



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our necrologist, Mr. Robert M. Oberholser of Freehold, N.J., has brought to my attention the fact that information submitted to him is at times a bit sketchy. When reporting births, deaths, baptisms and marriages it would be helpful to include sufficient information so that such persons' place on the family tree could be identified. One reasonable manner to identify someone in the immigrant Samuel (1727) line would be to give the relationship to the 4th generation, i.e., to the children of III Martin (1764-1833). In reporting deaths the minimum information would be: when and where born, when and where died, where buried, name of parents and to whom married, if applicable.

The Association will be saddened to learn that Dorothy Stebbins Overholser, widow of Dr. Winfred Overholser (president of the Overholser Family Association 1939-1956) passed away on April 6, 1983 at Sacramento, California and was buried in Arlington Cemetery next to her husband. Her daughter Jane and husband Bob Elliott came East from California for the burial and visited her brother in New York City and then came to our home in Oley for a visit. They, along with their mother, were present at the Overholser Reunion in 1980.

A recent letter from Rosy Oberholzer from Oberholz, Switzerland indicates that she hopes to be present at our Reunion in August. She has visited our home two times but this will be her first Overholser Family Association reunion. Tradition has it that our immigrant Samuel came from the village of Oberholz so we like to think that her husband is related to the Oberholtzers, etc. in the U.S. We look forward to seeing Rosy and YOU at our Family Reunion August 20.

J. SPENCER OVERHOLSER

REUNION TIME AGAIN!

DATE: Saturday, Aug. 20, 1983 (3rd Saturday rather than the customary 4th Saturday)

PLACE: Fire Hall, Terre Hill, Pa.

All out for the 73rd Annual Reunion of the Overholser Family Association! Come to beautiful Terre Hill for a great day of socializing with your kinfolk and a bountiful luncheon repast! Bring any family pictures or other mementoes you have to display. And don't forget a covered dish (hot or cold) for the common table and your own drink and tableware.

On display as usual will be the 18-foot-long chart of the III Martin line. Over a yard wide, it extends almost the length of the meeting hall, suspended from the ceiling. It covers 9 generations starting with immigrant Samuel and is on special drawing paper. It represents hours and hours of work by President Spencer Overholser who started compiling the information over 30 years ago. He first brought the chart to the Reunion in 1954.

Also on exhibit will be two similar charts, also made by Spencer, one on III Samuel and the other (in four parts) on the III Martin/IV Elizabeth line. All are of inestimable value to those who want to update their information.

- 10:30 Registration
Viewing of charts and materials
- 12:00 Covered dish luncheon
- 1:20 Group photo - DAN PETTIGREW
(NOTE! Please remain in place for a few minutes after the picture is taken so that we may get everyone's name for the caption on the photo for the next issue. We will have a recorder for each row.)

(Cont. on page 6)

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Vol. V No. 2 August 1983

Editor - JIM KEHEW
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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

WHERE TO SEND

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

J. Spencer Overholser
PO Box 106
Oley, PA 19547

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

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Freehold, NJ 07728

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North Hills, PA 19038

(Note: THE BULLETIN is financed
solely by voluntary contributions
of the members.)

NEWSLETTER ITEMS, NEW-MEMBERS, &
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Jim Kehew, Editor
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

FOR BACK ISSUES

J. Spencer Overholser
PO Box 106
Oley, PA 19547

A YEAR TO BE PROUD!

Your name is probably Overholser or
some variation thereof if you are reading
this family newsletter. Maybe marriage
has robbed you of the Overholser name,
but Overholser blood flows through your
veins and arteries.

Our Overholser ancestors in Europe
lived in Switzerland and spoke German.
Some lived in Germany for a few genera-
tions before they set sail for America.

This is a year to be proud of our Ger-
man heritage. We're celebrating the Tri-
Centennial of the first German settlement
in North America. Thirteen families,
Mennonites and Quakers, came from Kre-
feld, Germany under the leadership of
Franz Daniel Pastorius. They sailed on
the CONCORD and reached Philadelphia
Oct. 6, 1683.

Mayor Green of Philadelphia attended
the celebration in Krefeld in June (so
did I). In July there were festivities
in Bad Windsheim, near Wurzburg where
Pastorius lived. The President of Ger-
many, Karl Carstens, and our President
Reagan plan to attend the October cele-
bration in Philadelphia.

