Overholser Family Association





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100th ANNIVERSARY 1906-2006 AUGUST 4 AND 5, 2006

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Please join us Friday, August 4 and Saturday, August 5, 2006 for the 100th Anniversary of the Overholser Family Association. What began as a local family reunion has continued through the years and is now the Overholser Family Association. Except for World War II years 1942-1945, there has been a reunion each

year of Overholser/Oberholtzer descendants. Friday, August 4th is the 6 p.m. buffet dinner at Yoder's Restaurant which is between New Holland and Blue Ball, PA. Please notify Barbara Ford in advance, if possible, so they know how many to expect.

On Saturday, August 5th (<u>NOT</u> August 6th), we will gather beginning at 10:30 a.m. for our special 100th Anniversary meeting, including a catered lunch at noon provided by the Association at no cost to you. This is our gift to you on this special occasion. We do need a good count for this complimentary lunch, so please return the post card in the recent mailing from the Weilers.

The Saturday meeting location is changed this year to St. John's Center United Church of Christ, east of Terre Hill on Route 625. We expect to have on display, among other items, the special Overholser charts that our President Emeritus Spencer Overholser compiled over the years. Also, Chaplain John Weiler has arranged for Rev. Merle Ressler to give a timely message. Officers are elected this year; please consider volunteering to help. As always, there will be time for visiting and talking about "family".

Dennis Oberholtzer has been working on duplicating our OFA files. He has been copying (on paper) the enormous collection that Barbara Ford is in charge of. Our concern has been that we needed a back up, in case of fire or other loss of the OFA records. In recent years, digital records have become more popular, enabling easier access, but digital records have serious problems that must be safe guarded against, including theft (such as the Veterans Administration records in the news recently), unauthorized reproduction or sale, privacy issues, loss or damage to information, changing technology to record and read, etc. While we have had some discussions on the idea of digitizing the records, there are no present plans to do so. If you have any thoughts on the preserving of our invaluable records, we would be glad to hear from you.

The August reunion will be my last as president of the Overholser Family Association. First Vice President Jack Sholl will be moving up as president. Thanks to all who have helped the past two years, including Chaplain John Weiler, Treasurer Carolyn Kendall, Secretary Kim Weiler, Past President Dennis Oberholtzer, and especially Genealogist, Editor and Necrologist Barbara Ford. See you in August.

Jim Overholser

MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO THE REUNION ON PAGE 9

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN Vol. XXVIII No. 2 August 2006

Editor - Barbara B Ford 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086

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If for any reason, you do not wish to receive the BULLETIN, please let us know

WHERE TO SEND

CONTRIBUTIONS

Carolyn O Kendall, Treasurer 1617 New Holland Pike Lancaster PA 17601

(Note: The Bulletin is financed <u>solely</u> 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 E-MAIL-bbfordofa@aol.com

PLACES TO STAY IN THE TERRE HILL AREA

Lodgings in New Holland near Terre Hill Comfort Inn 717-355-9900, 800-296-4661 Country Squire Motor Inn 717-354-4166 The Hollander Motel 717-354-4377 Terre Hill The Artist's Inn & Gallery 717-445-0219 www.artistinn.com

Camping 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

118th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The Fretz Family Association will hold their 118th Anniversary Reunion August 12, 2006 at the St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, Kellers Church, Perkasie, PA.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE OFA IN THE LAST 100 YEARS

Miss Anna M. Overholser elected musical director in 1909 Edwin L. Watts composed The Overholser Reunion song in 1919. Ira Kurtz, treasurer for 40 years J. Spencer Overholser , president and genealogist for 30 years Records of Rev. I.E. Oberholtzer given in 1957 by his widow Rev. John R. Weiler, chaplain since 1977. His grandfather was treasurer for 13 years. Willard E. Overholtzer, the first president not in the 1727 Samuel Oberholtzer line Darwin Overholt, the only Overholt Mildred B. Pettigrew, the only female president Willard E. Overholtzer and Darwin Overholt served two terms as president



