

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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The President's Column

THEY HAD A DREAM. Every year when I attend the Overholser Family Association Reunion my mind turns to the reasons our forefathers left their homeland, their families, friends and most of their possessions to migrate across the North Atlantic to the land of opportunity. The trip usually started with a trip down the Rhine which at times lasted from four to six weeks with stops at custom houses where the ships were examined. When they arrived in Holland, they were detained possibly five to six weeks. The next stage of the journey was to an English port, usually Cowes on the Isle of Wight. This meant another delay of one to two weeks. The ocean voyage could last from eight to twelve weeks depending on a good wind.

While in Ireland two years ago, I had the opportunity to go through a replica of a Potato Famine sailing ship. This ship was similar to the MARY HOPE that arrived in Philadelphia on September 23, 1710 with Marcus Oberholtzer and family aboard. This ship was about 70' long and about 25' wide with a crew of 15. Under the main deck was a 5' high passenger deck. As many as 300 people could be crammed into this open area. In rough weather the hatch covers were closed to keep the sea out. They were subjected to all sorts of diseases with children the first to be attacked. On one ship, 32 children died on the voyage. When a gale raged, so that the waves would rise often like mountains and the ship would toss from side to side by the storm and waves, no one could walk, sit or lie and the closely packed people in the berths tumbled over each other, both the sick and the well. When they arrived in Philadelphia, a health officer visited the ship and those who were without disease, were taken to City Hall where, before 1776, they signed the oath of allegiance to the king of Great Britain. They came because they had a dream!

Friday August 17th, the evening before the 92nd Reunion, we will again have a get together at Yoder's Restaurant for out of towners and other interested members. Please let Barbara Ford know if you plan to attend the dinner that night.

Darwin Overholt

92nd ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 18, 2001

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. XXIII No. 1 February 2001

Editor - Barbara B Ford
313 Henry Lane
Wallingford PA 19086

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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

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(Note: The Bulletin is financed solely by voluntary
contributions of the members)

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

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Wallingford PA 19086
610-566-4888
E-MAIL-bbfordofa@aol.com

**THESE 63 PEOPLE ATTENDED
THE 91ST OVERHOLSER REUNION**

- | | |
|---|--|
| Benjamin F Bunn Jr
Lawrenceville NJ | Christian L Oberholtzer
Raleigh NC |
| Don Felts/Edna Simcic*
Melanie Boyd *, Marathon FL | Dennis/Earline Oberholtzer*
Paradise PA |
| David Field
Midlothian VA | Fred/Emily/Lynn Oberholtzer
Timonium MD |
| Eldon/Sue Field*
Zionsville IN | Helen/Bill Oberholtzer
Bethlehem PA |
| Barbara Ford
Wallingford PA | Ward/Tina/Jacob/Katelyn
Oberholtzer
Lutherville MD |
| Herbert/Elizabeth Frey
Freehold NJ | Chris/Jody/Robert/Terry
Overholser, Richmond VA |
| Sally/David Gray*
Wichita KS | Doug/Marsha Overholser*
Chadwick MO |
| Timothy/Desarree Haselden
Forestville MD | Jim/Kathy Overholser*
Roanoke VA |
| Stephen/Joan Haselden
Upper Marlboro MD | Robert/Helen Overholser*
White Marsh MD |
| Wendell/Naomi Ruth Howard*
Marthasville MO | Ruth/Spencer Overholser*
Wyomissing Hills PA |
| Phares S Hurst
Narvon PA | Darwin/Jean Overholt*
Doylestown PA |
| Carolyn Oswald Kendall
Glenside PA | Jean Oberholtzer Schaffer
Coopersburg PA |
| Ellen Livingood
Newtown PA | Fred/Carol Skillman*
Cochisc AZ |
| Frank Livingood
Ephrata PA | John/Eleanor Weiler*
Bethlehem PA |
| Gwen/Dick Lucas*
Caledonia, Ont, CAN | Paul/Kim/Christopher Weiler*
Gapland MD |
| Kathern/John Maine
Lancaster PA | D Ernest Weinhold*
Manheim PA |
| Chris Oberholtzer
Sewell NJ | Robert C Wenger
Ephrata PA |

