



# OFA Bulletin

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

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First of all, I would like to introduce myself. I am Jake Street and my wife is Suzanne. Her grandmother was Ella Oberholtzer. She is from the [SL] Samuel Line. Noah Oberholtzer Jr's great grandfather and Suzanne's great grandfather were brothers.

We have been attending the family reunions for five years now. Each year has been interesting because different people show up. It was a surprise to us that so much research had been done on the family. There are numerous people that we had never heard about.

Our thanks goes out to such members as Carolyn Kendall and Dennis Oberholtzer due to the valuable time they have invested into this family association. Our attendance was down somewhat from our meeting the previous year, and I'm hoping that by being on Facebook, we can generate some interest in more family coming to meet with us in East Earl Twp, Lancaster County PA. This is a wonderful area for people to take in some sight-seeing and enjoy some vacation time while being here!

I hope this upcoming year will be a good one for all. God Bless!

Yours respectfully,

Jake G Street

## GOOD NEWS!

The Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma was not damaged by the earthquake.

- Lisa Escalon, Curator

**Overholser Family Association Bulletin**  
 Vol. XXXIV No. 1 Winter 2013

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 717-687-6950

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**1001 E Oregon Road, #1640**  
**Lititz PA 17543**

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

**Wecome New OFA Members!!!**

Cynthia Van Den Broeke, MC Line  
 Joyce Stokes  
 Charles W Meiser, MI, JM Line  
 John Roose, Lancaster PA, MC Line  
 Robert A Longbottom  
 RENEWED: Melanie Overholt Carlin, JL Line  
 Rob Overholt, Grand Junction CO  
 Tom West, Shelby MI  
 Ester J Krizman, Grand Junction CO  
 Shannon Overholt, MC Line  
 Jeff McLain, Lancaster PA, SL Line  
 Rosalind Ashmun  
 Ted Rudisill, Zebulon NC  
 Jenee Antoniu, JM Line  
 David O'Neil, Stroudsburg PA  
 Rebecca Anderson, JC Line  
 Robert E Troup, JA Line  
 Braam Oberholster, Dir Pub, 7th Day Adventist Ch, South Africa

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

**The Beauty of being connected to an Association**

So many people have questions, or pictures of loved ones, or stories to tell which are of good value to others both in our immediate family and others who are looking for something in particular. The problem I find is that IT TAKES TIME to find those people. And without an Association to stock and point people to the information, often times the beautiful and important items of the family get lost to history. So JOIN US as we continue to compile our vibrant family lines with stories and pictures for our great-great-great-great and so on children's children's children.

**HAPPY NEW WORLD!!!**

**Son** to Mr & Mrs Wilmer & Rachael (Newswanger) Oberholtzer of Ephrata PA  
 - Intel, Tuesday May 31, 2011

**Daughter** Leah Hadessah Godoy born June 19, 2011 to Daniel & Lita (Oberholser)  
 Godoy of Mechanicsburg PA. Grandparents Karl & Connie Oberholser.

# Obituaries

I goofed! In the Summer 2012 issue of the Bulletin I included a list from a New York Times advertisement that simply stated Obituaries. If you wanted to know more you had to pay for it. Why would a well know paper give a list of live people as "Obituaries" is beyond me. They have certainly lost any credibility with me. My apology for this mistake on my part of trusting them. - Editor

[Jean Marie McKinnon](#)      March 2012, Overholtzer Family      - Joy Stokes

[Mrs Margaret Arnold](#), White Bear Lake MN, died in the past year.

- Returned Post Office letter marked Deceased

## Recent Book Purchases

Jenee D Antoniu, Edwardsburg MI

John Brian Roose, Lancaaser PA

Gift purchase for David O'Neil, Stroudsburg PA

Gift purchase for Ted Rudisill, Zebulon NC

Jeff McLain, Lancaster PA

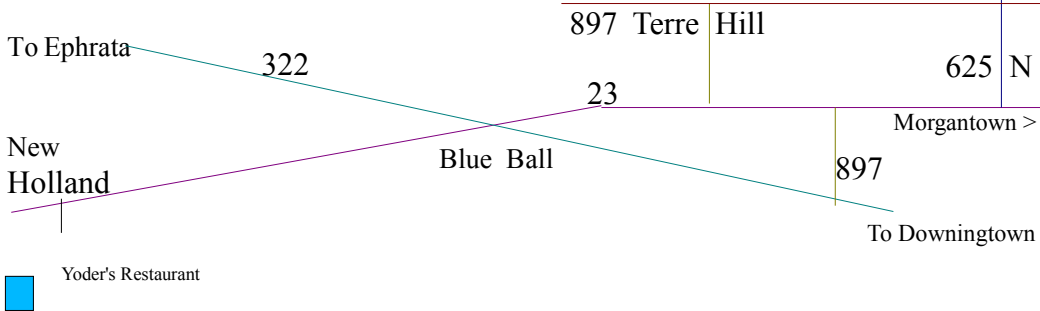
Gift purchase for Rob Overholt, Grand Junction CO

## 2013 REUNION

The Reunion will be held **August 3rd** at 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 2nd**, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting. On Saturday **August 3rd**, 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** We are looking for someone 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 will no longer have 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, and you can call me at 717-687-6950.**

**Sorry for any inconvenience. - Dennis**

**Repetition has its dilemmas!** Even though I have known Jake Street for several years now, the habit of calling my step-father Jack has caused my worn out brain to call Jake - Jack. My apology to Jake, and hopefully by talking with him more I can get it correct again.

