



## 80TH OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

The 80th Overholser Family Association Reunion will be held Saturday August 26 at the Terre Hill Fire Hall, Terre Hill PA.

Plan to get there around 10:30 for registration and to greet old and new friends. At noon we will have a covered-dish lunch consisting of the usual tasty dishes brought by those attending. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own drink and tableware.

After lunch, those present will introduce themselves and then we will go outside for the picture-taking session which is presided over by our expert photographer, DAN PETTIGREW.

A brief business meeting will follow, presided over by President MILDRED PETTIGREW. There will be reports by Secretary ELLEN LIVINGOOD and Necrologist ROBERT M OBERHOLSER. There will also be a treasurer's report. The meeting will adjourn with the singing of the Reunion Song led by RUTH OVERHOLSER.

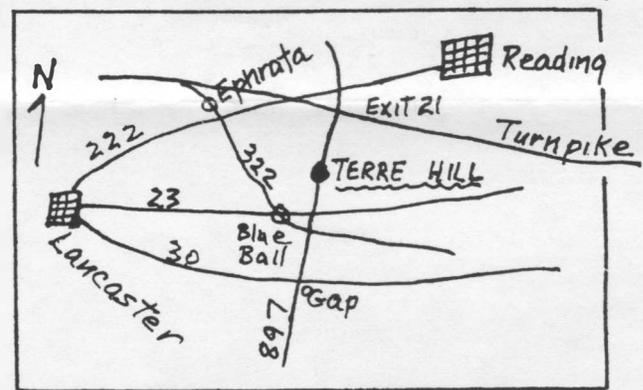
There will be plenty of time for exchanging information on family lines and checking various books. Our expert genealogists include SPENCER OVERHOLSER, WILL OBERHOLTZER from Calif. and others who will try to help if you are "stuck" on your family. There will also be lineages available.

BILL OBERHOLTZER of Bethlehem has indexed all the I Samuel Oberholtzer lineages and the Levi & Lizzie Oberholtzer book-Oberholtzer Family History 1802-1968. What a job he did! Also, there is an index of the Oberholtzer-Nash book which was compiled by Melva L Taylor of Clarkston MI.

You may also visit the nearby cemetery (a half a block away) where many of the Overholser's are buried.

Parents of small children are reminded that there is a community playground just below the fire hall that their offspring might enjoy. Plan to bring balls and bats or other game paraphernalia.

We hope to see you there.



(See specific directions on page 8.)

At printing time there have been some last minute changes. Our treasurer is Richard Stevens and our long time Necrologist Robert M Oberholser has resigned.

OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XI No. 2 August 1989

Editor - Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086

Copyright © 1989 The Over-  
holser Family Association,  
413 Appletree Rd, Camp Hill,  
PA 17011

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

WHERE TO SEND

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

To be appointed

CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard Stevens  
Treasurer  
224 Swarthmore Dr  
Lititz PA 17543

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

QUERIES, NEW MEMBERS, CHANGE  
OF ADDRESS

Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry La Wallingford PA  
19086

HANS JACOB OVERHOLZ

On 9/5/1730 Hans Jacob Overholz arrived at Philadelphia on the ship ALEXANDER AND ANNE, William Clymer, Master from Rotterdam. Along with the other 45 Palatines "who with their families, making in all about 130 persons," this Jacob Overholz was qualified at the Courthouse. The passenger list-on which he made his mark-included the names of Conrad Stam, whose son Baltzer, sold Yelles Cassel his land in Hatfield, Henry Clemmer, who settled in Franconia, and Johannes or Hans Clemmer whose wido Ann married Frederick Alderfer, father of Abraham Alderfer.

In Jacob of Hatfield's will, dated 1/18/1762 and proved 4/23/1771, which was witnessed by Henry Henricks, Baltzer Stam & John Barke (Bergey)-the scrivener-he described himself as "being old to Tanks be to God of Sound Mind and Memory." He directed that his wife Susanna was to have "the bonds in her name written" and to have house room in the house where they then dwelt, or his son Henry was to build her a house on the place, with a good iron stove and sufficient fire-wood. If she did not wish to stay on the place, then Henry was to pay her the interest of &50 so long as she remained his widow (& stands for English pounds).

