# Overholser Family Association





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## The President's Column

#### "Genealogy in Iceland"

While returning recently from a trip to Europe, my wife and I stopped off for three days to visit the country of Iceland. We learned there is a complete computer database of the genealogy of all the inhabitants of Iceland where there are 435 family lines. When Icelanders meet they don't talk about the weather or sports but they talk about how they are related. This database consists of the medical records of each inhabitant. Some families are known to have certain medical problems with one family having a history of strokes, another a history of cancer etc. With the discovery of DNA, the Iceland Health Organization can now predict necessary treatment before a medical problem surfaces. Using genealogy, the World Health Organization can now apply this knowledge to family lines in other countries. Thanks to Iceland, this world is a better place. Incidently, I looked in various phone books, but to no avail, to find any Overholt listings. I guess we are not from a Viking heritage! Darwin Overholt

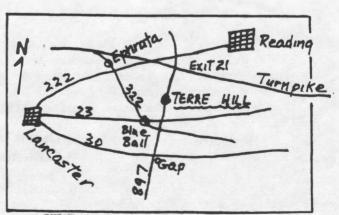
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## 93RD OVERHOLSER FAMILY REUNION

On Friday August 16th, the night before the Reunion, those from out-of-town will meet once again at Yoder's Restaurant for dinner at 6 o'clock. The restaurant is on the edge of New Holland, just a little west of Blue Ball on Route 23. Their number is 717-665-5869. We would love to have Association members who live in the area join us for a delicious Pennsylvania Dutch dinner. Please let Barbara Ford know if you will attend so that Yoder's will know how many to expect.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Reunion on Saturday August 17th at the Terre Hill Community Center, Terre Hill PA. We meet around 10:30 a.m. and get acquainted until noon when we have a covered dish lunch. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own beverage and tableware.

After the Reunion picture, there will be a brief business meeting. Parents of small children are reminded that there is a community playground just below the Center that their off-spring will enjoy.



See specific directions on page 10

#### OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN Vol. XXIV No. 2 August 2002

Editor - Barbara B Ford 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086

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If for any reason, you do not wish to receive the BULLETIN, please let us know

#### WHERE TO SEND

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

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Carolyn O Kendall, Treasurer 416 Roslyn Ave. Glenside PA 19038

(Note: The Bulletin is financed <u>solely</u> by voluntary contributions of the members)

#### BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES ALL CORRESPONDENCE, INCLUDING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Barbara B Ford 313 Henry Lane Wallingford PA 19086 610-566-4888 E-MAIL-bbfordofa@aol.com

#### PLACES TO STAY IN THE TERRE HILL AREA

#### Lodgings in New Holland near Terre Hill

Comfort Inn 717-355-9900, 800-296-4661 Country Squire Motor Inn 717-354-4166 The Hollander Motel 717-354-4377 **Terre Hill** The Artist's Inn & Gallery 717-445-0219 www.artistinn.com **Camping** Oak Creek Campground, Bowmansville PA 717-445-6161

#### PLACES TO VISIT IN THE LANCASTER CO. AREA

Hans Herr House, Willow Street 717-464-4438 Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata 717-733-660 Wax Museum of Lancaster Co. History 717-393-3679 Historic Mill Bridge Village 717-687-6521 Ed's Buggy Rides through Amish farmlands 717-687-0360 Oberholtzer Store in Goodville Landis Valley Museum 717-569-0401

Pennsylvania Dutch Convention & Visitors Bureau 501 Greenfield Rd, Lancaster 717-299-8901

Mennonite Information Center 2209 Millstream Rd, Lancaster 717-299-0954 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **A SPECIAL THANKS**

To Billie Overholser Stewart of Beavercreek, Ohio who has been kind enough to send me various records that she has found relating to the Overholsers. She is quite a digger.

