



# OFA Bulletin

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Oberholtz	Uberholtzer	Overholser	Oberheuser
	Overhults	VanHulser	Overhuls
Overhalsler	Overhalt	Atherholt	Obold
	Uberholser	Overholtzer	Overholt
Overhulster	Oberholser	Oberholtzer	

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2011 was a ridiculous year for me. All 3 cars broke down at once two weeks before my daughter's wedding. My computer died twice. Add the cost of a new car and computer to it all. So I am more than happy for a new start on this January 1.

Last year had some major accomplishments though. The Overholser Mansion Reunion was a small success, despite broken air conditioning and some who could not find us hiding in the Carriage House. Many apologies to those who somehow missed us.

My personal family tree book is printed and bound after 17 years of labor! Last year I also had to re-create the mailing list after the computer crash. I just found the last info today.

For those who wish a book copy of last year's Reunion Speaker:

***Because I Can: Doing what I can, with what I have, where I am*** can be ordered a few ways.

Online orders: [www.JanetOber.com](http://www.JanetOber.com) & click on **My Book**.

Order by phone: **484-798-7824** or mail a check to

**Janet Oberholtzer, 957 Kurtz Mill Road, Mohnton, PA 19540**

Also, Erich Overhultz just finished writing her book "*The Soils of Muhlenberg County*." The book focuses on the ancestors, lives, and descendants of AV6 Mark Overhuls and Mary Landis, early settlers of Muhlenberg County, KY. Copies are available from OFA or Erich Overhultz, Plantation, FL [erichoverhultz@comcast.net](mailto:erichoverhultz@comcast.net) I am certain she would love to hear from you.

This summer I am pleased to turn over the OFA to a new President Jack Street. Since November 2007 when I took over for the late Barbara Ford, household membership has risen from 308 to 437, the largest in our history. Much of the family lines are compiled from Barbara's seven filing drawers. Speakers are being arranged for future Reunions.

*Continued on Page 12*

**Overholser Family  
Association Bulletin**  
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Editor - Dennis L. Oberholtzer  
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Paradise, Pa. 17562

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e-mail to  
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## Wecome New OFA Members!!!

Jeff Overholt

Don & Roberta Fohr, Warren Co NJ

Jane Flack

Robert Reeser

Nelson LaFon, VA

Daniel J Draeger, Chattanooga TN

David R Johnson

Jason Yurchak

Godwin Eze

Shelly Cardiel

Shirley Sneve

Frederick D & Phyllis Oberholtzer

Lorraine Mix, Rootsweb.com

Grace Freed, Kulp Family Association

OFA Bulletin gone Internet:  
If anyone would like a PDF  
e-mail version of FUTURE  
issues, just E-mail  
[Paradise\\_Living50@verizon.net](mailto:Paradise_Living50@verizon.net)

***Check out the OFA Website:***

**<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa>**

## **Happy 60th Anniversary!**

Happy 60th Anniversary to longtime OFA Members & Reunion goers  
Harold & Nora Mae Kilheffer,

SL Line, married June 9, 1951 in Millersville Mennonite Church.

Harold took time to show cousin Noah O Jr & the editor the two original Samuel Oberholtzer farms on the west side of Millersville in summer of 2010. What an enriching experience that was.

## **HAPPY NEW WORLD!!!**

**Son** to Mr & Mrs Wilmer & Racheal (Newswanger) Oberholtzer of Ephrata PA  
- Intel, Tuesday May 31, 2011

**Daughter** Leah Hadessah Godoy born June 19, 2011 to Daniel & Lita (Oberholser)  
Godoy of Mechanicsburg PA. Grandparents Karl & Connie Oberholser.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Ruth K Oberholtzer, North Wales PA

