



Published semi-annually by the Overholser Family Association

August 1996

ISSN 0742-8472

Vol. XVIII No.2

87TH OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

The President's Column Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

We are constantly faced with choices needing decisions. Have you ever walked into a Wal-Mart Super Store having over 220,000 sq. ft. of sales area with thousands and thousands of items? Everything and anything one can imagine in different sizes, shapes, colors and tastes are on display for you to select. The cereal aisle alone is 100 feet long and 4 shelves high with Jumbo Family size down to individual serving containers. You can get fat-free, salt-free, sugar-free or cholesterol-free. The decisions seem to be endless.

I recently decided to buy an ice cream cone. I had to decide which of the 31 flavors I would like, do I want hand dipped or soft ice cream, or do I want yogurt. Do I want 1, 2 or 3 dips. Do I want a waffle cone, a sugar cone or do I want it in a cup. Do I want sprinkles on top. Enough decisions and stress to make me lose my appetite!

No wonder escalated blood pressure is a major problem in America. People are popping stress tablets, trying to deal with the stress of everyday living. Psychological counseling plays an important role to enable people to cope with our stress filled society. Stress Management Seminars are flourishing.

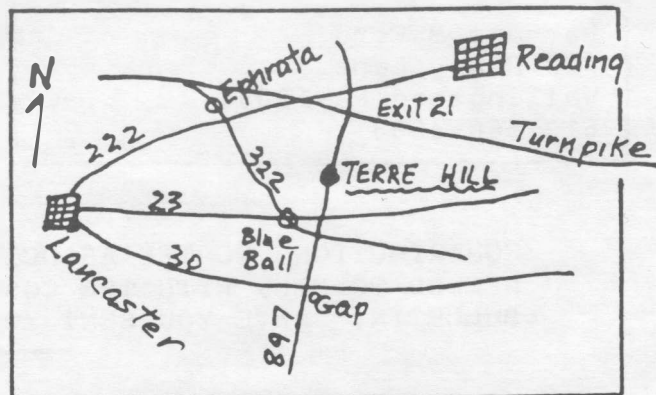
In fact, the Bucks County PA prison system offers a course to all prisoners entitled "How To Make Right Decisions". Apparently these prisoners made some wrong decisions in the past-that's why they were there. This course has been offered for over 25 years.

Decision making has been such a problem that someone invented a machine to make a decision for you in 1 millionth of a second. This machine is called a Computer.

When we think back to the time our forefathers came to America, they probably were content and happy with what they had. Life was so much simpler. Ice cream was first eaten in the United States in the early 1700's, but it was still a rare delicacy when "Dolly" Madison first served it at the White House in 1809. No 31 flavors to choose from!

To end this column, I have decided in 1 millionth of a second to have a plate of plain old-fashioned vanilla ice cream. Please join me.

Continued on page 2



See specific directions on page 10

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XVIII No.2 August 1996

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

Copyright © 1996
Overholser Family Association
313 Henry Ln, Wallingford PA
19086

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

WHERE TO SEND

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

Rev John R Weiler
Necrologist
325 Carver Drive
Bethlehem PA 18017

CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard I Stevens Sr
Treasurer
224 Swarthmore Drive
Lititz PA 17543

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

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE,
INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara B Ford
313 Henry Lane
Wallingford PA 19086
610-566-4888

Continued from page 1

I hope to see you at the Reunion Saturday August 17th at the Old Terre Hill Fire Hall, Terre Hill PA (same location where we always meet) which starts at 10:30. We will have a covered-dish lunch at noon. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own beverage and tableware. If you are traveling a distance, we will furnish the food, etc. After the Reunion picture is taken, we will have a brief business meeting.

Parents of small children are reminded that there is a community playground just below the Fire Hall that their off-spring might enjoy.

Darwin Overholt

(Ed.-Darwin finishes his term as president at the Reunion. We have all enjoyed his "The President's Column."

FINDING A LONG LOST COUSIN

In a 4/25/1984 letter to me, John L Overholt of Kilmarnock VA said "Jim Kehew wonders if the Barbara Ford in Wallingford is my cousin, of whom I have lost track. Cousin Barbara married Shelly Ford in 1946 and they lived somewhere near Philadelphia. Our grandmothers were sisters. If it is the same, I would appreciate her address-maybe we can get her interested in the OFA." Jim (our former editor) found me and that is how I became interested in the OFA!