> WELCOME NEW MEMBERS John A Overholtzer, Tingley IA Marty Weaver, Mountville PA

#### REUNIONS

The Kolb, Kulp-Culp Family Association held their 75th reunion June 16, 2002 at the Lower Skippack Mennonite Church, Skippack PA. It is most closely associated with the Mennonite Kolb brothers, sons of Dielman Kolb of Wolfsheim, Germany. They commemorated the 295th anniversary of the family's arrival in America.

The Fretz Family Association will hold their 114th reunion Saturday August 10, 2002 at Camp Men-O-Lan, Quakertown PA.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **A FULL HOUSE AT CHRISTMAS**

The obituary for Annie H Weaver, d/o Jacob H Oberholtzer & Maria Hostetter [SL2482] said that she was survived by 11 children, 88 grandchildren and 88 great grandchildren. She was 84 when she died May 31, 1947 Lancaster Co PA, a month after her husband John B Weaver. Can you picture her home at Christmas with a total of 187 members of her family wanting to wish her a Merry Christmas!

## THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK A Foundation book of Oberholtzer Immigrants and Unestablished Lines

#### BOOK ORDER FORM

From: Name

Address \_

To: Overholser Family Association c/o Barbara Ford, 313 Henry Lane, Wallingford PA	19086
Book Quantityx \$29.50	\$
PA Residents, add 6% Sales Tax (\$1.77 per book)	\$
Shipping & Handling \$3.50	\$
Total	\$

Please make checks out to Overholser Family Association

# **WHO IS INCOMPETENT?**

Several years ago, a man wrote asking for help in tracing his family and requested to be put on the mailing list. I explained that his family name was not a variation of the Oberholtzer name but I would put him on the list. This year he wrote to our president, our treasurer and to me asking to be removed from the mailing list because he found he was tracing the wrong family. Why write to the three of us? He evidently felt that two of us were incompetent but he didn't know which two!

## **THE CENSUS**

The 1930 census was made available to the public for the first time on April 1st. I recently was asked to check the 2000 census for a member of the Association who was trying to find a relative. I explained that due to circumstances beyond my control that I would not be here in the year 2072 to do that census. The census is only open to the public after 72 years.

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## FITTING PIECES OF THE PUZZLE TOGETHER

On October 1, 1898, the Oberholtzer's of Allen County, Indiana held their first reunion at the home of William and Matilda (Myers) Oberholtzer in Springfield Twp, Allen Co.(1) They were the descendents of [JC] Jacob Oberholtzer 1767-1847, a Mennonite minister who married first Catharina Bachman and had 7 children. He married the second time Elizabeth Mellinger with whom he had 14 children. [JC15] Jacob, who was born 1800 Northampton Co (now Lehigh Co) PA and died 1845 in Waterloo, DeKalb Co IN, was the fifth child by the first marriage. Reunion records show his children were Mary, Rebecca, Isaiah, Samuel and Daniel. Jacob is said to have married first "unknown" with his second marriage to Susannah Mellinger. I became interested in this family when I heard from George Boyle of Erlanger KY who was related to Isaiah. In the DeKalb County census, I had found Rebecca, Isaiah and Lydia living with different families in 1850 and Elizabeth Oberholttzer, age 33, was with Susanna 6 and Daniel 4 in Smithfield Twp, DeKalb. I was interested in finding that a Cornelius Widner had married 2/10/1852 Elizabeth Oberholtzer in DeKalb Co where today dedicated volunteers have transcribed many records that are a tremendous help to researchers. I decided to see what I could find on Cornelius Widner and in the 1850 census Union Twp, DeKalb Co, he is age 49 with no wife and five children. Who was the Elizabeth Oberholtzer that Cornelius married? I found another write-up about John Lutz who married 3/21/1868 Susanna Oberholtzer in DeKalb and she is said to be the daughter of Jacob Oberholtzer and Elizabeth Gingrich. This changes the order of Jacob Oberholtzer's wives. His first wife was Susannah Mellinger and his second wife Elizabeth Gingrich.

