



OFA Bulletin

Published Semi-annually by the Overholser Family Association

Winter 2011 ISSN 0742-8472 Vol. XXXIII No. 1

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

Reunion Date Corrections:

August 6, 2011 Reunion St John's UCC and August 20, 2011 O Mansion, OKC, OK

The 2010 Reunion was a great success! There was much more conversing between each other than any other year since I have been coming to the OFA. Let's keep up the good work!!! On August 6th 2011, we will have our regular **OFA Reunion at St John's Church of Christ** in Bowmansville PA. Janet Oberholtzer will be speaking on *Road to Recovery*. Also, come and see a paper copy of our updated computer files.

On August 20, 2011 there will be a **First North American O Reunion**. Join us 10AM at the Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City Oklahoma. After touring the mansion, (\$8 Adult, \$5 Seniors), we will break for lunch and then gather from 1 to 4PM at 1st Free Methodist Church, 1900 NW 13th, OKC, OK 73106 (13th & Kentucky) for a short meeting. Paper copies of the Family Line computer files will be there for review, other plans may be forthcoming.

Afterward, Earline & I plan to drive around Lake Overholser, then take in Bricktown. Then at dusk we are going to the OKC Memorial to see the lights, and have a short prayer time. We may have a special guide join us.

In 2007 Earline & I went to the Iowa O Reunion. They are a very friendly and cordial group. John & Mary Overholtzer are fine hosts, and we hope to see them again. They had come here a few years before. Ditto for the Franklin Co PA group last summer.

I am finding more interest, and there is much more conversing with other families since the new style of Bulletin has come out. I attribute it partly to the listing of multiple spellings of the Oberholzer name in America. I know it has been very enlightening to my own studies of O family lines. Keep up the good work of putting your family together. Our rich heritage is of great value in knowing why the Creator has put us here. We are not just an air breathing fish! In an upcoming Bulletin I will explain how we got some of the spelling variations. I have been asked by several members for details on the O spellings.

Yours respectfully, Dennis L Oberholtzer

**Overholser Family
Association Bulletin**

Vol. XXXIII No. 1 Winter 2011

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

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Martha M Simpson, PA
Steve & Becky Overholt, New Jersey
Ann Boohar, PA
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Weddings!

Kate L Oberholtzer, 28 d/o Dennis & Gail Oberholtzer, to Justin
P Raski, 27, Tom Ave, Ephrata PA, s/o M Paige & M
Dec Raski

HAPPY NEW WORLD!!!

SON June 9th, 2010 to Mr & Mrs Sylvan & Rosalie (Wenger) Oberholtzer, Ephrata at Reading
Hospital - Lancaster Intelligencer Journal

DAUGHTER D Burnell Oberholtzer & wife Jennifer Zimmerman of East Earl PA,
Women & Babies Hospital, Lancaster PA, Thursday July 8, 2010 - Lancaster Intel

SON Adrian Oberholtzer & wife Rebecca Ansel of Manheim PA, Ephrata Comm Hosp August 2010
In 1291 there was peace in the land.*

DAUGHTER Philip L & Deana (Nell) Oberholtzer, Bainbridge PA, 1/11/11at Women & Babies Hosp

PICTURE FROM 300TH ANNIVERSARY
Willow Street Mennonite Church
Willow Street PA

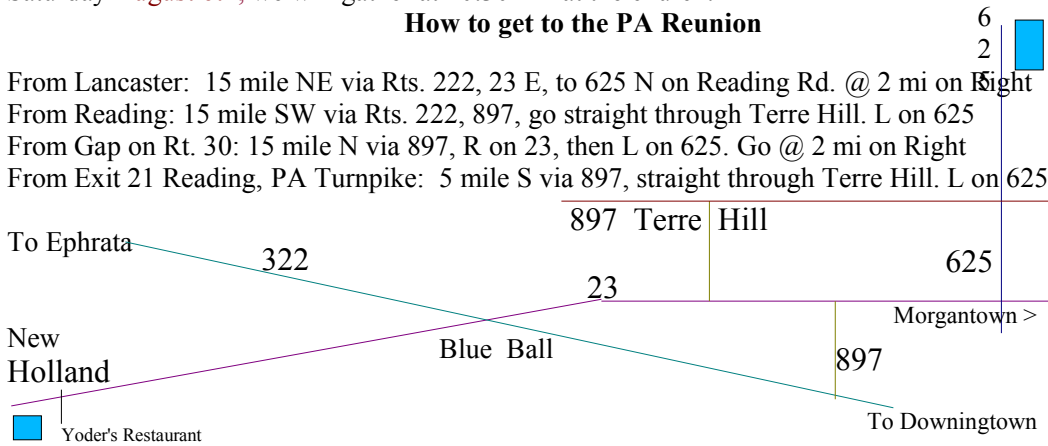


2011 REUNION

The Reunion will be held **August 6th** at St. John's Center United Church of Christ, east of Terre Hill on Route 625 where it was held in 2009. On Friday night, **August 5th**, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting. Be sure to notify Carolyn Kendall (address on Officer's List) in advance so they know how many to expect. On Saturday **August 6th**, we will gather at 10:30AM at the church.

