



## GREETINGS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

My name is not OVERHOLSER- nor any other spelling of the name. Our elder statesman, cousin Robert M, told me that once only an Overholser could qualify to be president of this family organization. (no woman would DARE). I fail both these qualifications, so maybe you will want to impeach me. If not, then I'll be your president for 1989 & 1990.

I lost the Overholser name in 1864 when Daniel IV's daughter, Anna Landis Overholser, born to a Mennonite family who lived in Terre Hill, married David Kemper Wolf. He was a board member at Millersville Normal School when Annie was a student there. A girl? A Mennonite? A college student in 1858?? AN OVERHOLSER!!!

Alice Jane Wolfe was their daughter. She married Wesley Schaffner Brown (Evangelicals) and Samuel David Brown, born in Lincoln, was my father.

I may never again see the house where I was born. That house at 206 Duke St., Ephrata, PA and other buildings will be torn down to make room for a Performing Arts Center planned by Donneckers. Soon Ephrata will be Donneckerville.

"In the old days", I went to the OVERHOLSER REUNION when 99% of the people were descendants of Daniel IV. No introductions were necessary. People came to eat & talk.

The next reunion I remember was 8/1936. I had just graduated  
(continued page 2)

## 80th ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday August 26, 1989

Place: Terre Hill Fire Hall  
Terre Hill PA

Details (including map) in the August BULLETIN. Keep the date and plan to come! The 1st OFA Reunion was 1906 which would make this the 83rd but there were no reunions for 3 years during World War II. If you are interested in tracing your line, we have experts to help you solve your problem. You can't beat the Lancaster-Berks County area for beauty so plan to come and enjoy the reunion and the countryside. We hope to see you there.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cathy Brown 676 Fir Ave, Langhorne Gables PA 19047  
Jeanette Davidson 1503 S 2nd St, Floresville TX 78114  
Marilyn Delano 1106 E 5th St, McCook NE 69001  
Karen H Ermutlu 7011 Somerset Circle, Alpharetta GA 30201  
Mabel Hendricks 7339 Davies Dr, NE Rockford MI 49341  
Mrs Charles Huffman PO Box 135, Attica KS 67009  
J Victor Kemper PO Box 129, Fair Oaks CA 95628-0129  
Jo Ann Kester 7605 Windham Rd, Tipp City OH 45371  
Bill & Betty Loughlin 1121 Dogwood Ct, Pottstown PA 19464  
Elaine Larson PO Box 55500, North Pole AK 99705-0500  
C Dorothy McLean 105 Orchard Lane, Feasterville PA 19047  
Philip Martin PO Box 271, Blacksburg VA 24063-0271  
Beverly Molstad 810 S Cottage Grove, Miles City MT 59301  
Helen Nightingale PO Box 2019, Renton WA 98056-0019  
John Oberholtzer 4322 Crestview Rd, Harrisburg PA 17112  
Mandi A Oberholtzer 3092 Grape Way, Chico CA 95926  
Ardelle Reed PO Box 1341, Richlands VA 24641  
Janice Sanford 3428 Kansas Ave, Omaha NE 68111  
Jerold Stahly 323 N Mulberry St, Lancaster PA 17603

OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XI No. 1 February 1989

Editor - Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086

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413 Appletree Rd, Camp Hill,  
PA 17011

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

WHERE TO SEND

**BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES**

Robert M Oberholser  
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Freehold, NJ 07728

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Mrs Marjorie Carroll  
Treasurer  
319 Monroe Ave  
North Hills PA 19038

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

**QUERIES, NEW MEMBERS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry La Wallingford PA  
19086

from Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA and was trying to find a teaching job. So were hundreds of other graduates. Just before we left for the reunion, the telephone rang. It was Dr Arthur P Mylin, Superintendent of Lancaster Co Schools & he said there was a language position open in Quarryville. On the way home from Long's Park in Lancaster, my father drove through Quarryville. It was my first sight of the town where I would live for the next 6 years. After teaching 3 more years in Springfield, Dela.Co I married Dan Pettigrew & raised 3 children in Pottstown PA where I live today.

