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## 91ST OVERHOLSER FAMILY REUNION

### The President's Column

Before your calendar is filled up, you will want to earmark the date August 19th for the Overholser Reunion. The officers met recently and have some interesting ideas for the day. We first had a delicious luncheon at the Willow Valley Square as guests of Kathern Maine. The ideal thought is that if only you might bring along a person who has never been at the reunion before. It does not matter who their immigrant was. Kathern Maine suggested an OFA Bingo Game which would serve as a "mixer" before the meal. She volunteered to make the games. John Weiler will speak at the Reunion about the beginnings of the Association reunions.

A question was raised as to whether or not Pennsylvania Dutch stories should be told as most of those present do not understand it anyway.

Paper tablecloths for the tables will be provided and the map will be there also if the president shows up and does not forget to bring them.

We plan to have a get-together again at Yoder's Restaurant which is on the edge of New Holland, just a little west of Blue Ball on Route 23 on Friday night August 18th at 6:00 p.m. We have a room reserved, as we did last year, so we can enjoy a good Pennsylvania Dutch dinner. Please let us know if you will join us Friday night so we know how many to expect. We would love to have any members who live in the area join us to greet our out-of-town members. You can let me know or Barbara Ford whose address is on page 2. The phone number for Yoder's is 717-665-5869.

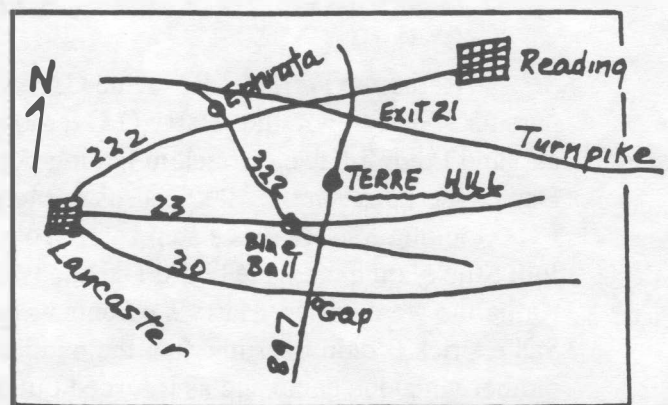
May any of you folks be interested in a tour of one or more Overholser farms some year? There is a lot of work involved, so we invite your input.

I hope to see you at the Reunion Saturday, August 19th at the Terre Hill Community Center, Terre Hill PA which starts at 10:30 a.m. We will have a covered dish lunch at noon. Please bring a hot or cold dish for the buffet table and your own beverage and table ware. If you are traveling a distance, we will furnish the food etc. After the Reunion picture is taken, 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.

Come one, come all to Terre Hill which was once called "Pleasant View Hill", if I am correct. Come with additional ideas for next year's officers.

D Ernest Weinhold, President  
dewinhold@juno.com



See specific directions on page 10

**OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN**

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Editor - Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford PA 19086

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313 Henry Ln, Wallingford PA 19086

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

**WHERE TO SEND**

**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Kathern Maine, Treasurer  
211 Willow Valley Sq, E-108  
Lancaster PA 17602  
E-MAIL-kjmaine@aol.com

(Note: The Bulletin is financed solely 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  
Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society Bookworm Frolic  
August 16-19 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**SEEN ON THE INTERNET**

“Does anyone have a family tree that  
they would share with me.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**UPDATE**

Katharine Farrar of Roseville CA had a query in the last Bulletin seeking the parents of her grandfather Harry O Overholser. She had contacted the OFA about 9 years ago and I didn't have any luck in finding her great grandparents although I had found a Harry Overholser in the 1900 census in Montgomery Co OH who I suspected was the one I was looking for. He was a step son of John Eby but I had no further information. I found Judi Stucky on a message board and she was trying to find where Harry and his wife Katharine were buried. Harry's parents were George Oscar Overholser 1866-1894 and Sallie Urick. I didn't assume that the middle initial "O" in Harry's name was for his mother's maiden name and as it turned out, it was probably "O" for Oscar.

OBERHOLTZER COAT-OF-ARMS LAPEL PINS

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the Association received Oberholtzer Coat-of-Arms lapel pins which can be purchased from Barbara Ford at \$4 plus \$.50 S/H.

The colors in the pin are gray, green and yellow.



