



# OFA Bulletin

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Oberholtz	Uberholtzer	Overholser	Oberheuser
Overhults	VanHulser	Overhuls	
Overhalser	Overhalt	Atherholt	Obold
Uberholser	Overholtzer	Overholt	
Overhulster	Oberholser	Oberholtzer	

## Special 300th & 100th Reunion Events

This year will be the 300th Year Anniversary of the first German settlers in Lancaster County PA! ALSO, even though we celebrated our 100th Anniversary of our Reunion four years ago, it will be our 100th Reunion this year also, because four years during World War II there was no Reunion. So it's double party time!

We will begin with our usual Friday Night Dinner at Yoder's Restaurant at 6:00PM on August 6th. RSVP is asked (but not demanded) for seating. This has been working out well for those coming long distance, and those who cannot make it on Saturdays.

On Saturday from 10:00AM to 12:00AM there will be group tours of the 1719 Hans Herr House in Willow Street PA. There will be special re-enactors on hand to give an extra touch of realism to life in the 18th Century. There is a **\$4 per person for the tour**. This house was used by the first Mennonite settlers for their church meetings on Sundays. ML Martin Oberholtzer, SL Samuel Oberholtzer, & Matthew Oberholtzer families may have come there, although we have no documentation on such. **Bring the Kids & Grandkids! This is a once in a lifetime event.**

After the tour of the Hans Herr House, we will be gathering together for a walk just down the street to Willow Street Mennonite Church, where we will hold our **Free catered luncheon** and get-together. Those with 18th century clothing can lead the walk, as we will be adding this footage to our video we are making of the pathway the first settlers followed to get to their new homesteads. (As customary, no pictures or video of the Amish permitted.)

We also plan a speaker. And if anyone would like to see the properties of ML Martin Oberholtzer and SL Samuel Oberholtzer, someone will guide you to the nearby locations (within 7 mile).

We would like to say a special thank you to the sponser Oberholtzer from Willow Street Mennonite Church, and to the Hans Herr House for this special event. **COME & ENJOY!**

**Overholser Family  
Association Bulletin**  
Vol. XXXII No. 1 Winter 2010

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**Wecome New OFA Members!!!**

- Jim Overholser, MI
- Mary Louise Overholt Weinman, Wooster OH
- Michael Arthurholtz
- Paul W Weinman, Jacksonville FL
- Linford Oberholzer, internet
- Karen E Overholt
- Robert & Helen Overholser, Whitmarsh MD
- Paul Ridenour
- Melanie Boyd, Marathon FL
- Lisa Escalon, Overholser Mansion, OK City OK
- Kevin Alishouse, Minnesota
- Andreas Frohnhaus, Konigswinter-Neiderdollendorf, Germany
- Daniel Lopez, Baltimore MD
- Karl & Connie Sholes Oberholser, Mechanicsburg PA
- James Overholser, Rocky River OH
- Catherine Robertson, edu
- David L Overhulser, Salem OR
- Mary Lee Overholt Jeona, Mississippi
- Sharon Glenn, Manheim PA
- Sharon N Johnson, Flagstaff AZ
- Deborah Overholt Waddell, Fortuna CA
- Nancy Gingerich, E Petersburg PA
- Scott & Pam Fischer, Lancaster PA
- Jan Bright, internet
- Patty Brandt, paintinhorses@hotmail
- Shelly Coffey, internet
- Alfred Decker, Ocala FL

**OFA Bulletin gone Internet:** If anyone would like a PDF e-mail version of FUTURE issues, just E-mail [ParadiseLiving@comcast.net](mailto:ParadiseLiving@comcast.net).

We would like to give a special **Thank You** to those who sent Genealogy lists the past year:

- JL Line Mrs Debbie Mohler, Lexington VA
- ? Line Bill & Buell W Oberholser, California
- MT Line Karen E Overholt, by way of Earnest Weinhold
- Several lines Jeanne Trump, Palmyra, PA
- IC Line Harlan Paul Overholt, Lindevineyards.com, CA
- IC Line Charles Field Jr, OH
- ML & MC Connie S Oberholser, Mechanicsburg PA
- MC Line Sharon N Johnson, Flagstaff AZ
- ? Line Mary Lee Overholt Jeona, Columbus MS

**FREEDOM** is release from restrictive circumstances.

**LIBERTY** is a response of freedom to create positive circumstances.

If GOD grants, What would you do with such Liberty?

## **President's Column**

Hello Friends and Family,

My goodness how time flies! I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and New Years. We had a wonderful time with friends and family.

I feel I need to apologize for my absence at last years Reunion. We had a vehicle problem and I was forced to miss out on all the fun.

This year is shaping up to be an extra special Reunion. I suggest you make your plans early, this Reunion is not to be missed. Please invite your kids and grand kids!

