

Overholser Family
Association



Bulletin

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although I'm very proud of the recent accomplishments of our Association and its members, I am also concerned about our future. I need to share my thoughts on this with you.

In many ways our family association has never been better off. We are at an all time high in membership. Thanks to Barbara Ford, we have recently published one of the finest family history books available anywhere. Our semi-annual bulletin/newsletter has an expanded format and is always full of new and interesting family discoveries. We continue to receive frequent family history inquiries and most result in new membership.

The "flipside" of all of this is a great concern. Attendance at our annual meetings has decreased. More than half of our membership are not making annual dues contributions. Although our book-publishing fund is solvent, our general membership fund barely has enough to cover basic association obligations such as the expenses associated with our meeting hall and publishing the newsletter. Most of the current association officers are repeating terms of service because of a lack of volunteers to replace them.

The "bottomline" is that we need to spark new interest. We need your ideas, help, commitment and contributions now!!

If you haven't already done so this year, please send your membership contributions to Overholser Family Association, c/o Richard I Stevens Sr, Treasurer, 224 Swarthmore Dr, Lititz PA 17543. If you can make time to become an association officer or have suggestions for improving our organization, please contact me at 916-366-1443. And for all who can, PLEASE plan to attend our Terre Hill annual meeting the third Saturday in August.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year,

Will Overholtzer
January 1998

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Why pay money to have your family tree traced? Go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.

~~~~~

Mark Twain

89TH ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 15, 1998
Place: Terre Hill Community
Center, Terre Hill PA
(Old Fire Hall)

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.

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XX No.1 February 1998

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard I Stevens Sr
Treasurer
224 Swarthmore Drive
Lititz PA 17543

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

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES
ALL CORRESPONDENCE,
INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara B Ford
313 Henry Lane
Wallingford PA 19086
610-566-4888

THESE 41 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 1997 OFA REUNION

Jane Evans Best Lancaster PA	Robert/Helen Overholser Baltimore MD
Barbara Ford Wallingford PA	Spencer/Ruth Overholser Wyomissing PA
Jo/Ole Helleskov Wyomissing PA	Darwin/Jean Overholt Doylestown PA
Paul/Leila Herr Hershey PA	Margaret Overholt Doylestown PA
George/Jeanne Ivins Holland PA	Scott Overholtzer Telford PA
Jim/Esther Kehev Mechanicsburg PA	Will/Kathy Overholtzer Jimmy Schwartzel Rancho Cordova CA
Glenn Landis Lititz PA	Kermit/Beatrice O Patches Lititz PA
Norman/Mary Landis Souderton PA	Paul/Naomi Pletcher New Holland PA
Dick/Gven Lucas Caledonia, Ontario CAN	Darleen Redcay Goodville PA
Aleck/Dorothy O McLean Feasterville PA	Richard/Jean Stevens Lititz PA
Bill/Helen Oberholtzer Bethlehem PA	John/Eleanor Weiler Bethlehem PA
Noah L Oberholtzer Jr Leola PA	D Ernest Weinhold Manheim PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
July 1997-January 1998

Michele T Miller, Baltimore MD
Ruth K Oberholtzer, North Wales PA
Robert G Overholser, Baltimore MD
Shirley A Pyle, Richmond IN
Susan Joy Reagan, Fremont MI

AN OLD-FASHIONED BARN RAZING

A Pennsylvania-style bank barn was dismantled and moved by two tractor-trailers from Bedminster, Bucks Co PA to Hesston KS this past summer. The barn, on land which has been in the Leatherman family for seven generations, was built by Jacob Overholt. The late Howard Leatherman and his wife Margaret are both related to Jacob Overholt. Their son Dean took only the original 2,000 sq. foot stone section with hickory and oak framework. He plans to use it on his farm in Hesston for lumber storage and tours for school children and historical societies.

OBERHOLTZER COAT-OF-ARMS LAPEL PINS

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Association received Oberholtzer Coat-of-Arms lapel pins which can be purchased from Barbara Ford at \$4 plus \$.50 S/H. The colors are gray, green, blue and yellow.



Exact Size

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	\$ _____

A FAMILY TREE WITH PICTURES

Joe Cannon of Westerville OH has a unique way of displaying five generations. On an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet, he starts with his 4th great grandparents Abraham Overholt (MC759) and Susannah Crites. For the next five generations he has the pictures (reduced to about 1" x 1 1/4") of each relative with names and dates, ending with his parents.
~~~~~

