## Overholser Family Association





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## JOIN US AT THE 98<sup>TH</sup> REUNION ON AUGUST 4, 2007 St John's Center United Church of Christ, 432 Reading Road, East Earl, Lancaster Co., PA

President's Column

The homeland of the Overholser Family, Pennsylvania, was shocked last October when violence visited our beloved neighbors, the Amish community. The Nickel Mines Amish School massacre took place in our backyard, shocking and embarrassing Pennsylvania and the world. I believe, in the shadow of our sorrow, it is fitting that we dedicate our 2007 Overholser Family Reunion to the memory of those fine young Pennsylvania Amish children who paid the ultimate price for a lunatic's rampage. We will never forget them.

As we approach August 4th and our 2007 reunion, we are mindful of last years 100<sup>th</sup> Annual OFA Reunion. Those in attendance were witness to the largest OFA reunion in recent years, just shy of 90 attendees. Moreover, they witnessed a spirit of camaraderie which characterized that gathering. People seemed reluctant to leave. I believe that all of us hope for a repeat performance this year, in terms of both attendance and spirit. Can we achieve these aspirations? Lets make them our goal for 2007.

As you recall, last years reunion was highlighted by a fully catered luncheon, a sort of 100<sup>th</sup> birthday present to us so to speak. This year, conventional wisdom holds that we return to our traditional "covered-dish" format for lunch.

Rev. John Weiler has graciously agreed to be our guest speaker and will present an interesting overview of Henry Clay Frick, of Pittsburgh, friend of Andrew Carnegie and Andrew Mellon. Several other members will present a short overview of one of their family members. All members are encouraged to share a family story, event, an individual or genealogical data relevant to their family. We share a common heritage with pride. Why not share your link to it with all of us. By so doing, a lively and interesting agenda will be realized.

Have a great summer and please plan to attend the reunion in August. We look forward to seeing you there.

Jack Sholl

SEE PAGE 3 FOR 2007 REUNION DIRECTIONS AND NEWS

## OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN Vol. XXIX No. 2 August 2007

Editor - Barbara B Ford 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086

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## 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

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## ANOTHER WAY TO SAY SENIOR CITIZEN

St Marks & St Andrews Churches, Niagara, Canada

Baptisms at Niagara 10/28/1804 Catherine Oberholtzer (of riper years)

## **VANHULSER**

I have found many strange spellings for Oberholtzers, Overholsers, Overholts, etc. but I have never run across this one before. On the Web was Rhoda <u>Vanhulser</u> who is known to us as Rhoda Overholser [JL2724]

Do you have a story about one of your ancestors that you would like to send for printing in the Bulletin? If so, please send to the editor.

The Recorder of Deeds for Bucks County, PA has started documenting seven million records on CD's and then microfilm dating from 1684-1988.

From Jennie Sperling

It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.

-Plutarch

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# RECENT RESEARCH ON THE 1727 IMMIGRANT SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER FAMILY by Harold Millhouse Kilheffer Update Bulletin August 2006

In this article, it was suggested that Frena Oberholtzer, wife of Jacob Cety, was the daughter of Samuel Oberholtzer [SL] born ca 1700. After further research, I am inclined to believe that she was a sister of Samuel because she was born ca 1710 in Germany. Her husband Jacob Cety was born in 1709 Meckesheim, Heidelberg, Germany. He was a Mennonite and his family was part of the migration from Switzerland. Jacob came to Lancaster County, PA where he bought land in Hempfield and Donegal Township which he sold a part of to Ulrich Engle, one of the founders of the River Brethren denomination. I feel this is a good clue as to where Samuel Oberholtzer came from and he probably married Elizabeth in Heidelberg. We would appreciate any suggestions as to where to do more research on Samuel Oberholtzer in Heidelberg, Germany.

## **OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from January 2007 to June 2007. Without their support, we could not continue to print and mail the BULLETIN. Have you sent your contribution for 2007?

Carolyn L. Brandon Celina, OH Claud/Eleanor Bray Wichita, KS Shelly Chapman Union, MO Dale/Barbara Crites Spring Hill, FL Jean E. Crom

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Owensboro, KY
Bruce T. Ferguson
Owensboro, KY
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Grand Ledge, MI

John H. Kinyon
Fox River Grove, IL
N.L. Oberholtzer
Leola, PA
Jim/Kathy Overholser
Roanoke, VA
Jack Sholl
Palm Desert, CA
David/Ruth Stevens
Kingwood, TX

### THE 2007 REUNION

The reunion will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Center United Church of Christ, east of Terre Hill on Route 625 where it was held last year. On Friday night, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6 p.m. buffet dinner and visiting. Be sure to notify Barbara Ford (address on back) in advance so they know how many to expect.