How to get to the PA 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



Obituaries

Naomi K Pletcher March 7, 1926 - June 14, 2010 d/o [Ira & Lillie \(Sauder\) Kurtz](#)
Married April 22nd for 49 years to Paul J Pletcher, they were regular O Reunion attendees. Naomi worked at Blue Ball National Bank, later at Sperry New Holland in finance dept; and partime at New Holland Sales Stables. She is survived by her husband and son Michael K Pletcher of Allentown. Internment at Terre Hill Cemetery.
- Lancaster Intel

Adin K Oberholtzer 76 years, died July 4, 2010 Born in Leacock Twp, s/o [Aaron L & Katie S \(Kreider\) Oberholtzer](#), and is survived by his wife Anna Mary Eberly. Members of Springfield Mennonite Church in Ephrata Twp PA. 7 surviving children: James E, Mark E, Irene E Richard, Clair E, Edith E Martin, Adin E, and Anna E Miller. 43 grandchildren & 7 great grandchildren. Brothers Paul, Maylon (Oberholtzer Real Estate), and Nathan survive, and 2 sisters, Mary Nolt & Cathryn . Adin is coded in the SL Line as SL24876.47
- Lancaster Newspapers

Helen A Oberholtzer 99 years, December 28, 2010 Born and lived 163 S 4th St, Columbia PA. She was the d/o [Oliver K Oberholtzer](#) and Annie Lockard. A member of Lutheran Church, and former Columbia Hospital Auxillary. Internment in Mt Bethel Cemetery; Last of her family.

[Wilmer S Oberholtzer](#) 84 years, December 25, 2010 Born Mt Joy husband of Nancy since 1955. WWII Air Force mechanic. Worked at Armstrong Floor Plant 39 years. Member Ross St United Methodist, and an avid volunteer. Survived by Robert & wife Maureen, Ruth Anne Oberholtzer m to Bill Ferguson, David and wife Heidi, sister Naomi Rhoads, and grdch Scott, Hugh, Cathleen, & Ian. Preceded in death are 3 brothers and a sister. Internment Mellinger Menn Cem with Military Honors
- Kearney A Snyder Funeral Home

Sofie E Overholtzer 93 of Gwynedd Valley PA died January 11, 2010 in Brighton, d/o Andrew & Katherine (nee Halko) Wabescz. Preceded by husband [Elmer F Overholtzer](#) in 1983.
- Montgomery News, North Penn Life Weekly

[David "Mahony" Overholt](#) Feb 3, 2010, leaves wife Lynn (Madden), children Mark, Amanda & Shawn. - Rose Funeral Home, Phila Inquirer

Muriel J Oberholtzer Feb 8, 1919 - Feb 22, 2009 married [Ralph W Oberholtzer](#) Dec 1938
Resided Pennypack Road in Hatboro, 4 children & 19 gr-great grandchildren - Jennie Sperling

Scott C Overholtzer 48 of Lansdale PA, died July 16, 2010, s/o [William E & Beverly J \(Radcliff\) Overholtzer](#). Also surviving is a sister Wendy Yerkes of Quakertown, & son David Michael Overholtzer.
- 7/16/2010 Reporter, Lansdale PA

Catherine F Overholt 89 on Nov 30, 2010, wife of late [William Overholt Jr.](#) Children are Catherine Buski & husband Robert, and the late William Peter Overholt III. - Phila Inquirer

Ruth Overholt-Witwer 90 of Franconia Twp Oct 22, 2010 , w/o late Arthur Witwer d2006 and the late [Norman K Overholt](#) d1977. Survived by son William Bruce Overholt of Doylestown, Norma Landis & (Timothy) of Telford, stepchildren Lee Witwer & Judy Dunn. Interned Leidy's Cem

2010 OFA REUNION MEETING MINUTES

Oberholtzer Family Reunion 8/7/2010

It was a beautiful day, the sky was clear and it was approximately 80 degrees. Some of us (41) met at the Hans Herr house. We were able to tour the museum and the buildings on the grounds. There were people in period dress to show us how they cooked, churned butter, weaved baskets and belts. The people in the Han House did a wonderful job explaining how things were made and were very knowledgeable regarding the period furnishings. There was also a working blacksmith shop and he spent quite some time explaining how he performs his craft.

We then all met at the Willow Street Church for our luncheon. We feasted on wonderful barbeque, green beans, potatoes, coleslaw, and potato salad. Sorry to say there was not any pizza spaghetti this year though. Our cake was very interesting this year to celebrate our reunion. On top it looked like a regular sheet cake however underneath the icing was cupcakes. What a great way to make serving cake easy.

After our meal we took our group picture, before anyone could sneak off, and then began our yearly meeting with everyone introducing themselves and what line they were from.

The last year's minutes were approved; Carolyn read the treasurer's report a copy of which will be included in the newsletter. Treasurer's report was approved.

There was some discussion regarding the book fund. Originally members of the association gave the money to publish the first book. The thought at the time was that the money from the sale of the books would be used to publish further additions. There are so many records now there is a thought that perhaps they should be donated to a historical society and some of this money should be given along with the records to support their preservation.

