

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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VOLUME III NUMBER 1

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

First, I want to say that I was very much pleased with the attendance at the reunion in August, 1930. The total of 93 attending this reunion was the largest since I have attended starting in 1951 except for the 99 who attended the 1960 reunion. That reunion was special. It was the celebration of the 50th annual reunion. Many who attended this year had never been to a reunion before and I hope you will return in 1981.

You will notice in the masthead of this issue of the Bulletin that we have a new editor, i.e. Robert M. Oberholser of Freehold, New Jersey. This solves the problem of editorship for only a year because when Robert volunteered his services he said that at the age of 89 "one year should be enough." Robert was selected by the procedure set forth at the 1980 reunion.

The treasurer's books were audited at the 1930 reunion with a balance of \$96.29. It takes about \$150 for printing and mailing each issue of this Bulletin so you can see our association does not have much of a financial cushion. The association at its 1930 reunion affirmed its policy of sending the Bulletin to any library, organization or individual who

requests being placed on the mailing list.

Robert M. Oberholser deserves a note of commendation for the 85 page paperback book he published last August on the descendants of IV Christian (son of III Martin.) This is the most comprehensive publication on any of the descendants of immigrant Samuel Oberholzter (1727) to date.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Mrs. Friedli would like info on Magdalena Overholser who married Jacob Weaver in 1773. Magdalena was born circa 1750. Jacob and Magdalena moved from Eastern Pennsylvania to Somerset Ct. Pa., where they are buried. Please send responses to: Mrs. Fred Friedli, 710 Castlebar Drive, Rochester, Mich. 48063.

NOTICE

An important date to keep in mind in making up your summer vacation schedule is Saturday, August 22. That is the date of the annual reunion of the Overholser Family Association, held in the rooms of the Fire Company in Terre Hill, Penna. Come renew friendships with old friends and many new ones!

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Volume III- Number 21

Editor - Robert M. Oberholser
Typist - Elizabeth O. Frey

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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.

EDITORIAL

What should be the purpose of a FAMILY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN? From the answers of those to whom this question has been put it would seem that what is most desired is information relative to other members of the family, past and present. To that end the effort is being made to collect such information and pass it on to our readers.

A resume of the life of one of our past presidents and a most distinguished member of the medical profession is the first of what is hoped will be a series of biographical sketches of members of our clan. Dr. Winfred Overholser will be remembered by older members of the ASSOCIATION as the president preceding Spencer. The story of his life will be found on another page.

Your editor's recent genealogical efforts have revealed many personal items which may be used in this issue of THE BULLETIN but future issues must depend upon contributions from our readers. Let us know about your marriages, births, anniversaries, educational involvements and occupational advancements. Send such information to the Editor, Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07723.

A SENIOR CITIZEN'S LAMENT

Everything is farther than it used to be. It is twice as far to the corner, and I notice a hill has been added. I gave up running for the bus - it leaves sooner than it used to. They are making stairs steeper than they used to, and I notice smaller print in the newspapers. There is no use asking people to read to you - everyone speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them. The material in dresses is so skimpy, especially around the waist and hips.

People are changing - they look much younger than they used to when I was their age. I ran into an old school mate the other day - she had aged so much she didn't recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor thing, and while I was combing my hair, I glanced at my reflection in the mirror - they sure don't make mirrors like they used to either.

You know I have four men in my life now:

I get up with....CHARLIE HORSE
I eat with.....WILL POWER
I spend the day with...
ARTHUR RITIS
I go to bed with.BEN GAY

WHAT A WORLD! But I love it!

DR. WINFRED OVERHOLSER

A TRIBUTE

Winfred Overholser was the son of Edwin Moses Overholser and traced his heritage from immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer through Martin Oberholtzer, Sr., Martin Oberholtzer, Jr., John Overholser, Amos Overholser, and Edwin Overholser. On October 6, 1964 he died at the age of 72 in Washington, D.C. of pneumonia following an illness of several months.

Dr. Overholser's father, Edwin M. Overholser, moved to Massachusetts in the 1380's from Pennsylvania and settled in Worcester where Winfred, the first of his three children, was born April 21, 1392. Graduating, cum laude, from Harvard in 1912, he spent a summer assisting the director of a private sanitarium. This experience induced an early interest in psychiatry and was the primary reason for his going to Boston University Medical School where he received his M.D. in 1916.

After a one year residency at Evans Memorial Hospital, Winfred joined the staff of Westboro State Hospital. In February, 1918, he was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps, was sent to France and attached to Base Hospital #117, the famous World War I psychiatric treatment center for war neuroses.

