

Overholser Family Association



Bulletin

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VOLUME III NUMBER 2

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

An important announcement concerns the editorship of this Bulletin. Robert Oberholser agreed to be editor for only one year and this issue is his last. We appreciate his willingness and his fine ability, and praise him for a job well done.

Beginning with the next Bulletin Jim Kehew of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania will assume the editorship. Jim has a good background of editing newsletters for a number of years and we look forward to him bringing his expertise and personal style to our Bulletin. I hope that he will be willing to fulfill the editorship for a number of years, thus permitting me to do more genealogy work than I have had time to do in recent years.

In the past year I have had numerous letters asking for information on early ancestors. If I am unable to give you the requested information I suggest that you send your request to the editor to be included in the Queries column of the Bulletin.

You will notice elsewhere in this Bulletin that one of our Honorary Vice Presidents, Harold Barr, passed away this year. His interest and enthusiasm for "family," his friendliness and good cheer will long be remembered.

Last year we had good attendance at the reunion. I hope to see many of you this year.

THE OVERHOLSER REUNION

The annual reunion of the Overholser Family Association will be held Saturday, August 22, 1981, in the Fire Hall, Terre Hill, Pa. As usual the morning will be devoted to registration and the exhibition of the "family tree" and various other books and pamphlets pertaining to the Overholser family provided by President J. Spencer Overholser.

After a twelve o'clock repast* such as can only be prepared by the Pennsylvania ladies, noted for their traditional culinary excellence, the following program has been prepared by our President;

Invocation---Rev. John Weiler
1980 Minutes---Paul Pletcher
Treas. Report---
Marjorie Carroll
Necrologist's Report-----
Robert Oberholser
Other Reports
Entertainment
Music-----Ruth Overholser
Old Business
New Business
Report of Nominating Committee
Election of Officers
Benediction---Rev. John Weiler

* Please bring at least one hot or cold dish for the common table and provide for your own drink and table ware.

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN

Volume III Number 2

Editor - Robert M. Oberholser
Typist - Elizabeth O. Frey

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tributions to the association
treasurer: Mrs. Marjorie Carroll,
319 Monroe Ave., North Hills,
Penna., 19038. Make checks payable
to: Overholser Family Association.

EDITORIAL

My tenure as Editor of the Overholser Family Association Bulletin expires with this issue. It seems to be a case of "hello and goodbye." The year, as it happens as one grows older, has passed so quickly and it is with mixed feelings that I turn the editorship over to the capable hands of Jim Kehew, who has requested that the following be included in this issue of the Bulletin.

NEW EDITOR

At last year's Reunion, Robert M. Oberholser of Freehold, New Jersey, agreed to serve as Editor of the Bulletin for one year to relieve President Spencer Overholser of that responsibility. Robert has edited the February issue and this one and has done an excellent job. In response to Spencer's plea for a successor to Robert, I indicated an interest and am willing to take it on if approved at the 1981 Reunion. If approved, I would like to invite Bulletin readers to send in anything they would like to be considered for publication--results of research, news items, etc. The Bulletin is a vehicle for further-

ing the objectives of the Association and a chance for you to get wide circulation for any information you have to share. Feel free to use its pages. I hope to hear from you. James G. Kehew
413 Appletree Road
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

As emphasized by Mr. Kehew the function of a Family Bulletin is the dissemination of items of interest concerning the many branches of the Oberholtzer family which have descended from our common immigrant ancestor, Samuel Oberholtzer. As might be expected, my recent experience in collecting material for the record of the Salisbury Township Oberholzers furnished me with much of the items in the last two issues of the Bulletin. That was all the news I had available. So this is a plea to each of you to see that our next Editor is supplied with news; family news, births, marriages, deaths, college involvements, professional advancements-- all are of interest to our readers. Do not let false modesty inhibit your contributions!

NOTICE

Copies of the February issue of the Bulletin, sent to those listed below, have been returned either because of death or change of address. Information concerning any of these will be appreciated if sent to the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth O. Frey, R.D. #2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728.