May 5 was the date for the unveiling
of the German Founders postage stamp.
The issuance of the stamp by the U.S.
Postal Service commemorates the found-
ing of Germantown.

The English, the French, and the Span-
ish came to America to colonize it -- to
trade and make money. The Germans did
not. They came to farm and to live in
peace with God and their neighbors.

Let's keep this spirit flowing in our
veins and pass it on through our children.

Long live the Overholsters!

MILDRED B. PETTIGREW
Easter 1983

(Note: My aunt, Lorraine Brown Neikirk,
great-granddaughter of IV Daniel Over-
holser, plans to go to Krefeld with me
in June. The people are opening their
homes to us during the week's celebra-
tion. We also plan to stay for a week
with a Mennonite family near Freiburg in
the southwestern (Black Forest) area of
Germany.---MBP)

*Consultant: A man who knows less about
your business than you do and gets more
for telling you how to run it than you
could possibly make out of it even if you
ran it right instead of the way he told
you.*

WELCOME TO THE ASSOCIATION!

Twenty-two new members have joined us since the last newsletter. We're glad you have joined us!

MILTON EARL BLANDING	Box 65, Stanton, MI 48888
JOSEPHINE MILLER FILES	2517 Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603
MRS. ARLENE FITZGERALD	211 East St., Pottstown, PA 19464
THOMAS O. FOOTE	RFD, Hiram, ME 04041
MRS. WARREN T. LITTLE (Irene Overholt)	29328 Armadale Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092
R. A. LONGBOTTOM	1164 Catherine St., Suffield, OH 44261
ROBERT L. McKINLEY	PO Box 76, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578
LOIS MacKINNON	Box 417, Shearwater, Nova Scotia, Canada B0J 3A0
MRS. CHARLES MICHELFELDER	Broadview Towers, Apt 706, 110 West 6th Ave., Emporia, KS 66801
MS. DIAN MOORE	515 Camp St., Lebanon, IN 46052
DWIGHT OVERHOLSER	103½ S. Mill St., North Manchester, IN 46962
LEONARD R. OVERHOLSER	6702 Mt. Leneve Drive, San Jose, CA 95120
NEWTON OVERHOLSER	37 E. Church St., Reamstown, PA 17567
JOHN H. OVERHOLT	4641 N. 24th St., Arlington, VA 22207
WILLARD E. OVERHOLTZER	2613 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
GEORGE OVERHULS	2217 Highway East 54, Zephyrhills, FL 33599
WARREN E. OVERHULS	5352 Hackett Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713
MRS. ELLARYDZEWSKI	283-B Rancho Drive, Chula Vista, CA 92011
MRS. VERA SAVARY	11672 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD 21029
EUGENE A. SINGER	31423 Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, CA 92677
MISS MARY ROSE STEELE	366 Horton Highway, Mineola, NY 11501
JOHN D. SYKES	430 Wintery Circle, S., Colorado Springs, CO 80919

WHO IS OUR OLDEST MEMBER?

Well, we have at least four nonagenarians on our membership roll! The oldest by far is the REV. J. E. OVERHOLSER of Bradford, Ohio who is 97 and will celebrate his 98th birthday Nov. 21. As of last year he was still performing marriages.

Next oldest is BERNICE OBERHOLSER (Mrs. Frank) LAYTON of Bull Shoals, Ark. who marked her 92nd birthday on June 4. She is a great-granddaughter of IV Christian.

Following closely are two 91-year-old members: our Necrologist, ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER of Freehold, N.J. whose 92nd birthday comes up Sept. 18; and our Honorary Vice President, ESTA BUCH HERR of Lititz who had her 91st birthday on May 1. Robert is also descended from IV Christian and Esta from IV Daniel.

Our congratulations and best wishes to these senior members - and we hope they cut many more birthday cakes. (Have we missed anyone?)

CONTRIBUTORS to this issue: Dick Stevens, Mildred Pettigrew, Spencer Overholser, and Marge Carroll.

THANK YOU

to these members who have made contributions to the support of the Association since February:

MILTON E. BLANDING	Stanton, MI
ROBERT L. McKINLEY	Pleasant Hill, TN
DWIGHT OVERHOLSER	N. Manchester, IN
JOEL F. OVERHOLSER	Ft. Benton, MT
LEONARD OVERHOLSER	San Jose, CA
WARREN E. OVERHULS	Lakewood, CA
EUGENE A. SINGER	Laguna Beach, CA
JOHN D. SYKES	Colorado Spr., CO

WANTED: RECIPES!

