



# OFA Bulletin

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

## Overholser Family Reunion August 3rd, 2024 St John's Center Church, Rt 625 Terre Hill PA

This year, former Pennsylvania House of Representatives Thomas E Armstrong will be speaking. He is an Oberholzer descendant, and is working on his very distant ancestry. That includes the Stauffer genealogy, which Dennis L Oberholtzer is now having printed called *Shrouded in Secrecy, a Knightly Search*. This work includes the 150 years of the missing Shroud of Jesus Christ; where and when it was during that time period. A Stauffer ancestor was half-brother to the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick Hohenstaufen.

Thomas will be speaking on OW Henry Owerwasser's grandson Abraham Brubaker.

We also hope to have a monarch butterfly exhibit by Charlotte Kulp.

Also, Dennis L Oberholtzer will be giving an overview of how the Stauffer, Stouffer, Stover family connects to the Stauffachers, and the Holy Roman Hohenstaufens. Copies will be available for sale, or at [overholserfa@gmail.com](mailto:overholserfa@gmail.com).

**Come Join US**

**Overholser Family  
Association Bulletin**  
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Welcome New OFA Members!!!

Thomas E Armstrong, Marietta PA

Carolyn Sands, Stauffer Family

Lee Wanaselja

Russell D Geise, Allentown PA

**New Way to CONTRIBUTE!**

You can support the OFA by visiting our website  
at [www.overholser.net](http://www.overholser.net) and clicking the Donate button.

We have PayPal for your convenience. Please e-mail  
[gmartin@overholser.net](mailto:gmartin@overholser.net) if you have any questions.

*At work there are too many hours in the day.  
At home there is not enough days in the hour.*

**Does anyone know if the Wagoner family Story on the TV Series Wagon Train is related to our O Wagoners?**

Let's add a few states in 2024! Families that are stretched across the country come here to get together and enjoy the scenery, take in some family history, and get to meet new friends in brotherly love! Come Join US!

# OW & HW Henry Overholt

## With Ties to HJ & SL

In 2022, former Representative Thomas Armstrong and Doug Brubaker contacted me concerning a Barbara Oberholtzer (?1733 - \_\_\_\_ ) who married John H Brubaker. I was in no position at the time to study this, but now I finally put my mind to it after our 2023 Reunion.

Who is this Barbara Oberholtzer? And who is John H Brubaker? We had no such persons in our OFA Family Lines. Now it is important to understand that people born prior to 1750 in America have very slim information files, if any. So being able to properly connect some of these people require a process of elimination, and if possible, matching place and time. One of the things I do NOT do is accept info from internet family tree resources, unless there is some kind of reference which can validate some aspect of the connections.

Hunting a Barbara O prior to 1750 takes the time to look through all the O lines. Still, there are only a small amount of Barbara's from that time period. BB Barbara Schuler Oberholtzer was born 1737 - 1823 and married Christian Bretz 1737 - 1813 from the JB line. BG Barbara O 1/20/1754 is too young. And then there is an Unknown O who married a John Brubaker. She was the daughter of OW Henry Owerwasser. This is the only known lady who married a Brubaker early on outside of the MC Line. According to known documents, she was not a Maria, as suggested from earlier conversations.

### WHO IS OW HENRY O?

OW Henry has been established as the same person as Henry Omhults of Lancaster County on the 1780 PA Tax List Index. This list includes people who paid taxes, even years prior, to 1780. So we cannot get exact living dates from this list.

Henry Overholt, known as HW Henry Overholt on page 284 of *The Oberholtzer Book* by Barbara Ford, has long been on our minds. HW has been proved not to be MC2 Henry, as seen on the online MC line of our website. We know he was not HR Henry Oberholtzer of Robeson Township, Berks Co PA. HR would have only been born around 1738. And HW

bought land in 1743. We also know HA Henry Overholser of Adams Co PA is too young, being born after Henry died. Also, HW Henry CANNOT be OW Henry, because we have approximate death dates for both. HW Henry died without a will, and OW left both his daughter and her husband John Brubaker half of his estate each.

