



OFA Bulletin

Published Semi-annually by the Overholser Family Association

Summer 2010 ISSN 0742-8472 Vol. XXXII No. 2

Oberholtz	Uberholtzer	Overholser	Oberheuser
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Uberholser	Overholtzer	Overholt	
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President's Column

Come and Enjoy our Special 300th Anniversary & 100th Reunion

RSVP Requested by July 25th for Meals

On Friday night, August 6th, we will meet at Yoder's Restaurant between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting.

On Saturday, 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 **FREE luncheon** will be held about 12:30 Saturday August 7th at Willow Street Mennonite Church, on Hans Herr Road, Willow St. PA. No additional food will be needed, we will have a full course pork BBQ & chicken, with a 300th cup cake, & drinks.

Dennis Oberholtzer will be giving a talk on "The Interplay of the First Families of Lancaster County". Dennis descends from nine of the 1710 settlement families. He has also found the tract of land on which 1710 immigrant Matthew Oberholtzer resided until 1755.

Maps will be available the day of the Reunion for those who wish to drive through the ML Martin Oberholtzer property, and/or take a walk on SL Samuel Oberholtzer's property in the southern half of John Herr Park at Millersville PA.

A Second Vice-President will be needed for the next two years. That person traditionally moves up to the next post, then is President four years later. If anyone is interested in being an OFA Officer, please let us know.

for Paul Weiler, OFA President

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**Overholser Family
Association Bulletin**

Vol. XXXII No. 2 Summer 2010

Editor - Dennis L. Oberholtzer
49 Paradise Lane
Paradise, Pa. 17562

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49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562
ISSN 0742-8472

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CORRESPONDENCE

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<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa>

Letter to the Editor or
e-mail to ParadiseLiving@comcast.net

Welcome New OFA Members!!!

Janet May ,FL, Brubaker female O line

Tom Kintigh

David Ehst

John Carol Oberholtzer MD, Washington DC, SL line

Jay Oberholtzer, Landisville, SL line

Julie Pagni, Portland OR

Glen Brubaker, Willow Street PA, SL line

Paul Stouffer, via Karen Critchfield

William F Overholt, NJ, MC line

LeRoy R & Ruth (Snyder) Hagey Jr, Manheim PA

James & Virginia Crawford

Rachelle Koteinicki, AS line

Lisa (Oberholtzer) Serfling

Ray & Sue Olmstead, AV line

Karen Suggett, internet

Adam Oberholtzer Jr, East Earl PA, SL line

Jeremy C Fretts, humanedesign.com, Alexandria VA

Lou Ellen Overholtz Watts, sister of Marge Koutroulis, AV line

Juniata Mennonite Historical Society, Betty Ann & Marvin Landis

Glenn Oberholtzer, Mount Joy PA

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[http://mysite.verizon.net/
vzevgxav/ofa](http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa)

*Benjamin Franklin calculated that after nine generations
there would be about a million descendants!
We must be there!*

SIDENOTE: Samuel Overholser is not Austrian, nor an ancestor of the AV Abraham Overholts line. This is a perpetuating mistake about SL Samuel Oberholtzer immigrant to Lancaster County in 1727.

CONGRATULATIONS!

7 lb 8 oz [Ethan Lee Oberholser](#) on July 18, 2009, to Arron & Angie Oberholser. Ethan is grandson of Buell W Oberholser. They reside in California.

Daughter April 26, 2010 to Mrs Justin (Angie Sensenig) Oberholtzer, at Heart of Lancaster Medical Center in Littiz PA

2010 REUNION

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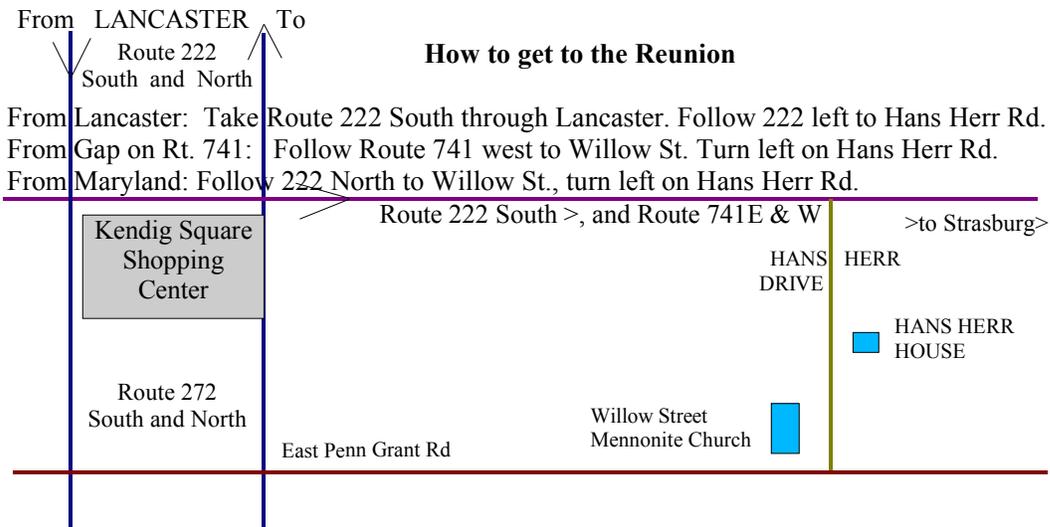
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2010 REUNION RSVP Requested by July 25th for Meals

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.

SATURDAY: 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 **FREE luncheon** will be held about 12:30 Saturday August 7th at Willow Street Mennonite Church, on Hans Herr Road, Willow St. PA. No additional food will be needed.



