



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

Greetings OFA Members and the Stauffers, Stouffers, and Stover Families! This year we are inviting you all to our OFA Reunion. We have a special treat this year as the Stauffachers of Switzerland are now connected to the Stauffers, Stouffers, and Stover families of America. Dennis L Oberholtzer will be giving a short talk on how these families connect, and go back in time through the European kings to the first century, name by name. There will be a book signing for his book *Shrouded in Secrecy, a Knightly Search*.

On Friday, August 2nd 6:00PM to 8:00PM, there will be a gathering at Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland PA for dinner and a get acquainted time of fellowship. If possible, please contact Geoffrey Martin if you are coming.

On Saturday August 3rd, 2024 we will meet east of Terre Hill PA at St John's Center Church on Route 625 north of Shady Maple Restaurant from 9:00AM to mid afternoon. Many arrivals come at 10 AM. We will have a pot-luck luncheon at Noon. Some meats and drinks provided.

Also, Former Representative Thomas E Armstrong will be giving a talk on his ancestor Abraham Brubaker. And Charlotte Kolb will be showing her collection of butterflies. Bring pictures etc for the display tables. A letter will be read from Jim & Kathy Overholser, who have not been able to be with us.

Yours Truly, for Michael Martin
 President- Overholser Family Association

**Overholser Family
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Vol. XXXXIII No 2 Summer 2024

Editor - Dennis L. Oberholtzer
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Welcome New OFA Members!!!

Dan Armstrong, writer

Doug Brubaker, Brubaker Family Association

Don Fretz, Fretz Family Association

New Way to CONTRIBUTE!

You can support the OFA by visiting our website
at www.overholser.net and clicking the Donate button.

We have PayPal for your convenience. Please e-mail
gmartin@overholser.net if you have any questions.

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Ancestors of the Stauffers in America

- from *Shrouded In Secrecy, a Knightly Search*, Dennis L Oberholtzer

The Stauffer Family lineage book tells us that by the late 1500's there were 8 Stauffer families in Eggiwil. Our records show that there were two of our generations living in Eggiwil. It does not state where the earliest generation, Nicklaus Stauffer, born about 1495, lived. Now we have six additional generations from Heritage.com:

11-1 Ulrich Stauffen 1305 - 1332

m _____ Hilderic 1312 - 1357

- *Eldon Nelson Family Story, Central PA*

Since Ulrich was not a Teutonic knight, nor lived at Hohenstaufen Castle,

he would have dropped the titles, and would have been called Stauffen, from his origin.

Moved to the northern slopes of Rothenbach in the Emmenthal Valley of Switzerland.

This may have been a descendent of one of the above children or grandchildren of Rudolf Stauffacher.

12-1 Johannes I Stauffen Jan 8, 1333 SWI - aft 1355

m Anna Maria _____ 1335 - 1367

13-1 Johannes II Stauffen c1357 - c1382

m Maria Ryser 1360 Sumiswald, Bern - d/o Andreas

This Johannes built a house in Steinen, and one in Otenbach (Rothenbach) on top the Emmenthal Valley, SWI. It is he which is the key to tie the Stauffachers (Knights of Hohenstaufen) to our family lines in America.

14-1 Ulrich Stauffen c1382 Eggiwil - _____ Eggiwil SWI

m Lena Baer (Bar)

Today, Rothenbach and Eggiwil are still only small villages of less than about 100 people. This means that the Stauffen family took up a large portion of the area, and when they left for America, there was a long-term vacuum of population in the area.

14-2 Rosina Stauffen

14-3 Maria Stauffen

15-1 Sir Wolfgang Stauffen c1412 Rothenbach SWI - 1460 Eggiwil

m Elsi Burger

1) Peter Stauffen Sr

2) Ulrich C Stauffen

3) Hans Ulrich Stauffen

16-1 Peter Stauffen Sr born around 1460 Luchsmatt Hof, Eggiwil - 1530 Fruetisen Hof, Eggiwil SWI

1st m Barbara Gerber Rytz

2nd m Barbara Scherin

1) Nichlaus

2) Hans

3) Ulrich

4) Hans Andreas

5) Peter Stauffen Jr

6) Andreas

7) Benedict Opplinger

16-2 Ulrich C Stauffen

16-3 Hans Ulrich Stauffen

17-1 Hans Nielaus Stauffer born ca 1495 Rothenbach - 1555 Luchsmatt Hof, Eggiwil SWI

m Maria Anna Bruder

1) Ulrich born ca 1528 Eggiwil SWI - 1600

2) **Hans**

- 3) Nichlaus
- 4) Peter
- 5) Andreas
- 6) Benedict

18-1 Ulrich Stauffer born ca 1528 Eggiwill SWI - 1600 m Barbara _____ 1531 -
 Anabaptist by the year 1596
 Corrected from PMH Oct 2007, pg 41: V-0 _____ Stauffer born c1500 Rothenbach SWI
 Ulrich had brothers Hans, Peter, 2 more - My Heritage.com
 Corrected from PMH Oct 2007, pg 41: IV-1 Hans Stauffer born c1534 Rothenbach SWI