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITION

Samuel Scott Overholser (JA431), s/o Jacob Overholser and Elizabeth Neiswenger, who was killed in the Civil War is buried at the National Cemetery, Stone's River TN, Section I, Grave 91.  
REF: US Quartermaster's Dept. Roll of Honor Vol. XI, p 247.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SAMUEL W OBERHOLTZER (SL2262)  
1727 Immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster Co line

Susan Joy Reagan of Fremont MI wrote that she was interested in purchasing THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK because she was tracing a Samuel Oberholtzer who was a Civil War veteran living in Michigan. He had a daughter Jamima who went to live with a Colwell family in Greenville MI at age 5. I remembered finding a Samuel Oberholtzer in the Michigan 1870 census with a daughter Jeminia and I was fairly sure this was Susan's family. Further correspondence proved we were talking about the same family with Susan filling in Samuel's story of his move from Lebanon Co PA to Ohio to Michigan. Samuel had married Susan Hoffman in PA and in 1857 with one horse and \$75 they moved to Stark Co OH with possibly 2 children and his mother Elizabeth, widow of Christian Oberholtzer who died 1847. Samuel's Civil War record shows that he was in the 55th Reg of the Ohio Vol. Infantry and was wounded twice at Chancellorsville VA. He was left for dead on the battlefield and Confederate soldiers stripped him of his boots and clothes. Several days later he was found and sent to an Army hospital where they amputated his leg. He and his son-in-law Sylvester Brown managed a boarding house in Torch Lake MI which is still standing today. Susan Reagan and her husband had a guided tour of the house which may be turned into a Bed and Breakfast. Rev I E Oberholtzer's notes had said that Samuel went West and had 6 daughters. Susan Reagan said he had 10 daughters born between 1853 and 1873 when his wife died. By 1880 Samuel was living with his daughter Elizabeth Gunn and her family and I found 3 of the daughters living with different families. For some reason, the children who were not married were given away. Samuel married again 8/29/1883 Louisa Dean, a widow. Further information should be available when Susan Reagan gets Samuel's Civil War pension papers.

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TWO BARBARAS DIE THE SAME DAY, MONTH AND YEAR

It has been called to my attention that Barbara Overholt Rosenberger (MC13) d/o Jacob Overholt of Bucks Co PA and Barbara Funk (JF2) d/o Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia, Montgomery Co PA both died 2/3/1765. Rev A J Fretz in his OBERHOLTZER & NASH FAMILY HISTORIES on page 221 said that Barbara Overholt Rosenberger died 2/3/1765 and Loomis in his SOME ACCOUNT OF JACOB OBERHOLTZER on page 181 said that Barbara Oberholtzer Funk died 2/3/1765. Did one of the authors make a mistake or did they actually die the same day?

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THE TOWN OF OBERHOLZER

We often mention Oberholz, Switzerland but did you know there is an Oberholzer which adjoins the town of Wonderfontein in the Republic of South Africa? It was named in honor of Johannes Jacobus Oberholzer, the ancestor of Dr J J Oberholzer of Durban, Republic of South Africa, who was a member of a contingent of soldiers sent to the Cape by the Dutch East India Company in 1696.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from June 21, 1997 to January 2, 1998. Let us not forget those who contributed at the Reunion, who must remain anonymous. Your support is greatly appreciated.

