



# OFA Bulletin

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year to Everyone! We are now entering the snowy year of 2014. Who knows what this next year has in store for all of us. As for myself, I am considering retiring after 42 years.

This last Reunion was a blessing to us. Pastor Paul Zander was our speaker and he talked to us about families that came over to our country to escape religious persecution; just as the Oberholzers did. After a wonderful meal, we drove down to the Christian Oberholtzer house, owned by Nancy Gingerich. She led our group on a tour of her home, which was very beautiful. We enjoyed our time together and learned some history of the house and family. Her time with us was greatly appreciated.

Its not too early to start making plans for our 2014 Reunion on August 2nd. Invite people to come with you. There were some new Overholsters from Texas and New York that we had the pleasure of meeting at Yoder's Restaurant for the meal there last year. If you cannot make it to the Reunion, you are invited to attend the meal at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland. It is a relaxing time with family, and the food is delicious. We will have more information concerning our upcoming Reunion in our next news Bulletin.

Until then, may God Bless.

Yours respectfully,

Jake G Street

**Overholser Family  
Association Bulletin**

Vol. XXXV No. 1 Winter 2014

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**Lititz PA 17543**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**John Shinpaugh at**  
OFA Website:  
<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa>

Welcome New OFA Members!!!

Donald Honeywell, Yoder Newsletter

Bonnie Anderson, CA, MC Line

Patrick McGarry, JA Line, Yahoo.com

Boo Overholser, JA44 Line, g-wireless.net

Tina Anderson, TN, MC Line

Cyndi Mullen, TX

Lisa Overholser, Albany NY, AV Line

Kristopher J Overholt, MD, JL Line

Hylde Henriksma, Netherlands, SL Line

**Check out the OFA Website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa>**

**We are now on FACEBOOK:  
Just type in Facebook: Overholser Family Association**

**HAPPY NEW WORLD!!!**

**Daughter** Coming in March 2014, **Paige Helen Kauffman**, d/o Jason & Crystal Oberholtzer, grd/o Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer. Paige will reside in Bethel, Berks Co PA.

**Newlyweds**

**Cheryl Oberholser** married March 15, 2013 to Steven Deling  
d/o Karl & Connie Oberholser, Mechanicsburg PA. Karl passed away in July.  
The couple will reside in Herndon PA. - Connie

# OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

107th Annual Reunion  
August 3, 2013

OFA officers had a meeting prior to the start of the Reunion. It was decided to raise the price of the remaining copies of *The Oberholtzer Book* to \$40.00. We will begin to offer CD copies of extended family lines as they become available. An \$8.00 fee for P & H will be asked to cover costs. Our featured house tour to Nancy Gingerich's Christian Oberholtzer House was a big success, & will be discussed in our next Bulletin.

This year continued to bring a variety of family lines together for a time of fellowship. The SL Samuel Oberholtzer, JL Jacob Oberholtzer, MC Marcus Oberholtzer, HJ Hans Jacob Oberholtzer, AV Abraham Overholts, JB Jacob Oberholtzer, and CH Christian Oberholtzer were all represented. The diversity of our group reveals the desire to share in centuries long ties to Switzerland, as well as the North American free spirit of love which was born out of religious persecution in Europe.

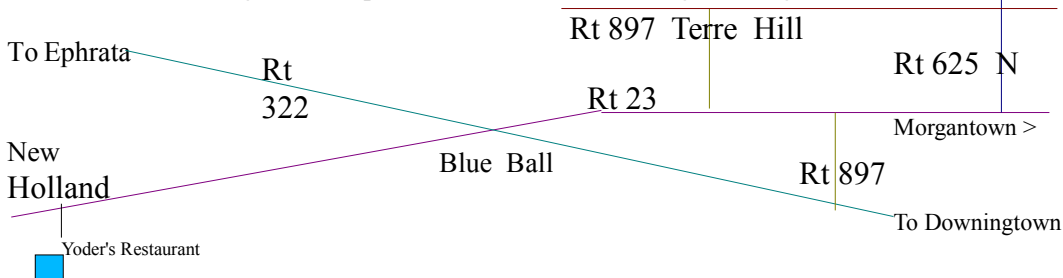
It is our hope that such fellowship will be noticed by those able to come but have not, so that a most normal but diminishing type of gathering may return to our social structure. The internet has driven many to become non-socialites to their own detriment. May our family rise above it and reach out to enjoy life to the fullest.

## 2014 REUNION

The Reunion will be held **August 2nd** St. John's Center United Church of Christ, Phone # 717-445-5622, east of Terre Hill on Route 625 where it was held in 2009. On Friday night, **August 1st**, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting. On Saturday **August 2nd** we will gather from 9:00 to 10:00AM at the church. Call Jake at 717-225-4808 if you need more information.

