



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

Dear OFA Members,

Let me, very quickly, wish all OFA members a "Happy New Year" before we accelerate into February. We have some officer news this year. Kristopher Overholt will move up and become President and Michael Shrader will become a Vice President.

After the 2017 Reunion, I had a chance to reflect on how far the Association has come in the last few years, and I now am beginning to understand the depth of our geneological materials. We are hearing from people all over the world and are rapidly increasing our information base. Using the phrase "alive and well" seems appropriate.

Please sketch into your brand new 2018 calendars the Reunion dates! Remember that the first Friday evening through Saturday afternoon of August is our time to meet. JOIN US!

Yours truly,

Michael Martin, OFA President

**We are now on FACEBOOK:
 Just type in Facebook: Overholser Family Association**

**Overholser Family
Association Bulletin**

Vol. XXXIX No 1 Winter 2018

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Welcome New OFA Members!!!

Jill May, Michigan

Kay Oberholtzer Miller, Jill's mother

Emory William Smith, Wauchuyla, FL

Doris Dibert, Snake Spring Valley, Everett PA

Sue Carver, Plymouth MN

Trevor R Shelley, who has done 10 years of extensive research on the MT272 Line, which will be available next year in the MC Line online.

New Way to CONTRIBUTE!

You can support the OFA by visiting our website as overholser.net and clicking the Donate button. We have PayPal for your convenience. Please e-mail gmartin@overholser.net if you have any questions.

While we may have a good amount in our financial reserves, the OFA is planning to do several Book & CD (or flash drive) combos for some of our most interested libraries. This is an expensive task, but also one that is most important for library usage. Not everyone is computer friendly, especially the Amish and Old Order Mennonite family members. So please consider contributing during the upcoming year.

Asking Forgiveness

As Editor of this OFA Bulletin, and the OFA Lines now compiled and on-line at our OFA Website, it is my responsibility to correct any spelling errors. The only problem - I have a small touch of dyslexia, and as I grow older it is getting worse. Re-reading what I write corrects many twists of the typeset, but I do not catch all. Please forgive those mis-q's.

OUR BARBARIAN ROOTS

Personal Characteristics

The Historic Note-book was the name of one of my grandfather's books handed down to me. In it there are a few comments on the ancient Germanic tribes. One of these goes back to the times before the Christian Era. Evidently, the "Ancient Germans considered long hair a mark of high birth." This line of thought reminds me of the ancient Hebrew Nazarite vow taken by Samson, and a thousand years later by Jesus Christ. Uncut hair on a male was an ancient sign of spiritual strength. I wonder sometimes how many of our ancestors lived by this code of honor.

According to Julius Caesar, the Suevi people were the largest and most warlike of the Germanic tribes. Suevi is the name from which the Germans who used the High-German dialect called themselves. It was not until these Suevi crossed the Rhine River that they began being called Alemanni by the French Gauls.

The name Alemanni, meaning "the union of all men", reflects a later form of tribal formation. This term was not used until the addition of various tribal refugees with the Suevi in south-western Germany and Alsace-Lorraine of present France. The Alemanni were of Suevi origin, and occupied the region from Mainz to the Danube in the early Third Century A.D..**

It is worth mentioning the following quote, although I do not agree that the Alemanni were completely "heathen" by the time they settled Switzerland. "At the time they settled in Switzerland the Alamanni were heathens, and worshiped nature deities - in groves, near springs, or mountains - the names of some of which we still trace in the names of the days of the week. Their religion, which was common to all Germany, reveals the German mind - full of reverie, deep thoughtfulness, and wild romantic fancy that leads to a tragic issue." *

* *The Roman Empire and Its Germanic Peoples* by Herwig Wolfram, Translated by Thomas Dunlap

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** *The Century Dictionary*

References:

- *The Historic Note-book* by E. Cobham Brewer LL.D., J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia

- *The Roman Empire and Its Germanic Peoples* by Herwig Wolfram, Translated by Thomas Dunlap

Copyright 1997 The Regents of University of California, University of California Press, London ENG

- *Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War Books I-VII*, Interlinear Latin-English translation
1918, Translation Publishing Company, inc.

OFA Website has gone over 88,000 hits in just four years!

Hope to hear from some of you all.

An Amish Overholt Family

In the OFA files we have had the John Shutt Overholt family for quite some time. In 2017, Will Overholtzer of California began sending the archives of John L Overholt who resided at Kilmarnock VA before leaving this earth for a better home. John's wife had copies made of the his life's genealogical work, and sent them to Will after John's passing. In them, there was an autobiography booklet by William J Overholt.

