

# Overholser Family Association



# Bulletin

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## 83RD OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Several years ago, I traveled for the first time to a small rural cemetery near Polo, Illinois where my 5th generation Great-Great grandparents are buried. I found a small well maintained church cemetery, but the Overholter markers were broken in half. This year I have made a personal commitment to repair or replace these markers. This made me realize there must be many other cemeteries with early "Overholser" burials which are also in need of TLC.

Thus, the birth of a new OFA Program I will call "Adopt A Needy Overholser Cemetery". The objective will be to identify such cemeteries wherever they may be, and thru voluntary efforts coordinated by our Association, take corrective actions as appropriate.

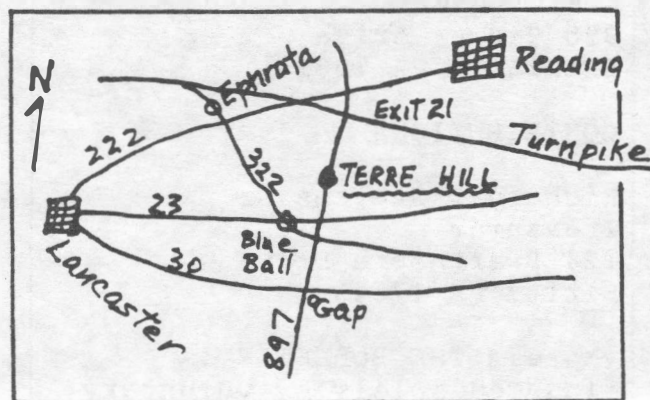
The next cemetery on the list for adoption is a very small rural burial ground known as the Eby-Oberholtzer Cemetery located about half a mile south of Campbelltown, Lebanon Co PA. About half of the 20 or so burials there are Oberholtzers from the 3rd and 4th generations of the 1727 Samuel line.

This cemetery has been totally abandoned for many years and is being reclaimed by the forest. I'm looking for volunteers to help me on this project immediately following our August meeting. It will take no more than 3 hours total-an hours drive each way from Terre Hill and less than an hour to trim brush and spray weeds. Please let me know if you can help with this project and where other Oberholtzer Cemeteries are located which are in need of "Adoption".

Last years Reunion attendance increased to 66. It was very gratifying to see first time attendees who came from as far away as California, Washington and

Canada. This year, I'm hoping we can do even better-but we need your help. Please make plans within your immediate family to attend. Then pick up your phone, or pen and invite your parents, your children, or your cousins to join us at the Reunion August 22nd. See ya there Registration is at 10:30 with a covered-dish lunch at noon. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own drink and tableware.

Will Overholtzer



See specific directions on page 10

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joseph E Breitenstein  
Topeka KS  
Margaret S Campbell  
Edmond OK  
Ann Margaret Duke  
Owensboro KY  
Alva Maughan  
Mesa AZ

Congratulations to Spencer and Ruth Overholser who celebrated their 50th anniversary 6/15/1992 with a reception and luncheon on the 20th. For our new members, Spencer was our longtime president and genealogist.

OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. XIV No. 2 August 1992

Editor - Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086

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holser Family Association,  
413 Appletree Rd, Camp Hill  
PA 17011

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

WHERE TO SEND

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

Rev John R Weiler  
Necrologist  
325 Carver Drive  
Bethlehem PA 18017

CONTRIBUTIONS

Richard I Stevens Sr  
Treasurer  
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Lititz PA 17543

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

ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

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NECROLOGIST REPORT

BIRTHS

Stephen Lawrence O'Ryan Cook 2/2/1990 & Madalyn Leigh O'Ryan  
Cook 2/7/1992  
(1730 Hans Jacob Oberholtzer of Hatfield line)

Nancy Isabelle Satola 10/9/1991 Atlanta GA, gr granddaughter  
of Donna Rominger Overholt  
(Marcus Oberholtzer line)

MARRIAGES

Gregory J Stevens 4/11/1992 to Barbara Oakley s/o Robert H &  
Margaret Predergast Stevens  
(IV Elizabeth Oberholtzer & Samuel Watts line)