As to the Henry Overholds who came on the Jamaica Galley in 1738/9 at age 32, he would have been born about 1706. This coincides with OS11215.27665 Heinrich II Oberholzer, a candidate for immigration listed on the OS Line on our website. And so this is a highly probable match, since no other Henrys are that close in time and eligible for immigration. **So we now have a new connection to the OS Line!** And from the OFA Bulletin of Summer 2015 we learned that OW Henry is highly likely Immigrant Henry on the Jamaica Galley. OW Henry Owerwasser is one and the same as Henry Overholds.

**What about HW?** There are several candidates for this Henry:

OS11215.27668 Hans Heinrich Oberholzer c1712 -

OS11215.85272 Heinrich Oberholzer 12/26/1719 Wald -

OS11215.2a37 Hans Heinrich Oberholzer Jr 11/6/1681 -

**OS11215.2a412 Heinrich Oberholzer Jr 4/19/1691 Wald -**

The high-lighted fellow is a brother of HJ Hans Jacob Oberholzer. **Highly likely.** While HJ settled in Hatfield Twp, Montgomery Co; HW settled in Worcester Twp, Montgomery Co. PA. This is a very likely match.

I cannot verify that John H Brubaker has a middle name of Herr. I also cannot verify that John's wife had the name of either Maria or Barbara. But it is certain she was an Oberholzer, and her father Henry was Immigrant Henry of the Jamaica Galley in 1738/9. It is also interesting to know the people connected to their will is of the Zetty family, married into the SL Samuel Oberholtzer 1727 line. These families must have stayed closely tied after leaving Switzerland.

**OW Henry Oberholzer**  
**Of Lancaster County,**  
**Known as Hendrick Overholds, Henry Ourwalt, Henry Owerwasser**

OS11215.27665 Heinrich II Oberholzer c1706 - d bet 1747/1767

Henry Overholds immigrated on the Jamaica Galley in 1738/9 at age 32 This coincides with OS11215.27665 Heinrich II Oberholzer, a candidate for immigration listed on the OS Line on our website. His wife is unknown.

Warrants of 100 acres on 3/2/1738 & 111 acres from Henry Brindle 6/23/1747 - patented by son-in-law John Brubaker 5/1767. The property, known as *Shrewsbury*, was in Cocalico. That was the original name. The warrant was written later, then called Elizabeth Township, and still is. John Brubaker's uncle was married and living in Elizabeth Township. It is most likely John met Miss Oberholtzer in that area. Part of Henry's land is presently the A-1 Brubaker farm on the South side of Brubaker Valley Road. The cemetery where Henry O and his daughter are buried is on the corner of the T-road, across the road from the uncle's Brubaker farm.

The immigrant list entry could be matched to this Hendrick because of the calender enigma during the Reformation Period. Warrant dates prior to 1752 were written with the Julian Calender still being used by the British. Ship records coming from Europe directly were being written with the new Gregorian Calender used in mainland Europe at various locations. Thus the warrant date of March 2, 1738 is likely the same as our March 2, 1739.

The reason for all the mis-spellings is two-fold. The people documenting the German immigrants were British or Irish. Since many of the Germans could not write, the authority would write what they heard. Also, Henry may have had a speech impediment. This is likely why there are such wide variations in the spellings.

OS11215.27665.1 Unknown Oberholtzer 1733 - 1804

Possibly Maria or Barbara, but unsubstantiated. Known as OW1 Daughter  
m (*E2--3 Gible*) John H Brubaker 1732/3 - 1792

The couple moved to Strasburg Twp, where son Martin later lived

Ancestor of PA Rep. Thomas Armstrong

See OFA Bulletin Winter 2012 for continued family line as OW

REF: *Pass & Imm List Index Supp* 1983 #1804 pg 184; *Warrant Book of Lanc Co PA*; *Genealogical Dates*, Kenneth L Smith, Picton Press 1994 Rockport Maine; *OFA Bulletin Summer 2015* pgs 5-12; *OFA Bulletin Winter 2012* pgs 7-10; *Brubaker Book*, Gible, Brubaker Family Association; Dennis L Oberholtzer; *Lancaster County Warrant Book*; 1899 *Atlas of Lancaster County*; PA Archives online; *Metro Street Atlas of Lancaster County*, 3rd Edition; 1780 PA Tax List; *The Oberholtzer Book*, Barbara Ford 1995; OS Line, Overholser.net; Emma Oberholzer, heir to the Oberholzer records in Europe; Bileter's compilation from Emma; Phila Co DB H-1/1679, Adm Bk G/429, 1764; WB P/367, 1773; Strassburger-Hinke: *PA German Pioneers* p 252

