

The author traces descendants of an early Chester County, Pennsylvania, immigrant family whose children migrated to Bucks County.

Oberholtzer Family

OCGS REFERENCE ONLY

The Marcus Oberholtzer (1664-1725) Family

by John L. Overholt

My Oberholtzer ancestor, Martin Overholt (1745-1815), who married Elizabeth Nash of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, was described as the "son of _____ Oberholtzer, who emigrated to America before the Revolution, or as early as about 1700."¹ I became engrossed in finding his father and his role in the Revolution. David Hall told me of his research on finding parents of another Martin Oberholtzer (1709-1744), who married Agnes Kolb. After his father died, their son, Martin Overhold (1743-1811), was reared by his mother and stepfather, William Nash.² His half sister, Elizabeth Nash, was the bride of the first-named Martin. These three Martins were son and grandsons of Marcus Oberholtzer (1664-1727). Solving this and many similar puzzles depends upon correctly identifying individuals.

In this article Marcus is designated immigrant A to identify him from among thirteen immigrant lines A through M (see table 1). Each line of the various immigrants carries the capital letter listed in the chart. Although the immigrants may have been closely related in Europe, this article deals primarily with the A family. The E line was published in part in the April 1978 issue of *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*.³

Early Records in Europe

The ancient village of Oberholtz/Oberhols, meaning "upper wooded slope," lies in a valley from which a ski lift rises from 2,850 feet to 4,350 feet above sea level near Wald, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. The inhabitants are Oberholtzers/Oberholsers. The present family has used the land since about 900 A.D., and they have been called Oberholtzer for those who lived at the top of the forest. The name of the town was shortened to Oberholtz about 1540. During the Reformation struggle there appears to have been a division of Oberholtzers on the mountain at the edge of Canton Zurich. Count Toggenberg, a Catholic, supported the Catholics living on the mountaintop while Oberholtzers on the lower land at Wald and Canton Zurich were Anabaptists.

The village records of the family from 1530 to 1934 were transcribed by Swiss genealogist Julius Billeter. The earliest recorded birth was Niklaus Oberholtzer in 1531. Seven more males born in the next twelve years were Hans, Niklaus, Jacob, Ulrich, Jacob, Heinrich, and Christian in 1542. Nine Oberholtzer girls, married from 1558 to 1583, may have been sisters of the males. Most of the 2,164 recorded Oberholtzers lived in Wald, Canton of Zurich, and a few lived in nearby villages and in the Canton of St. Gallen. The same given names were repeated from one generation to the next as was the custom when they emigrated from Switzerland to the Palatinate and later to North America.

Oberholtzer Immigrants to America, 1700-1755

Name	Vessel	Arrival Date	Notes
A. Marcus Oberholtzer	<i>Mary Hope</i> ?	Sept. 23, 1710?	Wife + five children; details in text
B. Martin Oberholtz	<i>Mary Hope</i>	Sept. 23, 1710	Details in text
C. Misael Oberholtz	<i>Mary Hope</i>	Sept. 23, 1710	Details in text
D. Jacob Oberholtz	?	1705-1719	
E. Samuel Oberholts/Oberholtzer	<i>Molly</i>	Sept. 30, 1727	J. Spencer Overholser, "The Terre Hill Oberholtzer Family," <i>Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage</i> 1 (April 1978): 2-8.
F. Hans Jacob Oberholtz	<i>Alexander and Anne</i>	Sept. 3, 1730	With Catherine and Heinrich
G. John Oberholtzer/son	<i>Friendship</i>	Oct. 16, 1730	Dead on arrival
H. Jacob Oberholtz/Oberholtzer	<i>Samuel</i>	Aug. 11, 1732	Age 26; with Elizabeth, 6 and Samuel, 3
I. Mathew Oberholtzer	?	Before 1737	Land record
J. Mathis Obholt	<i>Robert and Alice</i>	Sept. 3, 1739	
K. Hendrick/Henry Oberholts/Oberholtzer	<i>Jamacia</i>	Feb. 7, 1739	Age 34
L. Christian Odenhold/Aterholt	<i>Michael</i>	Sept. 8, 1753	
M. Hans George Oberholtzer	<i>Halfax</i>	Oct. 22, 1754	

Table 1

The name Marx first appeared in the 1661 account of a night raid on the Steinsfurt Anabaptist church meeting⁴ and on the Swiss exit permit. No Marx appeared in the first 130 years of Billeter's village records. Then the name Marx was used thirteen times in sixty-eight years. Does this admiration for Marcus come because of leadership during the periodic harassment by various church and government officials?

The elector allowed the Mennonites—also known as *Wiedertäufer* (Anabaptists)—who were good farmers, to settle on devastated lands after the Thirty Years' War and the Treaty of Westphalia. Some migrated to the east bank about 1655 apparently with tacit approval from the elector. Marx and Jagli

¹A. J. Fretz, *A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of William Nash of Bucks County, Pennsylvania* (Butler, N.J.: Pequannock Valley Argus, 1903; reprint ed., Scottsdale, Pa.: Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society, 1985), p. 7. The above reprinted title appears as the second part of the reprint of A. J. Fretz, *A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Martin Oberholtzer* (Milton, N.J.: Press of the Evergreen News, 1903; reprint ed., Scottsdale, Pa.: Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society, 1985).

²See a copy of the will of William Nash in which he bequeathed to "my son, Martin Overhold, the sum of ten pounds," in Fretz, *Descendants of William Nash*, p. 2.

³J. Spencer Overholser, "The Terre Hill Oberholtzer Family," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 1 (April 1978): 2-8.

⁴Jane Evans Best, "A Bear Hunt in Europe," *Mennonite Family History* 2 (January 1983): 9.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage



- WB1 Heinrich Wäber, d. after 1664. Lived at Mülli Kramm, Bäretswil.
m. Jan. 26, 1641, Bäretswil, Elsbeth Rüggin; dau. of Uli Rüggin of Hinderberg.
- WB11 Jagli Wäber, bap. Nov. 28, 1641, Bäretswil. Lived in 1670 in the Pfalz
- WB12 Samuel Wäber, bap. Jan. 8, 1643, Bäretswil
- WB13 Anna Wäber, bap. Mar. 17, 1644, Bäretswil. In 1670 "lame & not much understanding."
- WB14 Elsbeth Wäber, b. 1646
- WB15 Heinrich Wäber, b. 1647. Lived in 1670 in Sinsheim in the Pfalz.
- WB16 Barbeli Wäber, b. 1651. In 1670 lived in Sinsheim in the Pfalz, in 1682 in Hamm in Lower Pfalz, in 1689 with brothers Jorg and Hanns in Neüw-statt.
- WB17 Georg Wäber, bap. Nov. 18, 1655, Bäretswil. In 1682 lived in Neüw-statt in the Pfalz.
- WB18 Hans Wäber, bap. Jan. 10, 1658, Bäretswil-perhaps Dec. 17, 1724⁴⁴ in present Lancaster Co. In 1682 lived in Hamm in Lower Pfalz and in 1689 with his brother Georg and sister Barbara in Neüw-statt.
- WB181 John Wäber, b. ca. 1685⁴⁵
m. Barbara Buckwalter
- WB1811 Jacob Weaver, d. ca. 1793
m. Magdalena Barr (BD27), b. ca. 1729; dau. of Martin Ber (BD2) (d. 1758) and Anna Elisabeth Groff (?GR3311).
- WB1812 Samuel Weber
- WB1813 George Weber
m. Madeline Geischler/Dreisler
- WB1814 David Weaver
- WB182 Jacob Weber, 1688-1747; possibly a Mennonite preacher.
m. ca. 1723 Anna Bowman, b. ca. 1705; dau. of Wendel Bauman.
- WB1821 Hans Weaver, 1723-Oct. 16, 1805
m. Barbara Buckwalter, 1730-1796
- WB1822 Jacob Weaver. In 1793 moved to Frederick Co., Va.
m. Elizabeth Sensenig
- WB1823 Samuel Weaver
- WB1824 Henry Weaver, Feb. 22, 1732, Weaverland-Aug. 31, 1807, near Gettysburg.⁴⁶ Buried in Pine Bank Cem., Mount Joy Twp., Adams Co., Pa.
m.(1) before 1759 Fronica [Barr?] (BD28), ca. 1730-before Sept. 11, 1775
?m.(2) before 1773 Fronica, d. ca. 1788
Nine children in seventeen years
?m.(3) Elizabeth [Smith?], 1752-Nov. 30, 1830
Three children in six years
- WB1825 George Weaver, 1733-1781
m. Francis Brackbill, 1736-1793
- WB1826 Mary Weaver
m. Abraham Kendig, d. 1789
- WB1827 Anna Weaver
m. Christian Rutt
- WB1828 Elizabeth Weaver
m. Jacob Rohrer
- WB183 Henry Weber, 1690-1745
m. Maudlin Kendig
- WB1831 Christian Weber, 1731-1820
m. Magdalena Rutt, 1733-1804
- WB1832 Henry/Heine Weber, 1736-1826
m. Eve Wenger (WG5), 1737-1799
- WB1833 Anna Weber, d. 1784
m. John Zimmerman, 1720-1786
- WB1834 Magdalena Weber, 1738-1819
m. Francis Buckwalter, 1731-1816
- WB1835 Elizabeth Weber
m.(1) Wolfgang Newcomer
m.(2) Vincent Myers (MC14), 1721-ca. 1798
- WB1836 Mary Weber
m. John Wanner
- WB1837 Beverly/Barbara Weber
m. George Mumma, d. 1786
- WB1838 Eva Weber
m. John Whisler
- WB184 George Weber, 1693-1772⁴⁷
m. 1726 Barbara Guth (GA3), 1693-1782; dau. of Jacob Guth (d. 1730).
- WB1841 Magdalena Weber, b. Jan. 13, 1727
- WB1842 Johannes Weber, Feb. 10, 1728-Oct. 25, 1802
m.(1) Magdalena Myers
m.(2) Fanny Seachrist, d. May 29, 1803
- WB1843 Anna Weber, b. Apr. 31 [sic], 1729
- WB1844 Marey Weber, Dec. 30, 1730-July 30, 1791
m. Peter Stauffer (SF2412), d. Nov. 20, 1787, Goodville; son of Matthias Stauffer (SF241) (d. 1758) and Ann Oberholtzer.⁴⁸
- WB1845 Samuel Weber, Aug. 8, 1732-1770
m. Barbara Kauffman. She m.(2) after 1770 John Meyer of York Co., Pa.
- WB1846 Barbara Weber, b. Mar. 11, 1734
- WB1847 Heinrich Weber, Oct. 20, 1738-Sept. 12, 1787
m. Elizabeth, Aug. 26, 1742-June 22, 1815
- WB19 Hans Rudolf Weber, b. 1660. In 1682 lived in Bäretswil.
m. by 1689 _____
- WB191 Jageli Weber, b. ca. 1689, age ½ year in 1689, 11 in 1700.
- WB192 Barbara Weber, b. ca. 1695, age 5 in 1700.
- WB193 Margretha Weber, b. ca. 1698, age 2 in 1700.
- WB194 Elsbetha Weber, b. ca. 1699, age 1 in 1700.
- WB10 Verena Weber, b. 1664, age 16 in 1682; lived in Bäretswil in 1682.
- WB2 Sara Weber, b. ca. 1625, age 16 in 1641.
- WB3 Georg Weber, b. ca. 1631, age 10 in 1641. Not listed in 1682 census at Bäretswil. □

⁴⁴William Woys Weaver, "The Estate Papers of Johann Anton Weber," *Mennonite Research Journal* 14 (April 1973): 22-23; Will D-349-434 [dated Dec. 17, 1724; proved Nov. 3, 1725], Philadelphia County Courthouse, Philadelphia, Pa.

⁴⁵Samuel S. Wenger, *The Wenger Book: A Foundation Book of American Wengers* (Lancaster, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Heritage History, 1978), p. 1106.

⁴⁶Will C-1-329, Lancaster [dated Sept. 11, 1775; proved Jan. 9, 1776], in which Christian Bar (BD26), named his brothers and sisters; Robert Kean Weaver, *Who Was Henry Weaver (1732-1807), Buried Pine Bank Cemetery, Mount Joy Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania?* (St. Augustine, Fla.: Author, 1984), pp. 34-35; cf. Howard Y. Musselman, "The Puzzle of Henry Weaver, Lost Scion of Weaverland," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 6 (July 1983): 19-28.

⁴⁷William Woys Weaver, "Johann Anton Weber and His Family: Swiss Colonists," *Mennonite Research Journal* 14 (January 1973): 1, 11; William Woys Weaver, "The Basel Bible of Georg Weber," *Mennonite Research Journal* 17 (January 1976): 2-3.