Ruth Oberholtzer has donated some coat of arms that were Spencer's to be auctioned off. [She] will use this money to create a memorial to Spencer who was a large part of why this organization still exists. Spencer was the patriarch of the organization and he is sorely missed.

Next year we will have our yearly meeting back at St. Johns Center in Terre Hill the first weekend in August. Two weeks later we will have our roving reunion in Oklahoma City. Dennis gave a talk on the routes taken by some of our ancestors.

We ended the meeting without a second vice president. Please find it in your heart to volunteer for this position so that we may continue our reunion traditions.

The meeting was then adjourned. We had another great reunion. Thanks to all those that planned and attended this year.

Respectfully yours,

Kim Weiler

CONTRIBUTORS

A special Thank You for a large donation by John Jacob Oberholtzer, formerly of Leola PA

Jack E Sholl, Palm Desert CA	Reunion Attendees
Joseph E & Lucy A Breitenstein, Topeka KS	Juanita O Brown, Cookeville TN
D Richard Prischmann, Bedford PA	Chester & Carol Carroll, Wheeling WV
Scott C & Pamela J Fischer, Lancaster PA	Ross Gordon Gerhart III, Ambler PA
Ruth K Oberholtzer, North Wales PA	Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer, Paradise PA
Jim & Kathy Overholser, Roanoke VA	John & Eleanor Weiler, Bethlehem PA
Mary Louise Overholt Weinman, OH	Paul Weinman Family, Jacksonvill FL
Thomas G Myers, Holmdel NJ	Jake & Suzanne Street, York PA
Amy & Mary McConnell, NJ	Jean O Schaffer, Coopersburg PA
Lewis P & Anna May Schrack, Pottstown PA	Richard I Stevens Sr, Ephrata PA
Jennie Sperling, Lansdale PA	Albert A Johnson, Stanton TX
Wendell & Naomi Howard, Marthasville MO	Gwen Lucas, Caledonia ONT, CAN
Kevin D & Faithe Brubaker Oberholtzer, Mt Joy PA	John Carl Oberholtzer MD, Washington DC
Claud & Eleanor Bray, Wichita KS	Tom & mother Ann Duke, Owensboro KY
Leroy R Hagey, Manheim PA	Buell W Oberholser, San Luis Obispo CA
Paul J Stouffer, Bozeman MT	Noah L Oberholtzer Jr, Leola PA
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Immigrant Father of JA, AB, and CA

Today, May 16th 2010, I spent the morning at home. After the morning rituals, I took my copy of *The Oberholzer Book*, and a few letters from Barbara Ford's files to the back porch to read and ponder. Our porch is a covered refuge in the summer from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. After going through several pages, taking notes along the way on items which needed to be added into the computer, I came across a letter to Charlene dated July 11, 1990. Rather than explain what I read, I will quote the letter:

"I am quite confused about the date of death given in the Orphans Court records for John Overholser Sr in Adams County. It said 4/19/1794 and I see that John Sr was on the tax records from 1798 to 1810 when it said he was dead. Then there is mention that land was sold to John Sr [on April] 1803. Also in the estate papers of John Sr there is a note about John Sr and John Jr - balance due of 68 pounds to John Jr and the date is 1/18/1807. What originally bothered me was that the inventory was filed 3/15/1809. I have never run across an inventory being filed 15 years after death. The Letters of Administration appear to have the date 3/11/1809 and it also says "And further do make or cause to be made a true and just account of their said Adm. at or before the 11th day of March 1810", which would be a year after the LOA."

I was stunned! I looked at the date of the letter again. July 11th, 1990. Then I understood that Barbara was only four years away from printing her book. That means about three years till the compilation was pretty much complete. Then I realized that the pressure of putting together all those Oberholzer Lines interfered with her ability to compute, simply due to lack of time. I can really relate to that, for it happens to me regularly. Anyway, let me get to the point.

The paragraph states not two John Overholsters, but three! John Overholser Sr-Sr (as I will call him here, and list him as JAsr) died on April 19, 1794, according to the Orphan's Court records. JA John Overholser, born about 1740 and died prior to March 11, 1809, is listed also as John Sr in the letter. Both evidently lived at the same location; as did John Overholser Jr (c1767 - c8/5/1840 Darke Co OH). We know that John Overholser Jr did not have a son John, so he is the one that retains the title of Junior.

Since the Tax Records continue for John Overholser from 1798 through 1810, it reveals that both JA John and JA3 John Jr both lived at the same property also, having need of only one tax to be recorded, and thus only one John Overholser on the tax records.

Now that it is clear that JA John Overholser had a father John Overholser Sr, who is this person? I suggest the answers are already existent. In 1740, a John Overholser came from Europe and settled in Juniata PA. That is what little information was in the ship records. I have recently been in touch with the Juniata County Historical Society, which has told me they have no knowledge of him in their records. The term "Juniata" was not for a

county until the 1800's, but rather the Blue Mountain area of Central Penna.. I believe that John did not stay there long enough to be recorded. John Overholser is first found on the tax list of Reading Twp, York County (now Adams) in 1761. Since JA John Overholser would only have been about 20 years old, I suggest that John Sr-Sr was the one named on the tax list. Whether he also was a blacksmith I will show on the following page..

