

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

My great-grand parents were both born in Lancaster Co. in the 1830's. In 1864 they crossed the plains by covered wagon. Now my grand children are 5th generation born in California, but our ancestral roots, like all of you, where ever you may now live, are firmly planted in Pennsylvania. Each year when I return to Lancaster Co. for our family reunion, I am struck by the beauty of the countryside, the rich religious traditions of the area, and the work ethic of the people who long ago transformed a raw wilderness into productive farms. I'm very proud that my ancestors came from such a rich cultural heritage, and I am doubly proud and honored to have been elected, by others who share this heritage, to be your Association President.

My first task after the reunion was to fill the vacant positions of Secretary and 2nd Vice President. This has been done by the appointment of Mildren Pettigrew of Pottstown PA and Darwin Overholt of Doylestown PA respectfully to these positions.

My next task was to acknowledge the long and outstanding service to our Association of Robert M Oberholser of Freehold NJ, by appointing him to the honorary position of Necrologist Emeritus. I also have changed the honorary President and Vice President titles respectively to President and Vice President titles respectively to President and Vice-President Emeritus. (to me the new titles have extra class). It's my intention for these honorary officers to receive further recognition for

82ND ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 24, 1991

Place: Terre Hill Fire Hall
Terre Hill PA

Details (including map) in the August BULLETIN. Keep the date and plan to come! You can't beat the Lancaster-Berks County area for beauty, so come and enjoy the reunion and the countryside. We hope to see you.

their outstanding contributions to our Association, by making them the subject of a special commendation ceremony at the next reunion. During the coming year I plan to establish a Genealogy Task Force which will organizationally report to our Genealogist, Barbara Ford. Individuals and groups within this task force will be asked to complete small projects such as collecting wills and deeds, photographing historical locations and cataloging family history for easy access and future publication. Much more on this subject in the next issue of the BULLETIN and at the reunion. So, as you can see, our leadership plan is simple, and yet I hope very ambitious. We will honor those who have built our Association. We will retain our group identity by continuing the rituals and location of our meetings, and we will grow and prosper as an organization by working to improve our family history research and information storage activities. I ask each of you to get involved. Let us hear your ideas. Volunteer for committee assignments. Plan to attend the reunions with your entire families.

Will Overholtzer

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XIII No. 1 February 1991

Editor - Barbara B Ford
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
Necrologist
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

THESE 49 PEOPLE
ATTENDED THE 1990 REUNION

- Barbara Bernhardt Swarthmore PA
- Mel Brinton Wilmington DE
- Chuck/Pat Carroll Glenside PA
- Joe & Dave Carroll
- Barbara Ford Wallingford PA
- Herbert/Elizabeth Frey Freehold NJ
- John/Beth Frey Alburtis PA
- Gertrude Haines Mt Holly NJ
- Dave Kehew Camp Hill PA
- Jim/Es Kehew Camp Hill PA
- Elizabeth Kurtz Terre Hill PA
- Norman R Landis Souderton PA
- Ellen Livingood Hatfield PA
- Frank/Marian Livingood New Holland PA
- Robert Oberholser Freehold NJ
- Ronald Oberholtzer N Cape May NJ
- William Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA
- Gretchen Offord Carmichael CA
- Spencer/Ruth Overholser Wyomissing PA
- Darwin/Jean Overholt Doylestown PA
- Gwendolyn Overholt Ontario Canada
- John/Peg Overholt Kilmarnock VA
- Harry/Gloria Overholtzer Pottstown PA
- Will Overholtzer Sacramento CA
- Dan/Mildred Pettigrew Pottstown PA
- Paul/Naomi Pletcher New Holland PA
- Darlene Redcay Goodville PA
- Lawrence/Marian Richmond Oley PA
- Elizabeth W Shirk New Holland PA
- Samuel Skiles White Horse PA
- Richard/Jean Stevens Lititz PA
- Claire Hinsey Warren Schwenksville PA
- Ernest/Evaleon Weinhold Manheim PA
- Beth Wilkins Santa Rosa CA

Ellen Livingood has stepped down as secretary after being on
the Board for 5 years. Thanks Ellen for a job well done-the
Association deeply appreciates your help.

All lineages have been updated and are available. If you are
interested in receiving one or wondering if we have one for
your line, contact Barbara Ford.

