

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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The President's Column

"WHAT IF?"

As we read the newspaper here in Southwest Florida, we read daily of boatloads of Haitians intercepted at sea in their attempt to come to America. The American border guards are increasing their efforts to capture desperate Mexicans coming into this country to work in the harvest fields. Across our TV screens, scenes of war from Bosnia show horse drawn carts loaded with a family's possessions, people trudging through ankle deep mud carrying babies, moving to another area or homeland in order to survive. All this because of religious differences.

On Martin Luther King's birthday, we also see flashed across TV screens his famous "I HAVE A DREAM" speech. He said that we are "Free, free at last" and should live in harmony with each other and have better lives for our children and grandchildren.

My mind races back in time to Germany in 1709 when my ancestor Marcus Oberholtzer "Had a Dream". He left his homeland, his loved ones and friends to go to a foreign country with his family, never to return and to start a new life with religious freedom in America. He wanted a better life for his family and generations to come.

Yes, I feel his dream did come true, until now.

Sociologists tell us that we of the older generation will not pass on to our children and grandchildren a better society than we enjoyed. This is the first time this has happened since

87TH ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 17, 1996

Place: Old 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.

Note-The Reunion will be held at the Old Terre Hill Fire Hall where we have always met. The new Fire Hall is in a different location.

civilization began, they tell us. With serious crime greatly escalating, the uncontrollable drug problem and the uncertainty of the availability of Social Security, we truly may not be giving the baby boomer generation a better world than we had.

However, there is good news. The strength of this great nation, one that our forefathers helped develop from the farms of Eastern Pennsylvania, is the family structure. That's why family gatherings and reunions are so important. Having a sense of belonging is psychologically so important.

I am glad Marcus Oberholtzer "Had a Dream" and I am glad he had the courage to pursue that dream. "What if" he didn't. I would be writing to you from Oberholz, Switzerland and it would be in the Swiss-German language!

Darwin Overholt

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII No.1 February 1996

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

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The Overholser Family Assoc.
313 Henry Ln, 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
610-566-4888

THESE 71 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 86TH REUNION 8/19/1995

Milford J Brinton Wilmington DE	William/Helen Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA
Suzanne Brown Pottstown PA	Robert/Helen Overholser Baltimore MD
Benjamin F Bunn Lawrenceville NJ	Spencer/Ruth Overholser Wyomissing Hills PA
Lynn Catanese Wilmington DE	Darwin/Jean Overholt Doylestown PA
Barbara Ford Wallingford PA	Margaret Overholt Doylestown PA
Harry/Betty Gockley Akron PA	Maurice/Corrine Overholt Cornwall PA
Carl H Gottshall Pottstown PA	Will Overholtzer Rancho Cordova CA
Gail B Grimley Pottstown PA	Kermit/Bea Patches Lititz PA
Fred Hinkson Silver Spring MD	Mildred B Pettigrew Pottstown PA
Paul/Shirley Kantner Reading PA	Paul/Naomi Pletcher New Holland PA
Jim/Esther Kehev Mechanicsburg PA	Darlene O Redcay Goodville PA
Bob/Susi Kulp Findlay OH	Laurence/Marian Richmond Oley PA
Elizabeth Kurtz Terre Hill PA	Kenneth/Agnes Robinson Coatesville PA
Norman R Landis Souderton PA	Emma G Rumler Linfield PA
Carolyn/Jennifer Anita Landy Vancouver Canada	Walter/Ella Rydzewski Clarksville MD
Gwen/Dick Lucas Ontario Canada	Arthur Salotto Wilmington DE
Elizabeth Martin New Holland PA	Vera O Savary Clarksville MD
Michael/Kathy/Geoffrey Stephanie/Alexander Martin Rahway NJ	Alice M Shupe Frostburg MD
Merrill/Jessie Sara/Paul Miller Lansdale PA	Mildred Smoker Intercourse PA
Anna Mary Oberholtzer Akron PA	Dick/Jean Stevens Lititz PA
Martha Oberholtzer Manheim PA	Gladys/Carl Taylor Ontario Canada
	John/Eleanor Weiler Bethlehem PA
	D Ernest Weinhold Manheim PA

The Blizzard of '96 has just hit the Philadelphia area with a record 31 inches of snow and my birds are wondering why they didn't go South for the winter like some of our members do. If you are one of our snowbirds, send me your winter address and we will send you the February BULLETIN there.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MARIA OBERHOLTZER?

