



MICHIGAN OVERHOLTS GET TOGETHER

The 37th Michigan Overholt reunion was held on Aug. 9, 1987 at the farm home of Rex and Marilyn Overholt Willson outside Middleville, with 50 people in attendance. Marilyn succeeded James Groendyke as president for 1988 and Mabel Overholt Hendricks is secretary. One of our Association's most assiduous researchers, Milton Blanding of Stanton, Mich., is genealogist and necrologist of the group and has traced the ancestry of its members back to Martin Overholt and his wife Elizabeth Nash of the Marx/Marcus Oberholtzer lineage that was outlined in the last BULLETIN and many belong to the O.F.A.

ed in the last BULLETIN. Most of the group live in the southwestern part of the state near Grand Rapids and many belong to the O.F.A. Plans were discussed for meeting in a park next year and involving younger members in the organization.

79th ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, Aug 27, 1988

Place: Terre Hill Fire Hall
Terre Hill, PA

Details (including map) in the August BULLETIN. Keep the date open and plan to come! An outstanding and bountiful covered-dish noon meal followed by a fun afternoon with cousins and such, newcomers and old-timers alike. Compare charts and lineages with others in your line, examine the many books, pictures, etc. that are always on hand. Who knows, you might run into a long-lost relative or one you didn't even know. You had! We always have a good time. If you're from out-of-state, the Lancaster County/Pennsylvania Dutch area is a super spot for vacationing or visiting.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to these members who have contributed to the Association since the last listing. And let us not forget those who contributed at the Reunion, who must remain anonymous. Your support is greatly appreciated.

MARGARET ARNOLD	White Bear Lake, MN
MILTON & NEVA BLANDING	Stanton, MI
HELEN BOGENER	St. Charles, MO
REX & JEAN CROM	Beatrice, NE
RETTA CUNNINGHAM	Canyon, TX
MARGARET KEHEW	Springfield, VT
PHYLLIS & RICHARD LARE	Holland, MI
BERNICE LAYTON	Bull Shoals, AR
HARRY & GLORIA OVERHOLSER	Pottstown, PA
JOEL OVERHOLSER	Ft. Benton, MT
LEN & MARY JEAN OVERHOLSER	San Jose, CA

DAVID & BETTY JANE OVERHOLT	Santa Fe, NM
CLAYTON & BARBARA OVERHOLTS	Agoura, CA
WILL & BETTY OVER- HOLTZER	Rancho Cordova, CA
JAMES OVERHULS	Norwalk, OH
DONALD & RUTH RHINEHART	Painesville, OH
ROBERT & HELEN SHONK	Dover, OH
SPENCER TINKER	Honolulu, HI
JEANE YIGIT	Brookfield, WI

THESE 50 PEOPLE

attended the 1987 Reunion

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Vol. X No. 1 February 1988

Editor - JIM KEHEW
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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Family Association, 413 Appletree
Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

Contributions are welcomed. We'd
like to hear from you.

If for any reason, you do not wish
to receive the BULLETIN, please let
us know.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| MEL BRINTON | Wilmington, Del. |
| CHUCK/PAT/JOEY CARROLL | North Hills, Pa. |
| MARGE CARROLL | North Hills, Pa. |
| BARBARA FORD | Wallingford, Pa. |
| RALPH/DOROTHY GRUVER | Perkasie, Pa. |
| GERTRUDE HAINES | Mt. Holly, N.J. |
| ESTA BUCH HERR | Lititz, Pa. |
| JIM KEHEW | Camp Hill, Pa. |
| DAYTHAL/CAROLYN/CHARLES/
ANDREW KENDALL | Glenside, Pa. |
| FRANK/MARIAN LIVINGOOD | New Holland, Pa. |
| ELLEN LIVINGOOD | Hatfield, Pa. |
| KATHERN MAINE | Millersville, Pa. |
| MICHAEL/KATHY/GEOFFREY/
STEPHANIE MARTIN | Rahway, N.J. |
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| RONALD L. OBERHOLTZER | N. Cape May, N.J. |
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OVERHOLT | Arlington, Va. |
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| WILLARD OVERHOLTZER | Rancho Cordova, Cal. |
| VIRGINIA PERRY | Phoenix, Ariz. |
| DAN/MILDRED PETTIGREW | Pottstown, Pa. |
| PAUL/NAOMI PLETCHER | New Holland, Pa. |
| MILDRED/BETTY POLEY | Souderton, Pa. |
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| JAMES/RUTH RUNYON | Reading, Pa. |
| SAMUEL SKILES | White Horse, Pa. |
| RICHARD STEVENS | Lititz, Pa. |

WHERE TO SEND

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

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313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

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(Note: THE BULLETIN is financed
solely by voluntary contributions
of the members.)