In 1976, shortly before I retired, I found an announcement of the OVERHOLSER REUNION signed by Spencer Overholser. Soon after, the genealogical bug bit me and I found a Spencer Overholser in our phone book. Surely there can be only ONE Spencer Overholser (ONLY ONE). When I knocked at his door in Oley and introduced myself, he said, "Come in & we'll talk." So here I am.

My 10 years of family research led to Germany. Collecting dead relatives led to finding live cousins who live along the Rhine. They invite me to their homes. Each spring I accept all invitations.

Other countries came to America to coloize, to trade, & to make money. Our ancestors came to work the land & enjoy the freedom they never knew in Switzerland & Germany. I'm proud to be a German. I'm proud to have Overholser blood running through my veins.

Let's keep the Overholser Family Association alive.

See you all at the Reunion  
August 26. 1989  
Mildred Brown Pettigrew, President

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**ALBERHALTZER**

Another spelling for Oberholtzer was found in the 1910 Census. Because of the poor spelling of the census takers and the fact that the census was so dull on some pages, the spelling Alberhaltzer appeared in the Soundex for 1910. Which shows that in checking the census, all spellings should be considered.

### OKLAHOMA OVERHOLERS

In the last BULLETIN there was an article on Henry Overholser of Oklahoma. Recently, I found his family and since a few people have "claimed" him as a relative, I thought I would include the family.

Jacob Overholser 3/9/1770-3/14/1850 m 1 Elizabeth, 2 Catherine (Miller) Overholser, widow of Abraham Overholser. Jacob emigrated from Pa c1813 and came down the Ohio River, then to Dayton and Union. All his children were born Quemahoning Twn Somerset Co PA. His son John Overholser 1809-1862 mar 3/12/1827 Elizabeth Neiswenger 1810-1890.

Children of John & Elizabeth Overholser-

- 1 Samuel Overholser 1829-1864 (Civil War) m Caroline Long
- 2 Noah Overholser 1831-1906 CA
- 3 Mary Overholser 1832 m Jesse Hiestand
- 4 Jacob Overholser 1833 bur Brookville, Mont. Co OH
- 5 Levi Overholser 1836 m Mary E Young Res IL, OK
- 6 John Overholser 1838-1889 m Virilinda Res IL
- 7 Eleanor Overholser 1840 m Dr Nathaniel Steele Res IL
- 8 Joseph Overholser 1843
- 9 Harvey Overholser 1844-1896 m Mollie Bausman Res Mont.Co OH
- 10 Henry Overholser 1846-1915 m 1 Emma Hannah Res IN  
m 2 Anna Murphy Res OK
- 11 William Overholser 1848 Res Douglas AZ
- 12 Eliza Overholser 1850 m Joseph Myers Res AR
- 13 Jesse Overholser 1852-1921 m Katie Bausman Res OH
- 14 Amanda Overholser Res Dodson OH

### MADGE OBERHOLTZER

In the last BULLETIN there was a story of Madge Oberholtzer of Indianapolis IN who was tormented and raped by D C Stevenson. Recent information shows that she was the d/o George and granddaughter of Augustus Oberholtzer. See Loomis' Jacob Oberholtzer p 125.

### AN EARLY OBERHOLTZER?

Among the papers of Rev I E Oberholtzer was a piece of paper saying-"There is an A N Oberholtzer who was one of the signers of the 1st public document in 1688 found in Germantown." To date, your editor has been unable to find any reference to an Oberholtzer living in Germantown at that time.

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The April 1989 issue of Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage will have a very interesting article by Jerry Stahly of Lancaster, Pa titled "THE FAMILY OF JACOB OBERHOLTZER (1704-1755) OF BRECKNOCK TOWNSHIP, LANCASTER CO PA". We are delighted that Jerry has written about this family because it answers alot of questions we have had for a long time.

