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President's Message

As American Airlines was returning me home to California from our reunion last August, I had time to reflect and make notes on a number of things:

- 1) The very fine job Darwin Overholt and his officers did during their administration the past two years. Our thanks to each of them for all their efforts and accomplishments.
- 2) The honor and responsibility of being re-elected for a second term as your president.
- 3) In order to focus on a leadership plan for the future, I felt a need to reflect and build on the original purpose and evolution of our organization.

In 1906, our founders were primarily sixth and seventh generation descendants of a fourth generation great grandson of 1727 immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer who settled in Lancaster County PA. Their purpose was to foster the study of their family history and to sponsor an annual reunion and picnic with their cousins.

Several major events have increased the growth in membership and altered the direction of our Association. In 1979, then president Spencer Overholser, published the first issue of our Association semi-annual Bulletin. New interests were kindled and our membership grew. About the same time, descendants of all "Oberholtzer" lines were invited to join the Association and attend the reunion.

In 1991, our Association genealogy committee researched and selected a numbering system that allows individual identification of all past and future descendants of each "Oberholtzer" line. This became a nucleus which helped make possible the publication of The Oberholtzer Book by Barbara Ford two years ago, and which will allow for continuity for all future research and publication.

Now in 1997 we find that all of our Association founders are gone, with many of their descendants having moved away. Approximately three fourths of our Association officers and members are descendants of immigrant lines other than 1727 Samuel.

So where do we go from here? The printing of The Oberholtzer Book was the dream of our Association members 68 years ago. That dream has been achieved. But it's not the end-it's the dawn of a new beginning. I propose that our future goals include the following:

- 1) Honor our founders' ideals by continuing our annual reunion and pot luck lunch at Terre Hill each August. Increase attendance by offering a new program each year-possibly a short presentation from a guest family history authority, a video tour of Oberholtz,

88TH ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 16, 1997
Place: Terre Hill Community
Center, Terre Hill PA
(Old Fire Hall)

Details (including map) in the August BULLETIN. Keep the date and plan to come! You can't beat the Lancaster-Berks County area for beauty, so come and enjoy the Reunion and the countryside. We hope to see you.

THESE 39 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE 1996 OFA REUNION

OVERHOLSER FAMILY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XIX No.1 February 1997

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

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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
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Lititz PA 17543

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

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE,
INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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610-566-4888

Milford J Brinton
Wilmington DE
Lynn Catanese/Art Salatto
Wilmington DE
Barbara Ford
Wallingford PA
Herbert/Elizabeth Frey
Freehold NJ
Norman/Mary Landis
Souderton PA
Carolyn Landy
Vancouver, B.C. Canada
Wendy Long
Cambridge, Ontario Canada
John/Kathern Maine
Millersville PA
Leroy Martin
Lancaster Co PA
Noah L Oberholtzer Jr
Leola PA
James/Kathy/Greg Overholser
Roanoke VA

Robert/Helen Overholser
White Marsh MD
Spencer/Ruth Overholser
Wyomissing Hills PA
Darwin/Jean Overholt
Doylestown PA
Will Overholtzer
Rancho Cordova CA
Mildred/Dan/Claire Pettigrew
Pottstown PA
Darlene Redcay
Goodville PA
Larry/Marian Richmond
Oley PA
Kenneth/Agnes Robinson
Coatesville PA
Richard/Jean Stevens
Lititz PA
Carl/Gladys Taylor
Hamilton, Ontario Canada
John/Eleanor Weiler
Bethlehem PA
D Ernest Weinhold
Manheim PA

NEW BOOKS

DEEP RUN MENNONITE CHURCH EAST. A 250 year Pilgrimage, 1746-1996
by Timothy Rice. A history of the church which includes the ceme-
tery tombstone inscriptions in Bucks Co PA.

The Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society has published a 28
page book 1910 SOUVENIR OF SCOTTDAL PA by H J Springer which con-
tains scenes of Scottdale, businesses, prominent men, etc.

A SENIOR OLYMPICS WINNER!

Robert Overholser of White Marsh MD placed 1st in 4
Track Events in the 1995 Baltimore, Maryland Area Senior
Olympics. He was in the 75-79 catagory and is from the
Abraham Overholser line of Virginia and Preble Co OH.(AV)

UPDATE-SEE PAGE 5

JF Jacob Oberholtzer c1686? Europe-dp 2/11/1755 Franconia. He was
naturalized with son Jacob Apr 11-13, 1743 Philadelphia Supreme
Court, m1 [-?-] (mother of his children), m2 Catherine [-?-] d aft
1759

JF1 Jacob Oberholtzer born Europe-wp 9/26/1759 Upper Salford Twp,
Phila. Co (now Montgy Co), m (1728?) Deborah Krey b c1711 (m2 1762
Jacob Landis), d/o John Krey & Sytge Updegraff

Continued from page 1

Switzerland and/or a short tour of Oberholtzer cemeteries and farmsteads near Terre Hill.