As this will not be the same old thing! Vice president Dennis has outdone himself putting together a wonderful program for us.

This year is actually our 100<sup>th</sup> meeting and it promises to be the best reunion so far! We will be going to the Hans Herr House in the morning, then holding a short meeting near by. Dennis has secured several period dress re-enactors at the house to give us a real feel for the times. We will be taking a short walk around the grounds so Please dress accordingly.

I hope to see all of you this year,

Thank you

Paul Weiler



OVERHOLSER REUNION SATURDAY, AUGUST 1st, 2009  
 St. John's Center, United Church of Christ  
 432 Reading Road, East Earl, Lancaster Co., PA

Names as entered in Registration Book: Dennis Oberholtzer, Jim Overholser, Kathy Overholser, Dick Prischmann, John Weiler, Scott & Pam Fischer, Mary Louise Overholt Weinman, Paul Weinman, Carol Carroll, Chet Carroll, Tom Myers, Ross Gordon & Elaine Gerhart III, Ruth Oberholtzer, Jake & Suzanne Street, Earline Oberholtzer, Carolyn Kendall, John & Hazel Shinpaugh, Any McConnell, Anthony Johnson, Mary McConnell, Troy Boyer our speaker, Jean O Schaffer

Names from **Friday Night** at Yoder's: Jim & Kathy Overholser, Lewis P Schrack, Anna May Schrack, Chet & Carol Carroll, Paul Weinman, Mary Louise Overholt Weinman, Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer

### **Coming up in our next OFA Bulletin**

In our next Bulletin, I will be showing the evidence that exists on the First Oberholtzer families in Lancaster County. Some of the evidence is scant, but is now more able to be illuminated. SL Samuel Oberholtzer came in 1727 and is fairly well founded. Henry Owerwasser bought land in 1738 in Cocalico Twp, and is so far still lost to history. But there are some leads.

But in 1709 and 1710, the first settlement brought with the group a Martin and a Michael Oberholtzer. Some interesting possibilities have begun to reveal themselves. Have we finally found ML Martin's real name? And have we found the parents of CH Christian Oberholtzer?

## Obituaries

Charles L Hee Jr            63 of New Hanover, called home to be with the Lord Nov 15, 2009  
The husband of Doris E Jameson Hee, d/o [Keith and Florence Overholtzer Jameson](#), New Hanover Twp, PA Born in Philadelphia, the s/o Charles L Hee Sr and Helena (Heljenek) Hee Hartman. Charles retired from 32 years at Peco Energy. He held licences in HVAC and electrical, and was operations manager at Coventry Mall. Survived by his wife, son Keith A Oister of New Hanover, Helena A Hee of Boyertown, Sharon E Oister of Gilbertsville, Rachel E Oister of Douglasville, and Pamela E Oister of New Hanover. Internment is in Highland Memorial Park, Pottstown. - sent by Ruth Overholtzer

Vera Overholtzer Savary            November 18, 1925 - September 14, 2009 wife of the late Joseph Savary who passed away in 1973. She is the daughter of the late [SL24875.4 Jacob W Oberholtzer](#) born 1/28/1898, husband of [Rachel Warram](#). Vera was born in Baltimore MD, and lived in Clarksville MD since the 1960's. Later in life she was admission's director of a nursing home in Olney MD, retiring at age 69. A son, Jay Savary survives; daughter JoAnne married to Robert Mench and two grandchildren, Lucas & Megan Mench. Sister Ella Mae and her husband Walter Rydzewski of Clarksville; a nephew Richard T Grove, son of Vera's late sister Dorothy. - sent by Ella

Forrey N Minnich            85 of Elizabethtown PA on Sunday Dec 13, 2009, husband of [SL22522.22 Frances G Oberholtzer](#) The couple own a farm in Elizabethtown, a member of Risser Mennonite Church. Forrey is preceded in death by a son Marlin in 1999, and a sister Ruth. Frances survives him, and daughter Miriam Dohner of Mt Joy, Merv of Elizabethtown, d/in-law Jean Harnish of Bainbridge, 6 grandchildren & one great-grandchild, brothers Daniel & David Minnich & sister Grace Blank. - Lancaster Newspapers

Pauline R Oberholtzer    87 of Littiz PA on Monday Dec 14, 2009, daughter of the late Harry E & Stella (Frederick) Pfautz. She was wife of [Roy H Oberholtzer](#) who died in 1986. Member of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kissel Hill. She was the last of the immediate family.