100 YEARS AGO THE FIRST REUNION WAS HELD BY DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL OVERHOLSER [SL279]

THE FIRST REUNION

The descendants of Daniel Overholser had a family reunion on a little island in the Conestoga Creek, near Terre Hill on July 26, 1906. A permanent organization was made with Martin L. Overholser of Millersville, PA as president and Charles E. Overholser of Brooklyn, N.Y. as secretary. The oldest representative of the family present was Isaac Stirk of Lancaster, PA. The youngest representative was Donald M. Overholser of Millersville. John Overholser of Philadelphia, an accomplished vocalist, sang a selection from the oratorio "Elijah", the German song, "Die Nachtigall" and other charming songs. A paper detailing the history of the Oberholtzer family, in general, previous to 1732, and dealing with the family of Daniel Overholser, in particular, was then read by Charles E. Overholser of Brooklyn. The success of the gathering will, no doubt, lead next-year to a reunion, including all the descendants of the original Martin Oberholtzer, who came to the Conestoga Valley about the year 1775.

The names of those present follows:

Lancaster, PA: Isaac Stirk, W.H.H. Kitzer, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Wolf, Miss Anna Brown

Philadelphia, PA: Rev. John Overholser

Mast, PA: Mrs. Louisa Brubaker

Reamstown, PA: I.K. Overholser, Miss Mary Overholser

Terre Hill, PA: Martin Overholser, Mrs, Irene Richmond, Mrs. Anna Galt, Mr. & Mrs. John Weiler, Ralph N. Weiler

Cains, PA: Mr. & Mrs. Levi Overholser, Miss Leila Overholser

Parkesburg, PA: Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Bunn

Durlach, PA: Mrs. Ella L. Bard

Millersville, PA: Mr. & Mrs. Martin L. Overholser, Miss Anna M. Overholser,

Master Donald M. Overholser

Brooklyn, NY: Charles E. Overholser

Lincoln, PA: Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Brown, Misses Elva and Lorraine Brown

Reading, PA: Dr. George W. Overholser, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Overholser

Akron, PA: Mrs. Sallie Buch, Miss Esta Buch

Glen Moore, PA: William Goshen, Mrs. Amos Goshen

Rohrerstown, PA: Mr. & Mrs. S.O. Frantz, Miss Gertrude Frantz, Miss Myrtle Frantz

Waynesboro, PA: Mr. & Mrs. Willis Frantz

Joliet, IL: John Overholser, Mrs. Amanda Overholser

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Forty-five attended this first reunion and the next year, joined by all descendants of Samuel Oberholtzer, there were one hundred and thirty-three.

IN APPRECIATION OF THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR SERVICE TO THE OFA IN THE LAST 100 YEARS

PRESIDENTS

1906-1920 Martin L. Overholser, Millersville, PA
1920-1937 Dr. George W. Overholser, Reading, PA
1937-1939 Christian H. Oberholser, Lionville, PA
1939-1956 Dr. Winfred Overholser, Washington, DC
1956-1986 J. Spencer Overholser, Wyomissing Hills, PA
1986-1988 John Oswald, Conshohocken, PA
1988-1990 Mildred B. Pettigrew, Pottstown, PA
1990-1992 Willard E. Overholtzer, Rancho Cordova, CA
1992-1994 Charles Carroll, North Hills, PA
1994-1996 Darwin Overholt, Doylestown, PA
1996-1998 Willard E. Overholtzer, Rancho Cordova, CA
1998-2000 D. Ernest Weinhold, Manheim, PA
2000-2002 Darwin Overholt, Doylestown, PA
2002-2004 Dennis Oberholtzer. Paradise, PA
2004-2006 James G. Overholser, Roanoke, VA

SECRETARIES

Charles E. Overholser M. Edith Oberholser Anna M. Overholser Mrs. Henry Hollowell Elizabeth O. Frey Paul Pletcher Ellen Livingood Darlene O. Redcay Kim Weiler

CHAPLAINS

Rev. S. Howard Chubb Rev. John S. Overholser Rev. Ralph Weiler Rev. John R. Weiler

GENEALOGISTS

J. Spencer Overholser Barbara B. Ford

EDITORS

J. Spencer Overholser Robert M. Oberholser James Kehew Barbara B. Ford

TREASURERS

J.L.W. Weiler Ira Kurtz Henry Hollowell M. Edith Oberholser Robert M. Oberholser Elizabeth O. Frey Marjorie C. Carroll Richard I. Stevens Kathern Maine Carolyn O. Kendall

NECROLOGISTS

Mrs. Christian E. Barr Esta Buch Herr Robert M. Oberholser Rev. John R. Weiler Barbara B. Ford

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show for any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. ----Unknown

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

"No one could choose a more appropriate spot for a family reunion than the little island in the Conestoga Creek near Terre Hill," remarked the scribe on July 26, 1906, when forty-five of our forefathers first gathered for what would become the annual reunion of the Overholser Family Association. Those attending that first meeting were descendants of immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer, who had arrived in Philadelphia on September 30, 1727.

