with it.

Certainly, a family tree that merely shows the descent from father to son, uncles, great uncles, etc., gives only a partial picture of the ancestry of a man; because that portion of our preceding name-bearers, whose blood flows in our veins, becomes less with each generation as we reckon backwards. Today's genealogical research has therefore, begun systematically to mine the wealth of earlier genealogical sources to establish records of prominent persons. The genealogical tables of Heinrich Pestalozzi, which have been available for two years, give noteworthy revelations of the lives and intellects of the great pedagogues. A genealogical table recently published by Gotfried Keller will not detract from the honor and fame of the great poets. This table ties in with the present volume by establishing connections with a prominent man of our country, J. C. Lavator.

Unfortunately, establishment and publishing of this type of genealogical table, soon reaches its limits. If the search

does not fail because of an oversight in the official records, it will find great difficulties in following the line as it changes from paternal to maternal sides. The printer also is handicapped in that, contrary to following a line of descent, tracing backwards rapidly multiplies the difficulties. Or, unfortunately, the matter is often confined to prominent personalities only, or hand written tables must suffice. This makes one wish that these tables could all be printed at a central location, as for example, the German-Swiss Genealogical Book³ so all researchers could have access to the information.

Those, however, who constantly work with this type of material can, in many cases, get welcome assistance by checking family names which they encounter in the "Swiss-German" volumes of the German Genealogy. As an example, in Vol. 3 of the Swiss-German books in connection with the family Zwicky, further names are discovered. It is obvious, of course, that these aids become more effective, insofar as fewer generations are contained in individual volumes.

Zurich
Easter 1929
Dr. Hermann Escher
Director Central Library
Zurich

³Referring to the printing and publishing outfit that printed this volume.....WRW