Darwin & Jean Overholt, Warminster PA

Agnes O Greene, Sumter SC

Sue Wiscombe, Fernley NV

Albert A Johnson, Stanton TX

Daniel J Draeger, Chattanooga TN

John Homer Thiel, Tucson AZ

Jennie R Sperling, Lansdale PA

John A & Mary K Overholtzer, Tingley IA

Jodi Overholt-Ring, Plymouth MI

Claud & Eleanor Bray, Wichita KS

Ann Duke, Owensboro KY

Ross Gordon Gerhart III, Ambler PA

Emily & Fred Oberholtzer, Lititz, PA

Noah Oberholtzer Jr, Leola PA

Carolyn O Kendall, Lititz PA

John & Hazel Shinpaugh, Norristown PA

Jake & Suzanne Street, York PA

Paul J Pletcher, New Holland PA

Dennis & Earline Oberholtzer, Paradise PA

Juanita O Brown, Cookeville TN

Gwen Lucas, Caledonia ON, CANADA

Barbara Oberholser Munson, Cambria CA

Jack E Sholl, Palm Desert CA

Bruce T Ferguson, Owensboro KY

Barney & Darlene Roll, Bellefontaine OH

Jan E Williams, Honolulu HI

Cathleen A Waring, Melbourne FL

Naomi R Howard, New Haven MO

Dessalee Johnson, Grandledge MI

Michael A Martin, Rahway NJ

Scott & Pamela Fischer, Lancaster PA

Chester & Carol A Carroll, Wheeling WV

Jim & Kathy Overholser, Roanoke VA

John & Faye Oberholser, Narvon PA

Geoffry Martin, Brooklin NY

Jerry & Janet Oberholtzer, Mohnton PA

Barbara Bernhardt, Swarthmore PA

Jean O Schaffer, Coopersburg PA

## NOTICE

My computer problems still have not gone away, even with a new computer. But I have been able to create a better mailing list. IF ANYONE HAS NOT RECIEVED AN OFA BULLETIN RECENTLY, please let us know. And if anything needs updating, please give us that. A mailing address is helpful should your e-mail address change. Thank You for your patience and help in this. - Editor

## Obituaries

Clayton N Martin 71 of Lebanon died May 7, 2011, father of [Janet Martin wife of John Oberholtzer Jr](#) of Wolmelsdorf PA. Also surviving is his wife Verna, children Shirley, D Lamar, Raymond & Carolyn, and brother-in-law Clarence husband of Erla (Oberholtzer) Horst of Lebanon.

[Norman Landis](#) 207 W Summit St, Apt 256, Souderton PA, Long time OFA Member & Reunion goer.

Richard K Oberholtzer 87 years died June 8, 2011 at home in Lansdale PA. Born s/o [Wilmer & Esther Kriebel Oberholtzer](#), is survived by his wife Gloria (Richart) of 66 years of marriage. He retired from Drexel University. Children surviving are Diane J Hill of Newark DE, Richard K of Blue Bell PA, grandchildren Ashley Hill V M D, Taylor & Megan Oberholtzer. - *The Reporter*, Lansdale

[Weston Overholt Jr](#) 84 Years died Dec 14, 2010 Married 1957 Mary Jo Einstein Resided in Upper Providence Twp, served on Dickson board of Trustees 1963-1971, former senior partner of Harper & Driver, and in 1998 formed Abbott & Overholt with nephew Jeffrey Abbott. He served as a signalman aboard ship Zanaiah in WWII. survived by his wife, and sons Scott, Kent & Todd.  
- *Philadelphia Inquirer*, sent in by Jennie Sperling

[John Warren Oberholtzer](#) 77 years died March 16, 2011 was preceded in death by 3 sons, John, Michael & Daniel. He is survived by wife of 58 years Josephine (McNally). John was born June 14, 1933 in East Falls, Bucks Co PA, and was a retired truck driver. Grandchildren surviving are Kenneth, Stacy O Laureta, David, Michael, & Christopher Oberholtzer. - James O Bradley, Penndel PA

Margaret F Overholser 90 Years died September 8, 2011 wife of [Newton E Overholser](#) who died October 21, 1992. Margaret operated Reddig's Store in Reamstown PA. Surviving is a son Frederick J Overholser of Ephrata, ans daughter Jane E Harting of Denver PA. - Intel, 9/10/2011

