

## Origins of the Misener Family of Ontario, Canada

Origins of the Misner family in New JerseyThe Misener family of Ontario, Canada are United Empire Loyalists who removed to Upper Canada after the American Revolution. Though their earliest origins are unclear, they appear in Sussex County, New Jersey in the early 18th century. A very active family association maintains the family records and has held a family reunion every year for nearly one hundred years. Presently, research is being done by Steven Misener of Stockholm, South Dakota on the earliest settlers of the Misener family in New Jersey and their roots in the Old World. Much of the information on the Misner family comes from the Misener Family Association and Mr. Steve Misener. The activity and longevity of the Misner Family Association is in part due to the excellent oral history that survives in this family. To a great extent this is due to "Uncle" Adam Misener (1798-1901) whose longevity and story telling helped shape and strengthen the Misener family identity in Ontario. Uncle Adam's oral history is recorded in two publications, the 1897 publication "Wentworth Landmarks", which in a rather flowery and romantic Victorian account, a journalist's transcribes him impressions of an afternoon chat with Uncle Adam. The second source for Uncle Adam's story is an article published by the "Dundas Banner" in 1895. Both of these published accounts of Adam Misener are important, even though they are not in Adam's own words or written by his own hand. Uncle Adam was a credible informant and it seems reasonable that the stories were faithfully retold in these publications. Adam Misener is not the only Misener whose family recollections were put down on pen and paper. Dr. Ray Sells Morrish printed a booklet, "Miseners", in 1933; privately published in Flint, Michigan. Another family chronicler is Harley Misener whose work dates from 1954 and donated family material to the Wilfred Laurier University at Waterloo, Ontario. Both Ray Morrish and Harley Misener are descendants from Uncle Adam's brother Nicholas Misener. Also, as mentioned above, Steven Misener has begun researching the earliest records on the Misener and has penned his findings in a short collection of notes titled, "The Misener Family History" (1997). Despite the rich oral history and the activity in present family research, there are still many questions about the origin of the Misener name and the pre-New World origins of this family. In Ontario, many of the descendants identified their family origins as "German"; however, many of the early Canadian census records that include information on ethnic origins indicate that the eldest generation of Miseners affiliate themselves with the "Dutch". Being able to trace their earliest ancestors to State of New Jersey and the association of a few of the Misener families in that colony with Dutch families and the Dutch Reform Church, there seems to be circumstantial evidence that strongly suggests Dutch origins. In Steve Misener's note, "The Misener Family History" (1997) he explores some of the possible early origins of the Misner family. His work traces the Misener, Maisinger, Meusinger

name within the New Jersey records. Though he has not come to a conclusive answer as to their origins or even identified the original emigrant, Steve's work has done an excellent job in sketching out the earliest inhabitants of that region as reflected in existing colonial records. Two early families appear in early Hackensack, New Jersey. Conrad Maisinger and his wife Anna Margaretha Wannemacher are recorded as early as 1710 and left record of a large family; many that were baptized in Rariton, Rembuch, as well as, Hackensack. Another settler, Sebastian Maisinger, his wife, and three of his children are recorded as having arrived from Holland in Capt. Allan's ship in 1709. This family also eventually settled in Hackensack. Steve Misener has not found the link between these two families and our ancestors; however, this work indicates that Uncle Adam's recollection of his ancestors arriving in 1720, may not be accurate and that the Misener's arrival in the New World may be several decades earlier. My connection to the Misner family is through Uncle Adam Misener of Troy. His daughter Catherine Misener married James Buckberrough of Norfolk County, Ontario and the couple settled in the town of Springford in Oxford County

Source: Misener Family Tree, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)