



Forging Connections in Exhibits

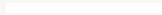
Leveraging Tough Stories and Primary Sources
to Engage Visitors with the Past

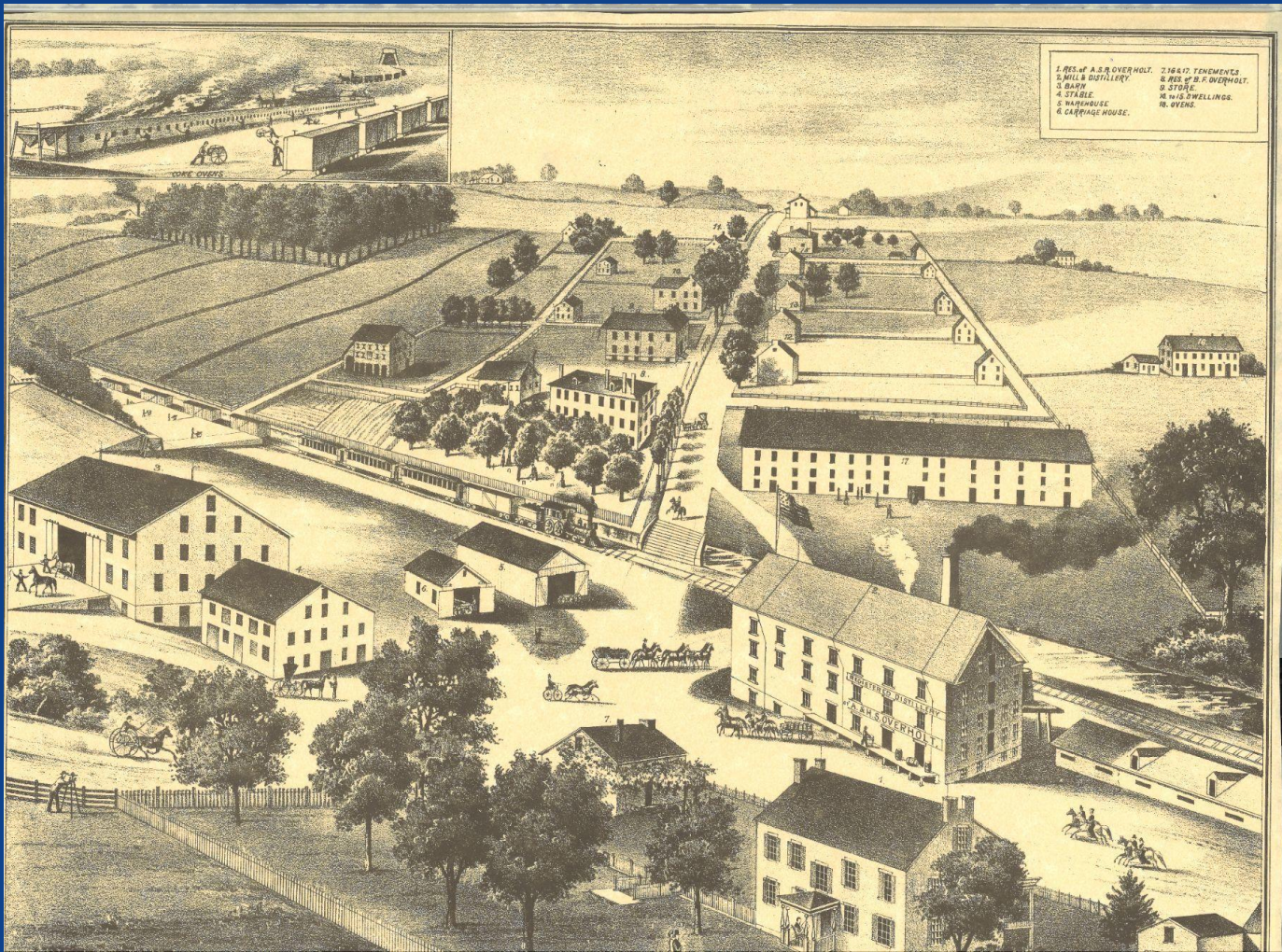




Overview

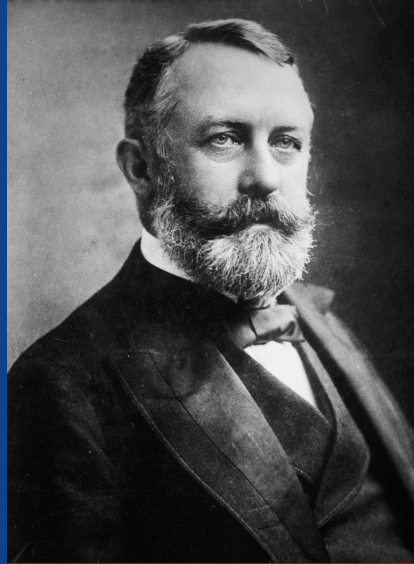
- About our site and interpretation
- Developing our exhibit *Forging Ahead and Falling Behind*
- Looking ahead





- 1. RES. OF A. S. OVERHOLT.
- 2. MILL & DISTILLERY.
- 3. BARN.
- 4. STABLE.
- 5. WAREHOUSE.
- 6. CARRIAGE HOUSE.
- 7. RES. OF T. B. OVERHOLT.
- 8. RES. OF M. F. OVERHOLT.
- 9. STORE.
- 10. W. S. SWELLING.
- 11. OVENS.