⁴⁸A *Stouffer Line of Descent That Originated in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania* (Privately published: 1951), p. 10. Information supplied through the collaboration of Meredith B. Colket, Jr.

settled on the east bank of the Rhine about fifteen miles south of Heidelberg in Baden. On March 2, 1661, the Lutheran church warden "visited" a night church service at Steinsfurt and arrested fifty-three Anabaptists, including Marx Oberholtzer, keeper of the Immelhausen church property. The church warden posted a notice in the name of the elector, assessed them, and forbade them to hold meetings in houses under penalty of seizure of the house—even at the risk of the Mennonites' moving away if they were denied the privilege of holding services.

The Oberholtzers were Mennonites as early as 1661 and probably had migrated five or six years earlier and had been holding meetings for two years in barns and houses. Marx, son of Martin, and Jagli/Jacob, his wife, and four children also obtained exit permits from Zurich to migrate to the Palatinate in 1661. Marx Oberholtzer, tenant farmer, *Wiedertaufer*, was the keeper of the church property at Immelshausen, where he died in 1680.

Mennonite meetings in the Palatinate were prohibited in 1661, but in 1664 the Mennonites were permitted to meet in groups of more than twenty and paid a heavy registration fee: six guilders annually per person. Later this amount doubled. A limit of two hundred Mennonite families was imposed. During the time of maximum persecution in Switzerland in 1671-72 Swiss refugees fled to the Palatinate and Holland. In January 1672, 215 persons arrived west of the Rhine, and 428, east of the Rhine.⁵

In 1677 William Penn and other Quakers made a missionary journey to Germany. They met the Mennonites at Worms, Frankenthal, and Mannheim. Penn, his Quaker friends, and the Palatinate Mennonites found common ties in theology and beliefs and a common need for a colony where both could live together, earning a living and rearing their families peacefully. The first colonists to Pennsylvania in 1683 came from nearby Creisheim. New problems arose when the armies of King Louis XIV of France invaded the Palatinate and Alsace at the end of the century. Eighty per cent of the population in the Palatinate and Alsace died or fled. Burgert, Eshleman, and Schuchman show Oberholzer records of the Kraichgau from 1661 to 1732.⁶ In America close association existed between the Marcus Oberholtzer (A) family and Herr, Landis, Meyer, Frey, Rosenberger, and Mylin families who also attended the 1661 church service. The data on these families—identified as U, V, and W—is put in logical order below:

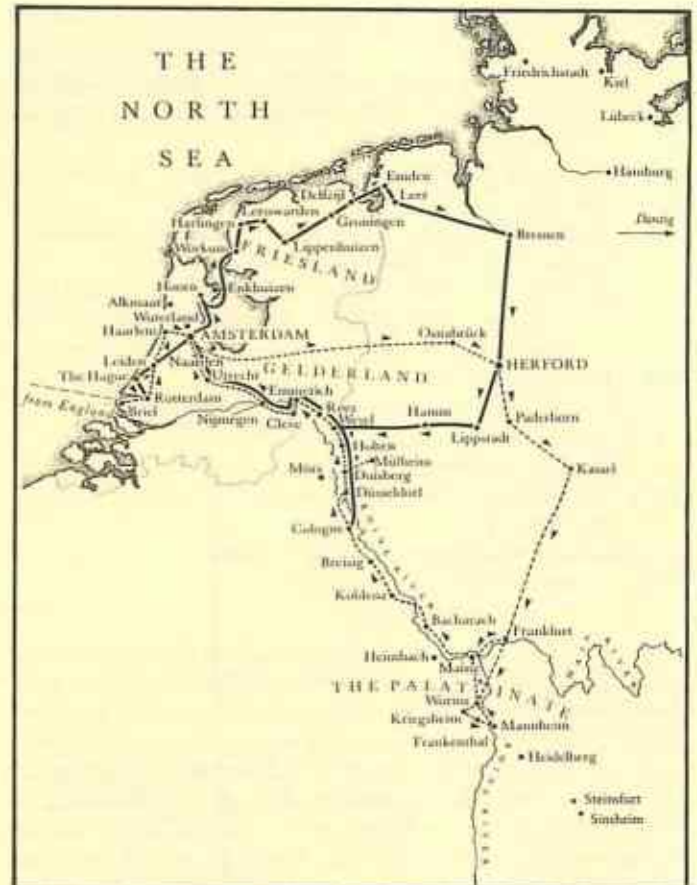
U Marx Oberholzer. Listed in 1663 as a tenant farmer at Buchhoff (Buchenauerhof today) and "former Wiedertaufer." On Sept. 14, 1680, buried "without singing or bells"; *Wiedertaufer*.⁷

U1 Hans Jacob Oberholtzer; son of Marx Oberholtzer and Maria, dau. of Jacob Nussler. "These Monisten were married by their leader" on April 15, 1690.

U2 Catherine Barbara Oberholtzer, b. 1663; dau. of Marx Oberholtzer and former *Wiedertaufer*. Confirmed in 1681 at the Buchhoff.

V Jagli/Jacob Oberholtzer. Married with four children in 1661.

V1 Johannes. Born in Oberholtz, Switzerland, according to both Palatine and South African records. Baptized Dec. 16, 1696, in Elsenz Reformed Church; confirmed 1697, receiving the baptismal name of Kilian Casper at the age of sixteen. Went to South Africa as a soldier, butcher, and citizen; listed in the census of 1699 among the first three hundred men in the colony. The family presently numbers about three hundred in the telephone directories of the cities of Capetown, Durban, Johannesburg, and Pretoria. Some participated in the Boer War. Dr. Hannes Oberholster,



The Kraichgau area of Germany, south of Heidelberg, lured Anabaptists, including Oberholtzers, primarily from the Zürich region of Switzerland. William Penn journeyed through Holland and Germany in 1677. The dotted line shows his first circuit, which he made from July 29 to September 8, and the solid line, his second circuit, from September 10 to October 13.

director of the National Museum in Bloemfontain, South Africa, intends to update a genealogy of the Oberholtsters in South Africa prepared by his father.⁸

V2 Barbara Oberholtzer

m. Jacob Frey; son of Felix Frey; farmer at the Burkenhoff (today Birkenhoff) as of Apr. 26, 1674.

V3 Maria Oberholtzer

m. Jacob Kendig; *Wiedertaufer* at Icklingen/Ittling. Lived at the Immelhausen Hof on Apr. 22, 1704.

V4 Johannes Oberholtzer

m. Ann Fry; dau. of Felix Fry; farmer and *Wiedertaufer* at the Birkenhoff as of May 13, 1683.⁹

⁵The Mennonite Encyclopedia, s.v. "Palatinate," by Gerhard Hein.

⁶Annette K. Burgert, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America*, vol. 1: *The Northern Kraichgau*, Publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, vol. 16 (Breinigsville, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1983); H. Frank Eshleman, *Historic Background and Annals of the Swiss and German Pioneer Settlers of Southeastern Pennsylvania . . .* (Lancaster, Pa.: 1917; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1969); Heinz Schuchmann, *Schweizer Einwanderer im früheren kurpfälzischen Streubesitz des Kraichgauses (1650-1750)*, Schriften zur Wanderungsgeschichte der Pfälzer, no. 18 (Kaiserslautern: Heimatstelle Pfalz, [ca. 1956].

⁷Burgert, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants*, 1:423-424.

⁸Hannes Oberholster to John L. Overholt.

⁹Burgert, *Eighteenth Century Emigrants*, 1:427.

- V41 Jacob Oberholtzer, b. 1704 in the Palatinate
m.(1) ca. 1725 _____. Married in the Palatinate. Wife
died after 1729. Jacob went to Cocalico, Lancaster
Co., Pa., in 1732 as a widower with two children
and seventy guilders.
- V411 Elizabeth Oberholtzer, b. 1726 in the Kraichgau,
Germany
- V412 Samuel Oberholtzer, 1729-1783. Born in the Kraichgau,
Germany; died in Shenandoah Co., Va.
m. Sept. 8, 1765 Maria Eva Hauswirth; dau. of
Christian and Barbara Hauswirth. Married at
Cocalico, Lancaster Co., Pa.; moved to Kentucky.¹⁰
- V41 Jacob Oberholtzer
m.(2) ca. 1736 Susanna Scheuler (unverified)
- V413 Barbara Oberholtzer, 1737-1823
m. Christian Bretz
- V414 Jacob Oberholtzer, 1741-1811
m. Esther Blehm
- V415 Esther Oberholtzer, 1743-1816; single.
- V416 Henry Oberholtzer, 1745-1783
m. Catherine Shumaker.

Jacob Oberholtzer (V41) and his children, Elizabeth (V411) and Samuel (V412), are the first Oberholtzers that have been linked from a residence in the Palatinate to one in America. Jacob Oberholtzer from Dornen, which lay one-half hour southwest of Sinsheim, who belonged to the congregation at Dichelheim, with his two children arrived in Philadelphia in 1732 on the ship *Samuel*¹¹ (see table 1). He had 70 guilders for expenses rather than requesting funds of the Amsterdam Mennonite Committee for Foreign Needs for Swiss emigrants of the descendants of the Palatinate.

Jacob and the children are assumed to be descendants of Jacob (V), named in the Swiss exit permit. Jacob (V) and Jacob (V41) were the progenitors of the Colebrookdale Oberholtzer family whose tombstones stand in the Mennonite cemetery at Bally, Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Jacob and his second wife, Susanna Scheuler, so far unconfirmed, founded the Oberholtzer line in Berks County. Helen Turn quoted Barbara Grau of Coopersburg, Pennsylvania, on the work of William Overholt, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, who found the data in the Mennonite cemetery at Bally. William Overholt, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and John Oberholtzer, Mohrsville, Pennsylvania, have rechecked the cemetery inscriptions and are keeping records of this line.

The only unrelated name in the Kraichgau Palatinate records is Samuel Oberholtzer (W) (1644-Nov. 12, 1705), *Wiedertäufer* at the Immelheusener Hof, aged 61 years. Our ancestor, Marcus (A), was twenty years younger and was not registered in the Kraichgau records. Gratz has provided the locations in Switzerland where Oberholtzers lived before 1800: Gossau, Hombrerikon, Turbenthal, and Wald in the Canton of Zurich and Goldingen and Uznack in the Canton of St. Gallen.¹² Clues for further search are the village of Oberholtzerheim near Biberach in Württemberg; Maria Oberholtzer of Bemberg, Alsace, in 1706; and Elizabeth Oberholtzer, who was in the group led by Christian Plien of Heppenheim (via Amsterdam) to Friedrichstadt in Schleswig-Holstein in 1693-98.

Most Oberholtzer immigrant families had a characteristic set of given biblical names identical with names of their cousins, aunts, and uncles so that persons were difficult to identify even in wills. Can the ancestral lines be followed to Europe and used to identify the immigrants to America? This task is not advised by genealogists because of the possibility of misidentification of

people with the same name. The sparsity of population during the earliest settlement has been helpful, but the problem appears more difficult because families were large and members of various families were hard-pressed to find new farms. Preference for the British government caused migrations which are hard to trace. Even if both ends of a migration path are known, records are incomplete for a generation or more. Sometimes even the form of records is unknown and can be found only by personal familiarity. Successes have been encouraging. Early records of several lines were collected and exchanged by family historians.

Marcus Oberholtzer and Family

Marcus' line has seven branches—five sons and two daughters—who were early pioneers in colonial eastern Pennsylvania. Marcus Oberholtzer supposedly came to America in 1712, according to Rupp.¹³ He was an early Swiss settler in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, whose children migrated to Bucks County. After two or three generations of large families and the arrival of new Oberholtzer immigrants who sometimes settled near earlier Oberholtzer immigrants, the identification of the "correct" parents and children became difficult. Despite unsolved problems, the results are being published here in hopes of uncovering additional missing data and to preserve the history.

The ancestors of this family apparently emigrated from Switzerland to the Palatinate in Germany sometime in the mid-seventeenth century. Causes responsible for forcing Marcus and his family to leave their home, possessions, friends, and associates in the Palatinate appear historically obvious. Records clearly show that life was made so difficult in that area in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries for Anabaptists (*Wiedertäufer*), Huguenots, and Quakers that hundreds simply fled for their lives. England supported German resistance during the War of Spanish Succession, known in America as Queen Anne's War. Refugees fled war-torn areas of Germany, Switzerland, and France by the thousands. Many of those who escaped down the Rhine found themselves in temporary camps in Holland. Most were impoverished and were housed in reed shacks. The Dutch commissioners, Mennonite Hendrik Toren and Jan van Gent, possibly also a Mennonite, arranged for their feeding and transportation. Numerous writers have expanded on this theme: a horrible example of man's inhumanity to other human beings—in the name of "Christianity."