Obituaries

Martha Bollinger Oberholtzer January 2, 1934 - January 16, 2010 wife of [SL] Chester S Oberholtzer, Ephrata Twp PA. She is d/o Benjamin K Bollinger & Reba Ruth Beyer, a member of Middle Creek Church of the Brethren. She was a choir member over 50 years, former Sunday School teacher. Worked in the bakery at Stauffer's of Kissel Hill till 1999. Her hobby was growing gladiolus and giving them to shut-ins. She is survived by her husband, son Jay M Oberholtzer of Landisville, and daughter Jody A Nolt of Myerstown PA. Also four brothers: Robert, Benjamin, Ray & Gerald, & three sisters: Edna, Geraldine & Ruth. - nephew Dennis L Oberholtzer

Della Ruth Landis Oberholtzer author of several Mennonite childrens books, wife of the late SL line Wilmer S Oberholtzer of Brickerville PA. January 25, 1925 - February 18, 2010 She is survived by her daughter Carolyn Martin of Brickerville. She is preceded in death by her husband, a daughter Lois Weaver of Williamsport PA. Wilmer & Della owned Oberholtzer's Greenhouse in Brickerville, where they raised many exotic plants. - both Martha B Oberholtzer and Della are aunts of the editor

Grace Elaine Milligan author of *Christian Overholtzer and his Father Jacob* 106 years old
Born May 2, 1903 in Decatur County Iowa - February 12, 2010 She was the only child of Lewis and Laura Overholtzer. Grace graduated from Stevens College and Kansas City University. She taught school in Kansas City many years. The wife of Lionel C Milligan, they were the parents of Howard Joseph Milligan who preceded her in death. Grace enjoyed genealogy, teaching, cooking, antiques, and playing bridge. She is survived by her grandsons Howard Joseph Milligan Jr, and Michael Lewis Ricklefs and their wives. Burial took place in Leon Cemetery beside her parents, husband and son. - John & Mary Overholtzer

Wilmer D Swope born 12/16/1925 s/o JC11525.4 Mable Detrow & Herman Franklin Swope, resided in Leetonia OH. He is the husband of Alverda Ruth Stolzhus, and they had five children: Daniel S, Charlene Raye and her twin sister Darlene Kaye, David Michael, and Miriam Dawn. Former OFA member, Wilmer was the one responsible for the erection of the memorial to Jacob Oberholtzer & who helped so much in compiling the history of the JC11 family.

Marguerite "Peg" Overholt March 30, 1915 - March 8, 2010 94 years, wife of the late John L Overholt who died in 1997. They resided in Kilmarnock VA. Peg "was a sage, a lady endowed with a unique awareness of the world around her, and the ability to offer both pithy and profound comments on the passing scene." - Henry Lane Hull, Rappahannock Record, Thursday March 11, 2010. John & Peg spend years researching the history of Wicomico Episcopal Church, and the OFA is deeply indebted for the huge amount of research on the O's in America. She earned her BS in Biology from Elmira College and Masters from U of Cincinnati. She took many trips around the world, her last to Mali at age 89. She is survived by son John H Overholt & Regina J Overholt of Arlington VA, George O Minnich of Morehead City NC, grandsons Warren S Overholt of Arlington, Christopher O Minnich of Boone NC, John A Minnich of Whitefish MT, and Peg's brother Edward Harkness of Ophelia VA. - John H Overholt

Mary Fretz Shively June 4, 1915 - March 20, 2010 94 years wife of the late C Wayne Shively. OFA Member, and served in Fretz Family Association. She is survived by a son Robert W, 3 grandchildren: Michael, Terri McNeal, and Thomas, and 4 great-grandchildren. - Fretz Letter

☪☪☪

UPDATE ON FUTURE EVENTS

At the **August 7th Reunion 2010**, we will make a **one year change of place**, going to the original homestead lands where the Hans Herr House resides, the oldest documented extant home in Lancaster County. Those who wish can take a walk down the block to the Willow Street Mennonite Church, where we will have our luncheon and Reunion. This will be **only for the year 2010**, to celebrate 300 years since the first Oberholtzer families came to Lancaster County. They were the Matthew Oberholtzer family, which likely includes CH Christian Oberholtzer of Hempfield Township, and ML Martin Michel Oberholtzer, as documented in Lancaster and Bucks County historical books. Many of CH Christian's descendants reside in the area of Erie PA. Many of ML Martin's descendants live across the central Susquehanna Valley, with a Lehman family group now living in South Africa.

Begin planning a trip in **2011 to the Overholtzer Mansion in Oklahoma City, OK**. Details of a *Special* North American O Reunion will be forthcoming in next two OFA Bulletins. We would like to make a brochure of O businesses & crafts. This would give other O families a chance to see and take interest in O life in other areas of the country. Whether you plan to go to Oklahoma or not, you may send in your business card to add to the brochure.

Lancaster County early 1700's Film

Dennis Oberholtzer and his daughter Crystal are putting together an amateur film of the path to the First Settlement of Lancaster County. It will include footage of the Walk from the Hans Herr House, plus the 2010 Reunion, and will include virgin hemlock and white pine forests. These were prevalent in wooded areas of Lancaster County in 1710, and reveal a very different perspective from what exists today. It will also show ML & SL properties. Copies will be available sometime after Fall 2010, and notice given in the 2011 Winter Bulletin.

OFA OFFICERS

Lines

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SL	Treasurer	Carolyn O. Kendall	1617 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 d.c.kendall@earthlink.net
JL	Website Sponsor	John Shinpaugh	http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa
SL, JL	Chaplain	Rev. John R. Weiler	526 Wood St. Apt. 424, Bethlehem, PA 18018 Nelljwl@aol.com

CEMETARY INSIGHTS

Oberholtzer Graveyard, Elizabethtown, Penna.