### 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	Michael Martin 2nd Vice-President	<a href="mailto:MMartin@ccmd.org">MMartin@ccmd.org</a>
SL	Secretary Carol Carroll	31 Kelly Drive, Wheeling WV 26003 <a href="mailto:carolsquared@Frontier.com">carolsquared@Frontier.com</a>
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

**OFA Treasurer's Report**  
**7/7/11 - 8/3/12**

	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Book Fund</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Catered Lunch</u>
Balance 8/3/11	\$2,566.64	\$11,385.83	\$208.92	\$3,639.30
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b> 7/17/12	<b>\$2,348.27</b>	<b>\$11,496.58</b>	<b>\$229.14</b>	<b>\$3,408.68</b>

Of interest:

23 contribution checks received beyond the Reunion collection  
Average cost of Bulletin + postage = \$337.11, (last year it averaged \$386.99, in 2009 it was \$377.90)

41 people attended the 104th Reunion. The collection that day totaled \$396.

Cost of OFA Book is \$29.50 + PA tax \$1.77 = \$31.27.

Four 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*

**Contributions**

Ross Gordon Gerhart III, Ambler PA

Chet & Carol Carroll, Wheeling WV

Michael A Martin, Rahway NJ

Ruth Oberholtzer, North Wales PA

Agnes O Green, Sumter SC

Janet May, Sarasota FL

Juanita O Brown, Cookville TN

Dick & Gwen Lucas, Caledonia ON CANADA

Dessalee Johnson, Grandledge MI

Naomi Ruth Howard, New Haven MO

Donna Oberholtzer, Washington DC

Jennie R Sperling, Lansdale PA

Lewis & Anna May Schrack, Pottstown PA

Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer, Paradise PA

Jim & Kathy Overholser, Roanoke VA

Carolyn O Kendall, Neffsville PA

John & Hazel Shinpaugh, Norristown PA

Fred & Emily Oberholtzer, Littiz PA

Lynn Oberholtzer, Bel Air MD

Jake & Suzanne Street, York PA

Linda Nitterauer, sons TJ & Trevor

Paul Pletcher, New Holland PA

Noah L Oberholtzer Jr, Leola PA

Jean O Schaffer, Coopersburg PA

Ernest Weinhold, Ephrata PA

# OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

106th Annual Reunion

August 4, 2012

The 106th reunion of the Overholser Family Association convened at St. John's Center United Church of Christ on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Twenty-two people were in attendance.

The day began with a social time and lunch.

Dennis Oberholtzer, President, welcomed the group and introduced the guest speaker, Darvin Martin, a member of the Lancaster County Mennonite Historical Society.

Darvin explained that DNA testing can reveal information on family history not available through written records by identifying a series of chemical markers inherited through both parents. Testing is available through the historical society. They provide a kit which is used to take two swab samples from inside of the cheek and put in a test tube. The samples are sent to a lab and results are available six to eight weeks later. Cost of the testing is: \$240 (37 markers); \$300 (67 markers) or \$425 (111 markers). Testing one male family member from a line will provide the information needed.

Darvin provided the following websites for more information:

[www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) – testing lab

[www.ysearch.org](http://www.ysearch.org) – public database

<https://discuss.imhs.org> – Lancaster County Mennonite Historical Society DNA forum

## BUSINESS MEETING:

Dennis noted that while attendance at our reunions has been shrinking since the 100<sup>th</sup> reunion, requests to receive the newsletter have increased by 25% and we have linked with other associations around North America. He asked members to consider ways of interesting others in attending.

### 1) Archival Material:

Dennis contacted the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society about our donating the archival materials. He was told that they keep materials that are of general interest to those visiting the Society, but do get rid of some that are of limited interest.

Dennis prefers that the materials all be kept in once place. Carolyn Kendall donated a fireproof safe and the most important items are kept there. We also have duplicates of much of the material, some with [Will Overholtzer] in California and some on CDs. He feels that the records are secure at this point, but that there is still a need to scan much of it. He asked that anyone who could help with this contact him. [Lynn Oberholtzer has started this process.] Carolyn pointed out that access to records stored at Dennis' home is limited. They could be available for people to use for research if kept at the LMHS, plus they would be in a climate-controlled environment.

Guest speaker Darvin Martin mentioned that material can be held at the LMHS in a rented box. In that case, nothing could be discarded. However, he also felt that the historical society would be glad to have our records and would not be apt to dispose of them anyway.

