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88TH OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

President's Message

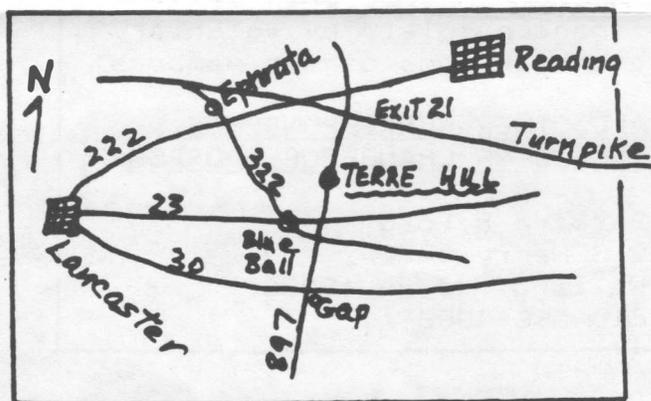
I am pleased to inform you that a very special person has accepted my invitation to be our guest speaker at our Reunion in Terre Hill on Saturday August 16, 1997.

Jane Evans Best is a retired teacher and school director in the Eastern Lancaster County School District. She is an eminent authority on local family histories and has published numerous articles in the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage and the Mennonite Family History magazines. She has traveled in Europe and extensively researched the connection between local immigrant families and their German and Swiss roots.

In her article "Swiss Origins of Groff, Hess, Weber, Landis and Oberholtzer Families" Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage April 1990, she wrote that 1727 immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer (SL) who settled in Lancaster County and immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer (JF) who settled in Franconia Twp, Montgomery Co PA possibly were brothers. The article suggests that the father of these "two brothers" may be Hans Jacob Oberholtzer b ca. 1665 who lived in Steinfurt, Germany and whose ancestors came from the region of Wald (Oberholz), Switzerland.

The article further suggests that an uncle of these two "brothers" may be immigrant Marx (Marcus) Oberholtzer (MC) who settled in Coventry Twp, Chester County PA ca. 1710.

Because of a previous engagement, Jane Evans Best will only be at the Reunion in the morning so try to join us at 10:30 a.m. I hope to see you at the Reunion which should be one of our best. It will be at the Terre Hill Community Center (the Old Fire Hall), Terre Hill PA. We will have a covered dish lunch at noon. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own beverage and tableware but if you are traveling a distance, we will furnish the food etc.



See specific directions on page 10

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XIX No.2 August 1997

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

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Overholser Family Association
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

Continued from page 1

Parents of small children are re-
minded that there is a community
playground just below the Center
that their off-spring will enjoy.

Will Overholtzer
~~~~~

The Lancaster Mennonite Histori-  
cal Society and the Lancaster County  
Historical Society will co-sponsor  
the 19th annual Family History Con-  
ference October 30-November 1, 1997  
at the Holiday Inn/Lancaster Host  
Hotel & Conference Center, Lancaster  
PA. The Keynote Speaker will be Dr  
Arlene H Eakle from Salt Lake City UT  
~~~~~

The 109th Fretz Family Reunion will
be held 8/9/1997 at Camp Men-O-Lan,
1415 Doerr Rd, Quakertown PA.
~~~~~

GOING FIRST CLASS

Did you notice that we are now  
sending the BULLETIN first class mail?  
~~~~~

SORRY

Even though I had a new printer rib-
bon, the print is not as dark as it
usually is.
~~~~~

From the Philadelphia 1914  
Business Directory

Layer Out of the Dead  
Mrs Anna E Rivers 2205 E Norris  
~~~~~

NEW MEMBERS 1/6/1997-6/30/1997

David M Oberholtzer, Sherman TX Scott C Overholtzer, Telford PA
J Elton Overholt, Perkasio PA William E Overholtzer, Lansdale PA
Bret C Overholtzer, Lenexa KS Sally K Sytko, Brick NJ
George D Weaver, Boyne City MI

"SHRINE OF THE PINES"