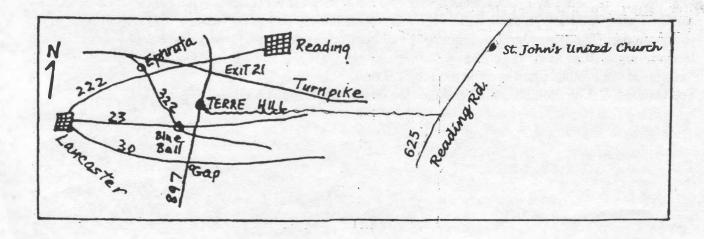
On Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>, we will gather at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own beverage and tableware. We will have ice available.

#### 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.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAVE

Glenn Toothman of Waynesburg, PA has invented a Memory Medallion which digitally stores a person's biography and picture on a quarter-sized computer memory device encased in stainless steel which is embedded in stainless steel in a tombstone. The medallion allows anyone to retrieve its information with a special wand and display it on a hand-held or laptop computer. The downloadable data can include a link to a website that has even more information about the deceased, from a family tree to voice or video recordings.

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## DANIEL JOHN OVERHOLSER [JM036]

I had a request for information about Daniel J. Overholser, son of John R. and Christena Stutsman of Elkhart County, Indiana. I had nothing in my files about him and my Indiana census records didn't show a Daniel but I did find John D. Overholser, born the right time, who was the son of John R. Overholser. In the 1880 census, he is John D. age 2 and in the 1900, he is Daniel born 1877. This family used the first name in one census and the middle in the next which can be most confusing. Here is Daniel J. Overholser and family-

JM036 Daniel John Overholser 11/30/1877-7/15/1910 IN

m1 2/11/1899 Eleanora Singer 2/1875 PA-11/15/1902 IN

m2 2/13/1904 Minnie E. Culp c1873-2/1/1908 IN

JM0361 Blanche Lucille Overholser 1/4/1906-12/8/1959 Onondaga, NY

m 1/15/1927 Donald Muring Dey Moss 1/30/1903-1/25/1965 NY

JM0362 Lloyd Overholser

m3 10/6/1908 Mary J. Burns b 9/1/1877

Information from Patti Moss, Rochester, NY

## TWO SONS OF NICHOLAS CLAUS OVERHOLT [IC341]

Nicholas Claus Overholt settled in Iowa from Canada and I located sons Lewis, Frank and Albert in Minnesota but there was no information on C. W. or George. I heard from someone researching his Charles W. Overholt who had lived in White County, Tennessee before moving to Davidson County, TN and then to St. Louis, Missouri. We agreed that this was the son of Nicholas Overholt. In researching White County, I found an 1891 tax census which had no Overholt but there was a Charles Overhall and a G. C. Overhall. I wondered if it was a wrong transcription of the name Overholt. Later that day I had a sudden idea and I pulled out my Tennessee file. In the 1900 census for Davidson County, TN, there was Charles Overholt born in Iowa and George C. Overholt born in Iowa and their father was born in Canada! I had been trying to locate George and here he was having moved from Iowa to Tennessee with his brother. George appears to have stayed in Tennessee but brother Charles moved on to St. Louis, Missouri.

See Charles W. Overholt [IC3411] and George Overholt [IC3415] on page 7

## AN OLD CLOCK

A letter written to Rev. Thomas H. Krick, Coplay, PA from Rev. I. E. Oberholtzer, Shansi, China dated February 7, 1927

I want to tell you about a little clock that has lately come into my possession which may serve as a stake to guide us in our researches. I have for many years known that Rev. Christian had a grandfathers hall clock that he handed down to his grandson, but I was never able to locate where it had gotten to. The last time I was home I accidently located it and have been two years in getting it into our family. The clock is now mine and can be seen in my father's front room in Elizabethtown. It is a 24 hour clock made in London by a Benjamin Lamb in the year 1676. It has metal works and a beautiful brass face. It has no moon but shows the months of the year. It is now 250 years old and was 100 years old already when my great great grandfather owned it. It was already 50 years old when 1st Samuel lived. Where our Christian got a hold of it I have no knowledge. Whether he bought it secondhand, or got it through his wife or whether his father gave it to him are all conjectures. My opinion, however, is that he got it from his father. Supposing that he was the oldest living son of II Martin, he would be the one most likely to get it. I do not think he got it through his wife, for she had at least one other brother who would have gotten it. He lived near the old homestead while the 3 sisters all married men in Mt. Joy Township. The second-hand goods of that kind was not likely for sale then. Clock historians say that the early clocks were made to order and only the more financially able were able to own them. If this clock came from II Martin the same questions again may be asked and so if it came down from I Samuel, was it inherited, gotten through the wife or was it bought second-hand? It being an English clock throws one off the track a little. The clock never found its way to Switzerland, then back to America when I Samuel arrived in 1727, for the Swiss have always been clock makers themselves and better ones than the English. It may, of course, be that he or another ancestor lived in London for some time as many did and buy it while there or as passing through. And yet I cannot think of these fleeing persecuted Palatinates, poor as they were, buying such cumbersome freight to take on an unknown sea journey. It is easier to believe that one of the old Oberholtzers married an English wife who would naturally take to a native clock. I give you this clock information that you may get your bearings if perchance you find a record of a clock in any wills.