Marcus and his family were in the first group of 852 refugees to leave Holland for England. They embarked on one of Queen Anne's returning troop transports in late April, arriving at Saint Catharines, London, on May 3, 1709, when a census of passengers was taken. Reverend John Tribbeko, chaplain to "the

¹⁰Genealogical data on Samuel's descendants—Peter, Barbara, Eve, and Samuel—were compiled and published in Helen Overholser Turn, *Samuel Oberholtzer of Virginia and Some of His Descendants* (Belton, Tex.: Centex Press, 1981).

¹¹Ralph Beaver Strassburger, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers: A Publication of the Original Lists of Arrivals in the Port of Philadelphia from 1727 to 1808*, ed. William John Hinke, Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses, vol. 42 (Norristown, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), 1:59, 61.

¹²Delbert L. Gratz, librarian at the Mennonite Historical Library, Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio, to John L. Overholt, Sept. 25, 1985.

¹³I. Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776 . . .* (Philadelphia: 1876; reprint ed., Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1971), p. 437.

Germans from the Palatinate
Who Came to England in 1709:
"Baptists" and Mennonites

Name	Age	Age of Sons	Age of Daughters	Religion	Profession/Comments
May 6, 1709, Arrivals					
Kolb, Henry	30 Wife	—	6, 3, 1/2	Baptist	Husbandman/vine dresser
Clemens, Gerhard	28 Wife	5, 1/2	—	Baptist	Husbandman/vine dresser; linen cloth weaver
Volweider, Jacob	27 Wife	—	—	Baptist	Husbandman/vine dresser
Kolb, Arnold	22 Single	—	—	Baptist	Husbandman/vine dresser
Wisnar, Jacob	50 Wife	20	22	Baptist	Husbandman/tailor
Hubscher, Andrew	50 Wife	22	13, 9, 8, 5	Baptist	Husbandman
Schrager, Andrew	53 Wife	—	23, 20	Baptist	Husbandman
Oberholtzer, Mark	45 Wife	10, 8, 3	6, 1	Baptist	Husbandman
Hoherluth, George Adam	45 Wife	12, 9	17, 14	Baptist	Cloth and linen weaver
Bien, John	24 Single	—	—	Baptist	Cloth and linen weaver
Eschelmans, Anna	37 [Widow]	16	—	Baptist	
Bauer, Christina	23 Single	—	—	Baptist	
Lang, Johan				[?]	Four family members
Bohm, Johannes				[?]	
Graeff, Jacob	10			[?]	Parents live in Pennsylvania
May 27, 1709, Arrivals					
Hatteman, Ulrich	40 Wife	10, 4	9, 5, 2	Mennonite	Turner
June 11, 1709, Arrivals					
Wingart, John	46 Wife	18, 13, 11, 8, 6	—	Baptist	Husbandman/vine dresser
Christman, John	41 Wife	7, 5	9, 2	Mennonite	Husbandman/vine dresser

Table 2: This listing of "Baptists" and Mennonites was excerpted from John Tribbeko and George Andrew Ruperti, "Lists of Germans from the Palatinate Who Came to England in 1709," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 40 (Jan. 1909): 49ff.

late Prince George of Denmark," and Reverend George Andrew Ruperti, minister of the German Lutheran Church at Savoy, tabulated the name, age, sex, skill, and religion of each passenger plus the age of each child.¹⁴ These two men apparently were responsible for the refugees in England, and they handled money for food and lodging and arranged for their transportation.

The rare name of Marcus is given as "Mark" on the list but later was transcribed in official records as "Marcus." His is the only Oberholtzer name on all of the lists. The name "Mark" occurs but once among the 6,618 names on the lists; "Marcus," three times.

According to the first substantiated record of this Oberholtzer family, Marcus was forty-five years of age, was married, and had sons aged ten, eight, and three years of age and daughters aged six and one. He was a farmer (husbandman) and a Baptist (Mennonite).

Arrivals of refugees in London by June 11, 1710 (NS), numbered at least six thousand.¹⁵ Searches for additional lists in England have been fruitless. They were housed first in warehouses, but crowding forced hundreds into tentages. The early arrivals were welcomed by Londoners, but later they were scorned and envied as many refugees tried to earn their way by doing any sort of work. Money for their support first came from Queen Anne, beginning at £16 per day, then £24, and finally £40. Complete records of expenditures were found for only a few weeks, however, in the British Records Office in Kew.

The financial burden for taking care of this rapidly growing problem became so great that Queen Anne's government sent letters requesting assistance to all churches in England. A fund of £19,838 resulted. The Quaker portion was £300. Records of 1710 in the Euston Archives show that these funds were deposited in the "Chamber of London." The lord chamberlain's office at Kew is a possible source of additional passenger list data and payment records for refugee support.

The number of refugees in Marcus' party declined weekly from 853 to 842, 836, 827, 822, and 814 by June 17. Deaths undoubtedly accounted for some disappearances. Some possibly found homes.

The number of Baptists (probably Anabaptists) in Marcus' party was small—only twelve families and six individuals. Table 2 furnishes their names.

Knittle has accounted for the exodus from England of thirteen thousand refugees¹⁶ who received assistance through the Duke of

¹⁴John Tribbeko and George Andrew Ruperti, "Lists of Germans from the Palatinate Who Came to England in 1709," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Records* 40 (1909): 49-54, 93-100, 160-167, 241-248; 41 (1910): 10-19.

¹⁵Walter Allen Knittle, *Early Eighteenth Century Palatine Emigration . . .* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1965), p. 244.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 244-291.



Left: This photograph shows the kitchen area of an early farmhouse on the Marcus Oberholtzer (d. 1725) tract in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. An original building on this property was erected by Peter Bezaillon about 1700. Right: This photograph shows an early milkhouse on the former Marcus Oberholtzer farmstead.

Marlborough, the British commissioner, and Dayroll, the British envoy to the Hague. Of the 3,073 emigrants sent to Ireland about two-thirds returned to England. Many of those who went to North Carolina, mostly Swiss, died aboard ship, and others were killed in an Indian War two years later. Ten ships carrying 2,814 refugees left England for New York. At least one-sixth died enroute. Many of the remainder had moved by 1717 into New Jersey, Pennsylvania, or upstate New York.

The refugees who went to Pennsylvania were preceded in 1705 by several Germans who laid plans with Penn and Logan for a place for settlement. According to Penn, some Germans also visited him that year in London.¹⁷ Herr has noted that terms were arranged to colonize a portion of present-day Lancaster County.

Marcus and his family, according to circumstantial evidence, left England and crossed the Atlantic in the ship *Mary Hope*, arriving in America on September 23, 1710 (OS). A group of Anabaptists on board had signed a letter to friends in Rotterdam the day before the ship sailed from England. In the letter they expressed appreciation for the assistance in enabling them to leave the continent. A Martin Oberholtzer was one of the signers.¹⁸ Upon reaching Pennsylvania, he with other signers made arrangements to obtain land for settlement. He also is named in the warrant for the land. A Micael Overholtz was named in the warrant.¹⁹ Thus Micael apparently came to America on the *Mary Hope* with Martin. Also, the *Mary Hope* apparently carried other passengers whose names are unknown. No further record of this Micael/Michael has been found.

The name "Marcus" might possibly have been transcribed "Martin." The caliber of handwriting and transcriptions of it has lent credence to the speculation. However, handwriting experts to whom the possibility was presented quickly pointed out that the "Mar-" portion of the name occurs in both "Marcus" and "Martin" and that the "-cus" and "-tin" portions could easily have been written to appear alike. However, to transcribe "Marcus" as "Micael" appears most improbable.

The *Mary Hope* sailed for North America on Friday, June 27, 1710. Rupp erroneously reported the date as 1709, the departure from Amsterdam, rather than the date of arrival.²⁰ The error was repeated by following historians for more than half a century until corrected by Eshleman (pp. 147-9).²¹ All passengers on the *Mary Hope* arrived safely. The voyage was described by Chalkley,²² Gouldin,²³ and Todd.²⁴ The success of the voyage was unusual. The death rate during such crossings averaged

nineteen per cent until 1880, according to a display hanging in the Royal Maritime Museum at Greenwich, England.

The uneventful crossing ended at New Castle, Delaware. The passengers were welcomed by friendly people there who furnished them food, drink, and bags of apples and peaches. They walked to Philadelphia, arriving on September 23, and were again welcomed by friends. The German and Dutch people in the area by then had settled mainly at Germantown, about six miles north of Philadelphia. The Pietists—who under John Kelpius, their leader and the first astronomer in North America, kept a star watch—had a large building which housed Chalkley and his friends.

Penn's commissioners granted a warrant to "London Letter" signers plus others only seventeen days after their arrival to purchase

ten thousand Acres of Land Scituate on ye Northwesterly Side of a Hill Aboute Twenty miles easterly from Connystoge & near y^e head of Pecquim Creek for w^{ch} said Land they are to pay the Sum of Five hundred Pounds Sterling mony of great Brittain in manner following (that is to say) the Summe of One Hundred pounds part thereof in hand.²⁵

The scribe spelled the names of the purchasers: "Jno. Rundolph Bundelj, Martin Kundig, Jacob Miler, Hans Graeff, Hans Heer, Martin Oberholtz, Hans Funk, Micael Overholtz & one Bawman, Swiszers lately arrived in this Province." The surveys of lands under this warrant are shown on the map on page 31.

The survey of the ten thousand-acre tract, returned October 23, 1710, by Isaac Taylor, the provincial surveyor, noted two tracts of 2,120 acres each in this section. One tract was for Martin Kendig. The other tract was for John Rudolph Bundely, Hans Graff, and a third person whose name has been obliterated by time. A notation on the back of this survey²⁶ indicates that Martin Oberholtz was the third person, not otherwise connected with the Pequea lands.

Marcus and Martin probably arrived together on the *Mary Hope*—a contradiction of the information presented by Rupp (p. 346), who erroneously listed Martin and Michael as arriving in 1709 (actually September 1710) and Marcus, in 1712. Martin was named at both the beginning and end of the voyage as were other "London Letter" signers—Martin Kendig, Jacob Müller, and Hans Heer. The scribe at the time wrote "Oberholts" and

¹⁷Correspondence Between William Penn and James Logan, Secretary of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Others, 1700-1750, ed. Edward Armstrong, Memoirs of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, vol. 10 (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1872), pp. 2:86, 110.

¹⁸Eshleman, *Historic Background and Annals*, p. 148.

¹⁹Warrant Book 1700-1715, p. 229 [dated Oct. 10, 1710], Division of Land Records, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

²⁰Rupp, *Thirty Thousand Names*, p. 436.

²¹Eshleman, *Historic Background and Annals*, p. 148.

²²Summarized in Ira D. Landis, "For a Faith's Pure Shrine," *Memnonite Research Journal* 1 (October 1960): 34.

²³Described in "Hans Herr's Ocean Voyage," *Memnonite Research Journal* 1 (October 1960): 27-29; 2 (April 1961): 19, 22.

²⁴Vincent H. Todd, *Christoph von Graffenreid's Account of the Founding of New Bern* (Raleigh, N.C.: North Carolina Historical Commission, 1920).

²⁵Warrant Book 1700-1715, p. 229, Harrisburg.

²⁶Survey D-87-197, Division of Land Records, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pa.

"Overholtz" for the two Oberholtzers and spelled Herr's name as Heer, Miller as Miler, Kundig as Kendig, and "one Bawman" for Wendell Bowman/Bauman.

Marcus was named in the 1715 estate settlement of William Fairman,²⁷ who was Penn's surveyor. He held at least forty-six warrants and returns in the Land Record Office at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Fairman's will, dated 1711, obviously precedes the date of Marcus' arrival in America as given by Rupp—1712.

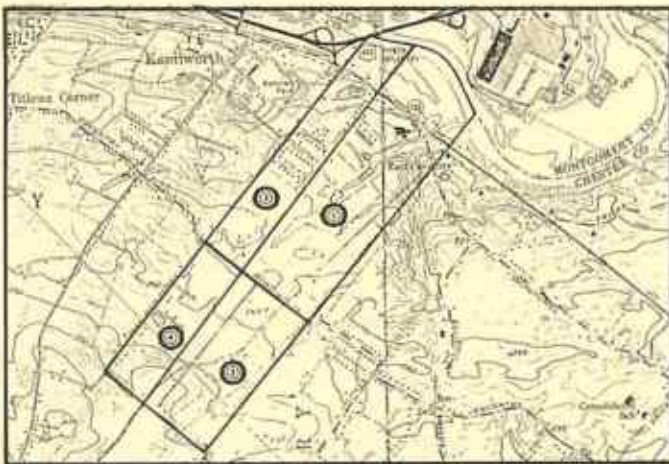
Marcus Overholt's land was part of a tract of thirty thousand acres sold by William Penn to Dr. Daniel Cox, Sir Mathis Vincent, and Major Robert Thompson for the use of Huguenots. The leader was Captain Jacques LeTort, but the colony did not succeed. LeTort went to London twice for help in 1690²⁸ and again several years later—never to return.