*Continued on Page 11*

## Abdicating Abraham Aberrations

There are several Abraham Overholt families which have been mixed together over the past decades. This was due to lack of information, especially birth and death dates, or even estimates of such. It is only through putting together all Abraham Oberholzers from the 1700's, along with the help of the 1780 PA Tax Lists, are we able to properly add individual comments from other resources.

1780 Tax List PA:

Abram Overholt Bucks Co PA: Bedminster Twp, New Britain Twp, Plumsted Twp

These are three different Abrahams, not one with three properties.

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

Mill operator Tory " *John Overholt 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

REF: Gary Culp article, Niagara Falls ONT ; Dennis L Oberholtzer, OFA

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

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

her 2nd m Mar 2, 1819 Samuel T Moyer 1797 - Oct 4, 1874 6 children to 2nd m

**Immigrant John Michael Oberholtzer** immigrated 1749 - His death is not recorded, and likely died a short time after immigrating to America. His wife would have raised the children. **He is the probable father of AC, IC, & CV due to place & time.** The three brothers, AC, IC, & CV would have been under 14 years of age in 1754, and not recordable on the ship records. See more info in the families below.

**AC Abraham Isaac Overholt I** U.E.L. 1746 PA- 7/24/1840 Thorold Twp 94 yrs res Thorold Twp 1809

m **Elizabeth** \_\_\_\_\_ U.E. 1752 USA - 11/8/1836 both buried Overholt Cem, Fonthill ONT

AC Abraham Overholt of CANADA lived & served in Rev War in New Britain Twp, ~~but rented until 1784.~~

From John L Overholt to Don Lisby 1981: "My estimate that Abraham lived in New Britain Twp because there was an Abraham in the militia of the twp in 1779 and 1780 (*PA Archives Ser 3 Vol 5/780*) and in the tax list for 1784 (*PA Archives Ser 3 Vol 10/453*) **This was wrongly attributed to Tory John's son.** - ed.

Immigrated to Canada from PA in 1788, with wife & five children. Granted 500 acres for being a UEL

When Abraham petitioned for land he said he was a "pilot to the N.Y. Army." - John A M Overholt, ENG

*The application of Abraham Overholt to settle in the Province was refused, due to his crimes committed in the U.S.* - REF: Return of Families who have this season come into the settlement of Niagara and who have taken the oaths. R. Hamilton, Niagara 9/17/1787, Upper Canada Grant Petitions

Abraham immigrated to Canada from PA in 1788, with wife & five children, and later left the Niagara area and moved to Thorold Twp, settling there in 1788. - ed.

"Chattel lands and tenements that ought to have come to me by the robbery of my house by the rebels on the night of the June 20th 1838... And also the loses that I lost in the American Revolution of that on June 20th was \$1050 and that of the Revolution was \$1100 pounds currency" - from Abraham's will

REF: *Homestead grants Lots 156, 157, 161, & 162 in Thorold Twp, Lincoln Co ONT ; Letter from John A Overholt, New Malden, Surrey ENG 7/25/1991 to Barbara B Ford; Will of Abraham Overholt Sr; Cem stone for Abraham says 94 years; Ontario Genealogical Society, O.G.S. #5897 - Overholt Cemetery; Upper Canada Land Grant Petitions #O 3/2 500 acres; Gary Culp article, Niagara Falls CAN ; Loyalist Lineages of Canada p 489*

His land "was located in the neighborhood of the Short Hills, along the Townline Road, which separates the former Thorold and Pelham Twps." - Gary Culp The Overholt Burial Ground there is on his property in Fonthill.  
**AC Abraham is NOT JT1 son of Tory John Overholt, as JT1 Abraham died prior to this Ab.**

**AC has a claim to be from New Britain Twp, Bucks Co PA**

1778 Taxes Abraham Overhold  
1777,1780 Exercise Fine, Abraham Overholt, New Britain Twp - PA Archives Ser 3 V 5/780  
1779 Abram Overholt 53 acres, 3 horses 2 cows  
1781 Abraham Overholt estate 52 acres 2 horses 3 cows  
1782 Abraham Overholt estate 50 acres 2 horses 3 cows  
1783 Abraham Overholt estate 18/11 Tax  
Next Door, Christian Overholt 4/6 Tax - Loomis Manuscript  
1784 Abraham Overholt 51 acres 1 dwelling house, 1 outhouse, 8 inhabitants  
Next Door, Christian Overholt 14 acres - Loomis Manuscript  
1785 No Overholts  
- PA Archives Ser 3 V 13, New Britain Twp, Bucks Co PA

**IC Isaac Overholt** born Bucks Co had daughters who moved from Frederick Co MD to CANADA. While AC Abraham may have moved to Frederick Co MD, it would have been between 1785 and 1787 before going to Canada. IC Isaac & AC Abraham appear to be brothers from a father in New Britain Twp, Bucks Co PA where they both originated.

