

Our Leichliter Heritage

This document provides basic information about our Leichliter ancestors, and if known where their remains reside. Visiting their graveyards provides the context for their lives, albeit much cleaner now than when the mines and coke ovens were in full operation. If you are old enough to remember the landscape during the 1930's and 40's you'll be amazed at the return of vegetation to the barren hillsides of the coal-and-coke region of Fayette County, Pennsylvania (PA).

I start with one explanation of the Germanic genesis of the root name. Lechleiter or Lechleitner may be the original spellings, but these have taken many different forms as our ancestors spread across the colonies that became the United States during the 18th century. This is followed by the generational sequence of decedents of John (Johann) Conrad Leckleiter and Maria Barbara Muller. They are the roots of a family tree that shames Thor's Oak. We constitute but one small branch, but one we can boastfully proclaim as successful in all ways that matter.

The Meaning of Lechleiter

Posted June 15, 2014 on Ancestry.com by Tamera Hinson

The German name Lechleiter is a variant of the older Austrian name Lechleitner. Lechleiter is a combination to two words.

In the Lechleitner surname, the word "Lech" refers specifically to the Lech river. Many places with the name Lech are located in Austria: the Lechtaler Apls, the Lechtal valley, the cities of Lech am Arlberg and Lech; and the village of Lechleiten are just a few. These regions of Austria were settled by the Swiss Walsers who used the word "Licca" which means 'stone water' and refers to rock laden rivers and streams. The Walser are German-speaking people (more specifically, they speak Walser German dialect) who lived in remote villages of the alps of Switzerland, Italy, Liechtenstein and Austria. The Lech River is rock laden and runs through Austria and Germany. [The Lech River runs north-south west of Munich and east of Baden-Württemberg.]

"Leite" comes from the Old High German word hiltâ and refers to an incline or steep riverbank which has been cleared of trees. When you combine the name "Lech" which refers to the Lech River and the word Leite" which refers to a steep river bank you get "Lechleite." Geographically speaking the Lechleite is the steep slope of the Lech River in the vicinity of Augsburg and Freiburg Germany. The Lechleite was originally formed by glacial melt. A person living along the Lechleite in Freiburg, Germany could be called a "Lechlieter."

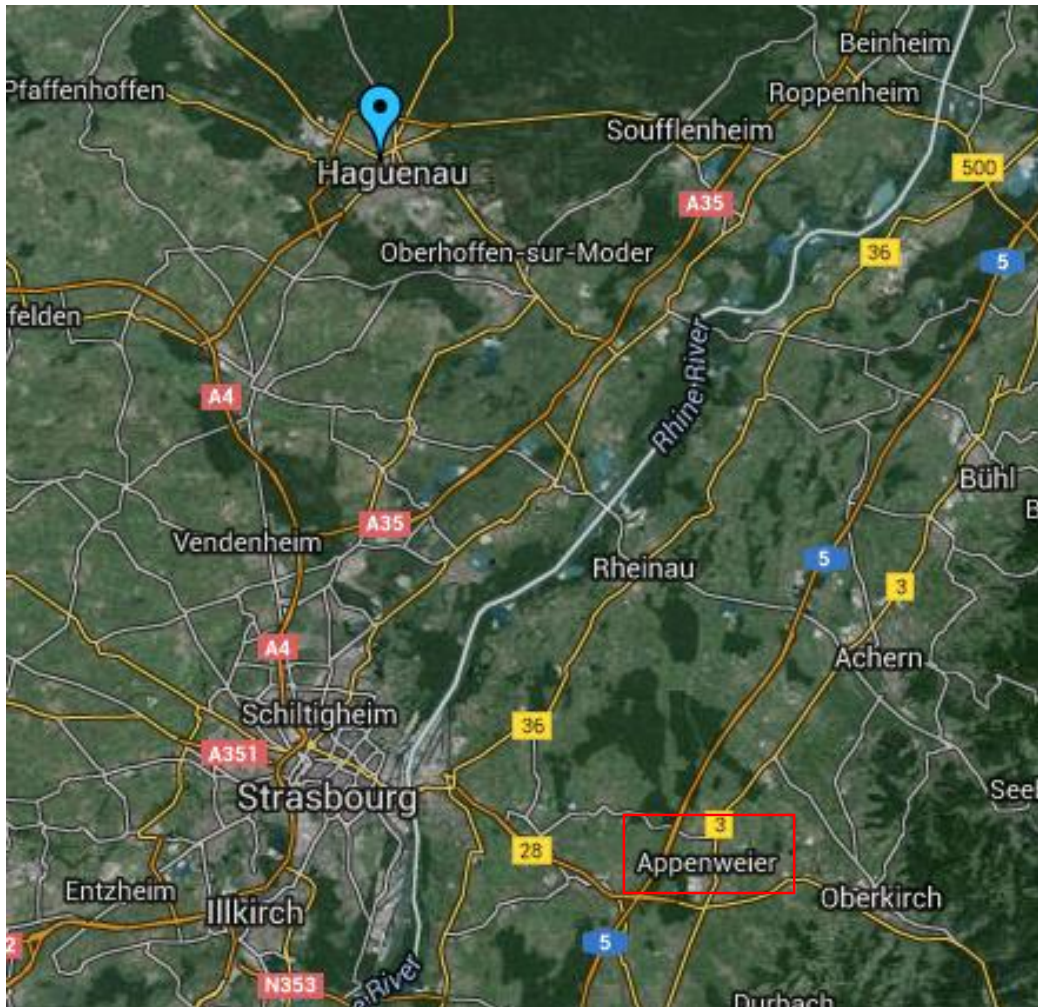
The name Lechleitner is found almost exclusively in Austria. There is a village in the Austrian Alps named Lechleiten that I mentioned earlier. Someone from the village of Lechleiten may be called a "Lechleitner." This would be like calling a person from Berlin a "Berliner" or someone from New York a "New Yorker."