Adrian L Overholser 5/16/1992 to Elizabeth Parke Ballantine  
in New York City, s/o Winfred & Annie Overholser & grandson  
of the late Dr Winfred Overholser, longtime president of the  
OFA  
(IV John & Margaret Kurtz Overholser line)

DEATHS

Donna Rominger Overholt 1909-1/2/1991 Tampa FL w/o Harold S.  
(Marcus Oberholtzer line)

Vivian Vincent Shepard 1/8/1909-10/15/1991 Sykesville PA,  
d/o Ralph W & Marguerite Krecer Vincent. Surviving are her  
daughters Elizabeth Knauff, Vivian Johnson & Marguerite.  
(IV Isaac & Mary Landis Overholser line)

Spencer W Wenger 10/1/1909-2/23/1992 Allentown PA, s/o Abra-  
ham & Minnie Hurst Wenger. A sister Mrs Kathryn W Steedle of  
Allentown survives.  
(IV John & Margaret Kurtz Overholser line)

Christian Brinton Oberholser II 10/5/1909-3/22/1992 Coates-  
ville PA, s/o Christian Brinton & Helen Seldowridge Oberhol-  
ser. Surviving are children Christian B Oberholser III,  
Donna Trego and Gayle Fornwalt.  
(IV Christian & Susannah Kurtz Oberholser line)

Bertha M Weiler 11/11/1892-5/6/1992 Allentown PA, d/o Peter W  
& Kate Good Oberholzer, mother of John R Weiler, OFA Necrolo-  
gist.  
(1732 Jacob Oberholtzer line)

John R Weiler

BETTY J OVERHOLTZER

Our president Will Overholtzer's wife Betty died  
2/10/1992 in Rancho Cordova CA at age 59. Betty had planned  
to attend her 1st reunion last year but her illness prevented  
it. Will said that her remarkable inner strength and posi-  
tive attitude were an inspiration to her family and friends.  
She is also survived by son Mark of Indiana, daughter Lynn  
Ulaner of Sacramento, 5 grandchildren and her mother.

I SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER, 1727 IMMIGRANT, LANCASTER CO PA  
IV SAMUEL OBERHOLTZER 1802-1875, S/O III SAMUEL

IN FRONT PAGE OF THE BOOK OF MARTYRS' MIRROR

In the year 1766 the 10th day of July Christine Resh (Roesch) is born in the sign of Leo (or Lion)  
In the year 1802 the 29th of December Samuel Oberholtzer is born Saturday in the sign of Capricornius (or Goat) at half past ten o'clock in the forenoon  
July the 17th 1805 in the sign of Aries (or Ram) is born Magdalena Hess  
February the 25th 1825 in the sign of Gemini (or Twins) is born at six o'clock in the morning Esther Oberholtzer  
Born at half past one o'clock in the afternoon on the 25th of June 1826 in the sign of Pisces (or Fishes) by name Jacob Oberholtzer  
Born at six o'clock in the morning on the 3rd of August 1828 in the sign of Taurus (or Bull) by name Magdalena Oberholtzer  
Katharine Oberholtzer is born the 26th of September in the year 1830 in the evening at 8 o'clock in the sign of Capricornius (or Goat)  
September the 22nd 1822 in the sign of Virgo (or Virgin) is born at 4 o'clock 50 minutes in the morning Elizabeth Oberholtzer  
Born November 14th 1834 in the sign of Taurus (or Bull) at one o'clock in the afternoon Anna Oberholtzer  
1837 on April the 28th in the sign of Aquarius (or Waterman) is born at ten o'clock in the morning Samuel Oberholtzer  
November 21st 1839 in the sign of Gemini (or Twins) is born at one o'clock in the afternoon Johannes (John) Oberholtzer  
Joseph Oberholtzer is born the 17th of August Anno Domini 1842 in the evening at half past ten o'clock his birth sign is Capricornius (or Goat)  
Heinrich (Henry) Oberholtzer is born the 29th of October 1845 in the evening at 10 o'clock his birth sign is Libra (or Scales)  
Susanna Oberholtzer is born on the 11th day of August 1849 in the morning at half past seven o'clock in the sign of Taurus (or Bull)

Contributed by Anna Mary Oberholtzer, Akron PA who received it from Amos B Hoover, Muddy Creek Historical Library, Denver PA

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QUERY

Joseph Breitenstein, 2012 SW 30th, Topeka KS 66611 is looking for the birthplace of his grandmother, Maria Rosa Oberholzer who was born in Switzerland 3/10/1847. Her obituary said she was born in Bern but a Swiss researcher has been unable to locate any records for her. Does anyone have any suggestions?