On the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin, Michigan

In the 1940's, Raymond W Overholser, a hunting guide, built a lodge to honor Michigan's great white pines just two miles south of Baldwin MI (Lake Co). Everything in the cabin is made from white pine except the roof and floor (made from red pine) and a ball joint in the hand-carved front door (made of oak). It is a one-of-a-kind 200 piece collection of his carvings. Two chandeliers carved from pine roots light the interior. One chandelier has been suspended over a beam for 50 years by a pine anchor. An inlaid diningroom table, which seats 12, was carved from a 700 lb. stump and it took six men to move it into the lodge. The 12 chairs were carved from pine roots. The native stone fireplace, all 70 tons of it, has a pine root mantel in which every letter of the alphabet can be found. The rocker used by his wife Hortense is so perfectly balanced that it can rock 55 times with a single push. The gun rack turns on 39 hand-carved wooden roller bearings. A poker table conceals an ace-in-the-hole and the chairs have broader left arms to hold cards and drinks. He used only hand tools and wooden pegs which left his fingers bleeding after each days work. His wife would apply deer tallow so he could work the next day.

From Lyn Overholser, Overland Park KS

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK

A Foundation Book of Oberholtzer Immigrants and Unestablished Lines

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 \$ -----

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

MC7583 Elizabeth Overholt 1812-1872 IN m 10/7/1832 George Regal
From George E Hoke, Bellevue WA
~~~~~

JL246 Sarah Overholtzer b c1805, d TN  
m Jacob Stansberry (Stanbury) 1802-1857  
JL2461 Samuel L Stanbury b 1833 TN  
JL2462 Nancy A Stanbury b 1834 TN  
JL2463 Ester M Stanbury b 1835 TN  
JL2464 Henry N Stanbury 1837/8-1887 KY  
JL2465 James F Stanbury b 1843 TN  
From Bert Lee Medley III, Houston TX  
~~~~~

JC116 Anna Crumbacher 3/30/1826-4/10/1882 m 2/18/1849 John Cole
11/28/1825-2/18/1913 (m2 Rebecca Tellis)
JC1161 Esther A Cole 8/6/1849-10/19/1931
m 9/12/1872 William Townsend 1/25/1841-8/22/1928
JC1162 Elias Cole 8/19/1850-9/30/1928
m1 6/5/1873 Elizabeth Culp 2/22/1852-11/1/1882
m2 6/7/1883 Maggie Kingensmith 3/3/1862-9/2/1907
JC1163 Hannah Cole 11/27/1851-6/4/1933
m1 1871 Austin Wining 5/26/1853-1/28/1887
m2 1889 Emanuel Blake 12/5/1854-1/2/1940
JC1164 Elizabeth Cole 7/1/1854-4/2/1936
m 3/18/1875 William Roller 8/19/1851-6/1928
JC1165 John Cole Jr 3/18/1857-1925
m Cass [-?-]
JC1166 Sarah Cole 6/28/1859-12/22/1862
JC1167 Mariah Cole 6/11/1861-4/23/1894
m 1879 William Culler 1854-1918
JC1168 J Nelson Cole 2/9/1864-4/20/1938
m1 Mary Matilda [-?-] 1862-7/15/1891
m2 c1895 Ida [-?-] 3/4/1872-7/20/1955
JC1169 Laura Alice Cole 9/7/1867-11/23/1931
m 11/27/1884 Wilmer J Elton 9/1/1860-4/1/1932

REF: History of the Cole Family 1825-1958, Ira Cole
From Wilmer Swope, Leetonia OH
~~~~~

QUERY

Naomi Howard, 103 S Three St, PO Box 43, Marthasville MO 63357  
would like more information on Christian Overholser (CV) who married  
7/30/1798 Catherine Fizer in Botetourt VA. She is also interested in  
finding out more about the Fizer family.  
~~~~~

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

BIRTHS

Mia Ellen Field 11/27/1996, d/o Matthew D & Jeannette Field. Great granddaughter of Eldon & Sue Field of Zionsville IN.
(Abraham Overholts [AV] & Anna Witmor line)

John Harold Swarr 2/1/1997, s/o Harold & Nancy (Ferguson) Swarr
(IV Christian Oberholser [SL274] & Susanna Kurtz line)

DEATHS

Anna Mary Oberholtzer 6/5/1922-1/15/1997 Lancaster PA, d/o the late William Menno Oberholtzer & Emma M Fox. She worked at the Lancaster County Historical Society and attended our Reunions.
(IV Samuel Oberholtzer [SL248] & Martha H Hess line)