Reading Township lies just south of the Blue Mountain ridge, which originally was part of the Virginia territory, as was all of western Pennsylvania. Afterward for a short time Maryland territory came up to the 40th Parallel. John Sr-Sr could have very likely moved south and lived in Liberty Twp, called Maryland prior to moving up to Reading Township. Therefore, AB Abraham Overholser, and CA Christian Overholser, are very probably the sons of John Overholser Sr-Sr.

Also, JA, AB, & CA all have the same surname spelling of Overholser. Hulse is an Irish corruption of the Middle English "holtz", which was used by the common folk from the 1400's to the 1800's. Also, JA & AB were both tied to the German Baptist Church.

Next Correction: CA Christian Overholser was not the father of CA1 to CA7 in *The Oberholtzer Book*, page 287. He is the grandfather! Here again the records in Barbara's files consist of two generations of the same name. Corrections are made below.

John Overholser Immigrant from Ireland

There is a premise from language arts and history that reveal the path of emmigration for John Overholser. Genealogists in the past several years have shown the surname of Oberholzer & its variants to have originated all from the Oberholzer Farm east of Zurich Lake in Switzerland. From there, the younger family moved to the spring called Aa, and spread into what is now Wald. When John's ancestors were forced to flee Switzerland, they would have moved somewhere between Alsace and Belgium.

It is quite likely that some of the Oberholzer descendants, which have not been documented, were part of the earliest group who travelled in 1707-1709 to England, hoping to find passage to America. It is now understood that the poorest of the group of immigrants in England were sent to Ireland. There they stayed for several years, due to lack of funds for travel to America.

When John's grandson passed away, his wife signed the death certificate. On it she wrote what she had heard and remembered from the few and evidently far between family talks. She wrote her husband's mother's name, which was correct. But when she wrote his father's name, she wrote that he was born in Ireland. This was not a lie, just a mistake in the generations.

There is another clue as to from where JA John immigrated. His daughter has a proper name of Sarah. This is the German name. But in some documents she is referred to as "Sallie". This is an Irish name. How appropriate for a family who through poverty was forced to live in a country not their own for several years, until the children could scrape up enough funds to find their way to America.

JAsr John Overholser Sr b Ireland - 1740 Immigrant from Ireland to Juniata PA - d 4/19/1794

Probably moved to Maryland near Tanneytown in 1750's, and/or Liberty Twp, Adams County

Moved to Reading Twp, Adams Co PA, taxed in 1761

Children of Immigrant John Sr: JA John Overholser; AB Abraham Overholser; CA Christian Overholser; and grandfather of JM John Overholser

REF: Ship Records, LMHS Library; Letter to Charlene from Barbara Ford, 1990; Tax records of Adams Co PA; OC records

"John Overholster, one of 150 teamsters (wagon haulers) recruited at Lancaster by Benjamin Franklin to be a wagoner for General Braddock on 4/30/1755 in the campaign against Fort Duquesne. John of Adams Co was the only John I can find in that area at that time."

REF: Barbara Ford to Charlene Aitken, 3/15/1991

First found on the 1761 tax list Reading Twp, York Co (now Adams). He was a blacksmith and probably an immigrant. JA was only about 20 years old, so these references are likely about JAsr.

JA John Overholser c1740 - dp 3/11/1809 Reading Twp Adams Co

m **Mary Chronister** 1740 Adams Co PA - dp 12/13/1824 Reading Twp Adams Co, the d/o 1738 Immigrant Johannes Chronister 1708-1/30/1782 York PA & m 1745 Lancaster PA to Maria Barbara Weidenbach. The Chronister parents were buried with a crude heart-shaped marker beside the stone church they help found in the Bermudian Valley. The Chronister family originated from Austria.

REF: Don Yoder, ed., "Our Emigrant Forefathers" *Penna Dutchman* 5/5/1949 p6; Don Yoder FGSP, "Problems & Resources in PA German Genealogical Research" *PGM* Vol 31 1979, pp 7-9; Adams Co Tax Lists; Adams Co Adm #334, 1809, OC 1/2/1810; Adm #1225, 1824; Charlene Aitken, Huntington Beach CA; Family Tree Maker's Genealogy Site, June 27, 1005; Johannes Chronister Will on Dec 18, 1781, York PA

JA1 Abraham Overholser c1763 - 11/23/1836 East Berlin Twp Adams Co aged 73 single

OC Records shows Abraham receiving the largest tract of land, 202 ac & 64 perches

Will written Dec 25, 1824, recorded Dec 12, 1836, Inv Jan 23, 1837, Settled Aug 20, 1849: I, Abraham of Hamilton Twp will all land in Reading to brother Henry Overholser

REF: Abstracts Republican Compiler, Adams Co 1831 - 1851; Adams Co Will #1951, 1836; OC Rec 1/2/1810