Irene Nolt Died Oct 10, 2011 Miles & Irene had one child.  
SL24671.16 [Miles Nolt](#) 10/15/1916 - 10/31/2005 m [Irene Eby](#) - 10/10/2011  
Miles was grandson of SL24671 Jacob B Oberholtzer & Fianna Martin

Eugene Mix March 20, 1938 - Nov 18, 2010 Dearborn Heights MI Eugene descends from [MC75c13 John J Overholt](#) 3/12/1848 - 5/8/1924 and Abba C Kennedy. Survived by his wife Nancy, and children Gena (Steven) Nyhoff, Pamela, Jay & Brandi; siblings Mildred Estey, William, Theresa Smith & Elizabeth McGrath. He is interned in Michigan Memorial Park. - Gena Nyhoff

*A genealogist is a reductionist with endless new material.*

### **GOOD NEWS!**

**The Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma was not damaged by the earthquake.**

- Lisa Escalon, Curator

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
105th Annual Reunion  
August 6, 2011

The 105th reunion of the Overholser Family Association convened at St. John's Center United Church of Christ on Saturday, August 6, 2011. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

The day began with a social time and lunch, with Scott Fisher offering a prayer.

Dennis Oberholtzer, President, welcomed the group and members introduced themselves and their guests. Dennis reported that John Weiler has retired as the group's chaplain and that a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is needed to complete the slate of officers.

A letter from Jack Scholl, former president of the OFA, was read. He was unable to attend due to illness. Prayers for Jack were requested. Ruth Oberholtzer, Spencer's wife, was also unable to attend.

John Shinpaugh reported that he has been hosting the association's website and asked for suggestions for additions and/or changes.

**BUSINESS:**

1) Archival Material:

Dennis has materials from Barbara Ford and Rev. I. E. Oberholtzer which are kept at his home. He and others are concerned about the possibility of the materials being destroyed by fire or other catastrophe. There was discussion about copying the materials and sending the originals to the Lancaster Mennonite Society for safekeeping. In such a case, a monetary donation would be made for the maintenance of the material. Dennis pointed out that historical societies will sometimes keep the most used documents and auction off others once the money received for maintenance runs out. The question was raised as to whether the LMS has a written policy on the subject.

It was the consensus of the group that none of the materials should be auctioned, and if the LMS did follow this policy, we would want to be assured that the materials would be returned to the organization rather than sold. It was suggested that a vote on how to proceed should be delayed until these questions have been satisfactorily settled. Meanwhile, Carolyn Kendall offered the use of a fireproof file cabinet to store the information. Dennis has a scanner and will begin the process of scanning the documents.

Dennis confirmed for the group that the plan is to: 1) Investigate the process of donating material to the Lancaster Mennonite Society; 2) For the time being, maintain the documents in the fireproof file.

## 2) Computer Files

Dennis has completed documenting in computer files all of the lines we currently have. Copies were available at the meeting for members to look over. He requested that members send corrections and additions they noted in reviewing the documents. Material which members send to him now will be added and saved, but he won't be researching these records. He asked that someone volunteer to continue research on younger generations.

Dennis asked for feedback on the question of how to distribute the computer files. Possibilities included providing the files online or burning CDs and charging for them. Objections to putting the material online were: 1) Size of the material (adding to the website will entail additional cost without any compensation for providing the information); 2) Privacy.

A third suggestion was to publish another book which would include pictures and stories. A CD would be provided along with the paper copy. It was noted that we currently still have two boxes of the red book available for sale.

Members voted in favor of putting the information on CDs and charging for them. They voted against making the material available free online. Also passed was the proposal to pursue another book when the materials were completed.