|                                             |                                             |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Grant & Charlene Aitken<br>Spanish Fork UT  | Margaret Lawrence<br>Narvon PA              |
| Vernon & Barbara Benson<br>Wyoming MI       | Robert & Carolyn Lowum<br>Chicago IL        |
| Paul H Calhoun<br>Port Clinton OH           | Dick & Gwen Lucas<br>Caldonia Ont. CAN      |
| Dale & Barbara Crites<br>Spring Hill FL     | C Dorothy McLean<br>Feasterville PA         |
| Retta M Cunningham<br>Canyon TX             | Ronnie & Beverly Molstad<br>Miles City MT   |
| Jonathan B Detwiler<br>Phoenixville PA      | Helen & Harvey Nightengale<br>Renton WA     |
| Bruce T Ferguson<br>Owensboro KY            | John L Overholser<br>Narvon PA              |
| Harvey Fergusson<br>Falls Church VA         | Richard S Overholser<br>Noblesville IN      |
| Daniel & Maribeth Forman<br>Bradford OH     | Gloria F Overholtzer<br>Gilbertsville PA    |
| Herbert & Elizabeth O Frey<br>Freehold NJ   | Charles & Shirley A Pyle<br>Richmond IN     |
| David & Sally Gray<br>Wichita KS            | Michael & Susan J Reagan<br>Fremont MI      |
| John & Frances Kinyon<br>Fox River Grove IL | Robert & Anne Robson<br>Abilene KS          |
| Norman R & Mary Landis<br>Souderton PA      | Homer & Matilda C Schaaf<br>West Chester PA |