JA2 Mary Overholser Jan 29, 1766 - m c1789 **David Weaver** Mar 1767 -

David is the probable son of Christian Weaver, first cousin to Jacob Weaver 1748 SWI - 1820

David Weaver is closely tied to colonial newspaperman Christopher Sauer, an influential Pennsylvanian who wrote of the treacherous trips across the Atlantic this haunting conclusion: [referring to "pirates on the sea, lifeboats used as stables and rotted by manure," and the "unfortunate passengers of the *Mexico* who froze to death off New York harbor on New Year's Day 1837 because there was no pilot on duty to guide them in."] "After all there is no use dwelling on such details: they were undoubtedly to a greater or lesser extent, the necessary accompaniments of a great unsupervised movement of emigration." - *Emigrants Crossing the Atlantic, Early American Homes Magazine* Feb 1997

REF: *Biographical/Cyclopedia Cumberland, York & Adams Co*, pp 349-350; Birth Dates of JA2, JA21-20 from Christopher Saur Bible, by Romaine Stauffer, Sat Apr 12, 2008

JA3 John Overholser Jr c1767 - c8/5/1840 Darke Co OH m **Margaret [?]**. We believe that this is the John Overholser who dies in Darke Co OH 1840. Henry Overholser, Administrator of the estate, posted the bond 9/7/1840 with Benjamin Overholser & David Lime as surities. Henry made 2 trips to Strawtown IN to settle the estate-that is the are where Cornelius Overholser (JA33) lived. Cornelius came from IN to the vendue sale of John Overholser's estate 10/3/1840. JA John of Adams Co PA was a blacksmith, as was John of Darke Co. In the estate papers of John's father, John Jr's signature appears and it is very much like the one in the estate papers of John of Darke Co, although there were about 30 years between the signatures. John Jr disappears from the Adams Co tax list in 1829 which may mean that he left for Ohio then. The Census is what we feel is part of John's family (the 1820 census shows 4 sons & 3 daughters in Adams Co PA).

REF: 1840 est papers, Warren Overhuls, Lakewood CA; Adams Co DB K/377; 1800, 1810, & 1820 Census; Barbara Ford

JA4 Jacob Overhalser 3/9/1770 Adams Co PA - 3/11/1850 Montgomery OH age 80 yrs

Jacob first appears on the Quemahoning Twp, Somerset Co PA tax list 1799 where he was the first blacksmith in Stoystown with a store and distillery. The children were baptized in the German Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Churches, Somerset Co. About 1818 he went to Ohio and settled in Madison Twp, Montgomery Co, bur Miller Cemetary, Dietrick farm near Englewood OH.

1st m **Elizabeth** _____ - 1820

JA4 Jacob Overholser's purchases & 2nd wife:

Mar 11, 1808 80 acres 130 perches in Stoystown \$1000 from Gabriel Kryder
May 4, 1809 Log house & 1/2 lot in Stoystown from John Hany A Sadler
May 28, 1814 5 1/2 perches off main St Stoystown from Daniel Stoy
June 13, 1810 110 perches part of Mayfair Tract to Simon Shoemaker \$70
May 28, 1814 Land bought from Daniel Stoy sold to Mathias Reel \$60
2nd m 10/9/1821 **Catherine (Miller) Overholser** 1793 KY - no issue

wido/o Abraham Overholser (JM1)

Catherine d/o David Miller & Magdalena Maugans

Mar 2, 1833 Land bought from Gabriel Kryder sold to John Horner \$30

REF: Somerset Co DB 4/314, 9/101, 109/426; Montgy Co OH WB E/1, 1850, DB P2/136; Don Bowman, Brookville OH; Barbara Ford notes; Jacob's name is spelled Oberholtzer in many records - Charlene A Aitken

JA5 Benjamin Overholser - dp 5/18/1807

JA6 Samuel Overholser 3/7/1774 - 8/10/1832 m Lucy _____ 11/4/1779 - 8/7/1861

1820 Samuel was made guardian of children of CAS Christian Overholser d 1819 Adams Co PA

both bur Hampton Lutheran & Reformed, Reading, Adams Co 8 children living 1834

Orphan Court Rec shows Samuel's land was sold to Lucy Nov 24, 1834 for \$14 per acre.

REF: Adams Co Will #1678, 1832 ; 1834 Tax List

JA7 Barbara Overholser 2/25/1776 - 1/25/1853 Reading, Adams

bur Mummerts, Hamilton, Adams Co

m Samuel Arnold - dp1853

JA8 Catharine Overholser 6/21/1778 PA- 10/27/1852 Adams Co 74-4-6

both bur Hampton Luth & Ref, Reading

m John Chronister 4/20/1774 - 10/6/1841 Reading Twp, Adams Co 67-7-17

s/o Henrich Chronister & Susanna

In John's will he left Samuel & Jacob part of the plantation in Tyrone Twp, divided equally.