*Reunion Minutes Continued on Page 11*

## Henry Owerwasser Family

The following are details from coinciding documents:

Elizabeth Township, Lanc Co PA Warrant 100 acres Mar 2, 1738, surveyed Apr 24, 1739  
Patented May 11, 1767 John Brubaker - Lancaster County Warrant Book

PA Archives, Patent Book AA - # 10 - 236 Nov 1766 - Nov 1768 Henry Brindle 111 acres  
Warrant to Henry Ourwasser, June 23, 1747 Lancaster Co PA, name of tract is *Shrewsbury*

PA Archives, Patent Book B Page 28, AA - # 7 - 339, May 1767 John Brubaker  
1/2 of 100 acres warrantee Henry Ourwalt >  
1/2 of 100 acres warrantee Henry Ourwalt > **INHERITANCE**  
Warrant Date March 2, 1738 Lanc.Co PA

PA Archives, Commission Book A - # 4, 176, October 1776 Geroge Brendle 309 acres  
Warrant Date Oct 3, 1776 Cumberland Co PA, name of tract is *Brendleton*

Janet May Pedigree Chart: John Brubaker 1733 - m \_\_\_\_\_ Oberholtzer  
I cannot substantiate a first name of "Maria" Oberholtzer.

~~~~~

When Janet May asked me to look into who the father of John Brubaker's wife could be, I had little confidence of finding anything to confirm a match. But I found Henry's last name has been misspelled as Ourwalt and Owerwasser. The Brubaker family genealogy by Gible correctly called his daughter an Oberholtzer. Both Ourwalt & Owerwasser are not any European family names. Henry most likely had a speech impediment, and the documentors wrote what they heard coming from a different language.

The Brubaker family also has two other Overholzers, though not closely connected. They are from the AV5 Line of Oberholzers.

Henry Owerwasser's property was in Cocalico. That was the original name. The warrant was written later, then called Elizabeth Township, and still is. John Brubaker's uncle was married and living in Elizabeth Township. It is most likely John met Miss Oberholtzer in that area. Part of Henry's land is presently the A-1 Brubaker farm on the S side of the road.

E1--1 John Jacob Brubaker - 1755 Providence Twp, Lanc Co PA 5 ch  
m Barbara \_\_\_\_\_ Ulrich Yetty (Zety or Cety) is 3rd executor  
- John Jacob's will 6/24/1754; a Zetty is married to SL6 Veronica Oberholtzer  
E2--1 John Jacob Brubaker Jr 1725 - 1802 Providence Twp 5 ch  
m Unknown  
E2--2 Ann Brubaker in Germany in 1754

**OW Henry Owerwasser (Ourwalt)**

Elizabeth Township, Lanc Co PA

Warrant 100 acres Mar 2, 1738, surveyed Apr 24, 1739; Patented May 11, 1767 to John Brubaker  
Henry's property went to only one daughter and her husband, each getting half. She must have died by 1767, for husband John Brubaker inherited the entire 100 acres.

**OW1 Daughter Oberholtzer**

Strasburg Twp, Lanc.Co

m E2--3 John Brubaker 1733 -

The couple moved to Strasburg Twp, where son Martin later lived

**OW11 3--1 Isaac Brubaker**

Martic &amp; Drumore Twps no wife or ch known

**OW12 3--2 Abraham Brubaker 1760 - 1831**

Leacock &amp; East Lampeter Twps

1st m Esther Lehn

2nd m Ann Kreider

7 ch

OW121 Ann Brubaker 1795 - 1861

m Christian Hartman Manor Twp &amp; OH 8 ch

OW122 Abraham K Brubaker 1797 - 1887

Providence Twp

1st m Nancy Develin

2nd m Veronica Heller

OW1221 George Brubaker 1817 - 1885

OW1222 John H Brubaker 1822 - 1892

OW1223 Abraham Brubaker 1826 - 1892

OW1224 Jacob Brubaker 1828 - 1850

OW1225 Frany Brubaker 1833 -

OW1226 Barbara Brubaker 1835 -

OW123 Jacob K Brubaker 1799 - 1887

W Earl Twp, Lanc.Co

7 ch

1st m Rachael \_\_\_\_\_

2nd m Sarah \_\_\_\_\_

OW1231 Abraham Brubaker 1828 - 1903

OW1232 Angeline Brubaker 1831 -

OW1233 Jacob Brubaker 1834 -

OW1234 George Edwin Brubaker 1836 -

OW1235 Emma E Brubaker 1841 -

OW1236 Henry Brubaker 1847 - infancy

OW1237 Samuel Brubaker 1849 -

OW124 John K Brubaker 1801 - 1886

m Eliza Ranck

Salisbury Twp

9 ch

OW1241 Benjamin Brubaker 1823 - 1846

OW1242 Louise R Brubaker

OW1243 Hettie Brubaker

OW1244 Lizzie Brubaker 1830 - 1886

OW1245 Annie Brubaker

OW1246 Abraham Brubaker 1841 - 1898

OW1247 Barbara Brubaker 1841 - 1874

OW1248 John R Brubaker 1842 - 1863

