

# Overholser Family Association



# Bulletin

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## Tracing the Oberholtzers Will Oberholtzer Rancho Cordova CA

We don't know the specific place or origin in Germany of the 1727 Samuel Oberholtzer who came on the ship MOLLY. We know that he left Rotterdam with about 300 natives and inhabitants of the Palatinate.

We know of a widow Oberholtzer (her husband killed-drowned-for religious views) from Wald (near Oberholtz) Canton Zurich, Switzerland who left in 1651 with three adult sons and three grandchildren for the Sinsheim region of the German Palatinate. Palatine census lists show Oberholtzers during the period 1664-1730 in Sinsheim and in various villages within 15 km south of Sinsheim (Immelhauserhof, Birkenuerhof, Buchenuerhof, Hilsbach, Duhren, Elsenz, Richen, Ittlingen, Bockshaft, Reihen, & Steinfurt). In 1717 there were also Oberholtzers in Oppau and Friesenheim.

Jacob Oberholtzer who came 1732 was from Duhren (3 km south of Sinsheim). Anna Oberholtzer, wife of Hans Heinrich Martin, came in 1731 on ship BRITANNIA. Hans and Anna had lived at Bockshaft-7 km SE of Sinsheim. Hans Martin had a brother David who came on the ship MOLLY with the 1727 Samuel. 1732 Jacob Oberholtzer's daughter, Maria married 1727 David Martin's son, Abraham Martin.

We see that 1727 Samuel, 1731 Anna and 1732 Jacob all knew one another and settled close together in Lancaster Co. They were

## 81ST ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday

August 25, 1990

Place: Terre Hill Fire Hall  
Terre Hill PA

Details (including map) in the August BULLETIN. Keep the date and plan to come! 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.

possibly related (maybe brothers and sisters). The place of origin of 1727 Samuel is probably Sinsheim (plus or minus 7 km south). Sinsheim is located in the northern Krauchau region of Germany (between the Rhein and Nectar Rivers, southeast of Heidelberg).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charlene Aitken 16091 Gold Circle Huntington Beach CA 92647  
Barbara Bernhardt 108 So Princeton Ave Swarthmore PA 19081  
Shelly Chapman P O Box 156 Kahoka MO 63445  
M/W Fred S Cook 19944 Doyle Place East Grosse Pointe Woods MI 48236  
Marjorie O Fox 2911 N Main Ave San Antonio TX 78212  
Carol R Kresge 769 Seven Hills La St Charles MO 63303  
Charles E Koons 95 Helen St Enon OH 45323  
Arlene Martin 2804 Normandy Dr Mishawaka IN 46545  
Eva M Nolt RT #3 Box 321-A Versailles MO 65084  
Larry Overholser 4813 Bramble Way Shreveport LA 71118  
Robert S Overholt 1405 Baritone Ct Vienna VA 22180-1601  
Robert J Ware Jr P O Box 190427 Mobile AL 36619

OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XII No. 1 February 1990

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313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086

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holser Family Association,  
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**

Rev John R Weiler  
1825 Center St #A-105  
Bethlehem PA 18017

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Richard I Stevens Sr  
Treasurer  
224 Swarthmore Dr  
Lititz PA 17543

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

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

Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry La Wallingford PA  
19086

**OBERHOLTZER-NASH INDEX**

Melva L Taylor of Clarkston MI has compiled a complete index of the OBERHOLTZER & NASH FAMILY HISTORIES by A J Fretz which the Association is offering for a \$3.00 donation (postage included). The original book has an index but it is missing many names so we are pleased to offer this index which can be obtained from Barbara Ford.

