



# WOLFENSBERGER

Newsletter of the Wolfensberger Family Association

May 2005

Vol. XI, No. 2

Page 1

## Keep Our Story Alive

Reprint of a Nov. 2003 article by William F. Spargur

Over the next several years there will be a project to document as many of the written and oral histories as possible of the Wolfensberger Family Association. To accomplish this task we will be collecting written stories and pictures to document the family's history.

There are many stories that are interesting, but are lost over time. My father told me stories about his father, hitching a wagon team and delivering mail around the farming community of Burlington Junction, Missouri, through the winter snow, summer heat, and the rain. My mother told me stories about being raised on a dairy farm in Huntington Beach, CA, like the story about the many canaries in their cages that adorned her mother's living room wall. Another story, which was adamantly denied by my grandmother, but acknowledged by her children, that she rode a motorcycle through the desert while racing a train.

There is the story about my uncle Lee jumping from the wing of a biplane while holding a parachute in his arms at barnstorming shows to get a little money. Also, the story told by my father about his much older brothers that skated down the river many miles to visit a town, nearby in today's terms, but quite a distance and an adventure for these young men and the boy, my father, they took with them.

In our memories we have little histories in the form of family stories that we can and should preserve for many years to come. Some of us may remember events as far as WWI through those that have been in our current combat zones such as Macedonia,

(Cont.on Page 4)

## President's Letter..

By Myrna Liddell  
WFA Pres. and historian

Dear Family,

We have been so close to having summer in the Northwest, we can almost imagine it as possible. I believe it will come when the rain stops... (Ed. Note: Come on down to South Texas if you want to get acquainted with summer.)

We hope the rest of you are enjoying some sunshine, and great family reunions.

This newsletter especially focuses on the Wolfensberger family stories, produced by Bill Spargur.

Please send along these precious histories and stories so all of us can enjoy reading about our cousins. Every family has a story to tell. Just living life is a story in itself.

I want to share with you a very special living tribute story about one current Wolfenbarger descendant, my own cousin, Sandra Lewis Allison and her husband, Doug Allison.

Sandra is a devoted mother and wife, and even more than usual now, a devoted niece to my own Mother and Dad, and brother. Sandra and Doug work and live in the same Idaho town with our parents. [Sandra was able to buy our Grandmother and Grandfather's very old home there. She and Doug have been remodeling it for the last several years.]

Every day they go to visit my folks, and my brother who lives next door.

They often fix our folk's evening meal, clean

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**Wolfensberger Family  
Association  
Officers & Directors -  
2005**

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**Pres. Letter.....** (Cont. from page 1)

their houses, take them to the store, and hair dresser, take them on rides in the country and across the valleys, and now they plan to take them on a 10 day vacation to the Northwest where my sister and I both live. Our parents are 86 and 83, my brother, 62, all pretty much homebound. Sandra takes our brother a strawberry milkshake every day, too. Sandra works full shift, early hours of the morning, sees Doug only a few hours each evening before he goes to work, then, does all of this. She and Doug have been the ones to take my brother and father to the hospital lately, when they needed to be there. Mother had a hip replacement last August, Dad a hernia repair lately, and our brother pneumonia and compression fractures.

We are forever grateful to our wonderful cousins for doing this great service, that we have been unable to do ourselves.

Our family descends from the gracious Missouri Wolfenbarger/Wolfenbargers, out of Aurora, Lawrence county, Missouri.

Sandra (and Doug) are great examples of this kind heritage.

Please share your stories with us, small histories - family stories of experiences in your lives. Your stories can lift us all.

**P.S.** Thanks to those who have been going to our Rootsweb WFA Family Data File site

**<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=wfafamilyfile>**

and finding corrections to send to us. Corrections are always welcome. Please keep us up to date with information and sources.

Our best for a great summer full of writing family stories.

MBL

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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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**[www.wolfensberger.org](http://www.wolfensberger.org)**

**MEMBER'S NOTES.....**

WFA member MaryAnn CAMPBELL of Newak, DE sent this picture of her grandson, Preston A. WARD, who recently received his Eagle badge in the Boy Scouts of America. Preston, who is a college freshman, is the great grandson of Daniel Otis Wolfenbarger and grandnephew of WFA Past Pres. Bob Wolfenbarger of Summit, NJ. Uncle Bob also earned an Eagle badge in the BSA as a teenager. Congratulations, Preston!



Ivylyn Sparger MARTIN sent the WFA Newsletter the photo shown below.