Records seem to indicate that the name Lechleitner is the older variation of the name and it can be found in Austria between 1550 and 1600. The name Lechleiter appears closer to the year 1700 just a few miles away in the Pfalz region of Germany. Austria and parts of the modern day Germany were just parts of a much fought over area referred to as the Palatinate before they were divided into the modern day countries of Austria and Germany, so whether Lechleitner is Austrian or German is somewhat irrelevant – these are just variations of the same name.

As stated earlier the name Lechleitner is found almost exclusively in Austria and the name Lechleiter is found in Germany as well as France. There are other more recent variations such as Lechleider, Legleitner and Legleiter which are found in Germany, and Loechleiter which is French. Lechleitner and Legleitner also appear in the Netherlands. Outside of Europe you can find Lechleitner and Lechleitner in Australia and in the United States you find names such as Leichleiter, Leichliter, Lichliter,

Leithliter, Licklyter, Leckliter, etc. There are more variations of the name as well: Lichlyter, Leckliter, Lickliter as well as my last name, Lecklider, are just some of the families that specifically descended from Johann Conrad Leckleiter who was a Palatine that immigrated to America in the year 1741.

Our Licklider tree was transplanted from the Strasbourg region of Maria's France and Johann's Germany. Johann's father was **Mythological Common Leckleiter**, born in 1677 in Appenweier, Ortenaukreis, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. Appenweier is outlined in red at the lower right on the map below. He died in 1747 in the same location. Maira's father was Hans Jacob Muller and her mother was Anna Maria Magdalena Gerber. Hans Jacob was born October 22, 1697, in Niederbronn Alsace, France and died December 15, 1775, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Anna Maria was born September 20, 1697, in Hagenau, Alsace, France and died August 4, 1776 in Pike, Pennsylvania, and was buried in Oley (Olney?), PA.



John (Johann) Conrad Leckleiter or Licklider **Mythological Common Leckleiter's Son**

John Conrad was born December 24, 1724 in Bremen, Germany. He arrived in Pennsylvania in 1741. He married Maria Barbara Muller in 1745 in Pennsylvania. A daughter, Barbara Lichliter was born in 1738 somewhere in Maryland. She died in 1850. A son, John Jacob Leichliter was born in 1745 in Germany. Lacking any relevant information it's not appropriate to draw any conclusions from the fact that he married Maria Barbara Muller in 1745 somewhere in Pennsylvania. Maria was born on June 22, 1725 in Niederbronn Hagenau, Bas-Rhine, Alsace, France. She was baptized on June 24, 1725 in th Luthern Church, Neiderbronn, Alsace, France. She arrived in Pennsylvania in 1738 at age 13. It's at

