

## THESE ENDED THEIR LIFE JOURNEY

Mrs. Arthur E. Hoch, 46, Allentown, Pa. .... Sept. 19, 1954  
 Alfred Lee Oplinger, 70, Plains, Pa. .... Oct. 1, 1954  
 Mrs. Viola Thompson, 50, Adamsburg, Pa. .... Oct. 15, 1954  
 James B. Oplinger, 54, Danielsville, R. D. 1, Pa. .... Oct. 22, 1954  
 Mrs. Warren O. Hangen, 61, Kreidersville, Pa. .... March 9, 1955  
 Emmanuel Fenstermaker, 94, Danielsville, R. D. 1, Pa. .... Mar. 13, 1955  
 William P. Uplinger, 76, Brookville, Pa. .... May 6, 1955  
 Mrs. Sarah A. Gruver, 81, Nazareth, Pa. .... June 29, 1955  
 Charles R. Benner, 72, Allentown, Pa. .... July 29, 1955  
 William Oplinger, Arona, Pa. .... 1955

\* \* \* \*

## 200 YEARS AGO

By 1755, Nicholas Oblinger—eldest son of Claus Oblinger—was settled for four years at Lehigh Gap. His family consisted of wife, three sons, two daughters and sister, Anna. Here he had built a house surrounded by a stockade and induced an old, friendly Indian to live with him. When the French and Indian War broke out, he was not attacked, although the settlers at Gnaden-huetten (Weissport) were massacred Nov. 24, 1755 and on Jan. 1, 1756 fourteen soldiers were ambushed and killed there.

A few weeks later a detachment of militia, with Benjamin Franklin as colonel, moved north from Bethlehem to build Fort Allen at Weissport. In his Autobiography, Franklin describes marching through rain until arriving at the house of a German at Lehigh Gap, where, in the barn, "we were all huddled together, as wet as water could make us." In a personal letter to Governor Morris, dated Jan. 25, 1756, Franklin identifies the place as "Uplinger's" and reports "good quarters."

As Franklin shared the general arrogance of the English majority toward the Pennsylvania Germans, and Nicholas Oblinger probably spoke little or no English, this visit was purely one of convenience and inconvenience. To Franklin it meant shelter from the winter weather and safety from surprise attack by Indians. To Nicholas Oblinger it meant the incursion of a milling mass of undisciplined soldiery, but the added protection of these and the fort soon to be built but a few miles away. Both arrival and departure probably were pleasant to both parties.

As late as June, 1756 militia were stationed at Nicholas Oblinger's home at Lehigh Gap; and it may be considered to have been a part of the line of reserves and communications between Fort Allen and Bethlehem. Therefore, although Nicholas Oblinger took no active part in the fighting so far as is known, he and his fortress-home contributed to repelling the wave of Lenni-Lenape raiders who made the French and Indian War hideous to the German settlers of the frontier.

## THE OTHER REUNIONS

The Wyoming Valley Oplingers convened Aug. 6 at Benton, Pa., with over 100 present. Vice President Arthur Oplinger and wife attended.

The Ohio Oblingers met Aug. 14 at Memorial Park, Wadsworth, Ohio. We have no report on their meeting.

No notice of Uplinger-Whitesel Reunion, who usually meet in July at Roseville, Pa., has been received.

# Forty-first Reunion Oplinger Family

1724 — 231 Years in America — 1955

Pioneer of four Oplinger-Uplinger Reunions

\* \* \* \*

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1955**

**Edgemont Park      Harpers, Pa.**

\* \* \* \*

## OFFICERS

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

Vice Presidents: Arthur J. G. Oplinger, Hellertown, R. D. #1, Pa.

Warren G. Hangen, Northampton, R. D. #1, Pa.

John D. Watkins, 3 Parmly St., Rumson, N. J.

Paul S. Oplinger, Wescosville, Pa.

Alfred Oplinger, 15 Cook St., Plains, Pa.