Woodring, Wendall
Fassnacht, Mrs. C.R.
Rydzewsky, Mrs. Ella
Shober, Perry
Oberholtzer, William R.
Emrich, Michael K.
Hunt, Mrs. George
Overholser, Mr. D.C.
Overholser, Mr. W.D.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUNN

A TRIBUTE

The afternoon of April 30, 1972 was unique in the history of Princeton University. For it was on that date that the famous Triangle Club of Princeton presented ONE HOUR MORE FOR UNCLE BEN, honoring the memory of Benjamin Franklin Bunn, Class of 1907. The memorial plaque in the McCarter Theater presented by the Princeton Triangle Club bears mute testimony to the reasons that these memorial services were held. It bears the following inscription:

There was a man who gave himself to the theater and encouraged all good performances in it. Over the years, members of the Triangle Club called him by many affectionate names, including "Uncle Ben", but his full name was

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUNN

CLASS OF 1907

In his long lifetime Uncle Ben was a key figure on campus and in community: Manager of the University Store, advisor to student organizations, time keeper for athletic teams and President of his Class. Active in church and civic affairs he was the only man elected Mayor of both Princeton Borough and Princeton Township. Pause a moment to applaud the memory of this beloved man.

The Princeton Triangle Club

April 30, 1972

Benjamin Franklin Bunn was born June 24, 1875 in Rockville, Chester County, Pa. He died at the age of ninety-six in Princeton Hospital, November, 1971. Funeral services were held in the First Presbyterian Church, Princeton.

After finishing public school in Cochranville, Highland Township, Chester County, Pa. Mr. Bunn took a job teaching school in the lower grades at Concordville, Pa. Encouraged by Joseph Shortledge, a Harvard graduate and principal of Maplewood Institute at Concordville, he entered the famous preparatory school of Phillips Exeter, where he was graduated after three years in 1903. Entering Princeton University in the fall of that same year, he was graduated in 1907. During his college years he financed his expenses by employment at the University Store and, upon graduation, became its manager where he remained until his retirement in 1950 at the age of 75.

Mr. Bunn's connection with Princeton University was not confined to his post as Manager of the University Store. For fifty years he was the business manager and advisor of the famous Triangle Club, the dramatic organization of the University and with which he made a total of forty-seven annual tours in the company of such notable future alumni as Jose Ferrer, Jimmie Stewart, Josh Logan, Scott Fitzgerald and many others. At many athletic meets he served as timekeeper, referee or judge. And from 1912 until his retirement in 1959 he served simultaneously as financial advisor to more than twenty student organizations.

But impressive as was Mr. Bunn's dedication to Princeton University and its many organizations, even more fantastic was his involvement in the affairs of the community.

A resident of Princeton Borough until 1930 he served three three-year terms on the Borough Council, the last term of which he served as Mayor. On July 4, 1930 he moved with his wife, the former Grace Troub and their two children to the new house he had had erected on Hazlet Avenue in Princeton Township. Five years later he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Township Committee and to which he was subsequently elected. For twelve years he served as Mayor and thus became, as stated in the Memorial Plaque in the McCarter Theater, the first and only person to serve as Mayor of both Princeton Borough and Princeton Township.

Mr. Bunn was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Princeton Hospital, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Princeton Savings and Loan Association, Treasurer of the University Laundry, President of the Community Fund, member of the Board of Trustees of the Princeton Water Company, Trustee of the corporation of the Young Mens' Christian Association and Treasurer of the Corporation of the First Presbyterian Church.

At Princeton University's bicentennial convocation February, 1947, Mr. Bunn was awarded an honorary Master of Arts Degree by Dr. Harold Dodds at the same time degrees were awarded to Jose Ferrer, Jimmie Stewart and General George Marshall.

Benjamin Franklin Bunn was the second of three children born to Catherine Oberholser and Benjamin Bunn. Catherine was the daughter of IV Christian Oberholser. Married to his childhood sweetheart, Grace Troub, on Thanksgiving Day November 26, 1908, they were the parents of two children.

Jean, the eldest, was born October 5, 1911. Married August 29, 1942 to Frederick W. Skillman, Sr., they are the parents of Sally Jean and Frederick W. Skillman, Jr. Sally Jean, born April 19, 1945 is married to David H.M. Gray. They live, with their two children, Mark and Catherine, at 402 North Harding Street, Wichita, Kansas, 67208.

Frederick W. Skillman, Jr. was born March 6, 1947. He was married December 18, 1967 to Jessica Herrick. They live with their two children, Michael and Laura, in Elverson, Pa. 19520.

Benjamin Franklin Bunn, Jr. was born January 1, 1913. He is married to Ann Toth and they reside at 124 Lakedale Drive, Lawrenceville, N.J. 08648.

Benjamin Franklin Bunn, Sr., known by many as Mr. Princeton, with his wife the former Grace Troub, is buried in the Faggs Manor Presbyterian Cemetery, Cochranville, Penna.