Discharged from the Army Medical Corps early in 1919, Winfred was married to Dorothy Stebbins, of Worcester, Mass., June 4, 1919. He rejoined the Massachusetts State Hospital system serving in various capacities in Westboro, Gardner and Medfield State Hospitals. In 1930 he was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Mental Diseases for the State of Massachusetts becoming Commissioner in 1934 and in

which capacity he served for the next 2½ years. On October 4, 1937 Dr. Overholser was appointed Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C. where he guided the administrative and professional activities of the Hospital until his retirement twenty-five years later in 1962. Under his skilled and patient direction the Hospital became a world leader in the enlightened treatment of the mentally ill.

Dr Overholser was a sound administrator, no detail being too small to escape his attention. The newcomers on his staff were encouraged to accept increased responsibilities and were granted correspondingly increased authority. Rarely did he interfere with a subordinate once he had placed confidence in him.

As one of the leading consultants to the American Law Institute, Dr. Overholser was a crusader for improving the quality of psychiatric expert testimony. His labors in the field of forensic psychiatry received recognition in 1952 when the American Psychiatric Association gave him the first Isaac Ray Award "for the most worthy contribution to the improvement of the relation of Law and Psychiatry." His lectures, delivered at Harvard University, were later published under the title The Psychiatrist and the Law. From 1937 to 1959 he was Professor of Psychiatry at George Washington University.

While Dr. Overholser's chief interests were always with the medical profession, non-medical organizations claimed a great portion of his time. He was an active member of the American Legion, serving as Commander of the Medford American Legion Post and later as Chairman of the

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NOTICE

The Overholser Family Association Bulletin is issued twice a year. We ask your assistance in this effort by sending us FAMILY news-- either about yourself or some other member of your family. If possible accompany it with the relationship to I Samuel, II Martin, III Martin, etc.

ALSO, these Bulletins are financed by contributions of the Association members. Send all contributions to the Treasurer, Mrs. Marjorie C. Carroll, 319 Monroe Ave., North Hills, Pa., 19038.

National Medical Advisory Board; he was a member of the Masonic fraternity being one of the few to be granted the 33rd Degree. In 1935 he was influential in the establishment and administration of funds contributed by the Scottish Rite of Free Masonry for research in "dementia praecox." After World War II the French Government awarded him the Order of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor for his services to that country. In 1960 he received the President's Award for Distinguished Civilian Service.

Dr. Overholser was advisor to the Surgeon General during World War II; a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners; President of the Academy of Medicine, Washington, D.C.; member of the advisory group to the Veterans Administration. He received honorary degrees from George Washington University, St. Bonaventure College, Boston University and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Surgeon of the Navy.

Dr. Overholser succeeded Christian Oberholser in 1939 as President of the Overholser Family Association. During his seventeen years in this position he brought to the Overholser Family Association the same interest and careful administration for which he was noted.

Dr. Winfred and Mrs. Overholser are the parents of three children; a son, Dr. Winfred, Jr., a psychiatrist in New York City; two daughters, Mrs. E. Robert Elliot, 5404 Leader Avenue, Sacramento, Calif 95341 and Mrs. Richard O'Meara, Putney Road, Fitzwilliam, N.H. 03447.

Dr. Overholser's widow resides at 3225 Freeport Blvd., Apt. 210, Sacramento, Calif. 95813.

BITS AND PIECES

A few years ago Spencer Tinker supplied the Association with copies of Historical Notes of the early days of Terre Hill. These were distributed to those attending the Reunion held in Terre Hill, August 22, 1977. Many copies of this interesting brochure remain in the hands of the Editor, and a copy may be had by writing Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728, inclosing a legal size self addressed stamped envelope.

Mrs. Nanneurl Oberholser Keohane is the recently elected president of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. A graduate of the 1961 class of Wellesley, Mrs. Keohane took her M.A. at Oxford University, England in 1963 and her doctorate at Yale University in 1967.

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To my knowledge none of the present day members of the Overholser clan aspire to life in a mansion. Particularly in this time when heating of any home is becoming a problem. But President Spencer and wife Ruth are authority to the fact that an Overholser Mansion does exist and was occupied by members of the Overholser family from the time it was built in 1904 until it was sold in 1972 to the American Institute of Architects.

This Overholser Mansion is located at 405 Northwest 15th, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103 and has been designated a national landmark in 1975 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Henry Overholser, born in Ohio in 1846, came to Oklahoma during the land-run of April 22, 1889 while Benjamin Harrison was President. However, he did not come for the land-run but brought in several train loads of lumber with which he built much of what later became Oklahoma City. When others began building frame houses Henry began using brick. The Grand Hotel in Oklahoma City was built by Overholser and after his marriage to Anna Ione Murphy in October, 1889 they lived in the Grand Hotel until their mansion was ready for occupancy in 1904. They had one daughter, Henry Ione, born March 1904.