[Glenn E Miller](#) passed away March 21, 2009, an OFA Member - Mrs Glenn Miller

[Leila M Balis](#) passed away January 1, 2010 in her sleep at 90 years. An OFA Member, and just recently sent in her family info. - notified by daughter Shari Bennett

AS15336 Howard Overholtzer    Nov 1911 - Dec 23, 2009 husband of late Sarah G Stuffed s/o [Horace & Margaret \(Eisile\) Overholtzer](#). - Ruth E Ingham, Pottstown PA

### **HAPPY NEW WORLD!!!**

[Kenzo Louis Overholser](#)            Congratulations! to Mr & Mrs Adrian & Sonoko (Hara) Overholser, Hong Kong on Sept 18, 2009

[Son](#)                                    to Mr & Mrs Leon W & Mary Ann (Nolt) Oberholtzer, born at home on Thursday October 15th, 2009, Ephrata PA.

[Daughter](#)                        Dec 20, 2009 to Daniel & Holli (Nussbaum) Oberholtzer, Elizabethtown PA

[Daughter](#)                        Apr 11, 2009 to Glenn & Susan (Reiff) Oberholtzer, Ephrata PA

## Corrections/Additions

\*Nicholas appointed guardian of Abraham & Mary Nov 3, 1794 - Bucks Co Orphan's Ct Bk 2/241  
2-1 George Wyker Nov 30, 1766 - Apr 1, 1850 83-4-26 Repurchased Nicholas Wyker farm 1796  
m Mary \_\_\_\_\_ 1778 - Apr 8, 1844 65-10-19 (~~wrong dates somewhere~~) Dates are correct  
\*Abraham & Mary being of age choose George Wiker - Bk 3/191 May 1805  
3-1Elizabeth Wyker m Abraham Youngkin - by 1791 s/o Harmon  
Abraham Youngkin was taxed in 1788 for 100 acres in Tinicum Twp.  
Elizabeth Youngkin was taxed in 1791 for 100 acres in Tinicum Twp.  
2nd w Mary Moyer  
~~2nd m 1812 Bucks Co. [IB & IC] Isaac Overholt~~

Thank You Tom Myers for this correction.

### **IC ISAAC OVERHOLT 1741/1746 - 1825** **IB Isaac Overholt is NOT IC, but probably MT21**

**Isaac Overholt** is said to have been born in Bucks Co and the tax records show that is probably true. The only Isaac in Bucks Co was first found in Plumstead Twp 1775. He was in Capt McHenry's Company in Bedminster in the Rev War and disappears from the tax list after 1787. He appears to be the Isaac Overholt in the 1790 Census Frederick Co MD where two of his daughters married and probably left for Canada after daughter Mary married in 1799. After the Revolution, Isaac lived in Oxford Co ONT CAN. Isaac received a land grant July 3, 1797 Lot 14 Concession 7 Townsend (Clinton resident).

REF: *PA Archives S5 V 5/374, 379*; Land Grant source: RG 01 Series C13, Vol 14 p403, Charles Field letter; Michael Overholt IC32, by Charles Field 2/12/2008

**IC Isaac Overholt** c1746 Bucks Co PA - 1824 Louth, Lincoln Co Ontario age 83

Isaac Overholt & Henry Overholt (MC Line) were Mennonite & paid Exercise Fines.  
- Barbara B Ford

1st m \_\_\_\_\_ b PA - c1810

Michael Overholt of Woodstock, Oxford Co CAN 1893 wrote: My grandfather was born in PA as well as his wife. They came to Canada shortly after the Revolution. Grandfather d 1824 aged 83 years. Grandmother d c1810. They are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery, Louth Twp, Lincoln, Ontario CAN

Isaac moved from PA to a point on Lake Ontario above St Catherines & settled on a farm in the Township of Louth, Ontario CAN. - Frank Overholt of Omaha Nebraska 1893

"One of our [OFA] members, who is related to the Swartz family, sent information recently that said Isaac Overholt c1746 - 1825 married the second time Widow Moyer in 1813 [1812?]. That is all the information he had. She must have been dead when he wrote his will in 1823 because he doesn't mention a wife, only children.

"I am sorry I can't name the parents of Isaac but it's not for lack of trying. I researched about 100 deeds and other records in Bucks Co but couldn't get a clue." - Barbara Ford to Therese M Koehler, 4/23/1997

~~2nd m 1813 Mary Moyer - 1745 Bucks Co PA -~~

This is not Mary of Bucks Co, proved by Tom Myers letter. - DLO

Mary Moyer may have come from the local Ontario area. LC Jacob Overholt of Clinton Co Ontario is buried at Moyer's Old Mennonite Church Cemetery in Vineland ONT. The church records there may be a good place to search. Compiling the Moyer family of that church may find Mary.