I then thought I should try to find Cornelius Widner in the 1860 DeKalb census (2) to see what the age of his wife Elizabeth was. I went through 10 townships with no luck and on the 11th, with my patience was running out, I found the family on the very last page and the name was spelled WEILNER! If Cornelius' name had been John, I never would have found them. Elizabeth's age is given as 44 and living next door is Samuel Gingrich age 37 who was no doubt her brother. I have done enough census work to know that it is very difficult to read the handwriting of some of the census takers. Cornelius' wife Elizabeth is the widow of Jacob Oberholtzer and the mother of Daniel Oberholtzer and possibly Susannah.

In checking for Cornelius Widner in the DeKalb Co Web Site I found UNION TOWNSHIP REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS, DeKalb Co IN (3) which started in 1865. I decided to see what I could find of interest and I went page after page until I found the name Jacob Oberholtzer in 1868 and this deed gave the names of his children. "John, Jacob, Samuel Lutz convey all the rights & interest of Lydia, Rebecca, Sarah, Samuel, Isaiah, Susannah and Daniel Oberholtzer, heirs of Jacob Oberholtzer dec'd". I would assume that they had to wait until Daniel (born 1846) was 21 before they could record the deed. One hundred and four years after the first reunion, we now have the complete list of Jacob's children, at least we hope so.

The reunion chart shows Mary Oberholtzer as the d/o Jacob but neither she nor her heirs were on the deed. Mary married in 1843 Henry Bricker whose family also came from Columbiana Co OH which is around the time Jacob Oberholtzer came from there. In the 1860 census DeKalb Co, Butler Twp, Henry and Mary Bricker have 10 of their children living with them plus Samuel Oberholtzer age 23 and Daniel Oberholtzer age 14. They are no doubt her brother and half brother. Mary named 5 of her children Lydia, Sarah, Rebecca, Isaiah and Samuel, the same as 5 of the children of [JC15]

Jacob Oberholtzer. I believe Mary is the d/o Jacob but my concern is that Mary was born in 1824 and the next child of Jacob's that I can find is Lydia born 1832. Were there other children born between those 8 years who died young? Or did Jacob have an earlier marriage that we didn't know about? REF: 1) Joyce Ringenberg, Pisgah Forest NC, great granddaughter of William & Matilda Oberholtzer

2) Permission given by Lynn Kaiser

3) DeKalb County Recorder, PO Box 810, Auburn IN 48706 where deeds can be obtained

## THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

JC15 Jacob Oberholtzer m1 Susanna Mellinger

JC151 Mary Oberholtzer 1824 OH-3/13/1864 IN m 10/19/1843 Allen Co IN Henry Bricker 1/4/1814 OH-6/14/1903 IN. Both bur Huntertown Cem, Allen Co

JC1511 Anny Bricker 1845-4/1/1854

JC1512 Sarah Bricker b 1848

JC1513 Lydia Bricker b 1850

JC1514 Rebecca Bricker 6/11/1851-5/18/1885 m Jacob S Simon 2/4/1851-4/1894

JC1515 Samuel Bricker 4/7/1853-11/29/1923 MI m 3/22/1877 Mary Beymer 1852-1909 MI

JC1516 Philena Bricker c1856-8/20/1866

JC1517 Rosetta Bricker b 1857 m 3/28/1878 Benjamin Simon

JC1518 David Bricker b 1858

JC1519 Isaiah Bricker 6/8/1861-4/15/1883 CO

JC1510 [-?-] Bricker b 3/2/1864

JC153 Samuel Oberholtzer d 1913 Lake Co IL - Civil War 142nd IN Inf.