The most important insight from this picture is not an insight, but rather the lack of one.



I can remember going to this cemetery at least four times over the years. I can remember the first time. I walked around the yard looking at the individual initials on some of the stones, wondering how I could ever figure out who those "initials" really were referring. Since then, many years of research has taught me the valuable lesson of matching an obscure stone with its "neighbor stones". Many times a family member could be found by knowing who the stone belonged beside the one you were studying. But when a farmer stacks all the stones in a pile to make it "convenient" to care for, all is lost.

My ancestor SL24 Samuel Oberholtzer had a first wife. She had four daughters to Samuel. I long thought she or her daughters could be buried here. And daughter Barbara may be, but there is no way to know.

Fortunately, in Rev I E Oberholtzer's Composition Book #1, he mentions Anna Wissler being "Bond to Christian and Barbara to keep for life." Evidently, Anna Wissler became incapacitated at some point, and Samuel must have been unable to care for her. Is she buried with her bond servants?

This is major evidence why it is important to visit and maintain our ancestral cemeteries.

☪☪☪

1710 IMMIGRANT OBERHOLTZERS TO LANCASTER COUNTY

Over the past 80 years, many people have tried to find who and when Oberholtzer descendants of the Oberholtzer homestead in Aa, Wald, Canton of Zurich Switzerland, came to Pennsylvania. This vast amount of information has led to many hypothetical assumptions. It has come to a point where it almost cannot be discerned what information is correct, and what needs to be corrected. I will attempt to make definitive answers by showing what is written in the original documents.

It should be noted that only now, since Barbara B Ford has compiled *The Oberholtzer Book*, can a person go back to the piles of information and properly assemble what took place in the early years of the 18th Century. Barbara has done us all a huge favor by properly organizing the families, so that individual pieces of earlier information can now be added without misconceptions creating confusion.

In the British Museum there is a list of "all" poor Germans who came over from the Palatinate and taken in St Catherines May 6th 1709. On the list was Mark Overholtzer, husbandman, about 45, wife, sons aged about 10, 8, and 3, and daughters aged 6, and 1. They were labeled "Baptists".

[MC] Marcus Oberholtzer c1664 EUR - Dec 3, 1726 Coventry Twp, Chester Co
1st Party to leave Rotterdam; Arrived 1709 in England from Rotterdam at age 45, with wife & 5 children.
Immigrated ~~1710~~ Mary Hope 1712 - Rupp's 1844
m Elizabeth Ely Lived in Coventry Twp, Chester Co PA

The couple were settled by Thomas Fairman, a surveyor for William Penn, on 300 acres of the 500 acres previously held by Peter Bezalion, a fur-trader protegy of Richard Logan, secretary of the colony. The land and a house built in 1700, were on the west bank of the Schuylkill River in present East Coventry Twp, south of Pottstown PA.

In *The Oberholtzer Book*, Barbara Ford states that the immigrant date of 1710 was based on circumstantial evidence. The following reveals multiple evidences.

In the PA Archives, 1932 Strassburger Vol 3, p 545, and Vol 39 #4 of the Lancaster County Historical Society, and Lancaster Co PA, Swiss German Settlers 1709-1730, Rupp's 30,000 Names pg 436, and the Loomis Manuscript, there is agreement on the following immigrants:

1. [JF] Jacob Oberholtzer immigrant to Philadelphia Feb 22, 1702
2. [MM] Martin Overholts immigrant to Conestoga settlement in 1709 [1710]
3. [ML] Michael Oberholtzer immigrant to Conestoga settlement in 1709 [1710]
4. [MC] Marcus Oberholts immigrant to Bucks Co PA in 1712
5. John Oberholtzer immigrant died on ship Friendship Oct 14, 1727, 4 ch unaccounted
6. [SL] Samuel Oberholtzer immigrant ship Molly Sept 30, 1727
7. [HJ] Hans Jacob Overholtz immigrant ship Alexander and Ann on Sept 5, 1730
- 8/9 [JL] Jacob and son Samuel and daughter Elizabeth immigrants Aug 12, 1732
- 10.[?HW]Henry Overholts immigrant Feb 7, 1738/9 on ship Jamaica Galley
11. John Michael Oberholtzer immigrant 1749
12. Hans George Oberholtzer immigrant Oct 22, 1754 on ship Halifax
13. Peter and brother Overholser (Loomis text pg 414)

The above information [without parenthesis] is correct and confirmed, except that of the 1709 dates.

Before those of Bern had fully executed their project, they were induced to fly for safety, to London, in the vicinity of which, they pitched their tents, and were supported at the public expense until they could be shipped off for America - some sailed for New York, Pennsylvania, and others for North Carolina, where they arrived in December 1709 at the confluence of the Neuse and Trent. - *History of Lancaster County* 1844 In the footnote it also states: Colonel Robert Hunter, appointed Governor of New York, arrived at that province June 14, 1710, brought with him 3,000 Palatines, who, in the previous year, had fled to England from the rage of persecution in Germany. Many of whom settled in the city of New York; others in Germantown, Livingston Manor, Columbia County, and others in [Penn's Woods]. - *Smith's New York*, I. 123

How do we know that some of the first settlement immigrants came to Lancaster County in 1709?
The following statement is taken from Benjamin Eby's *Geschichten der Mennoniten*, pg 151:

Im Jahr 1709, kamen etliche familien von der Pfalz weche von den vertriebenen Schweizern abstammten und liessen sich nieder in Lancaster County.