REF: Loomis MSS #2500 WRHS; Will #15 Louth, Lincoln Co, CAN, 1825; B Ford's *Isaac of Bucks Co Taxes*, 1 page; PA Archives, Series 3, Vol 6 p 83; PA Archives Series 5 Vol 5, p 379 Class 8, Capt Wm McHenry's Co 1781; Annals of the Forty, Vol 1 p 91, Grimsby Hist Soc; Letter by Tom Myers to Dennis L Oberholtzer 9/2009

## 2009 OFA REUNION MEETING MINUTES

The 99th reunion of the Overholser Family Association convened at St. John's Center United Church of Christ on Saturday, August 1, 2009. Twenty-six people were in attendance.

The day began with a social time and catered lunch, with Rev. Weiler offering a prayer.

Dennis Oberholtzer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, welcomed the group and announced that Paul Weiler, the group's President, was unable to attend due to car problems. Another usual attendee, Noah Oberholtzer, had a mixup on the date and would not attend either.

The group joined in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by recognition of attendees traveling the furthest—Paul Weinman from Florida; the closest—several people from the Lancaster area; the youngest—Anthony Johnson, 6; and the oldest—Ruth Oberholtzer, 88.

Earline Oberholtzer and Kathy Oberholser led the group in singing two verses of the Oberholtzer song and reading the rest. Earline also read the history of the song.

Dennis noted that next year is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first German settlement in Lancaster County. He suggested the possibility of the group meeting at the Hans Herr House, which is the oldest building in the county, having been built in 1719. There would be an additional cost of \$350 for the rental and \$75 if we were to have reenactors present. The house could only accommodate about 50 people and is not air conditioned. Dennis also mentioned that there is a park nearby which borders an original Oberholtzer farm. He thought members might like to visit the park on the day of the reunion. Discussion followed about how to tour the house and also have a comfortable place to have lunch and a business meeting. Some members expressed concern about losing St. John's Center for 2011 if we give it up for next year.

A vote was taken on three options: 1) Visiting the Hans Herr House; 2) Visiting the park; 3) Keeping the meeting at the current location. The majority present wanted to visit the Hans Herr House, and rejected the other two options. Scott Fisher will look into churches located closer to the historical house for our business meeting and luncheon. It was suggested that information on the next reunion should be submitted to the Mennonite Historical Society Newsletter.

Carolyn Kendall presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that additional envelopes need to be purchased and that the expense of mailing books has increased. Balances include \$2,390.29 in savings; \$10,977.94 in the book fund; \$42.57 in checking; and \$4,451.34 in the lunch fund.

Dennis announced that Kim Weiler is no longer able to serve as secretary for the Association due to work and home responsibilities. Carol Carroll was asked to fill the position and has agreed. Dennis asked if anyone else was interested in being nominated. Since none responded, it was moved and seconded that Carol become secretary to the Association. All voted in favor.

A basket was passed to receive donations to the OFA.

Dennis then introduced the speaker, Troy Boyer, of Penn State University, who gave a presentation entitled *Who Are the Pennsylvania Germans and How Long Have They Been That Way?* The talk centered on the observations of Benjamin Rush in 1727. He found that many of the PA Germans arrived with few possessions and some even as indentured servants, but most prospered here. They not only improved their own quality of life, but in turn improved the quality of life for America.

Dennis asked if there were additional questions or issues for the group's consideration. There being none, the meeting was adjourned and the official reunion photograph taken.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Carroll, Secretary

**First North American O Reunion at Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma**

Some O members from around the country have interest in having an O Reunion once or twice a decade, at a location where O Families live in other parts of North America.

On **August 7th, 2011** we have set a date for our first "Roving Reunion" at the Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. A tour of the mansion will be included.

We would like to make a brochure for the Reunion with O businesses. A small donation will help cover the cost. They will be available to everyone at the Reunion, and upon request. At the Reunion, we will ask for O's to give a brief description of their business or arts and craft. This will be a great way to get to know each other better.

So set aside this time for a special get-together get-away! Hope to see you there. More details will be coming in forthcoming issues, or contact Dennis L Oberholtzer at ParadiseLiving@comcast.net or 717-687-6950, or send your business card to Dennis L Oberholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562

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SL, JL	Chaplain	Rev. John R. Weiler	526 Wood St. Apt. 424, Bethlehem, PA 18018 <a href="mailto:Nelljwl@aol.com">Nelljwl@aol.com</a>



## Krey Family Connections in Europe Confirmed

Translation from the German Script and Comments  
by Andreas Frohnhaus, Königswinter-Neiderdollendorf, Germany

Fritz Krey is listed in 1638 as "*Frietzgen Krey*" in [Königswinter- Nieder- or Ober-] Dollendorf and [Bonn-] Oberkassel. In 1652 he is listed in Oberdollendorf owning a house and farmyard (his property is listed in detail -see explanations). In a register of the nearby Abbey Heisterbach there are some notes concerning his inheritors. He has a daughter (inheritor) named Elsgen.

