



## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

How does this association operate? Frequently I receive letters asking this question. I will use my column this time to tell those who don't attend our annual reunion about our association.

Elsewhere in this BULLETIN you will see a listing of the officers, all of whom are volunteers. No one receives any compensation for their contributions.

In addition to the reunion the officers at times travel to a meeting of the executive committee (this includes all officers) such as the meeting at our house in March. I called this meeting for the purpose of finding someone to replace your president and to find ways to instill new interest in the association. After 26 years as your president, I would like to see someone else take leadership of the association. No positive results came out regarding the presidency but several worthwhile suggestions were made regarding the operation of the association.

Perhaps the lifeline of this association is the BULLETIN. We are now in the fourth year of publication and I have received many letters regarding genealogy, all of which require and receive a response. I believe the new president should be dedicated to preserving and expanding our Overholser genealogy records and to providing the editor of our BULLETIN with information of interest to its readers.

The genealogical files of the association are here at my home in Oley and until the time of new leadership, questions about genealogy may be sent to me. The editor, Mr. Kehew, would like to receive material suitable for the BULLETIN. If you have a genealogical article about the family or any other interesting item regarding the clan, please send it to him.

J. Spencer Overholser

## COME TO THE REUNION!

Saturday, Aug. 28, 1982  
Fire Hall, Terre Hill, Pa.

Make plans now to attend the annual Reunion of the Overholser Family Association -- a good chance to mingle with your kinfolk, enjoy a delicious luncheon, exchange family history notes, and keep up on the affairs of the Association.

- 10:30 Registration  
Viewing of genealogical charts and other material (pictures, books)
- 12:00 Covered dish luncheon\*
- 1:20 Group photo - DAN PETTIGREW
- 1:30 Program - Pres. J. SPENCER OVERHOLSER, presiding  
Invocation - REV. JOHN WEILER  
Introduction of Officers  
1981 Minutes - PAUL PLETCHER, Secy.  
Treasurer's Report - MARJORIE CARROLL  
Necrologist's Report - ROBERT OBERHOLSER  
Introduction of all present  
Reminiscences, reports, etc.  
Reunion Song - RUTH OVERHOLSER  
Old Business  
New Business  
Nominating Committee Report - DR. DAYTHAL KENDALL, Chairman  
Election of Officers  
Benediction - REV. JOHN WEILER

See you there!

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



TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Aug. 22, 1981	\$135.64
Donations	268.50
Collected at 1981 Reunion	216.00
Received since Reunion	52.50
Interest	<u>15.65</u>
	419.79
Expenditures:	
Rental for Reunion Hall	25.00
Printing of Feb. 1982 BULLETIN	131.99
Postage-BULLETIN & Miscellaneous	81.63
Augury Press	<u>5.00</u>
	243.62
Balance, July 5, 1982	176.17

Marjorie C. Carroll  
Treasurer

THANK YOU!

The following members have made donations to the Association since the 1981 Reunion:

- BUELL & CHRISTINE OBERHOLSER
- C. BRINTON OBERHOLSER II
- HENRY & MAXINE OBERHOLSER
- REV. J. E. OBERHOLTZER
- RAYMOND & ADELAIDE OBERHOLTZER
- SPENCER OBERHOLSER
- SANDY SPENCER
- DOROTHEA E. STRAPPE
- SPENCER W. WENGER

HOW DO YOU SPELL IT?

Once you get into Overholser family history, it doesn't take long to discover there are other ways to spell the family name. Poor handwriting and spelling account for a lot of the variations - then there are the misspellings made by clerks and registrars that get into print and remain that way permanently.

In our membership, we encounter 8 different spellings. The most common by far is the one in the Association's name, OVERTHOLSER, which occurs twice as often as the next commonest, OBERHOLTZER. Following in order are OBERHOLSER, OVERHOLTZER, OVERHOLT, OVERHULTZ, OBERHOLZER, and OVERHULS.

We doubt that this exhausts the possibilities. In fact, there's another spelling elsewhere in this issue in the item about the book on Jacob Stutzman. One ABRAHAM OVERHOLTZ supposedly settled in Indiana several centuries ago. Know of any others?