OW1249 Mary R Brubaker 1844 - 1932

OW125 Elizabeth Brubaker 1803 - 1883

m Frederick Bloyer

Manor Twp

OW126 Tobias Brubaker 1806 - 1876

m Esther Miller Providence Twp

11 ch

OW1261 Anna Brubaker 1831 - 1890

OW1262 Jacob Brubaker 1833 - 1835



OW1263 Barbara Brubaker 1835 - 1838  
 OW1264 Elizabeth Brubaker 1838 - 187\_  
 OW1265 Benjamin Brubaker 1840 - 1901  
 OW1266 Tobias Brubaker Jr 1842 - 1906  
 OW1267 Esther Brubaker 1842 - 1851  
 OW1268 Christian Brubaker 1845 - 185\_  
 OW1269 Magdalena Brubaker 1847 - 185\_  
 OW1260 Naomi Brubaker 1849 - 1947  
 OW126a Aaron Brubaker 1852 - 1873           single

OW127 Henry K Brubaker 1808 - 1893           m Hannah Kurtz     E Lampeter Twp  9 ch  
 OW1271 Benjamin Brubaker 1831 - 1857  
 OW1272 John Brubaker 1833 - 1860           single  
 OW1273 Anna Brubaker 1835 - 1837  
 OW1274 Elizabeth Brubaker 1837 -  
 OW1275 Mary Brubaker 1838 -  
 OW1276 Sarah Brubaker 1839 - 1866  
 OW1277 Lydia Brubaker 1843 -  
 OW1278 Frances Brubaker 1846 - 1922  
 OW1279 Leah Brubaker 1848 - 1920

**OW13** 3--3 **Martin Brubaker** 10/1764 - 1835           Strasburg Twp, Lanc Co PA           9 ch  
           m Mary Bowman           d/o Johannes d 1738

OW131 Elizabeth Brubaker 1788 - 1853           m Adam Rowe   Strasburg Twp     7 ch  
 OW132 Francis Bruabker 1791 - 1870           m Anna \_\_\_\_\_   Strasburg Twp     5 ch  
 OW1321 Martin Brubaker 1817 - 1878  
 OW1322 Lydia Brubaker 1819 -  
 OW1323 Simon Brubaker 1836 - 1907  
 OW1324 Ann Brubaker  
 OW1325 Francis Brubaker 1831 -

OW133 Jacob Brubaker 1793 - 1839           Strasburg Twp           6 ch  
           1st m Lydia Witmer  
           2nd m Elizabeth Forrer  
 OW1331 John Brubaker 1822 - 1850  
 OW1332 Anna Brubaker 1824 -  
 OW1333 Hannah Brubaker 1826 -  
 OW1334 Abraham Brubaker 1828 - 1876  
 OW1335 Benjamin Brubaker 1833 - 1906  
 OW1336 Samuel F Brubaker 1835 - 1910

OW134 Martin Brubaker 1795 - 1872           m Susan Goodhart           Strasburg Twp  
 OW1341 Mary Ann Brubaker 1820 - 1824           single  
 OW1342 Magdalena Brubaker 1823 - 1901  
           m Samuel Bomberger Herr   (See Herr family below)  
 OW13421 Alice Elmira Herr  
           m John Zander  
 OW13421.1 [Ida Sue Zander](#)  
 OW13421.11 [Janet May](#)           OFA Member



3) DNA Analysis

Dennis has been contacted by two individuals about conducting DNA analysis of the remains of S. L. Oberholtzer who is buried somewhere around Millersburg. If it is possible to locate his grave and perform the DNA testing, it could difinitively prove a connection to the Oberholtzer family in Switzerland.

Dennis asked for a vote on the question to eventually pursue this. After discussion it was decided that more information on the process and cost were needed to make a decision. Dennis will inquire, but also asked others to look into the matter and bring information to next year's meeting.

Carolyn Kendall presented the Treasurer's Report. Balances include \$2,566.64 in savings (from donations); \$11,385.83 in the book fund; \$146.86 in checking; and \$3,639.30 in the lunch fund. Carolyn suggested that a policy is needed on copying charges. These should be paid from the treasury book fund. When we are ready to start selling the CDs, we should have a separate treasury category for the income and expenses.

A basket was passed to receive donations to the OFA.

Dennis then introduced the speaker, Janet Oberholtzer, who discussed her forthcoming book, *Because I Can*. Janet was involved in a serious accident in 2004. The book is about her physical and emotional recovery from this devastating event. More information is available at [janetober.com](http://janetober.com) where she maintains a blog.

The meeting was adjourned and the official reunion photograph taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Carroll, Secretary

