VisitWith Larry Jones....
by Richard Evans, Editor

Last week, my wife, Nancy, and I travelled to Oklahoma City to attend the funeral of my aunt, Mrs. Doris Gimpel, who was my mother’s sister. Doris was in her 99th year and had spent much of her adult life researching her family history. While in Oklahoma City, I visited The Fountains of Canterbury, where Larry Jones is currently living. This is a beautiful facility on the far north side of Oklahoma City. It has several levels of care and Larry is in The Springs which is the assisted living or nursing care section.

I found Larry in his room sitting in a wheelchair. He was awake and I greeted him and introduced myself. Since I had not met Larry in person, I knew he would not recognize me. After a few minutes, he seemed to realize who I was and seemed to brighten as I mentioned the Wolfensberger Family Association. I took a seat and attempted to visit with him. However, after a few minutes and several attempts at conversation, I realized that Larry was having great difficulty holding up his end of the conversation.

It was apparent that Larry has physically recovered from his injuries suffered from his fall in January. But he has severe mental handicaps trying to talk.

I did not contact any of Larry’s family in Oklahoma City and was with him less than an hour. He is getting great care and the Staff I talked to, seemed to be dedicated to the care of their residents. Larry needs our prayers and I’m sure would enjoy receiving cards and flowers from WFA members. His address is Larry Jones, The Fountains of Canterbury, The Springs, Rm 606B, 1404 NW 122nd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73114. I mentioned to him that several of our members had called me inquiring about his condition. I don’t know whether he understood what I was telling him. RLE

Vice-President & Historian
by Myrna Liddell

One day the phone rang, and a very special man, our own Larry Jones, was on the line. He asked me if I thought it would work to form a Wolfensberger Family Association. I assured him that it was a great idea! “Well, then, you can help!,” he said. That phone call started a long and gracious relationship with a gentleman who has over and over exceeded the definition of the word, “volunteer”. I have never met anyone like him, (except perhaps my own father), and doubt I ever will. At that time, he asked me to be the Vice-President of our Association, and recently have begun the added assignment of Historian. Larry has been our Historian for “always” and those are large shoes to fill. He and his family have sent wonderful files, from which he “entered” data carefully on his computer over the years. He spent hundreds of hours, as he collected information. Most of the time he phoned personally, and visited as many “cousins” as he could at reunions. He knows so many personally, and remembered so much about each one. Fortunately, many personal stories are found in his source notes on the computer files.

Now my assignment is to continue the database, which means I will always welcome updates of information you may have. Also it is our hope to make the genealogy database more available for (cont. page 8)
**Wolfensberger Family Association**

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**Year 2003**

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**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Heini Wolfensberger
Lawrence M. Jones

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

Usually, while preparing the Wolfensberger Family Newsletter, I spend most of my time arranging material prepared by others. I do not feel I have very much to add. But as I began assembling this Newsletter, I felt the need to share with you the effect of Larry Jones’ incapacity on my job of preparing a good newsletter for our members.

Because Larry spent so much of his time calling and visiting with our members across the country, he was always aware of upcoming events, received reports from members and many photos taken during these events. Much of this was forwarded to me to be included in future newsletters. This really made doing the Newsletter a breeze as I could depend on Larry to have an envelope full of notes, pictures and other items in the next mail.

But, at least for the present, Larry will be unable to maintain the close contact with our members and it will be necessary for me and other WFA Officers to step in and establish a closer contact with our members so that we will continue to have an interesting and family oriented newsletter. Therefore, I ask each of you to keep me in mind for items of interest to the family such as reunions and other family get-togethers, births, deaths, retirements, promotions, change of locations, and at this time the activities of any of our family serving in the US Armed Forces.

In recent days I have received a number of phone calls from members asking about Larry’s situation and I hope you will continue to call, letting me know what is going on on your limb of this magnificent tree we call WOLFENSBERGER.

I am sure many of our members have found old photos of grandparents, great grandparents and even great-great-grandparents. You have noted in recent issues that some of our members have shared with us these lovely old photographs of family. If you have access to a computer scanner, it is easy to generate a .jpg file of pictures that can be sent by e-mail. If you do not have such access, please mail them to me so I can scan them. I will take good care of them and return them to you promptly. It would be a great thing to have a gallery of photos of Wolfensberger ancestors. So look for some of those old photos to share in the WFA Newsletter

RLE
The Membership

Obituaries...........