**THESE 59 PEOPLE**  
Attended the 1989 Reunion

Barbara Bernhardt Swarthmore PA	Jim/Greg Overholser
Nel Brinton Wilmington DE	Lyle Overholser Oak Ridge TN
Helen G Bogener St Charles MO	Bob/Helen Overholser Gap PA
John/Edith Boll Manheim PA	Spencer/Ruth Overholser Wyomissing PA
Chuck/Pat/Joe/Dave Carroll North Hills PA	Will Overholtzer Rancho Cordova CA
Sally Carroll North Hills PA	John/Peg Overholt Kilmarnock VA
Barbara Ford Wallingford PA	Margaret L Overholt Doylestown PA
Gertrude Haines Mt Holly NJ	Robert/Carolyn Overholt Paul/Naomi Pletcher New Holland PA
George/Sara Harting Allentown PA	Dan/Mildred Pettigrew Pottstown PA
Esta B Herr Lititz PA	Virginia R Perry Phoenix AZ
Elizabeth Kurtz Terre Hill PA	Lawrence/Marian Richmond Oley PA
Jlm Kehew Camp Hill PA	Samuel R Skiles Gap PA
Norman R Landis Souderton PA	Jerry Stahly Akron PA
Frank/Marian Livingood New Holland PA	Sarah Ann Stauffer Rohrerstown PA
Nancy Neff Robert M Oberholser Freehold NJ	Dick/Jean Stevens Lititz PA
Anna/Martha Oberholtzer Manheim PA	John/Eleanor Weiler Bethlehem PA
Bill/Helen Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA	D Ernest Weinhold Manheim PA
Florence Oberholtzer	
Nate Oberholtzer	
Ronald L Oberholtzer N Cape May NJ	

From TOGETHER, a newspaper by the Kingview & Scottdale Mennonite Churches of Scottdale PA. In 1990 there will be a 200 year celebration of the Mennonite families who came to Jacob's Creek Valley during 1790-1810. They came from Lancaster and Bucks Co PA and settled in Tyrone and Bullskin Twn., Fayette Co and East Huntingdon Twn., Westmoreland Co. Those early Mennonites in Fayette Co were Henry Freed, John Stouffer, Jacob Strickler, Abraham Stanifer, John Rist, John Shallenberger, Joseph Sherrick, Abraham Newcomer, Jacob Eshelman, & Henry Detweiler. In Westmoreland Co were George Munnaw, Henry Fox, Henry Rosenberger, Martin Overholt, Adam Tinstuan, Henry F Yothers, Christian Stoner, Henry Overholt, Christian Fretz, Peter Louchs, Abraham Ruth, Jacob Tinstuan, & John Funk.

(Ed-Three of my ancestors appear on this list)

## NECROLOGIST'S REPORT 1989

### BIRTHS

Emily Sue Robinson b 7/7/1989 d/o Patrick & Sue Robson, granddaughter of Robert & Ann Wright & great granddaughter of Isaac & Nellie Robinson  
Daniel Wertz Shupe III b 7/15/1988 Silverdale WA, s/o Daniel & Pamela Shupe, 1st great granddaughter of Lorraine Brown Mellinger Neikirk of Frostburg MD (IV Daniel Overholser line)

### MARRIAGES

Linda Sue Hinstead of Perkasio PA & Dale Eugene Mack of Schwenksville PA on 5/6/1989

### DEATHS

Margaret Goshen Beu died 7/4/1988 North Cape May NJ. d/o William Goshen (IV Daniel Overholser line)  
Anna Schrack Ebert 1902-3/1989 (IV Christian & Susanna Oberholser line)  
Ruth LaBarre Belooof 9/20/1922-7/27/1989 Berkeley CA gr gr granddaughter of IV Christian & Susanna Oberholser)  
Dr Milton D Overholser (no dates available)  
Warren E Overhuls died 12/2/1988 Lakewood CA, husband of Evelyn Overhuls, s/o Thomas Virgil & Sallie Dillon Overhuls.  
Rev John H Mosemann 8/6/1907-2/25/1989 Goshen IN, husband of Ruth Landis Mosemann, d/o Samuel & Susie Overholt Landis  
J Shober Barr 5/19/1898-11/8/1989 Lancaster PA. He leaves his wife Irene, 3 children, 9 grandchildren & 9 gr grandchildren. He was athletic director at Franklin & Marshall College and served the college in many other positions until his retirement in 1963. His obituary said that he would be remembered for his sincerity, his integrity, his good rapport with co-workers, alumni and students, and his love and loyalty to his alma mater. He was the s/o Christian & Lulu Shober Barr, grandson of Dr John L & Caroline Watts Shober & gr grandson of IV Elizabeth Overholser Watts

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We all wish to thank Robert M Oberholser for the great job he did as Necrologist for many years. We are indebted to him for the time he has spent helping the Association and, most important, for his booklet on THE SALISBURY TOWNSHIP OBERHOLSERS, the family of IV Christian and Susanna Kurtz Oberholser. Thank you so much, Robert!