Exact size

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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 Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$29.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PA Residents, add 6% Sales Tax (\$1.77 per book) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping & Handling \$3.50 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks for the book and pins out to Overholser Family Association

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A HUMAN INTEREST STORY

Isaac Overholt of Louth Twp, Lincoln Co, Ontario, Canada line

The father of Catherine Hoover was against her plans to marry Samuel Swartz Jr (IC44) so he locked her in her room for several days in an effort to get her to change her mind. When he let her out, she straight way went and married Samuel.

Charles H Field Jr of Paragonah UT

## THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

SL2783 Daniel L Overholser d 4/18/1907 Logansport IN  
SL2786 William L Overholser 7/22/1841 Terre Hill-3/20/1927 Sioux City IA m 11/7/1866  
Julia Anne Harting (not Harding) 7/26/1845 Ephrata PA-5/12/1936 Sioux City  
REF: Doug Overholser, Chadwick MO

\*\*\*\*\*

JC154 Isaiah Oberholtzer 10/22/1838-4/11/1869 Spencerville IN  
JC1d2 Samuel T Oberholtzer 9/19/1846-7/31/1873 m 5/21/1872 Betty Jane Jordan 4/1852  
IL-1/14/1905 SD (she m2 Thomas McCoy)  
JC1d21 Samuel M Oberholtzer 9/12/1874 IL-1/14/1940 CA m Austa Parker 10/6/1881  
SD-1/19/1969 CA (either Samuel's year of birth is wrong or his father's year of death)  
REF: John Seymour, Santa Barbara CA  
JC1d4 Cooley James Oberholtzer m 6/19/1873 Loretta Steel

\*\*\*\*\*

JA4264 Cornelius Overholser 6/13/1870-c1916 FL m1 12/29/1896 Olive Hooks 1/21/1873-  
1900/1910, m2 Sarah Leota Hollowell 11/26/1876-9/1948  
REF: Neil Keever, Saratogo CA

\*\*\*\*\*

JL2112 Leonna (Leanne) Overhulse m 8/31/1843 Joseph Kite  
JL2114 William Overhulse m Lydia Gorsuch  
JL2118 Phebe Ann Overhulse m 10/30/1854 George H Talbott 10/1830-1905  
JL2119 Elizabeth Overhulse m 11/13/1856 Andrew J Sagers b 10/1834  
JL216 Jacob Overholser m 11/18/1834 Mary Kite, Champaign Co OH  
JL218 Adam Overholser m 11/29/1834 Angeline Northcutt, Champaign Co OH  
JL2193 Aaron Overholser 12/7/1847-3/27/1934 m 5/21/1874 Martha E Hall b 6/12/1859 IL  
JL2194 Adam Overholser b 6/1851 m Nancy Jane Stover b 1858 IL  
JL3742 Daniel W Oberholzer m Anna Martzall b 1/17/1851

\*\*\*\*\*

JL2121 Anna Overholser d 12/27/1907 Clark Co OH, John Roller, not buried in Bethel cemetery,  
death date is not known  
JL2125 Susan Overholser died during Civil War. She and her husband are not buried in  
Lawrenceville Cem but in Indiana  
REF: Judi Stucky, Indianapolis IN

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AV586 Raymond Rudolph Overholser m2 Esther [-] Family evidence shows that he was not a s/o  
Jacob Overholser (AV58) but a grandson who they raised. His parents are unknown. His first  
child was Eva E Overholser 1/30/1890-2/1/1890  
AV582 Sophrona Overholser m Lyman McKenzie  
AV583 Mary E Overholser m Adolphs Ford  
AV5862 Ruthetta Overholser 3/30/1897-1/25/1972  
AV5863 Eugene Overholser 10/3/1911-12/15/1994  
REF: Steve Dyke e-mail to BBF

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to the members who contributed to the OFA from January to June whose support we deeply appreciate.