Ruby Lorena (Wolfinbarger) REDDICK, an aunt of WFA Vice-Pres. Myrna Liddell, passed away at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center with her family at her side on March 14, 2003. She was born April 10, 1926, to William Amzy and Daisy WOLFINBARGER in Richfield, Idaho. She lived with her family in Jerome and it was there she met her life-time companion, Ellis Reddick. They were married July 17, 1943, and spent 59 wonderful years together.

Ruby and Ellis had four children, five grandchildren, one great-grandson. Ruby had many interests in life but none more important than family and friends. She will be remembered for her devotion to her family. She enjoyed long conversations with friends, and her quick wit will always be remembered. Ruby was always a generous hostess in her home. She enriched her life with reading and music. She also had a wealth of memorized stories and poems. Ruby was a member of the Daughters of the Nile, IRAS Temple No.40, a Past Grand Noble plus a 50 year member of the Syringa Rebekah Lodge in Jerome, Idaho. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Twin Falls, Idaho.

She is survived by her husband, Ellis; a daughter, and 2 sons; brother Bill (Rhuema) Wolfinbarger of Clarkston, WA; and sisters Opal (Lynn) Bingham of Jerome and Frieda Wells of Mount Shasta, CA. She was preceded in death by her daughter Cheryl Darlene, her parents, one brother, and one sister.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at the Hove Robertson Funeral Chapel, Jerome, ID. Ruby’s nephew, Reverend Andy Morrts, officiated. Burial followed in the Jerome Cemetery. The family suggests contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Ruby was loved, just as she loved others. She will be remembered with warm and happy thoughts. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Howard Kelly “Jack” FINCHER of Ashland, OR succumbed to cancer while undergoing treatment in Los Angeles, CA on Thursday, April 10, 2003. Jack was diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas in early 2003 and he and his wife, Claire moved to Los Angeles for radiation and chemo treatment at the medical center there. Jack was born in Bonham, TX and was the grandson of Joanna America (Evans) Fincher, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Sparger) Evans. He grew up in Tulsa OK where he attended public schools. Jack enlisted in the Air Force in 1950 and settled in the San Francisco Bay Area of CA upon his discharge. He was a talented writer and essayist and had numerous articles and essays published in Readers Digest, Saturday Review, The Smithsonian, and other leading publications. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Clara (Claire) Mae (BOETTCHER) Fincher, daughters Erica Christine and Emily Cathleen Fincher and David Andrew Leo Fincher. David Fincher is a Hollywood motion picture Director and lives in Los Angeles. Jack Fincher was a very private person and I was unable to talk him into writing for the WFA Newsletter but he had a very strong interest in the family. A memorial gathering for Jack will take place in the Fincher “front yard” in Ashland, OR in June.

RLE

(Cont. page 4)
Obituaries....(cont. from page 3)
John Melvin FLYNN, who was born April 21, 1935, departed this life January 16, 2003 in Hamilton, OH. He was the son of Ernest Flynn, grandson of Sarah (Wolfinbarger) Flynn and great-grandson of Peter and Susan Wolfinbarger. John Melvin resided in Hamilton, OH and is survived by his twin brother, Marvin, two other brothers, Adrian and Jerry and three sisters, Sylvia, Carol, and Amelia. John Melvin served in the U. S. Navy. Dr. Sam Luke of Princeton Pike Church Of God officiated at the funeral service conducted by Brown-Dawson Funeral Home and burial was in Rose Hill Burial Park, Hamilton, OH.

Obituary provided by WFA Member Wilma Kircher of Cincinnati, OH

New Members.....The following new members have been recorded since November 2002:
Candy Jane COWAN, Sunset Beach, CA, Spargur.
Karyn CROSS-SARABIA, Anderson Island, WA, Sparger.
James EVANS, Terre Haute, IN, Sparger.
John T. EVANS, Houston, TX, Sparger.
Richadl L. EVANS, Jr., Edina, MN, Sparger.
Bernie J. M. W. FLEMING, Marysville, WA, Wofensberger.
Mary JOHNSON, Houston, TX, Sparger.
Deborah S. STEWART, Stoystown, PA, Wolfersberger.
Ina VIGEN, Chouteau, MO, Wolfinbarger.
Charles WOLFENBERGER, Jersey Village, TX.
Jack L. WOLFINBARGER, Independence, MO.