## A TRIBUTE TO REV I E OBERHOLTZER

Rev I E Oberholtzer was a minister & a missionary in China for 27 years. He was very actively involved in the Oberholtzer research for many years and he spent much of his time writing letters from China to a long list of people in many, many states. When he was in the States, on leave, he would try to visit as many people as possible. In 1957 his wife, Mrs Isaiah E Oberholtzer of Trotwood OH, sent his material to Spencer Overholser. We owe alot to this diligent researcher.

### QUERIES

Philip L Martin, P O Box 271, Blacksburg, VA 24063-0271 writes that his wife descends from Ann Overholser who mar 1792 Andrew Griner in Shenandoah Co VA. Is there anyone related to the same line? Ann was the d/o Samuel & Maria Eva Hauswirth Oberholtzer. Philip would also like to contact anyone doing research on the Cassel line.

Mandi Adams Oberholtzer 3092 Grape Way, Chico, CA 95926 would like to correspond with anyone working on her branch of the Lancaster Co family-I Samuel Oberholtzer (came 1727), II Martin, III Samuel, IV Christian, V Henry H b 1825 mar Levina Reist-moved to Iowa

Jo Ann Kester 7605 Windham Rd Tipp City OH has a branch of the Virginia Overholtz family. Joseph Overholtz d 1839 in Preble Co OH-he mar 1821 Hannah Kinsey d/o Jacob. Both Joseph & Hannah were born in Virginia. Jo Ann and your editor would like to hear from anyone related to this line. It is believed that Joseph is the s/o David, brother of Abraham Whitmore Overholtz of Virginia and Preble Co Ohio.

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### FREDERICKSBURG REUNION

Ruth & Spence Overholser and your editor attended the Fredericksburg Pa Oberholtzer Association 8th Reunion 9/17/88 I enjoyed meeting their genealogist and editor, Luanne Hanks, who came from Glens Ferry, Idaho. She plans to publish a book on their line, and from research, it is believed, that they just might be from Martin Oberholtzer who came 1710 on the Mary Hope.

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### A REMINDER

Our 1st BULLETIN was 2/1979, edited by Spencer Overholser and over the years we have never had dues which, we believe, is unique among Family Associations. We depend entirely on the contributions of our members, either at the Reunion or through the mail. As you can see by the Treasurer's Report our balance does get a little low. Our officers, editor and genealogist are all volunteers who give freely of their time. If you haven't contributed to the Association in some time, please consider a contribution with a check to our Treasurer.

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

BIRTHS

Emily Louise Kirk b 8/9/1987 d/o Thomas & Patricia Kirk  
 Spenser Joel Morton b 8/13/1987 s/o Michael & Deni Morton  
 Rebekah Suzanne Morton b 6/28/1988 d/o Jeff & Annette Morton  
 Brooke Alexandra Eckman b 2/13/1988 d/o Gregory & Cheryl Lynn  
 Ferguson Eckman  
 David Shaun Carroll b 4/7/1986 & adopted 12/7/1987 by Chuck &  
 Pat Carroll  
 David Stephen Ford b 6/2/1987 s/o Stephen & Rita Ford &  
 grandson of Barbara B Ford

DEATHS

James E Morton 3/4/1988, husband of Kimberly Morton & 4th  
 great grandson of IV Christian Oberholtzer,  
 Joseph Eiva Overholser 7/9/1988 at 102 s/o Levi & Emmeline  
 (Miller) Overholser in Bradford, OH  
 Dr Ira Sassaman 3/10/1988, husband of Mary Watts Sassaman,  
 of Hummelstown, PA at age 78  
 Sara Histan Overholt 11/1/1987 w/o Vernon Schmidt & d/o  
 Susie Overholt Histan & Samuel S Histan, Lindale, VA  
 William H Beu 1/11/1986, husband of Margaret (Goshen) Beu who  
 was d/o VI William Goshen & V Mary Ellen Overholser  
 Bernice Oberholser Layton 6/29/1988, a 97, d/o VI Harlan  
 Baldwin Oberholser at Bull Shoals AR  
 Lytle Oberholser 6/1988 s/o Kurtz & Rebecca (Skiles) Ober-  
 holser, Salisbury Twn, Lancaster Co PA