Forging Ahead and Falling Behind

*Industrial Growth in
a Rural Community*



Developing the Exhibition

Capacity. Individuals. Primary Sources.

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Inventory List Continued

Quantity	No	Names of Articles	Rate	Appraisal
		Am't Bk'd forward		48342.82
		Carpenter's Span		Whore?
426	1	Saw mill & fixtures	1400.00	1400.00
429	36	Stews average 770 th	5/2	1544.40
429	242	Ships	1.50	408.00
429	1	Trucks & mowing machines	100.00	100.00
430	1	Horse Hay Rake	25.00	25.00

Inventory of Estate of Henry S. Overholt. 1862

Lloyd Shallenbeger
To C. S. Overholt Recd

1862		
Sept	California Gift	130.-
	3 Gfts. Shipper & Delinior	3162.70
	Ships' Gft. on batham & Gordon	60.-
	Spec'm of Gft. 5.00 Demand Note 2.25	7.25
	Cash from store	103.-
	" " C. S. Hoover	10.-
	" " Frank Overholt	10.-
		3482.95

West Overton General Store Ledger. 1862





Farmer: John Lloyd Shallenberger



Housekeeper: Rebecca Kough

REBECCA McNALTY KOUGH, HOUSEKEEPER

Rebecca McNalty was born in Lancaster, PA in 1813. Details of her childhood and family remain unknown. As a young woman, she married Jacob Kough and moved to the community of West Oerthon in the 1840s. Jacob was a cooper, so the new family likely moved here for him to make barrels at the Oerthon mill and distillery. Meanwhile, Rebecca kept house and raised their seven children.

In early 1862, the Kough family faced tragedy. Jacob fell ill and was unable to provide for his family. With a sick partner, growing children, and one boarder, Rebecca became the head of her household. She began shopping for her family in her husband's place and supplemented their income by taking in a few more boarders. Jacob died in June of 1862, leaving Rebecca with no steady income and a house full of children.

The Oerthon company owned most homes in the village, and workers often paid their rent every three months. Rebecca paid \$2.75 to rent to the company per three months, or \$245 today. Taking in additional boarders to make ends meet after her husband's death actually increased her income. Jacob earned \$2.00 per month, or \$487 today. For operating her boarding house, Rebecca earned an average \$46.00 per month, or \$1154 today. Her wages increased during the harvest season when more workers needed housing. Workers paid the company for housing, who in turn paid Rebecca for providing a home for them. Over the next few years, Rebecca boarded at least 9 workers, including carpenters, millworkers, and farm laborers.

Despite their dominance in village industries, West Oerthon was not a village of males alone. Women were critical to the community. Rebecca prepared meals for boarders; chatted, mended, and occasionally made clothing for them; cared for them when they were sick; made sure they had a warm bed to sleep in; and fundamentally provided a home. This was, of course, in addition to raising her own children.

After seeing her youngest child, Sarah, to adulthood and marriage, Rebecca moved with her son and his wife, Jacob, to Mount Pleasant. Over at age 69, Rebecca lived out her remaining "housekeeper" probably still helping to care for her grandchildren. Rebecca died at 77 years old in 1884.



LAUNDRY is LABOR

In the early 1800s, laundering clothes was labor intensive. There is no record of how women washed clothes in West Oerthon during those decades. Early methods varied from riverside washing and rubbing items against rocks along the bank, to using the creek to wash and sub. In West Oerthon, men began to take charge. The mangle washed and sub became more common.

Industrialization in the second half of the century brought irrevocable change to domestic life. The mass production of soap, washing machines, stoves, and other laundering products made them much more affordable for housekeepers. Boarders and boarders' wives did not have to make them themselves. Industrialization also opened new avenues to make cooking, cleaning, and caring for her family and boarders easier.

By the time Rebecca ran her boarding house in the 1860s, new technology made laundering clothes easier on the knuckles and back. Machines like this one still featured a back wheelbarrow for hauling items, but they eliminated the need to tug clothes by hand. Still, Rebecca would need to soap, boil, black, bleach, rinse, wring, dry, starch and iron almost all by hand. Innovations for those steps came in the 20th century and gave us the simple spin-detergent-washer we use today.

How has industrialization improved your life?

Coal Digger: Jacob Hauser



JACOB HAUSER, COAL DIGGER

Jacob Hauser was born in Württemberg, Germany in 1824. The details of his parents and siblings, remain unknown. He likely moved just after Abraham Overholt discovered coal on his farm.

