



**100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1906-2006**

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Happy New Year! Here's to a joyful, fulfilling 2006.

We are planning on making the 2006 Overholser Family Association reunion special. This will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion of what became the OFA. During World War II, reunions were cancelled. Please save on your calendar August 4 and 5, 2006 for the get-togethers in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Friday night, August 4<sup>th</sup> will be the familiar evening dinner at Yoder's Family Restaurant between New Holland and Blue Ball. On Saturday, August 5, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion will be held at St. John's Center United Church of Christ, East Earl, PA which is a different location. You will be the guests of the Overholser Family Association at this special occasion; the OFA will be paying for the noon buffet dinner which will be catered. Plan to join us for this special occasion, and if you have ideas or suggestions for this reunion, please let me know. Directions for both locations will be provided in the next OFA Bulletin.

People belong to the Overholser Family Association and attend the annual reunions for a variety of reasons, but probably most would say that visiting with family and friends (some new) and tracing family histories are most important. For these reasons or others, please consider attending an annual OFA reunion. You will be glad you did.

Our only source of income is from voluntary contributions. Please consider sending a donation to Treasurer Carolyn Kendall, whose address is on page 2. She does a yeoman (yeowoman?) job as treasurer and we thank her for her efforts. Carolyn is a volunteer, as are all OFA officers. Thanks to all the officers, especially Carolyn and Barbara Ford for their efforts. If you would like to volunteer, contact any of the OFA officers. Thanks to Lynn Oberholtzer for stepping in as acting secretary this past August when Kim Weiler had a family emergency and couldn't attend the reunion.

We look forward to seeing you in August!

Thanks,  
Jim Overholser

**97th ANNUAL REUNION**

Date: Saturday, August 5, 2006

Place: St John's Center United Church of Christ  
432 Reading Road, East Earl, PA

Details (including map) in the August  
BULLETIN. Please join us when we celebrate  
our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1906 reunion.

**OVERHOLSER FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN**  
Vol. XXVIII No. 1 February 2006

Editor - Barbara B Ford  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford PA 19086

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313 Henry Lane, Wallingford PA 19086

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

**WHERE TO SEND**



**CONTRIBUTIONS**

Carolyn O Kendall, Treasurer  
1617 New Holland Pike  
Lancaster PA 17601

(Note: The Bulletin is financed solely by voluntary  
contributions of the members)

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

Barbara B Ford  
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Wallingford PA 19086  
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**THESE 30 PEOPLE ATTENDED  
THE 96<sup>TH</sup> OVERHOLSER REUNION**

Ann/Tom Duke\*  
Owensboro, KY  
Barbara Ford  
Wallingford, PA  
Jim Ford  
Downingtown, PA  
Ross Gordon/Elaine Gerhart  
Ambler, PA  
Daythal/Carolyn Kendall\*  
Lancaster, PA  
Dick/Gwen Lucas\*  
Caledonia, ONT, CAN  
Dennis/Earline Oberholtzer\*  
Paradise, PA  
Fred/Lynn Oberholtzer  
Lititz, PA  
Noah L. Oberholtzer  
Leola, PA  
Jim/Kathy Overholser\*  
Roanoke, VA

Ruth/Spencer Overholser\*  
Wyomissing Hills, PA  
Harold H. Overholtzer \*  
Pottstown, PA  
Linda Parks\*  
Ashboro, NC  
Paul/Naomi Pletcher  
New Holland, PA  
Darlene O. Redcay  
Goodville, PA  
Ella O. Rydzewski  
Clarksville, MD  
Vera O. Savary  
Clarksville, MD  
Jack Sholl\*  
Palm Desert, CA  
John/Eleanor Weiler  
Bethlehem, PA  
D. Ernest Weinhold  
Manheim, PA

\*Attended Friday night at Yoder's along with  
Lewis & Anna May Schrack, Pottstown, PA  
\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Dess Johnson, Grand Ledge, MI  
Dick Prischmann, Bedford, PA  
\*\*\*\*\*

If a man cares not for his roots, how then can  
he care for his branches.

Doyle M. Davis

**THE GHOST OF ABRAHAM OVERHOLT [MC720]**

My son Steve called my attention to a strange census record. First of all, The 1860 census Westmoreland County, PA shows Abraham Overholt age 76, Maria 68 and Maria Frick 12. The 1870 census shows Abraham Overholt 85, Maria 78 and Maria Frick 21 in Westmoreland County. Both census show Abraham as a manufacturer. This is most interesting as the records show that he died in January 1870 and the census was taken August 20<sup>th</sup>. . . Did the ghost of Abraham give the information for the census?