Marcus was situated sometime prior to 1719 on part of a 500-acre tract used prior to 1708 by Peter Bezaillion.²⁹ Matthew Brooke first held a warrant on this tract for five years which expired in 1713. A provision, however, made transfer possible. This land lay on the west side of the Schuylkill River on the outskirts of Kenilworth in Coventry (now East Coventry) Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, across the river from Pottstown.

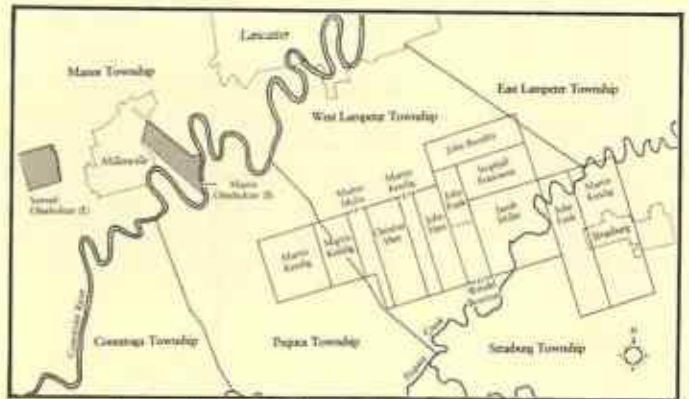
The location of the 300-acre Coventry farm has been established by means of a recent topographical map. Ancient surveys of established roads were honored when later roads deviated before and after entering a property.

Localities in which Marcus settled are most easily ascertained by mentally establishing the earliest traveled trails leading westward out of Philadelphia. One of these in or before 1786 led along the south bank of the Schuylkill River to the mouth of French Creek nearly west of the mouth of the Perkiomen. It then proceeded along the south bank of French Creek to the headwaters of one of its branches, across the divide to a branch of the Conestoga, and on to the Susquehanna. Other trails leading to the west existed. One led to Merion by 1687, thence on to Haverford by 1693, to John Spruce's by 1710, to Thomas Moore's by 1712, and to the Susquehanna by 1714.

Immigrant Martin Oberholtzer (B), perhaps living on the remaining 200 acres, inquired with other Palatines about



This topographical map of a portion of the Pottstown area on the border of Chester and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania shows the 500 acres occupied by Peter Bezaillion. Immigrant Marcus Oberholtzer (A) (1664-1725) and his wife, Elizabeth, received a 1719 warrant for 300 acres (tracts 1 and 2). Portion 1 went to son Henry (A7); tracts 2 and 4, to Jacob (A1); tract 3, to Marcus (A4). Tracts 3 and 4 (not mentioned as formerly belonging to immigrant Marcus) may have first been squatted by Martin Oberholtzer (B), who later received land in Manor Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.



This map shows the layout of tracts for the 1710 settlement group, with whom Martin Oberholtzer (B) was identified in West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania; the neighboring 1716 warrant in Manor Township by Alexander Buse, which went to Martin Oberholtzer (B) and was patented to Michael Kreider in 1734; and Samuel Oberholtzer's (E) tract in Manor Township.

purchasing 50 acres of Joseph Growden's 2,000-acre tract.³⁰ This was about the time tax collections began. He may have gone to the Conestoga area of Lancaster County or lived in the Manor Township area until 1725. Upon his death his two sons, Joseph (B1) and Martin (B2), sold the 200-acre farm in 1733³¹ and moved on. None of their descendants have been identified.

Marcus "Overholts" appealed to the Board of Property that

having been seated by Tho. Fairman in his life time [in or before 1711], on the West Side of Schuylkill, on 300 acres of Land w'ch he pretended to sell to him, but he dying before he cou'd make him a Title, he, the said Marcus, desires a Grant for the same Land, for which he agrees to pay Eight and forty Pounds, Money of this Province, for the whole, and one Shilling Sterling for each Hundred acres, whereupon a Warrant is signed, dated 20th 3d month, 1719.³²

The warrant reads:

By the Commissioners of Property.

Upon an agreement made with Marcus Overholts for three Hundred Acres of Land Scituate on the west side of Schuylkill where he now dwells for which he is to pay to the Use of the Trustees upon the Survey to be made thereon without delay the sum of eight and forty pounds Mony of Pensilvania for the whole and the yearly quintrent of one Shilling Sterling for each hundred acres. These are to Authorize and require thee to Survey or cause to be Survey'd unto the said Marcus Overholts in y^e place

²⁷Will D-17-22, Philadelphia County Courthouse, Philadelphia, Pa. Fairman's will was made in 1711 and proved in 1714. The 1715 inventory shows that Marcus Overholt was paid £15.

²⁸Evelyn A. Benson, "The Huguenot LeTorts: First Christian Family on the Conestoga," *Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society* 65 (Spring 1961): 97.

²⁹William Penn and James Logan, 2:278.

³⁰Miscellaneous Book 1, p. 111, Philadelphia. This record is dated Oct. 11, 1719.

³¹John Marsh, Jr., "First Greiter/Kreider Immigrants of Lancaster and Lebanon Counties, Pennsylvania," *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* 8 (October 1985): 16 (map).

³²*Pennsylvania Archives*, 2nd ser., XIX, 652.

aforsaid according to the Method of Townships appointed and including his Improvement and Settlement the said quantity of Three hundred Acres of Land that has not been already Survey'd nor appropriated and make Returns thereof into the Secretarys Office which Survey in case the Said Marcus fulfill the above agreement Shall be valid otherwise the Same is to be Void as if it had never been made nor this Warrant ever granted. Given under our hands & the Seal of y^e Province at Philad^a y^e 20th of y^e 3d Mo. A.D. 1719.

To Jacob Taylor Surveyor General.

Rich^d Hill
Isaac Norris
James Brown.³³

Marcus' name appeared on the first (ca. 1720) tax assessment list for Coventry Township,³⁴ then called the "Highest District from Skoolkill to Brandiwine." Except for the list of 1723 his name appeared each year as taxpayer until his death, intestate, in 1726. (Barbara Ford compiled tax records for all early Overholts in this area.) His widow paid the taxes in 1727. The transfer of land title was made to his fifth son, Henry, who had the land surveyed in 1735.

In Pursuance of a Warrant from the Proprietarys Comiss^s bearing date the twentieth day of the third Month A.D. 1719. To lay out to Marcus Overholts three hund^d acres of Land on y^e West side of Schuylkil—Survey'd unto Henry Overholts on the 20th day of March 1735. The above described Tract of Land, Situate on the West side of the River Schuylkil in the County of Chester. containing two Hundred & Eleven Acres and the allowance of six p. Cent. Jn^o Taylor.³⁵

As shown in the diagram of the survey, the boundaries of the land began at a post on the shore of the Schuylkill River, extended southwest 344 perches to a black oak along the edge of Jacob Cresinger's land, southeast 106 perches past Jacob Overholts' land to a post, northeast 314 perches past the land of Peter Hefely (Heffely in some documents) and Jacob Steager to an elm on the Schuylkill River, and along the shore for 113 perches to the place of beginning.

The remaining 100 acres of Marcus' warrant, tract 2, was transferred to Jacob Overholt, Marcus' oldest son, by a warrant granted January 31, 1734. The warrant indicated that the land was formerly owned by Marcus³⁶ but was canceled in favor of Christian Brewer on April 11, 1743, because the survey had not been completed. Brewer's survey included Marcus' land plus that of Jacob, tract 3 of 100 acres, without predecessors being named and was included under a warrant dated January 31, 1734. Marcus' tract, tract 2 of 103 acres, is shown as having been surveyed to Brewer May 10, 1735.³⁷

The Christian Brewer tract boundaries began at a hickory on the corner of Jacob Cresinger's/Gresinger's, Martin Frank's, and Christian Brewer's land, went 210 perches southwest past Martin Frank's and vacant land to a black oak, then 80-2/3 perches to a post marking the separation of tracts 2 and 3, continued 83-1/3 perches southeast past vacant land to a white oak, and northeast 210 perches past Peter Hefley's land to a post, then northwest 83-1/3 perches past Henry Overholts' land to a post, and then continued northwest 80-2/3 perches past Jacob Cresinger's land (tract 4 of topographical map) to the hickory at the beginning point. Brewer's survey was returned April 22, 1743; his earlier patent can also be found.³⁸

The exact tract location easily can be found by placing the surveys on the same scale as the topographical map and moving a cutout of the tract along the Schuylkill River starting at French Creek, the lower boundary of Coventry Township. The location becomes recognizable immediately by the distinctive bend of the river and by the changes of direction of Coventry Road. No other location fits.

The administration bond of £500 for Marcus' estate was posted December 3, 1726, by Jacob, his oldest son; Jacob Casdorp, shipwright; and Jacob Beible. The accounting and inventory were to be returned to the court on December 4, 1727.³⁹ Elizabeth, Jacob's mother, agreed that Jacob Overhold should administer the estate of Markus Overhold, her deceased husband. The witnesses were Jacob Buckolts and an unknown person, whose name is undecipherable.

Inventory of Marcus Oberholtzer Estate
November 21, 1726

	Pounds	Shillings	Pence
Imprimis			
to wearing apparell & Cash	6	0	0
to wheat in Spring [illegible]	7	10	6
to improvements made on 300 acres land	100	0	0
to corn in barn, rye & wheat	24	0	0
to a bay horse	5	10	0
to a [] ballface Horse	5	110	0
to a brown colt with a blase in his face	5	0	0
to a brown colt with a store in his forehead	5	0	0
to a brown mare and a sorrel colt	6	10	0
to an old mare and colt	3	0	0
to a red cow — [illegible]	2	10	0
to a brown cow with a white face	3	110	0
to a brown cow with a bell	2	10	0
to a red cow	2	10	0
to a poor red cow	1	15	0
to a little red cow	1	10	0
to a brown heifer	1	16	0
to a brown young bullock	1	4	0
to a red bullock with long horns	1	4	0
to a young red heifer	1	5	0
to a young red bullock	1	5	0
to a red bullock with a white face	1	2	0
to a young brown heifer	1	0	0
to a yearling bullock	1	0	0
to 4 young calves	2	16	0
to 1 young calf	0	8	0
to 17 sheep	4	13	6
to 25 bees [geese?]	1	11	3
to 2 breeding sows	1	10	0
to 1 sow and a barrow	1	4	0
to 11 shoats	1	77	6
to a plow and harrow and gear	0	15	0
to a brass pan	3	8	8
to an old Grass Cattel [brass kettle?]	0	10	0

³³Warrant D-73-121, Harrisburg.

³⁴J. Smith Futey and Gilbert Cope, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania, with Genealogical and Biographical Sketches* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881; reprint ed., Evansville, Ind.: Unigraphic, 1974), p. 41.

³⁵Survey D-78-23, Harrisburg.

³⁶Commission Book A-1-324, Harrisburg.

³⁷Survey C-148-206, Harrisburg.

³⁸Patent A-11-103, Harrisburg.

³⁹Administration Bond C-65-25, Philadelphia.

to a bed and bedding	3	0	0
to a bed and bed cloaths	2	5	0
to Hemp	1	17	3
to Buckwheat	2	17	0
to wollen yarn	1	6	0
to the girls bed	3	0	0
to flax and toe	2	0	0
to 1 chiest	0	10	0
to 1 table	0	10	0
to a woll spinning wheel	0	3	0
to 2 table cloaths	0	7	0
to 2 table cloaths	0	5	0
to 10 bags	1	0	0
to 1 iron pan	0	0	0
to 1 iron pott	0	5	0
to 4 butter plates	0	6	8
to 14 spugnes	0	3	6
to a puter beason and a platter	0	5	0
to 2 puter beasons	0	5	0
to a puter beason and tankard	0	7	0
to a puter flaggon	0	2	0
to earthenware	0	2	0
to 2 frying pans	0	4	0
to a ladle and flesh fork	0	3	0
to sheep shears	0	2	6
to 18 earthen pots	0	99	0
to a tub with butter in it	1	10	0
to 5 Rinlets	0	7	0
to a tub and half a barrel	0	5	0
to 2 hatchets	2	0	0
to 3 axes, 1 hoe and 2 wedges	0	10	0
to 4 liethes of carpenter tools	0	13	0
to 1 ladle and a grindstone	1	19	0
to books	1	0	0

Jacob Penchley, William Evanue, Jacob Buckholts

This inventory obviously included possessions of a highly prosperous farmer: livestock, furniture, farm equipment, home utensils, and books. Marcus was able to pay £48 for the farm—more than a considerable sum in that day. His books, valued at £1, were equivalent to the value of a cow and an indication of an above-average individual as well as a possibility that he may have been one of the leaders among the few Mennonites then in the vicinity. These included Jacob Stagger; Henry and Hubert Castle/Cassel; Johannes Kolb, who moved on to South Carolina; Henry Landes; John Meilin; and others whose names appear on the earliest of Coventry Township tax lists.