John Shutt Overholt was not Amish in his younger years. His second wife was Amish while in France, and remained so when they came to America. Author William J Overholt contends that the French Amish Church is more liberal than the American Amish. The interesting aspect that I find in this family, is how they moved around so much. This is not a usual characteristic which most "English" speaking folk think of the Amish.

MT395 John Shutt Overholt 4/13/1820 Doylestown PA - 4/16/1890, Allen Co IN 1880; then Davies Co
1st m 8/31/1843 **Anna Z Drissel** *1/21/1827 - 5/4/1871
Moved to Darke Co IN after Anna's death.
Daughter Barbara died age 28 yr and single, buried with John at Oak Grove Cem, Smithville OH
2nd m 1873 **Veronica Stuckey** 9/12/1842 Balgau, Strasbourg, France - 7/23/1921 78 -10 -11
d/o Joseph Stuckey & Elizabeth Specht b Alsace FR - age 53 Alsace FR
Joseph was from the French Amish Church, came to Smithville OH in early 1870's
Joseph had 4 daughters: Veronica, Katie m Crist Kropf, 2 more

REF: *From Conestoga Wagon to Modern Times, W J Overholt, Edgewood Press*

MT3951 Sarah Overholt* 10/16/1846 - 5/30/1920 m **John Swartz** 6/11/1846 -11/3/1909 Deep Run East

MT3952 Susanna* Overholt c1849 - dp 1860

MT3953 Elizabeth Drissel Overholt* 7/1/1851 - 1927 Ooyles PA
m **Isaac M Landis** 11/13/1844 - 1920

MT39531 Sallie Overholt Landis 1876 - 1931 L Lex PA m _____ **Ruth**
MT39531.1 **Isaac L Ruth** m **Maggie Fulmer**
MT39531.11 **Clarence F Ruth** - Tues 2/7/2006 Quakertown Center PA 84 yrs m **Ruth K Godshall**
Clarence was born on the Ruth Farm Homestead, Swartley Road, Hilltown Twp
MT39531.111 **Jennie Ruth** m _____ **Sperling** longtime OFA Member
MT39531.112 **Abram Ruth**
MT39531.113 **Jacob Ruth**

REF: Clarence F Ruth obit, Anders-Detweiler Funeral Home, Souderton PA

MT3954 Hannah Overholt* 6/11/1854 - m 3/12/1874 **Jacob Grabill**

MT39541 Lena Grabill m **George Yoder**
MT39541.1 **Alta Yoder** m **John Sommers**

MT3955 John D Overholt* 1/8/1857 - 11/23/1899 m 12/7/1890 **Annie Grabill**

MT3956 Abraham D Overholt* 8/30/1861 - m **Barbara Otto** 4/12/1872 -

MT3957 Anna Overholt* 4/7/1868 - m 12/4/1880 **George H Plank**

MT3958 Joseph Stuckey Overholt 10/27/1876 - 11/24/1937
m 2/24/1898 **Hannah C Wagler** 1/7/1879 - 7/20/1965

d/o Mary ____ 2nd m Ben Miller

Ben Miller's son Francis m Lena Wagler who died 1976, res VA

Hannah had 2 brothers: Peter Wagler, single; Joel Wagler both res Kingsdown KS

Joseph & Hannah moved 1923 to Clarence NY, 1926 back to Hartville OH

REF: *From Conestoga Wagon to Modern Times, W J Overholt, Edgewood Press*

MT39581 Fannie Overholt m **Jonathan King**

MT39582 Mary Overholt m Summer 1921 **John King** moved to VA

MT39582.1 **Bishop Leon King**

MT39583 William J Overholt 10/28/1901 - m 1926 **Millie Jones** 6/10/1899 -

Wm born IN, moved St Louis, Kansas City, Bucklin KS, Plainview TX 1909, 1912 to Centralia MO, 1918 Amish left Centralia; 1915 moved to Hartville OH, 1919 to Norfolk VA, 1921 as single man to Hartville OH, 1934 to NC, Fall 1934 to Norfolk VA 1955 address: R2 B 253 Norfolk VA

W J had grandparents Jake Yoder of IN with sons Peter & Bud

REF: *From Conestoga Wagon to Modern Times, W J Overholt, Edgewood Press*

MT39583.1 **Thomas Overholt** 10/17/1927 OH - 9/13/1966 plane crash

MT39583.2 **Anna Mae Overholt** 5/30/1929 OH - activities director, 1968 res Sunnyside

MT39583.3 **Henry Overholt** 5/27/1933 Moyock NC - m 6/16/1955 **Verda Yoder** 3/14/1935 -

