



THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It is interesting to note how the error in listing the number of the annual Overholser reunions could go undetected for such a long time. Perhaps some of you have noticed that the reunion last year was listed in the BULLETIN as the 73rd and in the Feb. 1984 BULLETIN this year's will be the 75th. This occurred because of an error in the minutes of the 1951 reunion which recorded that reunion as the 41st even though the minutes of the 1950 reunion had correctly recorded that one as the 41st. Now 33 years later, this error comes to light and we will be observing the 75th annual reunion this year.

Just to clear the record, this is not the 75th anniversary of the 1st reunion since none were held for four years during WWII. The 75th anniversary of the 1st reunion in 1906 was in 1981. Come and help us make the 75th annual reunion a celebration!

Jim Kehew and I have developed a Family Group Chart which our Association members may use to report rather complete information on individuals in an Oberholtzer, Overholser, Overholt, etc. line to the Association Genealogist. (At present I hold that position; however, I hope someone else will soon become interested in keeping at least some of the genealogical records.)

Included in this issue is a sample of this chart which you may duplicate for your own use. I would request that you send at least one completed chart to me. These will be used to transfer information to a file of 4x6 cards which I am compiling and then filed in the Association records. In this way the information will be available to anyone in the future.

You may submit as many charts as you desire for your ancestors and descendants. You should list your ancestry on the back of the chart so that I will be able to

75th ANNUAL REUNION

Date: Saturday, August 25, 1984  
Place: Terre Hill Fire Hall,  
Terre Hill, Pa.

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, FOLKS!

Time to spend a pleasant day with friends and relatives at our annual get-together! Greet old friends and make new ones. Partake of a scrumptious noon-day meal to which everyone contributes (we really have some good cooks!). Look over the interesting material pertaining to our common family -- books, charts (including the 18-foot-long one of the III Martin line made by our President, Spencer Overholser), pamphlets, pictures, etc. (Bring any you'd like to share with the rest.) Update your family history records. Hear reports and stories. And the officers are

(Cont. on page 8)

identify the particular line of Oberholtzers, etc. It would be helpful to list each of your previous generations by name and birth and death dates. For example: mother - Elizabeth Oberholtzer Jones (1920- ), grandfather - Samuel Oberholtzer (1890-1950), etc.

I realize that some of you have submitted genealogical information to me in the past but this new form contains more information than any previous one. I'm certain that in the future genealogical researchers will appreciate the fact that such information has been compiled and preserved in the files of an organization which relates to a group of related surnames.

Just one general note: send all correspondence which does not relate to genealogical information to Editor Jim Kehew.

Hope to see many of you on August 25th.

J. SPENCER OVERHOLSER



Looking Back

THE 11th ANNUAL O.F.A. REUNION

The eleventh annual reunion of the Overholsters was held in Band Hall Park, Terre Hill, on Thursday, August 3rd, 1916.

The day was very pleasant. There were about 200 Overholsters and their friends in the assembly.

The reunion exercises consisted of:

Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"  
Prayer: Rev. William Overholser of Myers-town

Reunion song  
Address of Welcome: Mr. M. L. Overholser, President

Response: Rev. S. Howard Chubb  
Minutes and Treasurer's Report  
Vocal solo: Mr. J. S. Overholser  
Necrologist's Report: Mrs. C. E. Barr  
Poem: Mr. D.H. Watts of Clearfield County

Violin solo: Mr. John Overholser  
Two vocal solos: Mr. Shober Barr of Lancaster

Two vocal solos: Mr. Edward Overholser of Lionville  
Collection

After much discussion it was decided to keep the first Thursday of August as the date of future reunions and Terre Hill the place.

The same officers were re-elected. The reunion ended with another hymn and the benediction.

Anna M. Overholser, Sec.