*Attended Friday night at Yoder's along with
Darlene O Redcay, Goodville PA
Harold/Nora Mae Kilheffer, Lancaster PA
John/Faye Oberholser, Narvon PA

OCCUPATION

The 1871 Ontario census lists an Edward
Capp age 40, born in England and gives his occu-
pation as traveller.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
July 1999-December 2000

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Esty Childress
Stateline NV | Barbara O Jarvis
Oceanside CA |
| Pam Cooper
Hoover AL | Ina C KinKaid
Kerrville TX |
| Agnes O Greene
Sumter SC | John K Loucks
Blairsville PA |
| Thera Hammond
Bandon OR | Sandra Oldman
Yarnell AZ |
| Stephen Haselden
Upper Marlboro MD | John Pennington
Winnipeg MB CAN |

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 \$ _____

Please make checks out to Overholser Family Association

A NEW MEMBER'S CONNECTION TO THE OFA

I answered a message on the GenForum and after I sent the e-mail, I realized that this was a descendant of Martin Landis Oberholtzer (SL2794) and Charles Elmore Oberholtzer who formed the Overholser Family Association in 1906. Martin was the first president and Charles was the first secretary. Barbara O Jarvis is the great granddaughter and granddaughter of these two men. She wasn't aware that the OFA was still in existence.

LIME SPRING FARM, LANCASTER CO PA

When Sarah Ann Stauffer died in 1996, she left to the Lancaster County Historical Society the Stauffer estate which included Lime Spring Farm in Rohrerstown, Lancaster Co and the contents of the houses on the property. Sarah Ann was the great great granddaughter of Daniel Overholser (SL279). The remarkable collection of antiques belonging to the estate were auctioned off this fall to benefit the Historical Society. Sarah's mother Gertrude founded the Women's Republican Club and Sarah formed the Young Republican Club of Pennsylvania. The second, third and fourth Overholser Family Association Reunions were held on the Lime Spring Farm with Sarah's grandfather, Samuel O Frantz as host.

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

JA43 John Overholser 4/19/1805-6/22/1862 m Elizabeth Neiswenger 1/13/1810-4/27/1890	JA437 Joseph Overholser b 3/16/1842
JA431 Samuel Overholser b 3/4/1828	JA438 Eleanor Overholser b 12/18/1840
JA432 Noah Overholser b 1/9/1830	JA439 Harvey Overholser b 3/15/1844
JA433 Mary Overholser b 4/8/1832	JA430 Henry Overholser b 4/14/1846
JA434 Jacob Overholser b 2/16/1834	JA43a William Overholser b 2/18/1848
JA435 Levi Overholser b 2/16/1836	JA43b Eliza Overholser b 4/8/1850
JA436 John Overholser b 1/19/1838	JA43c Jesse Overholser b 3/20/1852
REF: William S Overholser, Dayton OH	JA43d Amanda Overholser b 8/5/1853

Note: Fourteen children born every two years except for the last child.

JA4514 George Elmer Overholser b 12/13/1875 KS m Eunice [-?-] b c1882 AR
 JA4515 Oliver P Overholser b 2/1878 KS
 JA4516 Perry Hamilton Overholser b 2/1879 KS m Bertha Finney b c1884 NE or IL
 REF: George and Perry are in Idaho in the 1920 census

MT213 Jonas Overholt c 1803 CAN m [-?-]
 MT2131 Margaret Overholt b c1844 CAN m Samuel Capp b c1822 PA
 REF: 1870 census OH Medina Co, Montville

MT214 Aaron Overholt c1806-1/22/1876
 MT2142 Nathan Overholt b c1843

AV574 Harriet Earhart m Joshua E Hartman 1843-10/20/1917
 Both bur Clearfield Cem, Johnson Co IA
 AV594 Sophia Overholser 1848-1932 m Albert Hartman 1844-1929
 Both bur Prairie Lawn Cem, Union Co IA