ISAAC OVERHOLT 1746 PA-1825 LINCOLN CO ONTARIO CANADA  
(PARENTS UNKNOWN)

Isaac Overholt is said to have been born in Bucks Co and the tax records show that this is probably true. The only Isaac in Bucks Co was first found in Plumstead Twn 1775 and from then on he was found in either Plumstead or Bedminster probably renting because there is no record of him in deeds. He was in Capt. McHenry's Company in Bedminster in the Revolutionary War, usually with an exercise fine which most Mennonites were given. He disappears from the tax list after 1787 and appears to be the Isaac Overholt in the 1790 census Frederick Co MD where two of his daughters are on record as having married. He probably left for Canada after his daughter Elizabeth married in 1799. Order of children unknown.

- I Isaac Overholt c1746 PA-1825 Louth, Lincoln Co, Ontario  
m \_\_\_\_\_ d c1810 Canada
- II Elizabeth Overholt  
m 11/27/1798 Frederick MD Abraham Renner 1768-1817 MD
- \*III Isaac Renner 3/24/1811-6/13/1880 MD  
m 1835 Sophia Wolf 5/15/1813-8/18/1899
- II Mary Overholt  
m 11/2/1799 Frederick MD David White-lv'd Canada
- II John Overholt 1779 PA-1813 Canada  
m Sarah Hand 1789-1852
- III Isaac Overholt 1805-1883 IA  
m Elizabeth Bentley 9/8/1810 OH-1899
- III Michael Overholt 8/4/1807  
m 3/4/1828 Mary Everett
- III Abraham Overholt 1809
- III Jacob Overholt 12/9/1811-7/6/1877  
m Rachael Claus 3/16/1818-8/1889
- II Anna Overholt 1781-1863 Ontario  
m 1801 Samuel Swartz 1778-1862 Ontario
- \*III Martha Swartz 4/10/1826 Ontario-1/28/1898 MI  
m Phineas Vasbinder 2/1/1817 NY-3/16/1901 MI
- II Barbara Overholt c1782-1822 Ontario  
m Christian Price c1764-1832 Ontario
- II Catherine Overholt 1784/5-1845 Ontario  
m 10/28/1804 George Ball 1765-1854 Ontario
- II Joseph Overholt 4/23/1791-8/28/1868 Ontario  
m Mary 1789-1862
- III Moses R Overholt 1810-1880  
m 10/27/1834 Susannah Honsberger
- III Jacob Overholt 1818-1897  
m Hannah Fretz d 1908
- III Abraham Overholt 1823-1894  
m Elizabeth A Nunnemaker 1824-1897
- III Philip Overholt  
m Ann Young 1844-1909
- III 6 daughters
- II Sarah Overholt  
m Rudolph Swartz

\*Only known child



JACOB OBERHOLTZER OF FRANCONIA TWN, MONTGOMERY CO PA  
ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS TO ELISHA S LOOMIS' BOOK

Loomis said that Jacob Oberholtzer probably came to America as early as 1705-9 and another source said he came 1702. M.S. Guiseppi's NATURALIZATIONS OF FOREIGN PROTESTANTS IN THE AMERICAN AND WEST INDIAN COLONIES has naturalization records from 1740-1772.(1) On the list of the Supreme Court of Phila. April 11,12,13, 1743 are Jacob Oberholser & Jacob Oberholser Jr of Phila. County, next to them were Henry Roseberger (Rosenberger, neighbor) and Christian Haldeman (father of Deborah). This shows that Jacob Oberholtzer Jr was foreign born and no doubt came with his 3 sisters and parents to America possibly in the 1717/19 period. Nicholas Haldeman (father of Christian) immigrated in the 1717/19 period.(2) The Germans, seeking the rights and privileges of English subjects, had taken up lands from the proprietors and had taken the oaths or affirmations enjoyed by law and had peaceably demeaned themselves since their coming into this government.(3) The only other Oberholtzers on the list were Jacob Overholster and his son Henry who became known as the Hatfield Oberholtzers. It is interesting to note that in the 31 page index, which included foreigners from Phila., Bucks, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, York & Northampton Counties, that only 4 Oberholtzers were recorded.