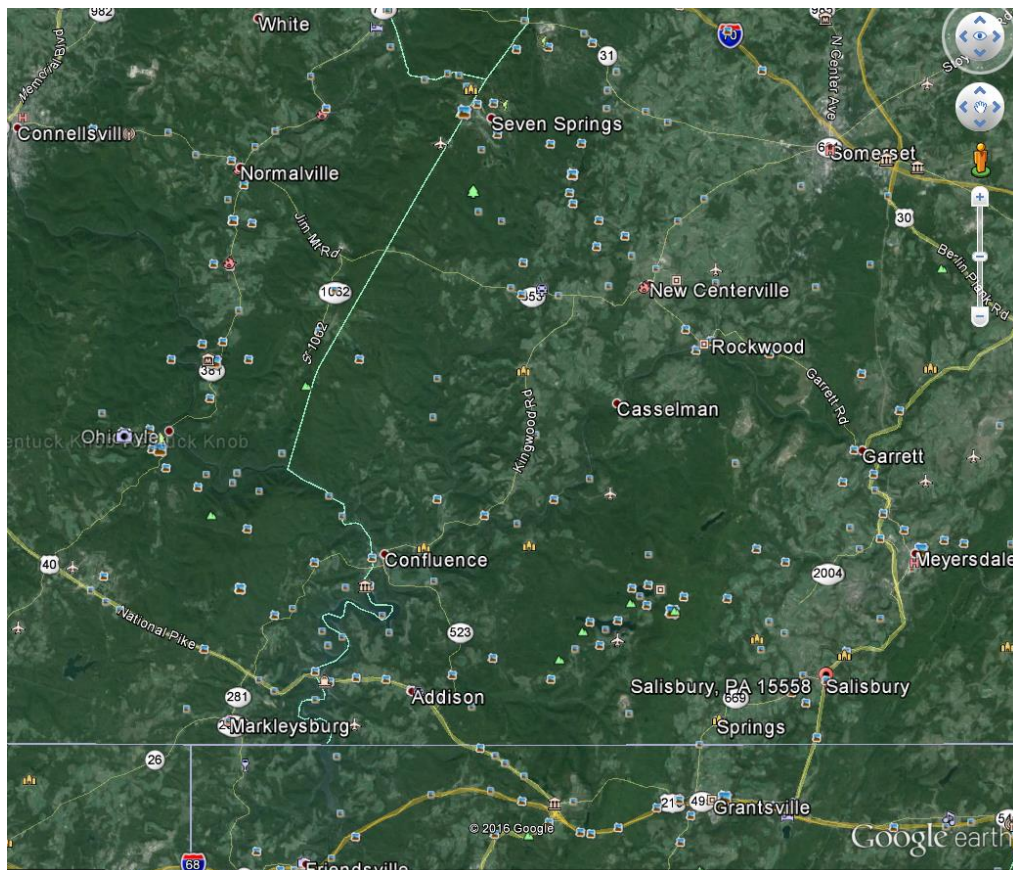
the blue pointer on the map above. It's likely that her father, Hans Jacob Muller, immigrated to the U.S. after her birth. He died in 1775 in Pike, Berks County, Pennsylvania. She died in 1791 at Creagerstown, Frederick County, Maryland. It's located near Thurmont, Maryland. John died in Frederick or Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland on September 5, 1781. Johann and Marie are buried in the Licklider Family Cemetery, Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland.

John had two more daughters and eight more sons, making a total of three and nine respectively. The daughters were Catherine Barbara Lechlitter(1746–1792), 9 Jun 1746, Montgomery, Montgomery, Pennsylvania; Elizabeth Lechlitter(1764–1850), 27 Dec 1764, Berks, Pennsylvania. A son, Johann Jacob Lechlitter (1748–1825), 26 Jun 1748, was born in Whitehall, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Their sons were born in Colebrookdale Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania: John Lechlitter(1752–1752), 1752, (he died on August 25 the same year); Johann Georg Lichliter(1758–1839), 25 Aug 1758; Johann Conrad Lichliter(1760–1844), 1760. These sons were born in Pikes Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania: Johann Adam Lechlitter(1756–1830), 11 Aug 1756; and Johann Peter Lechlitter(1756–1843), 11 Aug 1756.

