



Published semi-annually by the Overholser Family Association

AUGUST 2001

ISSN 0742-8472

Vol. XXIII No.2

92ND OVERHOLSER FAMILY REUNION

The President's Column

“LET YOUR YEA BE YEA AND YOUR NAY BE NAY” (Matthew 5:37)

After leaving their homes and loved ones in Europe and enduring a hazardous ocean journey, our forefathers usually set foot on American soil at the port of Philadelphia. After a health check they were taken to City Hall where they were required to sign an oath pledging allegiance to the King of England. Since Pennsylvania was part of the original English Colonies, they were under the jurisdiction of England. English law prevailed and English money was used.

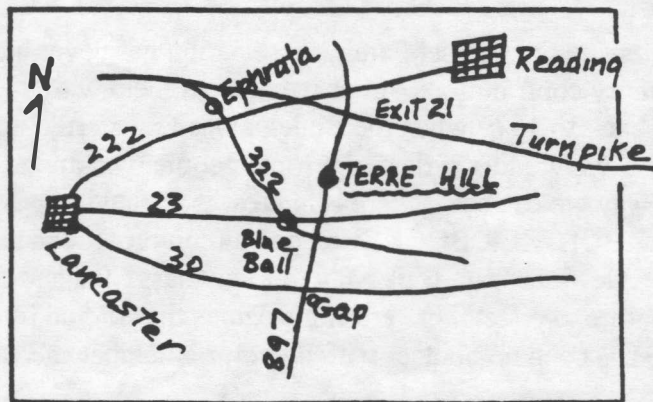
Since most of our forefathers were Anabaptists they had deep religious convictions. This oath to the King was very meaningful. When the American Revolution started, all the inhabitants of the colonies were expected to help the war cause by donating goods and food and even horses. The young men were expected to join the militia and take up arms against the King of England. This became a serious dilemma for the Mennonites, who believed your word should be your bond. Many British colonists refused to take up arms against Great Britain and some of them went to Canada where land grants were given to those who could prove their loyalty to the British.

“LET YOUR YEA BE YEA AND YOUR NAY BE NAY”

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion on Saturday August 18th. On Friday night August 17th we will meet once again in a room we have reserved at Yoder's Restaurant with out of towners for dinner at 6 o'clock. The restaurant is on the edge of New Holland, just a little west of Blue Ball on Route 23. Their number is 717-665-5869. We would love to have any Association members who live in the area join us for a delicious Pennsylvania Dutch dinner. Please let Barbara Ford (address on page 2) know if you will attend so that Yoder's will know how many to expect.

On Saturday, we will meet around 10:30 a.m. at the Terre Hill Community Center, 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. After the Reunion picture, there will be a brief business meeting. Parents of small children are reminded that there is a community playground just below the Center that their off-spring will enjoy.

Darwin Overholt



See specific directions on page 10

**OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN**
Vol. XXIII No. 2 August 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

Carolyn O Kendall, Treasurer
416 Roslyn Ave.
Glenside PA 19038

(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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PLACES TO STAY IN THE TERRE HILL AREA

Lodgings in New Holland near Terre Hill
Comfort Inn 717-355-9900, 800-296-4661
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The Artist's Inn & Gallery 717-445-0219
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Oak Creek Campground, Bowmansville PA
717-445-6161

PLACES TO VISIT IN THE LANCASTER CO. AREA

Hans Herr House, Willow Street 717-464-4438
Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata 717-733-660
Wax Museum of Lancaster Co. History 717-393-3679
Historic Mill Bridge Village 717-687-6521
Ed's Buggy Rides through Amish farmlands 717-687-0360
Oberholtzer Store in Goodville
Landis Valley Museum 717-569-0401

Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau
501 Greenfield Rd, Lancaster 717-299-8901

Mennonite Information Center
2209 Millstream Rd, Lancaster 717-299-0954

We are pleased to announce that Carolyn Oswald Kendall
has assumed the position of Association treasurer. She has
been a long time member which began through her mother
Pauline Stroeble Oswald who did much genealogy research
on her IV Elizabeth Overholser/Samuel Watts line (SL272).
Elizabeth was the great granddaughter of 1727 immigrant
Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster Co. Carolyn's brother
John was president of the Association 1986-1988.