MT39583.4 **Leora Overholt** twin 1/6/1934 Norfolk VA -

MT39583.5 **Leona Overholt** twin 1/6/1934 Norfolk VA - LNP nurse, res Waynesboro GA

m 12/27/1969 **Nelson Kurtz** 10/4/1947 -

MT39583.6 **William Overholt Jr** 11/20/1934 NC - 6/21/1966 fall at work

MT39583.7 **Joseph Overholt** 1/16/1937 Norfolk VA - m 9/26/1964 **Sadie Stoltzfus**

MT39584 Martin Overholt - Nov 22, 1925 car accident

MT39585 Magdalena Overholt - July 3, 1966 62 yr 7 mo 3 da m **Harold Zehr**

s/o Mike Zehr, a farmer of Lowville NY

MT39585.1 **Oletta Zehr**

MT39585.2 **Duane Zehr**

MT39585.3 **Abram Zehr**

MT39585.4 **Kenneth Zehr**

MT39586 Delilah Overholt m **Martin Sommers** res Sarasota FL

MT39587 Henry Overholt m **Amanda Stutzman**

MT39587.1 **Esther Overholt**

MT39587.2 **Ruth Overholt** res OH

MT39587.3 **Naomi Overholt**

MT39587.4 **Mary Overholt**

MT39588 Amanda Overholt m **Roman H Miller** age 21 in 1925; ,moved to SC
MT39588.1 [Titus Miller](#)
MT39588.2 [Harold Miller](#)
MT39588.3 [Paul Miller](#)

MT39589 Catherine Overholt m **Enos Wagler**

MT39580 Nancy Overholt m **David Detweiler**

MT3958a Joseph Overholt twin 4/23/1918 -

MT3958b John J Overholt twin 4/23/1918 - 1/17/2000 m **Vera Somers** res FL
bur Kempsville Menn Ch Cem, Virginia Beach VA picture in files

REF: John J Overholt, Sarasota FL; Funeral Service card

MT3958b.1 [Hannah Overholt](#)

MT3958b.2 [Sarah Overholt](#)

MT3958b.3 [Abigail Overholt](#)

MT3958b.4 [Matthias Overholt](#)

MT3958b.5 [Nathan Overholt](#)

From letter of John L Overholt to Barbara B Ford, undated:

" I was asked by John J Overholt to give a talk on searches for Oberholzers in Europe at Sarasota Florida on December 28th. They had about 300 at their Reunion and most are of the branch are Beachy Amish Mennonites who use cars and are from Ohio, Kentucky, Florida, Indiana, etc."

MT3959 Simeon Overholt 2/13/1879 Allen Co IN - 12/24/1938 bur Kempsville VA
m 3/8/1900 "**Lena**" **Magdalena Stoll** 11/28/1880 Davis Co IN - 8/16/1953 Uniontown OH
d/o John Stoll & Elizabeth Swartze
Fair Oaks IN, moved to KS 1907, 1917 Greensburg OH

REF: OFA Files; Modified Register for Simeon A Overholt, 1/29/2004

MT39591 Jerome Overholt 12/20/1900 - m **Rebecca Lapp** res Hartville OH
MT39591.1 [Loveda Overholt](#) 1/8/1927 - m Noah Mullet
MT39591.2 [Andrew Overholt](#) 6/28/1928 - m Ruth Knepp
MT39591.3 [Ruth Overholt](#) 9/30/1930 - m John Detweiler
MT39591.4 [Magdalena Overholt](#) 2/26/1932 - m Earl G Denlinger
MT39591.5 [Lydia Ann Overholt](#) 1/10/1934 - m Lloyd F Smart
MT39591.6 [Francis Overholt](#) 5/5/1936 - m Elma Miller
MT39591.7 [Eva Virginia Overholt](#) 8/10/1937 - m Gordon K Miller
MT39591.8 [Edward Overholt](#) 8/22/1938 - m Leona Troyer
MT39591.9 [John Stephen Overholt](#) 8/12/1940 - m Carolyn Eash
MT39591.0 [William Overholt](#) 3/2/1947 - m LaVonne Knight
MT39591.a [Linda Overholt](#) 5/13/1948 - m James R Bailey
MT39591.b [James Overholt](#) 8/8/1950 -

MT39592 John H Overholt 1/30/1902 - m **Mattie D Byler**
MT39592.1 [Leonard Overholt](#) m **Amanda Sommers**
MT39592.2 [Paul Overholt](#) 6/9/1929 - 6/20/2000 bur Whispering Pines, Anderson Co SC
m 9/17/1950 [Esther Mast](#) 3/5/1930 - d/o Joseph A Mast & Ida E Christner