The families of the late Walter Creasy Sparger and Sara Snow Sparger celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Wolfensberger Family Association in Mount Airy, N.C. with a buffet dinner and social time at the home of J. B. and Goldie Sparger. Ivylyn Sparger Martin and Joseph Bryson (J.B.) Sparger are the children of Walter and Sara Sparger.

Front Row L-R : Ned Martin, Cole Richardso, Ivylyn Sparger Martin, J. B. Sparger, and Goldie Sparger.

2nd Row, L-R: Christy Shelton, Sara Richardson, Joy Martin Richardson, Cheryl Sparger Hawks, Dillon Hawks, and Jessie Cockerham.

3rd Row L-R: Jonathan Shelton, Gail Martin Shelton, Ricky Richardson, Walter R. Sparger, Kevin Hawks, Dale Cockerham,

Not pictured: Carol Sparger Cockerham and Johnny Shelton and Steven Butera.

Thank you, Ivylyn. We hope the Spargers have a great reunion this summer in Surry County.

(More Members Notes on page 7)



## Keep Our Story Alive.....

(cont. from page 1)

Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. These stories become vague and lose detail over time and now we wish to document them. They are interesting, they are true, and many of them funny. Grandma did what?! These stories will be compiled into a single publication and made available for the Wolfensberger Family Association membership for the cost of publishing the final product. All submissions **should be about 500 words** (one type written page), **but shorter stories are welcome** and longer stories would be considered on a case-by-case basis. *Some stories just cannot be shortened.* Multiple stories from the same submitted are welcome. Stories should have a photograph to accompany it, but if pictures are not available those stories are welcome also. If stories are accompanied with photographs, the stories' photographs cannot be returned. The stories and photographs that are provided become the property of the publication editor. **Stories and pictures cannot be returned**, so please send photograph quality copies. Photographs can be submitted in printed form or in digital form as a JPEG or GIF file. Other electronic graphic files must be coordinated to insure compatibilities. Stories and pictures can be sent to the publication editor at the following address:

<p>William F. Spargur 4561 Grandview Drive Palmdale, CA 93551-1165 Email: <a href="mailto:wfspar@adelphia.net">wfspar@adelphia.net</a></p>
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We will, through this publication, document for the future, oral histories and stories, and preserve ourselves and our families throughout time.

Beginning above right is my example of the a story about my Dad.

## Dad, His Moment in Time

John Herman Spargur

31 October 1918 - 9 June 1979

In the Midwest, near the small rural farming community of Burlington Junction, Missouri, a son was born on Halloween 1918 to William McCallem W. Spargur and Mable W. Brown. The son, my father, was given the name John Herman and was the youngest of eight siblings given to the union of my grandfather's second marriage to Mable W. Brown.

John grew up on a farm, the youngest with other brothers and sisters to look after him during the daily routine. When John was born, his father was already 60 years old and firmly entrenched into the staunch, hardworking work ethic of the period. John's father was a farmer, carpenter, and rural route mail carrier for the United States mail for the community of Burlington Junction.

There were many stories that John would tell when pressured by us to talk about his past, something he did only a little, mostly when it could add fun to a situation. He told stories about being a civil engineer on the Missouri River, a sometimes dangerous river with treacherous currents, stories of building dams, large pipe lines, homes, and stories like building the Bobcat Cut on the Banning-to-Idyllwild road, and others.

John became a surveyor on the Missouri River, after completing two years of college, as a Civil Engineer with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, who were charged with maintaining all the United States waterways. This period of time was obviously a big part of his life because his eyes would begin to twinkle when telling the few stories from that period of his life on the river. Although during my life he was a fairly stoic person, but with the twinkle in his eye during these stories, I could easily see him as a Huck Finn traveling back into time on the River. Although his job was on a survey team, his stories wound around how men in boats and living on barges would attempt to control the flow of the Missouri River; a daunting task even by today's standards. During this period men would drill, dredge, and place on the river's floor and bends huge hemp woven mats to alter the normal erosion that occurred in the river.

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## Dad, His Moment in Time.....

(cont. from page 4)

John was a hard working man with worn and calloused hands. His youth on the farm, and days as a carpenter with his father, developed his work ethic that he had throughout his life. He was old fashioned by the standards of today. He worked hard to earn money and it was his wife's job to maintain the home. He worked hard earning a living as a surveyor and civil engineer with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, as the owner of his own construction company building roads and dams, and later as a cabinet maker.