Jim has the BULLETIN zexoxed, labels them and before mailing, sorts them by zip codes. Thanks Cousin!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION ARE NOT ONLY APPRECIATED BUT
NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE
BULLETIN. HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR 1996?

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

BIRTHS

Josiah Benjamin Swarr b 10/6/1994
Hannah Elizabeth Swarr b 1/18/1996
Both ch/o Harold & Nancy (Ferguson) Swarr
(IV Christian Oberholser [SL274] & Susanna Kurtz line)

DEATHS

Violet Joy Holcomb Carroll 9/2/1909-5/19/1995 Bakersfield CA
Edythe P Latimer 2/6/1905-6/5/1995 Raytown MO
Both daughters of Burton B Holcomb & Naomi Viola Morris and
granddaughters of Thomas J Morris & Eliza J Overholser
(John Overholser [JA] & Mary Chronister line)

Sarah Ann Stauffer 6/13/1913-1/20/1996, d/o the late Charles
& Gertrude (Frantz) Stauffer and sister of Charles F Stauffer.
Lime Spring Farm in Rohrerstown PA, where she lived, has
been in her family for 9 generations ever since the Lehmans
settled in this country from the Palatinate. The 2nd, 3rd and
4th OFA Reunions were held on the farm with her grandfather
Samuel O Frantz as host.
(IV Daniel Overholser [SL279] & Anna Landis line)

Mark Redcay 1/8/1923-1/28/1996 Lancaster PA, s/o Elwood B
& Gwendolen (Clime) Redcay. Survived by 2nd wife G Adele
Yuninger, 1 son, 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren. Mark's
mother, his aunts Josephine Clime, Betty Clime Weaver & Ida
Weaver regularly attended the Reunions for many years.
(IV Elizabeth Overholtzer [SL272] & Samuel Watts line)

John R Weller, Necrologist

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK will be available to purchase at the
Reunion.

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ORDER FORM

From: Name _____

Address _____

To: Overholser Family Association
c/o Barbara Ford, 313 Henry Lane, Wallingford PA 19086

Book Quantity _____ X \$29.50 \$ _____

PA Residents, add 6% Sales Tax (\$1.77 per book) \$ _____

Shipping & Handling \$3.50 \$ _____

Total \$ _____

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who have contributed to the OFA from January 3rd to June 10, 1996. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Claud/Eleanor Bray Bull Shoals AR	C Dorothy McLean Feasterville PA
Bruce L Coffey Kansas City MO	Carol F Miller Green Valley AZ
Fred/Betty Cook Grosse Pointe MI	Ronnie/Beverly Molstad Miles City MT
Dale/Barbara Crites Spring Hill FL	Stanley W Nash Vancouver, B.C. CAN
Patricia J Curtis Bull Shoals AR	James/Jennie Oberholtzer Fairport NY
Ann Duke Owensboro KY	John H Overholt Arlington VA
Bruce T Ferguson Owensboro KY	Barbara Roadhouse Nanticock, Ont., CAN
Eldon/Sue Field Zionsville IN	Robert/Helen Shonk Dover OH
Josephine/Ole Helleskov Pleasanton CA	Mary/William Wagner South Charleston WV
N.G./Margie Koutroulis Spring TX	Virgie M Walker Wilmington OH
Kathryn J Maine Millersville PA	Matilda C Zackey Bethlehem PA

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

Tony Bennyhoff of Shoemakersville PA, a descendant of Cornelia Appenzeller (HJ2421), wrote to say that it was Eleanor Savacool, not Elizabeth (HJ24), who married Jacob Appenzeller. He said that Bucks Co Orphans Court records show that Elizabeth Oberholtzer Savacool (HJ2) probably died in 1815. Henry Appenzeller (HJ242) never married Elizabeth Benner and left the area by the time of or soon after Cornelia's birth. In 1812 he was married to Mary Foster and living in Franklin Co PA. In 1850 he was living in Ross Twp. Butler Co OH with son John who appears in Burlington, Carroll Co IN 1860. John married Catherine Eliza Shirey 1/21/1836. (Jacob Oberholtzer of Hatfield Twp, Montgomery Co line)

