

2014-15 OPLINGER FAMILY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: DAVID E. BAILY

Vice Presidents:
Gordon W. J. Oplinger, Jr

Richard L. Oplinger

Larry Knoepfler

Corresponding Secretary: Roy Oplinger

Recording Secretary: Winfield Miller

Treasurer: Ervin E. Oplinger

Special Thanks to Our Dedicated Games Hostesses:

Adult Games: Marie Oplinger and Nancy Oplinger
Children's Games: Patty Baily



Claus Oblinger Memorial
Klein Brethren Meeting House,
between Harleysville & Souderton
(note original stone with "C O" on left)



Nicholas Oblinger Memorial
Indianland Church, Cherryville



100th Oplinger Family Reunion

Oblinger – Uplinger – Oplinger
291 Years in America: 1724 – 2015

Saturday, August 22 2015

Blue Mtn. Restaurant– Danielsville, Pa.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM – 1:30 PM

Flag Salute & Song: "America" Richard Oplinger
Invocation Rev. Karen Bongard
President's Welcome David Baily
Family Introductions and News David Baily
History of "The Oplinger's" Gordon Oplinger
Business Session Larry Knoepfler
Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer's Reports
Date & Place of Next Reunion – August 27, 2016
Election of Officers for 2015-16

Awarding of Prizes David Baily
Oldest Woman Present Oldest Man Present
Couple Married Longest Couple Married Most Recently
Youngest Member Present Coming Longest Distance
Largest Immediate Family Present
Awarding of Three Cash Badge Prizes

Collection Note - all income is from your giving
Closing Comments David Baily
Memorial Roll Call Larry Knoepfler
Closing Song: "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"
Prayer Rev. James Bongard

Badge Number Prizes

GAMES for Children & BINGO for Adults

Children's Treat: \$1.00 each, age 15 & under	– see Ervin Oplinger
Adults over 15: \$5.00 coupon to eat in restaurant	– see David Baily

Family Fellowship & Supper Continues in the Restaurant
(present your coupon(s) when you pay for your meal!)

REUNION OFFICERS – With 14 or More Years' of Service

Emma Oplinger Minnich	Treasurer	27 yrs	(82)	1872 - 1954
John D. Watkins	Historian	22 yrs	(85)	1871 - 1956
Raymond E. Oplinger	Ex. Comm/Treasurer	36 yrs	(60)	1896 - 1956
Tessie M. Oplinger	Officer	35 yrs	(58)	1906 - 1964
William H. Rinkenbach	Historian	28 yrs	(71)	1894 - 1965
Elwood E. Oplinger	Pres. 38 yrs, Ex Comm	54 yrs	(74)	1893 - 1967
Warren G. Hangen	Vice President	28 yrs	(76)	1891 - 1967
Delbert Oplinger	Vice President	14 yrs	(62)	1908 - 1970
Jeremiah D. Oplinger	Executive Committee	51 yrs	(100)	1874 - 1974
Barton J. Oplinger	Pres. 5 yrs. Ex.Comm	21 yrs	(79)	1902 - 1981
Arthur J.G. Oplinger	Pres.14 yrs. Ex.Comm.	53 yrs	(80)	1901 - 1981
Emerson A. Weiss	Corr. Secretary	36 yrs	(79)	1951 - 1986
Ruth Flexer	Rec. Secretary	24 yrs	(96)	1969 - 1992
Lena Kistler	Executive Committee	44 yrs	(98)	1958 - 2001
Donald S. Oplinger	Vice Pres, - President	38 yrs	(77)	1964 - 2001
Arthur Oplinger	Vice President	28 yrs		1981 - 2008
Gordon W.J. Oplinger	Ex. Comm. - Vice Pres	47 yrs		1969 - present
Ervin E. Oplinger	Treasurer	59 yrs		1957 - present

OPLINGER FAMILY REUNION PRESIDENTS

1914 - 1915	Reuben R.	Oplinger	2 years
1916 - 1917	Frances	Oplinger	2 years
1918	William	Oplinger	1 year
1919 - 1923	Thomas A.	Oplinger	5 years
1924 - 1933	Elwood E.	Oplinger	10 years
1934	Thomas A.	Oplinger	1 yr. (total 6 yrs.)
1935 - 1939	Barton J.	Oplinger	5 years
1940 - 1967	Elwood E.	Oplinger	28 yrs. (total 38 yrs.)
1968 - 1981	Arthur J. G.	Oplinger	14 years
1982 - 2001	Donald S.	Oplinger	20 years
2001 - 2005	Richard H.	Oplinger	4 years
2005 - 2006	Richard L.	Oplinger	1 year
2006 - 2015	David E.	Baily	9 years