2003 Reunions.........
The following reunions are the ones we know about at this time.

Wolfinbarger Family Reunion (Irvine KY) will be held on Saturday, July 26th, 2003 in the Masonic Hall in Irvine, KY. For more information, contact Ora Kirby, 84 Reece Street, Irvine, KY 40336 or (606) 723-4073

Sparger Family Reunion is scheduled for August 17, 2003 at the Fairview-Ruritan Club Building on Route 821 in Galax, Virginia.

Reunions........(cont)

This event begins with a covered dish dinner at 1:00 PM and runs through the afternoon. For further information, contact Guy Sparger, 338 Sparger Road, Mount Airy, NC 27030 or at (336) 786-6906.

Wilkinson-Wolfenbarger Reunion will be held the Sunday after Labor Day September 7th, 2003 in Blue Springs MO with a covered dish dinner beginning at 1:00 PM. Contact Olen Wilkinson, 900 W. “B” Street, Blue Springs, MO 64015 or phone (816) 228-4183

Wolfinbarger-Wolfenbarger (Montana) No reunion is planned this summer in Montana for the descendants of Geo. T. Wolfinbarger.

Wolfenberger Reunion Weatherford TX area will be held in the Zion Hill Community Center on the 4th Sunday in August (Aug 24th) about 4 miles NW of Weatherford. The covered dish dinner starts at 12:30 PM. Contact Jimmy ROTHROCK, Cool, TX phone no. is (940) 682-4945.

If you plan to attend any of these reunions, as a courtesy, you should contact the coordinator to let them know your plans and to obtain additional information about the event and what you should bring to the covered dish dinner.

Lost Members....The Feb. Newsletter sent to the following members was returned marked “Not Deliverable”. If you know their whereabouts, please let us know their new address.
Louise REICHERT, Vale, SD.
Linda Louise SUTTON, Bryan, TX.
Melissa MATHIS, Arlington, TX.
Wilkerson Wolfenbarger-Prisoner of War

by Charlotte Wolfenbarger Lucas, FSA Scot., WFA Member

On October 5, 1842, in Grainger County, Tennessee, Nancy Strange Wolfenbarger presented her husband, Reuben W. Wolfenbarger, with their fourth child, a baby boy they named Wilkerson. Reuben is believed to have been the son of Jacob Wolfenbarger and Nancy Slone. Nancy was the daughter of Smith Strange. Reuben and Nancy believed in education and all of their children were sent to school. Even at the age of 17 Wilkerson was attending school. His older brother, William Sylvester Wolfenbarger, became an attorney. Among other places, he practiced law in Muskogee, OK beginning before statehood in 1907.

Growing up in Eastern Tennessee during the 1800's boys learned how to hunt and ride. Most of them were excellent marksmen and horsemen. Wilkerson was no exception. At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, Fort Sumpter was fired upon and with that act the Civil War officially began. In Knoxville, Wilkerson enlisted in the Confederate Cavalry on August 12, 1861. He was assigned to McClellan's Cavalry (Co. C, 5th Battalion) when it was mustered into service on August 29, 1861. By March 26, 1862, Wilkerson had risen to the rank of Corporal and on that date, in Knoxville, he signed a requisition for fuel which consisted of 1/3 cord wood. He stated that there were no commissioned officers left in charge and that there were only eight men left in the company. On May 4, 1862 the 4th and 5th Battalions were consolidated, with a few exceptions, and it became the 2nd Tennessee Cavalry (Ashby's Reg't). Wilkerson was a private in Co. B. Ashby's is also incorrectly referred to as the 1st Tennessee Cavalry. His two older brothers also served in the same company.