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
BULLETIN  
Vol. IV No. 2 August 1982

Editor - Jim Kehew  
413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011  
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Oley, Pennsylvania 19547

WHERE TO WRITE

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

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P.O. Box 106  
Oley, PA 19547

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

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North Hills, PA 19038

CHANGES OF ADDRESS & NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Jim Kehew, Editor  
413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

A WARM WELCOME  
to these new members of the Association

MRS. DORIS WOLDT MURRILL  
2310 - 112th St., S.W.  
Everett, Wash. 98204

LUCILLE DILLMAN SMITH  
Rt. 2, Box 219-A1  
Wewoka, Okla. 74884

R. A. LONGBOTTOM  
1164 Catherine St.  
Suffield, Ohio 44261



SEARCHING FOR KIN

By Kate (Mrs. Robert H.) Stirk  
Winter Park, Fla.

In Aug. of 1980, I earnestly began family research, inspired by a friend. I intended to finish this project in a few months. As everyone who is bitten by the genealogy bug knows, one's work is never finished.

My family is from the Cape Fear area of North Carolina. They left many records which have been fairly easy to trace. When I started on my husband's family it was another story. Searching out his ancestors has taught me the value of the postal service and the public library.

The immediate family knew very little about the past and showed even less inclination to find out. There was one letter that had survived many a spring cleaning. It was from "Iva" Kurtz to Bob's grandmother in 1923. It told about an upcoming reunion of the Overholser family. This is where the library enters the picture. Our library has a book that lists Family Associations in America. Lo and behold, there was an Overholser Family Association. Enter the United States Postal Service. I wrote to Spencer Overholser, told him what little I knew and asked if by any chance were his Overholser the ones I was looking for??? Spencer replied promptly to begin a friendship via the mails.

He very kindly sent me all the information he had on the Stirks including a chart detailing the Overholtzer family from Samuel to the present. Ira, not "Iva", Kurtz was the man, not woman, who had written Hannah Stirk in 1923. In 1824 Hetzel Stirk married Anna Overholtzer, thus becoming Bob's great-great-grandparents.

It was like manna from heaven to get so much information about my husband's family, especially since I had encountered so many roadblocks in my search for Stirks.

We continued our correspondence through summer heat, winter snow and spring sinkholes. (We live within two miles of the in-

famous Winter Park sinkhole.) It didn't seem likely that we would meet face to face for many years. Fate intervened in the guise of an aunt who needed a baby-sitter for ten days in Delaware.

We began our trek north on May first. I did a bit of genealogical research in North Carolina, visiting family churches, plantations, and graves. It was a "mopping up" expedition.

Spencer and Ruth had extended a gracious invitation to come to their home for lunch while we were in the North. I, of course, had jumped to accept their invitation. We drove through Amish country to arrive at their 200-year-old stone farmhouse. Being city folks, we were awed by the picturesque farms in the rolling country. The brown and white cows lounging around the barns were a revelation to us. Barns were a sight we hadn't seen often.

After a stomach-stretching lunch and a tour of their house and "farm", Spencer and I compared a few notes on family. He told me that Hetzel's farm house was on top of a hill in Terre Hill. There I found Hetzel's grave behind St. Paul's Methodist Church. I met another Mrs. Stirk who shared her knowledge of the area so we drove by what was Hetzel's farmland. There are a lot of hills in Terre Hill so we're not sure we saw Hetzel's house.

We drove a back country road to Churchtown where Stirks married Shirks, then sped down the highway to West Chester and the Chester Historical Society. There I lucked into a 1966 Sharples Genealogy for sale. A Sharples married a Bradley and moved to North Carolina. We also visited Lancaster where I found a few gems on the Stirk-Shirk clan.

We enjoyed our visit north. Meeting a pen pal can be nervewracking but Spencer and Ruth made it very easy.

(Ed. Note: Kate's husband Robert is an 8th generation descendant of immigrant Samuel (1727) and a great-great-grandson of IV Anna Overholser who married Hetzel Stirk.)

YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLDER WHEN . . .

- . . . you read that Shirley Temple Black became a grandmother.
- . . . you sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- . . . you feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere.

Children are natural mimics -- they act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.