Note: I Samuel is SL Samuel Oberholtzer, II Martin is SL2 Martin Oberholtzer, Rev Christian is SL22 Christian Oberholtzer and the grandfather referred to is SL2256 Christian L. Oberholtzer. My understanding is that the clock was given to the son of Rev. I.E. Oberholtzer, Rev. Henry Oberholtzer who, I believe, has given it to his nephew.

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## **UPDATE**

In the August 2005 BULLETIN on page 3, there was a query about Sarah Ann Overholtzer who married 9/30/1850 John H. Dellinger. Her parents were unknown but on the Internet recently, I found she was the daughter of Samuel Overholser and Catherine Hinkel (JL214). Posted was a "voluntary consent to the marriage of my said daughter Sarah Overholser to John Dellinger". It was to The Clerk of Shenandoah County Courts, dated 9/28/1850 and signed by Samuel Overholser.

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## **NECROLOGIST'S REPORT**

## **DEATHS**

Jim Kehew 9/23/1916-8/16/2006 Mechanicsburg, PA, husband of the late Esther Gerwig. He is survived by sons Gordon of Harrisburg, William of Woodstock, Ontario, daughter Peggy Cahill of Perkinsville, VT, six grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was the editor of the OFA BULLETIN from 1982 to 1988 and was a 2 cousin of Barbara Ford. (Christian S. Overholt/Catherine Newmyer line) [MC7207]

Mary Rice Landis 7/17/1922-12/17/2006 Souderton, PA, survived by her husband Norman R. Landis.

(Barbara Moyer/Jacob S. Landis line) [MC1678] & (Elizabeth Overholt/Isaac M. Landis line) [MT3953]

Virgie Marie Brees Rak Walker 6/19/1916-12/29/2006 Baton Rouge, LA. Survived by son Gene Rak. With failing eyesight, she sent many of her records to the Association years ago. (Clara I. Albitz/William H. Brees line) [JG1114]

Max Eugene Patton, age 83, of Raytown, MO, died 1/10/2007. Survived by wife Barbara, daughter Patti Nelson, 3 grandchildren and brothers Weldon Patton and Gary Patton (Eliza Jane Overholser/Thomas J. Morris line) [JA4312]

Arlene M Fitzgerald, age 73, died 3/6/2007 Pottstown, PA. Survived by husband W. Leroy Fitzgerald, son Brian of Pottstown, brothers Richard Overholtzer of Boyertown, David Overholtzer of Florida, sisters Joan Meeker of Central, PA and Ruth Ingham of Pottstown. (Horace N. Overholtzer/Margaret Eisele line) [AS1533]

Robert T. Overholser 2/14/1918-4/17/2007 Va, husband of the late Helen Davis. Survived by son Robert, daughters Sharon Overholser, Linda Thomas and 3 grandchildren. Predeceased by daughter Carol Borig. Robert attended the 100 anniversary with his daughter Sharon. (Ora Overholt/Marie Wood Peckover line) [AV5a21]

Elizabeth Overholser Nagle 11/5/1907-4/28/2007 Lake Placid, NY, wife of the late Warren T. Nagle. She is survived by son Rev. George O. Nagle, two granddaughters and three great grandsons. Katherine E. Nagle, a granddaughter, predeceased her. She was the d/o Dr. George W. and Bessie (Frantz) Overholser.

(Martin Overholser/Barbara McAllister line) [SL2794]

Wendell Albert Howard 9/6/1928-5/3/2007 Marthasville, MO. He is survived by his wife Naomi Ruth Hines, son Steven L, daughters Shelly L. Roehgig, Wendy Tompkins, Candace F. Rice, Debbie K. Merrett, step-children Charles Sharp, Richard Sharp, Andrew C. Hines, Patricia Jackson, Ruthanne Smith, Angela M. Kleekamp, 9 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 22 step-grandchildren. Those who attended the 2003 reunion, remember Bridget, their dog, who came with them from Missouri.