### How to get to the OFA Reunion

From Lancaster: 15 mile NE via Rts. 222, 23 E, to 625 N on Reading Rd. @ 2 mi on Right  
From Reading: 15 mile SW via Rts. 222, 897, go straight through Terre Hill. L on 625  
From Gap on Rt. 30: 15 mile N via 897, R on 23, then L on 625. Go @ 2 mi on Right  
From Exit 21 Reading, PA Turnpike: 5 mile S via 897, straight through Terre Hill. L on 625



## Looking for Helpers

**Scrapbook Updator** We are looking for a person willing to update our scrapbook from year to year. Only a couple year's behind, this is a fun job that takes little time, and you can get to know us better.

**Necrologist(s)** We are looking for people to check present day death notices, to add to the Bulletin. Also, collecting Birth Records of O children that we can send a greeting and congratulations card to the parents.

### NOTICE ABOUT CONTACT INFO:

Dennis L Oberholtzer no longer has an e-mail address. Please e-mail any new memberships to the website. I will continue to do genealogical connections and compiling. Paper or CD lineage can be sent to my 49 Paradise Lane address, or you can call me at 717-687-6950. We are in process of purchasing a new laptop computer for OFA usage. Earline will be the person to contact e-mail people when it gets up and running. She will be my right-hand lady for family contacts, so I may continue my writing.

Sorry for any inconvenience. - Dennis

### OFA OFFICERS

#### Lines

SL	<b>President Jake Street</b>	2059 Noss Road, York, PA 17408 717-225-4808
JL	Website Sponsor, Vice President John Shinpaugh	<a href="http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa">http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa</a>
SL	2nd Vice-President Michael Martin	<a href="mailto:MMartin@ccmd.org">MMartin@ccmd.org</a>
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SL	Treasurer Carolyn O. Kendall	1001 E Oregon Road, #1640, Lititz PA 17543 <a href="mailto:cokendall@gmail.com">cokendall@gmail.com</a>
SL, AO, & JF	OFA Bulletin Dennis L. Oberholtzer	49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562 717-687-6950
	Chaplain	OPEN AT THIS TIME

## Hinges in History - Two O Families caught in the Civil War

### 150th Anniversary Special Article

by Dennis L Oberholtzer, with quotations from

*The Christian Oberholser Jr Family Letter ...*

2009 by D Ray Heisey Ph.D., Professor & Director Emeritus, Kent State U, Kent Ohio

with additional support from Karl Ph.D. & Connie Oberholser. And special thanks to Avery & Eunice Zook who gave Jake & Suzanne Street and myself a tour of the area to get pictures.



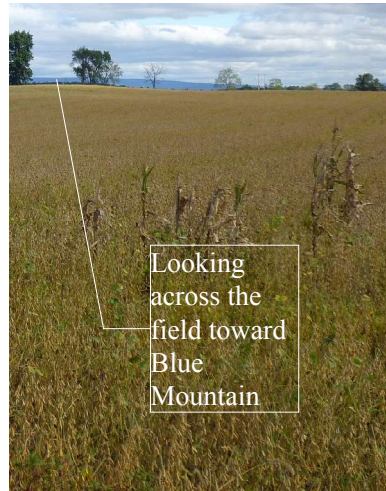
*This article is dedicated to  
Karl Oberholser  
who passed away on July 25th, 2013*

When I started working in a machine shop in the mid nineties, I operated computerized lathes and mills. At times I would run into a problem which caused the part to be formed improperly, and not as the computer program intended. Checking the cutter which made the finish cut did not reveal anything out of order. My supervisor one time made the comment: *Sometimes the cause comes from the process just prior to what happened.* After investigating the prior action of the lathe, I found that the rougher used to initially remove the bulk of the material was damaged, thus the finish tool could not make a smooth cut, and I ended up with a poor part. Thus I had a hinge in the history of the part which caused a major change in the outcome of that part.

There are also hinges in history, which the outcome would have been different, if a prior event would have changed the dynamics of the next event. I found this to be the case just prior to one of the biggest events of the Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. That year, the great great grandfather of D Ray Heisey, Jacob E Heisey, received a letter from the Christian Oberholser family of Franklin County. ML2114 Bishop Christian Funck Oberholser Jr, born July 26, 1803 Fredericksburg, Bethel Twp Lebanon Co PA, and his second wife Frances (Frany) Heisey, born March 24, 1804 sister to Jacob E Heisey, were living on Rowe Run Road, one mile north of Greene Village in Greene Township and wrote a letter that is still in the family but in somewhat poor condition. Christian Jr was a minister & bishop of the River Brethren Church. The letter documents a very underestimated dissipation of resources, keeping them out of the hands of the Southern Army. The letter was dictated by daughter Barbara Oberholser (1844-1920), the middle of three children. Her parents could not write, as found in the signing of a deed transfer to son Martin.



This drawing about 1900 when Martin H Oberholser owned it.



