

## SOME NICHOLAS OBLINGER HISTORY

Claus Oblinger, who came from Schwartzenu, Germany, to America in 1724 through the Port of Philadelphia with wife, Katrina, and children, Nicholas, Christian, Catharina, Maria and Anna, died in 1730 at Harleysville, Pa.

By 1739 his farm was sold and estate settled. Catharina had married Heinrich Heffelfinger, Maria married Jacob Krupp and Nicholas married Elizabeth Meier. In 1747 Christian left to settle in Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, Pa.

Nicholas now had three sons, Isaac 9, Samuel 8, Nicholas 5; two daughters, Elizabeth 13 and Catharina very young. On April 3, 1751 he sold his land at Harleysville, Pa., and moved north into the wilderness along the Lehigh River at Lehigh Gap, Pa. where he was granted 40 acres of land in 1749 and deeded on June 12, 1751 by the Colonial Government at Philadelphia.

From family legend and recollections of early settlers at the Gap we learn that Nicholas built a log house, barn, general store, and other buildings. He erected a stockade around his house and kitchen and had a veritable fort. Later he had an old Indian move in and live with the family. This was more powerful protection than his being the first constable for the newly created township of Towamensing. During the French and Indian War in 1755 he and his family were undisturbed while the settlement at Gnadenhutzen was massacred. Here he housed Gen. Benjamin Franklin and his soldiers in 1756.

July 10, 1761 Nicholas bought the adjoining 200 acres on the east extending from Towamensing road to above Millport, now Aquashicola. In 1768 he was sherifed and sold out. Paul Balliett bought the entire 240 acres and buildings, later inherited by son, John Balliett. In 1791-2 Balliett sold his holdings to Nicholas and Jacob Snyder. March 19, 1793 Jacob Snyder sold the log house and 40 acres to Gen. Thomas Craig.

The 200 acres were finally purchased by Jacob Straup and in 1898 he sold his holdings to the Palmer Land Co. to develop the present town of Palmerton.

No definite history of the whereabouts of Nicholas Oblinger after 1768 is known but legend has it that he moved in with his brother, Isaac, at Danielsville, Northampton County, Pa.

## THIRTY-SEVENTH REUNION

# Oplinger Family

Celebrating 200th Anniversary of  
Nicholas Oblinger settling at Lehigh Gap, Pa.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1951**

**Edgemont Park Harpers, Pa.**

President .. Elwood E. Oplinger, 825 Liberty St., Allentown, Pa.

Vice Presidents: Arthur J. G. Oplinger, Hellertown, RFD, Pa.  
Warren G. Hangen, Northampton, RFD #1, Pa.  
John D. Watkins, Rumson, N. J.

Rec. Secy. .... Claude Eckert, 211 N. 6th St., Allentown, Pa.

Corr. Secy. .... Emerson Weiss, Northampton, RFD #1, Pa.

Treasurer .. Mrs. Emma J. Minnich, Danielsville, RFD #1, Pa.

Historians: Wm. H. Rinkenbach, 336 West Main St., Rockaway,  
N. J., John D. Watkins, 3 Parmly St., Rumson, N. J.

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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:** Elwood E. Oplinger, Chairman  
Alvin D. Oplinger, Jeremiah D. Oplinger, Mrs. Laura Kraemer,  
Oliver O. Oplinger, Mrs. Tilghman Easterday, Newton Oplinger,  
Mrs. Irene Snyder, Paul Oplinger, Barton J. Oplinger, Miss  
Tessie Oplinger, Dr. Robt. Oplinger.

Pianists: Mrs. Laura Kraemer, Mrs. Irene Snyder, Miss Jennie  
Becker.

Photographer: Ervin E. Oplinger, 825 Liberty St., Allentown, Pa.