## CHECKUP on JA Line

I recieved an e-mail by Carolyn O Wenger, editor of Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage magazine, concerning JAsr John Overholser as having a death date of 1794. She made mention that sometimes other dates, [such as when a will is written], are confused with death dates. In this case, I found the 1794 death date of a John Overholser to have come from the county Orphan's Court records. Since JA John still lived in the 19th century, it had to be his father, which I designated as JAsr John Overholser.

### *President's Column continued from page 1*

We are constantly trying to improve. We hope that having speakers at the Reunion each year will improve attendance. DNA is beginning to be discussed for certain situations. And now that our archival records are in a fire-proof safe, we can rest a little better. Duplicate copies are being sent out. The new compiled lines will be duplicated and sent this year.

In time I hope to put Barbara Ford's OFA Bulletins onto CD disks for availability. I also hope to create an Addendum to each family line with pertinent legal data entered for proof of reference materials. These are long-term jobs that will take time, as I am working on writing personal Christian research.

Keep up the great job of communication among other OFA members! We are one of the rare family associations that are thriving. And it does take work. But it is worth it. I recently showed my personal fan chart to a boy, explaining that in 10 generations it took 1023 people to make HIM. The impact was enormous. No longer was he a disconnected nobody.

Yours respectfully, Dennis L Oberholtzer

### **OFA OFFICERS**

#### Lines

|                 |                           |                       |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SL, JL          | Past President            | Paul Weiler           | 10738 Buchanan Trail East, Waynesboro, PA 17268<br><a href="mailto:kwpw8@earthlink.net">kwpw8@earthlink.net</a>  |
| SL, AO,<br>& JF | President<br>OFA Bulletin | Dennis L. Oberholtzer | 49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562<br><a href="mailto:dloberholtzer@verizon.net">dloberholtzer@verizon.net</a> |
| SL              | 1st Vice-president        | Jack Street           | 2059 Noss Road, York, PA 17408<br>717-225-4808                                                                   |
| SL              | Secretary                 | Carol Carroll         | 31 Kelly Drive, Wheeling WV 26003<br><a href="mailto:carolsquared@verizon.net">carolsquared@verizon.net</a>      |
| SL              | Treasurer                 | Carolyn O. Kendall    | 1001 E Oregon Road, #1640, Lititz PA 17543<br><a href="mailto:cokendall@gmail.com">cokendall@gmail.com</a>       |
| JL              | Website Sponsor           |                       |                                                                                                                  |
|                 | 2nd Vice President        | John Shinpaugh        | <a href="http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa">http://mysite.verizon.net/vzevgxav/ofa</a>                      |
|                 | Chaplain                  |                       | OPEN AT THIS TIME                                                                                                |

**OFA Treasurer's Report**  
**7/7/10 - 8/3/11**

|                          | <u>Savings</u>    | <u>Book Fund</u>  | <u>Checking</u> | <u>Catered Lunch</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Balance 7/7/10           | \$2,290.65        | \$11,247.88       | \$146.86        | \$4,150.54           |
| <i>SUMMARY</i>           |                   |                   |                 |                      |
| 7/7/10-8/3/11            |                   |                   |                 |                      |
| <i>INCOME</i>            |                   |                   |                 |                      |
| Contributions            | \$1,179.71        |                   | <i>Total</i>    |                      |