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/23/1987		\$344.82
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
Reunion Contributions	\$179.00	
Note Pad Sale	7.50	
Lineage Copies	1.25	
Interest	16.91	
Contributions 8/23/87-8/26/88	<u>397.00</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>601.66</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		\$946.48
Rental of Fire Hall	\$25.00	
Printing of BULLETIN	484.80	
Postage	170.00	
Phone Calls	19.60	
Miscellaneous (labels, mailing lists, postage, stationery, etc)	<u>117.34</u>	
Total expenses		<u>816.74</u>
TREASURY BALANCE as of 8/26/88		\$129.74
MARJORIE CARROLL, Treasurer		

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Due to circumstances beyond my control, the temporary editor has become the editor. It won't be easy following in the footsteps of Jim Kehew who was editor for 7 years but I'll enjoy the challenge. I find the job of genealogist most rewarding, especially when someone writes to say "I have to admit I was so overcome with emotion that I cried when I got your letter with the results of your research on my family." That makes it all worthwhile.

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UPDATE

Bill Oberholtzer, 1979 Ravenwood Dr, Bethlehem PA, is doing a great job on the family of Jacob Oberholtzer 1741-1811 of Berks Co PA who married Esther Blehn 1741-1816. He would like to hear from you if you are related to this line.

Ron Oberholtzer, 604 Winslow Ave, North Cape May NJ has finished compiling THE FAMILY OF HANS JACOB OBERHOLTZ IN AMERICA DATING FROM SEPTEMBER 1730. Hans Jacob settled in Hatfield, Montgomery Co, PA.

MINUTES OF THE 1988 REUNION

The Overholser Family Association held its 79th reunion on Saturday, August 27, 1988, at the Terre Hill (PA) Fire Hall with 50 people attending. The meeting was called to order by the president, John Oswald. All present introduced themselves and, if possible, identified the Overholser line from which they descended.

The minutes were approved as printed in the February, 1988 BULLETIN. Deaths which had occurred during the past year were reported by necrologist, Robert Oberholser. The treasurer's report was given by treasurer, Marjorie Carroll, and approved as presented.

Barbara Ford, the temporary editor of the BULLETIN, announced that she had brought updated genealogies of the Martin--III Samuel line and the III Christian line. Additional information regarding such should be submitted to her.

The president offered a printed article warning of racketeering carried on by some who offer their services to do genealogical research.

Since a new slate of officers had not been prepared for presentation, the present first vice president become president, the second vice president become first vice president and the secretary and treasurer remain in their positions. The executive committee may, at their discretion, appoint a second vice president if they desire or allow the position to remain vacant until next year.

Therefore, the 1988-89 Overholser Family Association officers will be:

President	Mildred Pettigrew
First Vice President	Richard Stevens
Recording Secretary	Ellen Livingood
Treasurer	Marjorie Carroll

Prizes were awarded to the following:

Baldest--Dan Pettigrew  
Closest (Terre Hill resident)--Elizabeth Kurtz  
Farthest (California)--Will Overholtzer  
Youngest--Jerold Stahly  
Lady with Longest Hair--Anna Oberholtzer

Will Overholtzer of Sacramento, California, brought greetings from John and Peg Oberholser. During the past year the two couples had traveled to Switzerland to conduct genealogical studies. Their research uncovered a 1661 exit permit for Overholts immigrating to Germany.

August 26, 1989 will be the date of the next Overholser Family Association annual reunion. It will again be held in the Terre Hall Fire Hall.

The meeting was closed with the singing of "God Bless America".

Respectfully submitted,  
ELLEN J LIVINGOOD, Recording secretary

OFFICIAL 1988 REUNION PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY DAN PETTIGREW



The editor did not receive a list of the people in the picture but listed below are those who attended and are in the picture.

