

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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AUGUST 1980

VOLUME II NUMBER 2

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Where do we go from here? This issue ends the second year of publication of this Bulletin and the size of the mailing list has increased phenomenally during the past year. Part of the reason of the increase has been a result of Robert M. Oberholser's research in the IV Christian (III Martin) line. During this time he has been contacting many descendants of IV Christian who have now been included on our mailing list. However, many others around the country have written to request the Bulletin; our mailing list increased in the past year from about 225 to over 300.

The time required for the Bulletin and answering numerous inquiries re family history has meant that your president has not had time for genealogical research.

As I view the present situation, there are two alternatives, i.e., there should be additional volunteer help or our association should have paid secretarial help. Hopefully someone will volunteer at the reunion this year.

Prospects for a large attendance at the reunion look good this year. Three from California, two couples from Kansas, a family from Louisiana, and a couple from North Carolina have indicated intentions of attending. I hope to see many from Pennsylvania and neighboring states as well. BRING ALONG YOUR LUNCH BASKETS AND LET'S HAVE A NICE DAY.

MINUTES OF 4TH ANNUAL REUNION

"Rohrerstown, Pa., July 29, 1909

"On this date the Overholser Reunion was held at the usual place, the delightful grove on the farm of Mr. S.O. Frantz near Rohrerstown, Lancaster County, Pa.

"For some reason, the number in attendance was smaller than the previous year, but the occasion proved highly enjoyable to those so fortunate as to be present. Not the least enjoyable feature of the occasion was the bountiful dinner spread under the trees.

"In the afternoon some time was occupied with musical and literary exercises, and a business meeting was held.

"Rev. S.H. Chubb of Bangor, Pa., led in the opening prayer. The President of the Reunion Association, Martin L. Overholser of Millersville, made the opening address. He referred feelingly to the death of Martin Overholser of Pequa Valley who had been present at previous reunions. He also gave interesting items from the will of Martin Overholser, the progenitor of all the Overholseres present this day.

(continued on page 2)

****NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION****

Overholser 70th Reunion
Saturday, August 23, 1980
Terre Hill FIRE HALL
Terre Hill, Penna.

*Pauline - will you report some new information this year?
Spencer O.*

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Volume II -- Number 2

Editor - J. Spencer Overholser
Typist - Carolyn Oswald Kendall

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Family Association, P.O. Box 106,
Oley, Pennsylvania 19547

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untary contributions. Send con-
tributions to the association
treasurer: Mrs. Marjorie Carroll,
319 Monroe Ave., North Hills,
Penna. 19038. Make checks payable
to: Overholser Family Association.

70th ANNUAL REUNION - August 23, 1980
Terre Hill **FIRE HALL**
Terre Hill, Penna.

11:00 Registration, viewing charts, etc.
12:00 Covered dish luncheon*
1:30 Invocation- Rev. John Weiler
Minutes- Paul Pletcher
Treas. report- Marjorie Carroll
Self introductions
Necrologist's report- Robert M.
Oberholser
Genealogical reports-
Henry Oberholtzer,
Summitville, Ind.
Mildred Brown Pettigrew,
Pottstown, Penna.
Robert M. Oberholser,
Freehold, N.J.
Pauline Stroeble Oswald,
Lancaster, Penna.
J. Spencer Overholser,
Oley, Penna.
Other reports, reminiscences,
etc. from the floor
Entertainment- Mildred Pettigrew
Reunion song- Ruth Overholser, ldr.
Old business
New business
Election of officers
Benediction- Rev. John Weiler

*Please bring at least one hot or cold
covered dish, your own drink and
table ware.

4TH REUNION (cont.)

"Miss Anna Overholser of Mill-
ersville had charge of the music.
The singing of "Grace Enough for
Me" with organ accompaniment was
followed by an address by Rev.
Thos. H. Krick of Coplay, Pa.