JIM OVERHULS of Norwalk, Ohio has sent us an interesting clipping from the Scottdale (Pa.) Tribune-Review of Dec. 4, 1983 telling about the Overholtzer/Overholt family which emigrated from the Rhenish Palatinate in 1732 to Bucks County, Pa. In 1800, they moved over the Allegheny Mountains to Westmoreland County where they farmed and distilled what later became Old Farm and Old Overholt rye whiskey. The family prospered by employing the elements of American capitalism. The turn-of-the-century industrialist, Henry Clay Frick, was the son of an Overholt mother and started his career as a bookkeeper in the Overholt distillery, assuming a controlling interest some years, later, which was transferred to his colleague, Andrew Mellon, on

OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
BULLETIN

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Editor - JIM KEHEW  
413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

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Oley, Pennsylvania 19547

WHERE TO SEND

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

J. Spencer Overholser  
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BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

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

NEWSLETTER ITEMS, NEW MEMBERS, &  
CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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

FOR BACK ISSUES

J. Spencer Overholser  
PO Box 106  
Oley, PA 19547

Frick's death in 1919. The family home-  
stead and distillery are still standing  
along Route 819 between Scottdale and Mt.  
Pleasant in what the family named West  
Overton. They are open to the public and  
are the home of the Fayette-Westmoreland  
Historical Society.



1917 REUNION

THE 12th ANNUAL O.F.A. REUNION

The twelfth annual reunion of the Overholser family was held in Band Hall Park, Terre Hill, on Thursday, Aug. 2, 1917. Once more there was an attendance of about 200 relatives and friends.

Everyone sat or walked and talked with his friends until the call to dinner. After dinner the usual reunion exercises were held:

- Hymn: "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
- Prayer: Rev. Thomas Krick
- Reunion song
- Words of Welcome: Mr. Edwin Watts
- Address of Welcome: Pres. M.L. Overholser
- Vocal solo: Mr. Shober Barr
- Necrologist's Report: Mrs. Barr
- Eight members passed away during the year:
  - Mrs. Anna O. Galt
  - Mrs. Harriet O. Hurst

- Rev. B. H. Miller
- Mr. Jonathan Overholser
- Amanda Landis Overholser
- Mrs. Elizabeth Overholser
- Mr. Emerson Hull
- Mrs. Bertie Watts

Historian's Report: Rev. Krick  
 Vocal solo: Rev. John Overholser  
 Reading: "The Present Day Annals of the Overholasers", Mrs. Vincent  
 Collection  
 2 vocal solos: Rev. John Overholser

Minutes and two telegrams were read, from Dr. Winfred Overholser and Edwin Overholser. Several of the clan had enlisted. In their honor the assembly sang "America" and gave three cheers for the soldier boys.

After a short business session, the company adjourned. Each year these reunions become more delightful.

Anna M. Overholser, Sec.

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WE WELCOME

these 9 new members who have joined the Association since the last BULLETIN!  
We're glad to have you!

- |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| ANN GARRISON ANDERSON   | 7661 Provincial Dr., Suite 108, McLean, VA 22102          |
| NORA ASHBY              | 5466 N. M66, Rt. 1, Marion, MI 49665                      |
| BARBARA FORD            | 313 Henry Lane, Wallingford, PA 19086                     |
| JOHN H. FREY            | 128 I Chestnut Crossing Dr., Newark, DE 19713             |
| ROBERT M. FREY          | 2 Doe Run Ct., Arundel Apts, Apt 1C, Wilmington, DE 19808 |
| MRS. BARBARA A. KIENZLE | Rt. 1, Box 1805, Colusa, CA 95932                         |
| BETH M. OBERHOLTZER     | 165 Avenue A, Apt 6, New York, NY 10009                   |
| O. V. OVERHOLSER        | 8230 West St., Rte. 185, Covington, OH 45318              |
| DOROTHY E. WHITEHOUSE   | 18458 Woodland Terrace, Gurnee, IL 60031                  |

THANK YOU!

These members have made contributions to the support of the Association since the last Reunion:

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ANN G. ANDERSON        | McLean, Va.         |
| JANE O. ELLIOTT        | Sacramento, Cal.    |
| MRS. ARLENE FITZGERALD | Pottstown, Pa.      |
| FRED FRIEDLI           | Rochester, Mich.    |
| DR/MRS JOHN MANNING    | Champaign, Ill.     |
| DWIGHT OVERHOLSER      | N. Manchester, Ind. |
| NOLA OVERHOLSER        | Miami, Fla.         |
| M/M HARRY OVERHOLTZER  | Pottstown, Pa.      |
| M/M B. L. OVERHULTZ    | Bastrop, La.        |
| BILLIE JO READ         | Wheatland, Wyo.     |
| IRA/MARY SASSAMAN      | Hummelstown, Pa.    |
| VIVIAN V. SHEPARD      | Baltimore, Md.      |
| MRS. SAMUEL SKILES     | Gap, Pa.            |

HALF-SISTERS AND STEPBROTHERS

If this has always confused you, Dear Abby cleared it all up in a recent column.