**IC Isaac Overholt** c1746 PA - 1825 Louth ONT **1st found in Plumstead Twp**  
m - c1810

Isaac Overholt Tax Records: 1775 Plumstead Twp., 1 cattle, no land, no rent  
1778 Bedminster Twp., 5 pounds, 10 shillings  
1779 Bedminster Twp., 100 acres  
1780 Capt McHenry's Co EF & Cif  
1781 Bedminster Twp., estate 100 acres  
1782 Plumstead Twp., 50 acres; 1784 50 acres & 6 inhabitants  
1785-87 Plumstead Twp 55 acres  
1790 Maryland Census, 2 male, 2 female, 6; and 1 male, 2 female, 5  
**?? Isaac Overholt 2/14/1797 Townsend Twp, Upper Canada Lot 14 Con 7**  
1825 November 5th, will written, Surrogate Court, District of Niagara, Upper Canada

**CV Christian Overholser** moved to Montgomery Co VA, which lies between Franklin and Giles. He married Catherine Fizer (Pfizer) and in 1820 had 6 daughters. He is said to have sold a lot in Amsterdam, Botetourt Co in 1803. He had accumulated 933 acres at the time of his death. CV died 1828 intestate, and his inventory on 9/7/1828 was in Giles Co VA.

It is now highly probable that CV Christian is the brother of AC Abraham, and lived beside him in 1784 with 14 acres. There are no other Christian's that could meet time and space for AC Abraham's neighbor in New Britain Twp.  
REF: Homestead grants Lots 156, 157, 161, & 162 in Thorold Twp, Lincoln Co ONT ; Letter from John A Overholt, New Malden, Surrey ENG 7/25/1991 to Barbara B Ford; Will of Abraham Overholt Sr; Cem stone for Abraham says 94 years; Ontario Genealogical Society, O.G.S. #5897 - Overholt Cemetery; Upper Canada Land Grant Petitions #O 3/2 500 acres; Gary Culp article, Niagara Falls CAN ; Loyalist Lineages of Canada p 489

**AC3 Abraham Overholt II** 4/4/1784 Bucks Co PA - 1/13/1866 yeoman res of Thorold Twp 81-9-00  
1st m 7/1812 **Margaret Warner** 3/3/1792 St Davids - 12/11/1859 71 yrs Niagara Twp CAN  
d/o Christian Warner U.E. 11/7/1754 USA - settled CAN 1783 - 1833  
& Gertrude Ecker C1753 - 8/29/1823



Resided on family farm at Wainfleet Lot 33, Con 5 200 acres.  
Bought Lot 34 Con 5 in settlement of brother William's estate. Methodist Church  
Both buried Overholt Cem, Fonthill ONT 2nd m **Mary Storms**  
REF: 1851 Census has Abraham born 1772; OC 26/9/09; Upper Canada Land Grant Petitions #O 9/8 200 acres in Wainfleet Twp Lot 33, Con 5; OGSPI 1809; Ontario Genealogical Soc Prov Index, Vol 3 Jan 1806-Dec1816, Abraham Overholt Jr, Abraham Overholt UEL, John Overholt yeoman  
**AC9 Isaac Overholt** c1785 - m **Elizabeth** \_\_\_\_\_ res Louth CAN

1824 Isaac Overholt s/o UEL  
REF: OC 1/12/24; Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index Jan 1821-Dec1826; Gary Culp article

**AD Abraham Overholtzer** m **Norristown, Margaret Derr** res **Skippack, Montgy Co**

**AS Abraham Overholtzer** 1761-1831 **Springfield Twp Bucks Co**

**AV Abraham Overholts** 1745/1750 - 1803/4 Franklin Co VA

m 8/22/1767 by Carolus Lange, First German Evangelical Reformed Church, Frederick MD,  
**Anna Witmor (Whitmore)**  
d/o Benjamin Whitmore 1705 SWI - 8/5/1769 & Mary Diehl (d/o Johan Daniel Diehl)  
Benjamin Whitmore purchased land c1747 in Frederick Co MD and is buried there. His will written 8/5/1769, probated 8/14/1769, Ann received 100 Lbs from the will. Witnesses Abram Thayer, Benjamin Biggs, Wm Biggs. The idea that ~~Anna was a daughter of a David Witmer~~ cannot be substantiated, nor that any came to Frederick County MD or nearby.

Carolus Lange, a circuit minister, married them, either in MD, PA or VA. Abraham was the Abraham Overholts in the 1790 MD census with 4 males and 4 females. In the 1850 census son David said he was born c1772 in MD and the family of daughter Elizabeth said she was born there in 1773. Abraham was not the one who served in the Rev War in New Britain Twp in 1779, as he was already living in MD.