HOW MISINFORMATION GETS STARTED

The FamilyHistory.com has an Overholt Message Board which is most helpful to those seeking information about their lines but I recently ran across a message that shows how the wrong some information can be. The message read: "There is a place in Bucks County PA called Deep Run Mennonite Church. I have visited the cemetery and found the grave of one William Overholt who died in the 1700's. If I am not mistaken, he was the first person in America to bear the surname of Overholt". I have the DEEP RUN MENNONITE CHURCH EAST by Timothy Rice which has a listing of the tombstone inscriptions of the cemetery and there is no William Overholt. I believe that this person probably saw the tombstone of Martin Overholt 1704-1744. I also have visited the cemetery and I have a picture of Martin's tombstone which stands out because it is in a row of fieldstone markers. The original was replaced by Helen Frick, daughter of Henry Clay Frick, who was not aware that Martin's name was Oberholtzer and that it was his son Henry who changed it to Overholt. Because of that message, I am sure that someone will write me and say that the first immigrant Overholt was William who died in the 1700's and is buried in Deep Run Mennonite Church East.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from August to January 8, 2001. And a special thank you to those who contributed at the Reunion. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sharon Benson
Lakewood WA
Joseph E Breitenstein
Topeka KS
Juanita Brown
Cookeville TN
Jane O Elliott
Sacramento CA
Charles H Field Jr
Paragonah UT
Agnes O Greene
Sumter SC
Barbara O Jarvis
Oceanside CA
John H Kinyon
Fox River Grove IL
Norman Landis
Souderton PA
Margaret Lawrence
Narvon PA
Ellen J Livingood
Newtown PA
Gwen/Dick Lucas
Caledonia ON CAN

Carol F Miller
Green Valley AZ
Elizabeth O Nagle
Saranac Lake NY
James Oberholtzer
Chicago IL
John L Oberholser
Narvon PA
Sandra Oldham
Yarnell AZ
Gloria F Overholtzer
Gilbertsville PA
John L Pennington
Winnipeg MB CAN
Anne L Robson
Abilene KS
Byron H Roll
Bellefontaine OH
Helen Shonk
Dover OH
Gladys/Carl Taylor
Hamilton ON CAN
Robert Wenger
Ephrata PA

Cheryl A Wise
Loretto MN

USING THE CENSUS TO TRACE A FAMILY

Granville Bascomb Overhulse was born May 1844 in Champaign Co OH to Samuel Overhulse [JL2111] and Susannah Graham. His father was born in Virginia and his great grandfather Samuel, born in Germany, came from Brecknock, Lancaster Co PA ca 1771 to Shenandoah Co VA. Granville was traced across the country with the help of the census.

1861-1865 Ohio-Granville is in the Civil War 42nd Ohio Vol Inf, Co I
1870 Iowa, Adams Co-Married Elizabeth Richey on October 20th
1880 Nebraska, Clay Co-4 children born
1900 South Dakato, Clay Co-7 children born
1910 California, Santa Clara-the family is residing there except for Clarence who married and lived in Oregon and Wisconsin
1920 California-Granville died 1910-1920 and his wife Elizabeth died 1941

THE OVERHOLT CEMETERY, FONTHILL, ONTARIO, CANADA

Once upon a time, the Overholt Cemetery had 265 people buried there which included many headstones until an owner of the land went in with a tractor and pushed the headstones over. There are about 17 grave markers left on the ground. Of interest is the fact that one of the later owners of the land, believed that they were being watched by the Overholt ghosts but they thought they would not try to frighten or harm them because they knew they weren't the ones who desecrated their graveyard. The land originally was in the family of Abraham Overholt (AC) who came to the area in 1788 and was the United Empire Loyalist who was given the grant. John A M Overholt of Surrey, England has the original deed.

MEMORIES OF THE 91ST REUNION

We were delighted with the number of people who attended this past reunion and I was especially pleased to finally meet Sue Field of Zionsville IN and Ruth Howard of Marthasville MO after corresponding with them since I became genealogist in 1987. I found Sally Gray of Wichita KS used to live not far from me in Wallingford and that she was married in the Wallingford Presbyterian Church where I am a member.

We had relatives of those who attended the 2nd Reunion at the 91st Reunion. Those who were there in 1907:

Robert Wenger's mother, Carolyn Kendall's mother, Elizabeth Frey's father and grandfather, Benjamin Bunn's parents, Ellen Livingood's grandmother, John Weiler's father and grandparents, Fred Skillman and Sally Gray's grandparents and Doug Overholser's great grandparents.