Isaac Overholser (SL278) married the second time Mary Spatts who married, after his death, Rev Jacob Zern. A marriage certificate shows that Frau Marie Overholser was married 5/8/1883 by W C Kantner to Rev Jacob Zern. Witnesses at the marriage were Levi & Lydia Watts. (Isaac was s/o Martin & Elizabeth (Frantz) Oberholtzer of Terre Hill, Lancaster Co PA)

MARTIN OVERHOLT 1743 Bucks Co-1811 WESTMORELAND CO PA (MC75)
S/O MARTIN OBERHOLTZER & AGNES KOLB

On page 132 of A GENEALOGICAL RECORD OF THE DESCENDANTS OF MARTIN OBERHOLTZER, Rev A J Fretz said "It is said that in the time of the Revolution, not being friendly to the war and being loyal to the King, that he (Martin Overholt) with others of the family went to Canada, but not liking the climate he returned and emigrated to Western Pennsylvania". I find it very interesting that quite a few people interpreted this paragraph in different ways. Some have said that Martin went to Canada for the duration of the war while his wife and family managed the farm. Another account is that he took his family to Canada where a son was born 1777 and a daughter in 1779. If Martin left his family behind, how is it that he had children born during the war. His oldest child would have been 5 in 1775 so I doubt that she would have been much help in managing a farm. If he had taken his family along, his property would no doubt have been confiscated by the Pennsylvania government. Beginning in May 1778, the Pennsylvania government passed a series of proclamations listing the names of individuals believed to be with the enemy. John Overholt (JT) of Tinicum Twp, Bucks Co had his 235 acres confiscated 1781 and John Reid of Tinicum Twp had his 1409 acres taken in 1782.(1)

Stanley W Nash of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada believes that Rev Fretz' story is partially true. He feels that Martin may have gone to Canada in April 1786 with two second cousins Jacob and Tilman Culb in a caravan with Staats Overholt, Frederick Haun and their families. (The first group of Mennonites known to have settled in Canada were these families.[2]) He doubts that Martin went during the Revolution because the Iroquois of up-state and western New York were allies of the British crown. Unidentified stranger colonists, especially a party of them, even if loyal to the British king, would risk an unfriendly reception by the Indians. In 1779 American revolutionary forces broke the power of the Iroquois, causing much devastation. Would-be emigrants to Canada would have had to evade American soldiers stationed there.

An article by Anne M Ousterhout said "To the individual dissenter whose flight from the State in opposition to its new government meant the loss of all his property, confiscation was a very tragic and revolutionary occurrence".(3)

In 1775 and 1779 two Martin Overholts are listed on the tax list for Tinicum Twp, Bucks Co. The other Martin is c1745-1817 Plumstead Twp, Bucks Co (MT3) who appears to have moved to Bedminster Twp 1781 and in 1785 to Plumstead Twp.

Martin Overholt (1743-1811) bought land in Tinicum Twp in 1770 and 1782.(4) He and his wife Esther Fretz sold their

land 4/20/1795 (5) and their next transaction is in Westmoreland Co when they purchased 395+ acres on 5/28/1796.(6) George Washington declared the war at an end on 4/19/1783 but Martin & Esther didn't go to Westmoreland Co until 1795/6.

John L Overholt of Kilmarnock VA joined the SAR through Martin Overholt (MT3) saying that he was in Capt Patterson's Tincum Twp company in the Revolution. This Martin married Elizabeth Nash who was a half-sister of Martin Overholt (MC75). BUCKS COUNTY SOLDIERS IN THE REVOLUTION by Williams & Williams lists a Martin Overholt in 1780 with exercise fines in Tincum Twp.(7) Which Martin was this? I decided to check the reference in the Pennsylvania Archives and I found that there were actually two Martin Overholts who had exercise fines for April and May 1780.(8) This shows both Martins were in Capt Patterson's company at that time and each was fined \$72 for failing to appear for drill.

Martin Overholt (MC75) had a brother Henry (MC72) [my ancestor] who was listed in Bedminster Twp, Bucks Co in 1780, 1781 & 1782 with exercise fines. One source said that he served throughout the Revolutionary War which, of course, is not true.

The Martin Overholt/Esther Fretz home in Tincum Twp, Bucks Co is still standing. According to John L Overholt, the home was dated by the architects from Independence Hall as being built before 1750, with additions having been made.