Two children who have the same mother but different fathers -- or the same father but different mothers -- are half-sisters or half-brothers.

Children related to each other because their parents have married but who are not blood-related are stepsisters and step-brothers.

*Lady, mailing old family Bible at postoffice. The clerk, noting its weight, remarked, "Heavy package -- anything breakable?" "Only the Ten Commandments."*

USING COMPUTERS IN GENEALOGY

Your Editor begins this article with reservations but proceeds impelled by the feeling that computers are here to stay and are increasingly invading our lives so that there is a compulsion to know at least a little about them before they completely overwhelm us. This was the attitude with which I approached my recent 16-hour introduction to computers course at the local high school.

My reservations are two. My lack of knowledge of the machines (in spite of the above-mentioned course) which leads to an apprehension about making them understandable to others who may be equally ignorant. The second is that while many of you may be somewhat interested in the subject, I suspect that not too many are planning to rush out and invest the considerable funds to acquire computers. So this is not for the experts among you but for the interested onlookers.

To supplement my lack of expertise, I contacted three O.F.A. members who use personal computers in genealogical research and bombarded them with naive questions. I must say they came through with flying colors, sharing their knowledge in a most thorough way. Their replies were similar in three ways: they were filled with a feeling of enthusiasm about their computers, each one answered with a computer-written letter (one with an even right-hand margin), and each sent samples of his work.

They are ROBERT and KATE STIRK, 2840 Euston Rd., Winter Park, Fla. 32789, JOHN L. OVERHOLT, Rt 1, Box 2240, Kilmarnock, Va. 22482, and EUGENE SINGER, 2444 Calle Palo Fierro, Palm Springs, Cal. 92262. To them, my deepest thanks. I'm sure they would be willing to answer questions you might have. The following is a composite of their replies.

JIM KEHEW

What can computers do? Depending on the equipment you purchase, their capabilities are mind-boggling.

- \* Type something in rough form because making corrections and revisions is so easy and fast. You can even rearrange paragraphs with a few keystrokes. As you make changes, the lines may become uneven but by pressing a key, the text is rearranged to almost even margins.
- \* Type in 4 different styles of type (pica, elite, compressed and proportional) and each can be expanded to double width by the touch of a key. For example, you can use small letters for footnotes or references and place them at the bottom of a page or at the end of a paper.
- \* For a printed copy, turn on the printer, put in a stack of paper (or feed a single sheet), press a button, and out pops your copy. (John said if I wanted to send a copy of his letter to anyone, send him the addresses and he would copy from the storage disk faster than I could get to a copier!)
- \* Type an address list once and store it for printing labels for mailing at any future time. Changes to the list are made very easily.

- \* Type a random list of names and addresses. With a few keystrokes, the computer will arrange them numerically by zip code and alphabetically under each zip code.
- \* Type a letter. After all the changes have been made, hit a button and it will be printed at a high rate of speed.
- \* If you want to find all the Smiths in a list of names, type the word 'Smith' and the computer will search all the names at lightning speed and cull out and print all the Smiths.
- \* Gene has a file of over 750 individuals. He can identify any two and the computer will tell him at once how they are related, no matter how remotely. Even more remarkable, he can call up a person and display on the screen his family group sheet, then with forward or backward commands display family groups by successive generations of either ancestors or descendants!

What kind of equipment do you need? Bob and Kate are probably typical. They started with a computer, used their color TV for a screen, and a tape recorder to store data. Six months later they invested in a disk drive which stores material on disks magnetically and greatly expands

(Cont. on next page)

the type of software (programs) you can use. Six months later they bought a printer which forms and prints letters by a series of dots.

Next you need programs that will let you do things like word processing, sort and alphabetize cemetery censuses for example, print mailing labels, learn a computer language so you can write your own programs, make family group sheets, generational charts and descendant lists, type and print letters, and lots of other amazing things.

As you've no doubt read, the computer industry is about the most volatile and changing in the business world -- new developments and improvements weekly, prices tumbling as competition intensifies, companies going bankrupt, etc. Bob and Kate paid \$700 for their Atari computer in 1982; it's \$300 now. John's Kay-Pro II sold originally a year ago for \$1795 and is now down to \$1095. There are no standards in the young industry -- each manufacturer makes his machines with no compatibility whatsoever to any other. Software for one doesn't fit others. They can sometimes be converted but at additional expense. John cautions about not committing yourself to a great deal of information on one system and having to retype it later when you change over to something better or faster.