During 1964, when John's construction company "Spargur Construction" was at it's largest, he fell victim to his hard work and had a serious heart attack. He had to convalesce for a period, but true to form, he was out and working before he was cleared by the doctor to do so. During the period shortly after the heart attack while he was convalescing, he had to sell the construction company to pay bills. His first job after his construction company, one that was to be quiet and non-demanding was as the night clerk for the Palm Springs Hotel. A quiet job indeed, the only time in his life he had to draw a gun on another person for security. Soon he began construction on portions of the hotel.

During this time at the Palm Springs Hotel, he was able to devote some of his time to an old hobby that he had not been able to do for many years. At our church he provided the material and tools, and a small group of boys under his supervision made functional archery bows. He and a friend even started an archery range near the Palm Springs Masonic Temple. There I was able, after to shoot as much as I wanted. I can remember the many ribbons that he had on a bulletin board in his office, white, red, and many blue ones with many medals that he has won as an archer. He had been selected by one of the wild animal shows to travel to Guatemala and be one of two hunters that would be filmed bow hunting a panther, not politically correct today. He was cut from the trip when he was injured during a fall at the construction yard where he worked as an estimator.

John complained little and was grateful for what he had. Early in his life there were times he had little. He would even eat things that he did

not like if they were placed on his plate, without saying anything. Like the time he had an artichoke and ate the artichoke heart even the leaves and fuzz, and Dad hated artichoke.

After his heart attack that landed him in the hospital he was off work at the doctor's order for a long time, but as was his nature he had to do something and went to work at the Palm Springs Hotel as previously discussed and eventually he opened his own cabinet shop until his death in 1979. He was even able to visit us in the Panama Canal Zone shortly after our second son was born. By the time of his visit with us in Panama, he was a product of the desert life living more than 30 years in the desert area. For those of us that live in Palm Springs all year round, the temperature can get cold. Not like in the North or Midwest, but still very cold to us and we have to bundle up.

He left Palm Springs in the Winter of 1978, all bundled up and arrived after a long flight at the International Airport outside of Panama City, Republic of Panama. As with smaller countries, the baggage and customs operations worked at a snail's pace, but eventually we got out of the airport headed in the direction of the Canal Zone. On the way home, we thought that it would be interesting for Mom and Dad to see a few sights. We drove through downtown Panama City, past the shopping areas of wooden buildings built during the period the Canal was constructed. From there we traveled to the Canal Zone Military Headquarters on Ancon Hill, and then to the Mira Flores Lock, and ultimately over the Thatcher Ferry Bridge to a lookout point over the Gallard Cut located in the jungle down a rough dirt and rock road. While at the Cut, Dad quietly asked if we could go back to our home. He did not look well and I was concerned that he had become ill. He returned to the backseat of our Gremlin car with Mom and all their luggage, and we went to the house. There Dad went into his room and later came out looking much better. He explained that when he left Palm Springs it was winter and cold, and since Panama was mostly straight down on the globe and winter also, he had worn his long underwear. In Panama we did not have the seasons like we do in the United States. Here we have Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, there we had wet and dry seasons. When he arrived he

### Dad, His Moment in Time.....

(Cont. from page 5)

expected winter, not the dry season. Dry season is a relative term though. When he arrived it was about 80 degrees and still humid, and it would rain only a little each day, not heavy rain like in the Wet season.

That was the nature of John. He was a hard working man that complained very little, a replica of the photographs of the early nineteen hundreds, outwardly appearing stoic until you could learn to read that twinkle in his eyes.

by William F. Spargur

The 1st Regiment of East Tennessee Militia served from January 1814 to May 1814 with men from Greene, Sullivan, Washington, Carter and Hawkins Counties. This unit was part of a Brigade commanded by Gen. George Doherty. The Brigade was at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend in Alabama. It was originally rendezvoused in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Does any member of the WFA know more about this young man, Jacob Wolfinberger?

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### Jacob Wolfinberger, the Drummer Boy

by Richard Evans, Editor

As a member of the East Tennessee Historical Society, I regularly receive each issue of *TENNESSEE ANCESTORS*, a tri-annual publication of that organization. I usually read this publication carefully as many of my families lived in East Tennessee and one never knows when you might come across some new information about your ancestors. When I received the August 2004 issue recently, I came across a bit of information that might be of interest to someone in the Wolfensberger Family Association.