Carol Constance Boyer  
Denver CO

Carolyn L Brandon  
Celina OH

Claud/Eleanor Bray  
Bull Shoals AR

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Tillsonburg, ONT, CAN

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Franklin/Mary Alice Farnsworth  
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N L Oberholtzer Jr  
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Doug/Martha Overholser  
Chadwick MO

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Amherstburg, ONT, CAN

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Denver CO

B J Overhultz  
Baton Rouge LA

John E Sholl  
Palm Desert CA

Helen Shonk  
Dover OH

Gloria P Wachter  
Zullinger PA

Ernest/Virgie Walker  
Wilmington OH

\*\*\*\*\*

## OUR COUSIN, THE WINNER

The Oberholtzers have a winner of \$1,120,000. Rahim Oberholtzer, 27 year old son of Bob and Nargis Oberholtzer now living in Seabrook TX won that amount on NBC's TWENTY-ONE. I haven't heard from anyone yet who claims him as a cousin but I imagine a few Oberholtzers checked their family tree to see if they had a connection.

\*\*\*\*\*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January - June

Carol Ann Elliott, Kailua HI  
Lou Ann Murphy, Noble OK

Doug Overholser, Chadwick MO  
Gloria Wachter, Zullinger PA

\*\*\*\*\*

## NECROLOGIST'S REPORT

### **MARRIAGES**

**Sharon Louise Redcay** of Phila. m 1/2/1999 **Philip G Miller** of Dayton OH. Their baby Philip George was born 10/25/1999. The proud grandmother is our secretary Darlene O Redcay. (IV Samuel Oberholtzer & Martha Hess line) [SL248]

**Robert Benjamin Stirk** m 1/8/2000 **Melissa Lee Houskamp**, Winter Park, Orange Co FL. He is the s/o Robert and Kathryn Stirk of Winter Park FL. (IV Anna Oberholtzer & Hetzel Stirk line) [SL271]

### **DEATHS**

**Edna Schalaus Field** died 11/11/1998 and her husband **Charles Henry Field** died 7/22/1999. Both were 92 and the parents of Charles H Field Jr of Paragonah UT (Isaac Overholt of Canada line) [IC]

**Elinor Miranda Matthews** 12/10/1909-3/29/2000, wife of the late Russell Matthews, d/o of the late Horace V Overholtzer & Margaret Eisele [AS1533] (Abraham Overholtzer & Johanna Derstine line)

**Ruth Frantz Rhinehart** 4/19/1920-5/31/1999 Painesville OH. Survived by her husband Donald, sons Edwin and Dale. (IV Elizabeth Oberholtzer & Jacob Stouffer line) [SL223]

**Joel F Overholser** 5/22/1911 IA-10/20/1999 Fort Benton MT, s/o the late Joel R Overholser & Beulah Fuller. Many in the Abraham Whitmore Overholser line are indebted to Joel who spent many years tracing his line. (Abraham Overholts & Anna Witmor line) [AV]

**Mary (Kantner) Troutman** 4/6/1921-11/22/1999. She was the granddaughter of Morris & Magdalena (Oberholtzer) Schaeffer. (Jacob Oberholtzer & Barbara line) [JL]

**Dorothy Overholtzer Bartman** 12/24/1907-12/15/1999 Pottstown PA, d/o the late Horace Overholtzer & Margaret Eisele, survived by 3 children, 6 grandchildren & 8 great grandchildren. (Abraham Overholtzer & Johanna Derstine line) [AS]

**John J Overholt** 4/23/1918-1/17/2000 Sarasota FL. He was minister of Sunnyside Mennonite Fellowship and is survived by his wife Vera, children Hannah, Sarah, Abigail, Matthias and Nathan. Fifty years ago he was the first Overholt to visit Oberholz, Switzerland when he came into the village on his motorcycle late at night scaring the villagers who immediately turned out their lights. (Marcus Oberholtzer & Elizabeth line) [MC]

**Paul E Dean** d 3/1999 Brevard NC, husband of Kathryn Hurch Dean. (Jacob Oberholtzer & Catharina Bachman line) [JC]

Barbara B Ford

## LOST AND FOUND

The Internet has message boards for posting queries and I scan them for Oberholtzers, Overholzers, etc. I saw one by John Seymour of Santa Barbara CA who was trying to find information on Samuel T Oberholtzer who had married 5/21/1872 Betty Jane Jordan in Knox Co IL. He said Samuel died between 1874 and 1878 in Illinois or Nebraska because Betty Jane married again Thomas McCoy. I remembered a picture of a tombstone that Henry Oberholtzer of Summitville IN had taken and sent to Spencer Overholser who sent it to me. There on the tombstone was "Samuel T Oberholtzer died July 31, 1873 aged 26 yrs. 10 mo. 12 ds." He was buried with his parents. John Seymour was thrilled to finally solve the mystery of Samuel T. He had wondered if he died, left his wife or had his wife left him. If Henry Oberholtzer hadn't taken the picture, there is a good chance that the case of Samuel T wouldn't be solved. This family belongs to Jacob Oberholtzer of Northampton Co PA and Columbiana Co OH [JC]. See THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS page 4 this issue.