TO OUR MEMBERS

The Overholser Family Association has never had dues but we have depended on the
voluntary contributions of our members to help with the cost of the Bulletin. Our membership list
goes back to 1979 when the Bulletin was first started and each year we add to the list. In reviewing
the list, we wonder if there are some people who are no longer interested in the Association. The
only way we can see if there is interest is to find if a person has sent in a contribution, bought THE
OBERHOLTZER BOOK, attended a reunion or loaned money for our Book Fund. In the past few
years, we went from Bulk Mail to First Class Mail and twice since then postage has increased.
Therefore, we feel there are some names that should be removed from our membership list because
there has been no contact with them for a number of years.

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 PROOF READER'S CORRECTION

I wish my son Steve in Omaha NE lived nearby so he could be my proof reader since he likes to pick up on my mistakes. In the February 2001 Bulletin, I had Isle of Wright on the first page and I have to admit that it was an "oops" because it should have read Wight which Steve reminded me of.

RETURN OF A HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Donald Miller of Maple Heights OH wrote that in going over his mother's effects he came across the high school graduation photo of Ellis Hinsey, along with his high school year book. He was sure someone in the Hinsey clan would like to have them and I wrote back that his daughter Claire Hinsey Warren was a member of the Association and I would write to her. Claire was delighted to have them as she often wondered what happened to the year book because her father kept everything.

BENJAMIN OBERHOLSER (BC)

According to family tradition, Benjamin Oberholser is said to have gone to Markham, Ontario Canada with his parents from Pennsylvania. Up until now, Benjamin is the only family member who has been traced. Deborah Gilbert of Thunder Bay, Ontario has found a marriage of interest to this family which was in the Register of Rev William Jenkins of Richmond Hill, York Co, Ontario, a pioneer Presbyterian minister. William Stockdale married 2/26/1824 Elizabeth Oberholster in Markham, York Co. Her witness was Benjamin Oberholster who no doubt was her brother. Another marriage by the same minister was Benjamin Oberholster to Mary Schmair 5/29/1834 in Markham. The witnesses for this marriage were Jacob and Catherine Pingle. Could Catherine be another sister of Benjamin? In the 1871 census, Mary C Pingle was living with Elizabeth Stockdale. Family records said Benjamin m1 9/11/1826 Elizabeth Miller and m2 Mary Lehman who it is said was not the mother of his children. Was Mary Schmair the mother of the 5 children who were born 1835 to 1845? There was a son born 1827 and the next child on record was born 1835. Eight years between children makes me think that the first wife might have died after her first born.

In the 1837 Toronto & Home District Directory, Benjamin Oberholser has Concession 6 Lot #27 in Markham and William Stockdale has Concession 2 Lot #21 in Markham. Benjamin, who died in 1847, is buried in the Overholt Cemetery, Humberstone, Welland Co, Ontario.

Benjamin Oberholser had seven children, two of whom we know came back to America. Abraham (1837-1863) married Cordelia Bland (1843-1933) and their first three children, Mary Jane, Ida Elizabeth and Florence Isabelle, were born in Ontario. Their next three, Arthur Smith, Clarence Bland and Allura Grace, were born in Marshall Co, Iowa and their last two, Leroy Earl and Vera Agnes, were born in Albion, Nebraska. Abraham and his wife died in Scio, Oregon. Benjamin (1845-1930) married Lydia Neff (1852-1926) and their first three children, Leffa, Orrin and Anna Leticia, were born in Iowa. Their next seven children, Mary, Eva, George, Grace, Hattie, Dollie and Francis, were born in Nebraska. Benjamin and Lydia died in Milford, Seward, Nebraska.

There is no further information on the other 5 children of Benjamin (Sr) who were Henry born 1827, Jacob, Martha born 1835, Elizabeth born 1839 and Nancy born 1842. I found a Jacob Overholts age 36, born in Canada in the 1870 census Medina Co, Ohio who just might be the son of Benjamin.

I was interested in seeing that Benjamin and Elizabeth Oberholster were married by a Presbyterian minister. Many of the early Oberholtzers were Mennonite or Evangelical/Lutheran and, as in the case of the Staats Overholt family, some became Baptists after leaving the Mennonites.