John (Johann) Jacob Lechlitter **Johann Conrad Lechlitter's Son**

John Jacob was born in 1745 in Germany, or June 9, 1746, New Hanover, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Apparently John Conrad and Maria returned to Germany before John Jacob's birth. This may indicate that the family had some wealth either in the U.S. or their families in Germany and France. He migrated to Somerset County, Pennsylvania. In 1784 and married Lydia Elizabeth Green in Virginia. She was 39 years old then. Her home may have been in what is now West Virginia. She was born in Germany in 1746 and died March 1845, Turkeyfoot, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. She was 100 years old when she died. John died in March, 1791, at the home of his son Jacob in the Hexeberger Hills in Turkeyfoot, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Their son Jacob Lechlitter was born August 11, 1788 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. There other children were David, John, Sarah, Margaret and Samuel.

A map of the general region covering the locations mentioned from here on is below.



Jacob Leichliter
(John Jacob Leichliter's son)



Jacob Leichliter was born August 11, 1788 in Bedminster, Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He died May 29, 1881, at the age of 93.

He married Jemima Campbell about 1812. She was from Dublin, Irland. This union produced sons R. Campbell, Thomas, John Campbell, Levi, and Samuel C., and daughters Elizabeth, Mary Ann, and Lydia. Jemima died in 1826 at 33 years of age, seven months after the birth of the last child. He married Martha Williams (1809 – 1882) in 1830. She is buried in what is now a Younkin cemetery on the aforementioned Frederick Younkin farm. Her handsome gravestone was recovered by the current owner of the land, and is well preserved and very legible.

Jacobs married Martha Williams about 1830. They produced daughters Margret Jane Leichliter(1831–1857) 21 Feb 1831, Turkeyfoot; Jemima Leichliter (1843–1926), 11 Apr 1843, Somerset; Martha Ester Leichliter(1848–1881) 23 Apr 1848, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. Sons were David William Campbell Leichliter (1832–1912) 03 Nov 1832, Somerset; Martin W. Leichliter(1836–1889) 03 Aug 1836, Somerset; Jacob William Campbell Leichliter(1836–1911) 9/10/1836, Somerset County; James Leichliter(1838–1911) 29 Jul 1838, Somerset; William Henry Harrison Leichliter(1841–1891) 12 Feb 1841, Somerset; Son George Washington Leichliter(1846–1925) 17 Mar 1846, Somerset; Rev. Albert Marsden Leichliter(1851–1926) 25 Jun 1851, Springfield, Fayette County; William Workman Lichliter(1853–) Abt. 1853, Springfield twp., Fayette County; John C. Lichliter (1817–1853) 2 Sep 1853, Somerset.

The *Mountaineer*, a monthly newspaper published in Normalville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania in the September 1899 edition published a history of the Jacob Leichliter family written by Otto Gay Leichliter, 1321 Singer Place, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. This is Otto Gay Leichliter, son of Levi Leichliter and great grandson of Jacob Leichliter.

*SPRINGFIELD'S EARLY HISTORY- LEICHLITER - RISE AND PROGRESS, FAMILY
OF MINISTERS, TEACHERS, ETC INFLUENCE OF GOOD EXAMPLE*

Jacob Leichliter was born August 11th, 1788. John, his father, located in "Jersey" of Somerset County, then a dense forest, and endured hardships and privation at the beginning. Robert Hare, nearest neighbor a mile a-way. Often relieved wants of the then little family. Jacob was then a little child, crying for a morsel of corn-bread with no other drink than water. Hare's kindly sent milk, soon a cow was brought home. David, Samuel, Sarah, Margaret and other "Olive" plants soon gathered around the table.

Jacob grew with sterling qualities, marrying Jemima Campbell about 1812, to whom were born sons; R. Campbell, Thomas, John, Levi and Samuel C.; Elizabeth, married Daniel Williams; Mary A. to Jacob Crossen; Lydia died young. The two eldest sons died young. John and Levi were ministers. Levi founded Wesley Chapel on his farm. M. D., his son, is a prominent M. E. Minister and is a Past State Councillor, Jr. O. U. A. M. Samuel C., married to Sarah Nicholson, taught school and lived on L. A. Kimmel and J. L. Stentz farms~ Mr. and Mrs. Williams, late of Nicolay P. O., are parents of Mrs. Martin Miner, Mrs. P. F. M. Nicolay and other prominent ones. Levi was recently a U. S. Guager; other brothers artists and

teachers. Mr. and Mrs. Crossen were U. B. Church luminaries, once living in house now owned by D. Shank.