# HW Henry Overholt Jr

Of Worcester Township, Montgomery Co, PA

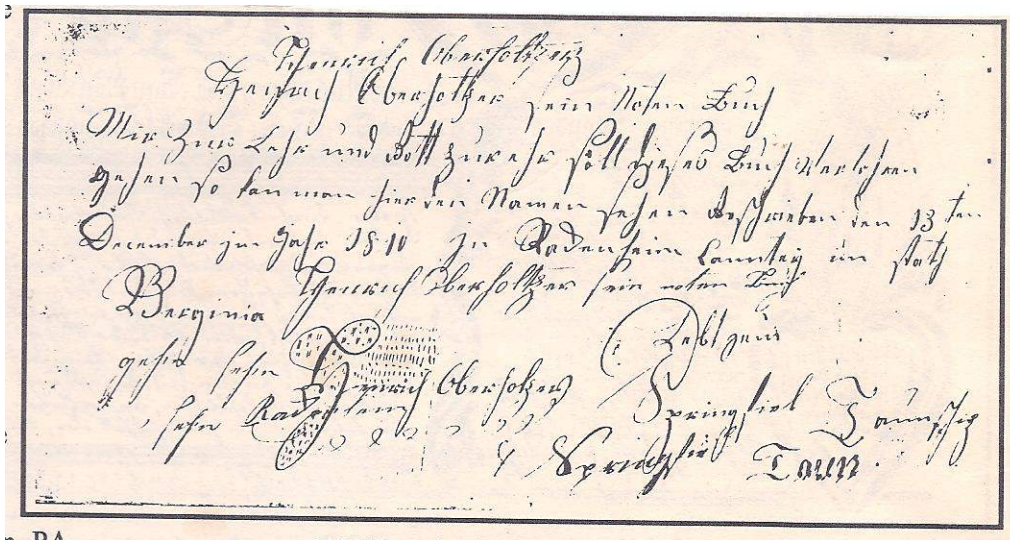
OS11215.2a412 Heinrich Oberholzer Jr 4/19/1691 Wald -  
Brother to HJ Hans Jacob Oberholtzer of Hatfield Twp PA  
Immigrated 1743 Philadelphia PA; Known as **HW Henry Overholt**  
Purchased land in Worcester Twp 12/27/1743 and dp 12/1764 intestate.  
m Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ - will proved 2/23/1773 makes no mention of children.  
She was renounced as administrator & William Rittenhouse and Jacob Kolb were  
appointed surities. - Jacob Olmstead & Peter VanFossen

REF: *The Oberholtzer Book* pg 284; Pass & Imm List Supp 1984 #2564, #6680 pg 361, Index pg 22; Phila Co DB H-1/679, Adm Bk G/429, 1764, WB P/367, 1773; Strassburger-Hinke: *PA German Pioneers* pg 252; OS Line on Overholser.net website

*Let us hear from you!*

*Send us or bring your stories so others can enjoy*

*our rich history and heritage!*



This is a copy from the *Heinrich Oberholtzer Songbook*, page 001

Dennis Oberholtzer has again begun to connect the many obituaries sent to him. Barbara Ford had over 100 obits, and Dennis has collected another 100 +. This will consume much of his spare time over the next couple years. Many O Family books are on the market, and we appreciate and collect any sent to us.