THE FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

If one might judge from the results of the study recently made of the Salisbury Township Oberholser one could conclude that our immigrant forbears were mostly farmers. All of IV Christian's sons were farmers and all of his daughters married farmers. Of the next generation twelve were farmers; five either entered a profession or married a professional; while one married a businessman. Each succeeding generation has been characterized by a diminishing percentage of farmers and a corresponding increase in the number of those entering the professions with a surprisingly meager

number gravitating to the business world. Today we find but one bona fide farmer among the several hundred of IV Christian's living descendants.

Kenneth Skiles is the great, great grandson of IV Christian Oberholser. His father, Samuel Skiles, is the son of Elizabeth Reeser Skiles, who in turn is the daughter of Caroline Oberholser Reeser, the youngest of IV Christian's children. In partnership with his son, Jere since 1977, Kenneth operates a dairy farm with 150 head of dairy cattle on a farm of approximately 300 acres in Salisbury Township, Lancaster County, known as the Pequea Meadows Farms. This farm was purchased April 9, 1841 by John Reeser, the father-in-law of Caroline Oberholser Reeser and the great, great, great grandfather of Jere Skiles. Thus this farm has been in the same family for 140 years and six successive generations of the same family have tilled its acres.

A progressive farmer, Kenneth takes advantage of the most modern methods of dairying. An eight unit milking parlor contributes to the efficiency and sanitation of the milking process. Reproduction of his milking herd is entirely by artificial insemination and lately Jere and his father have become involved with embryonic transplants by which method a particularly valuable cow is enabled to produce multiple offspring yearly. Already several leading studs throughout the United States have bought resulting bulls. All the Skiles' cows are registered Holsteins.

Of equal interest is the farm home in which the Skiles family live. The original portion of the house was built in 1752. Additions have been made since at five different times with the result that it is now a commodious two and one-half story home. The front door is composed of a glass upper half while the lower half is of double construction.

arranged so that, in the event of an Indian attack, one portion could be raised to protect the glass from Indian arrows!

Kenneth has been awarded the Century Farm Certificate by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and in 1979 received the Garden Spot Young Farmers' Association Outstanding Farmer Award.

J. Carl Oberholtzer, of Leola, Penna. is spending the summer at the University of Pennsylvania in order to complete his doctorate in bio-chemistry there. In the fall he will resume his M.D. program at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Penna.

Beth M. Oberholtzer is attending the Parsons School of Design in New York City after graduating from the York Academy of Arts in 1979.

Carl and Beth are the children of John Jacob Oberholtzer who, in turn, is the great, great, great, grandson of III Samuel.

Rebecca Stamm of Hockessen, Del. and a great, great, great granddaughter of IV Christian Oberholser, is a 1979 graduate of Swarthmore College with an A.B. degree. Presently she is enrolled in M.I.T. working for a degree in electrical engineering.

A brother, William Stamm was graduated from V.M.I. in Lexington, Kentucky, in May with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is presently employed by the Hardsway Construction Company in the Florida Keys.

(continued on page 6)

Julia Tharp, of Middletown, Del. and also a great, great, great granddaughter of IV Christian, has an unusual occupation with Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. With experimental fields in all parts of the United States this company, by cross-pollination of different "pedigrees" or varieties of field corn, seeks to produce the variety best suited to each particular area of the country. Mrs. Tharp's work is confined to Delaware and Maryland.

Another descendant of IV Christian Oberholser is Ellen Livingood, the daughter of Frank and Marian Livingood, New Holland, Pa. A 1972 graduate of Philadelphia College of Bible with a B.S. Degree, Miss Livingood spent the following year in France as a member of a mission organization.

In 1975 she received her M.A. degree from Wheaton Graduate School. From 1975 until 1979 she was Director of Christian Education for the Pequea Baptist Church, Cains, Pa. following which she assumed her present position as Managing Editor of all the publications of Philadelphia College of Bible, Langhorne, Pa.

Of more than particular interest is the fifteen member family of Sherman Emrich and Zella Oberholser, great granddaughter of IV Christian, eleven of whom are still living. An Emrich family reunion is an annual affair and is held each year over the Memorial Day weekend in Miltonvale, Kansas to decorate the graves of Sherman and Zella and two of their children, Clovis and Bernice, who are buried in the Miltonvale Cemetery. Nine of the eleven living members of the Emrich family were able to attend the reunion. Unable to be

present were John Emrich, Crossville, Tenn. and Frank Emrich, Gretna, La.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Information is requested for the married name and address of Lolita Oberholser, daughter of Raymond Lee Oberholser, Jr., and Granddaughter of Harlan Oberholser. Any information may be sent to the editor, Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, New Jersey 07728.