Maria Oberholtzer (MC73) born 12/19/1740 Bucks Co PA was the d/o Martin Oberholtzer (MC7) and Agnes Kolb. After her father died, her mother married William Nash who bequeathed various household items to "my daughter Maria" in 1760. Stanley W Nash of Vancouver Canada became curious as to what had happened to Maria and when THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK came out, he wondered if this was the Maria Oberholser (MS) who married 3/16/1764 Wilhelm Springer. The marriage was performed by the minister of the New Hanover Luthern Church, Montgomery Co PA. Stanley Nash found that William Springer bought land in Towamencin Twp, Montgomery Co in 1764, having lived before that in Gwynedd Twp. The land was sold in 1774 and they moved back to Gwynedd. The 4 oldest children of William Nash by his 1st and 2nd wives lived in Towamencin Twp. Was Maria Springer living near her step sisters and step brother? I found the will of William Springer which was proved 12/1/1791 and he names his wife Mary and children John, Jacob, Daniel, Henry, Joseph, William and Barbara. His executors were friends Henry Kassel Jr, Jacob Kulp and Peter Kulp. More research is needed to find out more about this Springer family. Was Maria Springer the d/o Martin Oberholtzer?

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK

All loans have been repaid for our 424 page hard-cover book and we thank all who have purchased a copy.

Those who have made contributions to the Book Fund since the last BULLETIN:

Mike Drudge George T Overholt

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ORDER FORM

From: Name _____

Address _____

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

Book Quantity _____ X \$29.50 \$ _____

PA Residents, add 6% Sales Tax (\$1.77 per book) \$ _____

Shipping & Handling \$3.50 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

A MUSICAL NOTEBOOK

In the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania (MHEP) Newsletter March 1995, there was an interesting recent acquisition. On Indefinite Loan from the Bally Mennonite Church, Berks Co PA, is an 1810 Notenbuch (Musical Notebook) of Henrich Oberholtzer used in Rockingham Co VA. The book was on the pulpit of the Old Bally Mennonite Church for as far back as anyone remembers. It was believed that Henrich Oberholtzer was probably from the Old Oberholtzer family (JB) of the Bally-Hereford area. Records show that there was no Henrich in that time period in this family.

In a copy of one of the pages, Springfield Township is written. I believe the book belonged to Henry D Overholtzer (AS4) who had lived in Springfield Township, Bucks Co, before his marriage to Mary Bechtel of Colebrookdale, Berks Co. Mary's parents, Isaac and Esther Bechtel are buried in Old Bally Mennonite Cemetery. Henry and Mary Overholtzer moved to Lancaster Co ca 1819 and possibly left the book with her family when they moved.

NEW INFORMATION

Henry Oberholtzer of Summitville IN sent a picture of a tombstone to Spencer Overholser which was taken in Brimfield, Peoria Co IL. This was not Henry's line (SL) but I found that it gave us new information on another line. It was the tombstone of Henry Oberholtzer (JC1d), the 14th child of Jacob Oberholtzer (JC), Mennonite minister of Columbiana Co OH.

Henry Oberholtzer Died 9/17/1863 Age 45-11-6
Samuel T Oberholtzer Died 7/31/1873 Age 26-10-12
Martha Oberholtzer 2/16/1825-12/10/1910

DREAM ON

Many people dream of having a king or queen as their ancestor while my dream has been to maybe have an ancestor who made the front page or was recognized for something he did. My dream came true in a way that I can't say makes me burst with pride. I just learned that Jesse James, the outlaw who was known for robbing banks and trains, was a 5th cousin of my Great Grandmother Law. I know she wasn't aware of it because I am the first in the family to trace her Morris' back to the James family. I am happy to report that I have inherited none of Jesse's traits and that this is not an Overholt connection.