Our new necrologist, John Weiler, asks that when you send in a birth, marriage or death that you include the line of descent, if known, and in case of deaths that the birth date also be included, as well as place of death. (John is related to 1727 Samuel Oberholtzer through his father and 1732 Jacob Oberholtzer through his mother)

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In November there was a mini series on television called Cross of Fire which was the story of D C Stephenson, the Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon, who was convicted in 1925 in the death of Madge Oberholtzer of Indianapolis IN. Mention has been made in previous issues reporting that Madge was from Loomis' Jacob Oberholtzer.

### SOLVING A PUZZLE

In September, a letter came from Arlene Martin of Mishawaka IN asking for help in finding the family of Elias Oberholtzer b 1832 OH who mar Sarah Getz. She believed that the parents of Elias were Abraham & Mary Landis Oberholtzer. I replied that I couldn't find the family in my files but would keep looking. Several weeks later I found Abraham & Mary in the family records of Jacob Oberholtzer 1767 (said to be born in Bucks Co PA)-1847 Ashland Co OH. I checked the 1860 census and found Mary living with her children, Hannah, Jesse, Joel and Mary in Mahoning Co OH but I couldn't find her in the 1850 census there. I had found a Betsy Overholts living with Jacob Landies in 1850 (notes had said that Mary was probably the d/o Jacob & Barbara Landis) and I decided to check the census again. Jacob Landies had living with him Polly (Mary) Landies, Eli (Elias) Landies, Jesse Landies, Betsy Overholts and Mary Overholts. I suddenly realized that the census taker had made a mistake. Polly, Eli and Jesse were not Landies', they were Overholts! Family notes had said that Abraham Oberholtzer had disappeared but now this shows that he died before 1850. For some strange reason, I decided to check the 1850 census for Abraham's brother Jonathan and when I found him, it said he was born in Lehigh Co PA. Nearly all the census records only showed the state and it was very rare to have the county given. I knew that Lehigh Co wasn't formed until after Jonathan was born so I looked at the grantor records for Northampton Co that had been the parent county of Lehigh. There I found a Jacob Oberholtzer selling his land in 1804 that he had bought in 1797 from George & Esther Bachman. Family tradition had said that Jacob's first wife was Catherine Baughman and now in checking the will of George Bachman, he mentions daughter Catarina, the wife of Jacob Oberholtzer. OFA member Wilmer Swope of Leetonia OH had been looking for 47 years for the parents of Catherine Baughman and now he had not only the parents of Catarina Bachman, but the grandparents as well. Also interesting is the fact that George Bachman married Esther Oberholtzer d/o Jacob and Barbara who came from the Marcus Oberholtzer line. The research right now is at a standstill because we are trying to find the parents of Jacob Oberholtzer around the Northampton-Bucks Co area. Jacob married his second wife, Elizabeth Mellinger and they had 14 children to add to the 7 from his 1st wife. OFA member Mrs Guy Mellinger of Findlay OH has spent years on this family and she was delighted to hear about the Bachman find.

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### MOVING?

If you are moving, would you please send us your new address. After every issue is sent out, we have BULLETINS returned by the postoffice because of new addresses. The OFA has to pay the postoffice for the returned BULLETINS which means that we pay the original postage plus the return.