AV Abraham had 8 in his household which agrees with the number of an Abraham Overholt in Frederick MD 1790 Census and Abraham Jr is the one on the 1810 census for Franklin Co VA. Abraham bought land in Franklin Co VA 1792 and died between court sessions 1803/1804. Both were absent from ~~New Britain Twp~~ in 1785, and never lived there, as the information about New Britain Twp concerns AC Abraham.

REF: John L Overholt, Kilmarnock VA; Barnes, *Maryland Marriages 1634-1777* p132; Md Historical Society; Kathleen Overholser to B Ford; Milton Blanding notes from Loomis Manuscript, OFA Records; Mrs Edna Overholser Lacy, great-granddaughter of Abraham; James Overholser, IN 47529, great-great grds/o/Abraham; Barbara B Ford letter to Pauline A Wagoner, 2/24/1989; *The Witmer Family*; Maxine Blankenhorn Bennett, 1984 Iowa; LMHS Card File showing neither a Benjamin or David to have come to Frederick Co MD from Lancaster Co PA; Dennis L Oberholtzer research at LMHS & OFA Files; Diehl family of York PA by Leon & Lova Overholts, Beta testing.

**AV5 Abraham Whitmore Overholts** c1781 - 4/22/1826 **called Jr in Franklin Co VA**  
m **Catherine Gossard**

This Abraham was born to late for confusion with other Abs.

**JC3 Abraham Oberholtzer** b + or - 1767 Bucks Co PA - d \_\_\_\_\_

With father JC Jacob Oberholtzer 1784 in Bedminster Twp with no acres and part of 7 in family

**AT Abraham Overholser** m **Elizabeth Stout** m **Bedminster Twp**

This Abraham was taxed 1780 in Bedminster Twp, Bucks Co PA JC3 & AT may be the same person.

**MC19 Abraham Overholt** c1739 - 1812 Plumstead Twp

This Abraham was taxed in Plumstead 1780.

**MC192 Rev Abraham Overholt** 2/27/1765 - 1834 *Deep Run Menn, Bucks Co*

**MR Mark Overholt** c1733 - wp 12/18/1798 Rockhill Twp, Bucks Co  
m Catherine \_\_\_\_\_

**MR1 Abraham Overholt** bef 1754 - 1830/40 Luzerne Co PA  
m Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ - aft 1840

This Abraham has shown up in different places in the OFA files, masking as one of the other Abraham's.

With the information we now have, it is highly likely that the AC, IC and CV Lines are the sons of John Michael Oberholtzer who immigrated in 1749. The descendants in these families carry on the names of Hans, Michael and Jacob, whereas the other untied immigrant 10/24/1754 Hans George Oberholtzer does not. First name repeats were most common during the 1700's, which makes Hans Michael a very logical choice as AC Abraham's father. It also has been shown that Isaac and Christian originated in New Britain Twp, with AC Abraham residing alongside brother Christian.

AC Abraham Overholt of CANADA is also claimed to have lived & served in the Rev War in New Britain Twp, but rented until 1784. In a letter from John L Overholt to Don Lisby 1981: "My estimate that Abraham lived in New Britain Twp because there was an Abraham in the militia of the twp in 1779 and 1780 (*PAArchives Ser 3 Vol 5/780*) and in the tax list for 1784 (*PAArchives Ser 3 Vol 10?/453*) This statement was applied to the wrong Abraham. While AC Abraham may have moved to Frederick Co MD, it was at a later date. Also, IC Isaac Overholt born Bucks Co had daughters who moved from Frederick Co MD to CANADA. IC Isaac & AC Abraham appear to be brothers from a father in Bucks Co PA where they both originated.

In the Loomis Manuscript (11) an Abraham had a brother David, with the family residing in VA. This would have been the AV family, in which AV5 Abraham did have a brother AV2 David. He is not DB David Overholt of Doylestown PA.

Early on, compiler's such as Gary Culp and others did not have enough information to go on, and some confusion developed. Without the 1780 tax record which reveals that three Abraham's lived in Bucks County at the same time, and included the names of the townships, it would not have been possible to separate the information into the proper places.

This information does not help to find the ancestor of AV Abraham Overholts. But at least we now know that he did not come from New Britain Twp in Bucks Co PA.

A special thank you to Lova Overholts for added Whitmore information.

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*Continued from Page 6*

2) Election of Vice President

Michael Martin was nominated to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President as Jake Street is becoming president and vacating that post. All present voted in favor.

3) Increasing Interest in the OFA and Attendance at Reunion

Several suggestions were discussed:

- ◆ Add a neurologist position to help record births and deaths. A “Welcome to the Overholser Family” greeting could be sent to the parents of new babies.
- ◆ Post an advertisement in the newsletter seeking help with organizing the family line notebooks and seeking someone for the necrologist position.
- ◆ Try to attract families with young children by having some kind of special events at the reunions for them.
- ◆ Send e-mail reminders of the upcoming reunion and ask for RSVP.
- ◆ Send other suggestions to the officers.

Carolyn Kendall presented the Treasurer's Report. Balances include \$2,393.27 in savings; \$11,483.72 in the book fund; \$221.79 in checking; and \$3,408.68 in the lunch fund.