To Henry, his son, went the Hatfield plantation for &500, of which he was to keep &250 for himself, the other half to go to his sister Elizabeth Savacool, wife of Jacob Savacool, of Bucks Co, who with Henry was named executor.  
From Ron Oberholtzer 604 Winslow Ave  
North Cape May NJ 08204

The Fretz Family 101st reunion will be held Saturday  
8/12/1989 at Deep Run Mennonite Church-West, Bedminster,  
Bucks Co PA.

#### A CALIFORNIA OVERHOLTZER REUNION

Samuel (6) Overholtzer (1837-1900) and Maria Harnish (1841-1888) were both born in Lancaster County PA. In 1858 they married in Ogle County IL, and in 1864 crossed the Plains by waggon train to settle in Covina CA. Samuel (6) is a descendent of Jacob (5), Jacob (4), John (3), Jacob (2), and 1702 immigrant Jacob (1) who settled on Indian Creek, Franconia Twn, Montgomery Co PA.

Samuel (6) was an Orange Grove farmer, Deacon of the Lovina Church of the Brethren and Co-Founder of the Brethren College, now known as LaVerne University.

Each Christmas season since 1938, children and grandchildren of Samuel (6) have met to share a Pot Luck dinner and Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long. So it was this last Christmas, on the 50th Anniversary of this group, that about 40 descendents of Samuel (6) gathered for their annual reunion in the home of OFA members Will and Betty Overholtzer in Rancho Cordova CA.

---

#### UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

Henry Dale Overholser of Tujunga CA received a patent for a floor conditioning machine 4/20/1943.

William T Overhulser of Elkhart IN received a patent for a pick-up camper mounting means 10/28/1969.

John H Oberholtzer of Harrisburg PA received a patent for a steam boiler 11/7/1950.

Claude Overholser of Jefferson OR received a patent for a vehicle wheel 9/8/1936.

Paul N Oberholtzer of Philadelphia PA received a patent for a hydraulic control mechanism 8/6/1940.

Ross D Overholser of Cottage Grove OR received a patent for an infant's commode 1/12/1943.

---

#### From the OFA files

I Samuel Oberholtzer, III Christian, IV Samuel

V Jacob Oberholtzer 1812-1897 m Barbara Lehman 1835-1911

"When Jacob was about 40, his parents built the brick house. You see Jacob O was a tired Oberholtzer. When he had his smoke and a nap on the wood box, he seemed satisfied. The great grandmother (Veronica Longenecker Oberholtzer) had a lingering illness and Bevy Lehman, Jacob's wife, was the maid and cared for this grandma. It was said lucky for Jacob that she was in the home because he might have never been ambitious enough to look around for someone."

---

Again our thanks to Eugene Singer of California for furnishing the mailing labels for this issue.

I SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER LINE, LANCASTER CO PA  
IV ISAAC OVERHOLSER S/O III MARTIN

V Levi Overholser is said to have mar 2 Miss Hudson. In the 1900 Census PA Chester Co there was a Rachel J Overholser b 1849 who was in the Chester Co Hospital for the Insane. I couldn't locate her in the Chester Co families and when I checked the Wills and Administration of Chester Co, I found an estate for her. She died 1/9/1911 at Embreeville Hospital and had an estate of \$2937. Her husband was Levi Overholser of Russell KS and her brother Thompson Hudson had petitioned the court. The Farmers & Mechanics Trust was guardian of Rachel. Levi's first wife died 1893 in Kansas where they lived, so he couldn't have been married too long to Rachel Hudson before she took sick.

---

OFA members Spencer Overholser and Bill Oberholtzer have asked that I remind our members about books being offered on Oberholtzer or Overholser Genealogy. Bill had a card from "Mary Whitney" saying that a book was available on Overholser's Across America for \$29.85. He went to investigate and found the address was a PO Box and the office was in a nearby community. Bill said the book is nothing more than a current listing of any Oberholtzer they can glean from a telephone book from anywhere in the US. The Mennonite Family History 4/1988 issue had an article warning about books offered by various people about this type of book. The National Genealogical Society has warned about these books and the Better Business Bureau has had many complaints. The US Postal Service has also investigated and has filed complaints against a number of companies. If you want a telephone listing of Oberholtzers, then buy the book. If you want information about your family, write to the OFA to see what information we have.