MT39592.3	Mark Overholt	m Dorothy Wagler
MT39592.4	Mary Overholt	m Roman Wagler
MT39592.5	Walter Overholt	m Mary Graber
MT39592.6	Sadie Overholt	m Calvin Troyer
MT39592.7	Merle Overholt	

MT39593 Fred B Overholt 12/9/1906 - 1/10/2001 Sarasota FL both bur Franklin Menn, Simpson Co KY
m Emma Frey

MT39593.1	Mervin Overholt	m Leona Yoder
MT39593.2	Leona May Overholt	m Alvin Kramer
MT39593.3	Robert Overholt	m Martha Hershberger
MT39593.4	Susanna Overholt	m Joseph Miller
MT39593.5	Mary Christina Overholt	m _____ Miller
MT39593.6	Irene Linda Overholt	m _____ Schlaback
MT39593.7	Rose Marie Overholt	m David Beachy
MT39593.8	Frederick Blaine Overholt	m Judy Eaton

d/o Donald E Eaton & Virgie York

MT39594 Frank S Overholt 1/12/1910 - 11/1998 bur SC m **Marian Miller**

MT39594.1	Rose Overholt	m Joseph Hershberger
MT39594.2	Martha Overholt	m Paul Bontrager
MT39594.3	Jerry Edward Overholt	m Martha Fisher
MT39594.4	Frank S Overholt Jr	m Ellen Miller
MT39594.5	Timothy Ray Overholt	
MT39594.6	Leroy Overholt	m Leona Troyer
MT39594.7	Miriam Overholt	
MT39594.8	Ann Louise Overholt	
MT39594.9	Helen Virginia Overholt	m Samuel Hochstetler
MT39594.0	Thomas Overholt	

MT39595 Benjamin Overholt 1/22/1912 - 3/16/2003 SC in Abbeville SC at Abner's death
m Sarah Miller

MT39595.1	Barbara Jean Overholt	m Elmer Hershberger
MT39595.2	Allen Overholt	m Lydia Schrock
MT39595.3	Raymond Overholt	m Verna Helmuth
MT39595.4	Edna Mae Overholt	m Earnest Yoder
MT39595.5	Marie Overholt	
MT39595.6	Leroy Overholt	
MT39595.7	Wayne Overholt	
MT39595.8	Fannie Nadine Overholt	
MT39595.9	Mary Lou Overholt	
MT39595.0	Carolyn Overholt	
MT39595.a	Hannah Rose Overholt	
MT39595.b	Joseph Lee Overholt	
MT39595.c	Marlin Dale Overholt	
MT39595.d	Larry Eldon Overholt	
MT39595.e	Dorcas Elaine Overholt	
MT39595.f	Nathan Overholt	

MT39596 Joseph M Overholt 9/7/1914 Fair Oaks IN - 11/17/1995
 bur Plainview Menn Cem, Simpson Co KY
 m 2/4/1937 Stark Co **Mary Ann Hershberger** 11/6/1918 Trail OH - 3/15/2003
 Plainview Cem, Logan Co
 d/o Jacob Hershberger & Sarah Yoder Joe & Mary res Hartville OH

MT39597 Abner F Overholt 3/3/1917 - 9/21/1998 bur Plainview Menn, Logan Co KY
 m **Fannie Hershberger** 8/14/1919 -
 d/o Joseph Hershberger & Sadie Wengerd
 moved to Russelville KY

MT39598 Leroy Overholt 7/16/1921 - m **Marie Knepp**

MT39599 Victor Overholt 9/23/1923 - m **Emma Raber**

MT39590 Fannie Blanche Overholt 11/28/1925 - m **Simeon Sommers**

MT3950 Henry Overholt 3/19/1884 - single

MT395a Catherine Overholt step-dau of John S Overholt m **Pre. Joe Wagler**

MT395b Caroline Overholt step-dau of John S Overholt m **Dan Wittmer**

AN EDITORIAL IN LOVE TO OUR AMISH COMMUNITY

While I struggled with the idea of addressing this issue, I feel it necessary to discuss this, not to change anybody's mind, but rather in hope that we may better understand each other.

I live and work among the Amish of Lancaster County PA. I have spent many a day learning the ways of the Plain Folk. I respect them enormously, and even try to live a simpler life because of it. What I wish to discuss, is the New Testament view of some of our differences.

The spirit-filled life.

Most of us read the Holy Bible in English or German. That is a good thing, for more and more are not reading the WORD at all, to their detriment. But to get to the original thought of the Scriptures, one needs to go into the original languages, which for the most part is Hebrew and Greek.