A basket was passed to receive donations to the OFA.

A drawing was held for a “quillo” donated by Earline and Dennis Oberholtzer. In addition, Kathy Overholser gave out prizes to: Oldest attendee: Fred Oberholtzer; Youngest attendees: T.J. and Trevor Nitterauer; Traveled farthest: Carol and Chet Carroll from WV and Michael Martin from NJ. More door prizes were distributed as well.

Dennis then introduced Jake Street who will serve as President of the OFA for the next two years. Jake pledged to do his best to serve the organization well. Jake's wife Suzanne is from the immigrant Samuel line of Oberholtzers.

The meeting was adjourned and the official reunion photograph taken.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Carroll, Secretary

Names of Attendees:

Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer  
Carolyn O Kendall  
Michael Martin  
Fred & Emily Oberholtzer  
Jake & Suzanne Street  
Paul Pletcher  
Jean O Schaffer

Jim & Kathy Overholser  
John & Hazel Shinpaugh  
Carol & Chet Carroll  
Lynn Oberholtzer  
Linda Nitterauer, TJ & Trevor Nitterauer  
Noah L Oberholtzer, Jr.

Plus at Yoder's: Lewis & Anna May Schrack

## OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

According to tradition the Stauffers owe their origin to a generation of knights called Stauffacher, at Hohenstaufen [in present day Bavaria, Germany].\* It is presumed that all of the Stauffer pioneers that emigrated to America at different times have the same common origin, and are more or less remotely connected, and in all probability the pioneers of this work have also their origin in the ancient House of Hohenstaufen in Suabia. - *The Stauffer Family*

In a description of the House of Hohenstaufen, there is given in a translation from *German History* by Fred Raumer from which we learn:

“In the middle of the eleventh century Frederick of Buren removed from the confined valley of Buren to the plain of Hohenstaufen, built the castle and founded the town of Hohenstaufen, and from him descended the Hohenstaufen dynasty. The House of Hohenstauffen exalted itself over all the tribes and principalities until after a period of splendor and glory it was suddenly seized by a dreadful calamity and hurled into the darkest night of oblivion, leaving hardly any traces behind.”

Frederick died in 1105 leaving two sons, Frederick and Conrad, who were adopted by their uncle, Henry V.

From 1038 to 1100 the land of Northeastern Switzerland was under the control of the Swabian kings of Hohenstauffen. Their descendants are related to us after the immigration of our families to America. But their power waned on the south side of the Rhine River, in which Bertold II. of Zaeringen exerted his authority. - DLO

*The following is a list of rulers which would have extended over the Oberholzer lands:*

“After the death of Henry V, in 1125, the Imperial Crown was contested between Frederick and Lothaire, Duke of Saxony. Lothaire was elected by fraud. He died in 1137, childless. Frederick having died, the crown was again contested between Conrad of Hohenstaufen, and Henry the Proud, Duke of Saxony, and heir to Lothaire. Conrad was elected March 7, 1137, and crowned March 15. Conrad was born at Ampulia in 1093. His mother was Agnes, daughter of Henry IV. Conrad married Gertrude, duchess of Sulzbach, in Bavaria. His title was disputed by Henry the Proud of Saxony. A civil war ensued. Conrad gained a victory and the war ended. “In 1147 Conrad conducted a large army of Crusaders into Palestine. He besieged Damascus but failed to take it, and returned in 1149. He died without issue in 1152, and was succeeded by his nephew, Frederick I, surnamed Barbarossa, son of Frederick, Duke of Suabia and brother to Conrad III. His mother was Judith, daughter of Henry the Black. “He was elected Emperor upon the death of his uncle, Conrad III, in March 1152. In 1155 he passed into Italy with an army and was crowned by Pope Adrian IV, at Rome. In 1156 he was married to Beatrice of Burgundy and reduced the King (or Duke) of Poland to become his vassal. In 1158 he led a large army into Italy and subjected the revolted city of Milan which was punished with rigor. Two rival Popes, Victor IV, and Alexander III, having been elected in 1159, Frederick recognized the former and was excommunicated by the latter. His reign was disturbed by disputes with the Pope and wars with the cities of Lombardy.

- *The Stauffer Family*

From 1173 to 1212 A.D., the Habsburgs inherited the rights of the Count of Zurich. They remained loyal to the local governing body, which at the time was the Hohenstauffen emperors. - *The Habsburgs*

Frederick Barbarossa's “army was defeated by the Lombards near Legano in 1176. He then made peace with Pope Alexander and a truce with his other enemies in Italy. In 1183 the celebrated Peace of Constance was concluded between Frederick and the Lombards. In 1189 he joined the third Crusade with an army of 150,000 men, and after having marched by land as far as Asia Minor, defeated the Turks near

Iconium. He was drowned in the river Calyocmis in 1190. He was ambitious but liberal, and was considered one of the greatest generals and statesmen of his age. He was succeeded by his son, Henry VI."