"Treasurer Weiler made a state-
ment of finances and a successful
collection was taken to meet ex-
penses. A rising vote of thanks
was tendered Mr. & Mrs. Frantz for
their kindness in providing the
place of meeting, tables, manage-
ment, etc.

"A number of hymns and songs
were sung, Miss Overholser accom-
panying with organ.

"The treasurer reported a bal-
ance of \$12.96 in treasury.

"On motion a committee of three
was appointed to select a place for
next year's meeting and to arrange
a program. Committee-- J.L.W.
Weiler, S.O. Frantz, E.L. Watts.

"An address was delivered by
Mr. W.H.H. Kinzer giving interest-
ing historical data.

"The old officers were reelected.
"A vote of thanks was tendered
the persons furnishing the music.

E.L. Watts, Sec. Pro tem"
(The officers were: Mr. Martin
L. Overholser, Pres., Millersville,
Pa.; Mr. Charles E. Overholser,
Sec'y., Brooklyn, N.Y.; Mr. J.L.W.
Weiler, Treas., Terre Hill, Pa.
--Ed.)

ATTENDANCE AT 4TH ANNUAL REUNION

Mrs. Sue Haines, Wernersville
M/M M.L. Overholser, Millersville
M/M Benjamin Bunn, Parkesburg
Mr. Isaac Stirk, Lancaster
Miss Anna M. Overholser, Millers-
ville
M/M Dan'l Overholser, Reading
Miss Mary G. Haines, Wernersville
Mrs. A.R. James, Allentown
Miss Lizzie Haines, Wernersville
M/M J.L.W. Weiler, Terre Hill
Miss Clara Kurtz, Terre Hill

(continued on page 3)

4TH REUNION (cont.)

Mrs. B.H. Miller, Mohnsville
Mrs. Anne Galt, Terre Hill
Mrs. Catherine Chubb, Pottsville
Mrs. Kate High, Lancaster
Mr. Al Overholser, Lykens
Naomi, Reed, & Marie Overholser,
Lykens
Mrs. Sally Buch, Akron
M/M Winfield Kurtz, Terre Hill
Mrs. Albert Bissell (formerly Mrs.
Martin Stirk), Oregon, Ill.
Mrs. Geo. Moore, Reading
M/M Wm. O. Goshen, Glenmoore
M/M Amos Goshen, Glenmoore
Mrs. Newton Overholser, Ephrata
Miss Bessie Overholser, Ephrata
M/M A.J. Hinsey, Akron
Ellis O. Hinsey, Akron
M/M D.O. Wolf, Lancaster
Miss Esta Buch, Akron
Miss Myrtle Frantz, Rohrerstown
M/M Arthur Oakes, Reading
Miss Anna W. Showalter, Martindale
M/M C.E. Barr, Lancaster
Harold Barr, Lancaster
J. Shober Barr, Lancaster
Mrs. C.W. Stroeble, Lancaster
Donald & Pauline Stroeble, Lanc.
Clemence Showalter, Martindale
Robert N. Overholser, Ephrata
Abraham Coleman, Terre Hill
Ralph S. Weiler, Terre Hill
Rev. & Mrs. Thos. H. Krick, Coplay
Rev. S. H. Chubb, Bangor
Mr. M.O. Watts, Kansas City, Mo.
Dr. Jno. Chubb, Philadelphia
Mr. Will C. Chubb, Philadelphia
Miss Gertrude M. Frantz, Rohrerst'n
M/M S.O. Frantz, Rohrerstown
Chester W. Oakes, Reading
Millecent M. Oakes, Reading
Mrs. Benj. Ellmaker, Lancaster
M/M Abr. Wenger, Lancaster
Mrs. M.W. Hurst, Talmage
Miss Edna Hurst, Talmage
Mrs. John Beam, Intercourse
Mrs. Hoover, Intercourse
Mrs. Mary Wenger, Lancaster
Miss Catherine Wenger, Lancaster
Mr. Harry Watts, Belleville
Miss Iva Denlinger, Lancaster
Miss Ella Diehl, Reading

[All towns Pennsylvania unless
specified.]