REF: Adams Co Will #2238, 1841 ; Lower Bermudian Ch, Latimore, Adams Co PA

JA9 Esther Overholser single in 1809

JA0 Henry Overholser 8/7/1786 - 2/11/1853 Adams Co 66-6-4

both bur East Berlin Trinity Church

m1834? Sarah _____ 11/10/1791 - 11/10/1877 86-0-0

Executors of Henry's will: George & Henry King

1834 M King transferred 4 acres to Henry Overholser, a singleman

Aug 20, 1849 Henry inherited all land in Reading Twp owned by brother Abraham Overholser

1850 Catharine Bohn 21 PA lived with Henry & Sarah in Hamilton East Berlin Adams Co

REF: Adams Co Will #3042, 1853; Gen Abstracts Adams Co 1852 - 1853 p51; Cem Rec East Berlin, Hamilton, Adams Co; 1834 Tax list

JAA Peter Overholser c1788 - single freeman 1810

m by 1820 Anna Maria [Leitner?] aft 1790 -

Peter was missing from the Tax list in 1829. Elenora and William are listed as Poor Children*.

[*Children aged from 5 to 12 of school age whose parents could not afford to pay for schooling]

1810 living in Reading Twp, 1820 & 1830 in German Twp, York Co PA

On Sat Feb 16, 1811 there was a Hearing at the Abbotstown JP office regarding Peter's property to be repossessed. 1820 Census he is in Littletown, German Twp.

REF: Adams Co German Twp taxes-poor children; Christ Lutheran Church, York Co; 1810, 1820 & 1830 Census; *The Centennial* 2/6/1811

AB Abraham Overholser

AB Abraham Overholser c1740 - 1791 A.D. wp 1798 Woodbury Twp, Bedford Co
m **Catharine** _____ - M.O. 1795

Had warrant for 200 acres in Woodbury 3/14/1785 which was granted to his son Jacob, whose executors sold it in 1806, after his death.

REF: Bedford Co DB G/623- his will has not been located but Don Bowman of Brookville OH saw a copy; Will Inventory taken 1791, probated 11/23/1793, Bruce McCrea, Lansing MI; Tombstones of Abraham & Catharine

AB1 Susanna Overholser c1762 - 1st m c1780 **John Snyder** c1755 - 1793 Bedford Co PA
REF: *The Studebaker Family* pp677-8; Bedford Co WB 21/285; OFA Bulletin Feb 1996

AB2 [JM] John Overholser c1764 - 1842 See JM John Overholser, *The Oberholtzer Book*, pg 238-266
REF: *The Oberholtzer Book*, 1995 Barbara B Ford pg 238

AB3 Jacob Overholser c1770 - wp 9/28/1795 Woodberry, Bedford PA
m c1790 **Susannah Ulrich** 1770 - 1861 IN (her 2nd m Daniel Shively 1773-1818)
REF: Bedford Co WB 1/47, 1795; Montgy Co OH DB F/202-3

AB4 Mary Overholser c1773 - 1845 Elkhart IN
m c1790 **David Stutzman** c1765 MD - 7/3/1852 Elkhart IN
REF: J H Stutzman: *Jacob Stutzman (? -1775)* pp 39, 126-31; Bedford Co DB E/31

CA Christian Overholser

CA Christian Overholser Sr 1741 - miller to trade
?m 2/21/1764 Anna Meyin (Meylin?) Hanover may have been the closest church to Liberty Twp at that time.
Meyin is a likely Irish misprint of Meylin, a common early settler name.

Ref: St Matthews Luth Ch, Hanover, York Co PA; Listed as CY on pg 355 of the O Book

Lived in Adams Co, bur Zimmerman Cem, Liberty Twp near the Maryland Line. Could CA Sr have taken over his father JAsr property, prior to JAsr moving to Reading Twp? A good possibility.

REF: Charlene Aitken, Huntington Beach CA; Adams Co Adm 3/5/1819, OC 4/20/1820 p 356; *The Oberholtzer Book* pg 174; OFA Bull 2/1983; York Co Tax Lists; OC Adams Co p 500John Buckler Adm; PA Archives 3rd Series Tax List 1798-1814; 1790 Census pg 278

CAS Christian Overholser Jr - dp 3/5/1819 trade weaver
Court records name children but not his wife. Samuel Overholser (JA6) was appointed guardian of the children. 1815 Tax List: 67 acres; 1820 heirs 67 acres
1790 Census Reading Twp, 1 Male over 16 including head
1798 Reading Twp Tax List has Christian as a singleman & miller to trade
1803-1810 owned 70 acres Reading Twp, Adams Co; 1811-1814, 67 acres Reading Twp
1810 Census 2 males under 10, 2 females under 10
11/24/1823 land auctioned to William Mummert at \$18.50/acre
REF: PA Archives 3rd Series Tax List York Co 1779-1783; 1790 Census pg 286

CA1 Nancy Overholser c1802 - m **John Miller**
dau of CAS Christian Jr

CA2 Benjamin Overholser 11/4/1804 - 9/4/1830 25-9-28 son of CAS Christian Jr
bur Kehr Bur Plot, Heidelberg Twp, York Co
Orphan's Court records Aug 2, 1831 Book Q P 369 has Michael Bucher EsQ Adm of his estate.
Evidently he was married? with a child?.