On or about July 11, 1863 Wilkerson was captured by the North and held in the Knox County jail. Eastern Tennessee was Union, for the most part, during the war and the jail was used by the Union as a prison to house their Confederate prisoners. He was charged with horse stealing. He was still there during the week of July 21 - July 27, 1863. The Knox County jail consisted of iron cages with a small door at the bottom. Prisoners were required to crawl on their hands and knees to enter. The only thing in the cell with them was a bucket for waste and a bucket of water. Local residents were allowed to walk through the jail and throw garbage, feces, urine etc. at the prisoners. Due to the crowded and unsanitary conditions illness and disease ran rampant. It is unknown at this time as to when or how Wilkerson got out. Wilkerson was back with his company by December 31st as he was given $324.65 pay for the period of Feb. 28th - Dec. 31st and issued clothing. The regiment laid down their arms at Bennett's House, Durham Station, Orange County, North Carolina on April 26, 1865. Wilkerson was paroled at Cumberland Gap, Kentucky the next day, April 27th, and allowed to return to Grainger County. Major battles Wilkerson survived were the Battle of Stone's River - Mufreesborough, Tennessee; Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia; the Siege of Atlanta, Georgia; and the Carolinas Campaign.

Life was difficult for the returning Confederate soldier in East Tennessee. They were treated like vermin even by those they had known all of their lives and by relatives. President Lincoln ordered that there were to be no reprisals, but that didn't stop the local Unionists from seeking their revenge. Many of the
Wilkerson Wolfenbarger... (cont from page 6)
returning Confederate soldiers were beaten and
drug through the streets. After returning home, Wilk-
erson left Grainger County and went to Lee County,
Virginia where on August 16, 1867 he married Sarah
Jane Speak. Sarah was the daughter of John Speak and
Mary Dean. No birth record has been found for
Wilkerson but his marriage record to Sarah shows
Grainger County as his birth place and Reuben and
Nancy Wolfenbarger as his parents. Their daughter, L.
Clementine “Clemmie” was born in Virginia in 1868.

Between 1868 and 1870 Wilkerson left Virginia
and went to Texas. Many Confederate soldiers went
west to escape the harassment of their countrymen and
Texas was a haven for Confederates. Texas was totally
Confederate throughout the war. Wilkerson settled in
Upshur County. After their arrival in Upshur County,
Wilkerson and Sarah had two more children: William
Lee "Willie" born April 2, 1870 and Mary Jane
"Mollie" born December 21, 1871. Between 1871 and
June 1873 Sarah died. Her grave has not been located.
On June 12, 1873, Wilkerson married Mary Patman
Weaver in Upshur County, Texas. She was the daughter
of Seaborn Jackson Weaver and Sarah Carroll.

On December 13, 1873 Wilkerson was awarded a
contract to run the Poor Farm and Poor House
beginning January 1, 1874 which he ran until his death.
Once he was paid $ 30.00 for splitting 4000 rails and
later $ 37.00 for splitting 5000 rails for the Poor Farm.
He is listed as Wm. Wolfenbarger in the
Commissioner's Court Minutes. The only time he used
his full name was on his marriage records. The rest of
the time he is shown as W. Wolfenbarger. By the end
of 1880, Wilkerson and Mary had 5 children. All of
them were born in Upshur County: Thomas W.,
"Tommy", born March 23, 1874, Sarah Elizabeth,
"Lizzie", born March 22, 1875, Seaborn Richard
(always called Richard from childhood) born August
31, 1876, Reuben Scott born in Aug 1879 (called
Scott), and Lula Frances born on December 31, 1880.
(continued on next page)
Wilkerson Wolfenbarger- P.O.W.........
( cont. from page 6)

It appears that Wilkerson and Mary may have owned 150 acres of land in Upshur County. On November 5, 1889 the land was sold at auction by the Sheriff of Upshur County, T. B. Littlepage. It was sold to G. C. Hopkins for $160.00 to settle a judgment. It is not known at this time what kind of judgment had been brought against the property nor when the land was purchased. Mary's name appears before that of her second husband, James Kelsey, which indicates that the land may have originally belonged to her and Wilkerson.