1871 census Canada, Ontario, Welland Co, Fort Erie

Elizabeth Stockdale age 71, b US, Quaker, Widowed, Nancy Doner age 51 b Ont., Mary C Pingle age 32 b Ont.

It is possible that the John Stockdale who married 10/17/1854 St Pauls, Fort Erie, Welland, Melinda Elizabeth Miller is the son of the above Elizabeth. He was in the 1871 census in Welland.

Remember undocumented Genealogy is Mythology

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

BC7 Benjamin Overholtz 3/1845 Welland, Ont.-1930 Milford, Seward NE
m c1869 Lydia Neff 5/6/1852 Humberstone, Welland-6/6/1926 Milford, Seward NE
BC71 Leffa Overholtz b 1869 m J Markley
BC72 Orrin Overholtz b 1872 IA
BC73 Anna Laticia Overholtz 2/17/1874 Marshall Co IA-7/13/1941 Nemaha NE
m 4/5/1896 Charles S Myers 1/16/1874 KS-1/6/1947 NE
BC74 Mary Overholtz b c1876
BC75 Eva Overholtz b c1878 m [-?-] Markell
BC76 George B Overholtz b 1885 NE, res of England
BC77 Grace G Overholtz b 1890 NE
BC78 Hattie Overholtz m [-?-] Raker
BC79 Dollie Overholtz m Cecil Crabtree
BC70 Francis B Overholtz 1/9/1898-6/29/1991 Lompoc, Santa Barbara CA
m Frona [-?-] 10/14/1899-2/17/1990 Lompoc, Santa Barbara CA
REF: Nancy M Nustad, Ojai CA

MT27 Mark Overholt 1804-5/11/1888 m 4/15/1834 Catharine Gilmore b c1818
MT271 Alfred Overholt 11/25/1836-1/22/1921 m 9/15/1862 Catherine Oulds b c1842
MT272 Nathan Overholt b c1838
MT273 George H Overholt 3/7/1842-2/23/1928 MN
m1 1865 Charlotte Warren d 1906, m2 1908 Betsey Groven
MT274 Almeda Overholt b c1844
MT275 Franklin Overholt 10/2/1848-4/2/1916 m Eliza Derbyshire b 1846
MT276 Peter Overholt b c1850
MT277 Liza Jane Overholt b c1854 m 4/11/1870 William Edwards
REF: Barbara Roadhouse, Nanticoke, Ontario

HJ1306 John Hendricks c1831-4/6/1911 Clay Co SD m 8/15/1854 IA Sarah Anna Sheely
6/23/1836 OH-9/7/1918 Clay SD
REF: Dale C Hendricks, Clebourne TX

JL213 Mary Ellen Overholser b c1800 Shenandoah Co VA m 1818 George McWilliams b c1794.
Family moved c1865 to Barbour & Taylor Co's in WV with most of the children.
Known children:
JL2131 Susan McWilliams b c1825 VA
JL2132 David McWilliams b 1834 VA m Jemima Dodson b 1834
JL2133 Reubin McWilliams b c1836 VA
REF: 1850 census VA Shenandoah Co

AV5262 Irwin Overholser 6/13/1867-10/16/1926 Isage MN
m 6/2/1885 Lorena Clason 4/26/1866-11/21/1936

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from January 2001 through June 2001. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Carolyn L Brandon
Celina OH
Claud/Eleanor Bray
Bull Shoals AR
Anna D Duke
Owensboro KY
Janet R Goodrich
Cashiers NC
Wendell/Naomi Howard
Marthasville MO
Barbara J Hubbard
Kingwood TX
Jack/JoAnn Kester
Bonita Springs FL

Ina C KinKaid
Kerrville TX
Walter J Knauff
Washington DC
Charles E Koons
Enon OH
C Dorothy McLean
Feasterville PA
Donald W Miller
Maple Heights OH
Stanley W Nash
Vancouver, BC CAN
Buell W Oberholser
San Luis Obispo CA

N L Oberholtzer
Leola PA
Clark/Karen Overholt
Denver CO
Matilda Schaaf
West Chester PA
Jennie R Sperling
Lansdale PA
Ruth Thompson
Tobermory ON CAN
Mary H Wagner
South Charleston WV