Izac O (Ike) Emrich 11/10/1912-3/22/1997 IA. Surviving are his wife Elaine, daughter Linny, brothers John, Paul, George and Frank, sisters Grace Ernsbarger, Ruth Breningstall, Mary Smead and Eleanor Bray.
(IV Christian Oberholser (SL274) & Susanna Kurtz line)

Nola Overholser died 4/17/1997 Atlanta GA age 94. She was the widow of Orval Overholser
(John Overholser [JM] & Susanna Snyder line)

John R Weiler, Necrologist

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THE OFA LOSES TWO GOOD FRIENDS

John L Overholt born 5/28/1909, died 2/15/1997. John retired in 1975 to Kilmarnock VA where he concentrated on researching the Oberholtzers, including his own Martin Overholt (MT3) who married Elizabeth Nash. He is best known for his 1986 article in the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage THE MARCUS OBERHOLTZER (1664-1725) FAMILY. His extensive list of correspondents included many of our OFA members. We are all most appreciative of John's fine contribution to the history of the Oberholtzers. He is survived by his wife Peg, children John H Overholt, Regina Overholt, Georgia O Minnich and 3 grandsons.  
(Mark Overholt [MT] & Elizabeth Staats line)

Mildred Brown Pettigrew, widow of Daniel Pettigrew, born 3/3/1914, died 3/14/1997 Tucson AZ. She resided in Pottstown PA and is survived by children Daniel, Nancy Kunze, Mary Powell and 5 grandchildren. She had the distinction of being the only female president of the OFA 1988-1990. She loved tracing her family and contributed a great deal to the Overholser and Brown histories through her research here and in Germany.  
(IV Daniel Overholser [SL279] & Anna S Landis line)

~~~~~

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who have contributed to the OFA from January 3rd to June 12, 1997. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Dr John/Margaret Arnold White Bear Lake MN	Stanley W Nash Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Max/Carol C Boyer Denver CO	Buell W Oberholser San Luis Obispo CA
Claud/Eleanor Bray Bull Shoals AR	David M/Marian Oberholtzer Sherman TX
James/Margaret Campbell Edmond OK	Noah/Lena Oberholtzer Leola PA
Shelly Chapman Kahoka MO	John I Overholser Detroit MI
Ann Duke Owensboro KY	Gwen Overholt Amherstburg, Ont., Canada
Charles/Jane Elliott Sacramento CA	J Elton Overholt Perkasie PA
Karen H Ermutlu Alpharetta GA	John A M Overholt Surrey, England
John/Phyllis Ferguson Spring City PA	Bret C Overholtzer Lenexa KS
Eldon/Sue Field Zionsville IN	John/Mary Overholtzer Tingley IA
Anne/Harry T Foote Portland ME	Billie Jo Read Bonduel WI
Janet/John Goodrich Cashiers NC	Donald/Lynne Ream Clarks Hill IN
Betty J Hansen Missoula MT	Donald/Ruth Rhinehart Painesville OH
Claire J Haut Albuquerque NM	Glen/Patricia Roosevelt Anaheim Hills CA
Jack/JoAnn Kester Bonita Springs FL	Robert/Helen Shonk Dover OH
Walter/Elisabeth Knauff San Francisco CA	Virgie M Walker Wilmington OH
Robert L McKinley Pleasant Hill TN	Gerald D Weaver Boyne City MI

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OOPS!

I neglected to include Gwen Overholt of Amherstburg, Ontario, Canada on our 1996 contributor list. She has been one of our most loyal supporters and I apologize for my mistake.

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION ARE NOT ONLY APPRECIATED BUT NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE BULLETIN. HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR 1997?

To the Honorable the Representatives of the Freemen
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met:

The petition of Eve Yoder, wife of Jacob Yoder of Upper Saucon Twp in the county of Northampton, in this State, yeoman and Esther Bachman, wife of George Bachman of Upper Saucon Twp aforesaid yeoman, as well as on behalf of themselves and their said husbands as also on behalf of John Geisinger, Abraham Geisinger, Henry Sell, Jasper Yoder, Abraham Yoder, Jacob Yoder, Henry Geisinger, Christian Young, John Newcomer and George Bachman, all of them freeholders and men of reputation of the said county who have always behaved peaceably and quietly and never intermeddled in State affairs, but paid their taxes and fines, furnished horses and teams for the continental service, whenever demanded, and some of them have gone with their teams as drivers to carry provisions to the army of the United States, for which service they have hitherto received no pay; that the said freeholders were summoned to appear at the Court of Quarter Sessions held at Easton in June last past where they appeared accordingly and the test being