Mr. Overholser died in 1915. His widow continued to live in The Mansion until her death, April 29, 1940. Henry Ione and her husband, David Jay Perry, continued to live in The Mansion and carry on the tradition of preserving the family mansion.

Mrs. Ferry died in 1959. Her husband kept the home until 1972 when it was purchased by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, who in turn deeded it to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

The large lake, located on the edge of Oklahoma City is called Overholser Lake in memory of Henry Overholser. His connection with the Samuel Oberholtzer branch of the family is unknown. Perhaps a reader may be able to furnish this information.

- - -

Our Vice President, John Overholser proves to be a man of many talents. An educator in the school system of Coatesville, he, some years ago, built a beautiful home in Salisbury Township. A truly professional job in every respect, it has been constructed entirely by his own efforts!

Now John has demonstrated his abilities in an entirely different direction. For several years he has been the business manager of the S.H. Good Fast Pitch Club of New Holland, Pa. Early in Sept., the 1930 National Class A Championship games were held in which 24 of the outstanding teams of the United States were entered. In spite of the fact that the S.H. Good team had never before entered the tournament, John led his team not only to National Class A Championship but accomplished this without the loss of a single game.

John's interests also extend to Civic service, holding an elective position in the government of Salisbury Township, Lancaster Co., Pa.

THE 70th ANNUAL REUNION

The 70th Annual Reunion of the Overholser Family Association held in the Fire Hall, Terre Hill Penna., was characterized by attendance exceeded only by that of 1960 which was the 50th Reunion and was attended by 99 people, one more than the 93 who were present August 23, 1930.

The morning was devoted to renewing old acquaintances and reviewing the many genealogical exhibits provided by President J. Spencer Overholser. Following the bounteous communal luncheon the afternoon was given over to a short business meeting followed by roll call and reports of the genealogical researchers.

The Treasurer, Marjorie Carroll reported a balance of \$96.29. Following was the report of the Necrologist, Robert M. Overholser:

Report of Marriages, Births, and Deaths During the Past Year.

MARRIAGES

Sara Fae Rash to Donald Smith
Jan. 26, 1930
Jere Skiles to Jan Elizabeth Davis, June 21, 1930
Michele Skiles to Steven Rodgers
July 26, 1930
Lorey Schrack to Randy Wiand
July 21, 1979
Karen Ebert to Mark Call
June 10, 1930
Michael Martin to Kathy Buckholtz, Aug. 26, 1930

BIRTHS

David Quinton Lefebvre LaBarre
Feb. 13, 1930 II
Michael John Kennel
Aug. 17, 1970

Justin Wade Kuresko
May 26, 1930
Olivia Greer, July 3, 1930
Nicholas James Davis
July 5, 1930
Robert Allen Strong
Oct. 11, 1979
Yvonne Ferguson, Oct. 7, 1979
Katie Lynn Schofield,
Sept. 16, 1979
John William Goshen
Jan. 13, 1930

DEATHS

Mildred Boyer, June 17, 1930
Samuel Brown, July 10, 1930
Mrs. Mae Alice Kircher,
June 9, 1930
Mrs. Cozy Oberholtzer Tillman,
May 17, 1973

The following officers were elected for 1930-1931.

President, J. Spencer Overholser
1st Vice Pres., John L. Overholser
2nd Vice Pres. **Richard L. Stevens**

Corresponding Sec'y, Elizabeth Overholser Frey
Recording Sec'y, Paul Pletcher
Treasurer, Marjorie Chubb Carroll
Chaplain, Rev. John R. Weiler
Honorary Vice Pres., Harold Barr
Honorary Vice Pres., Estabuchon Herr
Necrologist, Robert M. Overholser

Following are the names and addresses of those in attendance at the 1930 Reunion:
Donald Feyhl, Estell Manor, N.J.
Mrs. Donald Feyhl, Estell Manor
Suzanne Feyhl, Estell Manor, N.J.
Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.
Ruth Overholser, Oley, Pa.
Elizabeth Kurtz, Terre Hill, Pa.
Mildred Brown Pettigrew, Pottstown, Pa.
Sara J. Hollowell, Malvern, Pa.
Henry C. Hollowell, Malvern, Pa.