The Board Members of the Association would like to put out a cookbook of favorite family recipes. We would certainly appreciate it if you would oblige by either sending as many as you like to me or bringing them to the Reunion with you. We will assemble same and then hope to sell them at a nominal fee as a money-making project that would help to enhance future Reunions as well as help defray the costs of the BULLETIN. Please help us.

MARGE CARROLL (Mrs. Chas. E.)
319 Monroe Ave.
North Hills, PA 19038

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

OVERHOLT LINK -- My ancestor was STAATS OVERHOLT who lived in Tinicum Twp., Bucks County, Pa. before and during the Revolutionary War. With his children, he emigrated to Canada about 1787 with other Mennonite families, including other Overholts. His daughter, Susannah, was my direct ancestor, marrying John Singer. My problem is finding a link to the Overholt or Oberholtzer family line in Pennsylvania. The Loomis records do not identify him. Eugene A. Singer, 31423 Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna Beach, CA 92677.

LYDIA OVERHOLT GEISINGER -- Robert L. McKinley, PO Box 76, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578, is looking for information on the parents and ancestors of his great-great-grandmother, Lydia Overholt, b. Nov. 17, 1813, Northampton County, Pa., d. Jan. 26, 1890, Unionville, MO, m. John Geisinger, b. June 22, 1812, Canada; d. Oct. 27, 1894, Unionville, MO, 9 children. He is also interested in discovering a possible connection between Lydia and the descendants of immigrant Samuel.

CORNELIUS OVERHOLSER -- Would like information on the parents of Cornelius Overholser, b. 1815, d. ca. 1850, m. 2/9/1837 in Darke Co., Ohio to Sarah Ann Bigham, b. 18__, d. Feb. 5, 1857. Warren E. Overhuls, 5352 Hackett Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713.

SHOBER BARR HONORED FOR GOOD DEEDS

One of our members, J. SHOBER BARR of Lancaster, was honored recently by being presented the Lancaster Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds for his outstanding contribution to community service over a long period of time. He was only the 12th recipient since the award was started in 1941.

Mr. Barr is a former long-time coach and athletic director at Franklin & Marshall College, has been actively involved with the YMCA since his teen-age years, and has been a member of the American Business Club for over 40 years. He is descended from the III Martin/IV Elizabeth line.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

One of the first things new members wonder about and marvel at is the variations in spelling the family name. I Samuel signed his name with an X, and clerks and others who recorded the name spelled it the way it sounded, with some interesting results.

For example, in the Lancaster County courthouse, a deed recording property bought by Samuel has his name spelled "Overholtser". In his will it is "Overholzer". And on the inventory of his goods, "Overholser".

Samuel's grandson, III Martin and his wife and son are buried side-by-side in the Weaverland Mennonite Cemetery in Lancaster County. On the headstones, Martin's name is spelled "Oberholtzer", his wife Elizabeth "Oberholser", and their son Martin "Oberholzer"!

Within the membership of the Association, we find 8 different spellings. Starting with the most common and following in order, they are Overholser, Oberholtzer, Oberholser, Overholtzer, Overholt, Overhultz, Oberholzer, and Overhuls. There are probably many others we haven't run across yet. It all adds to the interest of the family history.

BITS & PIECES

ESTA BUCH HERR, our Honorary Vice President, recently attended the 70th reunion of the class of 1913 of Millersville State College. Esta was for many years Necrologist of the Association.

RICHARD HUMPHREYS, son of member MARGARET WATTS HUMPHREYS of Curwensville, Pa., is into gnomes in a big way. He has the Gnome Trail in Kirkwood, Lancaster County, and visits schools dressed as a gnome to stimulate creative writing and other projects among the students. One spin-off of a recent visit to the Swift Middle School near Quarryville, Pa. was a gnome house built by students in a hollow poplar log, featured in the Lancaster paper.

Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it. -- Robert Frost

Committee: A collection of the unfit chosen from the unwilling by the incompetent to do the unnecessary.