JC1531 James W Oberholtzer 1871-1944 IN m 2/25/1892 Amanda F Merrill 1875-1934 IN

JC154 Isaiah Oberholtzer 10/22/1838 OH-4/11/1869 IN m Maria Leighty 10/9/1838-1/12/1912 IN He was in 13th IN Reg, not 13th OH

JC1541 Olive Oberholtzer 8/23/1863-9/5/1935 m Edward M Gelhausen 2/15/1856-7/16/1906 IN JC1544 Jonnie Oberholtzer 10/14/1868-1/10/1869

[JC15] Jacob Oberholtzer m2 Elizabeth Gingrich b c1817 (m2 Cornelius Widner)

JC155 Daniel Oberholtzer 10/1846-1927 m 8/24/1868 Barbara Bear b 9/1847

JC1551 Cora Oberholtzer m 2/25/1890 William Maxwell

JC1552 William Oberholtzer 3/1872-7/1/1941 m 10/1/1896 Harriet Campbell 5/1873-10/6/1938

JC156 Susanna Oberholtzer c1844-4/24/1880 IN m 3/24/1868 John Lutz 8/3/1826-12/15/1894 IN

[She should be placed between Isaiah and Daniel]

JC1561 Infant

JC1562 Jennie Lutz 2/28/1870-1945

JC1563 Addie Lutz 12/21/1871-1947

JC1564 Martha Lutz 8/26/1873-1940

JC1565 John Lutz 11/1875-9/9/1894

JC1566 Bessie Lutz 1879-10/17/1884

JC157 Lydia Oberholtzer b c1832 (she should be #2 child which would mean changing all numbers)

JC158 Sarah Oberholtzer (no trace of her although she was on the 1868 deed)

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# DR OBERHOLTZER'S LINIMENT CAMPHOR MILK

Is now highly recommended for Rheumatism, Frosted Feet, Aches, Pains, Sores, Stings, Swellings, Sprains. It is of the greatest value in curing Cuts, Galls, Sprains and Swellings in horses. It acts quickly and surely. It at once relieves the Stiff Joints, the Lame Muscles and the Aching Nerves. The money will be paid back to any one not satisfied with its effects. Price 25 Cts.

#### **PHOENIX PECTORAL**

Has proved itself to be peculairly adapted to old persons, consumptives and children. It breaks colds. It stops cough. It aids expectoration. It gives instant relief. It gives strength. It brings rest. It has made more cures than any other medicine. Thousands of the citizens of Eastern Pennsylvania have been using it for years past and testify to the relief given and cures effected. Price 25 Cts.

## **OBERHOLTZER'S GERMAN HORSE AND COW POWDER**

Keeps stock healthy and in good condition. It aids digestion and assimilation. It helps to develop all the powers of the animal. It improves its beauty and increases its usefulness. It makes milk, muscle and fat. By using it a horse will do more work and a cow give more milk and be in better condition with less feed. It also keeps poultry healthy and increases the quantity of eggs. It is sold by actual weight at 13 cents per pound.

These preparations made by Dr L Oberholtzer's Sons & Co, of Phoenixville PA. REF: Dr L Oberholtzer is Dr Levi Oberholtzer (JJ21) 1832-1922 Ads contributed by Marion Mizenko of Langhorne PA

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## **STUFFED BIRDS**

The 1904 inventory of John Oberholtzer (JJ24) had "A Case of Stuffed Birds \$10.00". Rene Lawrie of St Augustine FL, who worked as the Registrar in a late 19th century decorative arts museum for 23 years, said that Victorians loved having oddites under tall glass domes on round or oval wood bases which had stuffed birds or other items in them. She said that they had just been given a large one with 40 various hummingbirds. Whether used for study or as pure decoration, these items were/are definitely conversation pieces.

This same John Oberholtzer of Anselma, Chester Co PA installed a telephone about 1878 between his home and his store which were about 100 feet apart. In those days people talked of telephones but almost no person had actually seen one. It was believed they would only be a toy with no commercial value. John's wife Sarah Louisa was a poet and author and his son Ellis Paxson was an author and American Historian.