Happy 80th Birthday to Spencer Overholser 4/23/1996

A HUMAN INTEREST STORY
Mildred Brown Pettigrew, Pottstown PA

Great Aunt Clara must have been up in years when she said "Everything is going too fast these days. Why in church they are singing the hymn before I can find the page numbers!"

Clara Wolf Hinsey and my grandmother, Alice Wolf Brown, were sisters and the great granddaughters of Terre Hill Daniel Overholser (1811-1875). [SL279]

THE PONY EXPRESS RIDES AGAIN!

On 8/26/1995, Paul Overholt of Pasadena CA called to say that he had just received my letter dated 9/10/1993. His reply would be a little late as I was asking for information about his line for the book.

ANOTHER UPDATE

Bruce McCrea of Lansing MI continues to find more information on John Overholser c1764-1842 Montgomery Co OH (JM). On a recent visit to Bedford Co PA, he located the will of Abraham Overholser (AB) of Woodberry Twp. which names his children John, Maria, Jacob and Susanna w/o John Schneider. This proves that John Overholser (JM) is the s/o Abraham. The inventory for his estate was taken 1791 but the will wasn't submitted for probate until 11/23/1793.

About 1755, a colony of German Baptist Brethren settled in Morrison Cove, Bedford Co. The first minister in this area was Abraham Overholser.

In the Border Cemetery, Waterside, Bedford Co, there are two stones-one A.O. 1791 and the other M.O. 1795. They are believed to be the graves of Abraham and his wife although her name in estate papers is Catharine.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Maribeth S Forman
Bradford OH
Carol F Miller
Green Valley AZ
William A Oberholtzer
Jacksonville AL
Don/Lynne Ream
Clarks Hill IN
David Royce
Goshen IN
Dr Robert W Trimmer
Germantown MD
Kathy A Zamecki
Las Vegas NV

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from July 13th to January 1, 1996. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sharon/Richard Benson Tacoma WA	Gwen Lucas Caldonia, Ontario Canada
Joseph/Lucy Breitenstein Topeka KS	Mollie McGee Jonesborough TN
Mel Brinton Wilmington DE	Robert L McKinley Pleasant Hill TN
Benjamin F Bunn Lawrenceville NJ	Henry/Ruth Oberholtzer Summitville IN
Paul H Calhoun Port Clinton OH	John J/Rebecca Oberholtzer Lititz PA
Charles Carroll North Hills PA	William/Judith Oberholtzer Saugatuck MI
Retta M Cunningham Canyon TX	Dwight Overholser N Manchester IN
Kathryn/Paul Dean Brevard NC	Lyndon/Edith Overholser Overland Park KS
Claire J Haut Albuquerque NM	George T Overholt Jr Quechee VT
Josephine/Ole Helleskov Pleasanton CA	Harry/Gloria Overholtzer Gilbertsville PA
Craig/Denise Jones Blythewood SC	Robert/Anne Robson Abilene KS
Paul/Shirley Kantner Reading PA	Dorothea Strappe Elmwood IL
Norman Landis Souderton PA	Gladys Taylor Hamilton Ontario Canada
Vivian B Lewis Grosse Ile MI	Robert/Telma Trimmer Germantown MD
Ellen J Livingood Newtown PA	Claire Hinsey Warren Schwenksville PA
Carolyn J Lowum Chicago IL	Ralph/Jan Williams Kaneohe HI

BUYER BEWARE

Many of us are aware of a publication "Burke's Peerage" which has for about 100 years been recognized as the definitive publication on United Kingdom titled and landed gentry families. John Overholt of Surrey, England received an offer of a book "Burke's Peerage World Book of Overholts" and he phoned the Society of Genealogists who confirmed that Burkes has been sold to Halbert's. John wanted me to warn our members not to be seduced by the hitherto illustrious Burke's name. Halbert's is the company I referred to on page 8 of the August 1995 BULLETIN. Thanks John for the information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/20/94 \$436.42