Jacob Miller was listed with the first group to be in the Conestoga settlement, along with Hans Herr and Martin Kendig. When arriving in Conestoga, they searched the land and made verbal agreements as to who wanted what. This probably took a few weeks. After that, "a council of the whole society was called; at which their venerable minister and pastor Hans Herr, presided, and after fraternal and free interchange of sentiment, much consternation and serious reflection, lots in conformity to the custom of the Mennonites, were cast, to decide who should return to Europe for the families left behind and others. The lot fell upon Hans Herr, who had left five sons. This decision was agreeable to his own mind; but to his friends and charge, it was unacceptable... Their sorrows were alleviated by a proposal made on the part of Martin Kendig to take Hans Herr's place, which was assented by all."

Without much delay, Martin Kendig went to Philadelphia, and there embarked for Europe. After a prosperous voyage of 5 or 6 weeks, he reached the home of his friends. Having spent some time in preliminary arrangements, he and a company of Swiss and some Germans bade a lasting adieu to their old homes. Martin Kendig with his company of the residue of some of those in America, and of Peter Yordea, Jacob Miller, Hans Tschantz, Henry Funk, John Houser, John Bachman, Jacob Weber, and others, he returned to the new home. These two paragraphs come from the historical book of 1844, *The History of Lancaster County*, Rupp's.

The implications are that a small group came to America in 1709, went to the future settlement to inspect and choose their properties prior to bringing their families. Martin Kendig then returned to Europe with the "residue of some of those in America", and prepared to bring the sons of Hans Herr, and the remaining families of the first settlement still in London.

In the archives of Amsterdam there is a letter of thanks from some of the first settlers, which includes:
"But of our journey we report that we were detained almost ten weeks before we were put on board ship; but then we actually entered into the ship on the 24th, were well lodged and well cared for, and we have been informed we will set sail from here next Saturday or Sunday from Gravesend, and wait there for the Russian convoy..." this letter is signed London the 24th of June, 1710 by Jacob Miller, Martin Oberholtzer, Martin Maily, Christian Herr, Hans Herr, and Martin Kendig.

"Three accounts of the passage to America exist: two in the Mennonite Research Journal of October 1960, and one by Baron von Graffenried. They were protected from the French fleet by Russian excorts to the north of Scotland and had collisions and storms, but a safe passage, arriving September 23, 1710.

Here it shows Martin Oberholtzer was one of the signers of the June 24, 1710 letter of thanks to the Dutch from London. A letter written by William Penn to the English Minister to the Netherlands gave them

passage through Holland. They were then in England ready to sail in a few days to America. They took passage on the "Mary Hope" of which John Annis was master. It sailed from London on Friday June 29, 1710 with ninety-four passengers on board, and arrived at Philadelphia in September 1710.

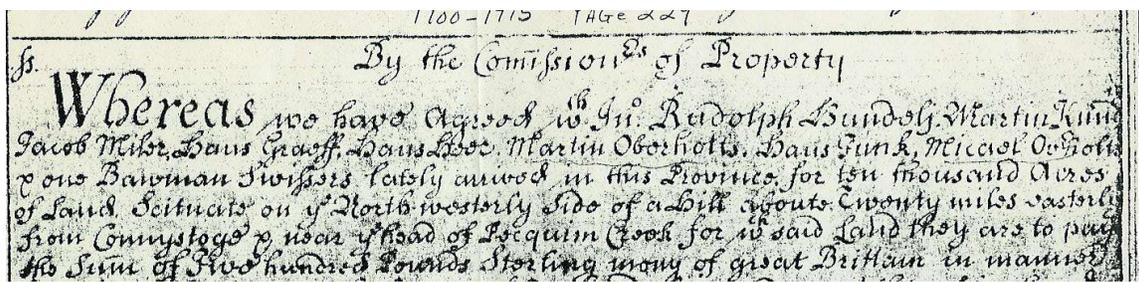
The arrival of the immigrants to Philadelphia took place 17 days prior to the issue of the land warrant for the Conestoga settlement, at Noon on September 23rd 1710. - John L Overholt, Kilmarnock VA, July 23, 1984; *Diary of Samuel Guldin of Rocksbury PA*, found by William J Hinke in the Berne Archives 1897, published twice.

The diary states: "There we stayed until the 27th, when a Christian friend ... secured a good house for us 8 miles from the city [Philadelphia] among good friends, which he has given us for the winter or as long as we need it.... The place is called Rocksbury..." - The conclusion of this diary no doubt proves Samuel Guldin was one of the immigrants.

Barbara Ford notes that the house [actual picture reveals a cave with a slanted door] was that of Johannes Kelpius 1673-1708, leader of the Pietists from Germany. John Selig 26 yrs old in 1694 - 1745, and Conrad Matthias lived as a recluse in a rude hut until his death in 1748.

Guldin also says Selig lived for nine years in the house prior to "our" coming.

The pioneers to the first settlement were Hans Meylin & sons Martin (the first gunsmith in Lancaster County) and John, Rev Hans Herr, Jacob Miller, Martin Oberholzer (who is to be discussed later), Hans Funk, [ML]Michael Oberholzer (which in one document is written as Martin Michael Oberholzer), Wendell Bowman, and others....



The group of pioneers procured a warrant for the 10,000 acres of land on the North side of the Pequea Creek on October 10, 1710; the warrant was recorded and the land surveyed on the 23rd of October 1710. It begins:

"Whereas we have agreed ___ Rudolph Bundoli, Martin Kundig, Jacob Milor, Hans Graoff, Hans Herr, Martin Oberholts, Hans Funk, Miccol Overholts, sons Bowman Swissers lately arrived in this province for the ten thousand acres of land." - *Philadelphia County Warrant Book 1700-1715*, pg 229

On January 22, 1711, Jacob Miller's wife gave birth to the first child born in the Conestoga Swiss Colony, a son named Samuel Miller. Jacob Miller was born in Europe 1663, and died April 20, 1739.