## **JACOB OVERHOLSER OF KINGSTON, UPPER CANADA [KC]**

Jacob Overholser, his wife Barbara and their four children migrated to Canada c1810 and settled in Bertie Twp, Welland Co, Ontario, Jacob bought land, made friends with his neighbors and enjoyed a moderate degree of prosperity. The War of 1812 shattered Jacob's life. There was heavy fighting with no strong lasting military presence by either army. Some seized on this instability to settle private grudges and Overholser was a likely target. He had problems with the Anger brothers who threatened to set fire to his buildings and once stole four horses from his barn. The brothers charged that Overholser had accompained the enemy when members of their family were taken prisoner. In April 1814 Overholser was among the men to be charged with treason. He was lumped together with avowed traitors and put on trial where 21 men were tried and 17 convicted. A petition for clemency signed by 95 residents of Bertie Township claimed that Overholser was "an honest peaceable sober and industrious inhabitant". Overholser was respited along with 8 other men and eight others were hanged. Overholser was sent to jail where he awaited confirmation of a royal pardon and transportation to Quebec and banishment but he died 3/14/1815 of typhus fever in the Kingston Military prison. At the time of his death, his farm was not fully paid for. A dispute ensued but his wife continued to reside there at least until January 1818. His 196 acres were vested in the crown and sold in 1821. There is no mention of what happened to his wife and children in this five page report after they were turned out of the house and escorted from the seized land. REF: Dictionary of Canadian Biography Vol. V, University of Toronto Press, pp 642-645

Courtesy of John A M Overholt, Surrey England

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## WHERE IS WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA?

I have had people say that they can't find Wallingford PA on a map. It is about 20 minutes from the State of Delaware, about 30 minutes from New Jersey and a half hour train ride into Philadelphia. Our shopping center consists of three stores-a Wawa, a cleaners and the Wallingford Post Office. We are in Nether Providence Township, Delaware County, which is run by a Board of Commissioners and in the last ten years, the township population has increased from 13,229 to 13,456. Now you understand why we don't appear on maps.

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#### **NECROLOGIST'S REPORT**

#### DEATHS

Helen Overholser Turn, age 78 of San Angelo TX, died 6/13/2001 at Bronte Health & Rehab Center. Her husband Wayne died 7/24/1998 age 78. Survived by children Sandra Katherine Jackson and Jerry Wayne Turn, 3 grandsons and 2 sisters, she compiled **Samuel Overholtzer of Virginia and Some of His Descendants**.

(Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co PA line)

Charles Robert (Bob) Elliott, Col (Ret) USAF, 10/6/1915 KS-2/21/2002 CA. Survived by his wife Jane Overholser, daughters Carol MacPherson & Barbara and granddaughter Heather MacPherson (John Overholser & Margaret Kurtz line) [SL273]

Barbara B Ford

## ABRAHAM B OVERHOLSER [AV514]

Abraham B Overholser 9/9/1829-6/26/1884 CA, s/o Daniel Overholser and Mary Magdalena Brubaker of Carroll Co IN, left Indiana in the spring of 1864 with his wife Hester Ann and four children for California and they arrived that fall locating in Sonoma County. He was in the milling (flour) business and then he went into the meat business in Petaluma until he died. In his funeral procession, there were 110 carriages. His son Clarence Whitmore married Inez Valcencia and she is said to have died while walking down the street with two of her children when her skirt was caught on a passing vehicle and she was dragged to her death in the early 1900's. Margaret J Overholser, a granddaughter of Abraham Overholser, married Charles O Canfield who was the son of a multi millionaire oil man.

REF: Letter from A B Overholser of Squaw Valley CA 1940 to Rev I E Oberholtzer

2001 Correspondence with Julie Pagni of Tigard OR

# THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF HENRY OBERHOLTZER [ML2117]

Ellen Laura Oberholtzer died 1900 of typhoid fever at age 20. She was the daughter of Jacob Fox Oberholtzer and Rebecca Weller of Lebanon County PA. Two hundred and forty-one meals were served for persons attending the funeral and ninety-seven horses were fed.