Virginia M. Walker, 196 Richardson Place, Wilmington, Ohio 45177 requests information relative to Jacob Overholser, b- 1790, Lancaster County, Penna., m- Elizabeth Longnecker (b-1797, d-1870, Carroll County, Ind.). They had one child, John Overholser, b-July 18, 1818 in Pennsylvania and married Hannah Cooper (b-1822, Ohio, d-Sept. 23, 1903, in Indiana.

Dorothea B. Strappe, 202 North Palm, Elmwood, Ill. 61527 requests information relative to the following family:

Christian Bauman(Bowman) b-August 13, 1724; d-July 25, 1790. m- Elizabeth Oberholtzer, b-August 27, 1724; d-February 2, 1791.

CHILDREN

1. Barbara O. married John Good
2. Jacob O. married Mary Fraser
3. Christian O. married Ann Huber
Anna Genman
4. Wendal O. married Marcia Huber
5. Elizabeth O. died young
6. Joseph O. married Mary Baer

OBITRARIES

HAROLD A. BARR

The death of one of our oldest and most respected members comes as a shock to us all. Those of us who knew Harold A. Barr recall his interest in and service to our Family Association. That he was equally loved and respected by his home community is verified by the following tribute in the Lancaster, Pa. New Era.

Harold A. Barr, a long time city school board member and former city councilman, died Monday morning, February 9, at Whitehall Nursing and Convalescent Center after an illness of several months. He was 86.

Barr, who lived at 654 N. President Ave., retired as manager at J. C. Budding Building Supplies in 1968. Barr's service on the city school board spanned the years from 1937 to 1958; he was president of the board from 1945 to 1948.

He was a Lancaster City councilman from 1964 to 1968 and was president of the Chamber of Commerce, 1949-50. In 1959, he served as a member of a commission appointed by the Lancaster County Commissioners to study the hospital, home and prison. Barr was also a member and a past president of the Lancaster Chapter, American Business Clubs.

A graduate of Millersville State Normal School with the class of 1912, he graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1916 and the Pennsylvania State University in 1917. He served as president of the Millersville Alumni Association in 1951.

He was also a former member of the Boys' club of Lancaster, a member of Covenant United Methodist Church, and a member of Lancaster

Lodge 43, Free and Accepted Masons. He served in the Chemical Warfare Service during World War I.

Born in Lancaster County, he was the son of the late Christian E. and Lulu Shober Barr.

Survivors, in addition to his wife, Mary E. Stauffer Barr, at home, include a son, H. William Barr, Canton, Ohio; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren and a brother, J. Shober Barr, Lancaster.

FRANK L. LAYTON

After a long illness, Frank L. Layton died January 13, 1981, in Bull Shoals, Arkansas. Born October 28, 1888 he was the husband of Bernice Oberholser Layton and the oldest living member of the Oberholser Family.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 14, 1981 in Rose Chapel, Bull Shoals with the Reverend Sam Williams of the Bull Shoals Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in the Marion Cemetery, Marion, Kansas, January 18, 1981.

DONALD O. IBACH

Donald O. Ibach, Reading, Penna., an Army Veteran of World War II, died Saturday, November 1, 1980 and was buried in Laureldate Cemetery November 5, 1980. His wife, Mary Johnson, died in March, 1966. Mr. Ibach was the son of the late Byron W. Ibach and Bessie Overholser Ibach.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCHERS

- III Christian
IV Samuel - Henry Oberholtzer, R.D. #1, Summitville, Ind. 46070
- III Martin
IV Daniel - Mildred Brown Pettigrew, 816 N. Evans St., Pottstown, Pa. 19464
- III Martin
IV Christian - Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. #2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728
- III Martin
IV John - J. Spencer Overholser, P.O. Box 106, Oley, Pa. 19547
- III Martin
IV Elizabeth - Pauline Stroeble Oswald, 29 Belmont Ave., Lancaster, Pa. 17601

OFFICERS

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- 1st Vice Pres. - John L. Oberholser, Narvon, Pa.
- 2nd Vice Pres. - Richard I. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.
- Corresponding Sec'y - Elizabeth Oberholser Frey, Freehold, N.J.
- Recording Sec'y - Paul Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.
- Treasurer - Marjorie Chubb Carroll, North Hills, Pa.
- Chaplain - Rev. John R. Weiler, Easton Pa.
- Honorary Vice Pres. - Harold Barr, Lancaster, Pa. *
- Honorary Vice Pres. - Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, Pa.
- Necrologist - Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. #2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J.
07728

* Deceased

Overholser Family Association
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Surrey 1890s
USA 18c