After Mrs. Leichliter's death, Jacob, about 1830, married Martha Williams who was born Feb. 1, 1809. She was a daughter of Martin of this township, and was a fine woman and kind mother. Sons: David W. C., married Harriet Zufall; Martin to Sarah A. Brooks; Jacob W. C. to Mary J. Brooks; James to Lucartha King, W. H. H. to Susannah Shultz; George W. to Harriet King, and Albert M. to Christiana Grim. Daughters: Margaret J. married Joel Miner; Jemima to Albert Harshman; Martha E. to Daniel Harshman, and Sarah A. to Wm. Workman.

Mr. Leichliter was father of 19 children, some born in this county where nearly all the family have made their home. The father in March or April 1847 moved from Somerset County to farm bought of David Barnet, two miles north of Springfield. The husband and wife were Baptists and were faithful. David W. C. taught school; lives in New Haven and served well as constable or in other offices. Martin was father-in-law of Revs. J. S. Hays and A. Long of the U. B. Church.

Jacob W.C., a U. B. leader, sold farm and moved west. James owns the homestead and has fine improvements. William H. H. bought and improved the Lavina Kern farm. He was a U. B. church member. A son, John L., is a minister of that denomination. George W. taught school and has been school director. He owns a farm and is prosperous; a church worker and has musical talent. Albert M. entered U. B. ministry 1883; moved to Nebraska and to Iowa. Accepted call to Congregational pulpit at Larchwood in 1891. His only son C. H., owns and edits the Larchwood Leader. Mrs. Miner and sisters married worthy men, and the descendants of Mr. Leichliter bear the impress of parent's character, being quiet, peaceable and law abiding.

"Father" Leichliter was called to his long home May 29, 1881, aged nearly 93 years. "Mother" Leichliter departed Feb. 28, 1882, aged 73 years. Their remains rest in Springfield cemetery.

Springfield Cemetery is at the United Brethren Cemetery located east of Connellsville along County Road 711.