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

Corr. Secy. .... Emerson Weiss, Northampton, R. D. #1, Pa.

Treasurer Mrs. Raymond E. Oplinger, 448 N. 6th St., Allentown, Pa.

Historians: Wm. H. Rinkenbach, 2010 Cypress Ave., Allentown, R. D.

#60, Pa., John D. Watkins, 3 Parmly St., Rumson, N. J.

\* \* \* \*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elwood E. Oplinger, Chairman, Jeremiah D. Oplinger, Mrs. Laura

Kraemer, Mrs. Tilghman Easterday, Newton Oplinger, Barton J.

Oplinger, Miss Tessie Oplinger, Dr. Robt. Oplinger.

\* \* \* \*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Reception Arthur J. G. Oplinger

Memorial ..... Claude Eckert

Badge ..... Warren G. Hangen

Shirley Oplinger

Program ... Elwood E. Oplinger

Prizes ... Mrs. Raymond Oplinger

Mrs. Wm. H. Rinkenbach

Monument Wm. H. Rinkenbach

Music .... Mrs. Claire VanHorn

Pianists ... Mrs. Laura Kraemer

Miss Jennie Becker

Photographer: Ervin E. Oplinger, 632 N. Howard St., Allentown, Pa.

*nl*





**ELWOOD ERVIN OPLINGER**  
825 Liberty Street, Allentown, Pa.

Because of his protracted illness and inability to preside at this Reunion, the Executive Committee voted to give this special recognition to our President.

Born Sept. 11, 1892 at Howersville, Northampton Co., Pa., the son of Harvey N. and Amanda (Fritzinger) Oplinger, he is a grandson of John Amandus Oplinger, a great grandson of Daniel Oplinger, a great-great grandson of Johannes Oblinger and a great-great-great grandson of Isaac Oblinger. He married Anna Manbeck in 1914 and they have two sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

After acting as organizer and temporary secretary in preparation for our First Reunion on Sept. 5, 1914, he was then elected Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. He served as President for 1924—1933, and again from 1940 to now. Of his 41 years of service to the family, 24 have been as President; and no one else has approached his record of duration and labor of such service. He has attended every reunion up to now.

He is a sales promotion and advertising specialist and newspaper columnist by training. Presently he is district representative of the Crown Central Petroleum Corporation. A member of Seibert Evangelical Congregational Church, Allentown, he is a member of its Official Board and teaches a Men's Bible Class of 182 members for some 40 years.

In recognition of his vital and lengthy services to our family, we salute him with hope for his speedy return to full health and activity.

## AFTERNOON PROGRAM

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

Vice President Arthur J. G. Oplinger, presiding

Mrs. Claire VanHorn, Song Leader

Opening Songs ..... Use Reunion Song Sheet

Prayer

Words of Welcome ..... Arthur J. G. Oplinger, Vice President

Personal Greetings from our Family Circle

Vocal Selection ..... Miss Lucille Person

Family History Notes ..... Wm. H. Rinkenbach, Historian

Awarding of Seven Prizes ..... Paul Oplinger, Vice President

Oldest Man Present ..... Longest Married Couple

Oldest Woman Present ..... Most Recently Married Couple

Youngest Relative Present ..... Largest Family Present

Coming Longest Distance

Vocal Selection... Misses Janet Oplinger, Harriet and Mary Ann Wagner

Collection ..... (entire income depends on YOUR contribution)

Business Session: Date and Place of Next Reunion  
Nominating Committee Report  
Election of Officers

Remarks and Announcements ..... President-Elect

Awarding of Badge Prize ..... Mrs. Raymond Oplinger

Awarding of History Prize ..... John D. Watkins, Historian

Roll Call and Moments of Memory ..... Claude Eckert

Song, Prayer and Benediction

\* \* \* \*

FREE TREATS after program for all relatives and their guests, age 14 and under. Young folks will gather at speaker's platform to receive their tickets from Rec. Sec'y Claude Eckert.