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## **New Find/Unclassified**

### **Mary Overhuls-Bell**

**1--1 Elder John Neff** Brethern Church  
**2--1 Col John Francis Neff** Sept 5, 1834 VA - Civil War at Manassas VA  
**3--1 Isaac Neff** m Hester A Darnell  
**4--1 Emma E Neff** 1851 - 1905 m John G Ward 1 child  
**4--2 John J Neff** Aug 24, 1860 -  
m Sept 4, 1884 **Elsie M Bell** 1885 -  
d/o **Rheuna D Bell & Mary Overhuls**  
**5--1 Edna Bell Neff** Oct 12, 1885 -  
653 W Mulberry St, Springfield Ohio

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### **Rudolf Oberholtzer immigrant 1737 - LMHS Card Catalogue**

**Has anyone heard of him?**

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### **Places to search for more Oberholzer History**

The German Archives at Kaiserschlatern, West, Herr Apier, Archivist - This was written in 1978, so Herr Apier is probably replaced with someone else. The records contain the Karlsruhe Palatinate records, which may give names or clues as to the unknown and unconnected emigrants from Oberholz SWI.

# Johannesburg, Ditto!

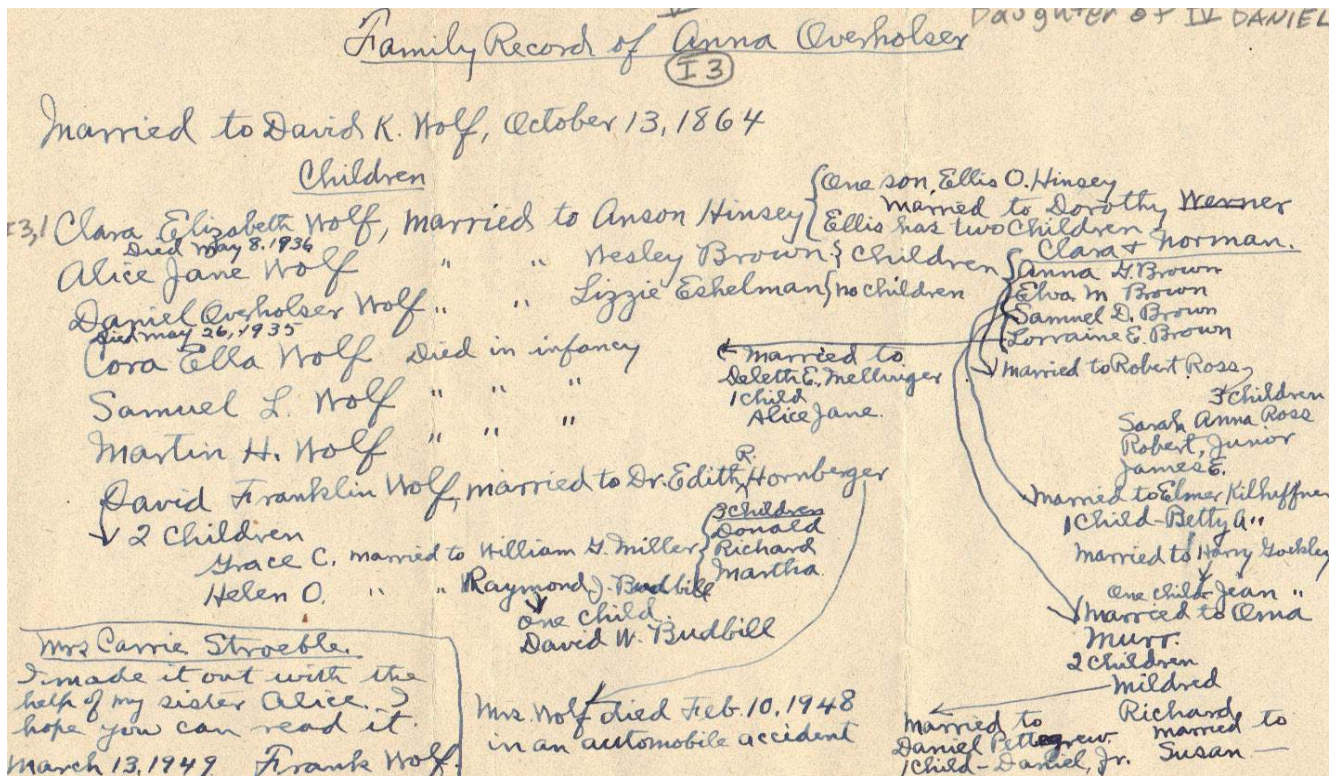
Sometimes it takes awhile for the brain to kick into gear. I was looking through our slides of Germany on this hot day in July. And low and behold! A picture of Johannesburg GER! And then it struck me. Maybe it should have been a brick. The Oberholtzer that went to South Africa in 1696, went to Johannesburg! Did he name it, or did several others go there from Johannesburg Germany?