If I were presenting thoughtful awards, I would be delighted to give one to each of the following for their contribution:

Chris Overholser for making new outside directional signs, a registration sign and Gift Shop sign. Also for the red table covers.

Dick Lucas for making the Canadian mosquito houses to place in American gardens and for continuing to take the Reunion picture.

Don Felts and his sister Edna Simcic for the gifts of sea shells to each family.

Jim and Kathy Overholser for the photo collage of Oberholz, Switzerland to each family.

CIVIL WAR PENSION INDEX

The Civil War Pension Index was made available through Ancestry.com and I decided to look up a relative who was in the war. He wasn't listed but his son who was born 1869 was. He was in the Spanish American War and for some unknown reason his card ended up in the Civil War Pension file. You just can't take anything for granted.

THE HISTORY OF THE OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

If you are interested in obtaining the three page article on the history of the Association as given by John Weiler at this past Reunion, contact Barbara Ford

**Overholser Family Association
Treasurer's Report 8/21/1999-8/19/2000**

Checking Account

Beginning balance 8/21/1999 \$156.69

Income

Transfer from Savings Acc't \$1,117.27
 Transfer from Book Fund 80.61
 Total income 1,197.98

Beginning Balance + Income \$1,354.67

Expenses:

Error recording Deposit
 should be Savings acc't 32.70
 10/28/99 Barbara Ford 73.17
 2/5/00 Barbara Ford 110.43
 5/24/00 Barbara Ford 101.46
 8/10/00 Barbara Ford 72.63
 Mailing books, postage, etc
 2/9/00 Newsletters:
 Penn Valley Printers 221.49
 7/17/00 Newsletters:
 Penn Valley Printers 221.49
 2/9/00 James Kehew-
 Postage, mailing newsletter 79.27
 7/16/00 James Kehew -
 Postage, mailing newsletter 110.30
 6/26/00 Miles Kimball-
 Souvenir Pencils, prize 46.88
 6/30/00 Darlene Redcay-
 Yoder's Restaurant Room 26.50
 Terre Hill Community Center 60.00
 8/10/00 Kathern Maine-
 Postage for year, copying 25.04
 7/11/00 CTC Copying Center-
 Bookmarks 2.12

Total Expenses 1,183.48

Ending Balance 8/19/2000 \$ 171.19

Savings Account

Beginning balance 8/21/99 \$1,871.78

Income

Contributions \$908.00
 Pins 55.50
 Coat of Arms 1.00
 2 Note pads 3.00
 Transfer from Book acc't 37.14
 Pin (from Book acc't) 4.50
 (correction)
 Interest 30.87
 Discrepancy error 27.20
 Total Income \$1,067.21

Total Beginning balance + income 2,928.99

Expenses

2/9/00 \$325.00
 2/15/00 200.00
 6/27/00 150.00
 7/17/00 300.00
 8/10/00 150.00
1,125.00

Ending balance 8/19/00 \$1,813.99

BOOK FUND

Beginning balance 8/21/1999 \$5,296.55

Income

Books \$906.43
 Interest 87.97
 Pin Sale 4.50
 Total income 998.90

Total income + beginning balance \$6,295.45

Expenses

Transfers of funds to
 pay book expenses \$114.62
 (includes \$4.50 for pin sale)
 Total expenses 114.62

Total ending balance 8/19/2000 \$6,180.83

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathern J Maine, Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE 91ST OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

The Overholser Family Association met at the Terre Hill Community Center on August 19, 2000. As people arrived bringing covered dishes for lunch, they were given an OFA bookmark, a pen and an OFA Bingo Game sheet. Genealogy books and Reunion pictures were on display. Don Felts and his sister Edna Simcic brought lovely sea shells wrapped in pink netting from Florida for each family. Jim and Kathy Overholser brought a photo collage of Oberholz, Switzerland from their recent trip there that they gave to each family.

After everyone introduced themselves, Rev John Weiler gave a prayer before lunch. Then a Reunion picture was taken by Dick Lucas.

THE PROGRAM, with President D Ernest Weinhold presiding.