| Purchases                |                   | \$193.97          |                 |                      |
| *Interest Credited*      | <u>2.70</u>       | <u>11.30</u>      |                 | <u>\$3.33</u>        |
|                          | \$1,182.41        | \$205.27          |                 | \$3.33               |
| <i>EXPENSE Transfers</i> | <i>\$ 870.72</i>  | <i>\$39.72</i>    |                 | <i>\$514.90</i>      |
| 2 Bulletins + postage    |                   |                   | \$674.22        |                      |
| Shipping & Postage       |                   |                   | \$ 38.92        |                      |
| PA Dept of Rev           |                   |                   | \$1.65          |                      |
| Bank fee - checks        |                   |                   | \$ 19.99        |                      |
| '11 Reunion - Yoders     |                   |                   | \$ 31.80        |                      |
| '11 Sat lunch            |                   |                   | \$514.90        |                      |
| '11 Reunion - church     |                   |                   | <u>\$ 75.00</u> |                      |
|                          |                   |                   | \$1,356.48      |                      |
| <b>ENDING BALANCE</b>    | <b>\$2,566.64</b> | <b>\$11385.83</b> | <b>208.92</b>   | <b>\$3,639.30</b>    |
| <b>8/3/11</b>            |                   |                   |                 |                      |
| Compared with 7/14/10    | \$ 275.99 +       | \$ 137.95 +       | \$62.06 +       | \$ 511.24 -          |

Of interest:

23 contribution checks recieved beyond the Reunion collection  
Average cost of Bulletin + postage = \$337.11, (last year it averaged \$386.99, in 2009 it was 377.90)

41 people attended the 104th Reunion. The collection that day totaled \$396.  
Cost of OFA Book is \$29.50 + PA tax \$1.77 = \$31.27.

Four books were purchased this past year.

Costs to mail OFA Book: mailing envelope - \$1.24/per, postage - #3.16; total = \$4.40.

*- Respectfully submitted, Carolyn O Kendall Treasurer 1/14/2012*

# OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

## The Dukes of Zaeringen

[Switzerland] was held for the most part by feudal families after the 11th Century A.D..

- Columbia Viking Desk Encyclopedia, 1953 Viking Press

The following timeline of events help to fill in some of the uneventful years in which the Overholzer family could grow their furniture business in relative peace.

The rule of the Dukes of Zaeringen ushered in a long period of comparative peace (1105-1218), which improved the social and material condition of the people. This included the lands of the Oberholtz Valley. "Yet this time of peace was every now and again interrupted in the west by feuds with the Burgundian nobles. [One] Swabian family took their name from the ancestral manor of Zaeringen, near Freiburg, in the Breisgau (Black Forest). The vast estates they had derived from the House of Rheinfelden on its extinction reached from Lake Geneva to the rivers Aare and Emme, and gave them a dominant position in the country at the opening of the twelfth century." \*

- \*Story of Switzerland, by Lina Hug and Richard Stead, 1890 G P Putnum's Sons

"From 1173 to 1212 A.D., the Habsburgs inherited the rights of the Count of Zurich. They remained loyal to the local governing body, which at the time was the Hohenstauffen emperors." - The Habsburgs, 1995 Andrew Wheatcroft, the Penguin Group

"Feudalism had grown apace in Switzerland, and what a hard struggle the people had, to hold their own against the impositions of princes and nobles." - Story of Switzerland

From 1218 to 1267, Eastern Switzerland was ruled primarily by the House of Kyburg, then Savoy, then Habsburg. During this time, the local rulers held to the house of Stauffen (Hohenstauffen) instead of the Papacy of Rome. But upon "the death of Conradin (Stauffen) on the scaffold at Naples (in 1267), and the consequent extinction of the Stauffen line, Rudolf (of Habsburg) veered gradually round to the side of the Pope.