Dietrich Krey is listed in 1638 in [Königswinter- Nieder- or Ober-] Dollendorf and [Bonn-] Oberkassel. Court records from Löwenburg department state: February 16, 1644 Dietrich Krey appeared at the court together with Jan Rennenberg und the couple Driess (Andreas) and Grietgen (Margarete) Walsen [don't know the sense of the following phrase "*weil...konnen*"] – the guardians of their child. Because they refuse to swear an oath [they are Mennonites!] it is evidently enough for the court that they promise and assure everything that has been read to them. [Comment of the author, that this is a fact is very interesting because the Anabaptists refuse the oath and it works without!]

In the register of Oberdollendorf, 1652: Dietrich Krey S (= *selig* =dead) and Ägidius Schmitz [list of properties follows..., see explanation]

A Court Record from Oberdollendorf – sheet between protocols of 1650 and 1651 – tells about a child that has been burnt. Following that there is a passage: “A child of Dietherich Krey fell into a slurry, and drowned shortly after while he laid on the deathbed”.

*Probstei* = something like "provost's church", Oberpleis is a nearby village in the “Seven Mountains”. This provost's church-owned vineland in Niederdollendorf and Oberdollendorf and Oberkassel, which has been let for rent to inhabitants of those villages.

A register of that church from March 3, 1612 tells that Peter Krey rented a vineyard in '*Niederste Rheinflachten*' [location at the eastern Rhine river bank at Niederdollendorf] together with Hans von Römlinghoven, Jakob Schrader and Johann Bonn *5 firdel weins* [I don't understand the exact amount – 1 quarter, 5 quarters? – vine or land?]

Peter Krey is also mentioned in a register of 1638.

A stock-book of this church in Oberpleis of 1640 – 1650 tells: “At the [northern] end of Oberdollendorf -direction to Oberkassel -there is a house and a farmyard where residents produce a rent of 12 quarters of vine. Now it is exclusively owned by Peter Krey from Oberdollendorf and his inheritors. “

In a register of the same church including the years from 1643 – 1648 the inheritors of Peter Krey are listed: Theoderich (=Dietrich – see above), Fritz (see above) and Wilhelm Krey (see below) – thus his sons – and Johann Behren – thus his son-in-law.

Wilhelm Krey is listed in 1638 in [Königswinter- Nieder- or Ober-] Dollendorf and [Bonn-] Oberkassel.

A file of 1644 states: "Kierstgen Broels announces that he still has outstanding debts and that he has no other possibility than to pay them with the heritable property but he is not allowed to do that without the allowance of the inheritors (children). Therefore he appoints Johannes Hoitz and Wilhelm Krey as well as his cousin and brother-in-law Pitt Stephens as legal guardians. And he applies to accept this and to let the guardians swear the oath. Wilhelm Krey and Caspar Broels [his cousin] swear the oath." – Comment of the author: Wilhelm Krey swears the guardian oath that his brother Dietrich was allowed to refuse! – [Both of them were Mennonites!]

Between the abbey of Heisterbach and the neighbourhood in Oberdollendorf there was a conflict about certain rights of land ownership. On February 1, 1645 an arrangement is achieved and some neighbours in Oberdollendorf may take over this land: "Wilhelm Krey and his wife Gretgen [= (little) Margarethe] also bought 5 ½ Ruten and 4 feet of that land (some location names are following: '*In der Proffen*', at the '*Flotfloß*') and a piece of forest near '*Alvenars*' (?) meadow. The abbey of Heisterbach maintained the right of the '*Eichelmast*' (the right to drive pigs in the forest to eat the acorns)."

Another article describes a man named Peter Klaufen on January 1, 1647 the Catholic provost of Oberpleis, Bertram von Ans awarded rent of 1 Morgen and 1 Pint of land of his farmyard in Dollendorf to Peter Klaufen, Wilhelm Krey, Johann Scheffer, Wilhelm Bitz, and to Henrich, son of Theoderich. They are obliged to make vineyards from that land.

In 1652 his properties were listed (see explanations).

On December 21, 1654 Wilhelm Krey appeared at the monastery of Vilich near Bonn – it was the central Catholic church of that area because of 1 Morgen of vineyard at '*In der Flur*' that had been rented by his dead uncle Merten Behren. He himself rented this vineyard and he obligated himself '*praestitio juramento*' – which means that he swore an oath once more!

[Probably in 1655:] Before the jurymen the couple Wilhelm Krey and Catharina give their properties in mortgage to the couple Christian Beilstein, citizen and salesman in Cologne, and his wife Cathrein Ließkirchen for a credit of 1200 Reichstaler and an interest of 5%. Their properties are 52 parcels of land. Firstly, house and farmyard '*In der Berggassen*' [location]. Furthermore two parcels of forest which are to be divided with Peter and Johann Rößen [probably the brothers of Peter Schumacher's mother Agnes ('Niesgen') Rößen / Rösen].