The Confederate invasion came from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia up to Pennsylvania beginning on June 15th. (World Book Ency) Scouts were sent ahead, and entered Chambersburg on that day. They had been informed of many horse raising farms in Franklin County, and were in need of re-supplying the troops. Chambersburg and its surrounding farms became a staging area to prepare for battle with the Union forces. General Lee informed his officers (Confederate General Orders Number 72) " to avoid injury or destroying private property, and to appropriate horses, cattle, & other goods... ." A shortage of officers made that order almost impossible to enforce. On June 23, 1863 Rachel Cormany recorded that the Rebels destroyed the Scotland Train Bridge, which was just two miles from the Oberholser farm. The local newspaper at the time reported that the Confederates "wanted horses more than anything else." Amos Stouffer noted in his diary for June 26, 1863 that " Lee's Army is in our valley" of Newburg -"about 90,000 men". The number was a bit of an exaggeration, for the Union Army had that number at Gettysburg, but the Confederate Army was 75,000 strong.

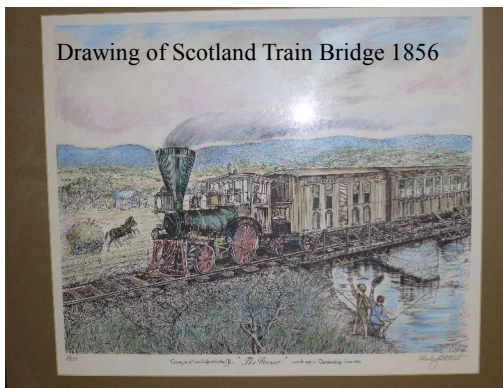
The Confederates were clearly seeking horses. One Confederate soldier wrote that they have taken "1600 very fine horses from the citizens." In 1860 Chambersburg had about 5200 residents. Most of the horses would have been in the vicinity of the town. An 1868 Atlas of Greene Township, Franklin County reveals the following farms west of the small village of Scotland where the bridge was destroyed. Levi Horst and Christian Oberholser Jr on the northwest, Jacob Martin, J Ebersole, J Brechbill, H Wingert, J Zook to the west, and further southwest were Daniel Lehman, Samuel Lehman, and Col A K McClure are notable farms in this area. SL22325 Amos Stouffer, grandson of SL223 Elizabeth Hoover Oberholtzer & Jacob Hershey Stouffer Sr, lived east of Chambersburg. On June 23rd his diary date notes that "The Rebs are coming again. J Landis got me to take his horses down the valley this morning." Amos mentions "again". This implies that some of the horses in the southeast were left idle, with plans to pick them up on the way back from farms further to the west. But the Confederates met with a huge surprise when they came to the farms in western Greene Township.

Bishop Christian's letter states that the Southern soldiers "camped just a mile above Green Village." This would have placed them right in the surroundings of the Oberholser Farm. The local newspaper later wrote that "fully five hundred [horses] had been taken from Chambersburg and vicinity to the mountains." Karl Oberholser had written down "My father, Christian [ML21142.76 Christian Leshner Oberholser 1907-

1994] told a story about the farmers hiding their horses in a valley, which is now called Horse Valley, beyond Blue Mountain." It is believed that the young men and boys of the farms were the ones who drove the horses over the mountain, and stayed with them until the Confederates were gone. This four week period was a trying time for the locals, in which no one would have dared to go into the mountain to inform the herders, for fear of being followed.

Horse Valley is a beautiful narrow valley north of present day Bear Valley in Franklin County. We stopped and talked with eighty year old George at Mountainside Pet Rescue. A jovial spirited man, he is the only one who knows the oral history of the valley. He tells how a Mr Mailmen\* was the first to inhabit the valley, arriving in 1789. A Rosenberry\* family moved in sometime later, and the families intermarried and owned much of the land in the northern end of the valley. These two families are buried in a secluded area cemetery on the north end of the valley. Also in a nearby location is a cemetery for the Hessians (German mercenary soldiers fighting for the British) who moved there most likely at the end of the War of 1812. It most likely would have been these Hessians who gave permission to bring the horses into the valley from Greene Township.

\* spellings are uncertain



Avery first took us to the Scotland train bridge that was burnt by the Confederates. The drawing of the wooden train bridge was drawn in 1856. The concrete bridge was not built until some years after the Civil War. This is known for certain because the first portland cement plant was built in Coplay PA in 1871. Just northwest of there, he also showed us where Lee's Army set up camp. Today this mostly level area is a housing development. The Conococheaque Creek is close by, although there is a vertical bank to get to it. Lee's Army must have been in a hurry while heading north. They basically ignored the southern section of Path Valley, an area that was well known for harboring former slaves from the underground railroad. And Horse Valley is just over the mountain to the west of Path Valley. A single Rebel flag flew in Path Valley for part of a day, only to be taken down overnight by the locals. It also is not fully understood why Lee didn't go straight to Harrisburg and capture the unguarded capitol of Pennsylvania. But a village would mark the reverse in course, as it became known as Lee's Crossroads.