RECEIPTS

Reunion Contributions	\$201.00	
Interest on Savings	17.26	
Contributions by mail	974.00	
Sale of Oberholtzer/Wash Bk	<u>10.00</u>	
Total Receipts Received	\$1202.26	<u>1202.26</u>
Total balance		1638.68

EXPENSES

Rental of Fire Hall	50.00	
Goodville Mennonite Church (Edwin Redcay Memorial)	35.00	
Barbara Ford, Misc.	21.00	
Mailing Permit Fee-Bulletin	37.50	
Penn Valley Printers	459.99	
Printing Feb/Aug Bulletin		
Jim Kehev-Bulletin expense	187.25	
Postage/Mailing		
Printing OFA Note pads	28.00	
R I Stevens, postage	<u>25.80</u>	
Total expenses		<u>849.54</u>
Total balance		\$789.14

Savings Account \$553.23
 Checking Account 235.91
 \$789.14 8/19/1995

BOOK FUND

Balance 8/20/94 9010.41

RECEIPTS

Book Orders/Contributions	\$4576.53	
Additional Loans	1055.00	
Interest on Savings	<u>140.85</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>5772.38</u>
Total balance		\$14782.79

EXPENSES

Printing 750 Books	\$9129.26	
Payment of <u>ALL</u> Loans	4055.00	
Misc. Expenses	<u>1432.92</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$14617.18</u>
Total balance		\$165.61

Respectfully submitted,
 Richard I Stevens Sr
 Treasurer OFA, 8/19/1995

Misc. exp. consisted of book delivery charge, copyright fee, mailing books-postage, labels, bubble bags, tape etc.

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

DEATHS

Helen (Hess) Overholser 7/24/1901-2/25/1995 Lower Providence, Montgomery Co PA, widow of Reed C Overholser. Survived by son Compton R Overholser.

(IV Daniel Overholser & Mary Lichty line)

Emily M Snyder 6/1896-3/7/1995 North Coventry, Chester Co PA, widow of George C Snyder and d/o the late Howard & Laura (Detwiler) Overholtzer. Survived by daughter Roberta Hoffman and son Howard.

(Abraham Overholtzer & Johanna Derstine of Bucks Co line)

Evelyn J Bower 11/17/1922-4/4/1995 Frederick Mennonite Home, Montgomery Co PA, w/o Henry Landis Bower.

(Marcus Oberholtzer line)

Harry W Overholtzer 2/20/1918-10/1/1995 Gilbertsville PA, s/o the late Oscar Harry & Mary (Sonon) Overholtzer. Survived by his wife Gloria F, children Harry W, Jayne Knopp, Rebecca Strauss, Melinda DuVal, sister Betty Loughlin and 8 grand-children.

(Abraham Overholtzer & Johanna Derstine of Bucks Co line)

Kathryn W Steedle 9/13/1902-12/10/1995 Allentown PA, d/o the late Abraham & Minnie (Hurst) Wenger and widow of Floyd E Steedle. Survived by 2 daughters.

(IV John Overholser & Margaret Kurtz line)

Lyle G Overholser 12/9/1911-12/3/1995 Oak Ridge TN, husband of the late Eloise Grigg and s/o the late James G & Clara (Groff) Overholser. Survived by daughter Linda Parks of Asheville NC, son James G of Roanoke VA and brother Spencer Overholser of Wyomissing Hills PA.

(IV John Overholser & Margaret Kurtz line)

MARRIAGES

Tamara R Schantz to Menno Peter Bergen 7/1/1995 Red Lake, Ontario Canada

(Marcus Oberholtzer line)

John R Weiler, Necrologist

OUR TREASURER

A special thanks to Dick Stevens for his great work as treasurer of the OFA. With the Book Fund Account and the Regular Account, he works all year long keeping records, thanking contributors etc. Dick deserves a "volunteer of the year" award.

MINUTES OF THE 86TH REUNION
August 19, 1995

The Overholser Family Association met at the Terre Hill Fire Hall, Saturday August 19, 1995 with 71 attending. The people started to come at 10:30 A.M., signing their names and getting a name tag. They also brought a covered dish for the noon lunch. This was a good time to start visiting.