Marcus' house may have been similar to the famous 1719 Herr House near Lancaster. An archaeological survey might well start in the vicinity of the Coventry Mennonite church near the Old Schuylkill Road on tract 1 of the topographical map. The farm of Jacob, passed to Christian Brewer, is now (1986) a dairy farm operated by Harold Kulp, 1096 Spiece Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The house on this farm is a very old one with many later additions; it should be studied by an architectural specialist for dates of early construction and special features.

Early Chester County Mennonite connections of Marcus and his family related to Jacob Casdorp, shipwright and minister, and Henry Kolb. One can assume, however, that the family attended meetings held in the homes of neighbors as was the custom at the time prior to establishment of the church and burial grounds within a few years after settlement. The family may have attended meetings at Skippack with the Kolbs as did their neighbors, whose names also appear on the earliest of Chester county tax rolls. Their children founded the Deep Run Mennonite Church.



This Deep Run Mennonite meetinghouse, built in 1766 and enlarged in 1795, was photographed by Samuel F. DuBois on April 26, 1872, a week before it was razed and replaced with a new building. Marcus and Jacob Oberholtz and Jacob Wismer were among the six trustees who executed the first deed for land at this location in Bedminster Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1746 for this congregation.

Marcus and Elizabeth may be buried in the Sprogel burying ground just across the Schuylkill River from the Overholtzer home. Burials began here in 1716. This cemetery by 1905 became hemmed in by a railroad and an ironworks, and the court ordered that it be moved. Sixty bodies were disinterred; most of them were moved to a new burial plot on Hanover Street. The remainder were reburied in cemeteries selected by relatives. The only Overholtzer names in the East Coventry cemetery span the 1846-1929 period; all of them are connected with the Henry S. Overholtzer family.

The first Coventry Mennonite meetinghouse was built in 1753. It was located about a mile southeast of the present one. East Coventry was built in 1798; an adjacent cemetery is on the farm of Marcus and was donated by later owners.

A1 Jacob Oberholtzer, 1699-1760. Born in Europe; traveled to Coventry Twp. with his parents; died in Bedminster or Plumstead Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. He and his brother-in-law, Jacob Wismer, were authorized in 1744 to purchase land from Rebecca Leech and Thomas Leech in Plumstead Twp., on which they may have settled as early as 1725, but they did not receive title until May 17, 1749.⁴⁰ Oberholtzer and Wismer were two of six trustees of the Deep Run Mennonite Church in 1746. He was administrator of his father's estate and sold 200 acres of the Coventry farm to Christian Brewer—103 acres formerly owned by Marcus and a second 100 acres to the north—for which he obtained a warrant, which was conveyed to Brewer. In his will he left his 170-acre farm to his two sons, Jacob and Abraham, and £12 to each of his seven daughters.⁴¹
m. ca. 1722 Barbara [Fretz?]

A11 Jacob Overholt; farmer. Lived in Bedminster Twp. His farm, consisting of 152 acres and 95 perches and adjoining

⁴⁰A. J. Fretz, *A Brief History of Jacob Wismer and a Complete Genealogical Family Register* . . . (Elkhart, Ind.: Mennonite Pub. Co., 1893), p. 5.

⁴¹Will L-551-343, Philadelphia. The will was made June 28, 1760, and proved Nov. 7, 1760.



East Coventry Mennonite Church, erected in 1798, stands in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, near the southeastern corner of Marcus Oberholtzer's tract 1.

the village of Bedminsterville, was purchased from William Allen in 1763. In 1779 he built a log house which has been boarded over and to which were built two additions; it is still standing. His will⁴² was written June 8, 1805.

m. Esther Leatherman

A111 Elizabeth Overholt

m. Christian Hockman

Four children, who left no offspring

A112 Barbara Oberholtzer, Oct. 10, 1757-Aug. 10, 1834.

Lived with her husband on a farm three miles west of Bedminsterville; buried with her husband at Deep Run East Mennonite Cem.

m. Henry Fretz, Nov. 11, 1755-May 30, 1831; son of weaver John and Maria Fretz.

Ten children: Mary, Jacob, John, Mark, Esther, Henry, Jonas, Sarah, Abraham, and David

A113 Jacob Overholt, Mar. 1760-Oct. 28, 1837; single.

Inherited his father's homestead, where he lived and died.

A114 Magdalena Overholt, Aug. 14, 1762-Jan. 27, 1846

m. Isaac Meyer⁴³

A115 Esther Overholt

m. Jacob Leatherman

A12 Abraham Overholt; farmer in Plumstead Twp.; Mennonite. Made his will Oct. 23, 1802.⁴⁴

m. Magdalena Detweiler, b. July 4, 1739

A121 Jacob Overholt, d. Dec. 1839; farmer; Mennonite.

m. Elizabeth Leatherman, ca. 1749-Mar. 15, 1831

Eight children: Abraham, Elizabeth, Esther, John, Joseph, Isaac, Magdalena, and Mary

A122 Abraham Overholt; farmer; furniture and spinning wheel maker; Mennonite.

m. Margaret Wismer

Five children: Jacob, John, Abraham, Isaac, and Henry

A123 Mary Overholt, Dec. 27, 1767-Sept. 1, 1850

m. William Meyer, June 17, 1764-Feb. 12, 1848; farmer; Mennonite.

Six children: Magdalena, Nancy, Hannah, Kate, Mary, and Abraham⁴⁵

A124 Henry Overholt; farmer; turner; spinning wheel maker; distiller; Mennonite.

m. Mary Nash

Four children: Magdalena, Elizabeth, Anna, and Mary

A125 Isaac Overholt, Feb. 1774-Apr. 25, 1858; farmer; Mennonite.

m.(1) Apr. 5, 1804 Anna Fretz, Dec. 19, 1781-Apr. 24, 1807; dau. of Mark Fretz.

Two children: William and Joseph

m.(2) Oct. 18, 1810 Mary Shaddinger

Six children: Magdalena, Susan, Isaac, Mary, Hannah, and Abraham

A13 Ann Overholt

m. David Kolb/Culp, ca. 1716-late Nov. or early Dec. 1786; son of immigrant Henry Kolb. Born in Bebbler's Twp., Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co., Pa.; died in Bedminster Twp. Lived on 192-acre farm east of Kulps Corners on present Irish Meetinghouse Road. Lived in Bedminster Twp. as early as Mar. 1741, when he and his brother Tilman signed the petition for the formation of Bedminster Twp. from Plumstead Twp. He was one of the first six trustees of the Deep Run Mennonite Church, and many of the family are buried there. Although he obtained title to his farm in 1761, it was being purchased under contract on which he paid money on bond to William Allen or his predecessor, Isaac Steel.

Eight children: Abraham, _____, Catharine, David, Jr., Nanny, Elizabeth, Mary, and Henry

A14 Elizabeth Overholt

m. Dielman/Tilman Kolb, ca. 1718-Oct. 1789; son of Henry and Barbara Kolb of Bebbler's Twp. Died on their 166-acre farm on present Hill Road, northeast of Deep Run East Mennonite meetinghouse in Bedminster Twp. He was in Bedminster Twp. in 1741 and obtained a patent on Jan. 10, 1754.

Three children: Henry, Jacob, and Elizabeth (m. Henry Rosenberger)

A15 Mary Overholt

m. Daniel Bewighouse

A16 Barbara Oberholtzer, 1726-Feb. 3, 1765

m. 1745 Henry Rosenberger, Dec. 2, 1725-1809; farmer; Mennonite minister. Became owner of homestead belonging to his father, Henry Rosenberger, in Franconia Twp., Montgomery Co., Pa., in 1745. Also owned property in New Britain Twp., Bucks Co., Pa., and lived for a time in that township. It is said that he was the preacher at the Franconia meetinghouse during the time of the Revolution.

Eight children: Gertrude, Anna, Abraham, Elizabeth, Barbara, Maria, Magdalena, and Sarah

A17 Hester Overholt, b. May 16, 1728

m. Nov. 16, 1748 George Bachman, b. Nov. 30, 1724; son of George Bachman.⁴⁶

A171 Maria Bachman, b. Aug. 22, 1749

A172 Jacob Bachman, b. Oct. 15, 1750

⁴²Will 3865, Bucks County Courthouse, Doylestown, Pa.

⁴³A. J. Fretz, *A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Christian and Hans Meyer and Other Pioneers . . .* (Harleysville, Pa.: News Printing House, 1896), p. 374.

⁴⁴Will 3866, Doylestown.

⁴⁵Fretz, *Christian and Hans Meyer*, pp. [556]-559.

⁴⁶The Bachman family record is found in a Bible printed in Zurich in 1536. One of the entries reads: "Anno 1792, 30th Sept., at 7 o'clock in the evening our daughter Elizabeth Overholt was born." Could she have been a granddaughter?