One of the draw-the-line issues with the Amish is inflated tires. So what does that have to do with the spirit? Well, in the Hebrew, the word רוּחַ (ruwach, roo'-akh) is the

word for wind, as well as breath, and spirit. So technically, when a person is in a motor vehicle or a bicycle, they are being carried by the wind in the tires. Metaphorically speaking, they are also being carried by the spirit.

It is a most interesting true analogy. Just food (or air) for thought.

Pictures in light of graven images.

While some of the Amish folk are not shy of the camera in recent months, the older population especially are very adamant about not having their picture taken. They feel this is a graven image of themselves, and they would be breaking one of the Ten Commandments should they have one. I do not deny this from an Old Testament viewpoint. This is something I do not take lightly, and have wrestled with for years - until I discovered something very valuable and no longer disputable.

For decades the scientific world has performed experiments on what is known today as the Shroud of Turin. Records indicate that the Shroud has a history that goes back to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and many believe it to be the very burial cloth of our LORD. Why is this important to what we are talking about?

There is no doubt anymore as to the legitimacy of the Shroud of Turin. It is beyond doubt that of our Lord's Crucifixion. While there are ney-sayers, all the objections have been proved false. We now have physical evidence of the first photographic image (by radiation) of the Creator of the Universe. Yes it is in a distorted fashion, but computer whises have re-constructed his body figure. We now know what Jesus Christ looked like.

In light of this, it implies that the Old Testament Covenant has been ful-filled by Our Lord! We no longer have to live under a law which condemns us to death. We are delivered from the Statue Law through the power of the Holy Spirit, if we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Savior. Therefore, while we still must live within the means of government laws, we are free from eternal condemnation. The Ten Commandments refer to a graven image as one which is worshiped. It is not the image that is a sin, it is the worship of that image which is a sin. Even the Shroud of Turin is not an object we are to worship. It is evidence of the acts taken against the Savior of the World. Evidence which points to a verification of the Scriptures. It is not to be idolized.

Do we need to fear a graven image of ourselves anymore? Not in light of New Testament truths.

You think about that, and feel free to comment. Praise the Lord!

The Weather Factors of Immigration

Pennypacker did research at the Public Records Office in London years ago and stated how *the first Germans to come to America were recruited by William Penn from Crefeld near Frankfurt-on-the-Main in Germany. The group of 33 Mennonites [and Quakers] were closely associated in business.* In fact, many were linen weavers who learned to weave flax after arriving in Penn's Woods. With these immigrants in the following years were *Rittenhouse*, Hans Jacob Groff of 1696 who later moved to Paradise then Groffdale; *Oberholtzer in 1702* (now known as Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia Twp, and the Kolb family in 1707.

Martin Matthew Oberholtzer and Martin Michael Oberholtzer arrived in Germantown in 1709 with the first Conestoga settlers, which spent the fall laying out the properties at future Willow Street. The group returned to Germantown to spend the winter and wait for their families coming on the next boat from England. While Matthew & Michael did not remain at Willow Street, the others joined the group in 1710 at Germantown and signed the warrant in October 1710.

While there has been some discrepancy as to the first group arrival in 1709 for Conestoga, there needs to be an understanding of process. The 1710 arrivals got off the boat on September 25th at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. They spent a day just getting to Germantown. It would have taken at least a week to get to the Conestoga settlement. They signed the Warrant on October 10th of that year. That only allows for a couple days to pick out and measure at least a dozen tracts of land covering several miles of territory. No surveyor of that time period would be capable of doing such a feat. Nor could a group of people walk the lands to decide which to spend their money. For these reasons, the documentation for an arrival in 1709 is quite logical. The decision to overrule the draw of straws, and keep the leader of the group, Pastor Hans Herr at Germantown over winter, and choose someone else to return to England only compounds the evidence. Hans Herr Junior was the one to sign the document in Europe, and come along on the ship in 1710. The properties were already chosen prior to their arrival.

While much has been said over the years about religious persecution being the chief cause of migration, there is a more urgent purpose for the move. There was a large migration of German Palatinates from Alsace to Rotterdam in 1709 as a refugee movement. This was the result of the War of Spanish Succession from 1702 throughout the decade. Queen Anne of England decided to import the refugees from Rotterdam to London, where they could prepare to come to America.