Another query was easy to solve. Neil Keever of Saratoga CA was trying to find something about his grandfather Cornelius Overholser who married c1910-1912 Sarah Leota Hallowell in Dayton Ohio. He knew Cornelius had a brother Enos and a sister or sister-in-law Pearl. I knew Cornelius and his twin brother Enos and that Pearl was a sister-in-law. Cornelius had a first marriage that produced a son Heber that Neil didn't know about, in fact Neil's mother has known very little about her father Cornelius or his family because she was only 3 when he died. Now he is trying to locate the family of Heber Overholser, his mother's half brother. When he died in 1965, his obituary said his children were Mrs Hubert Houdeshell of New Paris OH, Donald of West Manchester OH, Charles of Homestead FL and Martin of Greenville OH. I was able to put Neil in touch with a second cousin Betty Venables of Haines AK who is a member of the OFA. This family belongs to John Overholser of Adams Co PA [JA]. See THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS page 4 of this issue.

Raymond Smith of Bloomington IN wrote asking for help with his wife's Overhulse family. He could only give me the names Forest, Glen and U.S. Grant with no dates and that the descendants now live in Wood Co OH. Some years ago I used to go into the National Archives Branch in Philadelphia to record the census for many States. I had recorded the 1880 through 1920 for the Oberholtzers, Overholzers, etc. in Ohio so I was able to locate the family. If their names had been John, Jacob or Henry, I would have had a hard time locating them. The family belongs to Jacob Oberholtzer of Brecknock, Lancaster Co PA [JL].

I found another man who had the year 1909? birth for his father Donald Overholser and he thought he died in the 1960's. Thanks to Kate Stirk who sent me batches of the Social Security Death Index, I found that his father was actually born 4/17/1914 and died 1/1967 Grand Junction CO. This should help him obtain a death certificate which hopefully will give him further information.

Have you noticed that there are more men tracing their families now?

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## WHO IS SUSANNA SCHEULER?

Have you ever wondered how the wrong information gets into the records? About 20 years ago, the OFA received a family chart for a Jacob Oberholtzer, a widower born 1704, who came on the SAMUEL in 1732 with his two children Elizabeth and Samuel. This should be Jacob of Brecknock (JL). It said he married the second time Susanna Scheuler (1) and that their children were Barbara S Oberholzer who married Christian Bretz (2), Jacob S Oberholtzer 1741-1811 (3) who married Esther Bleam 1741-1811, Esther S Oberholtzer 1743-1816 (4) and Henry S Oberholtzer 1745-1783 (5) married to Catherine Shumaker 1748-1823. It continues with the family of Jacob of Berks Co.

- (1) The administration papers of the estate of this Jacob Oberholtzer show his wife as Barbara.
- (2) In checking the dates of Christian and Barbara, I find that his last name was Fretz, not Bretz and that Barbara, minus the "S", is the d/o Martin Oberholtzer 1709-1744 Bucks Co (MC7). I even had this couple in the ODDS AND ENDS page of the book as Bretz!
- (3) This Jacob, minus the "S", is the first known of the Berks Co PA line.[JB]. He married Esther Bliem 1741-1816
- (4) Confused with the wife of Jacob Oberholtzer. There was no Esther Oberholtzer in this line.
- (5) Henry, minus the "S", is the s/o Jacob Oberholtzer and Deborah Krey of Franconia, Montgomery Co and is [JF14].

As you can see, the only true fact is that Jacob Oberholtzer, born 1704, came on the ship SAMUEL in 1732 with his two children Elizabeth and Samuel.

Susanna Scheuler appears to be very popular because I just discovered in the LDS records that she is listed as the wife of Jacob Oberholtzer 1704-1759 and that she was said to have been born c1715 in Berks Co and that they married 1736 in Berks Co. This Jacob, according to the record, is the s/o Jacob Oberholtzer and Deborah Krey. If this "marriage" took place in 1736, the first 4 children listed would have been born out of wedlock. They are listed as having the middle name Halteman, not Scheuler and two of the other children listed are from the Berks Co family.