I would appreciate hearing from members in the Martin Overholt/Esther Fretz line about their thoughts on Martin's trip to Canada. Was this another "family tradition"?

REFERENCES:

- (1) Anne M Ousterhout, PhD., "Opponents of the Revolution Whose Pennsylvania Estates Were Confiscated", The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine Vol 30 #4 p 237-253
- (2) Lorna L Bergey, "Early Mennonite Migrations From Pennsylvania And Subsequent Settlements In Canada", Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage (April 1986) p 2
- (3) Anne M Ousterhout, "Pennsylvania Land Confiscations During the Revolution", The Pennsylvania Magazine of History & Biography, July 1978, Vol CII, #3 page 343
- (4) Bucks Co PA Deed Book 24/52, 25/434
- (5) Bucks Co PA Deed Book 28/101, 32/472
- (6) Westmoreland Co PA Deed Book 2/390
- (7) Richard T & Mildred C Williams, Danboro PA 1975, "Bucks County Soldiers of the Revolution"
- (8) Pennsylvania Archives Series 3, Volume VI/68

People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

HALBERT'S UNDER CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

The National Genealogical Society Newsletter Vol 22 #2 March/April 1996 reports that on 11/21/1995, the U.S. Postal Service issued a supplemental cease and desist order prohibiting Halbert's from further use of certain misleading marketing practices, which included a consent agreement signed by Halbert's. Previous cease and desist orders issued against Halbert's in 1985 and 1988 remain in effect.

The supplemental order issued in November 1995 includes the following provisions:

*Halbert's was ordered to cease and desist from falsely representing "...that (1) a solicitation for a surname-related product was sent by a relative of the solicitee; (2) a relative of a solicitee was involved in preparing a surname-related publication; or that (3) a relative of a solicitee endorses a surname-related product." The Postal Service contended that the company's solicitations, which advertised books such as THE WORLD BOOK OF (surname) and THE (surname) SINCE THE CIVIL WAR, violated the 1988 consent agreement, because they appeared to be letters from relatives of the addressees urging them to purchase a recently completed book on their family.

*Halbert's was ordered to begin displaying prominently the following disclaimer on any advertising for surname-related publications: "No direct genealogical connection to your family or ancestry is implied or intended."

*Halbert's was ordered to cease and desist from "...representing, directly or indirectly, that advertising has been approved by the United States Postal Service."

Under the 1988 cease and desist order, the following conduct by Halbert's is prohibited:

*Representing that a book is principally about a particular family name and the history of this family name

*Representing that a book contains information about someone's forebears and their emigration from Europe

*Representing that a book contains information about the heraldry and family crest of a particular family.

*Representing that a book explains how a particular family got its surname.

*Representing that a book explains why someone's forebears immigrated to the New World (U.S., Canada & Australia)

*Representing that a book explains why persons with a particular surname immigrated to the New World.

*Representing that a book is the result of research through numerous sources by themselves, or someone acting in their behalf, to compile information on persons with the addressee's surname who immigrated to the New World.

The Fretz Family Association Reunion will be held 8/10/1996 at Men-O-Lan, Bedminster, Bucks Co PA-a new location.

DR G H OVERHOLT OF KENYON, MINNESOTA

Barbara Roadhouse of Nanticoke, Ontario, Canada sent the 1928 obituary of Dr G H Overholt of Kenyon MN, s/o Mark Overholt (MT27) & Catharine Gilmore and a grandson of Staats Overholt. When Dr Overholt lived in Madelia MN in 1876, the Jesse James & Younger Brothers gang was operating in the area. The Younger brothers came to the doctor's drugstore for medical aid which he gave them. Cole Younger purchased a pint of whiskey from Overholt who made him promise to use it for medical purposes only and not become intoxicated. The next day the gang was suspected of being the Northfield bank robbers and a posse, joined by Dr Overholt, set out to capture the bandits. Dr Overholt was struck by a bandit's bullet, but his life was saved when the bullet hit a heavy watch charm he wore, and glanced off. Jesse and Frank James escaped but the Younger Brothers were forced to surrender. Cole Younger told the doctor "Well Doctor, we didn't get drunk on your whiskey." The doctor then administered first aid to the wounded bandits.