The Confederate General Jenkins was "sore with disappointment at the general exodus of horses from this place." (Ayers, 2003, p 404) Christian Oberholser's neighbor Levi Horst was threatened to be killed if he did not reveal the location of the horses. But he did not yield to their demand. The humble nature of the local farmers was enough to deter the soldiers from retaliation. As Scripture states, *A soft answer turns away wrath.* (Proverbs 15:1) Still, Avery Zook mentioned that the Rebels did confiscate 400 bushels of oats, 3 head of cattle and one horse from the Oberholser farm. The average yield of oats is 54 bushels per acre. So 400 bushels would take only 8 acres of ground. Being generous and giving another 10 acres for house, barn and cattle grazing, there was still another 88 acres to the farm for raising horses.

If half that is used for winter hay & grain, there would still be 44 acres used for raising horses. One horse needs one acre to graze on. So the Oberholser farm may have had about 40 horses which went into hiding. It is reasonable to calculate that the ten farms above would have produced a few more than 500 head of horses which went into hiding.

The question comes to mind, were 500 horses enough to change the tide of a battle involving over 75,000 men on each side? I suggest that it likely could have. It has been estimated that one horse is equivalent to 4 to 5 soldiers. But I suggest that even in Biblical days, 300 men could conquer thousands. At Gettysburg, a strong horse regiment could outflank the opposition. Or, they could have moved cannons. On July 2nd, Lee tried to crack the Union forces on the left in order to roll up Cemetery Ridge.



Horse Valley Gospel Church

On July 3rd, they held the ridge for only about 20 minutes. An additional 500 horses used to rush supplies may have been all Lee needed to refrain from sending Pickett parading across a field. It is only a possibility of afterthought. But it very well could have changed the entire dynamics of the battle, and possibly delaying the outcome of the war. Five hundred horses could easily be worth the loss of Lee's 20,000 casualties. In Biblical history, its stories enlighten and gives clues, such as Gideon and Samson.

Descendant Family of 1727 SL Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster County:

\* SL223 Elizabeth Hoover Oberholtzer 7/20/1784 - 10/28/1835 Chambersburg, Franklin Co PA  
 m 11/12/1805 Jacob Hershey Stouffer Sr 3/4/1773 - 7/3/1843 both bur Stoufferstown Cem, Franklin Co PA  
 Jacob is s/o Abraham Stouffer & Barbara Hershey, s/o Henry Stauffer 3/28/1717-1784,  
 s/o Hans, s/o Daniel Stauffer b in Thun SWI c1630  
 Jacob's 1st wife was Catherine Witmore who had 4 children

SL2232 Jacob Stouffer Jr 3/4/1808 Quincey - 5/4/1880 Stoufferstown, Franklin Co PA  
 m 1/15/1833 Elizabeth Ryder 2/25/1809 Franklin Co PA - 5/1/1880

REF: Rhinehart: *Desc of John & Elizabeth Hostetter Frantz*, pp26, 155,223; Eby-Oberholtzer Cemetery, Campbelltown PA; Barbara Ford; Wm H Oberholtzer, 2/10/1990 #7; Rand/McNally Road Atlas 2006

SL22325 Amos Stouffer 11/23/1842 - 1/14/1883 m 9/1/1868 Mary Immell

Family on the Oberholser Farm:

ML2114 Rev Christian Funck Oberholtzer Jr  
 7/26/1803 Fredericksburg, Bethel Twp Lebanon Co PA - 8/13/1872 Culbertson, Letterkenny Twp PA  
 Letterkenny Twp Cumberland Co is now Greene Twp, Franklin Co PA 106 acre farm on Rowe Run Road, Greene Twp  
 1st m 1827 Nancy Wenger Hoover 12/7/1804 Pleasant Hall, Letterkenny Twp - 3/16/1838 Culbertson, Greene Twp PA  
 2nd m Frances Heisey 3/24/1804 - 5/24/1894 buried Air Hill Cem, Franklin Co PA  
 This generation changed the tz and made it an s in Oberholser. "This branch seems to have since then not communicated much with the Lancaster & Lebanon Oberholtzers. They had many daughters and we now are counting the males left." - Connie Oberholser

ML21149 Bishop Martin Heisey Oberholser 12/2/1845 Culbertson - 4/14/1938 Grantham, Upper Allen Twp, Cumberland Co PA  
 m Rachel J Wingert 10/25/1846 Quincy Twp, Franklin Co PA - 1/3/1918 Green Village PA

ML21149.5 Rev Aaron Wengert Oberholser 7/5/1878 Culbertson - 2/22/1929 Culbertson PA  
 1st m Katie Myers 2/19/1878 Letterkenny Twp - 5/22/1938 Culbertson  
 2nd m Leah Susan Leshner 5/6/1878 Guilford Springs, Franklin Co PA - 9/13/1923 Culbertson  
 Grandparents of Avery W Zook Sr



ML21149.52 Velva Elizabeth Oberholser 10/6/1904 Culbertson PA - 11/23/1994  
m Harvey Jacob Zook 12/9/1902 Hamilton Twp - 10/2/1992 Messiah Village  
Parents of Avery Zook Sr, husband of Eunice Deardorff