Wilkerson died on January 27, 1882 at the age of 39 years. Family tradition says he died of tuberculosis. He is buried in the oldest part of the Gilmer City Cemetery in Upshur County. On his tombstone Mary had the words "Farewell Dear Husband" inscribed. What a fitting epitaph for this wonderful husband and father. I have the distinct honor of being his great granddaughter. CWL

References:
1850 Grainger Co, Tennessee Census - Page 98B; Dwelling 1409; Family 1470; Line 47
1860 Grainger Co, Tennessee Census - Page 218; Dwelling 1540; Family 1540; Line 13
Military Records - National Archives - Washington, DC
Jailers Report #11 - National Archives - Washington, DC
Capsule Histories of Tennessee Units by John F. Walter - Pages 166-175; 222-224
Compendium of the Confederate Armies (Tennessee) by Stewart Sifakis - Pages 40 - 41
Valley of the Shadows by Confederate Captain Reuben G. Clark (his memoirs)
1867 Marriage Record - Lee County, Virginia - FHL film # 0032441
1873 Marriage Record - Upshur County, Texas - Book C; Page 13
Commissioner's Court Minutes - Upshur County, Texas - Pages 101, 167,265
1880 Upshur Co, Texas Census - E.D. 111; Page 34: Dwelling 304; Family 304; Line 45
Picture of tombstone - Courtesy of J. L. Wolfenbarger - Claremore, Oklahoma
Upshur County Cemetery Records of Texas by Audie, Lurline, and Douglas Stanley - Page 118
A History of Upshur County, Texas by Doyal T. Loyd - Page 64
1889 Land Record - Upshur County, Texas - Pages 350 and 351
1886 Marriage Record - Upshur County Texas - Book D; Page 66
Early Texas Births by Alice Duggan Gracy, Jane Sumner, Emma Gene Seale Gentry - Page 137
Alive and Good to Know by Gerald Post - Pages 32, 75, 138, 211
1867 Bible Record of James B. Kelsey - Additions by daughter - in-law Lillie Ora Kelsoe Kelsey Descendant Chart by Mamie Elizabeth Wolfenbarger Thomas - Daughter of William Lee Wolfenbarger, Descendant chart courtesy of DeIToll Wolfenbarger - Artesia, New Mexico
NOTICE!...ARE YOUR DUES DUE?

Please take a moment to examine the label on the back page of this WFA Newsletter. The words “Paid thru” are printed on the line beneath your name. They are followed by a set of numbers or letters. **If 2001** follows “Paid thru”, your dues ran out December 2001. If you wish to remain a member of WFA and continue to receive this fabulous newsletter, then you need to bring your dues up to date. Otherwise, this is the last WFA Newsletter you will receive and we would sure hate to lose you as a member.

**If 2002** follows “Paid thru”, then your dues ran out in December 2002. You need to bring your dues up to date.

**If 2003 or a later year** follows “Paid thru”, then your dues are current and we thank you. **If LM** follows “paid thru”, then you are a Life member and you owe no dues.

Please help us by bringing your dues up to date if necessary. You can also save money if you join for up to three years. Here’s the schedule:
- $10.00 for one year;
- $18.00 for two years;
- $26.00 for three years.

If you think your dues record shown on the label may be in error, please contact Treas. Al Creasy. Either call his home phone at (828) 859-0208, e-mail to treblal@alltel.net, or write to him at 500 Beau Valley Lane, Tryon, NC 28782.

Myrna Liddell......(cont from page 1)

searching from your own computer, online. We are being very careful about privacy, and we hope to have this ready by the end of this year.

Feel free to contact me, via email: myrnabl@whidbey.com, or by mail: Myrna B. Liddell, 2747 Parkwood Dr., Langley, WA 98260 or evening phone: (360) 321-4971.
My Computer

This certainly clears things up!
(A little amusement, probably not by Dr. Seuss)

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort, and the access to the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

When the copy on your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions is causing unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM, and then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

Well, that certainly clears things up for me. How about you?

Author UNKNOWN

Murder in Michigan

From a recent Livonia Observer newspaper of Livonia, Michigan, we learn that John Wolfenbarger of Detroit and another man was found guilty of murder by a jury on May 9, 2003. Wolfenbarger was convicted on 5 counts of first-degree premeditated murder in the slaying of a Livonia jeweler, his mother, and his three children during a robbery in their home in Livonia December 21, 2002. The other man was convicted of second-degree premeditated murder.

The above was found in the May 10, 2003 edition of the Livonia Observer newspaper in an article by Staff Writer Carol Marshall. John Wolfenbarger was not a member of the WFA and his connection to the Wolfensberger family is not known. The above is included in the WFA newsletter as information for those who might have seen the news reports of the recent events in Livonia, Michigan. RLE
Wolfensberger Family Association
Officers & Directors - Year 2003

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