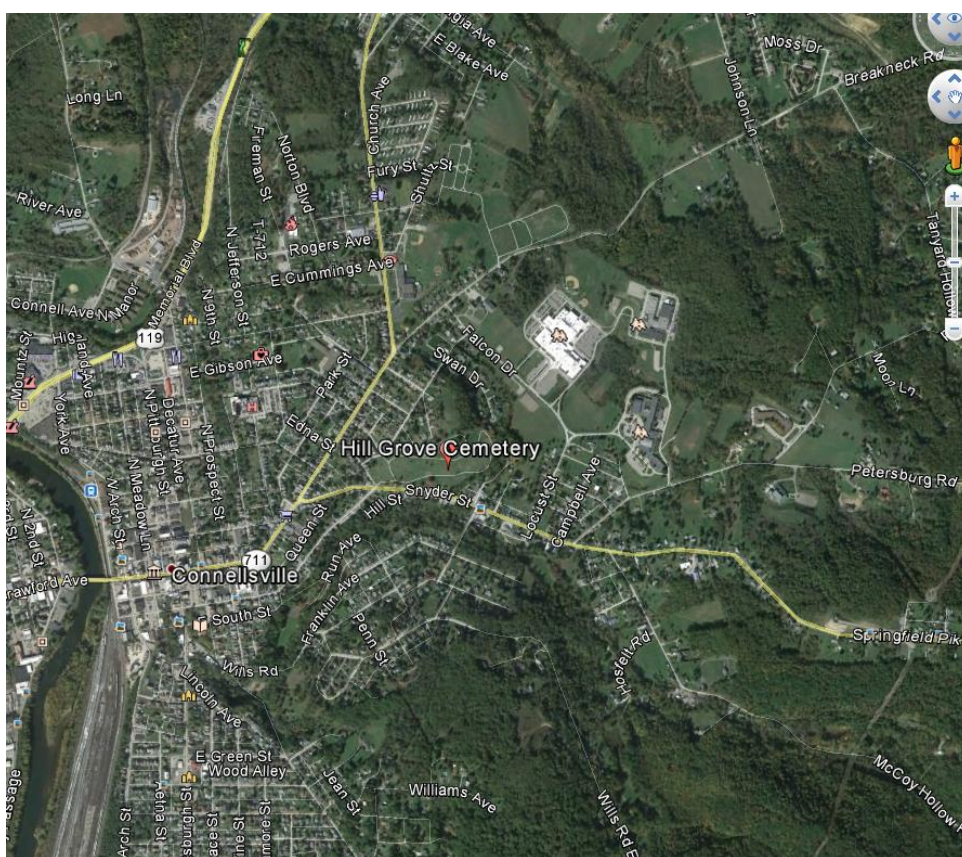


David William Campbell Lechliter

Jacob Lechliter's son

David William Campbell Lechliter was born November 3, 1832, Somerset, Pennsylvania. He died a widower of apoplexy (stroke) on November 14, 1912, Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He married Harriet Zurall (1829 – 1911). Their daughters were Martha Jane Lechliter (Murray) (1853 – 1912); Catherine Ann Lechliter (Henry) (1854 – 1917); Mary Ann Lechliter (Prinkey) (1860 – 1921); and Alice Jemima Lechliter (Osborn) (1868 – 1952). Their only son was Levi Riley Lechliter (1858 – 1920).

The remains of David and Harriet are in the Hillgrove Cemetery, Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, Plot E – 11.