"Henry VI was born in 1165. He married Constance, daughter of Roger, King of the two Sicillies, who inherited the Throne of her father in 1185 A.D." (Common Era). Henry spent a lot of time in Sicily, and was said to have been poisoned to death due to his tyranny. His brother Phillip was next in line for the throne.

Henry VI and Phillip were the sons of Frederick Barbaroosa. Phillip was born in the early 1170's, and was later to become Duke of Suabia. He married Irene of Constantinople, possibly in hopes of expanding his empire. Phillip was elected Emperor of Suabia in 1198. "But his title was disputed by Otho IV, which caused a civil war to ensue. The Pope favored Otho and excommunicated Phillip, but was afterwards reconciled to him. Philip was assassinated in 1208 by Otho Wettlebach at the wedding of his niece." Why a person in Phillip's shoes would go to his enemies family wedding is beyond my comprehension. After his murder, Philip's wife, Irene, fled to Hohenstaufen, and died shortly after in childbirth. That child died, but the two daughters of Philip were saved by the efforts of the Bishop of Speyer. It is most interesting to see how even though the governments in Suabia [now Germany] were ruled locally, the Pope had final say by threat of kicking a leader out of the church body. This reverence for the Church of God is missing in today's world, and is a sad commentary which our descendants will need to fix.

"Frederic II, son of Henry VI and Constance, was born at Jesi in 1194. He had superior talents, and was master of the Greek, Italian, French, and Arabis languages. He was married at Palermo in 1209 to Constance, young and childless widow of Emrich, King of Hungary, daughter of Alfonso II, and sister to Peter II, of Argon, Spain. He was crowned Emperor of Germany July 25th 1215, at Aix-la-Chapelle, then only 21. After the defeat of his rival, Otho, at Bovines, he was supported by the Ghibeline party in an attempt to unite Germany and Italy into one empire. The project was resisted by the Pope and the Guelphs in a long contest. In 1220 he removed his court to Naples, which belonged to him by inheritance, and in which he founded a university. In accordance with a vow extorted from him in his youth by the Pope, he undertook a crusade against the Infidels in 1227, but turned back before he reached Palestine, for which he was excommunicated by Gregory IX. He renewed the enterprise in 1228, took Jerusalem and made peace with the Pope in 1230. He suppressed a rebellion raised by his son, Henry, gained in 1237 a great victory over the Guelphs at Corleone, and waged war against Gregory IX. In 1245 Pope Innocent renewed the papal anathema and absolved his subjects from their allegiance. In the midst of these troubles Frederic died, in 1250. He was succeeded by his son, Conrad IV. Frederic was eminent for courage and other qualities, and was considered the greatest general and statesman of his age." - quotes from *The Stauffer Family*

"Feudalism had grown apace in Switzerland, and what a hard struggle the people had to hold their own against the impositions of princes and nobles." From 1218 to 1267, East Switzerland was ruled primarily by the House of Kyburg, then Savoy, then Habsburg. During this time, the local rulers held to the house of Stauffen (Hohenstauffen) instead of the Papacy of Rome. But upon "the death of Conradin (Stauffen) on the scaffold at Naples (in 1267), and the consequent extinction of the Stauffen line, Rudolf (of Habsburg) veered gradually round to the side of the Pope. " - *Story of Switzerland*

"Due to the loss of power in the late 1200's, many of the younger branches of the Hohenstauffen line fled from Prussia to Baden, Bavaria, and Switzerland. Still another branch of the family went at a later date into England and settled in Devonshire, where the name became Stover. - *The Stauffer Family*

With the descent of power of the Hohenstauffen Dynasty, Ottokar Przemysl became King of Bohemia in 1273. Although reigning at this time, his power was more localized, and most likely had little effect on the Oberholtzer lands and their neighbors.



## MV Marcus & South African Lines Additions

**MV9 Mathias Aberholzs** 1790 Germany -

s/o father Marcus and his mother was an Ermentrout.

One needs reminded that in the 17th to 19th centuries, the vowels were sometimes interchanged in literature. Here the O is A in Aberholzs, and A is E in Ermentrout.

REF: Fraktur in Rockingham County Heritage Center, John Shinpaugh 2011

A person can find the most interesting quirks in language from the most unlikely places. I have a copy of the *Jewish New Testament* at home. In the back of it there is a page titled "Pronouncing Explanatory Glossary". A portion of the paragraph on pronunciation reveals what I believe to be a major clue as to the immigration place of Marcus Aberholzs and his Ermentrout wife. It states: "*The pronunciation shown for Hebrew and Aramaic is that used in Israel; Ashkenazic (German and eastern European) pronunciations common in English-speaking countries often shift "a" sounds towards "o", turn some "t's" to "s's", and accent the next-to-last syllable where the Israelis accent the last.*"

What this is implying is that Marcus Aberholzs ( MV Marcus Overholt) did not shift their name to the O in Oberholtz because they were not living in Germany, north or east Switzerland, or eastern Europe. The family evidently came from another area of the Reformation world. In the last OFA Bulletin, a quote from Andreas Fronhaus showed that there are no towns of Aberholtz in the German speaking lands. Both language and geography hints now point the immigration of Marcus Overholt to somewhere outside of the Ashkenazic lands.