BEATRICE BAYLEY'S BOOK

Beatrice Bayley of Sterling, Pa., has published a book entitled, The Family Heritage Book; your Association has purchased a copy for \$19.85.

The notice of availability of the book went out in Nov. 1979, and the order was to be placed not later than Dec. 19, 1979. The Association's copy was received by your president in March 1980.

The book includes, aside from the text, several forms for recording one's ancestors, several personal history sheets, several family chart forms, the Overholser directory, and pictures relating to early U.S. history.

The text of the book comprises the following chapters: How to Search for Family Ancestors, History of Ethnic Origins and Activities, The Meaning and Origin of Heraldry, the Origins of Names and their Meaning, and The Reference Books. These chapters cover about 50 pages (unnumbered) and include quite a number of pictures relating to early U.S. history.

The Directory at the end of the book lists 309 male OVERHOLSERS arranged by state and by zip code within the state. Of the 20 on our mailing list, 7 are not included in the book. Only 5 are listed from Pennsylvania. Winfred is listed in Washington, D.C.; he died in 1964. His son, Winfred, Jr., is not included. Elwood, Winfred's brother, is listed in Mass.; he died in 1971.

For someone who has NOT done genealogical research, this book might be of some use. The book was advertised by Beatrice Bayley as the "Overholser Family Heritage Book," but the only part which relates to the Overholser is the directory of 309 names and addresses at the end of the book.

If anyone has an inquiry regarding this book, address such to your president.

--J. Spencer Overholser
Pres., O.F.A.

RESEARCH UPDATED

Earlier research was reported by me at the Overholser family reunion in August 1978 and was published in summary in the Overholser Bulletin, Feb. 1979. An appeal for assistance was made in Mr. Brossman's column in the May 24, 1979, issue of the Lebanon Daily News.

Marcus Oberholtzer is an important immigrant whose children's descendants are important branches of the family. He was established on his farm in Coventry Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, before 1714 and perhaps by 1711 as indicated by the will of Thomas Fairman. His farm was located on the topographic map by fitting the colonial survey of his 300 acres and 100 acres of his son Marcus' farm (adjacent) on the same scale. It is located on the outskirts of Kenilworth, across the river from Pottstown. Samuel, his 4th son, also had a survey of his land, adjacent to Jacob Enger, one of the founders of the Mennonite Church in Coventry in 1753. The later church of 1798 was built on land originally owned by Marcus. His eldest son, Jacob, married Barbara — and was administrator of his father's estate. A Jacob Oberholtzer and Jacob Wissimore (Wismer) paid quit rents in 1750 for 23 years which indicated that they went to Bucks County in 1727, the year after Marcus' death. The Oberholtzers are buried in the cemetery of the 1798 church, but the records of the Franconia Conference state that the earliest settlers were buried in the Sproegel cemetery of Pottstown, across the river from Marcus' farm. The stones from this graveyard were taken to the Mennonite Church on Hanover Street. There are many leads to investigate near Pottstown.

Several people are researching the descendants of Jacob Ober-

holtzer who arrived in 1732 on the ship "Samuel" with two children, Elizabeth (6) and Samuel (3). Mrs. Gnau, Cooperstown, Pa., sent a summary of records located by her uncle. His son, William Henry Overholt, of Newtown Square, has offered to answer questions from the records of his father's research. Mrs. Wayne (Helen Overholser) Turn of San Angelo, Texas, has records of the descendants of Jacob's son, Samuel, who married Maria Eva Hausswirth in 1765 and went to Shenandoah County, Virginia, and died there in 1783. His son, Peter, stayed in Virginia, but his son, Samuel, went to Tennessee. The elder (immigrant) Jacob married a second time to Susanna Scheuler. Their children were: 1) Barbara m. Christian Bretz, 2) Jacob m. Esther Blehm, 3) Esther, 4) Henry m. Catherine Shumaker. This line lived in Berks County, and many were associated with the Mennonite church in Bally, Pa.