NEWSLETTER ITEMS, NEW MEMBERS,
CHANGES OF ADDRESS, BACK ISSUES

Jim Kehew, Editor
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

OVERHOLTZER REUNION IN IOWA

Our Iowa Overholtzer cousins held their 64th annual Reunion on Aug. 2, 1987, in Tingley, Iowa. Six different states were represented in the 63 people in attendance. After a bountiful dinner, the business meeting was held. Two couples from New Windsor, MD were recognized as having come the greatest distance, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Overholtzer and Mr. and Mrs. Phillip I. Overholtzer. Marie and Jack Kendall will host the 1988 Reunion on the first Sunday in August. The Iowa Overholtzers are descended from Christian Overholtzer who is the subject of the recent book by Grace Milligan, 7511 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64114. Our thanks to OFA members John and Mary Overholtzer for this report.

A NEW OBERHOLTZER CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GERMAN PALATINATE AND LANCASTER CO., PA.

The July 1987 issue of PENNSYLVANIA MENNONITE HERITAGE contains an article entitled "Christian Ells Martin" by Jason S. Martin. The author traces his immigrant ancestors from Lancaster County, PA to the German Palatinate and, I believe, may be a significant "research roadmap" for Oberholtzer immigrants with ties to Lancaster County. This well-written 13-page article is capsulized as follows:

About 1720, Johann Anton Weber received title to 1000 acres in the Weaverland area of Lancaster County. He set aside 370 acres pending arrival of his daughter, Anna (Weber) Martin and her husband, David Martin. David and Anna left Rotterdam on the ship Molly which arrived in Philadelphia Sept. 30, 1727. Anna died en route and was buried at sea. David Martin settled on the land reserved for him and soon thereafter married Barbara, granddaughter of Hans Herr.

David Martin's father, Christian Martin, born 1669, came on the ship Pink Plaisance Sept. 21, 1732 and made his home with his son. Christian had been counted a year earlier (Nov 1731) in a membership list of 13 Kraichgau Anabaptist congregations and was included in the Bockschaft congregation.

David Martin's brother, Hans Heinrich Martin (1701-1784), came on the ship Britannia Sept. 21, 1731 with his wife, Anna Oberholtzer, and four children. A fifth child apparently died en route. This family settled "on Conestoga Creek". A family bible indicates five more children were born in America.

Prior to their departure for Pennsylvania, Hans Heinrich (age 27) and Anna (age 28) had lived on a rented farm in the Kraichgau region of the Palatinate, close to Biegelhof and Grombach. This area is 4 miles from Bockschaft. Historical records for this area are believed kept in archives at Karlsruhe.

This article clearly establishes a new direct connection between Oberholtzers in Lancaster County and a specific area of the Palatinate. It provides a

well-documented example of how family members who originated in the same area came to settle close to one another at a new location. It was very interesting to observe an example of how adult brother and parents did not necessarily travel on the same ship.

Each new clue to Oberholtzer family research seems to generate additional questions. Several come to mind:

1. Was Anna (Oberholtzer) Martin (1731 immigrant) a sister or cousin of:

A. Jno. Overholtzer who left Rotterdam on the ship Friendship which arrived Oct. 16, 1727? (Jno. reported dead.)

B. Samuel Overholtz who came on the ship Molly Sept. 30, 1727 and settled in Lancaster County?

C. Hans Jacob Oberholtzer who came on the ship Alexander and Ann Sept. 5, 1730?

D. Jacob Oberholtzer who came Aug. 11, 1732 on the ship Samuel as a widower (age 28) with children Elisabeth (age 6) and Samuel (age 3)?

2. Is it just a coincidence that David Martin came together with Samuel Overholtz Sept. 30, 1727 on the ship Molly and both settled in Lancaster County?

3. Could there be a close family connection between any of the Oberholtzers who came between 1727 and 1732 and Martin Oberholtzer and Michael Oberholtzer who came in 1710 with Hans Herr, Martin Kendig, Wendel Bowman and others, "As far as the Conestoga and there selected a tract of ten thousand acres to the North of Pequea Creek"?

4. Does it not seem more than coincidence that David Martin met and married Hans Herr's granddaughter, or that Elisabeth Oberholtzer (who came at age 6 with father Jacob in 1732) would later meet and marry Christian Bauman (1724-1790) son of 1710 immigrant Wendel Bowman?