ROBERT M OBERHOLSER CELEBRATES

Our Robert celebrated his 99th birthday Sept. 18th with
his family and the center of attention was not the honored
guest, but his 8 month old great granddaughter, Jessica!
Robert wrote that she had already captured the hearts of her
grandparents and her great grandfather. He reported that his
vegetable garden was filled with peppers, eggplant, cabbage,
brussel sprouts, beans, beets, carrots, sweet potatoes, etc.

THE FAMILY OF I SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER, IMMIGRANT 1727

II JACOB OBERHOLTZER OF MANHEIM LANCASTER CO PA

Jacob Oberholtzer's first wife Catherine died and he married 2 Catharine Bear, widow of Martin Bear. Catherine was born c1758 and Jacob was probably born around 1730. In his will written in 1803, Jacob said "agreeable to a certain contract in writing made and entered into by and between her and me previous to and in consideration of our marriage." Catherine's 1st husband had died 1795 and she was left with 4 children. She died in 1833 and is buried in Mouk Cemetery, E Hempfield Twn Lancaster Co. Catharine Oberholtzer d/o II Jacob by his first marriage, married Michael Ober and their daughter Ann married Henry Bear s/o the second wife of II Jacob. That means that Ann Ober married her mother's step brother!

III CHRISTIAN OBERHOLTZER S/O II MARTIN OF LANCASTER CO PA

In the Grantor Index, Lancaster Co, there were 11 Christian Oberholtzers listed before 1800 so I decided to check them out. The first 10 deeds were for Christian Oberholtzer of Hempfield Twn who was not related to I Samuel. The 11th deed was most interesting because it gives information never found before. It is a deed dated 1/9/1796 which states that Christian Overholser and his wife Ann, late Ann Wenger widow of Michael Wenger of Earl Twn received a sum of money from her late husband's estate. I then consulted The Wenger Book, Samuel Wenger, and found that Michael Wenger had married the third time to Anna Sarah Landis. Christian Oberholtzer's 1st wife was Mary Hoover and she is said to have died ca 1800. Now we know that she died between 10/11/1795 when she gave birth to her daughter Magdalena and 1/9/1796. This would mean that Christian's son John born 12/28/1797 is the s/o Ann and not Mary, as noted in previous lineages. Christian and Ann moved to Lebanon Co.

The Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage has had two very interesting articles recently. In the April 1990 issue there was an article SWISS ORIGINS OF GROFF, HESS, WEBER, LANDIS AND OBERHOLTZER FAMILIES by Jane Evans Best which Will Oberholtzer calls an excellent article. The author examines the Swiss origins of some of the people who attended an illegal meeting in Steinsfurt, Germany in 1661, among them Marx Oberholtzer, and their possible relationships to families who lived in Lancaster Co, PA. The other article was in the October 1990 issue titled THE GROWTH AND DECLINE OF MENNONITES NEAR SCOTTDAL, PENNA.: 1790-1890 by Levi Miller. This article would be of special interest to the descendents of Henry Overholt (1739-1813) who went from Bucks Co PA to Westmoreland Co PA in 1800 with his family.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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

Margaret Arnold White Bear Lake MN	Marion Overholser Tarzana CA
Milton/Neva Blanding Stanton MI	John A M Overholt Surrey ENGLAND
Dr/Mrs Claud Bray Bull Shoals AR	George/Ursula Overholt Quechee VT
Paul/Kathryn Dean Leesburg FL	James M Overhuls Norwalk OH
Col Charles/Jane Elliott Sacramento CA	M/M Bertram J Overhultz Baton Rouge LA
Sue Field Zionsville IN	M/M Robert Robson Abilene KS
Janet R Goodrich Cashiers NC	Adele La Barre Starensier New York NY
Norman/Mary Landis Souderton PA	Sarah Ann Stouffer Rohrerstown PA
Vivian B Lewis Grosse Ile MI	Mary L West Vineland NJ
Kathryn J Maine Millersville PA	Jan E Williams Honolulu HI
Patricia L McKeirnan Pomeroy WA	Jean Woods Clear Spring MD
C Dorothy McLean Feasterville PA	Jeane L Yigit Brookfield WI
Stanley W Nash British Columbia CANADA	Matilda C Zackey Bethlehem PA
Flora I Ost Canyon Dam CA	

UPDATE

An article on Ernest Carl Oberholtzer appeared in the August 1990 BULLETIN and since then we have found new information on his family. He is from Lancaster Co I Samuel Oberholtzer, II Martin, III Samuel, IV Christian. His grandfather was V Henry Oberholtzer who married Lavina Reist and moved to Council Bluffs IA. His father was VI Henry R Oberholtzer who married Rose Carl and they parted before 1900.