TREASURER'S REPORT 8/26/1989

Balance 8/26/1988		\$129.74
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Reunion Contributions & Note Pads	\$195.00	
Contributions 8/27/88-8/25/89	544.00	
Estimated Interest	14.21	
Loan from Barbara Ford	<u>100.00</u>	
Total Receipts		\$853.21
Balance		\$982.95
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Fire Hall Rental	\$25.00	
Barbara Ford, Misc. Exp.	20.00	
Printing Bulletin, Postage & Misc. exp. to Jim Kehew	549.64	
Sunshine Foundation-Memorial to Marjorie Carroll	25.00	
Bank Service Charges (est.)	10.00	
Printing of New Checks	9.85	
Payment of Loan to Barbara Ford	<u>100.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$739.49
Balance		\$243.46
Treasury Balance 8/26/89		\$317.10
Respectfully submitted, Richard I Stevens Sr, Treasurer as of 7/14/89		

SOME OF PRESIDENTS BUSH'S ANCESTORS

Because his ancestors came to America in the 1620's, President Bush's family tree has many branches, according to genealogist Gary Boyd Roberts, director of publications for the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Among his relatives are Abraham Lincoln (a 7th cousin four times removed), Marilyn Monroe (a 9th cousin twice removed), Winston Churchill (an 8th cousin once removed), and Benedict Arnold (a 4th cousin 7 times removed). Bush is even related to Vice President Quayle (a 10th cousin once removed), and they are both related to Adam and Eve!

Spencer Overholser sent the editor a letter that, as president of the Association, he mailed to members about the Reunion in 1961. It was the first time that a Pot Luck (Covered Dish) lunch was served. Up to that time, everyone brought their own lunch. He said it took him 5 years to get up the courage to make the change. We are grateful to him that he did this-otherwise, we wouldn't be enjoying the delicious lunch we now have at the Reunions.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to these members who have contributed to the Association since the last listing and those who were not added in the last BULLETIN. Let us not forget those who contributed at the Reunion, who must remain anonymous. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Charlene Aitken Huntington Beach CA	Robert L McKinley Pleasant Hill TN
M/M Milton Blanding Stanton MI	C Dorothy McLean Feasterville PA
Helen Bogener St Charles MO	Arlene Martin Mishawaka IN
Cland & Eleanor Bray Bull Shoals AR	Beverly Molstad Miles City MT
Shelly Chapman Kahoka MO	Buell & Christine Oberholser San Luis Obispo CA
M/M Fred Cook Grosse Pointe Woods MI	John L Oberholser Narvon PA
Retta M Cunningham Canyon TX	John & Esther Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA
M/M Paul E Dean Leesburg FL	William & Helen Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA
Mary Alice Farnsworth Wheatland WY	Joel Overholser Fort Benton MT
Sue O Field Zionsville OH	David & Betty Jane Overholt Santa Fe NM
Marjorie O Fox San Antonio TX	Margaret L Overholt Doylestown PA
Dorothy Garrison Mercer Island WA	Maurice Overholt Middletown PA
M/M William H Goshen Millville NJ	Mildred Poley Souderton PA
Claire J Hant Albuquerque NM	Ruth Rhinehart Painesville OH
Edith E Hurlburt Chicago IL	M/M Robert W Robson Abelene KS
Dave & Nancy Kehew Camp Hill PA	Helen Shont Dover OH
Charles E Koons Enon OH	Sandy Spence Thousand Oaks CA
Betty Lam Silverton OR	Spencer Tinker Honolulu HI
Mrs Virginia B Lewis Grosse Ile MI	Robert Ware Jr Mobile AL
Mrs Warren T Little Wickliffe OH	

## MINUTES OF THE 1989 REUNION

The Overholser Family Association held its 80th reunion on Saturday, August 26, 1989 at the Terre Hill Fire Hall in Lancaster Co PA. Also celebrating their 80th birthdays in 1989 were two long time members, John Overholt of Kilmarnock VA and Gertrude Haines of Freehold NJ.

People registered, got acquainted with newcomers, then partook of a delicious luncheon buffet provided by those present. A tray of sweet, juicy cantaloupe slices, grown in the region, was a new item on the menu. Naomi Pletcher of New Holland and her sister, Elizabeth Kurtz of Terre Hill, were in charge of serving the lunch. The reunion photograph was taken outdoors by Dan Pattigrew.

At 1:30 PM President Mildred Pettigrew announced the program would begin. It would be "somewhat" like a Mennonite meeting 80 years ago. Everyone stood up, recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, and sang "America". After a scripture reading, a hymn "Faith of our Fathers", a prayer, an offering (did Mennonites take an offering?) and a benediction, the group sang our "Overholser Reunion Song" with taped music supplied by Dan Pettigrew. Ruth Overholser led all the music and Chaplain Rev John Weiler offered the prayers.