A clue to Martin Oberholtzer, who signed the letter of thanks to the Dutch before the "Mary Hope" sailed from London to Philadelphia in 1710 and the warrant of October for 10,000 A. in (now) Lancaster County, was supplied by Mr. David P. Hively, Felton, Pa. He found that a Martin Overhulser died intestate in 1749 in York County (which was formed from Lancaster County that year). His inventory indicated that he was elderly, living on a small farm and was a carpenter. He had six books, two notes and three bonds listed as assets. No descendants were listed.

An Oberholtzer was a teamster for General Braddock in 1755.

Thanks to all who wrote and initiated contacts.

(Submitted by John L. Overholt, Rt. 1, Box 173, Kilmarnock, Va., 22482, who has conducted extensive genealogical research for the past several years. --Ed.)

OF

THE OBERHOLTZER FAMILY

The pamphlet (title page reproduced below) which included the history of The Oberholtzer Family, prepared by Charles E. Overholser and read at the first reunion on July 26, 1906, has several errors therein. During research conducted by your editor for an article entitled "The Terre Hill Oberholtzer Family" in the April 1978 issue of the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, the errors listed below were noted.

Many of you on our mailing list have this pamphlet, since dozens of them were distributed in recent years. These copies were donated by Spencer Tinker of Honolulu, Hawaii, a great-great grandson of IIMartin.

On page 2, lines 18-19, it is stated, "It is very likely that our progenitor was Jacob Oberholtzer who came over in the ship, 'Samuel'...", and on page 3, lines 12-14, it is stated, "... it is more likely that we are descended from Jacob of 1732 than from any other Oberholtzer whose name is recorded." In fact we are descended from Samuel who arrived on the ship Molly in Philadelphia on September 30, 1727.

On page 2, lines 23-25, it is stated, "It is clear that the Oberholtzer from whom we are descended did not live in Lancaster County before about 1800." Lancaster County Court House records show that land was purchased by immigrant Samuel in Lancaster County in 1746, most of which went to his son, IIMartin.

On page 3, lines 15-17, it is stated, "However, we are sure of our descent as far back as Christian. His son, Martin, was born in 1764." The Lancaster County Court House records show that Martin's (b. 1764) father was IIMartin, not Christian.

For anyone interested in the attendance at the first reunion, following is a list of those present at the 1906 reunion, reproduced from page 12 of The Oberholtzer Family.

WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE
DESCENDANTS OF
DANIEL OVERHOLSER 1811-1876
READ AT A FAMILY REUNION HELD AT
TERRE HILL, PENNA., JULY 26, 1906.

BY

CHARLES E. OVERHOLSER

The names and addresses of those present follow.

Lancaster; Mr. Isaac Stirk, Mr. W. H. H. Kinzer
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wolf, Miss Anna Brown.

Philadelphia; Rev. John Overholser.

Mast, Pa.; Mrs. Louisa Brubaker.

Reamstown; Mr. I. K. Overholser, Miss Mary Overholser.

Terre Hill; Mr. Martin Overholser, Mrs. Irene
Richmond, Mrs. Anna Galt, Mr. and Mrs. John
Weiler, Mr. Ralph N. Weiler

Cains; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Overholser, Miss Leila
Overholser.

Parkesburg; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bunn.

Durlach; Mrs. Ella L. Bard.

Millersville; Mr. and Mrs. Martin L. Overholser, Miss
Anna M. Overholser, Master Donald M. Overholser.

Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Charles E. Overholser.

Lincoln; Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Brown, Misses
Elva and Lorraine Brown.

Reading; Dr. George W. Overholser, Mr. and Mrs.
Daniel Overholser.

Akron; Mrs. Sallie Buch, Miss Esta Buch.

Glen Moore; Mr. Wm. Goshen, Mrs. Amos Goshen.