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Reception Arthur J. G. Oplinger Program Elwood E. Oplinger

Memorial ..... Claude Eckert Prizes .. Miss Tessie Oplinger

Badge ..... Warren G. Hangen Music .. Barton J. Oplinger

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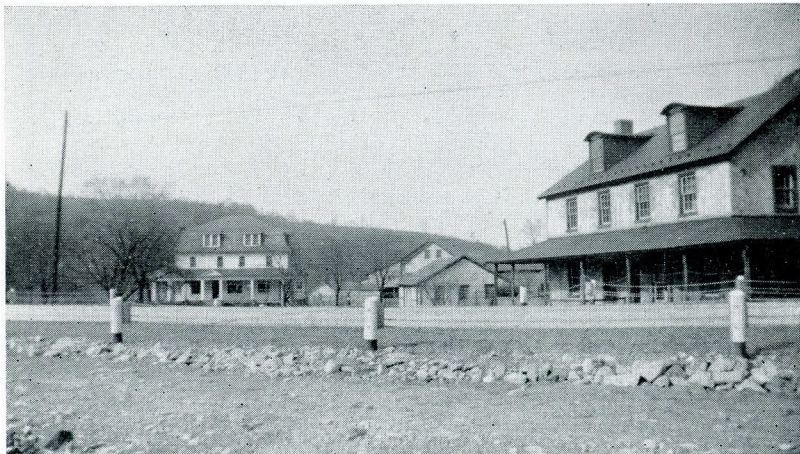
Any historical data you may have—old documents, books,  
letters, pictures, etc.—will be appreciated by our historians to  
note for our permanent historical records. If desired, such will  
be returned to you when copies or records have been made.





Craig's Hotel, Lehigh Gap, Pa., about 1898, part of which was the original log house of Nicholas Oblinger built in 1751 and where he entertained Benjamin Franklin and his officers in 1756.

*Photo courtesy of Dale Craig*



Craig's Inn, Lehigh Gap, Pa., as it now appears and containing part of the original Oblinger log house and the old stone kitchen. Fire destroyed part of previous hotels and most of the surrounding buildings. Building on extreme right is part of original Oblinger general store erected about 1751.

*Photo by John D. Watkins*

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Ella Oplinger Smith, 82, Allentown, Pa. .... August 1950  
 George B. Carr, Wilkesburg, Pa. .... October 8, 1950  
 Mrs. Olivia Watkins Weaver, 80, Stroudsburg, Pa. ... March 19, 1951  
 Lloyd Krasely, 51, Danielsville, Pa. .... May 11, 1951  
 Howard H. Oplinger, 75, Allentown, Pa. .... July 4, 1951  
 Raymond E. Reinsmith, 58, Danielsville, RFD, Pa. ... August 17, 1951

## VERY IMPORTANT

Relatives whose names and addresses are known to us are now registered alphabetically in a modern steel indexed file drawer. If your announcement was incorrectly addressed, or if you did not receive an announcement this year, or if you know of a relative who is not receiving our announcements, PLEASE check with Emerson Weiss, Corr. Secy., TODAY before you leave. He has the complete file drawer in the park and can quickly correct or register any name and address.

## ELIGIBILITIES OF OPLINGERS FOR DESCENT SOCIETIES

All descendants of Claus Oblinger, who "came over" in 1724, are eligible for membership in the Pennsylvania German Society.

Claus Oblinger had four grandsons: Isaac, Samuel, Nicholas, and John. Each of these had a Revolutionary War record, and their descendants are eligible for membership in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution or the Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Samuel was a soldier in the Pontiac War (1763), and his descendants are eligible for membership in the Society of Colonial Wars.

Isaac had two sons, Johannes and Daniel, who were in the militia during the War of 1812. Their descendants therefore are eligible for membership in the Society of the War of 1812.

The services of Historian Wm. H. Rinkenbach are available to relatives who wish to make application for membership in these distinguished societies. If interested speak to him today.

## NOTES

Historian John D. Watkins has his illustrated Oplinger Family History book, released from the Wilkes-Barre Public Library for this reunion, with him today for your review. This may be the last chance for you to see this valuable manuscript with many photographs and illustrations of our early ancestors, their homes and their industry.

Some copies of last year's program with group photo of those present at our first reunion in 1914 are available at 10¢ each from Ervin E. Oplinger. Photo of last year's reunion group also available through him.

Extra copies of this program are available today at 20¢ each.