This issue contained several lists compiled by Raymond A. Sears of names of men who served in several Companies of the 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia in the War of 1812. The Payroll of Capt. John Hampton's Company, in the 1st Regiment of the East Tennessee Militia commanded by Col. Edwin Allison, from January 5th 1814 to July 14th 1814 lists one "Jacob Wolfinberger" with the rank of Drummer. Jacob Wolfinberger's service is listed from March 19th, 1814 to July 24th, 1814. He was paid \$37. 74 for 4 months 6 days of service. A note says Jacob was transferred to this Company on March 19th 1814 from Capt. Dobbins Company.



Jon Wolfersberger RHAN of Londonderry, NH, WFA member shown above standing next to the WFA Memorial Stone near Bauma, Switzerland, sent us these great photos. We hope to have a report of his trip in the next newsletter



**Member's Notes.....(cont. from page 3)**

Charles WOLFERSBERGER writes "Today I received the 2005 Heritage Award that you awarded to my father, George Wolfersberger. What an honor it is to see the Wolfensberger Family Association reach its 10 year mark and to see all the accomplishments that it has achieved so far. My father would be very proud to be a part of this organization.....So, in closing, I would like to thank the WFA for this Heritage Award given to my Dad. It is a very high honor and is something that we will cherish forever. Thanks again.....Also, I am attaching a photo that my daughter, Chrissy, took in Bauma. (Shown at the bottom of this page) Yes, she went in December and visited the memorial site. This is an extreme panoramic shot generated with photo-stitch software. It was taken along the road going up to the site. I thought you would like to see it."

WFA members Judy MOSELEY and her son, Joe MOSELEY of Dallas, TX gathered their families together recently to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the WFA. The group is shown in the photo at right. Judy and husband David Moseley with Marlys and Joe Moseley are on the back row. Marlys' children Mackenna and Graydon are on each side of their little sister Ruby Grace. Judy, Joe and Ruby Grace are direct descendants of John W, Sparger of Surry County, N C.



Donna ANDERS of Quanah, TX sends the notice shown on the next page (Page 8) that announces the Wolfenbarger family reunion in Hooper Park Lincoln, MT on July 2, 3, 2005.

Contact Norma SHAW, PO Box 1533, Fort Benton, MT 59442 (406 622-3260) or Velda VIAL, 401 N. 10th, #205, Hamilton, MT 59840 (406 363-5129). Donna tells us her aunts, June Vance will have a birthday June 27th, Norma Shaw will celebrate a birthday on June 18th and Velda Vial will have a birthday July 6th. June and Velda are descendants of John Wolfenbarger and Norma is Daisy Wolfenbarger Whitsell's daughter.

There are camping and RV parking facilities in Hooper Park and they invite all their "cousins" to come to Montana to enjoy this family reunion. So load up your camper or RV and visit the "Blue Sky Country" this summer! You will find a great family welcome there



Member's Notes...(Cont. from page 7)

**FAMILY REUNION TIME**  
**JULY 2, 3, 2005**  
**IN LINCOLN, MONTANA!**  
*at Hooper Park*  
**POTLUCK SERVED BOTH DAYS**  
 DONATIONS WILL GLADLY BE ACCEPTED  
 TO COVER EXPENSES.

Available accommodations in Lincoln

1. Blackfoot River Inn - 406-362-4255
2. Blue Sky Motel - 406-362-4450
3. Sleepers Motel - 406-362-4333
4. Lincoln Lodge - 406-362-4296
5. Lumberjack Inn - 406-362-4001
6. The Roost Cabins - 406-362-4308
7. Snowie Pines Inn - 406-362-4481
8. The Three Bears Motel - 406-362-4355
9. Sleepy Hollow R.V. - 406-362-4429
10. Spring Creek R.V. 406-362-4140
11. Hackleberry R.V. 406-362-4516

~Please RSVP~

**BE SURE TO BRING FAMILY PICTURES AND  
 INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CLAN!**

Norma Shaw P.O. Box 1523 Fort Benton, MT. 59442 406-622-7399	Vekla Vaa 401 North 10 <sup>th</sup> 8205 Hamilton, MT. 59849 406-563-5129
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Jim Kenerson and his wife Tessie.

Tessie KENERSON is shown above last Christmas Season consulting with Santa Claus (, who has a faint resemblance to husband Jim.) Jim is a descendent of John W. Sparger of Surry County, N.C. The Kenersons live in Columbia, SC . (Editor's Note: I met Jim and Tessie several years ago at the Sparger reunion in Mt. Airy.)