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

John Overholt of Surrey, England writes that he saw an old photocopy of a listing in the Ontario Crown Lands Office of those classed as United Empire Loyalists and therefore were entitled (as were their children) to free grants of land. The grants were only given to those who could prove their loyalty to the British in the Revolutionary War. The only Overholts were-

Abraham Overholt, pilot of the NY Army (to Canada in 1787)

John Overholt of Surrey, England descends from Abraham
Staats Overholt (to Canada in 1786)

Two of his descendents are members of the United Empire Loyalists-

Gwen Overholt of Amherstburg, ONT & Gwen Lucas of Caledonia, ONT

COUSINSHIP

Thera Hammond of Bandon OR has a "kinship report" which was generated by her genealogy program that shows she is her own cousin 11 times. She had learned that both paternal and maternal grandparents were cousins (no closer than third) and that her parents were cousins to each other several times, so she is also a cousin of her parents and brothers. None of her grandparents nor her parents had any idea that they were related. She is her father's cousin 17 times over, her mother's cousin two times and her brothers' cousin 11 times over.

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

DEATHS

Helen Bogener 8/3/1918-12/3/1999 St Charles MO, widow of Elmer Bogener
John Overholser & Mary Chronister line (JA)

Nicholas F K Vincent MD 8/13/1907 NJ-3/26/2000 Columbia SC. Survived by his wife Joyce and daughters Wendy Siedlecki, Holly Myers, Nancy Vallone and Deborah Meade.
IV Isaac Overholser & Mary Landis line (SL278)

Sally Poole 2/18/1930-10/28/2000 Mt Pleasant PA
Marcus Oberholtzer & Elizabeth line (MC)

Dorothea Strappe 7/2/1908-11/13/2000 Elmwood IL
Elizabeth Oberholtzer & Christian Bauman line (JL1)

Grace Wolfe Miller 1903-1/12/2001 Richland OH. Widow of William G Miller and mother of Donald, Richard and Martha Cross.
IV Daniel Overholser & Anna S Landis line (SL279)

Barbara B Ford

Kathern J Maine

Kathern J Maine, our treasurer for two years, died April 3, 2001 in Lancaster PA. When she heard we were looking for a treasurer, she volunteered even though she was having health problems. We are grateful for her contribution to the Association. Our deepest sympathy to her husband John, son Douglas, daughter Elizabeth Allen and four grandchildren.

UPDATE

A PUZZLE TO SOLVE, FEBRUARY 1998 BULLETIN

Gwen Lucas of Caledonia, Ontario and I have been working on this puzzle and have come to the conclusion that Mark Overholt (MT27) was the biological son of Staats Overholt (MT2) and that he was no doubt born just before Staats made his will 6/9/1804. New information shows that Mark died 5/11/1888 age 84 in Wheatley, Ontario. Gwen and I still can't understand the difference in ages between Mark and his siblings who were Isaac born c1770, Jacob 1772, Susanna 1774, Christopher c1776-1778, Elizabeth 1780 and Mary 1782. That is 22 years between Mark and Mary and 34 years between Mark and Isaac.

(See additions to this line on page 5)

A BIG THANK YOU!

A few years ago, the Association was given Oberholtzer Coat-of-Arms pins by an anonymous donor. We wish to thank that very generous person for his thoughtfulness which certainly was a big help to our treasury.

LOOKING FOR HER GRANDFATHER

Amber Emery of Burbank CA wrote asking for my help in finding out something about her biological grandfather. She had just learned that his name was James Henry Overholtzer (b 10/11/1925) in Tulare Co CA. She said that he was raised on a farm in Indio and that he was prone to getting into trouble and was in jail quite a few times in the early 50's. Amber's father was raised by his step father and given the name Frank Edward Emery. Amber was interested in finding out if red hair ran in this Overholtzer family as she and her half sister both have red/strawberry blonde hair which no one else in the family has.

Back in 1984, Arthur C Morrison and Durand Overholtzer compiled SUPPLEMENT TO JACOB OBERHOLTZER GENEALOGY. Included in the supplement are the six sons of Jacob Overholtzer and Catherine Anglemoyer and that is where I found Amber's grandfather. He is said to have married 12/30/1963 Vera Herman Davis. Amber would love to see a picture of her grandfather but he died in 1977 and there were no children by his marriage.