If the party of immigrants only first came to America in 1710, Jacob Miller and his wife would not have been able to have a child in January 1711, for they were in the second group of immigrants to the first settlement. Also, the Herr signers of the letter to Amsterdam evidently were Hans Herr's sons Christian and Hans (i.e. John) Herr. Rev Hans Herr had stayed in America as spiritual support for those who remained over the winter. This small group most likely returned to Germantown for the winter to await the families and their belongings, which would arrive on September 23rd in the year 1710.

On the 27th of April 1711 the Surveyor General, at the request of the first purchasers, subdivided the said 10,000 acres "into so many parts as they had previously agreed upon."

ML Martin Oberholtzer was on the 1710 warrant for 10,000 acres in Pequea, now Lancaster County, but was not on the 1711 survey, was on 10/21/1718 Talyor. Martin purchased 200 acres by the Conestoga Creek, southeast of Millersville, from Alexander Benes. On 5/14/1733 Martin was deceased and his two sons Jacob and Martin Jr sold the land to Michael Kryter.

REF: Chester Co Old Rights Bk, Vol 2 p112; John L Overholt, *The Marcus Oberholtzer (1664-1725) Family* PMH Magazine Oct 1986 pp 30-31; Jane Evans Best, *Swiss Origins of Groff, Hess, Weber, Landis, & Oberholtzer Families* PMH Magazine Apr 1990 p25; Survey of Alexander Benes land, Chester Old Rights Book, Vol 1 pg 112, see also Book D-82 p 43.

ML Martin Oberholtzer "might have been in East Coventry Twp until 1715 or 1720 and then went to join other signers of the 1710 warrant...." Martin had farm land southeast of Millersville till 1733 when his sons Martin & Jacob sold it. - *Letter by John L Overholt to Mr George W Killian*, June 12, 1984

[ML] Martin Oberholtzer c1667 EUR - dp 1733 Lancaster Co Imm 1710 Mary Hope
Lived on Bezaillon property in Bucks Co till 1717, moved to Lancaster Co (included Dauphin & Lebanon at that time)
The map reveals brother MC Marcus Oberholtzer also on or beside Bezallion.

1710 Warrant in Pequea, not on 1711 survey. 200 acres in 1725 Millersville surveyed by Taylor 10/21/1718
- *SIX OBERHOLTZER EMIGRANTS FROM WALD, SWITZERLAND*, editor, OFA Bulletin 2/2009

Peter Bezalion was the only licensed Indian trader, according to an act passed at a general Assembly October 14, 1700, held at New Castle in the present state of Delaware. In 1714, Peter Bezalion received a land warrant from the commissioners of property to allow Peter to seat himself at Paxtang. - Rupp's 1844

CONCLUSION:

Some of the misconceptions by earlier family tree hunters have "I believe that Michael was Marcus", Martin Oberholtzer was ML Martin Oberholtzer, and that Marcus was Martin Oberholtzer. Now we can definitively state that the 1710 Michael Oberholtzer is ML Martin Oberholtzer, and Marcus Overholt came to Chester County in 1712, then to Bucks County, but never came to Lancaster County. Thus it is time to turn our attention to the name Martin Oberholtzer of the Conestoga Land Warrant.

MM Matthew Oberholtzer

A suggested family line, by Dennis L Oberholtzer 2010

The surnames Oberholtzer, Oberholtz, Overholt, Oberhold, O'Bold, Obold, Opold, Obolt, Obol, and Abold are all the same family.

We know a Martin Oberholtzer was named on the first land warrant for Lancaster County at Conestoga. I wish to insert a statement by Michael Ports of Baltimore Maryland: "The custom of the Germans in those days was for the man to go by his middle name. The first name was seldom, if ever, used after the christening. Hence, the origin of the term Christian name." Now this may be a bit of an overstatement. Still, now that we know ML is actually Martin Michael Oberholtzer, and the only other O descendant known to have come over was Matthew. Therefore, until someone can find evidence to the contrary, I propose that Martin Oberholtzer from the 1710 Land Warrant is one and the same as Martin Matthew Oberholtzer. I list him as MM1.

"The naturalization procedure, both complex and expensive during most of the 17th & 18th centuries, was eased for a three-year period between 1709 and 1712."

- Barbara L. Weir, Menn. Naturalization, Chester County Archives & Records Services, 1989

MM Matheus Oberholtzer c1636 EUR - In England 1709

1 of 6 sons who emigrated from Wald in 1657 & 1663

Matheus is not listed in the usual list of children, but there supposedly were at least two more. He is listed as one of four brothers as emigrants from Frankfort-on-the-Rhine to England, according to Cheryl Wise.

When I showed this suggested family to Tom Myers to critique, he reminded me that Matthew would not likely have come over here, being around the age of 70 years. There were some elderly Swiss - Germans that did come over, some died on the way over here. But I must agree with Tom, that since the evidence is so scant, and that the Matthew Oberholtzer family were likely squatters in Conestoga Manor, it is more likely he did not make the trip, choosing to stay in England till his passing.

MM1 Martin Matthew Oberholtzer [also spelled Obold] aft c1670 - aft 1735 bought land, sold 1755

David Hall found a Matteus Obold which in land records was also Oberholtzer or Overholt.

- John L. Overholt, Kilmarnock, VA, Aug 2, 1982

Said to have had a wife by the name of Elizabeth, but this was incorrect information, as the Elizabeth referred too was actually SL2 Martin Oberholtzer's wife Elizabeth.

The administrator for Matthias was Lodowick Colls (Polls).

The land owned by Matthew was sold in 1755. He would have been in his early 80's, both he and his wife likely passed away. This land is on the Warrant map as 181 acres to Henry Neff.