(Fannie I. Carre/Willis G. Zeigler) [CV2311]

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## THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

## Continued from February 2006 Bulletin page 5

IC323 Elizabeth Jane Overholt b 2/24/1832 m c1855 Robert Barbour 1828 Scotland-1914

IC3231 Mary Barbour 1857-1932 m 1882 M.E. Copeland 1852-1900

IC3232 David Barbour b 3/3/1861 m Mary [-?-] b 4/9/1863

IC3233 John Barbour b c1864

IC3234 Elizabeth Barbour b 9/17/1866 m Edward Jackson b 10/11/1860

IC3235 William Barbour b c1871

REF: John Pennington, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

IC324 James Everett Overholt 9/23/1833-10/28/1910 Oxford Co. ONT m 4/9/1857 Mary Ann Schell 7/6/1839-7/29/1919 Oxford Co, ONT

IC3241 Mary Ann (Martha) Overholt b 10/11/1859 m 12/22/1885 William Forrest b 1/25/1856

IC3242 Edward Levi Overholt b 10/10/1861 ml Sarah Juliana Hayward b 11/2/1872, m2 [-?-] Walton

IC3243 Harriett E. Murdock c1865-4/28/1962

IC3244 Henrietta (Nettie) Overholt b 7/14/1866 m 11/19/1890 Samuel R. Perry b 8/22/1864

IC3245 Sarah Maria Overholt b 7/223/1870 m 11/13/1889 Edward J. Perry b 11/13/1867

IC325 John Lewis Overholt 7/13/1835-7/27/1919 m 6/16/1858 Jessie Scott 6/4/1834-12/5/1922

IC3251 Elizabeth Overholt 1866-1951 m David Taylor

IC3252 Annie M. Overholt 1870-1906 m John E. Stephenson 1863-1940

IC3253 John M. Overholt 1872-1963 m 9/15/1913 Ella May Mighton 1887-1923

IC33 Abraham Overholt m 3/3/1833 Vorlety Kipp by John Hatch J.P. Witnesses: Michael Overholt and Isaac Kipp

IC34 Jacob Overholt bur Frankville Cem. Shelby Co. IA, Rachel bur Oakwood Cem, Cerro Gordo Co. IA

IC341 Nicholas Claus Overholt d 6/10/1908 MN (only visited sons in White Co, TN) m Ellen M. (Ella) Woodward 7/1833 NY-2/28/1919MN

IC3411 Charles W. Overholt 9/18/1860-4/1934 MO m 2/1/1888 White Co, TN Flora Mills b 3/1871 TN (D)

IC3412 Lewis W. Overholt b 3/16/1862 m 2/21/1889 Louise May Miners 5/1865 IL-7/4/1931

IC3413 Frank M. Overholt c1867-8/13/1936 m Minnie [-?-] 11/1867 MN-11/13/1977 MN

IC3414 Edwin (not Erwin) Overholt b 5/6/1868

IC3415 George C. Overholt b 10/26/1870 m 1/16/1891 White Co, TN Lillie L. Huggins b 4/1870 TN

IC3416 Mary Ellen Overholt 11/4/1873-c1875

IC3417 Albert (Bertie) Overholt c1874-3/30/1941 MN m Alice [-?-] b c1885

IC3418 Clarence Overholt b 11/9/1877

IC342 John Charles Overholt 1838 CAN-4/19/1881 IA m Anna W. [-?-] b c1837 IRE

IC3421 Ida Overholt c1864-4/4/1889

IC3422 George F. Overholt b c1866 m 10/19/1887 Eliza J. Clupach (sp?) b c1867

IC343 William Henry Overholt 1/11/1847 CAN-6/7/1897 m Emma Beumer 5/11/1845-5/31/1901

IC3431 Charles B. Overholt b c1873

IC3432 Ida M. Overholt 11/28/1874-8/5/1897

IC3433 Maud Overholt b 5/1878 m 9/23/1899 George F. Finch b 10/1880 MN

IC344 George A. Overholt 9/13/1856-9/223/1935 m 2/19/1881 Emma S. Perkins 8/22/1860-5/27/1946

IC3441 Nettie E. Overholt b 10/19/1882

IC3442 Ross Overholt 6/1884-1902, bur Kensett Cem, Worth Co., IA

IC3443 Harley Oveholt b 3/1887

IC3444 Stossie Overholt b 8/1889

IC3445 Harold Overholt b 6/1895

IC345 Frederick W. Overholt 1/1861-9/7/1948 m 2/6/1883 Mary J. Perkins b 2/15/1863

IC3451 Lloyd Overholt b 12/1893

IC3452 Lella Overholt b 11/1897

IC346 Margaret Overholt 8/4/1840 CAN-12/12/1894, bur Oakwood Cem., Cerro Gordo, IA m William H. Russell b 1/7/1831

IC3461 Mary Russell b 2/10/1868 IA

IC3462 Ernest Russell b 4/4/1875 IA

IC3463 Ralph Russell b 10/16/1877 IA

## THREE NEW VERSES OF THE REUNION SONG TO FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL

A hundred years ago on the Conestoga Creek There began a custom which we cherish, And so we greet you now on this centenary day: Happy, happy days of our reunion!