2) The continuance of our Bulletin publication is vital. Family history queries are welcome and will be, as always, answered. Family history articles and research are invited and will be published.

3) Our new Oberholtzer book covers the first five generations of most immigrant and unestablished lines while most of generation six through twelve remain unpublished. We need research help, particularly from members who have access to local historical records in the mid-western states and Canada. Any volunteers?

4) Over the years several of our members, including myself, have researched our family history roots in Switzerland and Germany. We need to systematically compile this information and publish it. I will ask Barbara Ford to appoint a genealogy sub-committee to accomplish this. I will volunteer to serve on this committee and ask others to do the same.

5) Now that we have a comprehensive family history numbering system, we will eventually be able to mechanically compile and sort all of our family history files. We will need computer data entry volunteers to accomplish this.

6) Lastly, I ask for your personal participation and financial support. Make a commitment now to attend our August reunion with all your family. If you have not yet sent in your 1996-1997 contribution, please send your check now. The amount of the check is voluntary and we truly appreciate anything you can contribute. Please be generous. This is your Association.

W.E. Overholtzer

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK

A Foundation Book of Oberholtzer Immigrants and Unestablished Lines

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 July 1st to December 31, 1996. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sharon/Richard Benson Tacoma WA	Robert L McKinley Pleasant Hill TN
Joseph/Lucy Breitenstein Topeka KS	C Dorothy McLean Feasterville PA
Robert/Juanita O Brown Cookeville TN	Carol F Miller Green Vally AZ
Paul H Calhoun Port Clinton OH	John L Oberholser Narvon PA
Retta M Cunningham Canyon TX	Jay/Rhoda Oberholtzer Lititz PA
Mike Drudge Gallatin TN	Dwight Overholser N Manchester IN
Charles/Jane O Elliott Sacramento CA	Joel F Overholser Fort Benton MT
Cherry Evans Ormond Beach FL	David/Betty Overholt Santa Fe NM
Daniel/Maribeth Forman Bradford OH	Gloria F Overholtzer Gilbertsville PA
Naomi Ruth Howard Marthasville MO	M/M B J Overhultz Baton Rouge LA
Judy/David Huber Atlanta GA	Mildred O Poley Souderton PA
Edith E Hurlbert Chicago IL	M/M Robert Robson Abilene KS
David L Kehew Camp Hill PA	Bob/Beverly Shaffer Plymouth MI
John/Frances Kinyon Fox River Grove IL	Dorothea Strappe Elmwood IL
Norman/Mary Landis Souderton PA	Judy L Thomas Syracuse IN
Margaret Lawrence Narvon PA	Saralee Wallen Lakewood CO
Gwen/Dick Lucas Caledonia, Ontario CAN	Ralph/Jan E Williams Kaneohe HI
Patricia/Richard McKeirnan Pomeroy WA	

THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK CORRECTIONS/ADDITIONS

JM25 Rosanna Overholser 1828-1906 Darke Co OH
m 2/22/1846 David Flory 1823-1888

JM251 Aaron H Flory c1851-dp 1906

JM252 Lydia A Flory b 7/1854 m 3/27/1879 Solomon L Good b 1/1852

JM253 Jacob O Flory b 4/1856 m 9/5/1878 Laura E Brooks b 6/1857

JM254 Catherine Flory b 5/1857 m 3/24/1878 Eli Rex b 9/1853

JM255 Daniel Flory c1860-1892/1900 m 9/21/1879 Naomi Geil b 1/1860

JM256 David M Flory b 9/1862 m Olive M [-?-] b 4/1866

JM257 Rosa Alice Flory b 8/1865 m c1884 Isaac Good b 9/1860

JM258 Enos J Flory 10/1869-1937 m c1894 Clara A [-?-] b 7/1875

JM259 Barbara Malinda Flory 12/23/1874-10/24/1965
m 12/31/1893 David M Smith 12/2/1862-3/25/1937

From Maribeth Smith Forman, Bradford OH

THE GREAT AWAKENING
4 A.M. JULY 13, 1996

DEBORAH KREY AND DEBORAH HALDEMAN

In his book SOME ACCOUNT OF JACOB OBERHOLTZER, Elisha S Loomis said that immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer (JF) [1] married Deborah Krey. For many reasons, I have been bothered by this marriage. Deborah was the d/o John Krey and his second wife Sytge. John Krey and his first wife Helena were on the 1708 membership list of the Germantown Mennonite Church, therefore his marriage to Sytge took place probably in 1709 or 1710. Loomis said that Jacob's daughter Barbara married Jacob Funk about 1729 (their first child Jacob was born 3/13/1730), therefore Deborah, the eldest child of the 2nd marriage and possibly born c1711, could not be the mother of Jacob's four children.