19-1 Niclaus Stauffer born ca 1555 Luchsmatt Hof, Eggiwill – 1615 m Catharina “Trini” Leeman born bef 1562 -
 1) Hans Stauffer
 2) Ulrich Stauffer
 3) Christian Stauffer 1579 -

20-1 Christian Stauffer 1579 Luchsmatt Hof, Eggiwill – exiled to Ibersheim 1671 – died after 1675
 1st m 6/18/1610 – Adelheid Opplinger bap 11/21/1588 – May 1656 d/o Peter & Adelheid Blonier Opplinger
 2nd m Asmath Fredrich bap 1601 - no known issue
 Christian was 17 years old when his father went into hiding from authorities. He was hunted during the
"tauffer hunt" of 1644 in the Emmenthal Valley of Bern. When found, he was jailed in Thun SWI.

From the *Chronicles of Bern, Switzerland*, by Ernest Muller, Pastor of Langnau, we find record of a letter from the Baptists of Crefeld to the Baptists of Rotterdam, dated December 19, 1671, asking help for those Baptists coming from Bern, by way of Heidelberg and Florsheim, to Rotterdam.

We find the following mention of the Stauffers:

Christian Stauffer 92 years old, and his second wife, 70. He is father, grandfather, and great-grandfather of 94 descendants, of whom 78 are living. He was without doubt the ancestor of the Swiss Stauffers in America today.

On January 1st, 1672, he and his party arrived at Ibersheim, about six miles below Worms. Ibersheim was a small Swiss Mennonite colony founded about 1650. It served as a temporary haven for our ancestors in their long "trek" to religious freedom, and a remnant of the family still lives there. It is very likely that the patriarch, Christian Stauffer, died there.

It is from this family that most of the Stauffers, Stouffers, and Stovers in America are derived.

The trip down the Rhine River from the Upper Rhine Valley.

During the 17th Century, the trip down the Rhine River by boat was no easy task. It took six weeks to travel through 1700 miles of French and German custom houses, 36 toll places in all. Should they afford the taxation, they were fortunate enough to make it to Rotterdam in Holland, where they could hope to find passage to England.

We are the chosen.

In each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again; to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the storytellers of the tribe! - Unknown



JB Jacob Oberholtzer house, Berks County PA
Will Overholtzer, former President OFA

ABRAHAM OVERHOLTZER WILL
February 2, 1848

1741 JALOB⁰¹
ABRAHAM²

In the name of God, Amen. I, Abraham Overholtzer, of the township of Milford, in the County of Bucks and State of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, being advanced in years though in perfect health of body and sound of mind, memory and understanding, blessed be God for the same, but considering the uncertainty of this transitory life, do make and publish this my last will and testament in the manner and form following, to wit:

(the usual paragraph)

Second, I give and devise unto my grandchild of my daughter Elizabeth, deceased, who was intermarried with Abraham Bechtel, the sum of \$200 to be paid to her on her arrival at the age of 21 years, with interest from my decease, but if my grand child, Lidia Bechtel, should die before the age of 21, then I do order and direct that my executor hereinafter named, or the survivor of them, shall as soon as conveniently may be after her decease, pay the said \$200 to my three children hereinafter named, one share thereof to be paid to my son William H. Overholtzer or his heirs, and one share thereof to my son Abraham Overholtzer or his heirs

Third, My will is and I do order that my real and personal estate shall be sold at public sale within one year after my decease by my hereinafter named executors, and direct my executors to execute a lawful deed or deeds for the purchaser of my real estate, and as touching all the rest and remainder of my estate, real and personal of what kind of nature soever the same may be, together with my cash, if any remain after my decease, or bonds, notes, or book accounts, or whatsoever the sum may be after all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid, and the over plus money then remaining shall be distributed as follows by my hereinafter named executors in share and share alike between William, John and Abraham Overholtzer, or to their heirs.

And lastly, I nominate, constitute and appoint my three sons William Overholtzer, John Overholtzer and Abraham Overholtzer to be the executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all other wills, legacies and bequests by me heretofore made, and declaring this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 2nd day of February 1848.