ML21149.54 Christian Leshner Oberholser 5/14/1907 Culbertson - 10/21/1994 Messiah Village, Mechanicsburg PA  
1st m Miriam Ann Wenger 10/22/1908 Southampton Twp - 8/29/1965 Mechanicsburg PA  
2nd m Beatrice Amelia (Newell) Vanderau 9/20/1906 Letterkenny Twp - 11/11/1990 Messiah Village  
Parents of Karl Oberholser PhD, husband of Connie Sholes

REFERENCES:

D Ray Heisey presented a paper on September 24, 2009 to the Franklin County Historical Society, Chambersburg PA. He is the great-great-grandson of Christian & Frances Oberholser Jr, and is Professor of Chemistry at Messiah College, Grantham PA. Research assistance Karl & Connie Oberholser, Avery Zook, a great-grandson Glen Pierce, Director of the Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives, and Esther Ebersole, research asst at BICHLA.

Cement & Concrete, World Book Encyclopedia, pp254-257; Oats, World Book Encyclopedia, pp 480-481

Pictures by Dennis L Oberholtzer, September 14, 2013

Drawings are framed under glass, used by permission from Avery & Eunice Zook.

Thank You to Ray who has a 2nd home in Upper Horse Valley, and directed us to the main area of the valley.

For more on the Franklin County Civil War invasion see:

D Ray Heisey's published article, and additional articles can be found in

*The Civil War Issue,*

Franklin County Historical Society, Volume XXIII, 2011

Kittochtinny, 175 East King Street

Chambersburg PA



## Contributions

Many Thanks to those who spent their time & gave to the OFA the past year. God Bless You All.

A Special Thank You to Nancy Gingerich who opened her house for a tour in 2013.

LeRoy & Ida O Musser, Newmanstown PA

Lewis & Anna May Schrack, Pottstown PA

Cyndi Mullen, Frisco TX

Bonnie Anderson, Westchester CA

Jim & Kathy Overholser, Roanoke VA

Lyndon E Overholser, Olathe KS

Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer, Paradise PA

Jean O Schaffer, Coopersburg PA

Michael A Martin, Rahway NJ

Ella O Martin, East Earl PA

John & Hazel Shinpaugh, Norristown PA

Chet & Carol Carroll, Wheeling WV

Agnes O Green, Sumter SC

Juanita O Brown, Cookville TN

Claud & Eleanor Bray, Wichita KS

Jennie R Sperling, Lansdale PA

LeRoy R & Sharon Hagey, Manheim PA

### **Book Purchases:**

Kevin Alishouse, Madison Lake MN

Jenee D Antonio, Edwardsburg MI

D Richard Prischmann, Bedford PA

for Ted Rudisil, Zebulon NC

John Overholser, Holland MI

Viginia Countryman

Harold H Overholtzer, Pottstown PA

Paul Pletcher, New Holland PA

Tina Anderson, Smyrna TN

Suzanne & Jake Street, York PA

Lisa Overholser, Albany NY

Carolyn O Kendall, Lititz PA

Noah L Oberholtzer Jr, Leola PA

Barbara Bernhardt, Swarthmore PA

Fred, Emily & Lynn Oberholtzer, Lititz PA

Linda Nitterauer, Theodore & TJ, Pennsauken NJ

Ross G & Elaine C Gerhart III, Ambler PA

Ruth Oberholtzer, North Wales PA

Janet May, Sarasota FL

Albert A Johnson, Stanton TX

Darwin & Jean Overholt, Warminster PA

Shelly Chapman, Union MO

John Jacob Oberholtzer, Landis Homes, Littiz PA

Robert Overholt, Grand Junction CO

John Brian Roose, Lancaster PA

for David O Neil, Stroudsburg PA

Mike Overholt, Holmen WI

Melissa Overholser, Collegeville PA

## Update on JT, IC, & MC Lines

I recently received a forward from John Shinpaugh from our dear friend in West Overton area of Pittsburg, Karen R Critchfield. She was contacted by Robert Kent Smith after his visit to the Abraham Overholt Distillery Building. Along with the family tree connections to the IC Robert Crane Overholt family line was an article by J Winfield Fretz. In the article *Wilderness, War and Gemeinschaft*, Fretz mentions a report of John Ruth in his book *Maintaining the Right Fellowship*. It made me re-read the book and realize there needed to be some updating. It should be noted over the past two centuries, there have been books written which lumped together information, in order to reveal some other sense of importance other than family ties. Now that our O Family Lines have been compiled after the initial years of immigration, we are able in some instances to look into these older books and documents and distinguish which lines these individual accounts belong.

### **JT "Tory" John Overholt 1738 - 1780 New York**

Tory John farmed on the "very western" bank of the Delaware River in Tincum Township, Bucks Co PA. He is NOT the grandson of Immigrant MC Marcus Oberholtzer who settled on the bank of the Skullkill River in Chester County PA.