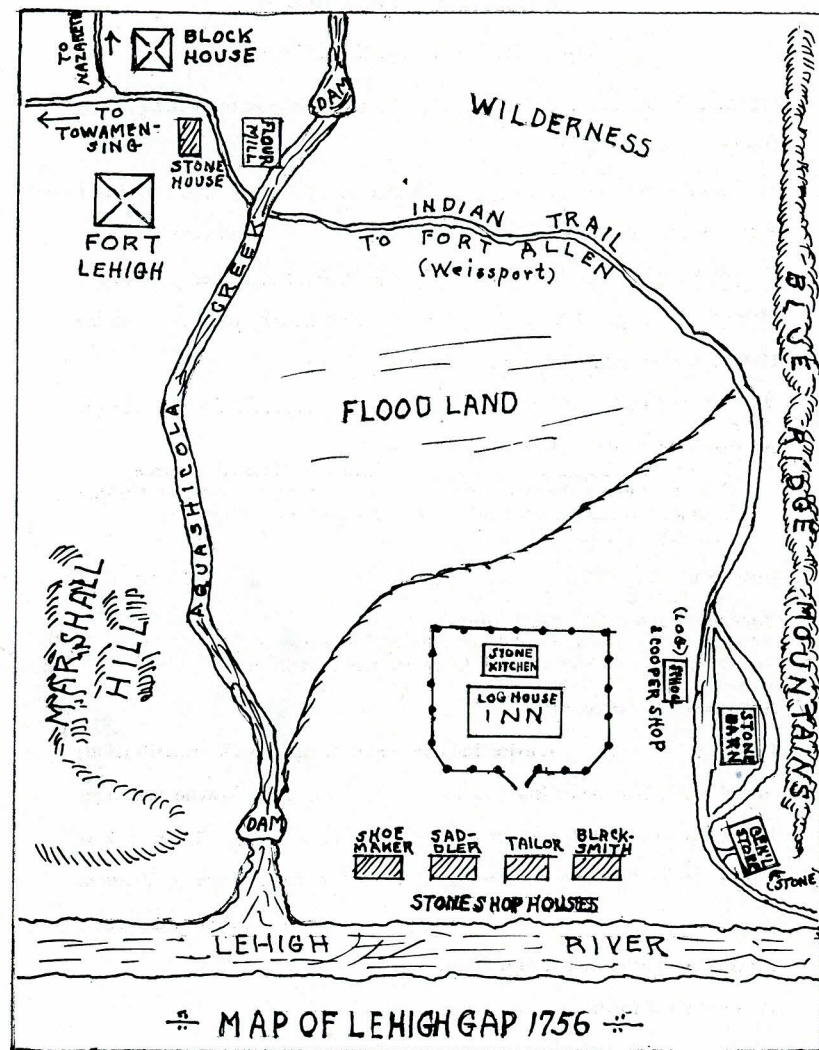
## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

(1:30 P. M. Eastern Daylight Time)

Opening Songs ..... Use Reunion Song Sheet  
 Prayer  
 Words of Welcome ..... Vice President Arthur J. G. Oplinger  
 Piano Accordion Selection ..... Wayne Oplinger  
 Gospel Duet—"Jesus Never Fails" .... Rev. & Mrs. Elmer J. Rutman  
 History of Lehigh Gap ..... Wm. H. Rinkenbach, John D. Watkins  
 Greetings and Remarks from our Family Circle  
 Vocal Selection ..... Aubrey Oplinger  
 Awarding of Seven Prizes:  
     Oldest Man Present                      Longest Married Couple  
     Oldest Woman Present                  Most Recently Married Couple  
     Youngest Relative Present              Largest Family Present  
     Coming Longest Distance  
 Vocal Solo ..... David Mest  
 Business Session: General Business  
     Report of Nominating Committee  
     Election and Introduction of Officers  
 Awarding of Badge Prize  
 Collection ..... (entire income depends on YOUR contribution)  
 Piano Accordion Selection ..... Wayne Oplinger  
 In Memory of Our Departed Relatives ..... Claude Eckert  
 Gospel Duet—"Beyond the Sunset" ... Rev. & Mrs. Elmer J. Rutman  
 Remarks ..... President-Elect  
 Closing Announcements and Songs  
 Prayer and Benediction

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FREE TREATS for all relatives, age 14 and under, after program.  
 Young folks will gather at speaker's platform and receive their ticket  
 from Claude Eckert.



Drawn from data secured by John D. Watkins about 1939 from  
 early Lehigh Gap History with special acknowledgement to Francis  
 Seip, Dale Craig and H. T. Craig.