Carl & Gladys Taylor  
Hamilton, Ont. CAN  
~~~~~

NECROLOGIST REPORT

BIRTHS

Jeremy David 6/3/1997, s/o Lisa & Justin Serfling of Lewisberry PA
(Jacob Oberholtzer & Esther Blehm line) [JB]

Correction 8/1997 BULLETIN-Mia Ellen Field born 11/27/1996 is the d/o
Matthew & Jennifer Field

DEATHS

Helen Buchanan Eshelman 2/16/1916-10/10/1996
Kathleen Buchanan Hoisington 2/15/1917-4/23/1997
Both daughters of Clara Kurtz Buchanan
(IV Anna Oberholtzer & Hetzel Stirk line) [SL271]

Eunice G Overholser c1914-11/11/1996 West Milton OH. She is survived
by her husband Laurel E, daughter Sylvia O Kress and son Steven D.
(John Overholser & Mary Chronister line) [JA]

Barbara Ford, Necrologist

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION

I have been the genealogist for the OFA almost 10 years and I have always been delighted to receive new clues on the various lines. A recent letter from David Stielow of Burbank CA asked if I had any information on Fannie Overholtzer (b 1740-45) who married c1761 Anthony Barnhart, a witness to the 11/21/1759 will of Marcus Oberholtzer [MC4] of Coventry Twp, Chester Co PA. He said Anthony's first marriage was to Catherine Mellinger. This is the first time I have heard of a Fannie Overholtzer in this area and I wonder how she possibly fits into the Marcus Oberholtzer [MC] line. Was she one of the three children of Samuel Oberholtzer [MC5] mentioned in Marcus' 1759 will? Anthony and Fannie named their second son Samuel. Anthony Barnhart moved to Frederick Co MD, as did other people from Coventry Twp. I wonder if this is where Abraham Overholts (AV), who lived in Frederick Co before moving to Virginia, is from? I plan to do further research on this important clue.

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### ONCE REMOVED

There was much "discussion" at the Reunion about my relationship to former Gov. Fife Symington of Arizona. To set the record straight, I am his 3rd cousin once removed. Fife, a great grandson of Henry Clay Frick, was recently convicted of bank fraud. My record is clean except for the time I was stopped for speeding at age 64!

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NEW INFORMATION

1732 Immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co PA line

Daniel W Oberholzer (JL3742) 1/24/1848-4/4/1875 East Earl, Lancaster Co PA married 2/1870 Anna Martzall b 1/17/1851. He was a s/o Joseph W Oberholzer and Magdalena Wanner. Daniel and Anna had a son Daniel M b 6/1873 who married Mary C [-?-] b 6/1878. Their son Harry W b 5/1900 was the father of Jay G Oberholzer c1922-1997 who ran a general store in Goodville, Lancaster Co PA and was well known to many in the area.

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### A PUZZLE TO SOLVE

Mark Overholt (MT) & Elizabeth Staats of Tinicum, Bucks Co PA line

On 6/9/1804 Staats Overholt (MT2) of Clinton Twp, Lincoln Co, Canada wrote his will which was proved 1820. In it, he said "to my beloved son Mark". Barbara Roadhouse of Nanticoke, Ontario has the death certificate of Mark Overholt who died 5/11/1888 age 83. That would make him born c1805 which is a year after Staats' will was written. Bucks Co deeds show that after the death of Staats, his six children signed releases saying that they had received their legacies from the estate of Christian Hunsberger, husband of Magdalena Overholt. The children were Jacob Overholt, Elizabeth Fisher, Susanna Singer, Mary Ruth, Isaac Overholt and Christopher Overholt. There is no mention of a Mark Overholt. Did Staats' son Mark die before the the children received their legacies? Was the Mark who died 1888 a grandson of Staats?

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ANNUAL OFA TREASURER'S REPORT
August 16, 1997

Balance 8/17/1996 \$968.91

RECEIPTS

Reunion Contributions	\$206.55	
Contributions by mail	843.85	
Interest on savings	<u>21.25</u>	
	Total receipts	<u>1071.65</u>
	Total balance	\$2040.56

EXPENSES

Penn Valley Printers Inc	417.80	
Jim Kehew-postage & mailing		
Feb & Aug Bulletin	230.07	
Barbara Ford-misc. expenses	170.15	
Darwin Overholt-loudspeaker system	185.36	
Rental fee-Community Hall '96	60.00	
Rental fee-Community Hall '97	60.00	
Richard I Stevens-Treasurer postage	12.80	
Wilson College		
Mildred Pettigrew memorial	<u>35.00</u>	
	Total expenses	<u>1171.18</u>
	Total balance	\$869.38

Savings Account \$869.38
 Checking Account 28.16
 Total assets \$897.54

OFA BOOK FUND-ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/17/1996 \$1831.65

RECEIPTS

Book sales (56) 8/21/96-8/9/97	1640.22	
Interest 7/1/96-6/30/97	51.09	
	Total receipts	<u>1691.31</u>
	Total balance	\$3522.96

EXPENSES

Barbara Ford		
Book mailing/supplies		<u>110.62</u>
	Total balance	\$3412.34

Respectfully submitted,
Richard I Stevens Sr, Treas. OFA
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RESEARCH ON HOLD

The Historical Society of Penna., where I do my research, is closed for 4 1/2 months for restoration until the middle of April. I can still do census work at the National Archives branch in Philadelphia if anyone needs help.

MINUTES OF THE 88TH OFA REUNION