Mill operator Tory " *JohnOverholt of Tincum Twp in Bucks Co Pennsylvania, who was suspected of being guilty of treason by the American revolutionists and then fled to British controlled Staten Island, where he died.*"

- Second Report of the Bureau of Archives, Province of Ontario, by Alexander Frazer, 1904 p 972

**Tory John is listed with the wrong Abraham in Gary Culp's article.** - DLO

m **Elizabeth Killian** 1734/8 - d in Canada

Elizabeth made several appeals to the British, one in June of 1781, without success.

REF: Gary Culp article, Niagara Falls ONT ; Dennis L Oberholtzer, OFA ; *Maintaining the Right Fellowship*, pg 160

### **JT1 Abraham Overholt c1757 Tincum Twp Bucks Co PA - 1813 Canada wp 1815**

In John Ruth's book, Pg 161, is the story of Abraham at the time he joined Butler's Raiders, and was arrested while stealing horses.

Abraham Overholt wrote a petition in 1787 while in Canada, concerning Tory John leaving his wife and son John who was about 16 years old, and Abraham's son, all in Bucks Co. on Tory John's farm.

### **JT11 Abraham Overholt 1780/90 - bef 1819 Canada**

m c1810-13 **Charlotte Hill/Hilts** c1790 - 1829

no known issue

her 2nd m Mar 2, 1819 Samuel T Moyer 1797 - Oct 4, 1874

6 children to 2nd m

### **JT2 John Overholt Jr ca 1771 - to Canada in 1786/7**

### **JT3 Sally Overholt**

It should be noted that John Overholt Jr is NOT IC3 John Overholt, who was born about a decade later. JT2 has not been accounted for as having children. Nor do we know the whereabouts of JT3 Sally.

Some of the information in John Ruth's *Maintaining the Right Fellowship* can now be properly traced. During the 1980's, an Overholt family in Sweden claimed their ancestor John was born in Canada in 1779. (REF: *Maintaining the Right Fellowship*, John Ruth, Pg 160) Harlan Paul Overholt Sr was this person in Sweden, who is [IC31165.1](#) on our computer records.

Also in John Ruth's book, pg 159, Martin & Jacob, sons of immigrant MC Marcus Oberholtzer, settled Deep Run. This is correct. **MC14 Henry Overholt** is referred to on pages 186 & 170.

Pg 172 in John Ruth's book, Henry Ruth (Rott) married Staats' daughter Mary. Their son John enlisted in the 1812 war as a drummer boy at the age of 12-14 years old.

Pg 175 in John Ruth's book, refers to **MC19 Abraham H Overholt** & Magdalena Detweiler.

☺ ☺☺

OFA Treasurer's Report  
8/4/12 - 7/30/13

	Savings	Book Fund	Checking	Catered Lunch
Balance 8/3/11	\$2,566.64	\$11,385.83	\$208.92	\$3,639.30
ENDING BALANCE 7/17/12	\$2,348.27	\$11,496.58	\$229.14	\$3,408.68
Contributions	\$703.73			
Purchases		\$235.98		
*Interest Credited*	<u>\$1.32</u>	<u>\$10.62</u>		<u>\$1.61</u>
2 Bulletins - printing	\$214.66			
Postage	\$329.15			
Envelopes	\$ 74.18			
Book Fund shipping & postage		\$36.49		
PA Dept of Rev. Sales Tax		\$ 5.25		
Reunion expenses Yoder's	\$42.40			
Speaker	\$50.00			
Sat Luncheon				\$175.81
St John's UCC	\$100.00			
Ending Balance	\$2,328.32	\$11,714.04	\$385.58	\$3,004.48

Of interest:

14 contribution checks received beyond the '12 Reunion collection  
Average cost of Bulletin + postage = \$318.26, (in '11 it was 337.11; '10 - \$386.99; '09 - \$377.90)  
Cost of OFA Book is \$29.50 + PA tax \$1.77 = \$31.27. Question raised about increasing?  
Seven books were purchased this past year.  
Costs to mail OFA Book: mailing envelope - \$1.24/per, postage - \$3.16; total = \$4.40.

- Respectfully submitted, Carolyn O Kendall Treasurer  
- confirmation by James G Overholser, Noah L Oberholtzer Jr

## OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

### Family Growth on Oberholtz Mountain

As the top of the mountains in Eastern Switzerland became filled by each family, the brothers would divide the mountain. One family would remain on the top of the mountain and continue to farm and herd. The other family (usually the youngest) would move down the mountain into the valley areas to clear land and raise plants and grain which could not withstand the weather on top the mountain. In the valley below Oberholtz was the town of Wald (means "forest"\* or wood). The younger Oberholzer son moved across the mountain above Wald, and actually began on the "Aa", the spring in the "Thal" or valley. The younger brother built a house at the Aa. As it grew into a village it became known as Aathal, meaning "spring in the dale or valley." The town of Wald grew more rapidly below the Aathal. This is possibly in large part due to housing the workers and slaves of the dominate Oberholzer households, and the Oberholzer Corporation which made church furniture. The logs from the grove of trees between Wald & Oberholz were easier to haul down to Wald too mill & carve.