People who think they know everything are particularly aggravating to those of us who do.

We are sorry to hear that MRS. WINFRED OVERHOLSER has had to give up her apartment in Sacramento, Cal., and is now a resident of a nursing home there. Many of you will recall that she, with her daughter JANE and husband BOB ELLIOTT, were in attendance at the Overholser Reunion in 1980. The late DR. WINFRED OVERHOLSER was president of the Association for 17 years prior to your present president.

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On May 1, 1982 family and friends in great numbers gathered at Grace Evangelical Congregational Church in Akron, Pa. to honor ESTA BUCH HERR on her 90th birthday. Esta attended the first reunion of our organization in 1906 and is an honorary vice president of the Association. Congratulations, Esta!

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Do you know when our organization became the Overholser Family Association? By a motion at the annual reunion on August 14, 1958 the present designation was adopted. Before that time there was no official designation, merely the Overholser Reunion or the Overholser Family. That same year the coat of arms used on the front of this BULLETIN was adopted.

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We are happy to hear that the REV. J. E. OVERHOLSER of Bradford, Ohio is still active at the age of 97. He still performs marriages and in Jan. five generations of the family held a reunion in Bradford. (Is he the oldest member of the O.F.A.?)

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Your readers may be interested in my book on JACOB STUTZMAN (?-1775) and his kin (308 pages, maps, index, at \$15 from the author) which discusses ancestry of SUSANNAH STUTZMAN (born ca. 1795) who married JOHN OVERHOLTZER (1765-1842) and lived in Montgomery County, Ohio, and DAVID STUTZMAN (c. 1765-1852) who married MARY, daughter of ABRAHAM OVERHOLTZ and settled in then Elkhart County, Indiana.

John Stutesman  
305 Spruce St.  
San Francisco, Cal. 94118

Beginning with this issue, we are adopting a suggestion sent in by Kate Stirk of leaving a wider margin at the folded edge so that none of the printed matter will be lost when inserted in a binder.-----  
Editor

A glance at the Treasurer's report in this issue reveals that our Association is not embarrassed by an overly-large cash flow problem. In fact, it is quite apparent that we will be lucky if we have enough to print and mail this issue of the BULLETIN.

All our income is derived from one source: voluntary contributions from the members, either through the collection taken up at the annual Reunion or by donations mailed in. This year's total of \$268.50 came from approximately 50 family groups at the 1981 Reunion and only 9 individuals and family groups since the Reunion.

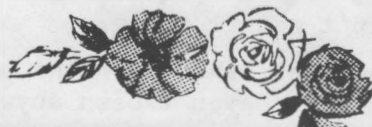
These donors represent 16% of the number of members on the rolls (a total of 364), to whom we send the BULLETIN. They are "carrying the load" for the other 84% who are getting a free ride, which doesn't seem quite fair any way you look at it.

Practically all of our income goes to fund the BULLETIN, which President Spencer calls "the lifeline of the Association." Without it there would be little direct contact and communication with the members. The cost for printing and mailing each semi-annual issue comes to around \$200.

Your officers are reluctant to require dues as a prerequisite to membership, feeling instead that we should welcome anyone interested in the work of the Association and depend upon their interest and support to meet the minimal expenses incurred. We feel that if the members are made aware of the situation, they will rise to the occasion and respond in such a way that will render compulsory dues entirely unnecessary. We hope this feeling is not misplaced.

#### INDEX AVAILABLE

I have compiled a 3-page index to the O.F.A. BULLETIN that makes it easy to find articles and names. It covers Vol I No 1 (Feb 1979) through Vol III No 1 (Feb 1981). I will be glad to send a copy to anyone who sends a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope and 25¢ in stamps or coin to cover copying.-----Jim Kehew, Editor, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011.



GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

I am researching the descendants of JACOB SNIDER (1732-1790). Jacob died in 1790 but his estate was not completely settled until 1805. He had 12 children but his will named only the 8 sons. We have discovered the 4 daughters and there is a strong probability that one married a JOHN OVERHOLSER either in Berkeley County, (West) Virginia or Bedford County, Pa. I would appreciate any data or clues you could provide and also if there exists an Overholser family history.