Rohrerstown; Mr. and Mrs. S. O. Frantz, Miss
Gertrude Frantz., Miss Myrtle Frantz.

Waynesboro; Mr. and Mrs. Willis Frantz.

Joliet, Illinois; Mr. John Overholser, Mrs. Amanda
Overholser.

(The April 1978 issue of the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, referred to supra, may be obtained by sending \$2.50 to Mennonite Historical Library, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17602.)

"Conestoga Valley Park, Lanc. Co., Pa. July 28, 1910.

"The fifth Annual Reunion of the Overholser Freundschaft held on the above date on the banks of the historic Conestoga was probably the most successful so far. The attendance was more than twice as large as the previous year and slightly larger than any previous occasion.

"A printed program had been sent out previous to the Reunion on a folder containing invitation etc. This program was followed almost to the letter. It included an address by the president, Mr. Martin L. Overholser, and brief addresses by Mr. M.L. Overholser, Mrs. Sallie Buch, Dan'l Overholser of Reading, Mr. Isaac Stirk of Lancaster, Mr. W.H.H. Kinzer of Lancaster, on the subject, 'Daniel Overholser as I knew him.'

"The music included three gospel hymns by all assembled, vocal solos by Rev. J.S. Overholser of Phila., Miss Gertrude Frantz of Rohrerstown, Mr. Reuben Overholser of Belleview, Allegheny County, a piano solo by Miss Mabel Woodring of Myerstown, Pa., and a piano duet by Miss Anna Overholser and Miss Edna Hurst.

"A business session followed at which the following business was transacted.

"The former officers were re-elected. The time of meeting was changed to the first week in August.

"Miss Anna M. Overholser was elected Musical Director.

"Agreed that a committee on necrology be appointed by the chair and also agreed that a historian be appointed by the chair. On motion, the committee of arrangements was continued.

"The treasurer Mr. Weiler reported a margin of cash left over expenditures.

"After singing 'Blest Be the Tie that Binds' adjournment followed.

E.L. Watts Sec. Pro Tem"

(The officers were: Mr. Martin L. Overholser, Pres., Millersville, Pa.; Mr. Charles E. Overholser, Sec'y., Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Mr. J.L.W. Weiler, Treas. --Ed.)

The January 31, 1980, issue of the Reading Eagle includes an article about Iona Oberholtzer who started going blind from ulcers on the pupil of each eye about 10 years ago. On the recommendation of her doctor, she has been crocheting to occupy her time. Since then, she has completed 136 bedspreads, 100 afghans with matching pillows, 50 baby wraps, 12 ponchos, and at least 50 throw pillows. Iona and her husband, Joseph, attended the reunion last August at Terre Hill. Joseph is a descendant of IVSamuel, son of IIISamuel.

- - -

Mrs. Winfred Overholser of Sacramento, Calif., (Dr. Winfred O. was president of our association 1939-56) has stated that she, her daughter, Jane, and husband, also of Sacramento, will attend the reunion this year. Inasmuch as Dorothy is 85 years old, it is quite a tribute to her that she would make the effort to travel such a long distance to attend another reunion.

- - -

Rosy Oberholser of Oberholz, Switzerland, says that she would like to attend an Overholser reunion, but that August is not a good month for her to leave her restaurant. Some of you met her when she was here with her daughter, Johanna, in the spring of 1978. Rosy says that she would like to visit the United States again soon. It is tradition that the ancestors of immigrant Samuel O. (1727) came from this village of Oberholz.

- - -

After reading the "Minutes of the 3rd Annual Reunion" in the August 1979 issue of the Bulletin, Miss Sarah Ann Stauffer writes: "The S.O. Frantz who entertained the Reunion July 1908 was our grandfather, and the place is where the whole intimate family now lives, Lime Spring Farm. Nine generations of our family have lived here, ever since they settled in the country from the Palatinate."

WABANK????

Characters:

Esta Buch Herr
Mildred Brown Pettigrew

M: (walking to car from Millersville College Library) Esta, do you know where Wabank is? I couldn't find it on the Pennsylvania map.