This same style of population growth is found on the west side of Lake Zurich. The families of Landis, Brubacher, Zug, and many others followed this same style of agricultural growth and population progression.

By the beginning of the 17th century, the family expanded into an upper and lower house. "The lower house also spelled their name Oberholzer, until after they moved to America." The present Oberholzer's used the upper house since about 900 A.D.^ Due to the shortage of employment, most of the children would move to other areas of Switzerland and Bavaria to find or use their skills. This, as well as losing some sons to the continual war skirmishes over the next five centuries, and plagues thinning the family, led to the ability to trace the Oberholtzer family back to the 1400's with only one parental ancestor.

Lower house resident Jacob Oberholtzer is called (by Rosy Overholser who runs the hotel in Oberholtz) the "erster bekannter Vorfahre". In English this means "the first well-known ancestor". Rosy also described him as being a "burger and bauer". The former has a double meaning. It means a middle-class resident, which farmers who owed their land during feudal times would have been. But the word also means "underhaus", which is a reference to the progressive expansion of the family lands. A "bauer" is a small farmer and/or husbandman. Rosy must be pretty certain of this information, or she would not associate us with their family. These definitions are a confirmation that our ancestor in Aa/Wald came from the 'lower' house and can safely be traced to the Oberholzer 'upper' house which was situated in the present village of Oberholz. This type of homestead settlement was typical of many Alemanni families in the Zurich area.

☪☪

\*Definition of Wald, *Der Zerbruchewe Krug*

^ Ettie Wright

## Obituaries

**Gwen Lucas** - Feb 28, 2013 Wife of Dick Lucas, long time OFA members, and Reunion comers from Canada. Dick used to make hundreds of wooden toys to hand out to children. Gwen is survived by two daughters. Dick is a WWII Veteran. - Call from Dick Lucas

**Gladys Taylor** of 90 South Bend Road East, Hamilton Ontario. She was an OFA Member from Canada, who came to the Reunions with Dick & Gwen Lucas.

**Nancy J (Oberholtzer) Grebe** October 2, 2012 @ 81 years, wife of the late Leroy G Grebe d/o **Kenneth F & Hannah Mildred Oberholtzer**. Survived by her sons David L of Souderton, Wayne C of Whitehouse OH, & Mark S of Gilbertsville, brother Robert Oberholtzer of Spring City, 4 grand & 5 great grandchildren. Member of Royersford Church of the Brethren. Most recently employed as an aide at Country Tyme Early Ed Center. - Obit sent by Ruth Overholser via Gordon Gerhart III

**Brian K Straub** October 22, 2012 @ 55 years, son of **Joyce E Overholtzer & Carl W Straub**. He was an avid photographer, member of Grace Lutheran in Royersford. He is survived by two sisters, Christina L Caputo, wife of William of Altoona PA, and Sandra E DiAntonio of Easton PA.

**Henry E Oberholtzer** December 13, 2012 @ 102 years, husband of the late Naomi Stauffer Oberholtzer, the s/o **Harry Linford and Mabel (Clemens) Oberholtzer**. He worked for the US Navy in Lakehurst NJ till 1975. Member Christ Lutheran Church of Kulpville PA. Survived by daughter Judith G Lucente of Lansdale, 3 grand, 2 step-grand, & 5 great grandchildren. - Obit by Ruth Overholser

**David P Overholt** June 12, 1921 Columbus OH - July 27, 2011 90 years old **MC72a69.21** s/o Virgil Overholt & Dora Stover Hattery Overholt. Married **Betty Jane Youngman** July 10, 1943, who died January 10, 2013 @ 90 years old. In WWII Dave commissioned & served on the Naval Destroyer Cassin Young, DD793, which can be seen alongside the USS CONSTITUTION in Boston. He worked for the USDA - Soil conservation Branch for 35 years. Survived by his children: Dr Jon Overholt, Fair Oaks CA, Kristine Overholt Bellona, Clinton NY, and Melissa Overholt Bowman, Columbus OH, and 6 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. - Kristine Bellona via Carol Carroll

**Charles E Overholser** December 3, 1925 Brooklin NY -April 2, 2013 @ 87 years at home in Kennett Square PA. A communications officer in WWII, graduate of Harvard in 1947. He resided a long time in Mamaroneck NY, then retired in PA. He had a career as Director of Research & Strategic planning for New York ad agencies Young & Rubicam, and Kenyon & Eckardt. Survived by wife Renee nee Value, son Charles E Jr, daughter Margaret V Fox, George M, and 3 grandchildren.- Phila Inquirer