Abraham Overholtzer

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said testator as his last will and testament in the presence of us

Joseph Miller
Jacob Stauffer

Probated at Doylestown
Oct. 11, 1855, Will Book 14,
page 30

This will is of JB6 Abraham B Oberholtzer

JL Jacob Oberholtzer 1756 Will

KNOW all Men by these presents, that yo *Barbara Overholzer*
Widow, Christian Carpenter, Jacob Godd & John Carpenter
 all of the County of LANCASTER and Province of PENNSYLVANIA, are held
 and firmly bound unto *William Plamsted* Esqr: Register General for the Probate of
 Wills and granting Letters of Administration in the Province of Pennsylvania in the
 Sum of *five hundred* Pounds lawfull Money of the
 said Province, to be pay'd unto the said *William Plamsted*, or to his certain Attorney,
 Executors, Administrators or Assigns. To the which Payment well and truly to be made
 We do bind ourselves jointly and severely, our Heirs, Executors and Administrators,
 each and every of them firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals and Dated this
Nineteenth Day of *January* in the Year of our Lord One Thousand
 seven Hundred and *fifty six*.

The Condition of the above Obligation is such, that if the above bounden
Barbara Overholzer Widow & Christian Carpenter
 Administrators of all and singular the Goods and Chattles, Rights and Credits, which were
 of *Jacob Overholzer* Deceased, Do make or cause to be made a true
 and perfect Inventory of all and singular the Goods and Chattles, Rights and Credits, which
 were of the said Decedent at the time of *his* Death, or which at any other time has or shall
 come to the Hands, Possession or Knowledge of the said *Barbara Overholzer &*
Christ. Carpenter for unto the Hands or Possession of any other Person or Persons for
them and the same so made, Do exhibit into the Registers Office at Lancaster at or before the
Nineteenth Day of *February* next ensuing, and the same Goods Chattles
 and Credits, Do well and truly administer according to Law; and further Do make
 or cause to be made a true and just Account, Calculation or Reckoning of the said Admini-
 stration on or before the *Nineteenth* Day of *January* next, which will
 be in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and *fifty seven* and all the
 Rest and Residue of the said Goods, Chattles & Credits, which shall be found remaining upon
 the said Administrators Account [the same being first examined and approved of by the *Orphans*
Court of the County aforesaid] Do deliver and pay to such Person or Persons respectively
 as the said ORPHANS COURT by their Decree or Sentence pursuant to the true Intent and Meaning
 of an *Act*, intitled an *Act* for the better settling Intestates Estates, shall limit and appoint.
 And if it shall hereafter appear, that any last Will and Testament was made by the Decedent
 and the Executor or Executors therein named, do exhibit the same into the Registers Office at
 Lancaster making Request to have it allowed and approved accordingly, if the said *Barbara*
Overholzer and Christian Carpenter above bounden being
 thereunto required, Do render and deliver up the said Letters of Administration (Appro-
 bation of such Testament being first had and made in the Registers Office) then the above
 Obligation to be void & of none Effect else to remain in full Force & Virtue.

Sealed & delivered
 in the Presence of us

Will White
Joseph Bonds

Barbara Overholzer
mark
Joseph Zimmerman
Jacob Godd
John HLM Carpenter
mark

Obituaries

Gene R Overholt 1924 Bippus IN - 3/31/2023 Kerrville TX, husband of the late Jane Johnson Overholt d 10/15/2013. Daughter Jody O Ring, OFA Member, Barbara O Toth, and Son-in-Law Michael Toth were with Gene at his passing. Daughter Carole & Howard Ring and 6 grandchildren. Helped develop Salvation Army in Plymouth 1962; Plymouth First United Methodist Church; Trustee of Plymouth Township; inducted Plymouth Hall of Fame. Kiwanis Governor for State of Michigan.

The following are from Patrick McGarry:

Louise Beachler 10/25/1941 - 4/20/2024 Parents Arthur & Helen Metzger Brubaker

Ned Baker Denlinger 5/7/1927 Pitsburg OH - 4/3/2024 s/o Ray F & Mary Denlinger

Julie Renee Peterseim Dale 3/2/1958 Erie PA - 4/8/2024 d/o Paul & Betty Peterseim

Fred A Flory 11/22/1936 - 3/8/2024 Brookville OH s/o Charles & Mary Gibson Flory

Norman L Cable 5/21/1929 Carroll Co IN - 2/15/2024 s/o Ralph L & Dorothy Keller Cable

Janet Hockman born Whittier CA - 2/17/2024 @ 88 yrs

Lowell Edward Denlinger 2/28/1952 Montgomery Co OH - 2/11/2024 OH m 1971 to Diana Sue Avery; s/o Romon and Esther Landis Denlinger

Rosetta I Fry 9/12/1935 Clinton Co IN - 2/1/2024 North Manchester d/o Lucian & Mary Flora Eller, six children

Mary Davison 11/14/1940 - 1/27/2024 d/o Daniel & Ethel Christian Mary was oldest of 5 ch

Betty Trump 10/28/1926 OH - 1/30/2024 Greenville OH d/o Manuel & Clara Baker Wogoman. She was 1 of 10 children.