5. Does the archive at Karlsruhe contain additional clues valuable to Oberholtzer research?

Will Overholtzer
2440 El Pavo Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

MEET BARBARA FORD

I'm sure you are wondering who the new genealogist is. I was born in Pittsburgh and was very close to the Kehew family which included my second cousin "Editor Jim". In 1946 I married Shelly Ford and moved to suburban Philadelphia where we raised our two sons, Jim and Steve, who have given me six grandchildren.

My interest in genealogy started about 22 years ago when Steve and I visited Deep Run Cemetery, Bucks County, where our ancestor Martin Oberholtzer (1709-1744) is buried. I've done research for others and the past four years I have been helping a gal who is writing a book on one of my husband's families in Bucks County. I have also helped John L. Overholt with research for his article on Marcus Oberholtzer in the PENNSYLVANIA MENNONITE HERITAGE.

My husband never understood my great interest in genealogy even when I found he had an ancestor who was a colonel in the Revolutionary War and a delegate from Bucks to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1776 when the first Pennsylvania Constitution was written (I had an ancestor at the same convention from Bedford County). My husband's eyes would "glaze over" as I used to tell him of my "great finds" but I got his attention one time when I told him that he was not related to Commodore Oliver H. Perry - a story he had believed all his life. Yes, he did have a relative Oliver H. Perry who died in 1855 at age 2-1/2, a little young to be a commodore. Never trust family tradition!

I'm a Deacon in the Wallingford Presbyterian Church, a volunteer at the Fair Acres Geriatric Center, member of the Genealogical Society of Pa., Bucks Co. Genealogical Society, Delaware Co. Historical Society, and Palatines to America. In my spare time, I make doll house furniture.

It is very difficult to step into Spencer Overholser's footsteps after his many years of devotion to the OFA.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is my 13th and last BULLETIN. In June 1986, another organization I belong to, the Bicycling Federation of Pennsylvania, was about to fold. I felt very strongly that such an organization was badly needed and led an effort to revive it, with the result that I ended up as executive director and editor of its quarterly newsletter, both volunteer positions. I felt I could handle the demands of both organizations but after a year and a half of putting out 6 newsletters a year and trying to keep up with the correspondence that both publications generated, I find I can't give either job the attention it deserves. Always trying to catch up takes the edge off the fun of it.

During the last six years, I have really enjoyed the opportunities being editor has given me -- becoming involved deeply in genealogy and meeting a host of wonderful people both in person and through the mail. I will still be active in the Association, especially with regard to my (Overholt) line. Most of the material I have accumulated will be turned over to our energetic and competent Genealogist, Barbara Ford, who in the short time she has been in the position has won the respect of those she has helped.

Thank you for the support and cooperation you have given me. I will always consider this experience one of the most pleasurable of my life.

JIM KEHEW

On Latter Day Saints microfiche I found one JACOB OBERHOLT, son of Fredrick and Jeanette, christened on 16 July 1775, Christ Lutheran Church, York, PA. Does anyone know who this is?

Theresa Overholser
144 Beechwood Drive
Granville, OH 43023

I thrive on a challenge and I'm looking forward to helping solve some of your genealogy problems.

LETTER FROM SOUTH AFRICA

(Herewith the latest correspondence from our South African relative, J. J. (HANNES) OBERHOLZER, who is Chief Director of the Museums Dept. of the city of Durban.)

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the Aug. issue of the newsletter. I am particularly interested in the article about the ornithologist, H.C. Oberholser. Being head of a museums department in which ornithology is a major discipline, I might be able to assist in tracing our scientific relative if I could have a photocopy of his list of publications.

Spencer (Tinker's) statement that H. C. Oberholser is the only member of the family who has broken into scientific print in the last 40 years may be correct for America. As far as South Africa is concerned, and depending on one's definition of "scientist", this statement is definitely not true.

Various local members of the family have published extensively on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from philosophy and education (my late uncle Prof. C. K. Oberholzer and his daughter, the late Dr. R. Oberholzer), theological matters (Prof. Bart Oberholzer) to historical tomes (Prof. J. J. Oberholster), and others.

My own contribution consists of some fifty publications dealing with subjects as varied as the morphology and taxonomy of the larvae of what you Americans call May or June beetles; the pioneers of early aviation in South Africa; the administration of national museums; the elegant grasshopper and its control; the greatest hunt in history; early ballooning adventures, and research in museums and policy for the conservation of the material cultural heritage (an adaptation of my Ph.D. thesis which is now in print). You will also find my name in the acknowledgements in James Michener's book "The Covenant".

HANNES

(Hannes included brochures about the city of Carletonville located in the

Transvaal in one of the world's richest gold mining areas. It is adjacent to the old village of OBERHOLZER which was set aside for the settlement of citizens of the Netherlands and which lost the fight to retain its name when the local area was renamed.)