---

In the 8/1988 BULLETIN on page 2, mention was made of a Martin Oberholtzer who was believed to be the father of Jacob 1741-1811 Berks Co PA. The following is part of a letter written in 1927 by Eugene S Oberholtzer to Rev I E Oberholtzer in China. "I have quite a complete record compiled by my father Milton G Oberholtzer all the way down from Martin Oberholtzer, who was married to Barbara Clemmer. They were born between 1700 and 1740, date not definitely known. Their children were Jacob, Isaac, Polly, Elizabeth, Susanna and Sarah. This Martin was probably my great, great, great grandfather." The Martin he referred to is not the father of Jacob, but his son 1782-1862 who married Barbara Clemmer 1814 and the children listed above were theirs. This is, no doubt, where the story of Martin came from.

Your genealogist has been doing alot of census work at the National Archives branch in Philadelphia on the Oberholtzers, Overholzers, etc. Many, many of them settled in Ohio before going further west. I have done the 1900 census in 25 states and have found that some states had only one family living there, while states like Ohio, Indiana and Iowa had many families. In Pope Co Minnesota I found a Johannes Overholt who was born in Norway in 1851. In Genesee Co Michi- I found Stauts Overholt born in Canada 1837. He must be related to the Staats Overholt who went from Bucks Co to Canada 1786. I found one family that went from Indiana to Kansas to Texas and in 1900 they were in Montana. I wonder where they were in 1910!

---

MY GRANDFATHER CHRISTIAN OBERHOLTZER 1824-1864  
I Samuel line Lancaster Co, III Christian, IV Samuel  
From notes of Rev I E Oberholtzer

Old Mr Ream says that he knew my grandfather. He says he was a man about the build of Uncle Abe's son Christ, in weight not as heavy as my father, was a man of pleasant disposition and sometimes jokey. In going about his work he did it hastily and rather excitedly (schuschkich). He was a man of good reputation although Mr Ream could not remember much about his habits. I have heard it said that he used to tipple a little sometimes. To this Mr Ream answered: "Oh no he didn't". He did only in the sense that everybody drank a little those days. I have heard it from other sources that he was a good looking man with a rosy cheeked complexion.

---

#### QUERY

Josephine M Files 2517 Columbia Ave Lancaster PA 17603 is trying to find the parents of Elizabeth Overholtz who mar 11/27/1798 in Frederick Maryland Abraham Renner 1768-1817. Elizabeth might be the d/o one of the two Isaacs who were in the 1790 census in Frederick MD. After years of research on this line, she is hoping for a miracle.

---

#### FOR JIM KEHEW FANS

Our former editor keeps in touch with the present editor and has the BULLETIN printed for us. He is still very busy with the Bicycling Federation of PA and says someday he will really retire, but I wonder about that. He and his wife, Es, fold and label the 450 BULLETINS and mail them for us. Bless them both for their dedication to the OFA.

#### ONE OF OUR OWN

Marjorie Chubb Carroll, our treasurer, died June 4th. She was the wife of the late Charles E, mother of Charles Jr, Kathryn Browne, Richard, Sara and the step-mother of Patricia Stailey. Also surviving are 9 grandchildren. She was from the I Samuel Oberholtzer Lancaster Co line, IV Elizabeth d/o III Martin. Marge had planned to retire this year as treasurer after 10 years of devotion to the OFA. We all looked forward to the reunions when Marge would give out prizes for those who came the shortest distance, the longest distance, etc. Last year she brought some men before us and we voted on who was the baldest. She had some great ideas and the reunion this August won't be the same without her. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her family. The OFA sent a contribution in her memory to her favorite charity, which was the Sunshine Foundation of Philadelphia.

---

#### NEWS FROM CHINA

"Your papers are telling some tales about China these days. Much of it is of course exaggerated but the political and military chaos is not to be exaggerated. Our mission happens to be in the best governed province of China, so that we have suffered very little as compared with the people in central and south China. If things don't get any worse than they are now we will be able to hold on, although many missionaries are going home from the parts south of us."

Rev I E Oberholtzer, Liao chow, Shansi, China 2/25/1927

---

#### NEW MEMBERS

Mary Kurila 900 W Main St Madison OH 44057  
Patty McKeirnan RT 1 Box 46 Pomeroy WA 99347  
Pauline A Wagoner 64 North Park Rd La Grange IL 60525  
James H Stoner 690 West Rialto Clovis CA 93612

---

#### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep appreciation to these members who have contributed to the OFA since the last BULLETIN. Because of the untimely death of our treasurer, I don't have her list which will be put in the next BULLETIN.