**New Members**

We want to welcome the following new members to the Wolfensberger family Association since our last new members report. Please welcome:

Dayleen W. MIRACLE Canyon Lake, CA

Katherine A. POWELL Tulsa, OK

Dr. Heribert WOLFENSBERGER Zurich, Switzerland

Dr. Thomas J. WOLFENSBERGER Mont-sur-Rolle, Switzerland

Stephan J. WOLFENSBERGER Arni-Islisberg, Switzerland

Thomas and Stephan are sons of Dr. Heribert Wolfensberger and we are pleased to have them join the Wolfensberger Family Association.

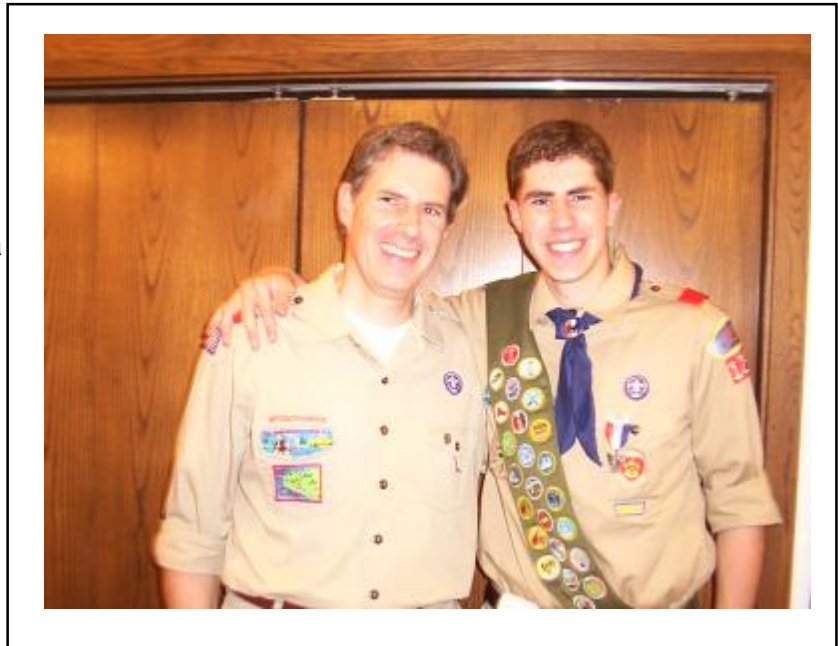
**Member's Notes...**(Cont. on Page 9)  
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**Ed.'s Note: Share with the Newsletter a note and a few photos of your family get-togethers this summer.**



**Member's Notes...**(Cont. from page 8)

Charles Robb EVANS, son of WFA member Rick Evans of Edina, MN is shown at right with his father, after receiving his Eagle badge in a BSA Troop 123 Court of Honor ceremony at the Good Samaritan United Methodist Church of Edina. Also attending was WFA Newsletter Editor Richard "Buzz" Evans and his wife, Nancy. Rick Evans is Asst. Scoutmaster and former member of Troop 123 and Buzz Evans was Asst. Scoutmaster of the troop many years ago.



**Earl Sparger nears 100!**

*The WFA Newsletter received this nice note from member Nancy KRIMINGER of Seal Beach, CA.*

"Hi Richard....

A happy 10th anniversary to you and all the Wolfensberger family.... I just want to correct a small error regarding my father's birthday in a recent issue of the newsletter. On page nine where it is written, "Last but not least, we want to wish a special belated Happy Birthday to Earl W. Sparger..... My father is yet to turn 100 years old, that big event will take place this year on June 27th. He was born in Yukon, Oklahoma in 1905. He still resides in Yukon, after spending half his life in California. Bless him, he is still living alone and taking care of himself, he has "macular degeneration" but is otherwise in great shape, and is very

He wanted to see Larry Jones for the 10th anniversary, but perhaps in June, he will be able to pay Larry a visit, as my husband and I and a few other family members plan to help Dad celebrate his big day in June. Please forgive me, as I have written too much here, but if you could help me correct the error in the newsletter, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you and again, happy anniversary!  
Nancy Kriminger"

*Glad to do so, Nancy and we all wish Earl a very Happy Birthday! Greeting cards may sent to Earl at 817 Glenwood Drive, Yukon, OK 73099-4806*

*Richard Evans*

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**Having a family reunion this summer or fall? Share it with the family thru the WFA Newsletter.**



**WOLFENSBERGER  
FAMILY ASSOCIATION**  
10903 Holly Springs Drive  
Houston, TX 77042-1310

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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## **Wolfensberger Family Association Officers & Directors - Year 2005**

May 2005

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Gretchen Doll  
Rudolf A. Wolfensberger  
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