In Knittle's account of the times, *the refugees of 1709 had had two successive crop failures, the most severe winter in many years and many had been victimized by the [quarantine] by French Troops, burning of houses, and destruction of orchards and vineyards. Knittle said the major motivation for emigration was economic rather than religious.*

Taking these factors into account, one must make a balanced view of the times. There is no doubt the Anabaptist Religion was a major factor of persecution. But we must realize this was a long-term problem that was still without solution. The economic depression of the same group of people created an urgent need to move, out of clear necessity. Without these environmental factors, our chances of being born in America would have been greatly diminished. Thank God for controlling the weather!

A Taste of Things to Come New Swiss Line which came to America

- OS11215.2a912.5233 Kaspar Oberholzer 8/21/1821 -
The couple immigrated to America in 1857
m 4/1846 Regula Oberholzer 7/10/1825 Turbenthal - 4/6/1858
d/o Heinrich Oberholzer & Katharina Ehrensperger
- OS11215.2a912.52331. Johann Heinrich Oberholzer 6/2/1851 - 2/8/1884
m 3/17/1877 Maria Anna Christen 10/5/1858 Affoltern/East Bern - 10/26/1902
her 2nd m 1/8/1885 Johann Jakob Muller of Dietgen, Baselland
- OS11215.2a912.52331.1 Heinrich Emil Oberholzer 5/7/1877 - 12/10/1918
m 8/3/1918 Ida Hotz 6/8/1888 - 12/13/1918 wid/o Emil Weiss of Stallikon
- OS11215.2a912.52331.2 Maria Oberholzer 8/12/1880 - 5/9/1903
- OS11215.2a912.52332. Johannes O Oberholzer 6/2/1852 - 8/7/1857
- OS11215.2a912.52333. Hans Martin Oberholzer 7/12/1853 -
1st m 8/9/1875 Luisa Winkler 1/30/1854 Schwamendingen - 8/17/1878
2nd m 5/5/1879 Lina Halbheer 6/20/1852 - 6/19/1925
- OS11215.2a912.52333.1 Elise Oberholzer 10/28/1875 Rueti, Wald ZH -
- OS11215.2a912.52333.2 Johann Heinrich Oberholzer 5/23/1880 -
- OS11215.2a912.52333.3 Emma Oberholzer 2/5/1885 - 7/31/1885
- OS11215.2a912.52333.4 Emil Oberholzer 2/27/1888 - 7/7/1889

DATING AN ILLUSION

I have lately been transferring my wife's late husband's slides onto our computer, and labeling them with the dates on the paper card which surrounds the film. As I was labeling, several slides from a zoo were dated March 1977. Now Andy had written on each slide what the pictures were. We should always label our pictures. So many family photos get scrapped because the grandkids have no clue as to who the people are, even if they are their great grandparents. Please do not take it for granted that they will know. Anyway, one of the pictures was labeled 1975, even though the printed date was March 1977. Andy did not get the film developed for two years. So the people on the film are also two years older!

Overholser Family Association
111th Annual Reunion
August 5, 2017

The 111th reunion of the Overholser Family Association convened at St John's Center United Church of Christ on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

The day began with a social time and lunch and a group photograph.

Michael Martin, President, welcomed the group to the 111th reunion and thanked Gordon Gerhart III for taking minutes for the 2016 Reunion.

He noted that Jim and Kathy Overholser were currently on a trip to Switzerland. Before they left, Dennis Oberholtzer asked for their assistance doing some research and Michael asked Dennis to explain his request. Dennis came across a letter from John Overholt referencing a 1939 letter saying the Consul in Switzerland had been told that the Overholsters originated in the Lake Constance area on the border of Switzerland and Germany. It mentioned the existence of family literature going back to 900-1200 A.D. Dennis asked Kathy and Jim to find a contact who might help locate this literature.

Michael asked the group to sign a 100th birthday card for Ruth Overholser (Spencer's wife). Ruth always led the singing of the OFA Reunion song at reunions. Earline Oberholtzer read the lyrics to the song which was written in 1919 by Edwin L Watts. Ruth added verses to it in 1986 celebrating Spencer's 30th anniversary as President of the Association.

The deaths of four OFA Members since the last reunion were noted: Ruth Oberholtzer, who also ran the Culp Family Association; Earnest Weinhold, a past President of OFA; Chet Carroll, husband of Carol Carroll, current secretary of OFA; and Barbara O Munson, Michael Martin's aunt, who introduced him to the OFA.

Members present then introduced themselves.

Dennis reported that the OFA book on the first five generations in the United States will be reprinted. One hundred copies will be made. After that it will be printed on demand. An addendum will be added to the new printing. Will Overholtzer, who was a member of the original book committee, has been sending his archives to Dennis who has begun going through them. They contain a great deal of new material including information about the original Swiss family members and Overholsters in Canada. There is also a notebook from the Kretcher family about a family member who served as a doctor on the first Union submarine during the Civil War. Dennis has created an index guide to the contents of OFA Bulletins to be posted on the website and also on Facebook.

