

In 1954 two men came to rob the store and shot Walter. After operations and months of suffering he was finally able to walk again. This injury followed him the rest of his life.

Walter had always been interested in his ancestors and, after retirement, he spent a lot of time corresponding with more than 150 descendants of the Sparger family, helping plan Sparger Reunions and erecting the Sparger memorial at the Salem Church Cemetery, Mt. Airy, N.C. The history has been traced to Switzerland. In 1730 in Germany the Walfensberger and Frye ancestors sailed on the ship *Thistle of Glasgow* to Philadelphia, PA.

John Wolfensberger III (b. 1754 in PA. — d. 1840 in Ohio), Walter's great-grandfather moved from PA. to Virginia then to NC. He and Christina Frye lived near Friedberg Moravian Church. Later they moved to Surry County. John changed his name to Sparger. John and Christina were the father and mother, or founders, of the Sparger and Spargur families in this country, and their descendants lie scattered all over the world. After Christina died, John moved to Ohio. At the age of 81 years, Walter and family went to Highland County, Ohio, to visit the grave of great-grandfather Sparger. They visited the old Sparger home where John lived with his son.

The site of the first Spargur mill and Mt. Airy, Ohio on Spargur's Lane and Spargursville old Post Office. This was the most important occasion of Walter's last days. He died at the age of 83.

Walter was always interested in every person in each family of the community. Through the years he kept up with every child in the community. It was always a joy to him to have the ones that moved away to stop by and see him on their return. They often times told of the things he had done for them. He helped many young people get jobs and property and he was often called on for advise. Many families say that he kept them from near starvation during the depression years. He would let them have food and necessities whether they had any money or not. To help others was his main goal in life. It is almost a mystery how this goal was reached.

Source: History written by Walter Sparger and book *Wolfenbarger — Sparger Family Record*.

— Ivylyn Sparger Martin