Levi Riley Lechliter

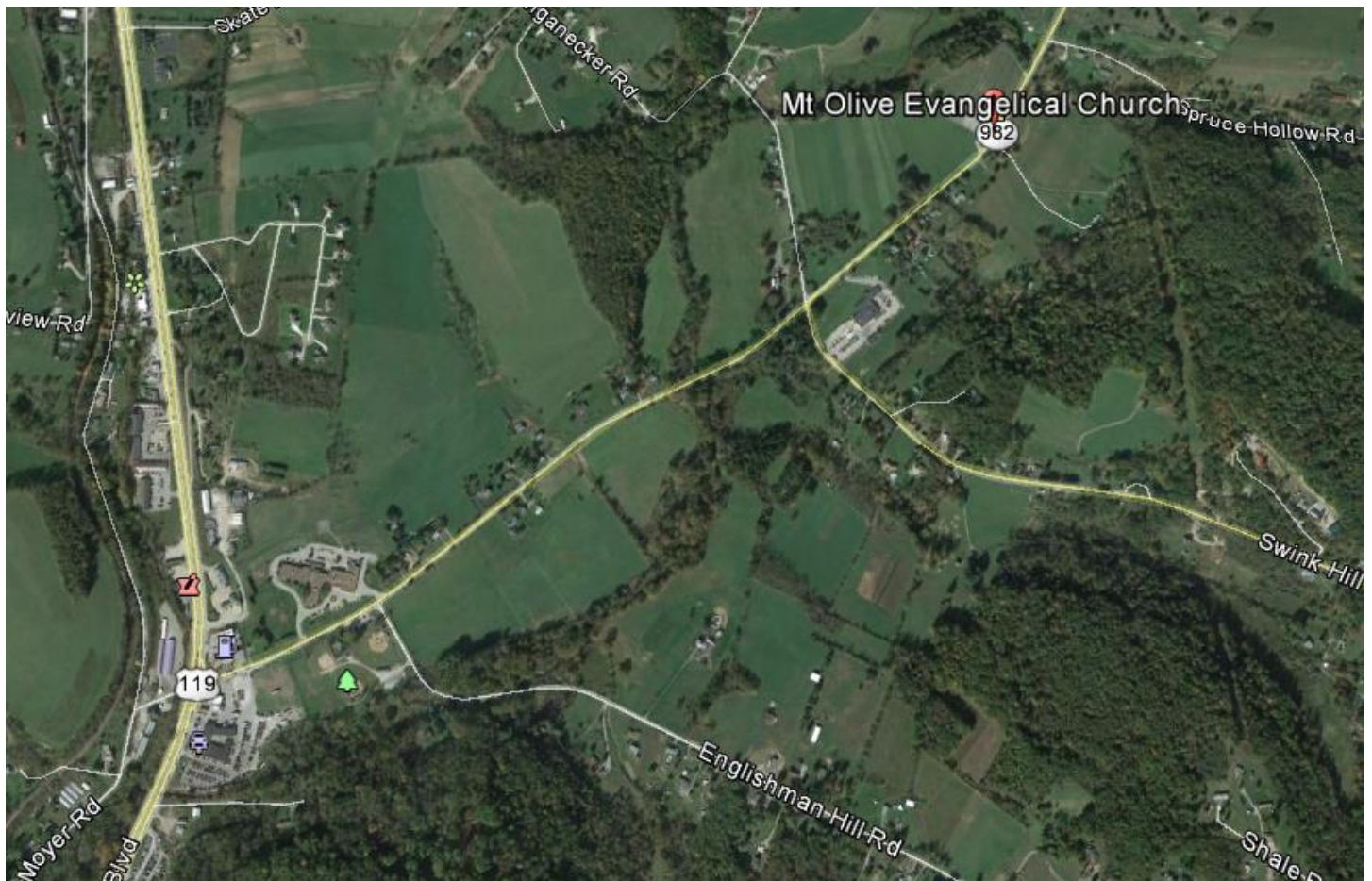
David William Campbell Lechliter's Son

Levi Lechliter was born March 8, 1858, in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. He married Mary Bittner on December 25, 1877. He died October 18, 1920. They had nine children in 18 years. He died on October 18, 1920 at the age of 62.



Levi and family

Levi (1858 – 1920) and Mollie's (1856 – 1917) remains are in the cemetery at Mt. Olive Evangelical Church. Park behind church in front of plywood sign. Walk up 3rd row from left of road on left. Go to 12th stone in from sign. Lat. 40 deg. 03.896 min. Long. 79 deg. 32.689 min.



These are Levi and Molly's children:

Bertha Belle Leichliter (1878–1944)

Bertha Belle was born September 22, 1878 • Bullskin, Fayette, Pennsylvania. She died March 5, 1944 at age 65.

Walter Scott Leichliter (1880–1882)

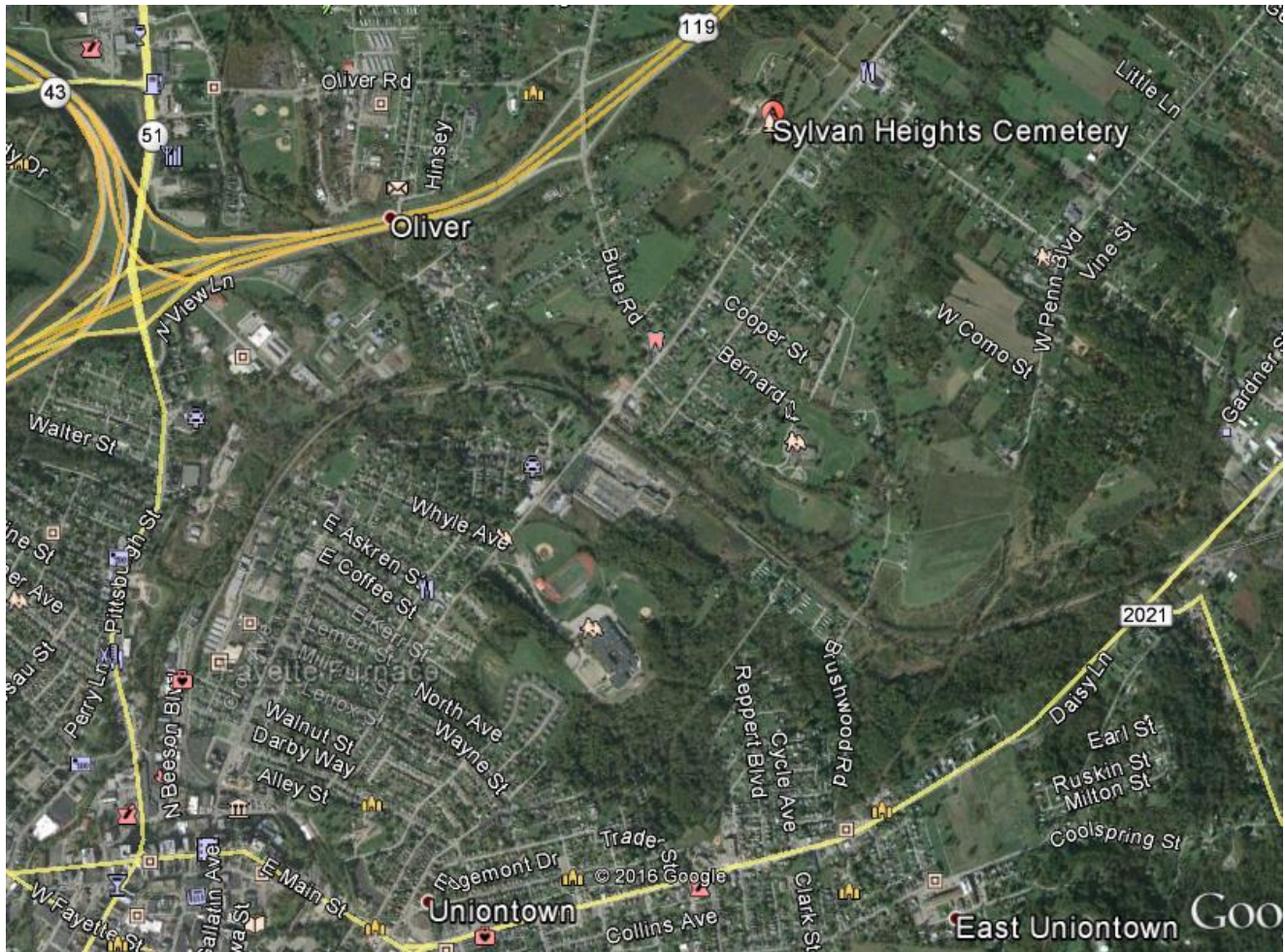
Walter Scott was born November 11, 1880, Fayette County. He died in infancy in May 1882.