There is a third hint recently uncovered as to the ancestry of MV Marcus Overholt. One of our OFA members, Lova, has given some DNA connections of her Overholt husband. Some of his bloodline connects with the South African Oberholsters who immigrated there in 1696 from Germany. A Christian Oberholzer became superintendent of the huge diamond mine in Johannesburg. What we know of the original South African O Lines follow:

*There are two strands of the surname. The one entered the country from Cape Town and due to the native speak of the cape colourds the surname was changed into Oberholtzer, Oberholtser and Oberholster.*

*The others came from Namibia (then Duits Wes) and entered the country from the north. They were settled on a farm, Marico Bosveld, in northern Transvaal (as it was then known), long before the great trek from the cape to the north of South Africa started. The farm was in our family until two generations ago, when my granddad sold it.*

- Marinda Kotze, Kotzemarinda\_kotze@usa.net, 6/6/2000

Dr J J Oberholzer was in touch with a distant Oberholzer relative in the northern Transvaal and with some of the Orange Free State Oberholzers who are descendants of a pro-British Oberholzer who stayed behind at Fauresmith in the O F S when his more rebellious

forebears moved further north to the Western Transvaal. This letter was written in 1984 but the last I heard from him was in 1997. - Barbara B Ford to Marinda Kotze, 6/28/2000; also a letter from Dr J J (signed Hannes Oberholzer), to John L Overholt of Kilmarnock VA on 11/12/1984, OFA Files

Due to the Apartheid movement in South Africa, many whites today are being persecuted to the point of leaving the country. Our family tie there was Pieter, and in the past year we have lost contact with him. Dr J J Oberholtzer has past away two years ago.

From the above notes, there can be gleaned some possibilities as to the immigration of both MV Marcus and Dr J J's ancestor. Both may have gone to England and stayed for some time. Reason for this is that South Africa was colonized by the British, about the time J J's ancestor went there. MV Marcus may have lived there also, spending a long enough period of time to drop the "o" sound from the German tongue. By the time they came to America, the non-German spelling of Aberholtz was the norm for them. And since both have some of the same bloodline, they may even have a common ancestor after leaving the village of Aathal or Oberholz. The only problem with this idea is that MV Marcus is said to have come from Oberholz, whereas J J's ancestor is said to have come from Aathal. But neither can be confirmed at his time, and like so much of the old information, generalities can scue the details.

☺☺☺

## **Nows & Laters**

While on vacation, I read a very small book by Alan Lightman called Einstein's Dreams. One small chapter shared a supposition that people live forever. That is, in our present biological bodies. And the supposition also assumes two types of people, the Nows and the Laters. The Laters reason that all things can wait. No Hurry! Don't you know haste makes waste? Laters are ones who lite in coffee shops discussing the various possibilities of life. The Nows, also called existentialists, on the other hand believe they can do all they can imagine. They scurry to & fro in order to experience all "the infinities of life."

On pages 117-122 Lightman says this: *"The Nows & Laters have one thing in common. With infinite life comes an infinite list of relatives. All generations are alive and offer advise. Sons never escape from the shadows of their fathers, nor do daughters their mothers. No one ever comes into his own. Every action must be verified one million times. Life is tentative. No person is whole. No person is free."*

Isn't it wonderful to be temporarily finite, free to make our own decisions. Isn't it wonderful to become our own person, a whole individual! And it will be even more wonderful when we meet our loved ones who are with Jesus in Eternity! Then we can all live different but in the Lord, infinitely!

☺☺☺

**OFA REUNION**, Southeastern PA, Friday Night at Yoder's Rest., Reunion 1st Saturday in August, **2013**

**IOWA O's** Meetings 1st Sunday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, 90th Reunion in **2013**  
www.overholtzer.org

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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**

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### **Report on Future DNA work for Oberholzer Families**

Darvin Martin gave an important DNA talk at our 2012 Reunion. We found that all Oberholzer spellings originate from the village of Oberholz, Switzerland. The name is a place-name designation, and that does not vary. As to whether a family line connects to other family lines is another thing. In an attempt to connect American family lines to other American lines, or to European lines would take some DNA testing. But it would not be a full-proof identification in every instance. DNA cannot distinguish between brothers or some close cousins. I guess that is why the Bible also does not distinguish between brothers or first cousins, for Jesus Christ was a half-brother and first cousin to his older siblings James, Jude, and the other seven, but they were called brothers.

To decide whether or not DNA testing would be of value to you, it would be best to discuss it with Darvin Martin or myself. - ed

*A genealogist is a reductionist with endless new material.*