

# Overholser Family Association



# Bulletin

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As your incoming president, I am honored to be connected with an association that has been meeting since 1906 for 85 years. I am the first president from the Marcus Oberholtzer line and the first whose name is Overholt. I am the 9th generation here in America.

I was born on a small farm near the Deep Run area of Bedminster Twp, Bucks Co PA, not far from what is believed to be the original Overholt homestead. I was born and raised as a Mennonite and attended a Mennonite college in Goshen IN. My wife, Jean Myers also has deep roots in Bedminster and Plumstead Twp. Since we have 4 daughters (and 10 grandchildren), we have done little to carry on the Overholt name. After being in the Real Estate business for 29 years in Doylestown PA, we retired and now spend our winters near Fort Myers FL.

In 1986, 4 generations - my mother who was then 76, my wife and I, our 4 daughters with husbands and grandchildren, toured Switzerland via train and the Glacier Express. At the end of the two weeks, we attended the Overholser Reunion in the small village of Oberholz in the Alps, east of Zurich. My mother, who speaks Pennsylvania Dutch fluently, had no trouble conversing with Rosy Overholzer who organized the 2 day Reunion attended by 35 Americans and 85 Swiss.

The following summer, my wife and I rented a small cottage in the Alps near the village of Oberholz. During the entire month of June, I hiked and drove 2000 miles exploring the land of my forefathers. I guess one might say, I am an authentic Overholt.

I am pleased to be your president for the next two years.

Darwin Overholt

(Ed.—I just discovered that he is also related to the Overholts on his mother's side)

## 86TH ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 19, 1995

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.

Spencer Overholser reminded me that Lorraine Brown Neikirk who died 9/18/1993 was the last surviving member who attended the first Reunion in 1906.

OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XVII No.1 February 1995

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

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holser Family Association,  
313 Henry La, Wallingford PA  
19086

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  
325 Carver Drive  
Bethlehem PA 18017

CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard I Stevens Sr  
Treasurer  
224 Swarthmore Drive  
Lititz PA 17543

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

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE,  
INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford PA 19086

THESE 60 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 1994 REUNION

Milton J Brinton Wilmington DE	C Bruce Oberholtzer Chesapeake City MD
Benjamin F Bunn Jr Lawrenceville NJ	Martha Oberholtzer Manheim PA
Juanita D Brown Cookeville TN	Robert/Helen Overholser Baltimore MD
Chuck/Pat/Joe/David Carroll Glenside PA	Spencer/Ruth Overholser Wyomissing PA
Zac Carroll Souderton PA	Darwin Overholt Doylestown PA
Ann Duke Owensboro KY	John/Peg Overholt Kilbarnock VA
Barbara Ford Wallingford PA	Margaret Overholt Doylestown PA
Herbert/Elizabeth Frey Freehold NJ	Will Overholtzer Rancho Cordova CA
John/Beth/Steven Frey Allentown PA	Kermit/Beatrice O Patches Lititz PA
Jim/Jennifer Hawks Enon OH	Lawrence/Marian Richmond Oley PA
Martha Jones Glen Mills PA	Erma Shenk Manheim PA
Jim/Esther Kehev Mechanicsburg PA	Dick/Jean Stevens Lititz PA
Charles/Geneva Koons Enon OH	Gladys/Carl Taylor Hamilton, Ontario
Elizabeth Kurtz Terre Hill PA	Claire Hinsey Warren Schwenksville PA
Gwen/Dick Lucas Caledonia, Ontario	John/Eleanor Weiler Bethlehem PA
Kathern/John Maine Millersville PA	D Ernest Weinhold Manheim PA
Merrill/Jessica/Sara/Paul Miller Lansdale PA	Will/Kate Williams Sydney, Australia
Georgia/Chris/Jack Minnich Durham NC	

We have just learned that Mrs Guy Mellinger of Findlay OH died this past fall. She was responsible for most of the re- search on Jacob Oberholtzer of Northampton PA & Columbiana OH, having spent many years checking records, cemeteries and attending the Oberholtzer Reunions in Allen Co IN. The result of her work will be seen in The Oberholtzer Book.