I Jacob Oberholtzer is said to have died c1756 but his Letters of Admistration are dated 2/11/1755 with Jacob Oberholtzer and Christian Moyer as administrators.(4) In the estate papers of his son Jacob (died 1759) the final distribution has "To Catherine Oberholtzer (the dec'ds mother-in-law) in full for the one third of the said dec'ds late father's personal estate".(5) Mother-in-law also means step-mother, therefore, after Deborah Krey Oberholtzer died, Jacob married Catherine. New information has been found that shows Deborah Krey, d/o John & his 2nd wife Sytge, was born 1711 and, therefore, she could not be the mother of Jacob Jr and the 3 daughters.(6) In the Updegraff book it says that Deborah Krey was born c1733, died 3/12/1807 and was married 1728 to Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia.(7) The 1733 date is a mistake and the 1807 date belongs to Deborah's sister Catherine. 1728 could be the right date for the marriage of Jacob and Deborah Krey. It is now clear that Jacob Oberholtzer married 3 times with the name of his first wife unknown.

I believe that there is a connection between the Oberholtzers and Moyer/Meyer family and that possibly Jacob's first wife might have been a Moyer/Meyer. Christian Moyer was an administrator for the estate of Jacob I and when Hans Meyer of Upper Salford Twn Montgomery Co died 1748, his wife Barbara renounced as administrator and asked that Jacob Oberholtzer be appointed, although her son Henry was of age.(8) I am assuming that this is Jacob Jr because his signature was found in the estate papers and Jacob Sr made his mark. The administration bond of 300 pounds for Hans' estate was posted

4/23/1748 by Jacob Oberholtzer, Hans Frets and Henry Meyer. In his final account Jacob Oberholtzer has "commission for receiving &373 and for paying &103 charged only &7". On 10/29/1760 a deed for the estate of Hans Meyer said that he sold 40 acres of land in Upper Salford Twn to Jacob Oberholtzer 9/13/1737. A description of the land says "by a corner of the said late Jacob Oberholtzer now John Oberholtzers land".(9) Jacob and Deborah Landis [after Jacob Oberholtzer died 1759, Deborah married Jacob Landis](10) granted this land to John 12/22/1762. Jacob Oberholtzer bought his land 11/13/1729, Christian Meyer bought his 11/14/1729, both from James Steel in Franconia, and Hans Meyer bought his 7/23/1729 in Upper Salford. Is this just a coincidence? Hans Meyer & Christian Meyer are believed to have come 1718 and were from Reihen near Weiler (Kraichgau) Germany.(11)

~ II Jacob Oberholtzer Jr, who died 1759, married Deborah Halteman d/o Christian & Catherine Krey Halteman (Catherine was sis/o Deborah Krey and was born 1715). Catherine could possibly have married at 15, but she could not have had a child before 1730.(12) Catherine died 3/12/1807 and her husband Christian Halteman died 11/1800. Their son Christian was born 1744.(13) Therefore, Deborah Haldeman couldn't be the mother of the children born in the 1730's which shows that Jacob II had 2 wives. Have you noticed that no one named a daughter Deborah?

Jacob's inventory amounted to &1061 with his 149 acres listed at &453 and "book depts bonds nots boels to demand" totaling &481. His wife was left a bed, chest, "couerd" and a cow which totaled about &11. The distribution of his estate included 10 shillings for his coffin and the rest, including 36 pounds to the Matthias Stauffer heirs, payment to Catherine Overholtzer and debts owed others, totaled &389. This left &672 to be distributed to his heirs which certainly was a large amount for that day.