After reading the story of the tombstones found in Virginia in the August 1990 BULLETIN, someone wrote that she had heard from a friend who discovered tombstones from a very old graveyard being used for stepping stones for the cows on a family farm by the new owner!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of Billie Jo Read has been changed to Rt 1, Box 264A, Bonduel WI 54107. Her article appeared in the August 1990 BULLETIN on page 3.

NECROLOGIST REPORT

BIRTHS

Jessica Elizabeth Frey b 12/13/1989 d/o Robert & Sara Frey, great granddaughter of Robert M Oberholser. (IV Christian & Susanna Kurtz Oberholser line)

Dylan John Weiler b 5/16/1990 s/o Paul J & Ann Mary (Schoenberger) Haag Weiler, grandson of John & Eleanor Weiler. (IV Daniel & Mary Lichty Overholser line)

Alicia Page Shupe b 6/11/1990 d/o Danny & Pam Shupe (IV Daniel & Anna Landis Overholser line)

Bradley Scott Eckman b 1/31/1990 s/o Dr Gregory & Cheryl Eckman, grandson of John & Phyllis Ferguson (IV Christian & Susanna Kurtz Oberholser line)

Nicholas Jordan b 5/30/1990 s/o Paul & Kate Jordon
Luciana Greer b 6/20/1990 d/o Colin & Frances Greer
Both grandchildren of Richard & Vera La Barre (IV Christian & Susanna Kurtz Oberholser line)

Error in Feb 1990 issue-correction
Emily Sue Robson b 7/7/1989 d/o Patrick & Sue Robson, granddaughter of Robert & Anne (Robinson) Robson, gr granddaughter Isaac & Nellie Robinson. (IV Christian & Susanna Kurtz Oberholser line)

DEATHS

Michael Wenger of Terre Hill PA 2/14/1922-9/15/1989, official historian of Terre Hill & husband of Jane. (IV John & Margaret Kurtz Overholser line)

Dr Richard M Overholt of Dedham MA 1901-1990 (John Overholt 1779 Bucks Co-1813 Canada line)

Josephine Miller Files Lancaster PA d 12/1989 (Isaac Overholt d 1825 Canada line)

Howard Landis Histand 1/16/1905-7/31/1990 husband of late Alma Kulp, s/o Samuel S Histand & Susie Overholt Landis (Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co PA line)

J Homer Overholser d 3/20/1990 Tarzana CA, husband of Marian. (1732 Jacob Oberholtzer line)

Robert Hoyt Stevens Pinellas Park FL d 8/28/1990, bro/o our Treasurer Richard Stevens. (IV Elizabeth Oberholtzer-Samuel Watts line)

Richard Todd Myers d 10/30/1990 Terre Hill PA husband of Lucille Redcay Myers (IV Elizabeth Oberholtzer-Samuel Watts line)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/26/1989 \$317.10

RECEIPTS

Reunion contributions \$209.00
Contributions by mail 480.40
(8/27/89-8/24/90)
Interest on Savings Acc't 9.55

Total Receipts 698.95
Total Balance \$1016.05

EXPENSES

1989 Fire Hall Rental 25.00
Printing of Bulletins,
Mailing fees, and
Miscellaneous expenses
to Jim Kehew 553.79
Total Expenses 578.79

Treasury balance 8/25/1990 \$437.26

Savings Account \$336.55
Checking Account \$100.71

Richard I Stevens Sr, Treasurer 8/25/1990

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Janet R Goodrich, Cashiers NC
- David Morrison, Durham NC
- Stanley W Nash,
British Columbia, Canada
- Darlene O Redcay, Goodville PA
- Gretchen Offord, Carmichael CA
- Oklahoma Hist. Soc. Oklahoma OK
- Mrs John Ost, Canyon Dam CA
- Gwendolyn Overholt,
Ontario, CANADA
- John A M Overholt,
Surrey, ENGLAND
- Elizabeth W Shirk, New Holland PA
- Lawrence W Stevens, Clearfield PA
- Claire H Warren, Schwenksville PA
- Jan Williams, Honolulu HI
- Matilda C Zackey, Bethlehem PA

Zip codes are being changed in some places so please notify your editor if yours is changed because the post office won't deliver the BULLETIN with the wrong zip code. That means we have to pay \$.25 for the returned BULLETIN.

MINUTES OF THE 81ST 1990 REUNION

Members of the Overholser Family Association gathered at the Terre Hill PA fire hall on Saturday, August 25, 1990, for the 81st family reunion. Activities began with a delicious covered dish dinner. Naomi Pletcher and Elizabeth Kurtz ably organized work in the kitchen.