MEL BRINTON Wilmington DE  
MARGE CARROLL North Hills PA  
BARBARA FORD Wallingford PA  
GERTRUDE BAINES Mt Holly NJ  
SARA H HARTING Allentown PA  
ESTA HERR Lititz PA  
JIM REHEW Camp Hill PA  
ELIZABETH KURTZ Terre Hill PA  
NORMAN/MARY LANDIS Soudertown PA  
FRANK/MARIAN LIVINGOOD New Holland PA  
ELLEN LIVINGOOD Hatfield PA  
BILL/BETTY LOUGHLIN Pottstown PA  
ANNA OBERHOLTZER  
ANNA MARY OBERHOLTZER Akron PA  
BILL OBERHOLTZER Bethlehem PA  
FLORENCE OBERHOLTZER  
GRACE OBERHOLTZER  
JOE OBERHOLTZER Bath PA  
MARTHA OBERHOLTZER  
ROBERT OBERHOLSER Freehold NJ  
RON OBERHOLTZER N Cape May NJ

MILDRED OHLINGER Brooklyn NY  
W JOHN OSWALD Conshohocken PA  
BOB/HELEN OVERHOLSER Gap PA  
SPENCER/RUTH OVERHOLSER Wyomissing PA  
WILL OBERHOLTZER Rancho Cordova CA  
VIRGINIA PERRY Phoenix AZ  
DAN/MILLIE PETTIGREW Pottstown PA  
PAUL/NAOMI PLETCHER New Holland PA  
MILDRED/BETTY POLEY Souderton PA  
LARRY/MARIAN RICHMOND Oley PA  
KENNETH/AGNES ROBINSON Coatesville PA  
SAMUEL R SKILES Gap PA  
JEROLD/DELWAR STAHLY Lancaster PA  
RICHARD STEVENS Lititz PA  
JOHN/ELEANOR WEILER Bethlehem PA  
D ERNEST WEINHOLD Manheim PA  
JOHN/BARBARA WOLBACH Easton PA

OFFICERS

President Mildred Pettigrew, 816 N Evans St.  
Pottstown, PA 19464

1st Vice President Willard E Overholtzer, 2440 El Pavo Way,  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

2nd Vice President Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Dr.,  
Lititz, PA 17543

Recording Secretary Ellen Livingood, 1077 Stoneham Circle,  
Hatfield, PA 19440

Honorary President Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive,  
Wyomissing PA 19610

Honorary Vice Pres. Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, PA

Chaplain Rev. John R. Weiler, Bethlehem, PA

Necrologist Robert M Oberholser, RD 2, Ardena,  
Freehold, NJ 07728

Genealogist, Editor Barbara B Ford 313 Henry La.  
Wallingford, PA 19086

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to these members who have contributed to the Association since the last BULLETIN. And let's not forget those kind people who contributed at the Reunion. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Retta Cunningham, Canyon TX  
 Jeanette Davidson, Floresville TX  
 Karen Ermutlu, Alpharetta GA  
 Naomi Ruth Howard, Marthasville MO  
 Victor Kemper, Fair Oaks CA  
 Jo Ann Kester, Tipp City OH  
 Carol Lowum, Chicago IL  
 C Dorothy McLean, Feasterville PA  
 Kathern Maine, Millersville PA  
 Helen Nightengale, Renton WA  
 Mandi Oberholtzer, Chico CA

Dwight Overholser, N Manchester IN  
 Lyle Overholser, Oak Ridge TN  
 Clayton & Barbara Overholts,  
 Agoura CA  
 Will & Betty Overholtzer,  
 Rancho Cordova CA  
 Jim Overhuls, Norwalk OH  
 Bert Overhultz, Baton Rouge LA  
 JoAnne Reiter, Camp Hill PA  
 Sarah Ann Stauffer, Rohrestown PA  
 Dorothy Strappe, Elmwood IL  
 Beth Wilkins, Santa Rosa CA

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