QUERY

Retta M Cunningham, 2618 16th Ave, Canyon TX 79015 went to Tuscarawas Co OH last year and tried to find the Mathias Burchfield cemetery with no success. She is wondering if anyone has located the burial ground which she narrowed down to 2 possibilities. Mathias Burchfield mar Barbara Overholt, d/o Martin Overholt & Esther Fretz-Marcus Oberholtzer line.



BOOK PROGRESS REPORT

The good news continues! Thanks to a very significant contribution by Association member Benjamin F Bunn III, we reached our Book Fund goal at the August Reunion. Many thanks also to those who have submitted book orders and to the following additional book contributors:

Grant/Charlene Aitken  
Bruce L Coffey  
Charlene Davidson  
Mary Alice Farnsworth  
Daniel/Donna Harpst  
Mae O Moliter

Ronald/Charlene Newton  
James G Overholser  
Lyle G Overholser  
Darwin Overholt  
Mildred Pettigrew  
Jennie Sperling  
Kathryn Stirk

The book draft was sent to the publisher in November and the final manuscript went to the printer January 1st. We are hoping the book will be available about March 1st. Therefore, the pre-publication book price of \$24 will be replaced by a post-publication price of \$29.50 effective March 15, 1995. If you haven't ordered your books yet, please do so now so we can retire book loans to the members who made them as soon as possible. We have had to increase the cost of shipping and handling because of the new Postal Rates. Many thanks!

Will Overholtzer

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OBERHOLTZER FAMILY BOOK ORDER FORM

"THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK"

From: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

To: Overholser Family Association  
c/o Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane, Wallingford PA 19086

If ordered prior to March 15, 1995:  
Book quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$24.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PA Sales Tax if applicable (\$1.44 per book) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If ordered after March 15, 1995:  
Book quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$29.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PA Sales Tax if applicable (\$1.77 per book) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping/Handling \$3.50

Book Fund Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who have contributed to the OFA since the last listing. Let us not forget those who contributed so generously at the Reunion and must remain anonymous. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Charlene Aitken Huntington Beach CA	Buell W Oberholser San Luis Obispo CA
Benjamin F Bunn Lawrenceville NJ	John L Oberholtzer Narvon PA
Paul H Calhoun Port Clinton OH	Dwight Overholser N Manchester IN
Dale/Barbara Crites Spring Hill FL	Lyle G Overholser Oak Ridge TN
Retta M Cunningham Canyon TX	Lyn Overholser Overland Park KS
Mrs Paul E Dean Brevard NC	Gwen Overholt Amherstburg, Ontario CAN
Bob/Jane Elliott Sacramento CA	Mildred O Poley Souderton PA
Wesley/Lucy Hackman Greenwich OH	Donald/Ruth Rhinehart Painesville OH
Ole/Josephine Helleskov Pleasanton CA	Howard/Jodi Ring Plymouth MI
Jack/Jo Ann Kester Tipp City OH	Robert/Anne Robson Abilene KS
Norman/Mary Landis Souderton PA	Robert/Beverly Shaffer Plymouth MI
Wayne/Bernadette Landis Scott City MO	Robert/Helen Shonk Dover OH
Gwen Lucas Caledonia, Ontario CAN	Sarah Ann Stauffer Rohrerstown PA
Robert L McKinley Pleasant Hill TN	Dorothea Strappe Elmwood IL
LuAnn Mooney Mesa AZ	Gladys Taylor Hamilton, Ontario CAN
	Claire H Warren Schwenksville PA

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Benson Wyoming MI	Beatrice Patches Lititz PA
Anne R Futch Ocala FL	Ella M Rhdzewski Clarksville MD
Merrill M Miller Lansdale PA	Lisa Serfling Old Bridge NJ
LuAnn Mooney Mesa AZ	Bill Skillman Deland FL
Lyn Overholser Overland Park KS	Homer Thiel Tucson AZ