Gene advises getting a personal computer rather than a home computer which he says are mainly for playing computer games and don't have the memory or operating system to handle anything more than simple tasks such as checkbook balancing. Bob and Kate were told at a seminar that if you have only 100 or so names in your files, a computer won't help; 500 names, maybe; 1000 or more, then a computer is the ticket.

How do you learn to use it? Help from the dealer, following the owner's manual step-by-step, reading books and magazines, knowledgeable friends, or computer courses or seminars.

The bottom line What does all this cost? Bob and Kate say be prepared to spend \$1500 to \$4000. John's total for a computer, printer, word processing program, memory disks and miscellaneous small items came to \$2373, and included 10 "free" programs the manufacturer said were worth \$2231. Gene says, "Try 3 grand for openers." One family association started computer record keeping and had spent \$17,000 on it up to a year ago.

John recommends deciding on your purpose before going into computing and suggests help can be had from WRITE IT RIGHT, a manual for writing family histories and genealogies by Barnes & Lackey (order from D. R. Barnes Associates, Box 5755, Rockville, Md. 20855, \$6.00 + \$1.00 shipping).

At the conclusion of his letter, Bob Stirk said, "This is the longest time I've gotten to use the word processor since Kate found out how great it is for correspondence!"

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#### NEW OVERHOLT RESEARCHER

Your Editor has been corresponding with MILTON BLANDING, Box 65, Stanton, Mich. 48888 about the Overholts of whom there are several in the Association. After retiring, he became interested in genealogy and started researching his wife's Overholt line (she was Neva Overholt Hunsberger). There is an annual Overholt reunion in Michigan through which he traced the line back to Martin Overholt who was married to Elizabeth Nash, as listed in the OBERHOLTZER AND NASH FAMILY HISTORY by A. J. Fretz. He learned about our Association through the Fretz Family Assn. and since has corresponded with O.F.A. members John L. Overholt of Kilmarnock, Va. and Barbara Endsley of Hastings, Mich. as well as Nora Ashby of Marion, Mich., all Overholt researchers. Milton is interested in corresponding with anyone about the Overholt line.

He sent me a "preliminary condensed Overholt genealogy" which consisted of 58 pages followed by a 37-page alphabetical index of all names in the file! His master file consists of a separate 8½x11 sheet for each family unit, anyone married with children, thus enabling him to add any new info in its proper place at any time. The alphabetical index is comprised of a page or more for each letter which allows him to locate a name or family record instantly based on a numbering system which he got from a book of the Hunsberger Family Assn., one commonly used by genealogists.

He concludes, "Of course I shall never record ALL Overholts, but that's no reason not to do what I can. I hope that my efforts will generate more interest and hasten the publication of a true 'Oberholtzer' genealogy book (perhaps by the Association?)."

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*Arthritis: Twinges in the hinges.*



MORE ON THE CANADIAN MIGRATION

A newsy letter from GRACE MILLIGAN of Kansas City, Mo. refers to the question raised by EUGENE SINGER in the Feb. BULLETIN about the reason for certain of our Overholt ancestors fleeing to Canada after the Revolutionary War and says there is an account of this trek and reasons for it in A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY OF EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS IN WATERLOO TOWNSHIP by Ezra E. Eby (971.344 W388b 1978). Waterloo Twp. refers to Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. There is a copy in the Pa. State Library in Harrisburg.

Grace also had a comment in connection with the letter by MRS. JOHN S. MAINE of Millersville telling about her ancestor Samuel Overholser who came from the Shenandoah Valley. Mrs. Maine and others interested in such Overholsters would probably be interested in the excellent book, SAMUEL OVERHOLTZER OF VIRGINIA, compiled by Association member HELEN TURN, 2310 Rio Grande, San Angelo, Tex. 76901.

Grace is laboring over her family genealogy which she hopes to publish. Her ancestor was Christian Overholtzer of Caernarvon Twp., Lancaster County who married Christina Musselman, both of whom were Mennonites. She is trying to document Christian's arrival in this country from Germany about 1777 by examining ship passenger lists.

She is a regular attendant at the Overholtzer Reunion started in 1925 and held the second Sunday in August in Tingley, Iowa. They are all descendants of the Christian mentioned above who is buried in Adams County, Pa. which has graves of 40 Overholtzers in various cemeteries in the county.

GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

OVERHOLSER-CRIPE My 3rd great-grandmother was CATHERINE OVERHOLSER, b. 1793 Pa., d. 1836, St. Joe's County, Ind., dau. of JACOB OVERHOLSER and SUSAN ULRICH of Woodbury Twp., Bedford Co., Pa. Catherine was married 23 Aug 1812 in Montgomery Co., Ohio to DANIEL CRIPE, JR., b. 1785 in Huntingdon Co., Pa., d. 1865, son of DANIEL CRIPE, SR. and BARBARA REPLOGLE, dau. of RINEHART REPLOGLE (1724-1796), Revolutionary War veteran, lived in Woodbury Twp., Bedford Co., Pa. I'm interested in names and addresses of others in my line. MARY CARLOCK, 703 Bernadette Drive, Forest Hill, Md. 21050.

MORE LINEAGE CHARTS AVAILABLE

We are continuing to collect lineage charts and make them available to our members. Two more are now available:

(1) A chart of the 6 children of III MARIA OBERHOLTZER KILHEFFER, daughter of II Martin Oberholtzer and wife of Jacob Kilheffer. Jacob and Maria were Mennonites as were their children. Of their 5 daughters, three married Mennonite church officials (a deacon, a minister and a bishop). This information will be incorporated in the basic Lineage of Samuel Oberholtzer chart of the first four generations of the immigrant Samuel Oberholtzer family when it is next revised. This makes 33 4th-generation descendants of immigrant Samuel that we have data on, all of them grandchildren of II Martin Oberholtzer.

We are indebted to HAROLD M. KILHEFFER of RD 2, Lancaster, Pa. for this chart. Harold's father owned the farm in Manor Twp, Lancaster County near Millersville which bordered the land where immigrant Samuel first lived on his unpatented tract in 1737 and Harold lives close to the land Samuel purchased from Michael Baughman in 1746.

(2) A chart of 4 generations of the descendants of IV REV. JOHN OBERHOLTZER, son of III Rev. Christian Oberholtzer and grandson of II Martin. This is the first chart of any of Rev. Christian's 8 children and we thank Rev. John's great-great-great-granddaughter, DEBRA OBERHOLTZER CLAY of RD 3 Boyertown, Pa. for this welcome addition to our archives.

These one-page charts may be obtained without charge from BULLETIN Editor Jim Kehew, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Please enclose a long stamped envelope.

HOW TO JOIN

The Association welcomes into membership anyone interested in the Overholser lineage (with all its variant spellings). There are no dues. We depend for financial support on the voluntary contributions of the members, either at the annual meeting in August or by mail to the Treasurer at any time. New members' names should be sent to the Editor, Jim Kehew, 413 Appletree Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011 --- 717/761-3388.



OFFICERS

President J. Spencer Overholser, P.O. Box 106, Oley, PA 19547  
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 Genealogist J. Spencer Overholser, Oley, Pa.  
 Editor Jim Kehew, 413 Appletree Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011

REUNION (Cont.)

planning something special as this is the 75th time the group has met since the first reunion in 1906. Come and join us!

- 10:30 Registration  
Viewing of charts and materials  
Greeting old and new friends
- 12:00 Covered dish luncheon (Bring a hot or cold dish for the smorgasbord table, and your own drink and tableware.) Invocation by Chaplain, REV. JOHN WEILER.
- 1:20 Group photo - DAN PETTIGREW  
(Note: Please remain in place after the picture until we get everyone's name.)
- 1:30 Program, PRES. J. SPENCER OVERHOLSER, presiding  
Introduction of Officers  
1983 Minutes - PAUL PLETCHER, Secy.

Treasurer's Report - MARJORIE CARROLL  
Necrologist's Report - ROBERT M. OBERHOLSER

Introduction of members and guests  
Special 75th Anniversary observance  
Reunion Song - RUTH OVERHOLSER  
Old and New Business  
Nominating Committee Report - DR. DAYTHAL KENDALL, Chairman  
Election of Officers  
Adjournment  
Benediction - REV. JOHN WEILER

FAMILY GROUP CHART

On page 7 is a chart developed by the Association which you may have copied for your own use. Pres. Spencer Overholser requests that you complete one and send it to him for the record. Identify your ancestry on the back.

**Overholser Family Association**

413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