Braden Boyd Leichliter (1883 – 1951)



Braden Boyd was born 18 Apr 1883, Connellsville, Pennsylvania.

Braden and Nana's remains are in the Sylvan Heights Cemetery, SR 119 between Uniontown and Connellsville. Enter main entrance, first right to sign on right "Section A North and BB." Park by sign. Go to left side and look for large Higbee monument. Find 2nd row in front of it. BB (1883 v- 1951) and Nana (1882 – 1969) are 6th and 7th stones past Higbee. Lat. N 39 deg. 55.310 min. Long. 79 deg. 42.196 min.



Braden's wife, Nana Handlin's parents are William and Susan Handlin. Their remains are Fairview Cemetery, Mt. Braddock, behind Mt. View Christian Church, SE corner of Rosy Hill Rd. and Curry Hill Rd. Going north on SR 119 north of Uniontown, exit at Connellsville Rd. At stop sign turn left onto Shady Grove Road. At light go straight, across railroad tracks, up the hill to Rosy Hill Rd. Church is on left. Cemetery is up hill behind church. Can access from Curry Hill Rd. or lane behind church. See photo of scene of grave stones. Lat. N 39 deg. 55.873 min., Lat. W 79 deg. 38.959 min. Many other Handlin's are here, including Daniel and Mary Handlin.



Otto Gay Leichliter (1885–1948)



Otto Gay was born February 1, 1885 in Connellsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

Harry J Leichliter (1888–1914)

Harry was born July 18, 1888, Normalville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. When Harry J Leichliter was born his father, Levi, was 30 and his mother, Molly was 31. He married Mary Rosella Clementina DeMoise about 1911, in Pennsylvania. Harry died on January 19, 1914, in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, at the age of 25, and was buried in Connellsville, Pennsylvania.



Mary Rosella Clementina DeMoise (1889–1974) was born August 7, 1889, somewhere in Italy. Her father, Alexis, was 23 and her mother, Caroline, was also 23. She and Harry had two children together. After Harry's death she married David Jacob Coughenour Sr. and they had three children together. She died on September 2, 1974, in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, at the age of 85.

Harry and Mary's son was Otto Harry Lechlitter (1914–1989) was born January 24, 1914 and died June 9, 1989 in Midland, Texas



Harry and Mary's daughter was Alice Elizabeth Lechlitter, born March 25, 1912, Youngwood Pennsylvania. She died January 1, 2002, Sequim, Clallam County, Washington



Hazel J Leichliter(1890–1967)

Hazel was born July 20, 1890 in Normalville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.



Hazel with Becky Hoover (left) and Bill Hoover (middle) on the campus of California State Teachers College, California, Pennsylvania.

Hazel married late in life after the death of her sister Bertha who was blind. They lived in the home place east of Connellsville. It was a small farm with a good size barn where Hazel kept a Brown Swiss milk cow. She made butter and cottage cheese, among other milk product.

Chase Leichliter(1892–1892)

Chase was born July 6, 1892. He died shortly thereafter.

Levi Riley Leichliter, Jr (1896–1955)

Levi was born October 10, 1896 in ?, Pennsylvania. He went by the name Lee.

Franklin D Leichliter (1899–1943)

Frank was born March 21, 1899, in Normalville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. He died on April 4, 1943 at age 44. He remains a mystery other than having died in a railroad accident.