tendered them by the said Court, which said test they conscientiously scrupled to take (being of the religious society called Menonists). Whereupon the said Court sentenced them to be banished out of the State within thirty days after the said Court and that all their personal estate be confiscated to the State, that afterwards all their said personal estate, even their beds, bedding, linen, Bibles and books were taken from them and sold by the Sheriff to the amount of about 40 thousand pounds. That from some of them all their provisions were taken and even not a morsel of bread left them for their children. That as all their iron stoves were taken from them, though fastened to the freehold, they are deprived of every means of keeping their children warm in the approaching winter, especially at nights, being obliged to lye on the floor without any beds; that some of the Men's wives were pregnant and near the time of deliverance, which makes their case the more distressing, and that by reason of the said proceedings ten of the respectful and considerable Families in the said County of Northampton are becoming destitute and very much reduced.

May it therefore please this Honorable House to take the premises into consideration and to mitigate the Severity of the Sentence of the said Court and that some Regard be had to the command of God laid down in the Scriptures of Truth, to wit: 'What God hath joyned together let not man put asunder' and that our husbands may be permitted to dwell with us, and that our children may not be taken from us. And your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.
September the 9th, 1778

Eve (X) Joder
Esther (X) Bachman

REF: History of the Mennonites of The Franconia Conference (Scottsdale PA: Press of the Mennonite Publishing House, 1937) pp 61, 62

Esther Bachman was the d/o Jacob Oberholtzer 1699-1760 (MC1). Her daughter Catharina 1770-1806 (MC150) married Jacob Oberholtzer 1767-1847 (JC1).

OLD LETTERS

In going over some old letters that were written to Rev I E Oberholtzer, I found one that was about the family of Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co PA (JL).

2/17/1932 from Mrs Frank Crouse, Tarreytown MD (JL4150)

"I was talking to my oldest brother George (JL4152) yesterday and he said our Great Grandfather came from the old country. That he came over with a family by the name of Musselman and he married a Musselman, the daughter of the family he came over with. Whether he was married when they came or whether he married after they came to this country, he does not remember. I asked my father who his Great Grandfather married and he said a Kilheffer."

Another outline from around the same 1932 period states that Christian Overholtzer (1740-1819) [JL4] and his wife Christina Musselman came from Germany. For many years it was believed that this couple were immigrants but a connection to Jacob Oberholtzer was made by Grace O Milligan in her book CHRISTIAN OVERHOLTZER & HIS FATHER JACOB. This is where the story that a Musselman family accompanied the Oberholtzers across the ocean originated. To date, no one has been able to find any information that shows 1732 immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer's second wife Barbara was a Kilheffer.

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A FRICK CONNECTION IN THE 1727 IMMIGRANT SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER LINE?

• I have tried to find the maiden name of Catherine who was the first wife of Jacob Oberholtzer (SL1), s/o immigrant Samuel of Lancaster Co. Missing also is the maiden name of Elizabeth, w/o Martin Oberholtzer (SL2) who was the brother of Jacob. I feel that there is a possibility that one of the wives might have been a Frick. In 1775 Samuel & Anna Oberholtzer, children of Martin who died 1767, choose Jacob Frick as their guardian. In 1792 Christian Frick and Jacob Oberholtzer (the younger of Manheim) were appointed guardians of the four minor children of Philip Shoemaker, husband of Magdalena Oberholtzer (SL15). In his will written 12/10/1803, Jacob Oberholtzer (SL1) of Manheim Twp, Lancaster Co appointed Christian Frick of Manheim and his son Jacob Oberholtzer executors of his estate. The late Martin Brackbill believed that Jacob Frick, the guardian of Samuel and Anna Oberholtzer, was the brother of Elizabeth, wife of Martin Oberholtzer. The Fricks were early settlers in Lancaster Co as shown in the 1756 census-Jacob Frick and John Frick (freeman) were listed in Manheim Twp. Research is needed on the Frick family.