Harold S Martin 8/7/1930 - 1/5/2024 s/o Noah & Helen Sheaffer Martin, Ephrata PA He was Minister at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren for 62 years. Dunkard Brethren married 8/31/1950 Priscilla Miller; Survived by 3 sons 2 daughters

Ruby J Stickel 12/25/1934 - 12/21/2023 The Waters of Wakarusa d/o Roscoe & Grace O Stickel

Susie Marie Stoner Klingler 12/26/1928 Rensselaer IN - 11/18/2023 d/o David & Marie Arnold Stoner

CANADIAN UNKNOWNNS BEFORE 1850

Probable IC Line

William Overholt of Louth 24, b 1843 -
m 12/24/1867 ONT, **Amy A Price** of Louth 22, b 1845 -
s/o Ahem? & Annie Overholt d/o Peter & Ann with Wm Smith

Nicholas Overholt 24 of Gainsboro
m 12/9/1860 Welland ONT, **Marilla Groff** 21 of Gainsboro
s/o Joseph & Barbara Overholt d/o David & Anna Groff

Alpheus O White 22 of Pelham
m 6/28/1866 Welland ONT, **Iona Overholt** 23 of Crowland, Welland
s/o David & Ruth Pelham d/o George & Lavina Overholt

Land Patents:

John Overholt 5/26/1836 settler located by Col Talbot
200 acres Lot 140S Toronto Rd E, Houghton Twp Dist London

Waterloo Wills County Records 1850-1900

George Oberholtzer adopted son of **Eliza Oberholtzer**
probate Date Registered 2/28/1872, memo/o Wm Hertfelder

John Oberholtzer c1833 Ont -
m **Anna C _____** c1833 - 9 children
Lived next door to Michael Hertfelder 1881 Berlin, Waterloo N Ont
Michael 53 of Germany, Madalena 52 of Germany, Wm 18 ONT,
Henry 16, Louise 13
1871 Census: Michael Berlin Twp, District 32,
Sub D Div 2 p51, 1 son George b1864 ONT

*Conestoga Wagons were called the "ship of the prairie", although
the wagons going west were lighter adaptations so they would not
sink in the mud.*

Families included in *Shrouded in Secrecy, a Knightly Search*

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Welf Family	

Updates and Corrections

In the Winter 2024 edition of the OFA Bulletin was **Michael Oberholtzer c1830** who married Mary Ann Delp Alderfer. This is corrected and found in the JF Line as:

JF1317 Michael A Oberholtzer b May 6, 1803 Montgomery County PA - Oct 19, 1836
1st m Elizabeth Anglemoyer 1811 - 1861
2nd m Maria Loux 1812 - 1873

JF13177 Michael Oberholtzer Aug 31, 1846 - July 29, 1884
m Mary Ann Alderfer 5 children
REF: Letter by Karen Shelly Arias March 6, 2024

It is typical of our records to have original information which is obscure and therefore inaccurate. As time marches on, these families are found, and accurate info replaces the older. this is why it is helpful to be connected to a family or genealogical group.

The family of Francis D Oberholtzer 9/22/1850 has not yet been connected to any of the OFA Lines. If anyone has further info on this family, please contact us.

Rev John Herr Brubaker 1787

Rev John Herr Brubaker born 1787 - died 1842 is SL233 in the Samuel Oberholtzer Line.

The John Brubaker in the **OW Henry Oberholzer Line** is a generation earlier, being born about 1732 and dying 1791. This family is addressed in the Winter 2024 OFA Bulletin.

REF: Thank You Karen Arias for clarification of John Herr Brubaker for us.

William Oberholtzers

In the latest Echoes by the Juniata Mennonite Historical Center, the article on Noah's Diary mentions a William Oberholtzers being at an Ordination. This William is likely JJ77. He would have been about 77 years old at the time.

OFA Greet & Meet & Eat:

August 2nd, 2024 from 6PM to 8PM at Yoder's Family Restaurant
in New Holland, Lancaster County Pennsylvania

OFA REUNION, Southeastern PA, August 3rd, 2024

St John's Center Church, Rt 625 east of Terre Hill PA
Set up 9AM, start gathering 10AM, Lunch 12 Noon, end afternoon.

Check out the OFA Website: <http://www.overholser.org> or Contact Us at
info@overholser.net

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

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

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.

A Special Thank You to Barbara Bernhardt for the bookcases
which are now in the OFA Library.

Someone asked if we know who the Auctioneer is from the Lancaster Newspapers:

SL22810.413 Brian L Oberholtzer c1985 -
m Kelly _____ Sporting Hill, Manheim PA

REF: LNP June 20, 2021 PA's Best Auctioneer,, OFA Files