FINDING A CEMETERY

Helen Shonk of Dover OH wrote Pat Curtis of Bull Shoals AR that she had found the cemetery where Esther Overholt, wife of Martin (MC75) is buried along with Matthias and Barbara Burchfield (MC754). The cemetery is in the middle of a horse pasture with stones lying on the ground. The owner said he would maintain it if Helen and her husband wanted to clean up the stones. They planned to go when the weather was nice with a pitchfork and a bucket of suds and do some probing. It is called Sink Cemetery on the former Burchfield farm, Franklin Twp., Tuscarawas Co OH.

A 1756 OBERHOLTZER ORIGINAL DEED

The Mennonite Historians of Eastern PA in Harleysville has received an original parchment deed which was recorded in Philadelphia Deed Book H12/359 10/22/1761. The deed was signed 7/30/1756 by the children of Immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia Twp, Philadelphia Co (now Montgomery Co) who granted their share of his 185 acres of land to their brother Jacob for \$330. Matthias Stouffer of Conestoga Twp, Lancaster Co and wife Anna signed with their marks, as did Barbara Funk of Franconia Twp. Jacob Oberholtzer Jr of Franconia Twp and Jacob Hackman of Franconia Twp signed their names and Elizabeth Hackman signed with her mark. This 238 year old deed is in good condition and I was able to have a copy made.

WHO IS THIS WILLIAM OVERHOLTZ?

William Overholtz, c1825-8/26/1888 Flora IN, married 11/2/1880 Carroll Co IN, Martha J Wikle c1861-12/26/1887. Their children were-Sarah born 9/25/1881, Effie 12/22/1882-6/1/1888, George born 7/21/1884, John born 12/15/1885 and Jennie 12/26/1887-7/19/1888. Martha Overholtz died in childbirth and William died of a disability received when he was in the 99th IN Regiment, Co F while serving in the Civil War. He enlisted 8/22/1862 and was discharged 6/5/1865. On 1/18/1888 he applied for an increase of his \$6.00 a month pension saying that at age 63 his disability prevented him from working as a laborer and that, due to his wife's death, he had to care for his 5 children. Effie died in the Soldiers Orphans Home, Knightstown, Rush Co IN and Jennie died in Flora IN. In trying to trace the remaining children in 1900, I found John was an inmate in the Soldiers Orphans Home in Rush Co, George was a servant of Stephen Harlan Jr in Hancock Co IN and Sarah was a servant of John H Prewett in Pulaski Co IN. In the 1910 Census, I think I found George in Champaign Co IL married to a Mary and John, I believe, was single in Cook Co IL. In 1850 Somers Twp, Preble Co OH, there was a William age 24 with David (AV2) and Mary Overholts and I believe that he was David's son. I think that possibly the William Overholtz c1825-1888 was the s/o David. If he is, he would have had cousins living in the area of Flora, Carroll Co IN. David Heckman (AV13) is buried in Flora Cemetery and so is William Overholtz. If a member of the Association has a listing for the Flora Cemetery, Monroe Twp, Carroll Co IN, the location of William's grave might give us a clue as to who his relatives were. Thanks to Virgie Walker of Wilmington OH for the information about William Overholtz.

A HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Charles E Overholser

First Overholser Family Association Reunion 7/26/1906

When Samuel Oberholtzer told his mother Elizabeth of his intention to go to Ohio, she exclaimed "Oh! Are you going to Ohio? It wouldn't be so bad if you would only stay in America."

(Samuel [SL277], who died c1836 IL, was the s/o Martin & Elizabeth (Frantz) Oberholtzer of Terre Hill, Lancaster Co and great grandson of 1727 Immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patricia M Curtis
Bull Shoals AR

James E Oberholtzer
Fairport NY

Barbara Roadhouse
Nanticoke, Ontario, Canada

OFFICERS

President	Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road Doylestown PA 18901
1st Vice President	Willard Overholtzer, 2440 El Pavo Way Rancho Cordova CA 95670
2nd Vice President	D Ernest Weinhold, 107 W Sunhill Road Manheim PA 17545
Recording Secretary	Darlene O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38 Goodville PA 17528
Treasurer	Richard Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Drive Lititz, PA 17543
President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive Wyomissing PA 19610
Chaplain, Necrologist	Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive Bethlehem, PA 18017
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 Old 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

Many motels are in the area with Ephrata and New Holland nearby.

Overholser Family Association

313 Henry La
Wallingford PA 19086

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