CA3 Sarah Overholser 1806 - 1808
dau of CAS Christian Jr

CA4 Solomon Overholser 1/23/1809 - 11/23/1831 22-10-23 bur Kerh Bur Plot, Heidelberg Twp
CA4-8 minor children had Samuel Overholser of Reading Twp as Guardian. CA3 Sarah had already died.
Solomon also in OC Records.
son of CAS Christian Jr

REF: York Co Orphan's Court Records Book Q P 599 Aug 7, 1832

CA5 Elizabeth Overholser d/o CAS Christian Jr

CA6 Christian Overholser III 1/15/1815 - 2/20/1899 m **Sarah** _____ 5/13/1816 - 11/13/1889
s/o CAS Christian Jr both bur Hampton Brethren, Adams Co PA

REF: Adams Co Descendants 1864 - 1937

CA7 Mary Overholser dau of CAS Christian Jr

REF: Mary was listed as CA7 in *The Oberholtzer Book*

CAD Sarah A Overhalt - 3/20/1832 m **John H Newcomer** 1773 York Co - 7/12/1843
Probable dau of CA Christian Overholser Sr John's 2nd marriage Fanny _____ (NI)
8 children Moved to German Twp, Fayette Co 1808; bought 133 & 230 acres

REF: OFA Bulletin 2/08, Pg 14; OC Adams Co April 10, 1820 pg 356; Barbara Ford's notes; Newcomer Genealogy

CAD1 Uriah Newcomer m **Elizabeth Messmore**

CAD2 John Newcomer

CAD3 Samuel Newcomer Jan. 11, 1811 - Sept. 4, 1894

m **Elizabeth Ache**

CAD4 Nancy Newcomer

m **Simon Snyder**

CAD5 Elizabeth Newcomer

m **Charles Brownfield**

CAD6 Joseph Newcomer Jan. 5, 1822 - June 7, 1881

CAD7 David Newcomer 1824 - May 15, 1898

CAD8 Abraham Newcomer

m **Martha Stewart**

References:

- OFA Bulletin February 2008
- Will Book G-201, Memorandum Book G-203
- The Newcomer Families of Pennsylvania, Manley W. Mallett, 1983
- All Those Newcomer Families of Maryland, Manley W. Mallett, 1982
- A Geneology of Henry, Christian & Peter, sons of Wolfgang,
Alexander and Margaret Newcomer, CS 71.N5414, 1889a
- Geneology of John Nave & Edna E. (Leiter) Newcomer,
Joseph L. Newcomer, CS 71.N5416, 1990
- Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

A special Thank You to Noah Oberholtzer Jr, & Juniata Mennonite Historical Society for their insights.

☪☪

**OFA Treasurer's Report
7/15/09 - 8/01/10**

	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Book Fund</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Catered Lunch</u>
Balance 7/15/09	\$2,390.29	\$10,977.94	\$42.57	\$4,451.34
<i>SUMMARY</i>				
7/15/09-8/01/10				
<i>INCOME</i>				
			<i>Total</i>	
Contributions	\$ 882.33			
Purchases		\$305.61		
Interest Credited	<u>2.68</u>	<u>11.10</u>		<u>\$4.20</u>
	\$ 885.01	\$316.71	<u>\$1,164.62</u>	\$4.20
<i>EXPENSES</i>				
2 Bulletins + postage	\$773.98			
Return of excess tax		\$1.77		
Book mailing & postage				\$308.25
'09 Reunion - Yoders	\$31.80			
'10 Reunion - church	\$75.00			
Sales Tax		<u>\$1.75</u>		
	\$880.78	\$ 3.52	\$884.30	
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,347.66	\$11294.65	\$82.66	\$4,150.54
7/16/10				
Compared with 7/16/09	\$ 42.63+	\$ 316.71+	\$40.09+	\$ 300.80-

Of interest:

17 contribution checks recieved beyond the Reunion collection (as compared with 43 in '05-'06; 31 in '07-'08 and 23 '08-'09), average contribution was about \$51.00 (previously \$33)

Average cost of Bulletin + postage = \$386.99, (last year it averaged \$377.90, or \$1.23/Bulletin - also 30 were e-mailed)

(last year, it averaged \$1.04/Bulletin - additionally 30 were e-mailed)

30 people attended the 99th '09 Reunion. The collection that day totaled \$310.

Estimated expenses for '10 reunion were \$620.70, the '09 expenses 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. Nine books were purchased last year.

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

OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

The Years of the Hapsburg Dynasty

On October 1, 1273, “news was brought to Rudolf that had been elected King of Germany. Notwithstanding the extension of his power eastward, he likewise continued his aggressive policy in Switzerland. ... And, taking advantage of the pecuniary straits of the monastery of Nurbach, he obtained by one means or another Lucerne, which belonged to the abbey, as well as numerous farms reaching into the Forest Cantons. The stewardship of Einsiedeln and Pfaffers likewise fell to his share. Many more instances might be given to show how Rudolf’s clever and unscrupulous scheming extended his power all over the midlands and the eastern districts, and how grievously his hand was felt throughout the country. Yet the famous Habsburgs, able, warlike, and energetic as they were, met with one obstacle to their progress which they were unable to remove, and against which all their plans came to nought - the love of freedom innate in the Swiss peoples.”