R. A. Longbottom  
1164 Catherine St.  
Suffield, OH 44261

I've been inquiring in different places concerning the Overholser family. Finally came across your bulletin and was wondering if you might be able to assist me.

My 3rd great-grandfather was JACOB MARTIN, born in Pennsylvania Aug. 16, 1797, died Dec. 18, 1871. He married SUSANNAH OVERHOLSER, born in Pennsylvania Jan. 20, 1798, died Feb. 17, 1880. Both are buried in the Oakland Cemetery, 3 miles north of Gettysburg, Ohio. This is all the information we have concerning my 3rd great-grandmother. It is said that she was born in Lancaster County, Pa., but we are not sure.

Would greatly appreciate any information you could help us with.

William J. Martin  
604 Dennis Ave.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

My great-great-grandfather was ABRAHAM OVERHOLSER (born c. 1787 in Bedford County, Pa. and died in Montgomery County, Ohio) who married CATHERINE MILLER (born 1793). After Abraham's death, Catherine married JACOB OVERHOLSER, thought to be an uncle of Abraham, whose father was JOHN OVERHOLSER. Jacob's father was Abraham so suppose my Abraham was named after his grandfather. Would like any information or history on this line.

Mrs. Charles Michelfelder  
Broadview Tower, Apt. 706  
110 West 6th Ave.  
Emporia, KS 66801

My ancestor, MICHAEL FRANTZ, SR. (born Sept. 1, 1687, St. Jacob, Switzerland) came to America Sept. 30, 1727, on the Ship Molly with his son MICHAEL JR. who was two years of age. It is believed he was a descendant of MATHEUS FRANTZ of Basel, born March 25, 1537, the son of HANS FRANTZ.

I was wondering if you might have some information on any of the FRANTZ line between or before HANS and MICHAEL FRANTZ, SR. Also the name of the wife of MICHAEL SR.

I am very interested in the FRANTZ line since my mother's maiden name was Frantz. Any help you might offer would be greatly appreciated. If I can help with any information I might have, please let me know.

Mrs. Karen Moore  
Box 764  
Monticello, Utah 84535

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BEATRICE BAYLEY'S BOOK

Back in Nov. 1979 Beatrice Bayley solicited orders for a book for \$19.85 which she entitled the Overholser Family Heritage Book. On page 3 of Vol. 2, No. 2 of our BULLETIN I wrote an article which was not very complimentary regarding her book. It contained no genealogical information regarding the Oberholtzers, Overholser, etc. so it is of very little use to genealogists. As noted in my comments the list of names is incomplete and lists some who were deceased for many years.

In May of this year I received another solicitation to purchase an Overholser

Heritage Book for \$29.85. The description of the book in her solicitation sounds very much like the previous one so I would recommend against the purchase of this book.

Your association purchased one of the 1979 books in order to see what it contained. I recommend that our association not purchase this latest book.

If anyone has any comments or questions you can direct your communications to me.

J. Spencer Overholser  
President, O.F.A.

OFFICERS

President	J. Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.
1st Vice President	John L. Oberholser, Narvon, Pa.
2nd Vice President	Richard I. Stevens, Lititz, Pa.
Corresponding Sec'y	Elizabeth Oberholser Frey, Freehold, N.J.
Recording Sec'y	Paul Pletcher, New Holland, Pa.
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Honorary Vice Pres.	Esta Buch Herr, Lititz, Pa.
Necrologist	Robert M. Oberholser, R.D. 2, Ardena, Freehold, N.J. 07728

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THE BULLETIN GETS AROUND!

The Association feels an obligation to make the BULLETIN accessible to genealogical researchers wherever they may be. That is why we send it as a courtesy to the following 9 libraries:

CHRISTOPHER DOCK MENNONITE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, Lansdale, Pa.  
DALLAS (Texas) PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MENNONITE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, Lancaster, Pa.  
MENNONITE HISTORICAL LIBRARY, Bluffton College, Ohio  
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY, Washington, D.C.  
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ORLANDO (Florida) PUBLIC LIBRARY  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN LIBRARY, Madison, Wis.  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF UTAH LIBRARY, Salt Lake City

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