After dinner, the program was opened by Association President Mildred Pettigrew followed by an invocation by Will Overholtzer and the recitation of the pledge of allegiance.

Dan Pettigrew led in the singing of "Faith of Our Fathers." A collection was taken to help defray the expenses of the Association, and then everyone joined in the singing of the Overholser Reunion Song.

The president explained that the plans for an Oktoberfest theme for this reunion were scaled down because the fire company prohibits the serving of alcohol in the hall. She asked for reactions, and several members commented on the dangers of drinking.

Each person introduced himself, where he lived, and if identified, which branch of the Overholser line he was from. Five were attending the reunion for the first time. Prizes were awarded:

Oldest in attendance-Robert M Oberholser
Attending from outside the country-Gwen Overholt
from Ontario, Canada
Able to name his paternal great-grandfather
Bill Oberholtzer
Able to name her maternal great-grandmother
Claire Warren
Birthday closest to this date-Jean Stevens
Youngest in attendance-David Carroll

Several members shared jokes and stories in Pennsylvania Dutch.

The business portion of the meeting began with the approval of the 1989 minutes as printed in the OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN. The treasurer's report was presented and Paul Pletcher announced that it had been audited and found in order. Today's contributions added \$216 of income.

The president thanked all those who had helped with various aspects of Association activities over the past two years and then passed the gavel to the new president, Willard Overholtzer.

The new president thanked Mildred for her service as president and also expressed the Association's gratitude to her husband Dan for his assistance in various areas including sound and photography.

The slate of officers for the coming term will include:

President-Will Overholtzer
First Vice President-Chuck Carroll
Treasurer-Richard Stevens
Chaplain, Necrologist-Rev John Weiler
Editor, Genealogist-Barbara Ford

The Association is looking for volunteers for the position of Second Vice President and Recording Secretary and others willing to serve on committees.



OFFICIAL 1990 REUNION PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY DAN PETTIGREW

1st Row (l to r): Joseph Carroll, Harry & Gloria Overholtzer, David Carroll

2nd Row: John Overholt, Dick Stevens, Robert M Oberholser, Barbara Ford, Will Overholzer, Millie Pettigrew, Ellen Livingood, Chuck Carroll, Pat Carroll

3rd Row: Jean Stevens, Larry Richmond, Marian Richmond, Gwen Overholt, Jean Overholt, Gertrude Haines, Peg Overholt, Esther Kehew

4th Row: Mel Britton, Paul Pletcher, Naomi Pletcher, Beth Wilkins, Elizabeth Frey, Elizabeth Kurtz, Darlene Redcay, Elizabeth W Shirk, Dave Kehew, Claire Hinsey Warren

5th Row: Jim Kehew, Barbara Bernhardt, Evaleen Weinhold, Beth Frey, John Frey, Herbert Frey, Gretchen Offord, Darwin Overholt, Marian Livingood, Frank Livingood, Ron Oberholtzer

6th Row: Spencer Overholser, Ruth Overholser, Norman Landis, Bill Oberholtzer, Ernest Weinhold

OFFICERS

President	Willard E Overholtzer, 2440 El Pavo Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
1st Vice President	Chuck Carroll, 322 Edge Hill Road North Hills PA 19038
2nd Vice President	Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Rd. Doylestown PA 18901
Recording Secretary	Mildred Pettigrew, 816 N Evans St. Pottstown PA 19464
Treasurer	Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Dr. Lititz, PA 17543
President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive, Wyomissing PA 19610
Vice Pres. Emeritus	Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, PA
Necrologist Emeritus	Robert M Oberholser, RD 2, Ardena Freehold, NJ 07728
Chaplain, Necrologist	Rev. John R. Weiler 1825 Center St A-105 Bethlehem, PA 18017
Genealogist, Editor	Barbara B Ford 313 Henry La. Wallingford, PA 19086

Continued from page 6

The new president outlined his goals as including the documentation of the family roots in Switzerland, the indentionification of how various family members came to Pennsylvania, and the location of the settlements of the first three or four generations of the immigrant lines. He would like to see all of this information published.

It was announced that the 82nd Overholser Family Association reunion would once again be held on the fourth Saturday of August (8/24/1991) at the Terre Hill fire hall.

The president closed the meeting with a special word of thanks to Barbara Ford for her extensive work as genealogist and editor of the Association Bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Livingood, Secretary

Overholser Family Association
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

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