- A173 Barbara Bachman, b. July 6, 1752
m. Isaac Stout
- A174 Rachel Bachman, b. Jan. 7, 1754
- A175 Esther Bachman, b. Mar. 8, 1756
- A176 Anna Bachman, b. Oct. 14, 1758
- A177 Lydia Bachman, b. Oct. 14, 1761
- A178 Susanna Bachman, b. Jan. 9, 1763
- A179 Elizabeth Bachman, b. Apr. 22, 1765
- A170 Catarina Bachman, b. Mar. 5, 1770
- A17a Rebecca Bachman, May 20, 1774-Apr. 29, 1776
- A18 Magdalena Overholt, d. after 1811. Her gravesite has not been found.
m. Abraham Landes, d. 1791. Buried in Deep Run East Mennonite Cem.⁴⁷
- A181 Abraham Landes, b. ca. 1750. Mentioned in his father's will; may have moved to Perry Co., Pa.
- A182 Sarah Landes, Apr. 12, 1752-1823
m. Daniel Groce/Gross, Apr. 23, 1748-1790⁴⁸
Eight children
- A183 Barbara Landes, d. July 5, 1796; single in 1791. Buried in Deep Run East Mennonite Cem.
- A184 Mary Landes
m. Ulrich Bassler/"Oelerigh Pausler" (in 1790 census).
Lived in Upper Milford Twp., Northampton (now Lehigh) Co., Pa.
- A185 Jacob Landis; weaver. Lived in Plumstead Twp.⁴⁹
- A186 Henry Landes. Perhaps married twice.
m. Hannah Wismer; dau. of Rev. Abraham Wismer.
Nine children
- A187 Magdalena, Mar. 5, 1762-1829
m. Peter Meyer, Jan. 13, 1761-1834; son of Henry Meyer and Maria Eschbach; Mennonite minister.
Buried in Springfield Mennonite Cem., Springfield Twp., Bucks Co., Pa.⁵⁰
Eight children
- A188 Samuel Landes, Sept. 10, 1766-Nov. 26, 1801. Buried in Deep Run East Mennonite Cem.
m. Elizabeth Fretz, Sept. 24, 1766-May 4, 1835; dau. of Abraham Fretz.⁵¹
Seven children
- A189 Daniel Landes, b. ca. 1769-Feb. 7, 1841. Buried in Deep Run East Mennonite Cem.
m. Mary Fretz, d. May 7, 1844; dau. of Abraham Fretz.
Nine children
- A180 Joseph Landes, Nov. 10, 1770-Apr. 15, 1813
m. Catherine Beiler, Oct. 4, 1779-Aug. 8, 1811; dau. of Christian Beiler.
Seven children
- A18a Benjamin Landes, d. 1856
m. Esther Gayman, b. Aug. 2, 1774; dau. of Christian Gayman and Barbara Overholt.
Three sons
- A19 Sarah Overholt, Sept. 30, 1727-May 7, 1815
m. Nov. 20, 1753 Rudolph Landis, Dec. 31, 1732-Apr. 17, 1802; immigrant of Sept. 27, 1749. Lived in Bedminster Twp.⁵²
- A191 Magdalena Landis, Aug. 19, 1754-1816
m. Philip Hoch/High, 1750-Mar. 16, 1836
- A192 Elizabeth Landis, May 7, 1756-Sept. 26, 1830
m. Isaac Moyer, Oct. 11, 1758-Oct. 5, 1824
- A193 Jacob Landis, Feb. 24, 1760-Sept. 5, 1837
m. Agnes Fretz, May 13, 1763-Nov. 20, 1826
- A194 Maria Landis, July 24, 1761-ca. 1813
m. Christian K. Moyer, b. Mar. 27, 1762
- A195 Barbara Landis, May 2, 1765-Dec. 30, 1837
m. Christian E. Meyer, Sept. 18, 1758-Oct. 19, 1838
- A196 Abraham Landis, Oct. 8, 1767-Dec. 24, 1831
m. Anna
No children
- A197 Heinrich Landis, Feb. 20, 1771-Mar. 21, 1773
- A198 Joseph Landis, Feb. 20, 1774-Feb. 10, 1858
m.(1) Sarah Fretz, Mar. 22, 1771-Aug. 1815
m.(2) 1816 Barbara Gehman, Feb. 20, 1788-Mar. 16, 1836; dau. of Christian and Barbara Oberholtzer.
- A2 Samuel Oberholtzer, 1701-after 1759; farmer. Lived in Coventry Twp.
m. Elizabeth
- A21 Marcus Oberholtzer, d. 1754. Signed petition for formation of Bedminster Twp. from Plumstead Twp. in 1741. Probably leased land from William Allen earlier than Mar. 26, 1744; a lease agreement of that date between William Allen and Dielman Kolb mentioned land of Jacob Overholt and Marcus Overholt and designated the land for the use of the Mennonite meeting; this tract may have been developed jointly by his father and uncles, Martin and Jacob; Marcus may have taken over the farm of Martin after his death in 1743.
m. Elizabeth Staats; dau. of Peter Staats, whose ancestors settled on Staten Island in 1687.
- A211 Staats Oberholtzer, d. 1824; farmer; Mennonite who became Baptist. Born in Pennsylvania; died at Beamsville, Clinton Twp., Clinton Co., Ont. Was the first Mennonite to settle in Canada in 1786. Received 500 acres of land on the shore of Lake Ontario as a United Empire Loyalist. Naturalized in 1796.
m. Susannah Hunsberger
Children: Christopher, Isaac, and Jacob; sons-in-law John Singer, Jacob Fisher, and Henry Rott.
- A22 Magdalena Overholt
m. Christian Huntsberger/Hunsberry⁵³
No children
- A23 Martin Overholt, ca. 1745-1816; farmer. Lived in Tincum Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. Fined for failure to drill in Capt. Patterson's Company in the Revolution. Moved to Plumstead Twp. in 1783. Often confused with Martin Overholt (A65), who was a half brother to Elizabeth Nash.
m. Elizabeth Nash, b. Aug. 3, 1751; dau. of William Nash and Agnes (Kolb) Oberholtzer (widow of Martin Oberholtzer [A6] and third wife of William Nash).

⁴⁷Will 2337, Doylestown; *Report of the Thirty-First Reunion of the Landis-Landes Families* . . . , ed. Dorothy K. Landis (Bethlehem, Pa.: Times Pub. Co., [1950]), pp. 48-50; Patent A-19-541, Harrisburg.

⁴⁸Wills 2282 and 5102, Doylestown.

⁴⁹Will 4734, Doylestown.

⁵⁰Fretz, *Christian and Hans Meyer*, pp. 607-609.

⁵¹Ibid., p. 495; A. J. Fretz, *A Brief History of John and Christian Fretz and a Complete Genealogical Family Register* . . . (Elkhart, Ind.: Mennonite Pub. Co., 1890), p. 284.

⁵²*Report of the Eighteenth Reunion of the Landis Family* . . . ([Lititz, Pa.]: Lititz Record Press, 1934), p. 18.

⁵³Christian died first and directed in his will that in the absence of a new will the existing will should be followed in making provision for Magdalena. The proceeds from this will were a major part of her younger brother Martin's estate.

- A231 Jacob Overholt, Mar. 12, 1767-Oct. 1, 1849
m. May 17, 1791 Mary Angeny, b. Mar. 12, 1765
- A2311 Jacob Overholt, b. Apr. 6, 1792
m. Anna Shutt
No children
- A2312 Elizabeth Overholt, b. Dec. 5, 1793
m. Mar. 6, 1817 Christian Fretz, b. Sept. 5, 1787
Two children: Christian and Enos
- A2313 Martin Overholt, b. Oct. 13, 1796
m. Dec. 20, 1825 Anna Kulp, d. 1885
One child: Jacob
- A2314 Barbara Oberholtzer, Aug. 8 or 17, 1798-July 24, 1872
m. John Leatherman ("Thick John"), Oct. 15, 1795-
Dec. 29, 1872⁵⁴
Seven children: Jacob, Mary, Martin, Nancy, Sarah,
Elizabeth, and Barbara
- A2315 Anna Oberholtzer, May 15, 1801-Sept. 15, 1888
m. May 12, 1836 Peter Loux, June 27, 1776-July 24,
1871; farmer; Mennonite.
One child: Mary
- A2316 Maria Oberholtzer, Sept. 17, 1803-Sept. 22, 1895
m. John Leatherman ("Little John"), Oct. 11, 1800-
July 28, 1874⁵⁵
Five children: Elizabeth, Anna, Mary, Catherine, and
Hannah
- A2317 Sarah Overholt, Aug. 25, 1808-Mar. 1897
m. Samuel Leatherman, May 1, 1815-Dec. 1903; son
of Henry Leatherman and Elizabeth Fretz; farmer;
Mennonite minister and bishop.⁵⁶
- A232 William Overholt, Aug. 27, 1768-Sept. 18, 1838;
farmer; Mennonite minister. First lived in Bucks Co., Pa.,
then moved to Northampton Co., Pa., about 1793, then
to Guilford Twp., Medina Co., Ohio.
m. Gertrude Kulp, Dec. 28, 1769-July 27, 1827; dau. of
Michael Kulp.
- A2321 Anna Overholt, June 12, 1792-Dec. 19, 1863
m. Sept. 14, 1820 Jacob Hendricks Baker, June 29,
1794-June 11, 1890; shoemaker.
Three children: George, Susanna, and William
- A2322 Martin Overholt, Oct. 14, 1794-Jan. 23, 1879; farmer.
m. Elizabeth Shaum, Apr. 15, 1792-Nov. 28, 1856;
dau. of Johannes Shaum and _____ Miller.
Seven children: Mollie, William, Abraham, Anna,
Leah, Sallie, and Elizabeth
- A2323 Elizabeth Overholt, b. and d. in 1796
- A2324 Barbara Overholt, Jan. 1798-Jan. 25, 1873
m. Michael Bussard, Dec. 12, 1793-Dec. 8, 1877;
blacksmith.
Seven children: Joseph, Samuel, Sarah, Mary, Lydia,
William, and Anna
- A2325 Mary Overholt, b. 1801
m. Samuel Narragang
Four children: Joseph, Nancy, Elizabeth, and Polly
- A2326 William Overholt; single. Died at about 50 years of age.
- A2327 Joseph Overholt, Feb. 3, 1804-Jan. 23, 1887
m. Oct. 15, 1829 Margaret Anglemoyer, Sept. 11,
1808-Mar. 18, 1883
Ten children: Anna, Hannah, Mary, William,
Margaret, Susan, Joseph, John, Amelia, and Amanda
- A2328 Sarah Overholt, 1806-1868
m. 1833 Joseph Kulp, d. Aug. 1884; farmer and music
dealer.
Eight children: Mary, Lydia, William, Sarah, Joseph,
Margaret, Leah, and John
- A2329 John Overholt, Aug. 8, 1808-Oct. 9, 1888; physician.
m. Jan. 19, 1835 Esther Kreider, Sept. 5, 1816-Oct.
21, 1884
Eight children: Mollie, Daniel, Elizabeth, Jennie,
Emma, Ella, John, and Charles
- A2320 Susanna Overholt, b. 1811. Died at age of eight years.
- A232a Lydia Overholt, Nov. 17, 1813-Jan. 26, 1899
m. Oct. 30, 1831 John Geisinger, June 22, 1812-Oct.
27, 1894; nurseryman.
Nine children: Lizzie, Mary, Anna, John, Abraham,
Emaline, Sarah, Joseph, and William
- A233 Agnes Overholt, Mar. 3, 1771-June 5, 1846
m. Abraham Meyer; blacksmith; Mennonite.
- A2331 John Myers
m. _____ Stover
Four children: Aaron, Henry, Abraham, and Annie
- A2332 Abraham Meyer
m. _____ Ruth
One daughter
- A2333 Elizabeth Meyer; single.
- A2334 Mary Meyer
m. _____ Myers
- A234 Joseph Overholt, ca. 1773-Feb. 28, 1816; farmer;
Mennonite.
m. Elizabeth Wismer; dau. of Rev. Abraham Wismer.
- A2341 Abraham W. Overholt. Received legacy from his grand-
father Martin (A23) when in Ohio.
- A2342 Martin Overholt, 1798-1844. Moved to Ohio in 1832.
m. July 1, 1820 Elizabeth Dinstman, b. Oct. 17, 1802;
dau. of Mathias Dinstman and Judith Fretz;⁵⁷ sister
of Anna Dinstman (m. Joseph Overholt [A2346]).
Nine children: Sarah, Abraham, Elizabeth, Judith,
Anthony, Joseph, Simeon, Eli, and Jacob
- A2343 Sarah Overholt, Sept. 28, 1799-Oct. 22, 1885. Moved
with her family to Medina Co., Ohio, after her
husband's death.
m. 1819 John O. Leatherman, Feb. 5, 1798-May 19,
1838⁵⁸
Eight children: Elizabeth, Martin, Jacob, Margaret,
John, Joseph, Mary, and Sarah
- A2344 Elizabeth Overholt; single.
- A2345 Mary Overholt, 1804-1889
m.(1) Abraham Beam, d. July 25, 1843. Aged 60 years
at death.⁵⁹
No children
m.(2) 1847 Abraham Wismer, Nov. 30, 1791-June 25,
1859; son of Abraham Wismer and Veronica
Myers.
One child: Sarah
- A2346 Joseph Overholt; shoemaker and farmer. Moved to
Ohio in 1832.
m. Nov. 8, 1827 Anna Dinstman; dau. of Mathias

⁵⁴I. John Leatherman and Emma Leatherman Candler, *All Leatherman Kin History: A Brief History and a Partial Genealogical Record of Leatherman Families and Their Descendants in the North American Continent* . . . (Nappanee, Ind.: E. V. Pub. House, 1940), p. 762.

⁵⁵*Ibid.*, p. 843.

⁵⁶*Ibid.*, p. 897.

⁵⁷Ford L. Coolman and Rachel W. Kreider, *The Mennonite Cemeteries of Medina County, Ohio, with a Brief Historical Sketch of the Churches* ([Wadsworth, Ohio]: Ford L. Coolman, 1971), p. 57.

⁵⁸Leatherman and Candler, *Leatherman Kin History*, pp. 703-704.

⁵⁹Coolman and Kreider, *Mennonite Cemeteries*, p. 6.