Mary Kurila Madison OH                      Phyllis Lare Holland MI  
Patty McKeirman Pomeroy WA              Mandi Oberholtzer Chico CA  
Kathleen Overholser St Paul MN  
Sally Poole Mt Pleasant PA              Pauline Wagoner LaGrange IL

---

Sue Field of Zionsville IN writes that when she was in Berlin Germany in 1946 there was a street called Oberholtzer Strasse

---

#### H C OBERHOLSER, ORNITHOLOGIST

In the 8/1987 BULLETIN, there was mention of H C Oberholser and his notes and lists of birds from all over the world. OFA member Marion S Gushee of Urbana IL writes that Harry Church Oberholser 1870-1963 was a very distinguished ornithologist who had many books and pamphlets published-including birds of West Indies, Java, the Great Plains, Louisiana, Texas and North America. (Ed-he was b in Brooklyn, the s/o Jacob & Lavera Oberholser and was assistant ornithologist Biographical Survey, Dept of Agriculture and also a lecturer on zoology. His father was born 1827 PA & his mother 1831 OH). Marion also found in the 1987 edition of American Men & Women of Science that James Edward Oberholtzer b 1942 in Elizabethtown PA is with Water Chromatography Div. Milford MA. Further research from Marion on a subject dear to her heart (the Univ. of IL Library) shows that Kenneth E & Florence C Oberholtzer of Danville CA were made Life Members of the library after giving a substantial contribution. Thank you Marion for this very interesting information.

---

#### UPDATE

Reference was made in the last issue of an Oberholtzer who signed the first public document in 1688 Germantown PA. In a letter to Rev I E Oberholtzer 1925, C Henry Smith of Bluffton College OH said-"The letter you refer to is dated 1796, not 1696. I have no record of an Oberholtzer coming in 1687".

---

#### SOLVING A PROBLEM

OFA member Helen Bogener of St Charles MO has been trying to find the parents of her Cornelius Overholser 1833-1872, who died in MO, for a number of years. A few months ago I decided to check the census records to see if I couldn't find him in 1850. Helen had said the family came to MO 1856 and that Cornelius' sister Elizabeth had been born in Gettysburg Adams Twn Darke Co OH. I couldn't find the family in 1850 in Ohio or Missouri and then she mentioned that a brother of Cornelius had lived in Van Buren Co IA. In the OFA files I had seen a Henry Overholser who married Barbara Burket and moved from Darke Co OH to Farmington Van Buren IA. Since the index didn't list Henry, I decided to check Farmington page by page to see what I could find. The handwriting of the census taker was poor but I finally found Henry and Barbara with their family, which included Cornelius. I'm almost sure that Henry is the s/o Jacob Overholser 1770-1850 Montgomery Co OH who came to Ohio from Somerset Co PA. While checking the 1840 census index for Darke Co OH, I couldn't find a Henry Overholser. Once again, I decided to check it page by page. There was Henry living along side Benjamin and their last name was spelled Overhotser.

OFFICERS

President Mildred Pettigrew, 816 N Evans St.  
Pottstown PA 16464  
1st Vice President Willard E Overholtzer, 2440 El Pavo Way,  
Rancho Cordova CA 95670  
2nd Vice President Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Dr.,  
Lititz PA 17543  
Recording Secretary Ellen Livingood, 1077 Stoneham Circle,  
Hatfield PA 19440  
Honorary President Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive,  
Wyomissing PA 19610  
Honorary Vice Pres. Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, PA  
Chaplain Rev. John R Weiler, Bethlehem, PA  
Necrologist Robert M Oberholser, RD 2, Ardena,  
Freehold NJ 07728  
Genealogist, Editor Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford PA 19086

How to get to the Reunion

Terre Hill is a town of 1,200 located in the Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster County, midway between Lancaster and Reading. The Fire Hall is on the main street, with plenty of parking at the rear.

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

Closest motels:

New Holland: Country Squire Motor Inn, Rt 23 (504 E Main)  
(6 miles) Hollander Motel, Rt 23 (320 E Main)  
Ephrata: Dutchmaid Motel: Rt 272 (8 miles)

Many motels and restaurants in Lancaster and Reading.

**Overholser Family Association**

413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Camp Hill, PA  
Permit #101

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