#### REFERENCES

- 1-M.S. Guiseppi, Naturalizations of Foreign Protestants in the American & West Indian Colonies (Pursant to Statute 13 George II, c.7), (Baltimore MD 1979) p 22
- 2-K Varden Leasa, Readers' Ancestry, Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage 14 (April 1991) p 33
- 3-Penna. Archives, Colonial Records Vol IV 1735-45; p 332
- 4-Phila. Register of Wills File 157, 1755 (file missing) Adm. Book G/10
- 5-Ibid. File 209, 1759
- 6-Letter from Michel A M Platt, Montreal, Canada 7/1/1991
- 7-June (Shaul) Lutz, History of Opdengraef/Updegraff Family (1988) U398
- 8-Phila. Register of Wills File 81, 1748
- 9-Phila. Recorder of Deeds, Book I 13/285
- 10-Montgomery Co PA Recorder of Deeds, Book 2/13
- 11-Joel D Alderfer, Peace Be Unto This House: A History of the Salford Mennonite Congregation.(Harleysville PA 1988) p 9
- 12-My mathematics
- 13-Leasa, Ancestry, Penna. Menno. Hert. p 33

### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep appreciation to these members who have contributed to the OFA since the last BULLETIN. Thank you for your support!

Albert/Sharon Benson Gig Harbor WA	Norman/Mary Landis Souderton PA
Helen G Bogener St Charles MO	Alva Maughan Mesa AZ
Joseph E Breitenstein Topeka KS	C Dorothy McLean Feasterville PA
Carol C Boyer Denver CO	Paul/Barbara Munson Naperville IL
Margaret S Campbell Edmond OK	Stanley W Nash British Columbia Canada
Shelly Chapman Kahoka MO	Joel Overholser Fort Benton MT
Bruce Coffey Kansas City MO	Mildred O Poley Souderton PA
Dale/Barbara Crites Spring Hill FL	Alfred/Jo Anne Reiter Camp Hill PA
Ann Margaret Duke Owensboro KY	Helen Shonk Dover OH
Eldon/Sue Field Zionsville IN	Dorothea Strappe Elmwood IL
Janet R Goodrich Cashiers NC	Virgie Walker Wilmington OH

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### BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

Our good friend Bill Oberholtzer of Bethlehem PA continues to amaze us. He recently sent to the OFA the indexes of Marcus Oberholtzer of Chester Co PA, Abraham Overholtzer of Bucks Co and Jacob Oberholtzer of Franconia Twn Montgomery Co PA. In the past he has done Samuel Oberholtzer of Lancaster Co, Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock Twn Lancaster Co, Hans Jacob Oberholtzer of Hatfield, Montgomery Co and Jacob Oberholtzer of Berks Co. We certainly appreciate all the work he has done for the Association in his own quiet way. His work has made it easy for us to locate people in the various lines.

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### OUCH!

I have researched at the Historical Society of Pa for 20 years and last year I was in there 2 or 3 times a week doing work for the OFA. This year the HSP has changed their membership rules which made me change my research schedule. For their annual dues you can now have 12 free visits and from then on you have to pay. For \$125 I could have had as many visits as I wanted but-you guessed it-I decided to limit my visits. Those of us who are volunteers have really been hurt by this new policy.

### PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER

If you are traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, a place to visit is the Abraham Overholt homestead in West Overton Village, Scottdale PA. It was built in 1838 and is open for tours May 15th to October 15th, Tues-Sat 10-4 and on Sunday 1-5 along with the Distillery Museum. Abraham's father Henry came from Bucks Co in 1800 with his family and settled in what is known as West Overton. This is also where Henry Clay Frick, well known industrialist and a grandson of Abraham Overholt, was born in a small cottage/springhouse. The Westmoreland-Fayette Historical Society is in the homestead and if you are interested in buying the OBERHOLTZER-NASH FAMILY HISTORY, REV A J FRETZ, it can be purchased there or through the mail at \$20 + \$3.00 shipping & handling. To reach West Overton from the turnpike, exit at New Stanton and follow 119 South for 10 miles to 819 South for about 1/2 mile and enjoy an outstanding example of a 19th century rural industrial village. The zip is 15683-1168 and the phone 412/887-7910.