I am confused by two statements that Loomis made. On page 52 he states "He [John Krey] was twice married and evidently came to America after his second marriage, for his will is dated 1719/20, and his daughters Deborah and Catherine were then married as contemporary records show." On page 144 he states "He [John Krey] settled in Germantown in 1702. On 5/23/1708, a church was founded at Germantown with 52 members.....From this church list of members it is assumed that Helena Krey was the first wife of John Krey."

In Jacob's (JF) 1755 estate papers, his widow Catherine Oberholtzer appointed Christian Meyer "to be my guardian to take care of me and my estate". The 1762 settlement papers for the estate of Jacob (JF1) said "Catherine Overholtzer the dec'ds mother-in-law (step-mother) in full for the 1/3 of the dec'd father's personal estate." This Catherine was not the mother of Jacob's (JF) children.

I have always thought it strange that both Jacob (JF) and JF1 married Deborahs. It was certainly not a common name back then.

I also have been curious about the marriage of Jacob (JF1) to Deborah Haldeman. In his will written 1/13/1755, Jacob (JF1) appointed his brother-in-law Christian Haldeman one of his executors. Loomis said that Deborah was the d/o Christian Haldeman who died 1800 and Catherine Krey c1715-1807. Christian and Catherine did have a son Christian (supposedly the brother of Deborah) who was born 1744 which means he would have been 11 years old when he was appointed executor. Christian Jr's birth is fully documented as he was a preacher at Salford Mennonite Church, Montgomery Co PA.

The will of Jacob Oberholtzer (JF1) was written in German and, according to Loomis, was made 1/13/1754. I had Joel Alderfer, Librarian/Curator at the MHEP in Harleysville, read the date and he said it was 1/13/1755 which agrees with the abstract date at the Historical Society of PA.

I located a history of the Haldeman family and found Christian and Catherine did not have a daughter Deborah. [2]

When I saw "mother-in-law" in the 1762 estate papers, I checked the dictionary and found it also meant step-mother. I decided to find out what other meanings brother-in-law had and I was reminded that it also means "the husband of one's spouse's sister".

THE GREAT AWAKENING! That night I got awake at 4 a.m. and I almost blurted outloud "Catherine Krey Haldeman was a sister of Deborah Oberholtzer, therefore her husband Christian Haldeman would be the

brother-in-law of Jacob Oberholtzer" (JF1). Deborah, the w/o Jacob (JF1) was not a Haldeman but a Krey! Loomis had assumed (as we all had) that Deborah, w/o Jacob (JF1) was a Haldeman. Now the pieces finally fit together. In reviewing some copies of my old letters, I find that back in 1992 I wondered if Deborah Krey had married Jacob Jr instead of Jacob Sr. In that letter I said "I keep thinking I'm missing something-maybe I will get awake in the middle of the night and figure it out". Four years later I did!

On page 129 of Loomis' book, he gave as a reference for Deborah Haldeman-her father's will. No will or administration has been found for Christian Haldeman who died in 1800.

In the Philadelphia Deed Book H 6/417-21 (Loomis p 52) Deborah signs with her mark "O", as she did in Philadelphia Deed Book H 15 (Loomis page 63) and when she and her present husband Jacob Landis sign the estate settlement papers of Jacob (JF1) in 1762, she signs Deborah "O" (her mark) Landis.

Loomis said that Jacob Oberholtzer signed Philadelphia Deed H 6/417-21 with a "J". I checked the deed and I found that he signed his name. Loomis' first mistake was in believing that the Jacob and Deborah in that deed were immigrant Jacob (JF) and his wife Deborah, when it was Jacob (JF1) and his wife Deborah Krey. Loomis' second mistake was in not realizing that brother-in-law also meant "the husband of one's spouse's sister". He assumed it meant the brother of his wife.

Loomis appears confused about the marriage of Jacob Oberholtzer and Deborah Krey. On page 53 he said "Jacob Oberholtzer must have married Deborah Krey prior to 1710". Then on page 146 he said "Deborah Krey married Jacob Oberholtzer c1728". This 1728 date could be true but it would be Jacob (JF1), not Jacob (JF).