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WORD FROM SWITZERLAND VIA ENGLAND

John A M Overholt of Surrey, England sent an article about Josef Oberholzer of Switzerland, a former Union Bank official in Zurich, who was accused of money-laundering in his management of a bank account for Columbian drug smugglers for more than 15 years. Josef was cleared of the charges but ordered to return money he earned from managing the Columbian money.

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### US POSTOFFICE VS PONY EXPRESS

When Jack Kinyon of Fox River Grove IL ordered THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK, he had no idea we used the Pony Express because his book which was mailed 12/4/1996, arrived 2/12/1997! Jack located the grave of his ancestor James Abshire, husband of Elizabeth Overholts (AV3), in Lynn IN and had a new military stone placed on his grave in 1996 to honor his service in the War of 1812. James Abshire served in the Sixth Regiment, Fifth Brigade of the First Division in the Ohio Militia. His unit was ordered into service for the protection of the frontier at Fort Nesbitt, near New Paris, Preble Co OH.

### WHO WROTE IT?

Some members have wondered who wrote THE GREAT AWAKENING ARTICLE in the February 1997 BULLETIN. As editor, I have written, sometimes researching, all articles except those where credit is given to someone else. I was the one who got awake at 4 a.m. with the solution to the Deborah Krey & Deborah Haldeman problem. BBF

### DR H C OBERHOLSER UPDATE

Harry Church Oberholser 1870-1963 was a distinguished ornithologist and author of THE BIRD LIFE OF LOUISIANA and THE BIRD LIFE OF TEXAS. At one time, H.C. was the senior biologist in the US Dept of the Interior and then curator of ornithology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. I found that his father Jacob, a merchant in Brooklyn NY, married his mother Lavera Church in Ohio which helped in tracing the family from Ohio to New Jersey to Brooklyn. H.C.'s grandfather was Henry P Oberholtzer (JF1413) who went to Copley Twp, Summit Co OH from Berks Co PA. Henry P and his family are on page 101 of Loomis' SOME ACCOUNT OF JACOB OBERHOLTZER.

### VISITORS FROM SWITZERLAND

Rosy Oberholzer and her granddaughter Julianna flew in from Oberholz, Switzerland to visit Darwin and Jean Overholt in Cape Coral, Florida this past March for 16 days. They had a great visit and enjoyed seeing John and Vera Overholt in Sarasota where they attended the Amish Church Service and had a mini reunion of Overholts in the area. John was the first American Overholt to visit Oberholz in 1949. Darwin said they introduced their guests to strange and exotic food not found in Switzerland such as-peas, baked sweet potatoes, jello and french fried onion rings. Rosy was fascinated with the "Subway Sandwich Shop" and is seriously thinking about adding HOAGIES to the menu at her restaurant.

OFFICERS

|                          |                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                | Willard Overholtzer, 2451 El Pavo Way<br>Rancho Cordova CA 95670 |
| 1st Vice President       | D Ernest Weinhold, 107 W Sunhill Road<br>Manheim PA 17545        |
| 2nd Vice President       | Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road<br>Doylestown PA 18901          |
| Recording Secretary      | Darlene D Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38<br>Goodville PA 17528   |
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| President Emeritus       | Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive<br>Wyomissing PA 19610      |
| Chaplain,<br>Necrologist | Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive<br>Bethlehem, PA 18017      |
| Genealogist, Editor      | Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane<br>Wallingford, PA 19086          |

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HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

Terre Hill is a town of 1,200 located in the Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster County, midway between Lancaster and Reading. The Terre Hill Community Center (Old Fire Hall) is on the main street, with plenty of parking at the rear.

From Lancaster: 15 mi NE via Rts 222, 23, 897

From Reading: 15 mi SW via Rts 222, 897

From Gap on Rt 30: 15 mi N via Rt 897

From Exit 21 (Reading), PA Turnpike: 5 mi S via Rt 897

Many motels are in the area with Ephrata and New Holland nearby.

Overholser Family Association

313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086