LEHIGH VALLEY OPLINGER LINEAGE

Chiefly from: Johanes - Daniel - Peter Oblinger

Claus Oblinger	(1)	(45)	1685 - 1730
Nicholas Oblinger	(2)	(73)	1712 - 1785
Isaac Oblinger	(3)	(72)	1741 - 1813
Johanes Oblinger	(4)	(74)	1777 - 1851
Daniel Oblinger	(4)	(61)	1790 - 1851
Samuel Oblinger	(4)	(42)	1742 - 1784
Nicholas Oblinger	(3)	(69)	1745 - 1814
Peter Oblinger	(4)	(79)	1787 - 1866
Christian Oblinger	(2)	(84)	1714 - 1798
Catharina Oblinger	(2)	(82)	1716 - 1798
Maria (Mary) Oblinger	(2)	(82)	1720 - 1802
Anna Oblinger	(2)	(80)	1724 - 1804

OPLINGER HISTORY – MEMORABLE MOMENTS

October 1, 1724

CLAUS OBLINGER (39) A Baptist refugee, emigrated with his wife Elizabeth & five children from Schwartzenu, Kreis Wittgenstein, Hesse, (Germany), settling in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA.

June 12, 1751

NICHOLAS OBLINGER (39) Son of Claus, settled in Lehigh Gap, PA (Craig's Inn Location), with wife and three sons.

September 5, 1914

1st REUNION Edgemont Park, Harpers, PA – with 400 persons attending.

August 27, 1938

25th SILVER Anniv. Reunion Lehigh Community Park, Fogelsville, PA

August 19, 1961

MEMORIAL for Nicholas Oblinger (73) 1712-1785, wife Elizabeth – sons Isaac, Samuel & Nicholas, at Indianland Church, Cherryville, PA unveiled by the family titular head James Uplinger, Jefferson County, PA. This Memorial was financially supported by the four Reunion branches: Lehigh Valley Oplingers, Wyoming Valley Oplingers, Jefferson County Uplinger-Whitesels, and Wadsworth Ohio Oplingers.

September 14, 1963

MEMORIAL Marker for Claus Oblinger (45), 1685 -1730, at the Klein Brethren Meeting House, between Harleysville & Souderton, PA. These grounds were formerly part of a farm owned by Claus, on which he was buried - later becoming the Harley cemetery.

August 22, 1964

50th GOLDEN Anniversary Reunion Edgemont Park, Harpers, PA; 152 persons attended

August 26, 1989

75th DIAMOND Anniversary Reunion Nazareth Boro Park, Nazareth, PA; 60 persons attended

August 22, 2015

100th CENTENNIAL Anniversary Reunion Blue Mtn. Rest, Danielsville, PA

REUNION LOCATIONS

1914-1923	Edgemont Park	Harpers, PA
1924	Neffs Park	Neffs, PA
1925-1928	Victory Park	Slatington, PA
1929-1933	Edgemont Part	Harpers, PA
1934-1935	Indian Trail Park	Pennsville PA
1936-1939	Community Park	Fogelsville, PA (25 th)
1940-1941	??	
1942-1946	Indian Trail Park	Pennsville PA (1943 – none)
1947-1965	Edgemont Part	Harpers, PA (50 th)
1966	Ontelaunee Park	New Tripoli, PA
1967-1975	Indian Trail Park	Pennsville PA
1976-1983	Nazareth Boro Park	Nazareth, PA
1984	Indian Trail Park	Pennsville PA
1985-1993	Nazareth Boro Park	Nazareth, PA (75 th) (1991 – none)
1994-2015	Blue Mtn. Restaurant	Danielsville, PA (100 th)

MEMORIAL ROLL CALL 2014-2015

Eugenia A. Oplinger, 81 years, died March 5, 2015,
Allentown, PA, widow of Donald E.

Mary L. (Haydt) Oplinger, 61 years, East Allen Township, PA,
died Nov. 17, 2014. Wife of Ronald D.

TREASURER'S REPORT

	2014-15	2014	2013
Printing & Postage	161.02	125.81	112.36
Prizes & Treats	103.27	57.00	52.00
Games		62.65	50.42
Flowers		68.90	
100th planning meeting	95.00		
100th gift	125.00		
Meals @ 5.00		145.00	135.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	484.29	459.36	349.78
Badges		133.00	103.00
Offering		133.00	102.00
Donations	150.00	135.00	45.00
Interest			0.06
TOTAL RECEIPTS	150.00	401.00	250.06
SAVINGS BALANCE	296.64	630.93	689.29
Attendance		37	30

1724



2015

Celebrating 291 Years in America

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2015

President: David E. Baily

Vice-President (3):

Gordon W. J. Oplinger, Jr
Richard L. Oplinger
Larry Knoepfler

Corresponding Secretary: Roy Oplinger

Recording Secretary: Winfield Miller

Treasurer: Ervin E. Oplinger

Assistant Treasurer (new): John T. Baily

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside Let freedom ring!