Here we are, one hundred years later, still meeting annually, but now also with descendants of several other Overholser immigrant lines. The clan has officially been known as the Overholser Family Association since 1976.

Through the years, the reunions have been held in Terre Hill, Ephrata and Lancaster City. Only two have been outside Lancaster County: at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Winfred Overholser in Washington D.C. in 1956, the last of his years as president; and at the home of Ruth and Spencer Overholser in Oley Valley, Penna. in 1976, in celebration of our nation's bicentennial. Reunions have been held annually, except for the four years during World War II due to rationing of gas and tires.

During the past century, four of the presidents served extensive terms in office: Martin L. Overholser, who served 14 years; Dr. George W. Overholser, 17 years; Dr. Winfred Overholser, 17 years, and Spencer Overholser, 30 years. Beginning with the 1986 reunion, all presidents have served two-year terms in response to a motion made at that reunion.

Regarding the Association's emblem, initially Dr. Winfred Overholser visited the Swiss genealogist Dr. Hans Klaui about the possibility of obtaining an emblem, similar to a coat of arms, for our association. Subsequent correspondence by Spencer Overholser with Dr. Klaui resulted in a design proposal for the emblem that was adopted by the Association at the 1958 reunion. The emblem can be seen on the masthead of the newsletter. It is important to note that this emblem is not a coat of arms, which can be granted only to an individual, not to a family.

In his 30 years as genealogist for the Association, Spencer Overholser has worked long and hard gathering material for the OFA records. As a descendant of 1727 Samuel Oberholtzer, he has contributed valuable information and one of his pet projects was organizing and updating the 4th generation charts of Samuel. We are indebted to him for his tremendous contribution to the present and future generations.

In 1979 Spencer Overholser launched the publication of the Association's semiannual newsletter, *The Bulletin*, editing the first issues. It was subsequently edited by Robert M. Oberholser (1981), Jim Kehew (1982-88), and Barbara Ford (1988-present). Barbara Ford also very capably edited the 414-page hard-cover *The Oberholtzer Book*, published in 1995, which chronicles the first five generations of five different immigrants and other unestablished lines.

The Overholser Family Association has enjoyed a century of friendship and fellowship, and we trust that our organization will continue to get together for another 100 years.

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK

A Foundation book of Oberholtzer Immigrants and Unestablished Lines

\$29.50 + \$3.50 S/H. PA residents add \$1.77 Sales Tax. Make check out to Overholser Family Association and send to Barbara Ford, 313 Henry Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086

Recent research on the 1727 immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer family By Harold Millhouse Kilheffer

When researching my Oberholtzer lineage, I often wondered about the Jacob Cedy who was one of the witnesses to the will of Samuel Oberholtzer written in 1748 in Manor Township, Lancaster Co., PA. The two witnesses were Henry Kilhoffer and Jacob Cedy. Henry Kilhoffer was my immigrant ancestor and a neighbor to Samuel Oberholtzer in Manor Township.(1) However, Jacob Cedy lived in Donegal Township. His name was written with many different spellings by County Clerks such as Cedy, Cety, Zeti and Zeager.

To find out more about Jacob Cedy, I checked to find a will. There was a German will with an

English translation at the Lancaster County Archives. Jacob wrote his will the 29th of September 1750 and it was probated 1, December 1750. It is an unusual will because it was signed by both Jacob and his wife **Frena Oberholtzer**. Frena signed with her mark X. Christian Grafe, Joseph Shirk and Christian Stauffer were witnesses.(2)

There were two surviving children, Peter and Frena. Peter petitioned the court Nov 7, 1759 saying he desires to hold the plantation in Donegal Township. Frena, the widow, was also deceased by 1759. Frena, the daughter, was a minor under 21 years in 1759 and John Herr was her guardian. Peter signed his name Peter Zeti on this petition.(3)