The Invocation was given by Rev Weiler which was followed by the singing of America.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the 1999 meeting were approved as printed in the February 2000 BULLETIN.

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT: Read by Barbara Ford

GENEALOGIST'S REPORT: Barbara Ford reported that 463 books have been sold since publication and a total of 98 coat-of-arms pins have been sold.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kathern Maine reported as of August 19, 2000 there is \$6180.83 in the Book Fund and \$1985.18 in the Regular Fund total assets of \$8166.01.

John Weiler gave a very interesting talk about the history of the Overholser Family Association which was formed in 1906. The 45 people attending the first reunion were descendants of Daniel Overholser, a great grandson of immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer. The next year all descendants of Samuel were welcomed and through the years all lines of Oberholtzers, Overholasers, etc. were included in the membership.

President Weinhold thanked Kathern Maine for originating the idea of the bookmarks, the Bingo Game and getting several of the prizes. It was reported that the Friday night get-together at Yoder's was highly successful with 33 people attending. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AWARDS:

Traveled farthest: Fred & Carol Skillman from Cochise, Arizona

The oldest: Benjamin Bunn

The youngest: Katelyn Rose Oberholtzer

Able to name their maternal great grandmother: Gwen Lucas

Able to name their paternal great grandfather: Don Felts

Dick Lucas gave mosquito houses that he made to those traveling from out of State.

James G Overholser was nominated for 2nd vice-president and it was moved and seconded, the following slate of officers for 2000-2002 be accepted:

President-Darwin Overholt

1st Vice President-Dennis Oberholtzer

2nd Vice President-James G Overholser

Treasurer-Kathern Maine

Secretary-Darlene O Redcay

Continued on page 10



**OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL 2000 REUNION PICTURE TAKEN BY DICK LUCAS**

Before the 1st row-Melanie Boyd

Right to left-

1st Row: Benjamin Bunn, Sue Field, John Weiler with Christopher Weiler, Dennis Oberholtzer, D Ernest Weinhold, Darwin Overholt, Barbara Ford, Spencer Overholser, Kathern Maine, Sally Gray

2nd Row: Helen Oberholtzer, Kim Weiler, Eleanor Weiler, Gwen Lucas, Helen Overholser, Jean O Schaffer, Elizabeth O Frey, Kathy Overholser, Tina with Katie Oberholtzer, Ellen Livingood, Edna Simcic, Ruth Overholser, Jean Overholt

3rd Row: Timothy Haselden, Desariee Haselden, Naomi Ruth Howard, Joan Haselden, Terry Overholser, Chris S Oberholtzer, Jim Overholser, Fred Oberholtzer, Herbert Frey, Lynn Oberholtzer, Doug & Marsha Overholser, Robert Overholser, Paul Weiler, David Gray

4th Row: David Field, Bill Oberholtzer, Wendell Howard, Eldon Field, Jody Overholser, Earline Oberholtzer, Stephen Haselden, Fred & Carol Skillman, Carolyn O Kendall, Emily Oberholtzer, John Maine, Don Felts, Frank Livingood

Back Row: Ward Oberholtzer with Jake, Chris L Oberholtzer

OFFICERS

President	Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road Doylestown PA 18901
1st Vice President	Dennis L Oberholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane Paradise PA 17562
2nd Vice President	James G Overholser, 2115 Avenel Ave SW Roanoke VA 24015
Recording Secretary	Darlene O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38 Goodville PA 17528
Treasurer	Kathern Maine, 211 Willow Valley Sq, E-108 Lancaster PA 17602
President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive Wyomissing Hills PA 19610
Chaplain	Rev John R Weiler, 325 Carver Drive Bethlehem PA 18017
Genealogist, Editor Necrologist	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086

Continued from page 8

Dennis Oberholtzer has worked on his book "From Adam to Alemani to America" and he will mail copies to officers to see if they would recommend the OFA publish it.

President Weinhold introduced our next president for the next two years Darwin Overholt who thanked Ernest for his two years as president.

Our 92nd Reunion will be held August 18, 2001 in Terre Hill.

The meeting was closed with Rev Weiler giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Overholt , Acting Secretary

Overholser Family Association
313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086