Loomis gave five of the sons of Jacob (JF1) the middle initial "H". Four of them left wills and none of them signed with a middle initial. The other son Samuel's administration did not have a middle initial. The "H" was added because Loomis thought their mother's maiden name was Haldeman. This should convince you not to assume that a child was given the mother's maiden name as a middle name, which in many cases did happen.

CONCLUSION

The mother of immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer's (JF) children is unknown, therefore the descendants of his daughters-Barbara married to Jacob Funk, Ann married to Matthias Stauffer and Elizabeth married to Jacob Hackman-no longer have the Krey connection. The descendants of Jacob (JF1) do not have the Haldeman connection but still descend from the Kreys.

[1] (JF) is immigrant Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia Township, Montgomery Co PA (c1686?-dp 2/11/1755) and (JF1) is his son Jacob (wp 2/11/1759)

[2] The Rev Carl Thurman Smith, "A Survey of Immigrants of The Haldeman Family of Switzerland to Montgomery, Chester and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania before 1750," The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine Vol 21 (1958), pp 53-65.

ANNUAL OFA TREASURER'S REPORT
August 17, 1996

Balance 8/19/1995 \$553.23

RECEIPTS

Reunion contributions (8/19/1995)	\$373.00	
Contributions by mail	990.90	
Interest on savings	22.15	
Sale of Note Pads	4.50	
Sale of Oberholtzer/Nash Book	14.25	
		<u>Total Receipts</u>
		\$1404.80
		<u>Balance</u>
		\$1958.03

EXPENSES

Rental of Meeting Hall	50.00	
Penns Valley Printing Inc		
Printing Feb & Aug Bulletin	443.75	
Jim Kehev-mailing permit &		
mailing exp. for Bulletin	220.49	
Lititz Record Express-rubber stamp	11.55	
R I Stevens, Treas		
Postage & stamp pad	31.20	
Barbara Ford, misc. general exp.	232.13	
		<u>Total Expenses</u>
		\$989.12
		<u>Total Balance</u>
		\$968.91

Savings Account \$968.91
Checking Account 12.01
\$980.92

OFA BOOK FUND-ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance 8/19/1995 \$165.61

RECEIPTS

Paid orders for books (64)	1907.27	
Interest on acc't 12/31/95	\$9.02	
6/30/95	13.76	<u>22.78</u>
		<u>Total Receipts</u>
		\$1930.05
		<u>Total Balance</u>
		\$2095.66

EXPENSES

Book Mailings	202.81	
Book advertising	28.20	
Return of 1 book-mistake double order	<u>33.00</u>	
		<u>Total Expenses</u>
		\$264.01
		<u>Total Balance</u>
		\$1831.65

Respectfully submitted,
Richard I Stevens Sr, Treas. OFA

NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

BIRTHS

Megan Laurel Frey b 5/17/1996, d/o John & Beth Frey, great grand daughter of Robert M Oberholser (IV Christian Oberholser/Susanna Kurtz line) [SL]

Levi Nash Brunner b 6/16/1996, s/o Andy & Pam (Landis) Brunner (Marcus Oberholtzer line) [MC]

HARRIAGES

Larry Carter & Suzanne M Robertson 6/29/1996 (Marcus Oberholtzer line) [MC]

Kerry M Martin & Jenifer L Schantz 7/20/1996 Ontario CAN (Marcus Oberholtzer line) [MC]

Brian Keith Brown & Tracey Lynn Gardner 8/10/1996, Henderson TN, s/o Robert A & Juanita (Overhults) Brown (Abraham Overholts/Anna Witmor line) [AV]

DEATHS

Naomi (Moyer) Weber d 12/9/1995, w/o late Rev Russel Weber (Marcus Oberholtzer line) [MC]

Vernon Schmidt d 3/12/1996, h/o late Sara (Landis) Histan (Marcus Oberholtzer line) [MC]

Eva Schaeffer Snyder 5/1/1904-6/26/1996, d/o Morris Schaeffer & Magdalene Oberholtzer. She was the last of this Schaeffer family. (Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co line) [JL]

Harriet Runyon Yenser 11/9/1942-7/12/1996, d/o James & Ruth (Kantner) Runyon, grand d/o Charles Kantner & Catherine Schaeffer, great grand d/o Morris Schaeffer & Magdalena Oberholtzer (Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co line) [JL]

John R Weiler, Necrologist

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our president Will Overholtzer of Rancho Cordova CA married Kathleen Olson Schwartzel 6/28/1996 in Sacramento. We all wish them much happiness.

Did you know that the siblings of your grandparents are not your great-aunt and great-uncle? They are your grand-aunt and grand-uncle.