(Refrain: Reunion, forever, hoorah, friends, hurrah! We'll stand by our loved ones and cherish etc.)

Oh, happy is the day of our one hundredth year, Memories abound as we gather. We are grateful for our past, and we pray for future years: Happy years ahead for our reunion!

For all the friends before us, and for those who'll come behind, Thankful for the ties with our companions, We thank the Lord for blessings now and for the years to come: Happy blessed years for our reunion!

## MEMORIES OF THE 100 ANNIVERSARY UPDATE February 2007 Bulletin, Page 5

I was reminded that I had a mental lapse when I changed two names in the last issue. The daughter of Robert T. Overholser is Sharon, not Susan. Then I decided that the fellow who rode his motorcycle from Richmond was David Overholser when his name was David Field. I am still trying to find a good excuse for my mistakes.

## **VISITING ANCESTORS**

Dess Overholt Johnson of Grand Ledge, MI and her brother Dick came to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and they went from there to Deep Run Cemetery, Bucks Co, PA to visit their ancestors' gravesites. Going back through Ohio, they stopped in Medina at the Maple Hill Cemetery to visit more ancestors. Rev. William Overholt [MT32] is buried there but little remains of his stone. The cemetery records show that his wife Gertrude died 7/27/1827 [or 1835?]. If she died in 1827, she would be buried in Northampton County, PA because Rev. William came to Medina in 1830. There is no stone for her in Maple Hill but it could have disappeared.

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# MINUTES OF THE 100 ANNIVERSARY REUNION OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The Overholser Family Association met at St. John's United Church of Christ, East Earl, Lancaster County, PA with the largest attendance of 87 since the 1976 reunion. People from all over the country, some for the first time, were able to get acquainted with others in their line. Charts that Spencer Overholser had made for the I Samuel Oberholtzer line were available to add on to.

Before the catered dinner at noon, Rev. John Weiler gave the invocation. The group picture was then taken by Dennis Oberholtzer and Kathy Overholser.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Overholser. He asked if those attending would prefer to have future reunions at St. John's and the vote was to come back here.

There were 10 lines represented and each one was asked to stand with Samuel Oberholtzer (SL) having the most people.

The youngest there was Emma Oberholtzer of Lititz, PA, the oldest was Peg Overholt of Kilmarnock, VA and traveling the furthest were Will and Kathy Overholtzer of El Dorado Hills, CA.

We missed Ruth Overholser leading us in the reunion song which had 3 new verses she composed. Ross Gordon Gerhart accompanied the song on the piano.

The minutes of the last reunion were approved as printed in the February 2006 Bulletin. Treasurer Carolyn Kendall gave her annual report which was printed in the February 2007 Bulletin.

Barbara Ford reported that 600 books have been sold to date.

Rev. John Weiler recalled that his father and his parents attended the first reunion in 1906 and the next year his grandfather JLW Weiler was elected treasurer of the Association which he held until 1919.

Rev. John Weiler introduced our speaker Rev. Merrill Ressler of Hamburg, PA whose subject was "When the Cow was in the Garden."

The slate of officers for the coming term is:

President: Jack Sholl

1st Vice President: Paul Weiler

2nd Vice President: Dennis Oberholtzer

Recording secretary: Kim Weiler

Treasurer: Carolyn O. Kendall

Spencer Overholser installed Jack Sholl as the president for the next two years. Jack then thanked Jim Overholser for the term he just finished.

The next reunion will be August 4, 2007 at St. John's United Church of Christ, East Earl, Lancaster Co.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara B. Ford with help from OFA officers

## **OFFICERS**

Lines				
AS	President	Jack Sholl, 128 Christa Ct.		
		Palm Desert, CA 92280	jesholl@aol.com	
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SL	President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive		
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MC	Genealogist, Editor	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane		
	Necrologist	Wallingford, PA 19086	bbfordofa@aol.com	
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## 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

Overholser Family Association 313 Henry Lane Wallingford, PA 19086