## THE 85TH REUNION

With 60 people at the Reunion, we had quite a few new faces. Since Chuck Carroll forgot to have the group introduce themselves, I will try to remember them and what line they are from. Gwen & Dick Lucas from Caledonia, Ontario brought Australians Will & Kate Williams who were visiting from Sydney. Kate made Welsh Cakes which were delicious with strawberry preserves. Gladys & Carl Taylor were here for their 3rd year from Hamilton, Ontario. Gladys & Gwen are from Staats Overholt who went from Bucks Co to Canada 1786. Benjamin Bunn from Lawrenceville NJ is from 1727 Immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster Co. Beatrice Patches, with husband Kermit, is also from 1727 Samuel. Charles Koons, with his family from Enon OH, is from 1732 Immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co. Kathern Maine, also from 1732 Jacob, was with her husband. Their immigrant ancestor lived in Brecknock which is just north of Terre Hill. Juanita Brown of Cookeville TN and Ann Duke of Owensboro KY are from Abraham Overholts of Franklin Co VA whose son Mark went to Kentucky. Juanita, who had been in Oberholz, Switzerland last summer, had a chance to compare notes with Will Overholtzer, Margaret Overholt and Darwin Overholt who are good friends of Rosy and Johanna Oberholzer. Merrill Miller was there with his family from Lansdale-he is related to the Marcus Oberholtzer line, I think he said, in about 4 ways through both parents. John L Overholt's daughter Georgia Minnich and her 2 sons came from Durham NC with John & Peg of Kilmarnock VA and we all know that John is from the Marcus line. Of course, the newest face was Steven Frey, great grandson of Robert M Oberholser of the 1727 Samuel Oberholtzer line.

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## FROM THE NORTH AND FROM THE SOUTH

Driving southeast from Terre Hill after the Reunion, I was on a highway about an hour from home when a van pulled along side of me and stayed there until the female passenger signaled what I thought meant for me to slow down so they could pull in front of me, which I did. I hoped that this character would not exit with me but he did. Then in looking in the back of the van, I saw children waving (they had dark windows) and I suddenly realized that it was my son and his family. The last I heard they were in Kentucky but then they went to North Carolina where they were coming from. They wondered why I was on that road because they weren't aware of the Reunion. My son was happy to see that I really concentrate on my driving and don't turn my head to see who is pulling along side of me even when they are waving!

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### THE BOOK IS FINISHED!

After working on the book for 2 1/2 years, I find that my life has changed completely. Working at the computer for more than 8 hours a day and researching sometimes 3 times a week, I found I was too busy to do many things. My favorite answer to people was "I can't do it while I'm working on the book". My son and his family gave me a microwave one Christmas so I could pop my Stouffers frozen dinners in at the last minute. People used to give me strange looks when I would buy 30 of the dinners at the 1/2 off sale. Now that the book is finished, I recently tried to work on my family records but I found that the over 1500 names had been deleted and I didn't have a backup! I had planned to do backup when I had the time. Our publisher is the Olde Springfield Shoppe in Elverston Pa and I found that the format I had on my disks would not fit into their computer program, so to save the additional expense, I redid the whole manuscript. I am now back to riding my stationary bike 3 miles a day and am looking forward to working in my garden come spring. I have always enjoyed a challenge and this is one I won't soon forget.

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### JACOB OBERHOLTZER OF FRANCONIA, MONTGOMERY CO LINE

An article appeared in the Los Angeles Times, which was copied by the Washington Post and the Windsor Star in Canada, about Durand Overholtzer whose church furniture company is based in Modesto CA. Three members of the OFA sent me the copies. Durand traces his woodworking ancestry back 1000 years to Oberholz, near Zurich, Switzerland.

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### FROM PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

Jodi Ring of Plymouth MI writes that her parents Gene and Jane Overholt celebrated their 50th Anniversary August 27, 1994. Gene, a charter member of the Plymouth Kiwanis, is Past International President of the Kiwanis 1988-89. Jodi also wrote that her cousin embroidered the Oberholtzer Crest on Golf Shirts which is a novel idea.  
(Marcus Oberholtzer-Martin Overholt/Esther Fretz line)

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### CORRECTION TO "THANKS FOR SHARING" ARTICLE 8/1994

I moved Virgie Walker to New Wilmington OH but she still lives in Wilmington (my son went to school in New Wilmington PA). I also meant to say that her Jacob Overholser (not John) could be the s/o John Overholser (d 1840 Darke Co OH). I think I had a little too much sun on my vacation.