Spencer Tinker, our member in Honolulu who first brought Harry Church Oberholser to our attention, has since sent a biographical reference of the internationally renowned ornithologist. He was born in Brooklyn June 25, 1870, son of Jacob and Lavera S. Oberholser, married Mary Forrest Smith in 1914, lived most of his life in Cleveland, and died Dec. 25, 1963.

He was also a biologist, zoologist, curator, professor, explorer, lecturer, author, and member of scientific societies in Germany, India, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Hungary, Spain, and Great Britain as well as many in the U.S. His literary output ranged from studies of birds in Louisiana to those of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa and of the Anamba Islands in the South China Sea.

We have sent Hannes copies of the biographical sketch and list of his monographs and anticipate with interest the outcome of his research on this illustrious scientist.

FROM THE GENEALOGIST

From correspondence, I have found that the following people come from the same line - ABRAHAM WHITMORE OVERHOLT, d 1826, Preble Co. Ohio. He m 1 Catherine Gossett, Franklin Co. VA 1800, m 2 Barbara Brubaker, Franklin Co. VA 1807. Some of the letters were 19 yrs. old but I'll be glad to send the information I have if any are interested.

KATHLEEN A. OVERHOLSER, St. Paul, MN
BONNIE LILLYWHITE, Orange, CA
SUE FIELD, Zionsville, IN
MRS. ROSS OVERHOLSER, Cottage Grove, OR
JOEL OVERHOLSER, Ft. Benton, MT

BARBARA FORD

MINUTES OF 1987 REUNION

The Overholser Family Association held its 78th Reunion on Saturday, Aug. 22, 1987, in the Terre Hill (PA) Fire Hall. The meeting was opened by the new president, John Oswald. Frank Livingood gave the invocation which was followed by introductions of all in attendance.

Prizes were awarded by Marjorie Carroll to: Willard Overholtzer (traveled farthest--California), Stephanie Martin (youngest--2-1/2 months), Robin Overholt (nearest birthday--August 14), Frank & Marian Livingood (live closest--New Holland), Robert Oberholser (oldest--95), and Ronald Oberholtzer (most great-grandchildren--18).

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the February BULLETIN. The treasurer's report, audited by Robert Oberholser, was given by Marjorie Carroll and approved as presented. The necrologist's report will be filed and printed in the next issue of the Association BULLETIN.

Chuck Carroll will head a nominating committee which will present a slate of officers for election at next year's meeting. Marjorie Carroll read a letter from Margaret Oberholser Lawrence who got her hair bobbed without permission before giving a recitation at the 1918 reunion.

Marjorie will collect favorite family recipes from members of the Association to be compiled into a cookbook which will be published prior to the 1988 Reunion. They should be sent to her at 319 Monroe Avenue, North Hills, PA 19038.

The president announced that anyone desiring a copy of the color photo of this year's reunion attenders can order such from him at a cost of \$5.00 per photo. He also has copies available of the MENNONITE HERITAGE REVIEW containing an article on the Marcus line.

The date for the next Reunion will be August 27, 1988. The location and schedule will remain the same as the past several years. An opportunity was presented for those who had brought items to exhibit or who had a story to relate. Mildred Pettigrew showed a spear and bow from a missionary in the Congo. John H. Overholt, just back from Germany, brought a gift of raclette cheese from Rosy Oberholzer for Spencer and Ruth Overholser. Will Overholtzer showed a picture of a coat of arms in a church at Einsiedeln, Switzerland which was very much like ours. Kathern Maine has a copy of ours in color.

The meeting was closed with the singing of the reunion song led by Ruth Overholser.

Respectfully submitted,
ELLEN LIVINGOOD
Recording Secretary

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

MARGARET (Mrs. John P.) ARNOLD	5406 E. Bald Eagle Blvd., White Bear Lake, MN 55110
HELEN G. BOGENER	296 Pinedale, Drive, St. Charles, MO 63301
REX & JEAN CROM	336 N. 25th, Beatrice, NE 68310
SYLVIA (Mrs. H. W.) FRIDLEY	1790 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA 16148
DEAN LANDIS	Star Rt, Box 379A, Jackson, WY 83001
MICHAEL & KATHY MARTIN	832 Richard Blvd., Rahway, NJ 07065
DENNY MAYER	5246 Summit Ridge Drive, Durham, NC 27712
DAVID & BETTY JANE OVERHOLT	686 Callecita Jicarilla, Santa Fe, NM 87505
DR. RICHARD H. OVERHOLT	135 Francis St., Boston, MA 02215
ROBERT E. & LOIS OVERHOLT	223 N. Main St., Spencerville, OH 45887
CLAYTON & BARBARA OVERHOLTS	Good Sam Club 1828593, Box 404, Agoura, CA 91301
SALLY W. (Mrs. John N.) POOLE	140 N. Church St., Mount Pleasant, PA 15666
CHARLOTTE WESTERMAN	303 N. Chestnut St., Scottdale, PA 15683