The President presented a rose to Chuck and Sally Carroll in memory of their mother, Marjorie. Chuck said the family had complied with his mother's request—a party instead of a funeral. Marjorie's grandson, age 3, qualified for the "youngest-prize" at the 1989 Reunion but could not accept "chocolate" candy. At 4:00 an 8 year old boy asked the President, "Can I have my brother's chocolate candy?"

These candy prizes were in pot holder gloves bought this year in Germany. Other recipients were Robert M Oberholser born 5/1/1892, John Overholt and Gertrude Haines born in 1909 and Helen Bogener, who came from St Charles MO in a pickup truck. You folks who spoke Penna. Dutch come prepared next year so we can choose a contest winner.

The business meeting began with introductions of people at the head table. First the honored guests: Robert Oberholser, Esta Herr, John Overholt and Spencer Overholser, President of OFA for 30 years—a term of devoted and excellent leadership NEVER equaled. Will Overholtzer from California, the first Vice President, spoke of his extensive research and his close ties with the Association. Secretary Ellen Livingston was absent. Her report of the 1988 meeting was printed in the BULLETIN. Jim Kehew was Secretary Pro Tem.

Because of Marjorie Carroll's death, a new treasurer had been appointed, Richard Stevens. He read his report, which is published in this BULLETIN, edited by Barbara Ford, also the Assn. genealogist. Rev John Weiler had accepted the role of necrologist and gave his report. After long years of faithful service, Robert M Oberholser had resigned as necrologist.

All members present introduced themselves, then voted to hold next year's reunion on the fourth Saturday, August 25, 1990 in the Terre Hill Fire Hall. Paul Pletcher will post the



OFFICIAL 1989 REUNION PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY DAN PETTIGREW

1st row (l to r): Joe Carroll, David Carroll, Greg Overholser  
2nd row: Rev John Weiler, Robert M Oberholser, Spencer Overholser, Mildred Pettigrew, Will Overholtzer, Jim Kehew, Richard Stevens, Barbara Ford, Esta Herr  
3rd row: Edith Boll, Helen Overholser, Gertrude Haines, Ruth Overholser, Marian Richmond, John Overholt, Peg Overholt, Margaret Overholt, Jean Stevens, Elizabeth Kurtz, Martha Oberholtzer, Sara Harting, Paul Pletcher

4th row: Mel Brinton, John Boll, Robert Overholser, James Overholser, Barbara Bernhardt, Laurence Richmond, Samuel Skiles, Marian Livingood, Carolyn Overholt, Eleanor Weiler, Anna Oberholtzer, Naomi Pletcher, George Harting  
5th row: Sally Carroll, Pat Carroll, Chuck Carroll, Ron Oberholtzer, Ernest Weinhold, Jerold Stahly, Frank Livingood, Robert Overholt, Nancy Neff, Sarah Ann Stauffer, Helen Bogener, Bill Oberholtzer, Helen Oberholtzer

OFFICERS

President Mildred Pettigrew, 816 N Evans St.  
Pottstown PA 16464

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

2nd Vice President Chuck Carroll, 322 Edge Hill Rd,  
North Hills PA 19038

Recording Secretary Ellen Livingood, 1077 Stoneham Circle  
Hatfield PA 19440

Treasurer Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Dr.  
Lititz PA 17543

Honorary President Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive  
Wyomissing PA 19610

Honorary Vice Pres. Esta Buch Herr, Lititz PA

Chaplain, Rev John R Weiler, 1825 Center St. #A-105

Necrologist Bethlehem PA 18017

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

Continued from page 6

signs in Terre Hill to lead you to the Fire Hall.

The President adjourned the meeting with "Drive carefully and come again next year."

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Kehew  
Mildred Pettigrew

P.S 1990 Reunion theme  
-OKTOBER FEST

What do Germans do---they sing, dance & drink beer

Will Overholtzer, our 1st vice president, sent a book to add to the Association records which we were glad to receive. It is "The Indomitable Mr O", the story of J Irvin Overholtzer, Founder of the Child Evangelism Fellowship and the grandfather of Will.

**Overholser Family Association**

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