In 1860, Jacob, his wife, Ursula, and their three young children were shot. They lived with the man who ran the malt house, Christian Haberle, and immigrated from the same region of Germany, so they found camaraderie and maybe even knew each other before immigrating to the US.

When Jacob Hauser dug coal at West Overton, coal mining was still a new time where farm mines, usually small outcroppings of coal just beneath the ground, Jacob worked at Abraham's new small farm mine, digging out co

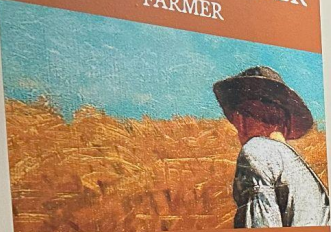
With little more than a pick, shovel, and wagon, Jacob mined more than 1000 bushels of coal in March and five of 1862 or about 40 tons. He sold coal to just over 600 bushels in July and August, when even he was expected to help with the harvest.

Jacob did not earn as much money as tradesmen like Daniel Krassinger, but he still made more than ordinary day laborers. For six month's work in 1862, he was paid \$174, or \$4,900 today. Laborers often worked inconsistently and earned between \$50 and \$100 for six months of work, or up to \$3371 today.

The coal industry was growing rapidly in the 1860s and 1870s, but Jacob chose a different career. He and Ursula moved to Mount Pleasant where he became a millen farmer. When he died in 1904, Jacob owned 70 chickens and 10 ducks.



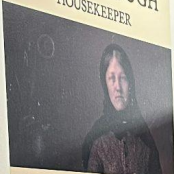
JOHN LLOYD SHALLENBERGER FARMER



The Buckeye Reaper required fewer laborers and made grain harvesting much more efficient. Women, children, and workers like Lloyd were no longer needed.

How have machines impacted your work?

REBECCA KOUGH HOUSEKEEPER



Rebecca Kough made sure workers in the village had a home. Industrial Revolutions brought new tools and affordable goods, making caring for workers easier for her.

How has industrialization improved your life?

ELI HOOVER MILLER



The mill of Eli Hoover and his sons helped make an area about the size of Ohio (about 100,000 acres) more productive. Eli Hoover's mill was one of the first to use a water wheel to power a mill.

If all that success of you in 100 years is a credit card statement, what would historical learn about you?

ANDREW OVERHOLT SMITH



Andrew Overholt was a pioneer in the iron and steel industry. He was one of the first to use a water wheel to power a mill.

How has new technology improved your life?

DANIEL NISWONGER COOPER



Daniel Niswonger was a pioneer in the iron and steel industry. He was one of the first to use a water wheel to power a mill.

Where have you seen automation replace workers?

JOHN MCGIFFIN TRADER



John McGiffin was a pioneer in the iron and steel industry. He was one of the first to use a water wheel to power a mill.

Where have you seen large corporations push small companies out of business?

JACOB HAUSER COAL DIGGER



Jacob Hauser was a pioneer in the iron and steel industry. He was one of the first to use a water wheel to power a mill.

What are other consequences of industry?

JACOB HAUSER COAL DIGGER



The explosion of the steel industry in the late 19th century transformed southwestern Pennsylvania. Industrial coal mines and coke ovens dotted the region. Coal and coke powered mines and factories, spurring economic growth. But it also had negative consequences. Our land, water, and people are still feeling the effects of heavy industry today.

What are other consequences of industry?

Although America's Industrial Revolutions have cost jobs and polluted our environment, the lives we enjoy today would not be possible without them. The industrialization is on a continuum that still impacts us. The advancements of the 19th century may seem quaint or insignificant to us now, but in 150 years our own technology and environment will also be obsolete.

The industrial growth that West Overton and its workers experienced in the 19th century also changed the rest of the country. With its diverse industries and long history, West Overton is a perfect example of how the American Industrial Revolutions transformed lives, both at work and at home.

America's Industrial Revolutions continue to impact us all.

The Overholts benefited directly from industrialization but workers in the village often did not. New machines and technology increased profits but replaced four workers. Innovation displaced workers but it also brought new convenience to their lives.

We still experience this today.

JOHN LLOYD SHALLENBERGER FARMER



The Buckeye Reaper required fewer laborers and made grain harvesting much more efficient. Women, children, and workers like Lloyd were no longer needed.

How have machines impacted your work?

REBECCA KOUGH HOUSEKEEPER



Rebecca Kough made sure workers in the village had a home. Industrial Revolutions brought new tools and affordable goods, making caring for workers easier for her.

How has industrialization improved your life?



Guiding Questions & Observations

“How have machines impacted your life?”

“How has industry improved your life?”

“**Where have you seen automation replace workers?**”

“**If all that survives of you in 150 years is a credit card statement, what would historians learn about you?**”

“Where have you seen large corporations push out small business?”

“**What are other consequences of industry?**”



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