E: I'm sure it's near here. Let's ask up there at the corner gas station.

M: (to young gas attendant) Could you please tell us how to get to Wabank?

Attendant: **THERE IS NO WABANK!!**
(Esta is still laughing at that reply.) but I can direct you to Wabank Road.

He did, and with more directions from two young men and a 94 year old woman, who KNEW, we found the remains of the old mill on the Cone-stoga Creek. This was the grist and woolen mill owned and operated between 1872 and 1875 by IV Daniel F. Overholser, son of III Martin.

(Submitted by Mildred B. Pettigrew, Pottstown, Pa.)

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

(This is the first issue for this column. If enough interest is shown it will be included in future issues.)

In order to complete his research, Robert M. Oberholser wants info on EDWARD DOREN whose last known address was Eureka, Calif. He was graduated from Eureka H.S. in 1932; father-John Doren; mother-Ida Oberholser; g.grand-father-Martin Oberholser (1826-1909); g.g.grandfather-Christian Oberholser (1798-1884). Send response to: Robert M. Oberholser, R.D.2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728.

Mrs. Turn wants to document the father of SAMUEL OBERHOLZER who died in Shenandoah County, Va., 1783 and was married to Eaff as stated in his will dated May 29, 1772. Send responses to: Mrs. Wayne Turn, 2310 Rio Grande, San Angelo, Texas 76901.

ANOTHER OVERHOLTZER REUNION

Four young men, Overholtzer brothers, left their Adams County, Pa., home in the mid-eighteen hundreds. They moved west to Decatur County, Iowa, where they settled and stayed the remainder of their lives. There was much visiting between the four and their families, but always after the summer harvest there was a special get together. In 1925, officers were elected. Election of officers still continues and the acting host is always the next youngest relative. The meetings are always the second Sunday of August in Tingley, Iowa, at the American Legion Hall. An invitation is extended to any who wish to attend. For more information, write to Mrs. L.C. Milligan, 7511 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64114.

OVERHOLSER, OBERHOLTZER, OR ?

Inasmuch as the early generations of the descendants of immigrant SAMUEL spelled the name OBERHOLTZER, the suggestion has been made that the name of our association should be changed to this spelling. What do you think? Send your suggestions to the editor of this Bulletin. The change could be effected by vote on a motion at the annual reunion.

Just to give a little background to the current spelling used for the association, i.e., OVERHOLSER, it was a group of the descendants of IV Daniel, son of III Martin, who started the reunion in 1906. Since that time there have been many who have attended the reunions who use various spellings of the name.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If anyone is moving, please send a change of address to the editor.

The following Bulletins were returned:

Mrs. Debra Clay, R.D.#1, Barto, Pa.

Mr. Richard Overholser, 18886 Riding Wall Lane, South Bend, IN
Can anyone help?

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS

III Christian

IV Samuel - Henry Oberholtzer, R.D.#1, Summitville, Ind. 46070

III Martin

IV Daniel - Mildred Brown Pettigrew, 816 N. Evans St., Pottstown, Pa. 19464

III Martin

IV Christian - Robert M. Oberholser, R.D.2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728

III Martin

IV John - J. Spencer Overholser, P.O. Box 106, Oley, Pa. 19547

III Martin

IV Elizabeth - Pauline Stroeble Oswald, 29 Belmont Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601

OFFICERS

President - J. Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.

1st Vice Pres. - John L. Oberholser, Narvon, Pa.

2nd Vice Pres. - Vacant

Corresponding Sec'y - Elizabeth Oberholser Frey, Freehold, N.J.

Recording Sec'y - Paul Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.

Treasurer - Marjorie Chubb Carroll, North Hills, Pa.

Chaplain - Rev. John R. Weiler, Easton, Pa.

Honorary Vice Pres. - Harold Barr, Lancaster, Pa.

Honorary Vice Pres. - Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, Pa.

Overholser Family Association
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