Family members of the families Rößen and Behren appear often times in the registers as neighbours of the Krey couple, so that they are probably related.

Genealogically, it makes it clear that Wilhelm Krey was married at least twice, in 1645 his wife's name is Greitgen, then in 1654 to Catharina.

"Taking up a loan and hypothecation" presumably mean that the family has been banished from Oberdollendorf and they could not sell their property as quickly, but they needed money to set up a new existence anywhere else.

Wilhelm Krey still appears in documents from 1673, in the Dollendorf register of “wet and dry” (see explanations) rents, which is renewed in this year. At least a part of his properties is now owned by a man named Jacobus Monertzshagen.

His name is even to be found in the register of ownership of the monastery of *Meer* (near Düsseldorf). He appeared as co-proprietor of a vineyard, but in this year he is not obliged to pay rent because of bad earnings. Even in 1682 his name is listed in this context, and it also was a bad year for vine, and the rent is just half of the normal amount.

*[Comment of Andreas Frohnhaus: during the 17<sup>th</sup> century there was the so-called “little ice-age” (see here: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little\\_Ice\\_Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age)), it was very, very cold and the earnings were sometimes very bad.]*

At that time Wilhelm Krey probably lived in Neuwied for years. In the church book of the Mennonite congregation of Neuwied from 1771 he indeed appears at the first place and is registered as a member of the community since 1650 – but this is probably not correct, because the wave of persecution in the duchy of Julich-Berg began later – München-Gladbach (today Mönchengladbach), in 1654.

In the first tolerance act of the Earl of Wied, Friedrich I, for the Mennonites in the Wied territory from December, 16, in 1680 his name (Wilhelm Krey) appears.

The history of the Krey family is discussed in a periodical from 1951, pages 10-12. Wilhelm Krey appears often times in the genealogies of Mennonite families from Krefeld. He is also ancestor of the author [i.e.

Professor Walter Rislé from Krefeld wrote it in 1956]                      ☞☞

*To view splendid pictures of the area of the Seven Mountains / Siebengebirge  
( see: <http://www.fotocommunity.de/pc/pc/pcat/519818/display/18361590> )*

*Andreas Frohnhaus and his wife Dietland moved from Solingen 26 years ago. They have two children: Janna is 28 and Jakob is 25. Dietland's family was expelled from East Prussia after WWII. Andreas can trace his family to about 1700 to a Ludger Frohnhausen with 14 children. A special THANK YOU to Andreas for his research.*

Explanations of German Measures & Terminology given by Andreas

Square measures

- 1 Hektar (hektare) = 10000 square meters
- 4 Morgen = about 1 Hektar (hectare)
- 4 Viertel (quarters) = 1 Morgen (mostly written like "Fierdel" or "Firdel")
- 4 Pinten (pints) = 1 Viertel
- 9 Ruten (shoot [botanic]) = 1 Pinte

Money

- 1 Thaler (or "Reichstaler" = Thaler of realm/empire) = 60 Albus
- sometimes also Gulden (guilders)

Other recurrent expressions

- Weingarten = vine yard
- Land, Garten und Baumgarten = land(acre), garden, and (agricultural) nursery
- Rahmen (literally = frames, ancient word for viticultural pales / vine pales)
- (also "Rahmgewachs" = number of vine pales)
- Pachtland = rented land
- Schulden = debts
- Truckner / trockner = (literally="dry(er)") = taxes/rent/lease not to pay in form of vine

**KREY FAMILY from GERMANY**

- 1-1 Peter Krey 1580 - 1671 living and renting in Neiderdollendorf by 1612  
1638, 1640/50 with "Inheritors" owned vineyard in Oberdollendorf
- 2-1 Theoderich (Dietrich) Krey + Jan Rennenberg 1644  
+ Agidius Schmitz 1652
- 3-1 Henrich Krey 1647 rented land to plant vineyard in Dollendorf
- 3-2 Child of Dietrich Krey - 1650/51 died from fall into a vat
- 2-2 Friezgen (Fritz) Krey 1652 owned house & farmyard in Oberdollendorf
- 3-1 Elsgen Krey
- 2-3 Wilhelm Krey 1638 to 1673 in Konigswinter-Dollendorf, 1673 co-owned vineyard  
1st m Gretgen \_\_\_\_\_ 1645 2nd m Catharina \_\_\_\_\_ 1654  
Signed the 1632 Dortrecht Confession of Faith with Herman op den Graff  
Settled in Germantown between 1683-1709
- 3-1 Jan (John) Krey b ca1660 GER - will proved Mar 18, 1720 at Philadelphia PA
- 2-4 Daughter Krey m Johann Behren