If this is true, then we have a match with an Oberholzer that was in Johannesburg Germany in 1696! Today, we know that this connection is true.

OS11215.27721. Johannes Oberholzer c1680 - bap Dec 16, 1696 Weidertaufer in the town of **Elsenz** Baptized age 16 in 1696 with the new religion he was given a new name, **Kilian Casper** in the Lutheran Church. Kilian Casper was confirmed in 1697 at age 16 at Elsenz Reformed KB. - 18th C Emigrants, p423  
 There appears to have been several Kilians who emigrated from 1730 - 1749 and these ought to be counted (tentatively) as Oberholtzers. A Kilian family settled in Eastern Lancaster/Montgomery Counties close to Oberholtzer who came at the same time.

While this is the sentiments of Barbara Ford, the records from the Kraichgau reveal that Johannes retained the surname of Oberholzer, i.e. Kilian Casper Oberholzer. - Pg 204 # 5293

Here is a copy of the family record of **SL Anna Overholser**. As you can see, it takes a lot of time to decipher these records, and then to put them in proper order for the OFA Family Lines.





# Michael Oberholtzer

## *Unknown Family Line*

**Michael Oberholtzer c1830 -**

m Mary Ann Delp Alderfer

REF: Delp-Cassel Families; Will O papers

- 1 Francis D Oberholtzer 9/22/1850 – 2/18/19\_\_ @83 m Catherine ?F \_\_\_\_\_  
mem Norristown Lodge #620; A M Knights of Friendship;  
Minne Kaunee tribe Red Men Loyal Order of Moose and the Norris Hose - difficult to read  
Francis home builder of more than 400 houses in Norristown PA
    - 1 Harry F Oberholtzer
    - 2 Michael F Oberholtzer
      - m Mary Emma Herdman - liv 1969 of Royersford PA
      - 1 Elmer H Oberholtzer 2/23/1916 Norristown – 1/1969 Norristown  
plumber, World War II Veteran  
m Anna Stafford 701 Walnut St Lansdale
      - 2 Alfred D Oberholtzer twin brother of Spring Mount
      - 3 sis Oberholtzer m George Burger Collegeville
      - 4 sis Oberholtzer m George Gibbons Emmaus PA
      - 5 Francis D Oberholtzer of Lederach
    - 3 Ellan Oberholtzer m Hiram Ganser
    - 4 Alverda Oberholtzer m \_\_\_\_\_ Blakeley  
of Cape May Court House
    - 5 dau Oberholtzer m Edward Pierson  
res Balbo\_, Panamal Canal Zone
    - 6 Howard Oberholtzer Sr of RD Phoenixville PA Morris Cem  
m Mary Austin 1885 – 5/11/1965 @80yrs, 544 W Bridge St, Phoenixville PA  
Mary Austin has sister Mrs Daisey Shelby of Jeffersonville PA
      - 1 Harry A Oberholtzer 6/4/1906 Lower Providence PA - @66  
m Mary V Haley  
electrician/National Rolling Mills res 1224 Oakwood Ave,
        - 1 Howard Oberholtzer Collegeville
        - 2 Blanche Oberholtzer  
m \_\_\_\_\_ Lasorda Pittsburgh PA
        - 3 Dorothy step-dau m Walter Ruppe Oaks PA
        - 4 Rita step-dau m Elmer Wilson 501 Norris St
      - 2 Howard A Oberholtzer Jr trooper  
117 Salem Dr Norristown PA
      - 3 Dorothy Oberholtzer m Emanuel DeMutis  
res 1217 Land Ave Phoenixville PA
- REF Obit of Harry A; obit of Francis D
- 7 Sadie Oberholtzer m \_\_\_\_\_ Ramfort? of Philadelphia PA

## Obituaries

Since 2020, we have been given many obituaries in the O family. Since we do not have time or room in this OFA Bulletin to tabulate all of them, we are working on a depository on the OFA Website. This will take some more time. In the meantime, we will list only closely connected people.