REF: Lancaster County Land Deed Records

Martin Matthew Oberholtzer was listed on the first settlement land warrant as Martin Oberholtzer. He is not found as buying land with the original settlement, but the Indians did complain of "squatters" living north of Indian Town, which would have been Conestoga Manor where son Matthew bought land after 1735.

1721 "The settlements about the Indian villages of Conestoga were considerably advanced in improvements at this time...." - Rupp's p 135 Here we have evidence that several families lived "about", especially north in Conestoga Manor, before Matthew Oberholtzer bought the Messerswrights land. It is known that SL Samuel Oberholtzer was a squatter in his first few years at present day Millersville. It is very likely Matthew was also.

After 12/13/1735 the Messerswrights sold land in Conestoga Manor to Matthew Oberholtzer. We know this Matthew was not ML Martin Oberholtzer or any of his descendants, for no Matthew is found in his family, not in his will or his descendants.

5/7th part of 200acres in Conestoga Manor where sold by Jacob & Addy Moyre of Lancaster County for 300 Lbs. The names on this Deed D253 are: Children of Christian Stoneman deceased, _____ Oberholtz, George Kendricks, as granted in D235 to Jacob Moyre. Dated Jan 13, 1755 Henrich Neff, W38 J21 June 25, 1755

We now know that this Oberholtzer was not any of SL Samuel Oberholtzer's family. Nor was it any of ML Martin Oberholtzer's family, who now lived in Lebanon Twp (present Lebanon County). Nor was it any of JL Jacob of Brecknock's family. The only other Oberholtzers in Lancaster County in the first half of the 18th Century were Matthew Oberholtzer in Conestoga Manor, and a Henry Owerwasser in Elizabeth Twp. None of these other O families were connected to George Kendricks. The Kendricks surname is found in HJ Hans Jacob of Hatfield, Montgomery Co PA. But Matthew Oberholtzer (and I believe the child CH Christian Oberholtzer) were the only unaccounted O's in Manor Twp prior to 1755.

On the Manor Township Assessments, 1751, Wolrick Rode (Ulrich Rudy) tax collector, there were two O families being assessed. One was Martin Overholser @ 7 s. 6d. There is no doubt that this is SL Samuel's son.

The other was CH Christian Oberholser @ 9 s. This could not be SL Samuel's grandson Christian, for he was not born until 1753, and never owned land in Manor Township. But Matthew Oberholtzer bought land after 1735 in Conestoga Manor, Manor Twp. Matthew must have died, or was invalid by 1751. His son, which is evidently CH Christian Oberholtzer worked the land until he went out on his own living in Hempfield Twp by 1758.

MM11 Sebastian Obold c1725 - 5/29/1800 74 yrs widower m **Margarita** _____ - bef 1800

Sebastian is first found in the first settlement of 300 people in the new town of Lancaster.

In Lancaster mid 1700's ; Lebanon Co 2nd half 1700's ; York Co by 1793

REF: 1780 HG Twp York Co PA Census; Conewago Chapel, York Co Church Records of 18th Century, 1990; 1780 Tax Lists of PA, Index by J & D Stemmons; Lancaster County pg 164 Date of Return 10/25/1751

MM111 Joseph Obold m **Susanna Elisa** _____

REF: 1780 HG Twp York Co PA Census; Conewago Chapel, York Co Church Records of 18th Century, 1990; 1780 Tax Lists of PA, Index by J & D Stemmons; ? Lancaster County 164 Date of Warrant 10/25/1751, Date of Return 6/15/1765 (Is this another Joseph?)

MM1111 Sebastian Obold 2/22/1794 - bap 3/4/1794 -

MM1112 Francis Catherine Apollonia Obold 2/17/1800 - bap 2/18/1800 -

MM112 Anthony Obolt m **Catherine** _____ - Mar 30,1799 29yr epilepsy

REF: 1780 HG Twp York Co PA Census; Conewago Chapel, York Co Church Records of 18th Century, 1990; 1780 Tax Lists of PA, Index by J & D Stemmons

MM1121 Susanna Obolt 6/14/1798 - 1/1/1799

MM113 John Obolt m **Elizabeth** _____

MM1131 ? Isaac Abold m **Catharine Eshleman** 1809 - 3/7/1839 30th year,

d/o Johannes Eshleman Aug 10, 1782 - Apr 1, 1851 68-7-21 - Eshleman Burial Ground

It deserves noting here that up till at least 1844, the spelling of vowels were interchangeable in the early writings. Rupp's 1844 spelled Amish as Omish; Oberholtz is Oborholtz in the Land Warrant.

MM12 Frederick Overholt m **Jeanette** _____

REF: Misc Ch Rec of Adams/York Counties, witnesses Jacob Schreiber & wife.

MM121 Jacob Overholt 7/8/1775 - bap 7/16/1775 Christ Luth Ch, York PA -

REF: Misc Ch Rec of Adams/York Counties, witnesses Jacob Schreiber & wife.

[MC172] Frederick Overholt was a tanner who lived in Bedminster Twp for a short time during the Revolution and had a family of ten.