"Due to the loss of power in the late 1200's, many of the younger branches of the Hohenstauffen line fled from Prussia to Baden, Bavaria, and Switzerland. Still another branch of the family went at a later date into England and settled in Devonshire, where the name became Stover."

- The Stauffer Family, at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society library.

With the descent of power of the Hohenstauffen Dynasty, Ottokar Przemysl became King of Bohemia in 1273. Although reigning at this time, his power was more localized, and most likely had little effect on the Oberholtz lands and their neighbors.

☪☪☪

## MV Line Additions/Corrections

John Shinpaugh saw a fraktur in the Rockingham Co VA Heritage Center of a new child of the MV Line. Changes to Ford's OFA Book are in color.

**MV9 Mathias Aberholzs** 1790 Germany -

s/o father Marcus and his mother was an Ermentrout.

One needs reminded that in the 17th to 19th centuries, the vowels were sometimes interchanged in literature. Here the O is A in Aberholzs, and A is E in Ermentrout.

REF: Fraktur in Rockingham County Heritage Center, John Shinpaugh 2011

The date of birth for Mathias reveals that son HO Henry Overholt (now also MV1) is likely a year younger than Mathias. Henry is not likely a twin, or the fraktur would have both boys listed.

**MV Marcus Oberholtzer** c1760 Germany or Switzerland -

m 12/12/1789 Margaret Armentrout c1772 Germany -

**MV1 (HO) Henry Overholt** c1791 -

m 4/3/1820 Rockingham VA, Sally Sprinkle

Henry & Sally moved to Licking Co OH

REF: Bob & Lois Overholt, Spencerville OH, OFA Bulletin 9/95

**MV2 Mary Overholt** c1792 -

**MV3 John Overholt** c1794 -

m 5/7/1813 Rockingham VA, Judy Deppoy

**MV4 George William Overholt** 6/15/1795 - 11/19/1874 WV

m 3/25/1817 Mary Stephens 5/16/1800 Rockingham Co VA - 3/6/1890

**MV432 David Rollin Overholt** 2/27/1860 Greenbrier WV -

REF: 1880 Census; 1900 Missouri Census; 1920 Arkansas Census, OFA Bulletin 27 #2

**MV433 \_Child\_ Overholt** 10/25/1861 Greenbrier WV -

REF: 1900 Federal Census, Greenbrier WV

**MV5 DELETE Samuel Overholt** This is JL214 Samuel Overholser

REF: Barbara B Ford notes

☪☪

**OFA REUNION**, Southeastern PA, Friday Night at Yoder's Rest., Reunion 1st Saturday in August

IOWA O's Meetings 1st Sunday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, 87th Reunion in 2010  
[www.overholtzer.org](http://www.overholtzer.org)

FRANKLIN Co PA GROUP, next 2012 Roxbury Holiness Camp, Roxbury PA. They meet every other year. Covered dish, 717-697-0512 or Philip491@verizon.net

If you need more information, contact Dennis at Paradise\_Living50@verizon.net

**Send us your O meeting place and date so we can post it here in our Bulletin.**

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### **THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK**

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## **Progress of Computerization of Files**

The compiled computurization of the OFA Files is nearing completion. Paper copies have been created in order to preserve the information in case of an electronic accident. Duplicate electronic copies will be held by at least two other individuals in other areas of the country. This is being created as a safety measure, just in case of any mishap from a nuclear accident, terrorism, or natural disaster.

Copies of family lines are being created for CD Format. Additional details, keys, headings, etc are being added for better comprehension. As per voter agreement at the 2011 Reunion, the CD Format will become available for \$8.00. This will help cover costs, and bring in a small donation for the Association to help keep it growing.

There will be the possibility of future book printings. Pictures, stories, and such would be added to the CD versions to give more value to the printing. But this is years down the road. There are no present plans to print.