President Darwin Overholt welcomed everyone to the 86th Reunion. Ruth Overholser led the singing of Faith of Our Fathers. The invocation was given by Rev Robert Kulp of Findlay Ohio from the Grace Brethren Church of Ohio.

Time for lunch where lots of delicious food was enjoyed. Then everyone gathered outside for picture taking time.

The Meeting was called to order by President Darwin Overholt with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. He introduced the head table with a few comments about each one. The people then introduced themselves and their line.

We all enjoyed hearing the songs of "Night Magic", a Sweet Adelines quartet who are the 1995 Region 19 Champs of the Atlantic-Bay Mountain Region. Tenor-Shirley Eckert of Pemberton NJ, Lead-Barb Carfolite of Bensalem PA, Baritone-Renee Walch of Medford NJ and Bass-Kathy Martin of Rahway NJ.

Darwin read an article about Grandmothers and then the awards were given. Margaret Overholt of Doylestown tied with Corrinne Overholt of Cornwall who both had 17 grandchildren. Alexander Martin of Rahway NJ received the youngest award.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the February 1995 BULLETIN.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as given by Dick Stevens.

Book Committee report- Chairman, Will Overholtzer said the book sales were doing fine.

The Necrologist's report was given by John Weiler.

Jim Kehew was recognized for labeling and mailing the BULLETINS.

Spencer Overholser gave a talk about the Oberholzer Coat of Arms. A collection was taken for expenses. Ella Rydzewski gave a report on her trip to Switzerland. She and her husband had a great time visiting Rosy Oberholzer and her family and seeing the beauty of the hills of Switzerland. Another visitor to Switzerland, Mildred Pettigrew, also visited Rosy and

Continued on page 10



OFFICIAL 1995 REUNION PICTURE TAKEN BY DICK LUCAS

Sitted

John Weiler, Darlene Redcay, Barbara Ford, Will Overholtzer, Spencer Overholser, Darwin Overholt, Dick Stevens, Dick Lucas

1st Row

Eleanor Weiler, Stephanie Martin, Alex Martin, Gail Grimley, Alice Shupe, Suzanne Brown, Geoffrey Martin, Carolyn Landy, Sara Miller, Paul Miller, Anita Landy, Jennifer Landy, Elizabeth Kurtz, Margaret Overholt, Helen Overholser, Gwen Lucas, Jean Overholt

2nd Row

Ruth Overholser, Martha Oberholtzer, Esther Kehew, Jim Kehew, Vera Savary, Carl Taylor, Gladys Taylor

3rd Row

Mel Brinton, Susi Kulp, Ella Rydzewski, Walter Rydzewski, Fred Hinkson, Paul Pletcher, Naomi Pletcher, Shirley Kantner, Paul Kantner, Jean Stevens, Marian Richmond, Laurence Richmond, Corrine Overholt, Maurice Overholt, Jessica Miller, Mildred Smoker

3rd Right

Beatrice Patches, Kermit Patches, Mildred Pettigrew, Harry Gockley, Betty Gockley

Back row

Bob Kulp, Bill Oberholtzer, Helen Oberholtzer, Kathy Martin, Michael Martin, Benjamin Bunn, Robert Overholser, Norman Landis, Kenneth Robinson, D Ernest Weinhold, Lynn Ann Catanese, Arthur Salatto, Merrill Miller

(My apologies if some names are mixed up-it is 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 W Sunhill Road Manheim PA 17545
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, Necrologist	Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017
Genealogist, Editor	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane Wallingford, PA 19086

Continued from page 8

spoke about her trip. Bob Overholser of Baltimore, Maryland brought the medals he has won in the Senior Olympics. He is in the 75 and up group and does 6 1/2 mile runs.

The next Reunion will be held 8/17/1996 in Terre Hill.

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

Respectfully submitted

Darlene O Redcay, Secretary

Overholser Family Association

313 Henry La
Wallingford PA 19086

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