- ppH2, p21,16 Bucks Co Genealogical Society, by John L Overholt, Kilmarnock VA 6/12/1984

Dear Dorothy Ehrhardt, June 2, 1990, Your letter was most interesting and **I find that the Overholt name was used sometimes for your Atherholts which certainly confuses research.** I have the following Rev War record for Frederick Overholt of Bedminster Twp, Bucks Co PA. Penna. Archives: Ser. 5, Vol 5 p 373-378 Frederick Overholt Ovt. 2C1, McHenry's 4 Batt. Bedminster; Ser. 3 Vol 6 p 86 Frederick Overholt Capt McHenry's Co, CIF 1781; and Ser. 3 Vol 6 p 90 Frederick Overholt EF 1782. - Barbara B Ford

There was an article in the Penna. Mennonite Heritage by John L Overholt (I helped with some of the research) and he had written up Marcus Oberholtzer whose two sons lived in Bedminster Twp. At the end of his article he had - ?A72 Frederick Overholt: tanner. Owned 219 acres in either Tinicum or (more probably Bedminster Twp), whose household included 10 inhabitants in 1784; was a private second class in Capt McHenry's Company, 4th Batt. Penna. Militia, from Bedminster Twp on 6/12/1781. I have written to him saying that I am sure he was not an Overholt - that he was no doubt Frederick Aderhold. I have 27 different spellings for the original name of Oberholtzer [should be Oberholzer] - Barbara B Ford

- continued on page 15

Snavely Connections

The Schnebele family is of Helvetii origin. The Helvetians settled the river edges & lakefronts of Switzerland prior to the Allemanni homestead placements of the 5th Century C.E.. There were four Schnebeli families in Affoltern in 1633, with a total of 26 children.

II--1. **Jakob Schnebele** b. 1590 - ca. 1660 Albis, Zurich, SWI
m.ca. 1723 Anna Melchiorin ca. 1602 Affoltern - bef. 1712

I--1. **Jakob Schnebele** 1624 Affoltern am Albis, Zurich, SWI -
Between 1648 & 1659 the family moved to Baldenheim, Alsace.

He signed the Dordrecht Confession in Ohnenheim. Some time later he moved about a mile SE to the town of Boisenbiesen, along the flood plain of the Rhine River. Agri., weaving, cattle trader.
m. ca. 1652 Cathri Dilli ca. 1626 Affoltern Am, Albis, Zurich - bef. 1736

Bachman Bible Records:

This Bebel belongs to the House of Jacob Schnebelli of Ibersheim (auf dem Ibersheimer Hoff) and came into my possession from my father-in-law in 1696. Johannes Jacob Schnebley

"This Bibel belongs to Wendelteiss Schnebelli, (auf dem Iversheimer Hoff) and is in love so recorded in the Year of our Lord 1708. - *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine, 1982; JC family in OFA Book; Snively/Snavely, Washburn*

1--1 **Wendelteiss Schnebele** m. George Bachman

dau Catharina Bachman m 1791 [JC1] Rev Jacob Oberholtzer 6/20/1767 - 7/17/1847

2--1 Heinrich Bachman 1717 -

2--4 Johann George Bachman 11/30/1724 - wp 4/14/1806, res Upper Saucon Twp, (Lehigh Co)
m 11/16/1748 Old Style to [MC15] Esther Oberholtzer 5/16/1728 - 13 children
Esther is dau of **Jacob & Barbara Oberholtzer** [MC1]

1--2 **John Jacob Schnebele** 1659 Baldenheim, Alsace -1743 Age 84 "The Old" farmer
m in Boisenbiesen to unknown

Immigrated with his two sons in 1714 to Lancaster Co. PA On Lanc. Co. tax records of 1718
Naturalized 10/14/1729 Several land patents & warrants issued to John & Jacob Snevely.

1728 Homestead still exists on Landis Run (formerly Kauffman Run), off the Conestoga Creek.

2--1 . **Hans (John) Schnebele** ca. 1690 Alsace - ca. Jan. 1747

m. Anna _____ bef. 1694 - Manheim, PA

Later moved west to Franklin Co., PA died intestate

3--1 John Snevely - 12/27/1750 m. Frena

3--2 **Anna Snevely** m 1749 **Benjamin Landis Jr.** 1730 - 10/1/1787

4--1 **Benjamin S. Landis** 5/20/1755 - 3/8/1811 ancestor of [SL] editor

m 4/8/1783 Elizabeth Kendig Brackbill 12/10/1764 - 3/28/1789

2--2 . **Johann Jacob Jr. Schnebele** 12/21/1694 Ibersheim, GER - May 1781

1717 Immigrant with father & bro.

1st m. Feronica _____ c1704 - c11/4/1789

"Jacob is buried in the Snavely-Kreider Cemetary with a field marker bearing his initials and the date 1781."

3--1 Veronica Snavely 1731 - ?1776 m. Christian Graff, York ,PA

3--2 Anna Snavely - 1817 m. Melchior Brenneman II

2nd m 4/14/1736 Barbara Eberly 12/21/1694 - 8/24/1766

"Woman of strong character,.. who combined the habitual thrift of the German Swiss with the energy of the American Pioneer."