Margie Koutroulis, Spring, Texas
 Bernie Overhultz, Bastrop, La.
 Dollie Overhultz, Bastrop, La.
 Dan Pettigrew, Pottstown, Pa.
 John Oberholtzer, Manheim, Pa.
 Mrs. John Oberholtzer, Manheim, Pa
 Larry Richmond, Oley, Pa.
 Anita Richmond, Oley, Pa.
 Gertrude Haines, Bordentown, N.J.
 John Weiler, Easton, Pa.
 Eleanor Weiler, Easton, Pa.
 Robert M. Oberholser, Freehold,
 N.J.
 Dina LaBarre, Caldwell, N.J.
 Kenneth LaBarre, Caldwell, N.J.
 Raymond M. Oberholtzer,
 Gaithersburg, Md.
 Adelaide T. Oberholtzer,
 Gaithersburg, Md.
 Edward M. MacCutcheon, Bethesda,
 Md.
 Jean L. MacCutcheon, Bethesda, Md.
 Agnes W. Robinson, Coatesville, Pa
 Kenneth W. Robinson, Coatesville,
 Pa.
 Lynn Ann Catanese, Oxford, Pa.
 Paul Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.
 Naomi Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.
 Mike Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.
 Marjorie C. Carroll, N. Hills, Pa.
 Sally Carroll, N. Hills, Pa.
 George D. Overholtzer, Jr.,
 Gaithersburg
 Sue Ellen Overholtzer,
 Gaithersburg, Md.
 Levi K. Oberholser, Gap, Pa.
 Mary Oberholser, Gap, Pa.
 Kandy Holmes
 Samuel R. Skiles, Gap, Pa.
 Stella Skiles, Gap, Pa.
 Anne Eaby, Blue Ball, Pa.
 Jean B. Skillman, DeLand, Fla.
 Fred Skillman, DeLand, Fla.
 Michael Skillman, Elverson, Pa.
 B. Franklin Bunn, Lawrenceville,
 N.J.
 Anna Bunn, Lawrenceville, N.J.
 Ellen Livingood, Langhorne, Pa.
 Frank Livingood, New Holland, Pa.
 Amy Reeves, Kinzers, Pa.
 George Reeves, Kinzers, Pa.
 Marian Livingood, New Holland, Pa.
 William H. Goshen, Millville, N.J.

Betty Goshen, Millville, N.J.
 Dorothy S. Overholser (Mrs.
 Winfred), Sacramento, Calif.
 Jane Overholser Elliott,
 Sacramento, Calif.
 Jean S. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.
 Richard L. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.
 Daythal Kendall, Phila., Pa.
 Carolyn Kendall, Phila., Pa.
 Charles Kendall, Phila., Pa.
 Pauline Oswald, Lancaster, Pa.
 Harold Barr, Lancaster, Pa.
 Betty Stroeble, Scarsdale, N.Y.
 John B. Carr, Honey Brook, Pa.
 Yvonne M. Carr, Honey Brook, Pa.
 Miriam H. Morton, Honey Brook, Pa.
 Mildred Paxson, Lititz, Pa.
 Anna Ebert, West Chester, Pa.
 John L. Overholt, Kilmarnock, Va.
 Peg Overholt, Kilmarnock, Va.
 Marie Arnold, Carlisle, Pa.
 Marie Mendenhall, Vineland, N.J.
 Walter E. Mendenhall, Vineland
 Knox M. Kehew, Bradford Woods, Pa.
 Mary Kehew, Bradford Woods, Pa.
 Catherine Rahn, Laureldale, Pa.
 Ruth Schaeffer " "
 Joseph W. Oberholtzer, Womels-
 dorf, Pa.
 Iona Oberholtzer, Womelsdorf, Pa.
 John Jacob Overholtzer, Leola, Pa.
 Rebecca S. Overholtzer, Leola, Pa.
 Esta Herr, Lititz, Pa.
 Sara Harting, Allentown, Pa.
 Josephine Clime, Zerbe Sisters
 Nursing Home
 Gwen Redcay, Terre Hill, Pa.
 James G. Kehew, Camp Hill, Pa.
 Esther G., Kehew, Camp Hill, Pa.
 Stanley H. Ebert, Coatesville, Pa.
 Helen J. Ebert, Coatesville, Pa.
 Betty Weaver, Zerbe Sisters
 Nursing Home
 Mark Redcay, Terre Hill, Pa.
 Warren Boyer, Lancaster, Pa.
 Mrs. Anna B. Boyer, Lancaster, Pa.
 Ernest L. Boyer, Lititz, Pa.
 Robert Wenger, Ephrata, Pa.
 Charles R. Elliott, Col. USAF
 (Ret.), Sacramento, Calif.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS

- III Christian
IV Samuel - Henry Oberholtzer, R.D. #1, Summitville, Ind. 46070
- III Martin
IV Daniel - Mildred Brown Pettigrew, 316 N. Evans St., Pottstown, Pa. 19464
- III Martin
IV Christian - Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07723
- 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 I. Oberholser, Narvon Pa.
2nd Vice Pres. - **Richard L. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.**

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Honorary Vice Pres. - Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, Pa.
Necrologist - Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J.
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