NECROLOGIST REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

BIRTHS

Zachary Overholt Levy b 7/1993, s/o Fred & Carol (Overholt)  
Levy of Palm Bay FL

Derek Wright Hinsey b 7/1/1994, s/o Norma W & Cynthia Hinsey  
of New York City  
(IV Daniel Overholser/Anna Landis line)

MARRIAGES

J Wesley Hackman mar 7/23/1994 Lucy Yoder. Res Greenwich OH  
(Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia, Montgomery Co line)

DEATHS

Ruth Elaine Overholt Harris 10/31/1930-2/12/1994 Doylestown  
PA, d/o Margaret and the late Horace Overholt, sister of OFA  
President Darwin Overholt  
(Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co line)

Lawrence William Stevens 9/22/1917-12/12/1993 Clearfield PA  
(IV Elizabeth Oberholtzer/Samuel Watts line)

Laura Landis Hestand 11/12/1908-9/12/1993

Rebecca Hestand Graybill 6/6/1903-12/9/1993, w/o the late Rev  
Silas Graybill

David Hestand 7/20/1914-2/15/1994 husband of Esther Detweiler  
Hestand

William Hestand 6/12/1911-3/25/1994 Doylestown, husband of  
Mary Bergey Hestand

Ruth Hestand Mosemann 9/29/1907-4/9/1994, w/o the late Rev  
John H Mosemann

All 5 the ch/o Samuel Hestand & Susan B Landis  
(Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co line)

Eunice Landis Ruth Mast 8/25/1933-1/14/1994 CA, w/o Donald  
Mast, d/o Henry Ruth & Susan Landis  
(Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co line)

Shirley Ann Ruth 5/24/1938-8/1/1994, w/o John Kratz Ruth, d/o  
Thomas Stroup & Gladys Rodebough  
(Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co line)

Edwin M Redcay 12/7/1927-8/23/1994, husband of OFA secretary  
Darlene Oberholtzer Redcay of Goodville PA. Also survived by  
2 daughters, 2 sons and 5 grandchildren  
(IV Samuel Oberholtzer/Martha Hess line)

John R Weiler, Necrologist

Balance 8/28/1993 \$438.90

RECEIPTS

Reunion contributions (8/28/93)	\$225.00	
Contributions by mail	790.00	
Interest on Savings Acc't	<u>14.02</u>	
Total Receipts Received		<u>\$1029.02</u>
Total Balance		\$1467.92

EXPENSES

8/28/93 Fire Hall Rental	\$50.00	
James D Eberly, Treas.		
8/28/93 Barbara Ford, Expenses	142.48	
8/28/93 Larson Photo Inc	16.94	
Prints & Enlargement		
8/4/93 Richard Stevens, Treas.	33.40	
Postage		
Jim Kehew-		
12/9/93 Mailing Permit	37.50	
3/7/94 Mailing Feb Bull. & Misc.	80.59	
8/1/94 Mailing Aug Bull. & Misc.	105.63	
3/3/94 Penns Valley Printer	231.61	
8/1/94 Penns Valley Printer	235.35	
(Printing Feb & Aug Bull.)		
4/7/94 Ardena Baptist Church	35.00	
(Mem. Robert M Oberholser)		
6/1/94 Barbara Ford, Misc Expense	<u>63.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>1031.50</u>
Total Balance		\$436.42

Savings Account \$381.35  
Checking Account 55.07  
\$436.42

BOOK FUND

RECEIPTS

Book Orders (106 books)	\$2890.49
Contributions	2929.62
Loans	3000.00
Interest	<u>190.30</u>
Total Balance	\$9010.41

INTEREST

2/93-6/30/93	\$29.92
7/1/93-12/31/93	71.36
1/1/94-6/30/94	<u>89.02</u>
Total	\$190.30

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard I Stevens Sr  
Treasurer OFA  
8/20/1994

MINUTES OF THE 85TH REUNION  
August 20, 1994

The Overholser Family Association met in the Terre Hill Fire Hall, Terre Hill PA August 20, 1994. People arrived well before the starting time of 10:30 a.m. bringing food for the covered dish lunch at 12:00. Photographs, books, genealogical charts and the like were displayed on several tables. The folks were greeted as they arrived, from 9 states, Canada and Australia. Rev John Weiler asked the blessing on the meal.