1914 REUNION

THE NINTH ANNUAL O.F.A. REUNION

The ninth annual reunion of the Overholser was held in Band Hall Park, Terre Hill, Pa., Aug. 6th, 1914. There were 152 people present. Every one had a very pleasant time. The program of exercises began at 10:30 as follows:

- Hymn - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
- Prayer
- Words of Welcome - Pres. Martin L. Overholser
- Address - Rev. Mr. Thomas H. Krick
- Reunion Song
- Report of Memorial Committee - Mr. S. S. Watts
- Solo - "A Perfect Day", Mrs. Steele of North Carolina
- Recitations - Miss Leila and Mr. John Overholser
- Transaction of Business and Treasurer's Report
- Reunion Experience Meeting
- Song
- Benediction

Three of our number have passed away during the year: Mrs. Maria O. Watts, Mrs. Elizabeth Watts Weaver and Mr. Willis O. Frantz.

The same officers were elected for 1915. Mrs. C. E. Barr was elected secretary of the Memorial Committee. Rev. Mr. Thos. Krick was elected Historian. A rising vote of thanks was tendered the Terre Hill committee for their willing and efficient services.

Anna M. Overholser
Secretary

HOW TO JOIN

The Association welcomes into membership anyone interested in the Overholser lineage (with all its variant spellings). There are no dues. We depend for financial support on the voluntary contributions of the members, either at the annual meeting in August or by mail to the Treasurer at any time. New members' names should be sent to the Editor, Jim Kehew, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 --- 717/761-3388.

1915 REUNION

THE TENTH ANNUAL O.F.A. REUNION

The tenth annual reunion of the Overholser family was held in Band Hall Park, Terre Hill, Pa. on Thursday, Aug. 5, 1915. In spite of the threatening weather, we had a larger attendance than the previous year. There were about 170 people there, all of them being either members of the family or friends of members.

The reunion exercises were held shortly after dinner as the attendance was better in the afternoon than in the morning:

- Hymn - "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
- Prayer - Rev. Mr. Chubb of Philadelphia
- Words of Welcome - Mr. S. S. Watts
- Response - Pres. Martin L. Overholser
- Address - "Characteristics of the Overholser Family", Rev. Mr. Thos. Krick
- Reunion Song
- Report of Memorial Committee - Mrs. C. E. Barr
- Minutes - Miss Anna M. Overholser
- Treasurer's Report - Mr. J. L. Weiler
- Election of Officers
- Collection
- Hymn - "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"
- Recitation, "A One-Legged Goose" - Miss Leila Overholser
- Hymn - "In the Sweet Bye and Bye"
- Benediction

Mrs. Louisa Brubaker and Mrs. Jacob Overholser had died during the year.

The following resolutions offered by Mr. Edwin Watts were passed by the company.

Resolved:

1. That the matter of discontinuing these most enjoyable reunions is not a subject to be considered.
2. That these reunions should be held annually.
3. That the logical and ideal place in which to hold the Overholser Reunions is Terre Hill.

Anna M. Overholser
Secretary

Big men become big by doing what they don't want to do when they don't want to do it.

OFFICERS

President	J. Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.
1st Vice President	John L. Oberholser, Narvon, Pa.
2nd Vice President	Richard I. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.
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.	Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, Pa.
Necrologist	Robert M. Oberholser, RD 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728
Genealogist	J. Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON THE REUNION

REUNION (Cont)

1:30 Program, PRES. J. SPENCER OVERHOLSER, presiding
 Invocation - FRANK LIVENGOOD
 Introduction of Officers
 1982 Minutes - PAUL PLETCHER, Secy.
 Treasurer's Report - MARJORIE CARROLL
 Necrologist's Report - ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER
 Introduction of those present
 Reminiscences, reports, etc.
 Reunion Song - RUTH OVERHOLSER
 Old Business
 New Business
 Nominating Committee Report - DR. DAYTHAL KENDALL, Chairman
 Election of Officers
 Benediction - FRANK LIVENGOOD

It was started in 1906 by the descendants of IV Daniel Overholser. Two of our present members, ESTA BUCH HERR, our Honorary Vice President, and LORRAINE BROWN NEIKIRK, attended that first Reunion.

The next year, the descendants of III Martin were invited. It was a close-knit group -- everyone knew everyone else. As time went on, the attendance tended to narrow down to the descendants of III Martin, until 1956 when SPENCER OVERHOLSER was elected President.

Due to his correspondence with descendants of other than III Martin and immigrant Samuel, others started coming until now the membership is split about evenly between descendants of Samuel and others. They are all held together by the common bond: the name Oberholtzer, with its variant spellings.

See you there!

Overholser Family Association

P. O. BOX 106
OLEY, PENNA. 19547



FIRST CLASS MAIL