- Dinstman and Judith Fretz;⁶⁰ sister of Elizabeth Dinstman (m. Martin Overholt [A2341]).
Five children: Jonas, Margaret, Fannie, Benjamin, and Henry
- A2347 Margaret Overholt, Jan. 2, 1807-Sept. 16, 1872
m. Mar. 25, 1827 Jacob ("Thick Jake") Leatherman, June 15, 1803-July 24, 1892; son of Henry Leatherman and Elizabeth Fretz.⁶¹
Fourteen children: Henry, Joseph, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Samuel, Katie, Anna, David, Fannie, John, Maggie, Jacob, and Manasseh
- A235 Mary Overholt, Nov. 24, 1777-Nov. 1, 1857
m. John Schragger. This was his second marriage.
No children
- A236 Elizabeth Overholt, Mar. 12, 1779-Feb. 18, 1855
m. Jacob Leatherman, Aug. 17, 1772-Feb. 25, 1855.
Moved to Medina Co., Ohio.⁶²
- A2361 Sarah Leatherman, b. Sept. 27, 1798. May have died young.
- A2362 John Henry Leatherman, Aug. 15, 1800-Feb. 6, 1876; farmer; Mennonite. Lived in Medina Co., Ohio.
m. Mar. 14, 1833 Sarah Wideman, Aug. 14, 1812-Feb. 18, 1879; dau. of Jacob Wideman and Hannah Geisinger. Born near Toronto, Ont.⁶³
Twelve children: Jacob, Elizabeth, Jonas, Mary, Leah, John, Sarah, George, Barbara, Alvin, Emaline, and Noah
- A2363 Anna/Nan Leatherman, July 23, 1805-Feb. 13, 1878; single.
- A2364 Abraham Leatherman, Aug. 15, 1808-Sept. 12, 1871
m.(1) Dec. 6, 1831 Hannah Landis, Sept. 6, 1810-Mar. 25, 1849; dau. of Henry Landis and Hannah Wismer.
Nine children: Jacob, Elizabeth, Henry, Mary, Daniel, Hannah, Anna, Susanna, and Abraham
m.(2) June 5, 1853 Mary Gross, Nov. 26, 1810-Apr. 23, 1897; dau. of Rev. Christian Gross and Barbara Wismer.
- A2365 Elizabeth Leatherman, Nov. 13, 1809-Oct. 10, 1861; single.
- A2366 Jacob Leatherman, Sept. 14, 1812-Jan. 16, 1855; innkeeper; Mennonite.
m. Nov. 23, 1841 Nancy Elizabeth Koppes, Jan. 24, 1817-Oct. 23, 1853; dau. of Rev. Samuel Koppes and Elizabeth Delp.
Seven children: Elizabeth, Lovina, Samuel, Amanda, Caroline, Emma, and Levi
- A2367 Barbara Leatherman, Mar. 10, 1816-Dec. 17, 1889
m. Sept. 4, 1840 George Shaum, Sept. 17, 1818-Mar. 22, 1892; son of John Shaum and Sarah Buzzard; Mennonite deacon.
Two children: Elizabeth and Samuel
- A2368 Joseph Leatherman, Apr. 9, 1817-Oct. 15, 1887
m.(1) May 15, 1856 Annie S. Eby, Jan. 3, 1824-Aug. 16, 1870; dau. of Jacob Eby and Elizabeth Sauder.
Six children: Tobias, John, Jacob, Christian, Samuel, and Joseph
m.(2) _____ Gallentine
- A2369 Mary/Polly Leatherman, July 22, 1820-Dec. 10, 1876
m.(1) Apr. 11, 1844 Abraham Overholt, Mar. 23, 1823-Oct. 5, 1853; son of Martin Overholt (A2322) and Elizabeth Shaum; blacksmith.
Seven children: Elizabeth, Enos, Manasseh, Joseph
- Samuel, John, and Jacob
m.(2) Dec. 16, 1855 Abraham R. Koppes, Jan. 18, 1804-Oct. 15, 1875; son of Jacob Koppes and Barbara Rieser.
Four children: Aaron, Mary, Amelia, and Sarah
- A2360 Samuel Leatherman, b. Dec. 18, 1823
- A237 Barbara Overholt, ca. 1780-Sept. 11, 1851; single.
- A238 Magdalena Overholt, ca. 1781-Apr. 1847; single.
- A239 Abraham Overholt, Dec. 18, 1784-Feb. 19, 1859; farmer in Plumstead Twp.
m. Hannah Shutt, Feb. 26, 1792-Feb. 22, 1873; Mennonite.
- A2391 Margaret Overholt, Apr. 3, 1811-May 5, 1891
m.(1) Nov. 10, 1831 Henry Nash, Sept. 30, 1783-Oct. 18, 1861; son of Joseph Nash and Elizabeth Wismer.
Five children: Julia, Levi, Samuel, Hannah, and Henry
m.(2) Feb. 10, 1867 Benjamin Gable, [Oct. 26, 1806]-Aug. 9, 1895⁶⁴
- A2392 Elizabeth Overholt, Nov. 23, 1812-Dec. 23, 1876
m. Tobias Fretz, July 4, 1809-Sept. 28, 1879; son of John Fretz and Susanna Haldeman.
Two children: Nathan and Aaron
- A2393 Samuel Overholt, Jan. 12, 1815-Aug. 30, 1889
m. Mary Pickering
Children, including William
- A2394 Jacob Overholt, Feb. 13, 1818-July 8, 1865; farmer.
m. Barbara Moyer, Aug. 8, 1821-Nov. 21, 1901
Eleven children: Tobias, Eli, Christiana, Ephraim, Isaiah, Hannah, Saloma, Aaron, John, Barbara, and Mahlon
- A2395 John Overholt, Apr. 13, 1820-Apr. 16, 1890. Moved to Daviess Co., Ind.
m.(1) Anna Drissel, Jan. 21, 1827-May 4, 1871
Twelve children: Sarah, Elizabeth, Hannah, John, Abraham, Anna, and six sons who died as infants
m.(2) Veronica Stuckey, b. Sept. 12, 1842
Three children: Joseph, Simeon, and Henry
- A2396 Anna Overholt, July 18, 1822-Apr. 8, 1900
m. 1846 Samuel S. Myers, June 29, 1823-Sept. 30, 1882
Six children: Hannah, Elizabeth, Barbara, Mary, Abraham, and William
- A2397 Sarah Overholt, Nov. 28, 1824-Apr. 14, 1850
m. Henry Musselman
One child: Hugh
- A2398 Hannah Overholt, June 8, 1827-Jan. 25, 1890
m. John Fluck
No children
- A2399 Simeon Overholt, Mar. 1, 1830-Jan. 25, 1898
m. Sept. 11, 1862 Martha C. Smith
Three children: Gertrude, Francis, and Hasseltine
- A2390 Mary Overholt, b. Oct. 6, 1833
m. July 5, 1857 Joseph W. Swope, b. Aug. 6, 1831
Six children: Hannah, Sarah, Melinda, Reuben, Abraham, and Clara
- A239a Abraham Overholt, Sept. 13, 1836-Oct. 5, 1867; single.

⁶⁰Ibid., p. 57.

⁶¹Leatherman and Candler, *Leatherman Kin History*, pp. 856-857.

⁶²Ibid., p. 899.

⁶³Coolman and Kreider, *Mennonite Cemeteries*, p. 4.

⁶⁴Ibid., pp. 19, 33.

- A230 Anna Overholt, ca. 1787-Aug. 1848
m. Valentine Kratz, Apr. 22, 1773-Sept. 18, 1830; son of Abraham Kratz and Barbara Moyer; farmer; Mennonite.
- A2301 Simeon Kratz, Feb. 22, 1807-Mar. 5, 1865
m. Nov. 23, 1834 Catharine Moyer, b. Dec. 3, 1813
Nine children: Enos, William, Mary, Barbara, Ephraim, Mahlon, Catharine, Aaron, and Emma
- A2302 Elizabeth Kratz, May 4, 1809-June 26, 1836; single.
- A2303 Jacob Kratz, June 3, 1814-1903
m. Nov. 28, 1838 Mary Myers, b. Nov. 28, 1838
Four children: Salome, Henry, Annie, and Isaiah
- A2304 Abraham Kratz, Mar. 25, 1817-May 9, 1889
m. Nov. 25, 1839 Sarah Swartley
Eight children: John, William, Mary, Henry, Levi, Abraham, Oliver, and Jacob
- A2305 Barbara Kratz, July 1, 1818-Apr. 1891
m. William Clymer
Two children: Isaiah and Ephraim
- A2306 Mary Kratz, b. Sept. 1826
m. Charles Haldeman
Four children: Sarah, Daniel, Emma, and Edwin
- A23a Sarah Overholt, ca. 1789-Jan. 7, 1836; single.
- A3 Nanny Overholt, 1703-after 1787
m. 1720 Jacob Wismer, 1689-1787; son of Jacob Wismer and Maria Friedt/Fretz. The Wismer family had gone to Craven Precinct (now New Bern), N.C., in 1710 and acquired 440 acres of land. He died at the age of 98. Nanny and Jacob were married 67 years and had eleven children and 159 grandchildren when he died in 1787. He made a will in 1773, leaving £54 12s. 6d. to each of the nine heirs. Son Henry Wismer purchased the homestead for £500 on April 12, 1773, and received no share of the inheritance.⁶⁵
- A31 Jacob Wismer; miller.
m. Margaret
Ten children
- A32 Mary Wismer
m. Christopher Angeny
No children
- A33 Elizabeth Wismer
m. Joseph Angeny
Four children
- A34 Joseph Wismer, d. before 1787
m. _____
Two sons
- A35 Henry Wismer; farmer in Bucks Co., Pa.
m. _____
Eleven children
- A36 Mark Wismer; weaver.
m. _____, d. 1831
Seven children
- A37 Daniel Wismer, d. 1795
No children
- A38 John Wismer, d. 1795
No children
- A39 Christian, d. 1795
No children
- A30 Nanny. Moved to Virginia.
m. Henry Kephart
Two children
- A3a Abraham Wismer; weaver.
m. Anna
Four children
- A4 Marcus Oberholtzer, 1706-ca. 1772. Lived in Coventry Twp., Deep Run, and again in Coventry, where he was constable in 1742. He acquired 100 acres in Coventry Twp. and, based on tax returns, lived there from 1743 until 1760. He was in poor health near the end of his life. His will and tax records suggest that Jacob Sheffer, an "inmate," or renter, cared for Marcus and his wife by handling the farm crops for a year. Marcus left two small legacies to his brothers, Jacob and Henry, and the proceeds of the estate were to be left to the three children of his brother Samuel and to the children of his sister, Elizabeth Kolb. Marcus's wife's wishes, mentioned in his will, were not specific, and no provisions were made either for her or Jacob Sheffer. The estate was settled in 1772.
- A5 Elizabeth Oberholtzer, b. 1708. No record of her family has been found except a reference to her in the will of Marcus Oberholtzer (A4).
m. _____ Kolb
- A6 Martin Oberholtzer, 1709-Apr. 5, 1744. Born in London; died in Bucks Co., Pa. A. J. Fretz's assertion that he was born in Germany, "thirty miles from Frankfort-on-the-Main" conflicts with the Ruperti-Tribbeko census of 1709, taken in London. If he was born near the Rhine, he would have been born the same year as his daughter, or his mother Elizabeth was pregnant on arrival in London and gave birth to Martin there, giving the location of their last home in Europe. Although Fretz stated that "it is not known where he [Martin] lived," recent research has disclosed a 375-acre tract of land around the Deep Run Mennonite meetinghouse which was granted and conveyed by indenture on July 16, 1691, to Jeffrey Alcock of Ordslyford, County of Chester, Kingdom of England, by William Penn, proprietor and governor of the province of Pennsylvania. According to the contract between Penn and Alcock, the rent on the tract did not become due until the tract would be occupied. Alcock was held by the same indenture under a yearly rental of one shilling for every 100 acres which would become due and payable as soon as occupied. On February 6, 1723, Alcock granted and conveyed the same tract to Peter Dicks of Upper Providence Twp., Chester Co., Pa., under the same rental agreement held by Alcock. On May 22, 1725, Dicks granted and conveyed the same tract to John Leech of Philadelphia and his brother, Isaac Leech, of Cheltenham Twp. in Philadelphia (now Montgomery) Co. Up to this time the tract had been unoccupied and indefinitely located. By order of Jacob Taylor, surveyor general, the tract was surveyed under date of Jan. 28, 1726, to the Leech brothers by Thomas Watson, county surveyor, on February 3. The Leeches probably paid a fee of £60. The terms of the purchase agreement were given in the 1744 will of Isaac Leech⁶⁶ (See Jacob [A1]).
m. Nov. 2, 1736 Agnes Kolb, Apr. 18, 1713-Feb. 15, 1786; dau. of Henry Kolb.
- A61 Barbara Overholt, Nov. 10, 1737-May 8, 1823; lived in Bucks Co., Pa.

⁶⁵Family legend says that he was thirty-one at the time of this marriage and had survived the Indian War in which his sister sacrificed herself by giving tobacco to the Indians to gain time for Jacob to escape. Another legend states that he ran to Philadelphia in ninety hours. He may have had two earlier wives in New Bern. Fretz, *Jacob Wismer*, pp. 1-6.

⁶⁶*Ibid.*, p. 5; Will G-138-165, Philadelphia; Fretz, *Descendants of Martin Oberholtzer*, p. 1.



This post card view shows the Abraham Overholt (A620) homestead at West Overton, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania, erected in 1838. It is maintained by the Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society. The second floor is open to the public and contains three rooms of historical interest.