Another LDS record shows Jacob Oberholtzer born 1704 Montgomery Co PA married Susanna Scheuler in 1725 Palatinate...Switzerland.

What brought this all to mind is a query on the GenForum Message Board with mention of the marriage of a Jacob Oberholtzer and Susanna Scheuler. I wrote to the person saying that I was the genealogist for the Overholser Family Association and compiler of THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK and that there was no such marriage. The answer I got was "Can you tell me what line of Oberholtzer you do have? I am curious to see what you do know". I answered with a list of Oberholtzers in the book table of contents and I have never received a reply!

Someone has placed a family group in the LDS records with the marriage of Jacob Oberholtzer and Susanna Scheuler and that is why people have accepted it as fact. LDS has a **Please Note: Since the information in Ancestral File is contributed, it is the responsibility of those who use the file to verify its accuracy.** Has anyone ever taken the time to verify the accuracy of these records? Unfortunately, many people take the LDS records as fact, as they do all printed words. Researching a family tree takes time and plenty of patience and I believe that alot of people try to avoid that!



### **DNA USED TO TRACE NAMES**

Bruce Coffey of Freeport, Maine sent me an article about DNA used on dozens of men who had the same surname. Brian Sykes, an expert in genetics at Britain's Oxford University, tested men with the name Sykes using a technique known as genetic fingerprinting to examine the men's Y chromosome, which is handed down with very little change from father to son. To his surprise, the men all seem to descend from the same ancestor. The men, from 3 English counties, were given DNA kits that included a brush to take a few cells from the inside of their mouths. Half the men tested had a Y chromosome microsatellite fingerprint which showed they had exactly the same Y chromosome. Court records show that the name Sykes first appears about 1300 in West Yorkshire. Brian Sykes said that this will be most valuable to people tracing family histories and that it is astounding news for genealogists. Bruce Coffey said if this DNA test could become readily available and, idealistically, could be run on some of the descendants of the various Oberholtzer lines, it would tell if they all came from a common ancestor in Switzerland or which ones do have a common ancestor. Sykes has patented the test and he thinks they will probably call it OXFORD ANCESTORS. I wonder if John A M Overholt of New Malden, Surrey, England has heard of this. I am sure he would like to round up some Overholts and Oberholtzers in England to take the test.

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### **WOULD YOU BELIEVE THIS?**

Many people will believe anything they read but I know our members are too smart to believe the following:

The Obers lived at the foot of the mountain in Switzerland, the Holzers lived half way up the mountainside and the Oberholtzers lived above the timberline.

The Oberholtzers originally were from the area of modern day Israel, having been enslaved in Russia and subsequently escaping to Switzerland and then emigrating to America.

Another "story" is that twenty-six "Overholts" came to Philadelphia between 1690 and 1706 from Germany.

If these aren't fakelore, I would welcome the documentation for them.

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### **GENEALOGY ON THE BRAIN**

Recently, I told a friend that I was being tested for Loomis (he wrote "Jacob Oberholtzer Genealogy"). I meant to say Lupus!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MILITARY PENSION PAPERS**

The National Archives has proposed increasing the fee for obtaining a military pension file from \$10 to \$40. I understand that we would have a choice of a partial or full file. When I first obtained a pension file, it cost \$2.00 but that was a long time ago.

**OFFICERS**

President	D Ernest Weinhold, 107 W Sunhill Road Manheim PA 17545
1st Vice President	Darwin Overholt, 4129 Swamp Road Doylestown PA 18901
2nd Vice President	Dennis L Oberholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane Paradise PA 17562
Recording Secretary	Darlene O Redcay, 1613 E Main St, Box 38 Goodville PA 17528
Treasurer	Kathern Maine, 211 Willow Valley Sq, E-108 Lancaster PA 17602
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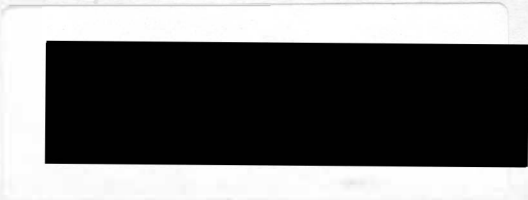
**HOW TO GET TO THE REUNION**

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

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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 for 2000?



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313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086