Our fathers' God to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
by his counsels guide, uphold you,
with his sheep securely fold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'neath his wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OBLINGER - OPLINGER – UPLINGER FAMILY

1724: Claus (Nicholas) Oblinger, wife Elizabeth, sons Nicholas and Christian, and daughters Catharina, Maria (Mary) and Anna arrived in Philadelphia. Claus was believed to have emigrated from Schwarzena, Germany, in the County of Wittgenstein, Hasse, about twenty miles northwest of Marburg. It is also believed that his forefathers came from the County of Uberlingen, and that the name Oblinger is a variant of Uberlinger. Kreis Uberlingen is a part of southwestern Baden bordering on the Uberlinger Sea, and arm of the Bodensee (Lake of Constance). The coat of arms of the Uberlingen family was registered at Konstanz (Constance) in 1547. It is believed that Claus arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday, Oct. 1, 1724.

It is probable that the Oblinger family spent some time in Germantown, where Peter Becker was minister of the Dunkard congregation. Peter, who had been a minister in Schwarzenau, came to Pennsylvania in 1719 along with 20 families of Dunkards. He is buried a few feet from Claus Oblinger.

1729: Claus purchased 182 acres of land in Lower Salford and Franconia Townships, Montgomery County, PA.

1730: Claus was stricken with a mortal illness. His will was probated on Oct. 2, 1730. He was believed to have been about 45 years of age. His youngest child, Anna, was but 6 years old. He was buried on his farm, at a place that later became the graveyard alongside the Klein Brethren Meeting House near Harleysville. In 1962, a small field stone bearing roughly chiseled and almost obliterated initials "C. O." was found. In 1963, a granite memorial to Claus and his family was placed alongside the original headstone.

1739: The executors of Claus' will sold the farm to George Stump on Dec. 9.

1734: Nicholas Oblinger, born about 1712, received a warrant for 60 acres of land in Salford Township, along with Peter Sneider. In 1743, he was naturalized in Philadelphia. His brother, Christian, moved to Lancaster County.

1751: Nicholaus Uplinger (note the name change) purchased 25 acres of land in Lehigh Gap, Bucks County, now Lower Towamensing Township, Carbon County. This was at that time, the frontier – twenty miles north of Bethlehem. He moved there with his wife, his five children, and probably his youngest sister Anna. He erected a log house and hewed a farm in the virgin forest.

1752: In October, Northampton County was split out of Bucks County. In October, Nicholas Opplinger [sic] was appointed constable of Towamensing Township.

1755: The French and Indian War broke out. 1755-57 saw a reign of terror, marked by killings, scalping, and abductions along the Blue Mountain. Nicholas lived undisturbed at Lehigh Gap. Fort Lehigh, a block house erected by the settlers in 1755, stood only a half mile away.

1756: Colonel Benjamin Franklin and his troops stayed at the house and barn of Nicholas on Jan. 25, 1756.

No record is found of the dates of the death of Nicholas or his wife Elizabeth, but it is probable that they died in Lehigh Two and were buried at the Indianland (St. Paul's) Church at Cherryville. They had three sons – Isaac, Samuel, and Nicholas, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Caterina. Family legend had the three brothers coming to America. They mistook Nicholas for his father, also named Nicholas, and all three sons were born in America. All three served as privates in the Revolutionary War.

Most of the present day Oplinger decedents come from the lineage of Isaac's sons Johanes and Daniel, and from Nicholas' son Peter.

1914: The first reunion of this family was held at Edgemont Park in Lehigh Township, Northampton County. It was attended by about four hundred members of the family and friends, chiefly from Northampton and adjacent counties. Mr. Reuben R. Oplinger was elected the first president of the family association, and Elwood E. Oplinger and William H. Rinkenbach were elected



historians. Mr. John D. Watkins later became an additional historian, until his death in 1956. These three were instrumental in assembling the "History of the Oblinger – Oplinger – Uplinger Family" which was published by Mr. Rinkenbach in 1964.

ISAAC UPLINGER HOMESTEAD
Danielsville, PA
(with Reuben and William Oplinger)

The above information was extracted from the 1964 book written by Mr. Rinkenbach. PDF copies of his book may be obtained by emailing David Baily at dbaily15@aol.com (1MB file).