The Overholser Family Association met at the Terre Hill Community Center on August 16, 1997 with people arriving about 10:30 bringing food for the covered dish luncheon at noon. Genealogical charts, books and photos were displayed on several tables.

At 11:30 our special guest speaker Jane Evans Best spoke about her Oberholtzer research in Switzerland and Germany.

The blessing was asked by Rev John Weiler and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, pictures were taken by Spencer Overholser and Dick Lucas.

The meeting was called to order by President Will Overholtzer who dedicated the Reunion to the memories of Mildred Pettigrew, John L Overholt and Ronald Oberholtzer. Rev John Weiler gave the invocation. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Will led us in Faith of Our Father's.

Everyone introduced themselves and told what line they were from.

Margaret Overholt received an award for being the oldest there, with Jimmy Schwartzel getting the youngest award and traveling the the greatest distance were Kathy Overholtzer and Robert Overholser.

Pennsylvania Dutch short stories in dialect were told by Ernest Weinhold, Norman Landis, Kermit Patches and Noah Oberholtzer.

Noah Oberholtzer told of his family and his desire to index the Oberholtzer Family History 1802-1968 by Levi & Lizzie Oberholtzer.

Our attention was called to the framed Senior Olympic medals that Robert Overholser of Baltimore MD brought to the Reunion.

John Weiler spoke of The Artist's Inn & Gallery, a bed and breakfast at 117 East Main St, Terre Hill, that was the former Victorian home of the Shobers.

Welcomed were first time visitors Paul & Leila Herr and Josephine and Ole Helleskov, Spencer & Ruth Overholser's daughter.

The secretary's report by Darlene Redcay was accepted as printed in the February 1997 BULLETIN.

John Weiler gave his Necrologist report and, at his suggestion, the Necrologist will be combined with the duties of genealogist Barbara Ford.

Richard I Stevens Sr gave his treasurer's report which had been audited by Dick Lucas.

Barbara Ford reported that 332 books have been sold.

Spencer Overholser is on the three man Nomination Committee. Will plans to contact two others who he hopes will volunteer with one serving as chairman.

An anonymous donor contributed Oberholtzer Coat-of-Arms lapel pins which Barbara Ford will sell.

Ruth Overholser led us in singing the Reunion Song.

Dick and Gwen Lucas of Ontario invited all to attend their 50th Anniversary in September.

Our 89th Reunion will be held August 15, 1998.

The meeting was closed with Rev Weiler giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darlene O Redcay, Secretary





OFFICIAL 1997 REUNION PICTURE  
PHOTOGRAPHERS SPENCER OVERHOLSER AND DICK LUCAS

Sitted

Barbara Ford, John Weller, Richard Stevens, Spencer Overholser,  
D Ernest Weinhold, Darwin Overholt, Margaret Overholt, Will Over-  
holtzer

2nd Row

Dick Lucas, Darlene Redcay, Ruth Overholser, Helen Overholser,  
Dorothy O McLean, Jean Stevens, Eleanor Weller, Jean Overholt, Jim  
Kehew, Esther Kehew, Naomi Pletcher

3rd Row

Jo Helleskov, Ole Helleskov, Robert Overholser, Aleck McLean, Paul  
Pletcher, Norman Landis, Mary Landis, Beatrice O Patches, Helen  
Oberholtzer

4th Row

Gwen Lucas, Kermit Patches, Bill Oberholtzer

OFFICERS

|                                     |                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| President                           | Willard Overholtzer, 2440 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 O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38<br>Goodville PA 17528   |
| Treasurer                           | Richard I Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Drive<br>Lititz, PA 17543      |
| President Emeritus                  | Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive<br>Wyomissing PA 19610      |
| Chaplain                            | Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive<br>Bethlehem, PA 18017      |
| Genealogist, Editor,<br>Necrologist | Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane<br>Wallingford, PA 19086          |

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THE DILLMAN FAMILY WHEEL

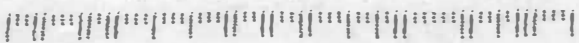
In 1982 Lucille Dillman Smith of Wewoka OK wrote that she had the Dillman Family Wheel which was compiled in 1888. It contained a record of three Overholsters who married descendants of Jacob and Christena Dillman which were-

Daniel Overholser (AV51) married Mollie Brubaker, d/o Jacob & Hannah (Peters) Brubaker.

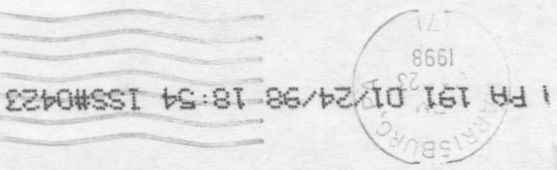
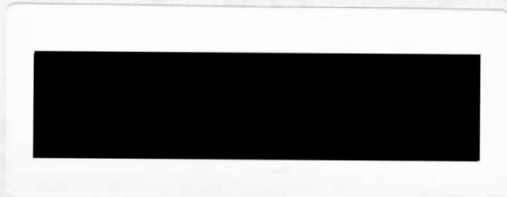
Abraham Overholser (AV56) married 12/27/1832 Lydia Brower, d/o Daniel & Sallie (Flora) Brower.

Jacob Overholser (AV58) married 5/4/1837 Sophia Brower, d/o Daniel & Sallie (Flora) Brower.

They were the sons of Abraham Whitmore Overholts (AV5) of Virginia and Preble Co OH. Lucille Smith said that she could give the female's lineages back to the immigrant grandparents.



1982-2687 04



Overholser Family Association
313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086