Get back on the turnpike and head west to Pittsburgh where CLAYTON, Frick's home is now open to the public after extensive renovations. All of the original furniture and paintings are in the house and as you tour it, you have the feeling that the family still lived there. I just took the tour and I would recommend it highly. Also on the premises are the Frick Art Museum and Carriage Museum. Reservations are suggested. CLAYTON is at 7200 Penn Ave, about 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. Phone 412/371-0606.

If you are in the Oklahoma area, you wouldn't want to miss the OVERHOLSER MANSION which is at 405 NW 15th St, Oklahoma City. It was built by Henry Overholser (1846-1915), completed in 1904 and acquired in 1972 by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The home has a total of 6,270 square feet with ten major rooms on the main level. Tours are Tues-Fri and Sat & Sun from 2-4. The zip is 73103-3597 and the phone 405/528-8485.

Other suggestions for visiting Oberholtzer/Overholser/Overholt old homes would be appreciated.

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### HELPED WANTED

Does anyone have a picture or negative of Samuel S Watt's Cigar Factory? There was a picture of it in "Historical Notes on the Early Days of Terre Hill" and the man who owns the building now would like an early picture of it. Contact Ron Wolf, 812 Camp Meeting Rd, East Earl PA 17519

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION ARE NOT ONLY APPRECIATED BUT NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE BULLETIN. HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR 1992?

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MAUSOLEUM IN THE ARLINGTON CEMETERY, NEAR BROOKVILLE OH

Bill & Eunice Overholser of West Milton OH visited the Arlington Cemetery (also known as Parish Cemetery) and asked the caretaker if they could get into the mausoleum so they could read the names and dates. They were told that they couldn't because there was danger that the roof might cave in. There are 10 Overholzers buried in it including John 1805-1862 and his wife Elizabeth 1810-1891. John was the s/o Jacob Overholser 1770-1850 (see Bulletin Aug '91). Henry Overholser of Oklahoma City fame, s/o John, no doubt had the mausoleum built for his parents and his 5 brothers and sisters who are also buried there. Wouldn't it be nice if we could start a fund that would help save the mausoleum.

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JACOB OBERHOLTZER 1767 PA-1847 OH  
M2 ELIZABETH MELLINGER

Arlene Martin of Mishawaka IN sent the Civil War pension papers of Elias Oberholtzer, s/o Abraham and grandson of Jacob, who enlisted 12/13/1863 in Co I, 12th Indiana Reg. Cav. Vol. On a march from Mobile to Columbus Mississippi in the spring of 1865 he suffered a sunstroke that left him partly disabled due to severe pain. He applied for pension and in 1898 he was asked to name his living children and their birthdates. After listing the eleven children he said "if you want to know the names and dates of birth of my grandchildren, please send a carload of paper".

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NEVER GIVE UP!

In her 8/1990 article on the family of Christian Overholser 1774-1841/4, Billie Jo Read of Bonduel WI said that information was needed on Rebecca Overholt, d/o Christian & Rebecca, who married 3/5/1838 James Robinson. I recently went through all the indexes of the Ohio Records & Pioneer Families for Overholts, Overholzers, etc and found a Fannie Robinson, d/o James & Rebecca, who married Martin Smith and found that they lived in Venice Twn Sececa Co OH. After Billie Jo got my letter telling about my find, she called and we talked about how we could locate the Robinsons in the 1850 census since they weren't in Seneca Co. I said I would try and after checking the location of Venice Twn, I decided to try the two counties that bordered it. The list of James Robinsons was unbelievable and I thought I would have to spend the day looking for them. I tried 3 in Crawford County and then the first one I found in Huron Co was the James I was looking for. From then on it was a breeze locating them in later census records because they didn't move out of the area. One little clue led to the solution to the problem.

OFFICERS

President	Willard E Overholtzer, 2440 El Pavo Way Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
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HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION

Terre Hill is a town of 1,200 located in the Pennsylvania Dutch country of Lancaster County, midway between Lancaster and Reading. The Fire Hall is on the main street, with plenty of parking at 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

Many motels are in the area with Ephrata and New Holland nearby.

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**Overholser Family Association**

413 Appletree Road  
Camp Hill, Pa. 17011

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