After the Reunion picture was taken, John Weiler gave the invocation and Chuck Carroll presided at the meeting, following the Pledge of Allegiance. Ruth Overholser led the group in singing the Reunion Song. It was noted that Robert M Oberholser, born 8/18/1891, died 4/1/1994 at age 102. A long stem rose was given to his daughter Elizabeth Frey in his memory.

Prizes: Oldest-Laurence Richmond of Oley PA  
Youngest-Steven John Frey  
Traveled Greatest Distance-Will & Kate Williams  
from Australia

The Secretary's report, recorded in the February 1994 BULLETIN, was approved as printed.

The Treasurer's report, which was audited at the meeting, was approved as read by Richard Stevens and will be printed in the February 1995 BULLETIN.

The Necrologist report was given by John Weiler.

A note was read from Mrs Nancy Gingrich, 2896 Graystone Rd, East Petersburg PA in regards to the house they live in which was built in 1769 by Christian & Magdalena Oberholtzer.

Book publishing report: Approval was asked of the group attending as to whether or not to continue with the plans to publish the book. It was approved to do so as soon as the funds and the material are available. Permission was also given by the group to accept the best bid from the publishers.

Officers for 1994-1996

President-Darwin Overholt  
1st Vice-President-Will Overholtzer  
2nd Vice-President-D Ernest Weinhold  
Secretary-Darlene Oberholtzer Redcay  
Treasurer-Richard Stevens  
Chaplain/Necrologist-Rev John Weiler  
Editor/Genealogist-Barbara Ford

Continued on page 10





OFFICIAL 1994 REUNION PICTURE TAKEN BY CHUCK CARROLL

1st Row: (L to R) Sara Miller, Paul Miller, David Carroll, Joe Carroll, Zac Carroll, part of Chris Minnich, missing is Jacob Minnich

2nd Row: Barbara Ford, John Weiler, Ernest Weinhold, Darwin Overholt, Chuck Carroll, Will Overholtzer, Dick Stevens, Spencer Overholser

3rd Row: Juanita Brown, Martha Jones, Peg Overholt, John Overholt, Eleanor Weiler, Helen Overholser, Gwen Lucas, Elizabeth Kurtz, Marian Richmond, Jean Stevens, Jennifer Hawks, James Hawks, Ruth Overholser

4th Row: Jessica Miller, Kathern Maine, Robert Overholser, Kate Williams, Carl Taylor, Gladys Taylor, Laurence Richmond, Beatrice O Patches, C Bruce Oberholtzer

5th Row: Mel Brinton, Ann Duke, Claire Warren, John Maine, Martha Oberholtzer, Jim Kehew, Margaret Overholt, Georgia O Minnich, Esther Kehew, Benjamin F Bunn, Dick Lucas, Will Williams, Geneva Koons, Charles Koons, Kermit Patches, Merrill M Miller

Back Row: Herbert Frey, Elizabeth O Frey, John Frey, Steven Frey (6 months), Beth Frey, Pat Carroll

(Ed.-My apologies if some names are mixed up-it was hard placing people in the right rows)



OFFICERS

President Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road  
Doylestown PA 18901

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

2nd Vice President D Ernest Weinhold, 107 Sunhill Road  
Manheim PA 17454

Recording Secretary Darlene O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38  
Goodville PA 17528

Treasurer Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Drive  
Lititz, PA 17543

President Emeritus Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive  
Wyomissing PA 19610

Chaplain, Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive  
Necrologist Bethlehem, PA 18017  
Genealogist, Editor Barbara B I 313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford 19086

Continued from page 8

Spencer Overholser reported on a notebook collection of material of the history of the Overholser Family Association which he compiled and had displayed on one of the tables.

The next Reunion will be held August 19, 1995 at the Fire Hall.

Rev John Weiler gave the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

D Ernest Weinhold, Acting Secretary

**Overholser Family Association**

313 Henry La  
Wallingford PA 19086

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