MINUTES OF THE 87TH OFA REUNION
August 17, 1996

The Overholser Family Association met in the Terre Hill Community Center (Old Fire Hall) on August 17, 1996 with 39 attending. The people started to come at 10:30 A.M. bringing food for the covered dish lunch at 12:00. Genealogical charts, books and photos were displayed on several tables.

The blessing was asked by Rev John Weiler and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, pictures were taken by Spencer Overholser and Darwin Overholt who hoped they would be successful in their new job.

The meeting was called to order by President Darwin Overholt with Rev John Weiler giving the invocation. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev Weiler led the Reunion song. Overholser Family Association note pads were given to each family.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the February 1996 BULLETIN.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted as given by Dick Stevens who reported that rent for the Community Center is \$60.00 in advance and that after 3 o'clock there is a \$10.00 extra charge for each additional hour.

Rev Weiler gave his necrologist's report which will be printed in the next BULLETIN.

Barbara Ford reported that 287 books have been sold and that there are books still available.

We sang Happy Birthday to Rosy Oberholzer of Oberholz, Switzerland which was taped for her birthday June 19th, 1997.

Norman Landis and D Ernest Weinhold told stories in Pennsylvania Dutch. A new Oberholtzer Coat-of-Arms was presented to the Association by Darwin Overholt. Darlene O Redcay and Mildred Pettigrew reported on their trips to Switzerland. A prize was given to Wendy Long who traveled the greatest distance. Mildred Pettigrew reported going to the Raymond Weaver farm to see the old cemetery.

The Association has purchased a hand mike for \$185 which was used by each person who introduced themselves and their line.

Spencer Overholser will be on the nominating committee for 1997 and two more interested people will be needed to complete it.

The slate of officers for the coming term is:

President-Will Overholtzer
1st Vice President-D Ernest Weinhold
2nd Vice President-Darwin Overholt
Recording Secretary-Darlene O Redcay
Treasurer-Richard Stevens

There was a discussion about how to get more people interested in the Reunion and games for the children were mentioned. Next to the Community Center is an expanded park which we can use.

Our 88th Reunion will be August 16, 1997.

The meeting closed with Rev Weiler giving the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene O Redcay, Secretary



OFFICIAL 1996 REUNION PICTURE TAKEN BY KATHY OVERHOLSER

Sitted

Barbara Ford, Richard Stevens, Darwin Overholt, Will Overholtzer,
D Ernest Weinhold, John Weiler, Darlene Redcay

2nd Row

Mel Brinton, Kathern Maine, Jean Stevens, Mary Landis, Jean Overholt,
Carolyn Landy, Marian Richmond, Eleanor Weiler, Helen Overholser,
Mildred Pettigrew

3rd Row

Greg Overholser, John Maine, Norman Landis, Elizabeth Frey, Ruth
Overholser, Carl Taylor, Gladys Taylor, Wendy Long, Robert Over-
holser, Claire Pettigrew

4th Row

Jim Overholser, Herbert Frey, Dan Pettigrew, Laurence Richmond,
Noah Oberholtzer

(Missing in picture-photographers Spencer Overholser and Kathy
Overholser)

OFFICERS

President Willard Overholtzer, 2451 El Pavo Way
Rancho Cordova CA 95670
1st Vice President D Ernest Weinhold, 107 W Sunhill Road
Manheim PA 17545
2nd Vice President Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road
Doylestown PA 18901
Recording Secretary Darlene O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38
Goodville PA 17528
Treasurer Richard I Stevens, 224 Swarthmore Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
President Emeritus Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive
Wyomissing PA 19610
Chaplain, Rev John R. Weiler, 325 Carver Drive
Necrologist Bethlehem, PA 18017
Genealogist, Editor Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane
Wallingford, PA 19086

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 6/29/96-1/6/97

Cherry Evans, Ormond Beach FL Noah L Oberholtzer Jr, Leola PA
Judy Huber, Atlanta GA Judy Thomas, Syracuse IN
John H Kinyon, Fox River Grove IL Saralee Wallen, Lakewood CO
Glenn H Landis, Lititz PA Becki Watters, Fresno CA

COSTLY RESEARCH

Researching for the OFA can be expensive for me. Five years ago I had my car stolen at the station while I was in Philadelphia doing research. Replacing it was costly. Then in 1996 some boys covered my car with some kind of cherries while I was parked at the station. The car wash removed the cherries but it also took some of the paint off. I ended up having the trunk and roof repainted to the tune of \$400. Maybe the message is that I should stay home!

Overholser Family Association

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Wallingford, PA 19086