“Genuine democracies represent the cantons [of today] a Landsgemeinde. The government embodied the will of a sovereign people, and from its very antiquity commands our veneration and deserves special attention. To time immemorial the ancient custom goes back. It was known amongst the Greeks, and meet with it in the ‘Volksversammlung’ of the early German tribes - the gathering of a whole people around their king to administer justice or decide issues of peace or war. These assemblies sprang up again in the thirteenth century, in the Forest Cantons, but now became political meetings, from the necessity of guarding against a common foe. The rule by Landsgemeinde was adopted by eleven Alpine districts, of which two, Gersau and Urseren, were almost microscopical. Five of these were swept away, Schwyz amongst the number. Of these we shall not speak. Yet the hoary and patriarchal custom still lingers on in some of the secluded Alpine nooks, favored by the isolation of the place, and the genie conservateur innate in the Alpine folk. Unable, however, to clearly understand the ancient Landsgemeinde except by reference to the present age, we prefer to draw the reader’s attention to the living spring, the sacred spot where he can ‘look face to face on freedom in its purest and most ancient form’ -to quote Freeman’s fine words - a heart-stirring sight to witness.”

“The last Sunday in April is the date usually fixed for the holding of the Landsgemeinde. The gatherings all bear a general resemblance to each other, yet each shows the influence of the locality, the religion, or the industrial pursuits of the people. “

“It is clearly absurd to suppose that the three Forest Cantons sprang suddenly into existence as democracies. Feudalism had spread its net over the Waldstattenas elsewhere in Switzerland and Europe generally. But the inborn love of freedom amongst the ‘freemen’ of the three cantons was intensified by two things, the secluded Alpine life and the tyranny and aggressiveness of the Habsburgs.”

- Story of Switzerland, by Lina Hug and Richard Stead, 1890 G P Putnum's Sons

“The death of Rudolf in 1291 was good news to the men of the Forest, and all their pent-up hopes of the recovery of their ancient rights once more burst forth. Yet dreading new dangers from new governors, they took measures of precaution. Within a fortnight of Rudolf’s death the three districts of Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden had entered into a perpetual league of defensive alliance (Ewiger Bund), a renewal no doubt of a previous pact, probably that of 1246. They may have met on the Rutli to swear the solemn oath which was to bind them into a confederation, a perpetuite .

The various acts of agreement were drawn up in Latin, and the document - the Magna Charta of the Eidgenossenschaft - treasured up at Schwyz, is held in veneration by the whole Swiss nation. It bears an essentially conservative character, and witnesses to the thought and consideration given to the matter, no less than to the strong sense of equity and clear judgment of the contracting parties. Amongst other things it enjoins that every one shall obey and serve his master according to his standing; that no judge shall be appointed who has bought his office with gold, nor unless he be a native; that if quarrels shall arise between the Eidgenossen (inter aliquos conspiratos), the more sensible shall settle the differences, and if the one party does not submit, the opposition shall decide in the matter. To the document were affixed the seals of the three countries as a guarantee of its authenticity.”

- The Story of Switzerland

The forest cantons viewed life no different than others in Europe. The Habsburgs’ Rudolf died at Gernshausen on July 15, 1291. His successor Albert was deemed “uncouth and vulgar in appearance, ferocious and unseemly in aspect, gloomy and reserved by habit and constitution, even his good qualities were obscured.”* To someone who has been following the ancient barbarian Alemanni tribe through its’ history, this description would seem disgustingly similar to their Oberholzer ancestors. But it is obvious from the many humiliating defeats of the barbaric tribes, that these families who moved into the upper Alps were wanting both personal freedom and peace from all the warfare; as well as an increase in their living standards. Thus it was understandable why the forest cantons rebelled and seized Habsburg possessions in the early 14th Century.

The Oberholzer *hof* or farm became a unique part of history. It sat high on the Swiss landscape, off the beaten path of commerce and waring power entities. This allowed growth of the family with less loss of life. It allowed for peaceful co-existence with the neighbors. But the downside to this was a greedy Zurich authority which wanted to cash in on the wealth of the family. Due to this enigma, the Oberholzer farm became part of a long political battle for freedom. Being on the border of the Canton of St Gallen, the farm annexed itself to St. Gallen whenever it became of benefit to the forest inhabitants.

* The Habsburgs, 1995 Andrew Wheatcroft, the Penquin Group

SOUTHEASTERN PA, OFA Reunion, Friday Night at Yoder's Rest., 101st 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 Sunday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, 87th Reunion in 2010

First North American O Reunion, 3rd Saturday in August 2011

Meet 10AM at Overholser Mansion for tour, Oklahoma City OK see Bulletin notes for more.

FRANKLIN Co PA GROUP, next 2012 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 Paradise_Living50@verizon.net

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

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

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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, **MV/HO** 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 & MT Mark	500 pages completed, another year till finished - T Myers
MM Matthew Oberholtzer	Suggested line exists for 1710 Immigrant
JJ John Oberholtzer	Juniata family being compiled by Connie Overholser & Dennis