- m. 1757 Christian Fretz, 1734-May 1, 1803; son of John Fretz and Barbara Meyer.
- A611 John Fretz, May 24, 1758-Dec. 20, 1804
m. Anna Kratz, Nov. 4, 1764-Aug. 4, 1813; dau. of Philip Kratz.
Nine children: Christian, Susan, Rachel, Barbara, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Anna, and Philip
- A612 Agnes Fretz, b. Sept. 13, 1759
m. Abraham Bewighouse
Children: Daniel, Barbara, Christian, John, and Mary
- A613 Joseph Fretz, May 9, 1761-Mar. 29, 1806. Operated a fulling mill.
m. Nov. 1, 1781 Maria Kraut, b. Feb. 11, 1762
Twelve children: Elizabeth, Christian, Barbara, Anna, Maria, Susanna, Agnes, Rachel, Joseph, Sarah, John, and Veronica
- A614 Henry Fretz, Feb. 17, 1763-Oct. 9, 1820
m.(1) May 13, 1784 Anna Krout, Sept. 1764-Jan. 22, 1806
Eleven children: Elizabeth, Barbara, Christian, Mary, Sarah, Agnes, Abraham, Joseph, Annie, Henry, and John
m.(2) _____ Beidler
- A615 Martin Fretz, Aug. 9, 1764-Sept. 26, 1835
m.(1) Anna Kratz, Sept. 11, 1768-June 24, 1816
Fifteen children: Barbara, Mary, Agnes, Betsey, Betsey, Nancy, Veronica, Martin, Martin, Susanna, Silas, Veronica, Catharine, Leah, and Rachel
m.(2) Annie Licey
No children
- A616 Jacob Fretz, Jan. 1, 1767-Jan. 12, 1799
m. Nov. 6, 1787 Elizabeth Kratz
Five children: Philip, Barbara, Christian, Elizabeth, and Mary
- A617 Abraham Fretz, Mar. 30, 1769-Mar. 7, 1844; Mennonite deacon.
m. Apr. 30, 1793 Magdalena Kratz, Aug. 30, 1776-Jan. 9, 1840; dau. of John Kratz.
Ten children: Anna, Rebecca, Jacob, Christian, John, Isaac, Martin, Elizabeth, Barbara, and Abraham
- A618 Isaac Fretz, Feb. 12, 1771-Nov. 1, 1843
m.(1) May 23, 1793 Susanna Kratz, Sept. 3, 1775-Mar. 20, 1798
Three children: Abraham, Enos, and Susanna
- m.(2) Veronica Kratz, Oct. 28, 1778-Jan. 13, 1821
Eight children: John, Elizabeth, Jacob, Isaac, William, Mahlon, Mary, and Samuel
- m.(3) 1822 Betsey Landis, Nov. 16, 1799-Feb. 13, 1887
No children
- A619 Barbara Fretz, 1773-ca. 1821
m.(1) Henry Fretz, b. ca. 1770. Died a few years after marriage.
Children: Catharine and Anna
m.(2) Henry Hockman
Five children: Mary, Christian, Barbara, Abraham, and Veronica
- A610 Christian Fretz, 1775-Apr. 5, 1799; single.
- A61a Mary Fretz, May 15, 1777-Nov. 9, 1822
m. Henry Tyson
Seven children: Elizabeth, Cornelius, Joseph, Martin, Mary, Barbara, and Henry
- A61b Elizabeth Fretz, Oct. 20, 1780-Feb. 29, 1828
m. Abraham Meyer, Apr. 21, 1784-Nov. 21, 1809
Seven children: Mary, Isaac, Christian, Anna, Elizabeth, Barbara, and Abraham
- A62 Henry Oberholtzer, Feb. 5, 1739-1813. Moved, after disposing of Bucks Co. property in 1800, to Westmoreland Co., Pa.
m. Jan. 3, 1765 Anna Beitler, Mar. 24, 1745-Apr. 5, 1835; dau. of pioneer Jacob Beidler and Anna Meyer of Lower Milford Twp., Bucks Co., Pa., and grand-dau. of pioneer Hans Meyer of Upper Salford Twp., Montgomery Co., Pa.
- A621 Agnes Overholt, Oct. 15, 1765-June 15, 1850
m. Christian Fretz, ca. 1761-Apr. 5, 1849; son of Daniel Fretz and grandson of pioneer Christian Fretz of Tincum Twp., Bucks Co., Pa.
Six children: John, Henry, Daniel, Mary, Anna, and Christian
- A622 Maria Overholt, b. Dec. 22, 1766
m. John Myers
No children
- A623 Jacob Overholt, Oct. 15, 1768-May 10, 1847
m. Elizabeth Detweiler, Mar. 8, 1775-Sept. 20, 1849
Six children: Rev. John, Henry, Annie, Jacob, Susan, and Martin
- A624 Anna Overholt, Nov. 25, 1770-Mar. 15, 1845
m. Peter Loucks, Dec. 19, 1760-July 10, 1825
Nine children: Catharine, Henry, Jacob, Mary, Martin, Nancy, John, Peter, and Sarah
- A625 Martin Overholt, Nov. 1772-June 18, 1835
m. Catherine Overholt, Nov. 1, 1781-Dec. 21, 1866; dau. of Abraham Overholt.
Seven children: Susanna, Esther, Anne, Abraham, Henry, John, and Martin
- A626 Barbara Overholt, b. Apr. 1775
m. Jacob Durstine, b. Apr. 3, 1773
Nine children: Anna, Abraham, John, Henry, Jacob, Martin, Catharine, Christian, and Samuel
- A627 Elizabeth Overholt, June 12, 1777-1833
m. Martin Stauffer, Aug. 31, 1780-Mar. 8, 1869
Five children: Abraham, Henry, Anna, Sarah, and John
- A628 Henry Oberholtzer, July 10, 1779-Apr. 10, 1809; single.
Kicked by a horse and died.
- A629 Sarah Overholt, Feb. 11, 1781-1782
- A620 Abraham Overholt, Apr. 19, 1784-Jan. 15, 1870; weaver, miller, and distiller. First to discover and use coal in this part of Westmoreland Co., Pa.

- m. Apr. 20, 1809 Maria Stauffer, July 13, 1791-Nov. 1874; dau. of Rev. John and Elizabeth Stauffer.
Eight children: Henry, Anna, Jacob, Abraham, Elizabeth, Martin, Christian, and John
- A62a Christian Overholt, July 18, 1786-Jan. 11, 1868; farmer and distiller. Moved in 1858 to Seneca Co., Ohio. Died in Hancock Co., Ohio.
m. Nov. 1811 Elizabeth Stauffer, Jan. 19, 1794-Nov. 21, 1887
Six children: Abraham, Sarah, Henry, Anna, Elizabeth, and Christian
- A62b Susanna Overholt, b. Jan. 13, 1789; single.
- A63 Maria Oberholtzer, b. Dec. 19, 1740. Died young.
- A64 John Oberholtzer, Aug. 8, 1742-Dec. 7, 1742
- A65 Martin Overholt, Dec. 20, 1743-Mar. 1811. Moved to Westmoreland Co., Pa. Often confused with Martin Overholt (A23), whose wife was his half sister.
m. Esther Fretz, ca. 1748-Feb. 1813; dau. of pioneer Christian Fretz of Tincum Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. Moved after her husband's death to Tuscarawas Co., Ohio.
- A651 Elizabeth Overholt, b. ca. 1770
m. Abraham Welty, ca. 1764-ca. 1831; farmer; Mennonite minister.
Nine children: Martin, John, Abraham, Christian, Jacob, Elizabeth, Esther, Anna, and Sarah
- A652 Agnes Overholt, 1773-June 14, 1845
m. Christian Stauffer, 1778-July 6, 1852
Seven children: Annie, Esther, Elizabeth, Christian, Abraham, Mary, and Sarah
- A653 Christian Overholser, Aug. 1774-ca. 1840. Moved to Harrison Co., Ohio, about 1818.
m. Rebecca Grundy, June 2, 1775-Feb. 7, 1857
Seven children: Joseph, Martin, John, Esther, Fannie, Rebecca, and Anna
- A654 Barbara Overholt, ca. 1775-Jan. 16, 1813
m. Mathias Burchfield, d. Mar. 16, 1822; farmer; United Brethren preacher.
Eight children: Esther, Elizabeth, John, Martin, Barbara, Anna, Sarah, and Mary
- A655 Henry Overholt; single.
- A656 Mary Overholt
m. Christian Noffzinger
Six children: Martha, Christiana, John, Robert, Mary, and Hetty
- A657 Magdalena Overholt. Moved to Ohio in 1809 and to Adams Co., Ind., in 1853.
m. John Mumma; farmer; United Brethren.
Ten children: Martin, Barbara, George, Isaac, John, Christian, Catharine, Abraham, David, and Esther
- A658 Martin Overholt, ca. 1784-Feb. 14, 1814; farmer; Lutheran.
m. Oct. 1806 Barbara Conrad, b. 1785
Five children: Jacob, Abraham, Elizabeth, Esther, and Martin
- A659 Abraham Overholt; farmer; Church of God. Died in Tuscarawas Co., Ohio.
m. Susan Crites
Ten children: John, Catharine, Abraham, Elizabeth, Esther, Anna, Martin, Isaac, Jacob, and Christian
- A650 Isaac Overholt; single.
- A65a Esther Overholt; single.
- A65b Sarah Overholt, Apr. 17, 1791-Dec. 3, 1857. Moved to Ohio.
m. Jan. 9, 1816 Philip Welty, May 2, 1789-Sept. 11, 1848; farmer; United Brethren.
Five children: Esther, John, Isaac, Eliza, and Mary
- A65c Joseph Overholt, June 19, 1793-Feb. 1873; farmer; Evangelical.
m. Apr. 13, 1817 Barbara Kline, May 16, 1797-1870
Nine children: Abraham, Elizabeth, Jonas, Joseph, John, Jacob, Margaret, Mary, and Isaac
- A65d Anna Overholt, Apr. 8, 1802-Jan. 15, 1839. Moved to Stark Co., Ohio, in 1815.
m. 1822 Gabriel Weimer, May 13, 1801-Feb. 12, 1876; United Brethren.
Eight children: Sarah, Elias, Susan, Louisa, Josiah, Orlando, Caroline, and Sybilla
- A7 Henry Overholt, ca. 1713-after Apr. 1763. Born in Coventry Twp., Chester Co., Pa. From 1729 to 1740 he paid quit rents, which had been paid by his mother, "widow Overholt," in 1727. Apparently he lived on the farm with his mother after his father's death in 1726. In 1735 he inherited 200 of Marcus' 300 acres in Coventry Twp., for which Jacob Bauch obtained title by 1743. This land lay adjacent to that of his brother Marcus (A4). Where Henry lived then for a long period has not been traced thus far, but he may have operated grist, saw, and oil mills in northern Tincum Twp. Several other Henry Overholts lived in eastern Pennsylvania about the same time.
Possibly m. Elizabeth Killian; dau. of Henry (d. after Apr. 1763) and Elizabeth Killian of Brecknock Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa.
- ?A71 John Overholt. Died in Staten Island, N.Y. May have moved to Tohicken Twp., Bucks Co., Pa. Operated mills, which could have been his father's, in Tincum Twp. as early as 1762. He and his wife gave a life tenancy on 44 acres of the Tincum Twp. farm to the Killians in Apr. 1763. A teamster for General Braddock, he was named in 1779 as a traitor, "attainted of High Treason," who supported the British army and fled to Staten Island prior to his treason trial. In 1780 his estate of 235 acres and 36 perches was seized and in 1781 was sold as a forfeited estate. On April 17, 1782, Elizabeth Killian was awarded £46.3.0 plus interest dating from April 15, 1778, from John Overholt's estate.⁶⁷
- ?A711 Abraham Overholt } Fled to Canada with Staats
?A712 John Overholt } Overholt and settled just west of Niagara Falls at Fonthill and Beamsville in Louth Twp., Lincoln Co., Upper Canada.⁶⁸
- ?A72 Frederick Overholt; tanner. Owned 219 acres in either Tincum or (more probably) Bedminister Twp., whose household included ten inhabitants in 1784; was a private second class in Captain McHenry's Company, 4th Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia, from Bedminster Twp. on June 12, 1781.
- ?A73 Marcus Overholt. Owned land in Rockhill Twp. His will was dated Oct. 3, 1798. A Mark, single, lived in Tincum Twp. in 1786, but whether or not he is the same person is not clear. □

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⁶⁷*Pennsylvania Archives*, 4th ser., III, 774-777; 6th ser., XII, 121-123, 142-143, 181-182; 6th ser., XIII, 434-435.

⁶⁸From some data collected in Canadian records it becomes clear that considerable work will be required to tie into these families who made Canada their home and into still others who continued to move west.