**OFA Treasurer's Report  
7/16/08 - 7/15/09**

	Savings	Book Fund	Checking	Catered Lunch
Balance 7/16/08	\$2,281.13	\$10,513.16	\$17.87	\$5001.84
<i>SUMMARY</i>				
7/16/08-7/15/09				
<i>INCOME</i>				
Contributions	\$1,016.95		<i>Total</i>	
Purchases		\$527.82		
*Interest Credited*	<u>10.72</u>	<u>40.21</u>		<u>\$1.84</u>
	\$1,027.67	\$568.03	\$1,595.70	\$1.84
<i>EXPENSES</i>				
2 Bulletins + postage <small>*Aug \$420.72 expense not cleared</small>	\$755.79			
Yoders - 2008 Reunion	\$31.80			\$474.62
2009 Reunion	\$100.00			
Sales Tax		<u>\$3.50</u>		
	\$887.59	\$39.09	\$926.68	
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>\$2,390.29</b>	<b>\$10,977.94</b>	<b>\$42.57</b>	<b>\$4,451.34</b>
Current balance compared with 7/16/08	\$109.16+	\$464.78+	\$24.70+	\$550.50-

Of interest:

23 contribution checks recieved beyond the Reunion collection (as compared with 43 in '05-'06), average contribution was about \$23.00 (previously \$27)

Average cost of Bulletin + postage = \$377.90, for 308 Bulletins, or \$1.23/Bulletin (last year, it averaged \$1.04/Bulletin - additionally 30 were e-mailed)

36 people attended the 102nd '08 Reunion. The collection that day totaled \$445.

Estimated expenses for '08 reunion were \$564.20, including catered luncheon gift of Jim Ford, in memory of his Mother, Barbara B Ford, our longtime, faithful Bulletin editor and geneologist. Costs to mail OFA Book have increased: mailing envelope - \$1.24/per, postage - \$3.16; total price for mailing = \$4.40.

- Respectfully submitted, Carolyn O Kendall Treasurer 8/1/2009

## OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

### Procession of Growth on the mountains of Eastern Switzerland

The procession of growth of the typical Swiss canton farm is well worth noting. Upon the arrival of the Alemanni refugees from Alsace in the 5th Century A.D., the mountaineers built their homes as near the top of the mountain as possible, yet on or beside a spring which would provide water during the long winter months. This way they were as close as possible to the farming land first available to them after clearing the land of the original forest. The trees were used for logs to make their houses and barns, for firewood to do the cooking and heating, leaves for animal bedding, and the best wood was used to hew furniture for their personal use.

As time progressed more land was cleared farther down the mountain. As the families grew, more land could be cultivated. But the short growing season and thin topsoil did not allow for a very wide variety of crops. Thus when the family out-grew the size of the home, and brotherly bickering enhanced the need for more space, a new homestead was created in the lowland section of the farm. This enabled the lower farm to grow grapes and other vine-crops, and vegetables which needed both longer growing seasons and richer soil. The dual farm system was very productive for both families, as they could trade goods with each other at a much lower cost to the family than to buy on the open market. This form of pioneering lands is probably unique to Switzerland. Other areas of the world do not have the strong family ties, diverse landscape, and proper political environment for such a form of pioneering.

The Oberholzer farm was in a rather unique geographical position until the uniting of the Swiss Confederation. The farm sits on the north side of a mountain range which was a borderline for the political control of Zurich, St Gallen, and the Schwiz. It was not on the main traffic routes, so a total destruction with the movement of people in and out of the neighborhood was not so prevalent. But it was under a fair amount of friction on the political scene. The battlelines of the Austrian Empire brought them past the farm as far as Lake Zurich. The Schwiz were close friends of the family, due to the fact that many of them were also Alemanni which settled the area. And therefore, the Schwiz were called on to help fight the political ambiguities coming up the valleys from the north side of the Rhine. And later, when Zurich became the territorial stronghold, the Oberholzer family struggled with its allegiance between St Gallen and the Canton of Zurich. פפפ

## LOST & FOUND

A photograph of [MC75316.1 Naaman William Millisack](#) was taken at Woollett Studio in Ottumwa, Iowa. Shelley Cardiel has rescued the photograph from destruction and would like to return it to a descendant. Does anyone know someone from this Millisack family?