3--3 Mary Snavely 1740 - ?1776 m. John Steinman

- 3--4 [John Snavelly](#) 1745 - 4/19/1794 res Lampeter, PA
 1st m. Esther Herr - 1773 dau of Samuel Herr
 4--1 Jacob Snavelly 8/18/1772 - 11/4/1853
 m 6/17/1800 Veronica Hess 11/5/1781 - 4/4/1885
 4--2 Ann Snavelly - 1829 single
 4--3 John Snavelly - 1858 Bart Twp m 5/18/1802 Esther Huber
 2nd m 2/2/1774 Elizabeth Barr 2/28/1751 - 1/17/1828
 4--4 Freena Snavelly m. Samuel Buckwalter Cumberland Co., PA
 4--5 [Barbara Snavelly](#) 10/5/1779 - 12/25/1854 Lampeter Twp.
 m 5/16/1797 "[Brick](#)" [John Landis](#) 7/3/1766 - 8/11/1826
 Buried: Mellinger Mennonite Cemetary ancestor of [\[SL\]](#) editor
 4--6 Henry Snavelly 6/25/1781 - 12/16/1849 m Anna Shenk
 4--7 Christian Snavelly 4/27/1784 - 8/31/1863
 m 3/23/1809 Fanny Herr 8/10/1782 - 7/8/1825
 4--8 Elizabeth Snavelly 3/19/1786 - 7/4/1878
 m 3/28/1804 David Harmish 6/1/1781 - 4/11/1867
 4--9 Abraham B. Snavelly 5/5/1787 - 3/1/1866
 m 1/18/1809 Elizabeth Buckwalter 3/9/1789 - 2/5/1865
 4--10 Martin Snavelly 2/16/1790 - 11/2/1877
 m. Anna Huber 4/4/1795 - 8/12/1837
 4--11 Daniel Snavelly - 10/10/1823
 m. Barbara Meyer 2/1/1797 - 2/7/1824
 4--12 David Snavelly 3/26/1792 - 5/10/1873
 m. Prudence ____ 3/12/1800 - 2/12/1873
 5--1 Henry
 5--2 Prudence minor in 1840 m. _____ Bruity
 5--3 John d. by 1840
 4--13 Susanna Snavelly dy
 3--5 Joseph Schnevely 12/19/1748 - 10/30/1835 son of Jacob-Barbara Eberle
 m 6/13/1771 Magdalena Stoner 11/6/1751 - 8/25/1793 8 children
 2--3 Maria Schnebele c1702 - c1759 m Andrew Hershey 1698 SWI - 12/24/1754
 10 children, prob. all born in East Hempfield Twp.
 2--4 [Anna Schnebele](#) Jan. 1706 - aft. 1764 m c1722 [Johannes Lang](#) 6/10/1693 - 2/5/1767
 Couple were m in Alsace. He immigrated 1722, sending for her in 1723. Manheim Twp.
 Anna & Johannes Long are ancestors of the [\[SL\]](#) editor
 2--5 Eva Schnebele - aft. 1752 m. Jacob Kauffman Hempfield Twp.

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☛☛

Additions/Corrections

Please excuse my blunder in the last issue. In the New Members section, I somehow entered the late Robert & Helen Overholser.

Please excuse another blunder. Bill Oberholser & Buell Oberholser are the same person.

Unknown O Family

Luke Lee of Crowland and Nancy Overholser of Willoughby ONT married Stamford September 25, 1827. This couple is listing with BC Benjamin Oberholser of Welland Co ONTARIO.

- Barbara Ford e-mail from lam28@open.org. Nancy's marriage date and location leads one to suspect her as a sister to BC Benjamin Oberholser.

Continued from page 12

MM Matthew Oberholtzer

In *The History of Bedminster* by Pauline Cassel from the Bucks County Genealogical Society was found the following information and that is what led me to believe the name change:

p 44 Bedminster Tax List of 1782-1783 Frederick Audischott 219 acres, tanyard

p 47 Local tax list for the year 1783 for Bedminster Twp, Frederick Auderhold 219 acres, tanyard

Descendant [MC17] Daniel Biebyhouse was living near Frederick Atterhold.

Letter to Barbara B Ford on May 29, 1990: I found that the oldest member of the family was Christian Aterholt who immigrated in 1753 on the ship St Michel-Michel and settled in the Philadelphia area, Bucks County. On the subsequent manifest that approved the landing of these people, he was listed as Christian Oderhold. Often the names were written as the ship's officer understood the pronunciation, and since many passengers could not write, the name was spelled as he heard it. Because of the above "Oderhold" spelling, I also looked for it to connect those names with my Aderholds and found Overholtz, Oberholtzer, Overholt also. The Mormon Family History Center has films #192,632, 496,854, 020,539, and 172,929 that contain those names. However, I was not able to connect any of these to my Aderhold family.

- Dorothy Ehrhardt, La Mesa CA

Summary: What is clear here is that the 219 acres was owned by a Frederick with the surnames of both Oderhold and Aterhold. What is also clear is that MC172 Frederick Artherholt had a child MC1725 Frederick Atherholt on March 8, 1775. **This dating is clear proof that MM12 Frederick Overholt is NOT the same family as MC17.** For MM12 had a child Jacob 4 months later.

MM13 Phillip Oberhard

1780 taxed in UM Twp, NHTN Co

MM14 [CH] Christian Oberholtzer - w 6/18/1785; wp 8/17/1789 Hempfield Twp

Payed taxes on Manor Twp land in 1751; Living in Hempfield by 1758

m. **Magdalena (Witmer) Eshleman** - dp 4/13/1785

Magdalena (Witmer) Eshleman was the 6th child of immigrant Benjamin Witmer, dp 4/13/1785, widow of Daniel Eshleman (-d.1749), whom descends a son Benedict.

Descendants of Christian Oberholtzer reside in the area of Erie PA, & spell the surname Overholser.

Christian is the most solid tie to Matthew, in that he paid taxes on land in that area.

☪☪

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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Progress of Computerization of Files

AS Abraham Overholtzer ,**CA** Christian Overholser, **IB** Isaac Overholt, **JT** Tory John Overholt ,
ML Martin Oberholtzer, **SL** Samuel Oberholtzer are all Completed with existing files

AO Anna Oberholtzer	In Process, conflicting info to be worked out
AV Abraham Overholts	Presently being compiled
CH Christian Oberholtzer	Completed with existing files, more research being done
HJ Hans Jacob Overholtz	Presently being compiled
JA John Overholser	Completed with existing files, latest families needed
JC Jacob Oberholtzer	Mostly complete with existing 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
MC Marcus Oberholtzer	500 pages completed, another year till finished - T Myers
MM Mathew Oberholtzer	Suggested line exists for 1710 Immigrant
MT Mark Overholt	Now combined with MC
MV & HO	Combined and completed with existing files