# A PICTURE OF ELLIE

In checking the Oberholtzer Message Board on the Internet, I found that someone had a picture of Ellie O LaBarre 1859-1890 that she wanted returned to someone in the family. The back of it said "Grandpa Harlan Oberholser's sister" and on the front were the words "Faithful unto death". I wrote to the woman who had the picture and said I knew who Ellie was. She was Ellen Oberholser who married Rev Francis B LaBarre and they had 11 children with 7 dying as infants who are buried with their parents in Pequea Baptist Cemetery, Lancaster Co PA. The picture was found by Kelly Shepard of Arkansas who goes to auctions and estate sales in the Ozarks and when she heard that I had contacted Buell Oberholser of San Luis Obispo CA who said he would be thrilled to have the picture, she said "I know Ellie is looking down on us all with gratitude that her nice picture is finally finding a perfect home. It makes me feel good". Buell is a grandson of Harlan Oberholser, son of Isaac Oberholser & Louisa Brubaker of Lancaster Co [SL2743].

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## **THE 2001 REUNION PICTURE**

In the February 2002 BULLETIN, the picture taken at the 2001 Reunion was a big disappointment to me. I had the printer do the BULLETIN twice because the picture was so dark the first time. The second attempt was a little better but it was not what I think it should have been.

## **OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

Our deep thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from January 2002 through June 2002. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sharon Benson Lakewood WA Claud/Eleanor Bray Wichita KS Dale/Barbara Crites Spring Hill FL Ann Duke Owensboro KY Franklin/Mary Alice Farnsworth Wheatland WY Douglas/Katharine Arterburn-Farrar Charles/Geneva Koons Citrus Heights CA **Eldon/Sue Field** Zionsville IN **Brian/Sally Frekot** Columbia MD Herbert/Elizabeth Frev Freehold NJ Janet Goodrich **Cashiers NC** 

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**Buell W Oberholser** San Luis Obispo CA James/Jennie Oberholtzer Fairport NY William/Theresa Overholser Hopewell OH David/BJ Overholt Santa Fe NM John/Mary Overholtzer **Tingley IA** Mildred O Poley Souderton PA **Billie Jo Read** Bonduel WI Ronald W Reynolds Metamora IL Robert/Helen Shonk Dover OH Ralph/Ruth Smith Delta OH

# THE RESULTS OF SOME DETECTIVE WORK

In among the papers that Virgie Walker of Wilmington OH sent me, was a chart of the family of Heber Overholser, s/o Cornelius [JA4264]. The information had been sent to her by Mrs Norma Houdeshell who was a daughter of Heber. I was curious to find out about what I assume was a divorce of Cornelius' first marriage so I decided to try to contact Norma who had lived in New Paris, Ohio when she sent her family data. I first checked the Social Security Death Index and I found that Norma's husband had died in Florida. I then checked the AOL White Pages and found a Norma Houdeshell living in Orlando FL and I wrote to her asking if she was Heber's daughter. She replied that she was and that back years ago divorce was never discussed so she knew nothing about her grandparent's divorce. She has sent me pictures of her great grandparents Martin Overholser and Elizabeth Wysong [JA426] which I in turn sent to Neil Keever in California and Betty Venables in Alaska who are also their great grandchildren. Neil showed the pictures to his 88 year old mother Sylvia who was really overcome with emotion to be able to see a picture of her grandmother for the first time. She was Cornelius' daughter by his second marriage which also ended in divorce and there had been no contact with the Overholser side after that. Neil was struck by the resemblance between his mother and her grandmother. Norma also sent a picture of the Overholser house in Dayton, Ohio. I am thankful that my detective work really paid off.

## **OFFICERS**

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Necrologist	Wallingford PA 19086	
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#### HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

Terre Hill is a town of 1,200 located in Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster Co, midway between Lancaster and Reading . The Terre Hill Community Center is on the main street, with plenty of parking in the rear.

From Lancaster: 15 mi NE via Rts 222, 23, 897 From Reading: 15 mi SW via Rts 222, 897 From Gap on Rt 30: 15 mi N via Rt 897 From Exit 21 (Reading), PA Turnpike: 5 mi S via Rt 897 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Contributions to the Association are not only appreciated but needed to help with the cost of the printing and mailing the BULLETIN. Have you sent your contribution fc 2002

Overholser Family Association 313 Henry Lane Wallingford, PA 19086