Anyone wishing to help develop an obituary depository for the website, please contact Kris Overholt <http://www.overholser.net> Thank You

**Rhoda Stauffer Oberholtzer** 5/31/1931 - 2023 wife of SL24873.13 Jay Oberholtzer, they were owners of Stauffers of Kissel Hill stores.

**Mary Lou Miller** 2/2/1961 Perkasio PA - 4/9/2023 Millersburg IN  
Grad of Goshen College IN, worked Salem Bank; Silverwood Menn Ch  
Husband Sanford Miller, 2 ch: Kaela Miller & Isaac Miller

**Mildred H Overholt** 12/12/1932 - 1/14/2022 survived by sons Craig K, Glenn S, and Eric A .  
Predeceased by son Kevin L in 1993

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### Hans George Oberholzer

Arrived on October 22, 1754 on ship Halifax, Thomas Coatam, Captain from Rotterdam to Cowes. Inhabitants were from Wirtemberg, Hesse, Franconia, and the Palatinate. Ten were of Roman Catholic faith. Hans George was one of these passengers.

REF: I D Rupp Thirt Thousand Names pg 343; PA Archives Series II, Vol 17, pg 445

#### Are these families connected to each other?

Francis Oberholzer	m Gertrude Munday	Catholic	
1 John C Oberholzer Phila – 5/22/2015		m Cecilia M Garvin	Catholic
met Pope John Paul II			
1 John C Oberholzer Jr		m Betty of Ambler PA	
2 Mark A Oberholzer		m Leigh	of Laguna Hills CA
3 Matthew R Oberholzer	m Kathleen ____	of Wilmington DE	
4 Christopher M Oberholzer	m Catherine	of Honolulu HI	
2 David J Oberholzer	m Barbara	of Bethlehem PA	

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### Another Oberholtzer dies at sea 1740

An Oberholtzer family was immigrating from Germany in 1740. The father and a son, names unknown, died aboard ship in the Atlantic Ocean. His wife, Elizabeth Buzzard, sold herself as an indentured slave for 3 years near Moorhead in present day West Virginia. She was freed in 1 1/5 years, and married William Stingly of the Church of the Brethern. - reported by Dr Bittering of Bridgewater College, Virginia

The Second printing of

### ***The Oberholtzer Book, 1995 by Barbara Ford***

is now available. Price of \$40.00 includes shipping. It includes the first five known generations of Oberholzers in America and Canada.

Contact Geoffrey Martin, Treasurer for purchase information.

OFA REUNION, Southeastern PA,

**Overholser Family Reunion August 3rd, 2024**

**St John's Center Church, Rt 625 Terre Hill PA**

For all the O family and Stauffer, Stouffer, and Stover family who wishes to purchase *Shrouded in Secrecy, a Knightly Search*, a pre-printing price of \$30.00 is available with free shipping.

*Dennis' most recent work, in one word is Phenomenal -  
cramming so much data: dates, historical events and linkages into 178  
pages is simply AMAZING,  
especially detailing the movement of the  
Shroud of Turin/Shroud of Jesus,  
from Mary (mother of Jesus) to present day.  
His decades of biblical and genealogical research is  
clearly manifested in this book.*

*He further awakened a new love for history, in me, revealing how my  
ancestors played, on a world stage, key roles in specific historical events.*

*Dennis has opened my genealogical research,  
to a whole new level.*

*I would highly recommend this book to history buffs,  
homeschoolers, and biblical scholars.*

*Thomas E Armstrong  
Former PA House of Representatives  
1990 - 2002*

Check out the OFA Website: <http://www.overholser.net> or Contact Us at  
[info@overholser.net](mailto:info@overholser.net)