**David H Overholt** August 26, 2013 @ 60 years at home in Telford PA, s/o **Jacob K & Muriel D Camburn Overholt**. Operated his own auto repair shop, & sold Christmas trees. Born in Reading PA, David drove his racing car in area competitions. Survived by son David of FL, 2 brothers: Michael of Perkasio, Alvin Hassler, a sister Debra Lynn Swartz Russell of Bechtelsville PA. Preceded in death by a daughter Shannon Overholt, and a sister Gloria Wade. - Steeley Funeral Home, via Jennie Sperling

## Additional Obituaries

**Karl M Oberholser** September 21, 1942 - July 25, 2013 husband of Connie Sholes

Oberholser, ML Line, retired Professor at Messiah College, graduate of Messiah College & Auburn U. Member of Grantham Brethren in Christ, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, American Chemical Society 45 yrs, & American Asso for Advancement of Science 42 yrs. Survived by wife of 48 yrs, son Douglas Oberholser of Mt Joy; daughters Lita Godoy of Harrisburg & Cheryl Beling of Herndon, 3 brothers & 4 sisters, & a brother Kenneth preceeding him in death. - Constance S Oberholser

**Dolores M Oberholtzer** February 23, 2013 @ 89 years, born in Philadelphia PA.

Earning an Associates Degree in Business Administration, worked as a teller at Girard Trust Bank in Phila. Served as VP of PA State School Board Asso. from 1975-1982, and as an advisor to the Honorable Mayor Frank L Rizzo of Phila. Branch manager of Continental Bank in NE Phila. Survived by son Gary E, 54 and wife Marie E Oberholtzer, & grandch: Ryan & Morgan of Trevese PA. - Courier Times, via Jennie

**Mike Runkel** SL22 2nd m line. Husband of Diane Runkel, and father of Brian Runkel of Hamlin PA, and David of Hamlin PA. He was 61 years old. He was a CPA. He has five grandchildren. Brian is the son-in law of Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer.

**Christian S Oberholtzer** June 20, 1922 - December 12, 2013, s/o the late **Melvin & Suey Oberholtzer** of Ephrata PA. He is survived by 4 children: Jean of Quakertown PA, Chris of Raleigh NC, Dewey of Intercourse PA, and Dennis of Paradise PA. After the loss of five family members during 2013, I am ready to have some normalcy back in our schedule. - editor

**Craig W Canan** Oct 9, 1962 Troy OH - Jan 3, 2014 s/o **Terry "Boomer" Canan & Sandra C (McLaine) Nale**. Craig attended Bradford High School OH, worked 30 years for RK Hydro-Vac Inc. Member AMVETS Post #66 Covington. He loved pitching horse-shoes, guns & trucks, and was a "No Shoes Required" kind of man. Survived by mother Sandra, wife of 24 years Judy Bayless-Canan; son C J Canan, daughter Haley Canan, sister Tracy Hoelscher. - Patrick McGarry

## Back to the Present

Time Theorists have been working feverishly to find a way to go backwards through time. Their obsession has been discussed openly before the public for years. What they plan to do with such an ability is beyond my grasp. During Christmas time, my step daughter began talking about it at our house. I needed to remind her that it is not possible to go back in time, nor will it ever be. For if a person could go back in time, there would be no need for Jesus Christ, or his sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary. We could just go back in time and fix our mistakes, i.e. sins, and go on with life. The Creator did not set up this universe to do that. Just think, every moment in life something would change right in front of your eyes, because of all the people coming back in time to fix their shortcomings. What a major obstacle that would be too living an enjoyable life.

It is so much better to ask for forgiveness, and to know that you have a Father Creator that forgives you. We do not have to continually live in the past. And we do not have to worry about the future. Eternal Life is there for all who accept and believe in Him. Enjoy the Present !!!

*Psychological detriment precedes human failure.*

**OFA REUNION**, Southeastern PA, Friday Night August 1st at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland,  
108th Reunion 1st Saturday in August, **2014** Details Page 3

**IOWA O's** Meetings 1st Sunday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, 91st Reunion in **2014**  
www.overholtzer.org

**FRANKLIN Co PA GROUP**, next **2014** Roxbury Holiness Camp, Roxbury PA. They meet every other  
year. Covered dish, 717-697-0512 or Philip491@verizon.net

If you need more information, contact the OFA Website, or one of the OFA Officers.

**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.

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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.

Just in case you live in the last century like myself, Obituaries for our local newspaper now cost a minimum of \$250.00. So if you wish to pass on an obit without the ridiculous costs, send your O loved one's memoir here. We still print for free!

Also, Jennie Sperling mentioned that *The Budget News* from Ohio has a lot of news on the lives of O's in the USA & some in missions in other countries. You may want to check it out. Unfortunately for myself, I simply do not have enough time to collect all the info out there.

As for the OFA RECORDS: At least 95 % of the family records are now in fire-proof safes. I was given a tall one by my son-in-law Brian Runkel of the SL22 line. They may be more difficult to access, but at least the problem of security is greatly abated.