## CONTRIBUTORS

A special Thank You to the following contributors for the year of 2009:

Dan & Emily Landis, Indianapolis IN

Joseph E & Lucy A Breitenstein, Topeka KS

Jennie R Sperling, Lansdale PA

Deborah Overholt Waddell, Fortuna CA

Barney & Darlene Roll, Bellefontaine OH

Roger Weikel, Coal Township PA

Ann Duke, Owensboro KY

Buell W Oberholser, San Luis Obispo CA

Leonard Overholser, Reno NV

John H Kinyon, Bartlett IL

Charles H Field Jr, Paragonah UT

Claire Hinsel Warren, Spokane WA

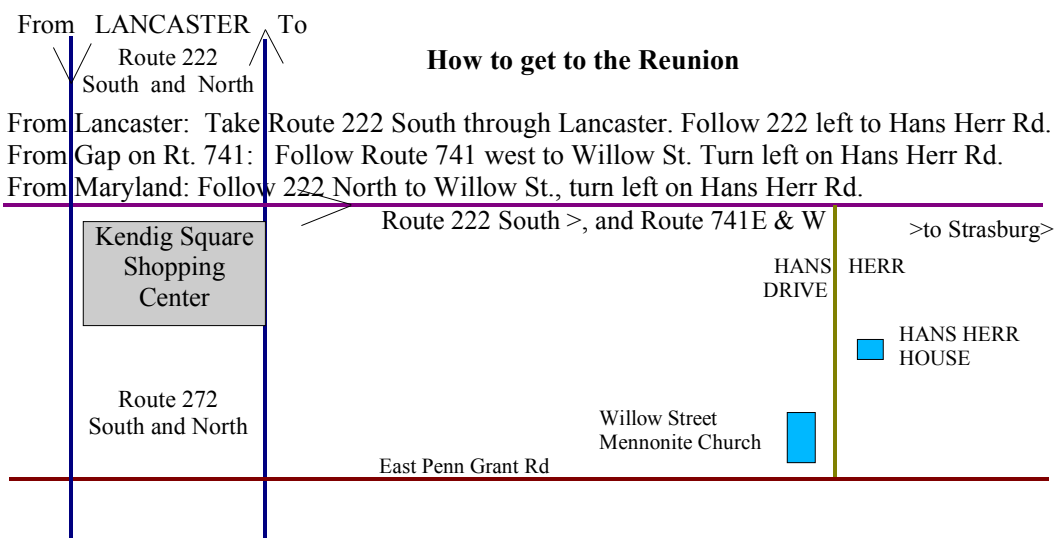
Shelly Chapman, Union MO

Jack E Sholl, Palm Desert CA

### 2010 REUNION RSVP Requested for Meals

On Friday night, August 6th, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting. Be sure to notify Carol Carroll (address page 11) ,or any other officer, in advance so they know how many to expect.

The Reunion will begin with groups of 10 touring the Hans Herr House, beginning at 10:00AM and going to 12:00Noon. Cost is \$4.00 per person. A walk will take place from the Hans Herr House at 12:00Noon, and ending just a couple blocks south, where our luncheon will be held about 12:30 Saturday August 7th at Willow Street Mennonite Church, on Hans Herr Road, Willow St. PA.



SOUTHEASTERN PENNA O's Friday Night at Yoder's Rest., 100th Reunion 1st Saturday in August

ELKHART COUNTY INDIANA O's had there 50th Reunion in 2008. Meetings 1st Sunday in August

IOWA O's Meetings 1st Saturday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, 87th Reunion in 2010

**First North American O Reunion**, 3rd Saturday in August 2011 Overholser Mansion, Oklahoma City OK

FRANKLIN Co PA GROUP, Sept 5, 2010 Roxbury Holiness Camp, Roxbury PA. They meet every other year. Covered dish, 717-697-0512 or Philip4@comcast.net

If you need more information, contact Dennis at ParadiseLiving@comcast.net

**Send us your O meeting place and date so we can post it here in our Bulletin.**

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### **THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK**

A Foundation book of Oberholtzer immigrants and unestablished lines.

\$29.50 + \$4.50 S & H. PA residents add \$1.77 Sales Tax.

Make check out to: Overholser Family Association

and mail to Carolyn O. Kendall, 1617 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601

**Limited copies still available. Get yours today!**

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### **Progress of Computerization of Files**

AO Anna Oberholtzer	In Process, conflicting info to be worked out
AS Abraham Overholtzer	Completed with existing files
CA Christian Overholser	Completed with existing files
CH Christian Oberholtzer	Completed with existing files, more research being done
IB Isaac Overholt	Completed with existing files
JA John Overholser	Completed with existing files, latest families needed
JC Jacob Oberholtzer	Starting to enter files
JF Jacob of Franconia	Investigating its enormity, Tom Myers to compile
JL Jacob of Brecknock	Completed with existing files, J Trump material to add
JT Tory John Overholt	Completed with existing files
MC Marcus Oberholtzer	500 pages completed, another year till finished - T Myers
ML Martin Oberholtzer	Complete with existing files
MT Mark Overholt	Now combined with MC
MV & HO	Combined and completed with existing files
SL Samuel Oberholtzer	Completed with existing files