Peter married Barbara Reiff about 1758 and they later moved to Virginia.(4) By 1766 Frena was married to Henry Lesher.(5)

Jacob Cedy was a Mennonite. We know that because when he took his servant, Leonhart Horan to Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster for Communion on Easter Sunday on March 13, 1749, Jacob was listed as a Mennonite. (6)

I believe that Frena Oberholtzer, wife of Jacob Cedy, was the daughter of Samuel Oberholtzer, that is why he was a witness to Samuel's will and his name was also on the Administration Bond in 1748 along with the widow Elizabeth Oberholtzer and son Martin Oberholtzer. On this document his name was written as Jacob Zeiger by the County Clerk.(7)

Samuel's daughter Fronica's name was last mentioned as an heir in a 1758 deed. She was deceased by 1759.(8)

- (1) Samuel Oberholtzer will 1748, Lancaster County Court House Archives
- (2) Jacob Cedy's will 1750. Lancaster County Court House Archives
- (3) Petition by Peter Zeti in 1759. Lancaster County Historical Society
- (4) Lancaster Co. Deed Book K/161. Lancaster County Court House Archives
- (5) Lancaster Co. Deed Book L/233 Lancaster County Court House Archives
- (6) Trinity Lutheran Church Records Vol. 1/337
- (7) Administration Bond of Samuel Oberholtzer, Lancaster County Historical Society
- (8) Lancaster Co. Deed Book M1/272

Anyone wishing to contact me, may write to me at

Harold M. Kilheffer 942 W. Fairway Dr. Lancaster, PA 17603 Email: hmk3@ptd.net

See Jacob Cedy's will on page 7

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

AV6343 Nina Bullock d 2/11/1985. not 1895 REF: Juanita O. Brown, Cookville, TN

AV655 Isaac S. Overhuls m1 11/25/1903 Henrietta Unbehagen East Baton Rouge Parrish, LA & divorced 5/4/1906. He m2 6/2/1909 Rose Vining St. Mary Parrish, LA REF: Margie Koutroulis, Livingston, TX

ES1 Rev. Moses Schuler 8/12/1817-3/9/1892 Lehigh Co, PA

m 7/15/1855 Mary Crouthamel 9/15/1832-8/14/1911

Both bur Immanuel Church of the United Brethern in Christ, Lower Macungie Twp, Lehigh Co. PA ES11 Jacob Schuler 6/14/1856-8/23/1914 m Trivilla Ruth 1856-1925

ES12 Joseph Schuler 2/14/1858-3/30/1920 m Eliza M. Rush 12/10/1863-12/18/1921

ES13 Samuel Schuler 5/14/1863-5/14/1932 m Ida R. Henry 7/26/1865-11/17/1934

ES14 William F. Schuler 8/23/1865-10/23/1921 m Anna J. Weaver 4/27/1871-1/3/1919

ES31 Lydia Beitelman

ES32 Oliver Beitelman 1/5/1855-4/7/1893 m 5//1880 m Emma Heitz

ES33 Amanda Beitelman b c1856

ES34 Clinton Beitelman

ES35 Allen M. Beitelmanb c1860 m 10/22/1880 Ellen J. Nagle

ES36 Mary M. Beitelman 1/7/1860-4/27/1902 m 10/22/1880 Oscar B. Layton

ES37 Lesher Beitelman b 5/1864 m Ellie [-?-]

ES38 Sarah Beitelman m 4/2/1887 Samuel Reifinger

ES39 Irwin Beitelman b c1872

ES30 Theodore Beitelman b 7/30/1874 m 1906 Amelia Heller (Keller?)

ES3a Daughter b c1877

WILL OF JACOB CEDY (COPIED FROM GERMAN)

The 29TH day of September 1750

This is my Last will and Testament, which I have made to and with my wife, that she shall sell the plantation and all moveables and with that money she shall pay all my debts and of the remaining she shall keep haufs with her children and the mother shall keep her children by her until the youngest child is ten years of age, and then they shall devide everything amongs them and the mother shall have the third parts and Thirty Pounds in for hand and I appoint for Executors Christian Grafe and Christian Stouffer.

Jacob Cedy Frena Oberholtzer her X mark

Christian Grafe Joseph Shirke **Christian Stouffer**

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from January 2006 through May 2006. We greatly appreciate your support.