Geoffrey Martin, Treasurer, reported a balance in the checking account of \$50.00, savings account \$2736.20, book account \$12,606.53, and special (lunch) account \$2000.35. He urged members to reach out to more family members to join the Association. He also suggested trying to cut down on the mailing of physical copies of the Bulletin to save on printing and postage by getting members on the e-mail list to receive the Bulletin. Reminders about the Reunion can be sent that way as well. Kris Overholt is working on creating a Google forum where members can discuss and share with others information on their family line.

Dennis discussed our immigrant ancestor's journey and settling in Lancaster County PA. In 1710, the first and second (or possibly second and third, as records are unclear) Overholsters came to America and settled in Lancaster County. There is a debate about whether they came from Newcastle, Delaware, or from Germantown, Pennsylvania, via Penn's Landing. Dennis has concluded that they arrived via Germantown.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and Ella Rydzewski presented a program on her book *Starting Over in the Past* is her first work of fiction. She noted that Jesus used stories sometimes to make a point and she hoped her book did so as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Carroll, Secretary

Presentation by Ella Rydzewski

It is the story of a woman named Catherine who is a seminary professor in Washington DC. After the sudden death of her husband, she accepts a teaching position at a small Bible college and returns home to PA to be with her aging mother. Catherine becomes friends with a former colleague at her new job, and the relationship blooms into a romance. At the same time she finds that there is some mystery surrounding her husband's death.

The book is set in Juniata County PA, where Ella lived for four years. Many of the places mentioned in the book really exist, such as the Mennonite Museum, county seat, State College and the singing bridge. The experience of Catherine's husband's relocation to the United States from Japan is very much like that of a personal friend of Ella's. Profits from the sale of the book will be donated to a scholarship fund for young women in third world countries.

Obituaries

Noah M Oberholtzer Nov 15, 2017 86 yeas old of Ephrata PA - LNP

Ida Oberholtzer (Sensenig) Musser Dec 9, 1941 Ephrata Twp - Sept 21, 2017 Kleinfeltersville
d/o late Ezra B Sensenig & Anna Oberholtzer; her 1st m Cloyd K Martin died 3/1992
2nd m Leroy S Musser surviving, along with 10 children. She was a member of the OFA, and
came to some of our Reunions. - *Echoes*, Juniata Mennonite Historical Society

Jean Alma (Gifford) Oberholtzer died January 17, 2017 of Mount Gretna PA
wife of Wilbur Oberholtzer - LNP

The following sent in from Ross Gordon Gerhart III:

Betty lou O Furness July 8, 1938 - Aug 14, 2017 Telford PA w/o late Wm "Rocky" Rurness
who died Mar 17, 2001. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Danboro PA, d/o Wm Clark & Mary Loretta
(Oldroyd) Overholt. She was a medical receptionist in Plumsteadville PA.

Pearl Overholtzer Feb 24, 1925 Kulpsville - Oct 15, 2017 Lansdale PA d/o Harvey
Overholtzer and Ella Felty, lifelong member of Christ Covenant Church in Harleysville

Susan Lynn Oberholtzer Oct 15, 1963 Phoenixville PA - Nov 20, 2017 Royersford PA
d/o Robert Oberholtzer & Joyce (Harris) Oberholtzer of Royersford. member of Parker Ford
Church. Survived by brother Alan K and wife Renay A of Downingtown PA, sis-in-law sandra Oberholtzer
of E Stroudsburg, nephew Robert W & Samantha Oberholtzer of Coatesville

Earle M Oberholtzer Jr died Dec 25, 2017 - www.timesherald.com

Debbie Lynn (Wanyek) Oberholtzer Oct 10, 1955 Ashtabula OH - Dec 12, 2017 of Kent OH
Preceded by husband Jon Oberholtzer, parents Richard Edward & Jane Geraldine (Cottrell)
Wanyek. Freedom in Christ Fellowship Church

From Patrick McGarry:

Joseph B Overholser Sr 2/22/1947 Greenville OH - 8/17/2017 of Butler Township

Hettie Ann (Overholser) Halladay died July 11, 1906 40 yrs, 10 mo 11 da Darke Co OH
m 2/7/1889 S S Halladay - *Gospel Messenger*, 8/4/1906 pg 494 V45 #31

Margaret Boyd 12/5/1923 Pymont - 1/2/2018 Pendleton IN 94 yrs Old German Bap Brethren

Stanley J Flora 12/8/1962 Elkhart IN - 12/28/2017 Argos IN 55 yrs

Don S Dull 3/30/1933 Darke Co OH - 12/3/2017 Gettysburg OH Oakland Ch of Brethren

2018 REUNION

On **Friday night, August 3rd**, we will meet at Yoder's between New Holland and Blue Ball for a 6:00PM buffet dinner and visiting.