I was interested in finding that Amber's 3rd great grandfather, Samuel A Overholtzer is buried in Oakdale Memorial Park in Glendora CA not far from where Amber lives.

PLANNING AHEAD

In the year 2006, the Overholser Family Association will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. When the first reunion was held July 26, 1906 on an island in the Conestoga Creek, Lancaster Co, the descendants of Daniel Overholser met. Today membership includes all Oberholtzers, Overholzers, Overholts, etc. We would welcome suggestions about how to make this an unforgettable century celebration.

FIFTY YEARS LATER

In the February 2001 BULLETIN, new member Barbara O Jarvis of Oceanside CA was mentioned. Mary Louise West of Vineland NJ e-mailed me for her address as Barbara was her cousin and they had lost touch about 50 years ago.

WHO?

Someone had an obituary on the Internet found in VanBuren Co IA that caught my eye. The heading read BRAZIL BOYER and I was about to turn to the next one when I saw that he had married Margaret Overhulser who was born 5/20/1838 in Darke Co OH. I then realized that this was a real big error by the newspaper because the name should have read BASIL BOYER!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January through June 2001

Jan Schofield
Poland IN

Ruth Thompson
Tobermory ONT CAN

Donna Oberholtzer
Washington DC

AN OLD SCHOOL HOUSE BOWMANVILLE, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The village school of Bowmansville stood on the Reading road, a quarter of a mile north of the village. In 1858 the little stone building had three small windows on the left side and the same number on the west. The furniture consisted of long wooden desks that reached half way across the room. The seats were as long, and so high that the small children's legs did not reach the floor. In the center of the room was an old fashioned 10 plate wood stove, fired with hickory wood. Those who sat next to it roasted and others, who were remote, froze. A platform about eight feet square, supported the teacher's desk. Behind it was a black board, four feet square and aside of it hung an astronomical chart of the solar system which some enterprising book agent had sold the directors, and which no one understood. The teacher, so far as I remember, never referred to it, for I dare say he knew no more of astronomy than the pupils.

For several months during the middle of the winter the school room was crowded with boys and girls from 6 to 21 years. I often wondered how any survived. The windows were seldom opened, the door only when some one went in or out. The air became foul and lifeless. However, no one knew better and there were no sudden deaths from suffocation, but how many contacted the seeds of lingering deaths in that little unventilated room, no one knows.

In 1868 the Board of Directors made an inovation by employing a woman teacher for the village school, Miss Elizabeth Stirk, of Terre Hill. She was the first of her sex to invade the township and was a strange bird to many of the good people of the village. She had taught before but this was her last term, for she married Martin Overholser before the session was over.

REF: From an old newspaper clipping. Writer and date unknown.

Martin K Overholser (SL2739) 2/18/1840-5/1/1912 mar 1/12/1869 Elizabeth Stirk 2/18/1847-2/21/1894. He was a great great grandson of 1727 immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster Co PA.

A MISSING GENERATION

It has been brought to my attention that there is a missing generation in "A Biographical History of Waterloo Township" by Ezra E Eby. Included in his book, are the families of 3 brothers who went from Montgomery County PA to Waterloo County, Ontario Canada in 1826. Jacob, Abraham and Henry Oberholtzer were the great, great grandsons of immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer. Ezra Eby has #5041 I Jacob Oberholtzer who is (JF) in THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK. His next generation is #5042 II Jacob Oberholtzer who he said married Esther Lederach. This would be (JF11) in our book. The missing Jacob is (JF1) who married Deborah Krey.

The California Death Index lists Vivienne Overholt's death 11/10/1962 and for her birthplace it says "Rest of World".

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	Carolyn O Kendall, 416 Roslyn Ave Glenside PA 19038
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Chaplain	Rev John R Weiler, 325 Carver Drive Bethlehem PA 18017
Genealogist, Editor Necrologist	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086

HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

Terre Hill is a town of 1,200 located in Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster Co, midway between Lancaster and Reading . The Terre Hill Community Center is on the main street, with plenty of parking in 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

Contributions to the Association are not only appreciated but needed to help with the cost of the printing and mailing the BULLETIN. Have you sent your contribution for 2001?

Overholser Family Association

313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086