Ludwig Berndt Clovis, CA Eleanor J.Bray Wichita, KS Shelly Chapman Union, MO Ann Duke Owensboro, KY Mark Finlay Edmonton, Alberta, CAN Wendell/Ruth Howard Marthasville, MO

Jack/JoAnn Kester Bonita Springs, FL Buell W. Oberholser San Luis Obispo, CA Fred Oberholtzer Lititz, PA M/M David P. Overholt Dublin, OH John Overholtzer Tingley, IA Jodi Overholt-Ring Plymouth, MI Homer/Matilda Schaaf West Chester, PA M/M Lewis Schrack Pottstown, PA John E. Sholl Palm Desert, CA Helen Shonk Dover, OH David/Ruth Stevens Kingwood, TX

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 2006?

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

DEATHS

Don Felts reported that his sister Edna Simcic of Marathon, Florida died in December 2005. She attended the OFA reunion in 2000 with Don. (Abraham Overholt line) [AC]

William Michel Overhults 2/4/1912-1/1/2006 and his wife Ina Mae (McReynolds) Overhults 5/25/1912-9/8/2004. Two children Carol and Michael predeceased them. Survived by daughter Juanita Overhults Brown, sons Kenneth and Douglas, 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. (Lee Bell Overhuls/Nina Bullock line) [AV6343]

Clarence F. Ruth of Hilltown Twp, Bucks Co., PA died February 7, 2006 age 84. He is survived by his wife Ruth K. (Godshall) Ruth, daughter Jennie Sperling and sons Abram and Jacob. (Elizabeth Overholt/Isaac M. Landis line) [MT3953]

Howard K. Jameson of Pottstown, PA died June 4, 2006 age 91. He is survived by his wife Florence Mae (Overholtzer) Jameson, sons Rev. Dr. Howard, Jack K., Ronald E., Bruce L., daughter Doris Hee and brother Robert O. Jameson. (Horace N. Overholtzer/Margaret Eisele line) [AS1533]

Barbara B. Ford

NEVER A BRIDESMAID

Jennie Sperling sent an article about the recent wedding of Mary Oberholtzer and Douglas Cervi, both of Montgomery County, PA. Mary chose as her matron of honor, her grandmother Florence Colavita who just happens to be 97 years old and had been a bride but never a bridesmaid. Mary had been very close to her grandmother and this could be a world record in the Guinness World Records as the oldest bridesmaid.

ARRON OBERHOLSER

Congratulations to Arron Oberholser who won the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am in Pebble Beach, CA on February 12, 2006. He is the grandson of Buell W. Oberholser of San Luis Obispo, CA. Descendants of Isaac Oberholser [SL2743]

HYMNS OF HARMONY

Wilmer D. Swope of Leetonia, OH has been writing religious poetry that can be set to music for over 35 years and he has seven songs in *HYMNS OF HARMONY* which was published by John B. Martin in 2005. The book may be purchased from Earl Z. Weaver, 385 Reading Rd., East Earl, PA 17519. Wilmer is a descendant of Rev. Jacob Oberholtzer [JC1] and Catharina Bachman [MC150]

HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

To Terre Hill, PA

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

In Terre Hill, go East on W Main St. (becomes Union Grove Rd.). Turn left on Rt. 625 Reading Rd.. St. John's United Church is 432 Reading Rd. East Earl. It is about 3 minutes from Terre Hill.

N Reading	st. John's United Church
2222 TERRE HULL	5 through the
Laurer X 1 Gap	S 2000
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OFFICERS

Lines			1.4. 000	
SL	President	James G Overholser, 2115 Avenel Ave SW		
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SL	President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive		
		Wyomissing Hills, PA 19610		
SL	Past President	Dennis L Oberholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane		
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		Bethlehem, PA 18018	Nelljw1@aol.com	
MC	Genealogist, Editor	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane		
	Necrologist	Wallingford, PA 19086	bbfordofa@aol.com	

RUTH OVERHOLSER

Spencer Overholser's wife Ruth had a stroke that affected her left side and she was in the hospital for a month. She is now in a nursing home where she is taking therapy. I know she would be happy to receive get well wishes from OFA members. Send your greetings to her at their Wyomissing Hills address [above] and Spencer will deliver it to her.

Overholser Family Association 313 Henry Lane Wallingford, PA 19086

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