The **Reunion** will be held **August 4th** St. John's Center United Church of Christ, Phone # 717-445-5622, east of Terre Hill on Route 625 where it was held in 2009. On Saturday August 4th we will gather from 9:00 to 10:00AM at the church. Call Carol at 717-225-4808 if you need more information.

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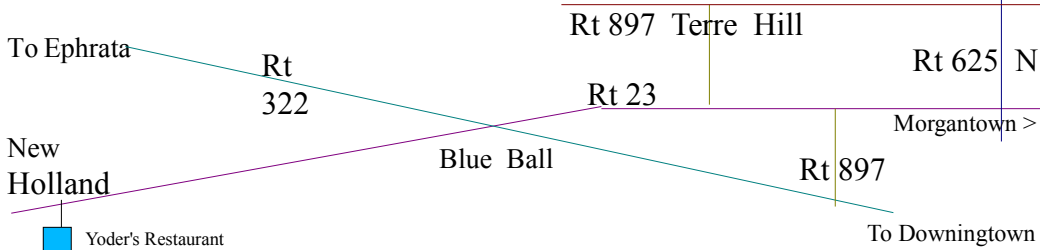
How to get to the OFA Reunion

From Lancaster: 15 mile NE via Rts. 222, 23 E, to 625 N on Reading Rd. @ 2 mi on Right

From Reading: 15 mile SW via Rts. 222, 897, go straight through Terre Hill. L on 625

From Gap on Rt. 30: 15 mile N via 897, R on 23, then L on 625. Go @ 2 mi on Right

From Exit 21 Reading, PA Turnpike: 5 mile S via 897, straight through Terre Hill. L on 625



Yoder's Restaurant & Buffet - 14 Tower Rd, New Holland PA 17557

St John's Center United Church - 432 Reading Rd, East Earl, PA 17519

OFA OFFICERS

Lines

SL	President Michael Martin	MMartin@ccmd.org
JL	1st Vice-President Kris Overholt WEBSITE: http://www.overholser.net	Cottonwood Shores, Texas koverholt@gmail.com
SL	2nd Vice-President Michael Shrader	nls77sav@ptd.net 717-733-1220
SL	Secretary Carol Carroll	31 Kelly Drive, Wheeling WV 26003 carolsquared@Frontier.com Overholser Family Association
	FACEBOOK SPONSER	
SL	Treasurer Geoffrey Martin	gmartin@overholser.net 511 58th St #3C Brooklyn NY 11220
SL, AO, & JF	OFA Bulletin Dennis L. Oberholtzer	49 Paradise Lane, Paradise, PA 17562 2008ofa.eeo@earthlink.net

OFA REUNION, Southeastern PA, **Friday Night August 3rd at Yoder's Restaurant** in New Holland,
112th Reunion 1st **Saturday in August the 4th, 2018 at St John's UCC** Details Page 15

IOWA O's Meetings 1st Sunday in August in Tingley IA Community Building, Reunion in **2018**
www.overholtzer.org

Check out the OFA Website: <http://www.overholser.net> or Contact Us at
info@overholser.net

If you need more information, contact one of the OFA Websites, or one of the OFA Officers.

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

PLAYING CATCH-UP WITH OLD MATERIALS

Former OFA President Will Overholtzer from California has graciously sent his genealogy records to the OFA. This is quite extensive, and we give a special THANK YOU to him and his wife for sharing such a huge amount of research. These records include the research of John L Overholt of Virginia. The two of them did extensive travels to Europe in search of Oberholzer family records. They also have compiled many notebooks full of information on many of the family lines here in North America.

While it will take quite some time to cross-check the several cases of information, Dennis is compiling the largest groups of undocumented people as a first need. This includes:

Over 2200 Overholzers in Europe, which is based on several groups of information. Much is now coded with Barbara Ford's coding system, but still needs more added before a finished product can be achieved.

The early O lines in Canada. There are extensive unfamiliar records of the Canadian O's in these files. I believe this info will correct many mistakes, and grow the lines associated with them.

Pictures of the immigrant homesteads will help to visualize our past.

These are just the most immediate surprises in this wonderful trove of documents.

*When I was young I had senses,
But no sense.
Since I became old I have sense,
But lost my senses!*