OFFICIAL 1987 REUNION PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY DAN PETTIGREW



- 1st row (l to r) Robin Overholt, John Overholt, Warren Overholt, Joe Carroll, Chuck Carroll, Geoffrey Martin, Michael Martin, Andrew Kendall, Charlie Kendall
- 2nd row Esta Herr, Pat Carroll, Robert Oberholser, John Oswald, Kathy Martin, Stephanie Martin, Marge Carroll, Mildred Pettigrew
- 3rd row Pauline Oswald, Samuel Skiles, Margaret Overholt, John Overholt, Peg Overholt, Ruth Overholser
- 4th row Dick Stevens, Marion Rohrbach, Kathern Maine, Gertrude Haines, Jean Overholt, Darwin Overholt, Dorothy Gruver, Ralph Gruver, Willard Overholtzer, Spencer Overholser
- 5th row Barbara Ford, Jim Kehew, Lawrence Richmond, Carolyn Kendall, Mel Brinton (dark), Daythal Kendall, James Runyon, Ruth Runyon (dark), Marian Livingood (hidden), Ellen Livingood (dark), Frank Livingood, Ronald Oberholtzer

QUERIES

Amy and Harland Young, the Canadian couple who attended the 1986 Reunion, were looking for information on the parents of Amy's great-great-grandfather, JOHN OVERHOLT, who was supposedly born 1779-80 at Deep Run, Bucks County, PA and who later settled in the Township of Louth, Lincoln County, Ontario, Canada, married Sarah Hand and had 3 sons. He died at Staten Island, NY as a traitor. If anyone can help them, they may be reached at 1386 Pelham St., Box 464, Fonthill, Ont. LOS IEO, Canada.

Denny Mayer, 5246 Summit Ridge Drive, Durham, NC 27712, wonders if the BARBARA OBERHOLTZER, wife of Christian Fretz and mother of Elizabeth and Henry, is the same as the Barbara who was the wife of Rev. Henry Rosenberger and mother of Elizabeth.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/23/86	\$222.34
RECEIPTS	
Reunion Contributions	181.00
Contributions -	387.50
8/23/86-8/20/87	
Note Pad Sales	8.00
Interest	<u>14.56</u>
Total Receipts	<u>591.06</u>
	\$813.40
EXPENDITURES	
Printing BULLETIN	175.11
Mailing BULLETIN	110.00
Fire Hall rental	25.00
Misc. Expenses	153.47
(phone, copies, lab-els, postage, etc.)	
Bank service charge	<u>5.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>468.58</u>
Balance 8/20/87	\$344.82

OFFICERS

President JOHN OSWALD, 1300 Fayette St. #112, Conshohocken, PA 19428
1st Vice President MILDRED PETTIGREW, 816 N. Evans St., Pottstown, PA 19464
2nd Vice President RICHARD STEVENS, 224 Swarthmore Dr., Lititz, PA 17543
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Chaplain REV. JOHN R. WEILER, Bethlehem, PA
Necrologist ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER, RD 2, Ardena, Freehold, NJ 07728
Genealogist BARBARA FORD, 313 Henry Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086
Editor JIM KEHEW, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

MARRIAGES

STEVEN DeMARCO and MARY HUFFMAN, Sept. 11, 1936
LEILA B. FERGUSON and PAUL N. HERR, May 8, 1987
JOHN H. FREY and BETH ANN COOPER, Aug. 29, 1987

DEATHS

JOSEPH FRANK, husband of Florence Kurtz Frank, Aug. 18, 1987
MIKE JOHNSON, husband of Terri Ernsbarger Johnston, June 18, 1987
JAMES A. OVERHOLSER, July 10, 1986

BIRTHS

JACLYN MICHELE COOK, granddaughter of Ronald Lawrence Oberholtzer, Aug. 19, 1987
SUSANNA JANE LaBARRE, daughter of Laura DeCoppet and Kenneth LaBarre, Jr., July 23, 1986
ALLISON LEIGH MORTON, daughter of James and Kimberly Morton, Sept. 5, 1986
ABIGAIL RENEE STEVENS, daughter of Richard and Randee Stevens, May 18, 1987

ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER

Overholser Family Association

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