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Our deep thanks to the members who have contributed to the OFA from June to December 2005. Let us not forget those who contributed at the Reunion who must remain anonymous. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Carolyn L. Brandon  
Celina, OH

Juanita O. Brown  
Cookeville, TN

Bruce L. Coffey  
Freeport, ME

Dale/Barbara Crites  
Spring Hill, FL

Jane Elliott  
Sacramento, CA

M/M Franklin Farnsworth  
Wheatland, WY

Don Felts  
Marathon, FL

Sue Field  
Zionsville, IN

David/Sally Gray  
Wichita, KS

Agnes O. Greene  
Sumter, SC

Edith E. Hurlbert  
Chicago, IL

Barbara/Jerome Jarvis  
Oceanside, CA

M/M Albert A. Johnson  
Stanton, TX

Dess Johnson  
Grand Ledge, MI

Dick/Gwen Lucas  
Caledonia, ONT, CAN

N.L. Oberholtzer, Jr  
Leola, PA

Ruth K. Oberholtzer  
North Wales, PA

Jim/Kathy Overholser  
Roanoke, VA

\*\*\*\*\*

Lyndon E. Overholser  
Overland Park, KS

Byron H. Roll  
Bellefontaine, OH

Ronald/Ruth Seas  
Columbus, OH

John E. Sholl  
Palm Desert, CA

Jennie Sperling  
Lansdale, PA

Carl/Gladys Taylor  
Hamilton, ONT CAN

Roger L. Weikel  
Shamokin, PA

Jan E. Williams  
Honolulu, HI

## TOMBSTONES FOUND

Roger Overholts of Hamilton, Ohio has found tombstones that had not been located before. He has found the tombstones of David Overholts [AV2] and his first wife Elizabeth Kailer. The stones were buried about six inches underground and very hard to get out. They are located in the Macedonia Cemetery just south and east of Camden, Ohio. David had donated a parcel of his property to the trustees of the M.C. Church to build a church.

David Overholts  
Died  
Sept 5, 1850  
Aged  
82 yrs & 5 ds

Elizabeth  
First wife of  
David Overholts  
Died  
June 13, 1835  
aged  
About 60 yrs

Roger had another surprising discovery when he found the tombstone of Isaac Overholts [AV238] in the Fairmount Cemetery, West Elkton, Ohio. The stone was covered with moss and barely readable but he was able to photograph it after a good wire brushing.

He also located a photo of Isaac Overholts, his wife Sarah and some of his family

## NECROLOGIST REPORT

### ANNIVERSARY

Carl and Gladys Taylor of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary December 31<sup>st</sup>.  
And a Happy belated 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Carl on December 12<sup>th</sup>.  
(Staats Overholt/Susannah Hunsberger line) [MT2]

### DEATHS

Bertram James Overholtz 5/15/1913-3/27/2005 Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Survived by his wife of 64 years Marie, daughter Marsha Shortt, 6 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and 2 nieces. Daughter Sharon Warren preceded him in death. He had been a very long time member of the OFA.  
(AV6542 Bertram James Overholtz)

Milton E. Blanding 12/19/1910-4/6/2005 Grand Rapids, MI. His wife Neva E. Hunsberger 12/14/1914-8/13/2000 Alma, CA. He spent many years following through with his plan to assemble all descendants of Oberholtzers in a master file.  
(William Overholt/Elizabeth Leatherman line) [MT3222]

Grace H. Oberholtzer died 10/3/2005 age 89 Lancaster County, PA. She was the daughter of the late Christian D. and Bertha D. Oberholtzer. Survived by a brother Glenn H. Oberholtzer.  
(Christian Oberholtzer/Elizabeth Witmer line) [SL2256]

William H. Oberholtzer 2/8/1926-12/6/2005 Bethlehem, PA. Survived by his wife Helen, sons Neal and Scott and daughters Ellen Kalinosky and Beth Newhardt. "Obie" will always be remembered for his tireless work in indexing the Oberholtzer lines which will be a permanent reminder of him. Two of his projects were indexing Elisha Loomis' *Some Account of Jacob Oberholtzer* and Levi N. & Lizzie Oberholtzer's *Oberholtzer Family History 1802-1968*.  
(Jacob Oberholtzer/Esther Blehm line) [JB]

Barbara B Ford

### UPDATE

Darwin Overholt, our former president, reports that he was able to go to church in December using a cane instead of his walker. Remember, he was hit by a flying tire July 2004 that broke his leg in 4 places.

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## IN APPRECIATION

We would like to thank everyone for their heartfelt sympathy in August when my Grandmother passed away. It was very nice to return home from New Jersey and find a card from everyone in the mail. I would also like to thank Lynn Oberholtzer for filling in for me as secretary at the last minute. We were reminded just how nice it is to have such a great extended family.

Thank you.  
Kim Weiler and family

## THE OBERHOLTZER BOOK ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS

- IC Isaac Overholt m2 3/1813 Widow Moyer dp 5/10/1823  
IC1 Elizabeth Overholt 8/15/1779-11/15/1842, m2 John Stoner 1755-1838  
IC11 William Renner b 10/15/1799  
IC12 Anna Renner b c1801 [not listed in Orphans Court records 1819]  
IC13 John Renner b 1/8/1803  
IC14 Joseph Renner b 1/11/1805 m 3/17/1825 Susan Evans  
IC15 Noah Renner b 4/16/1807-1/28/1870 m 4/30/1835 Frances Weaver b 6/9/1820  
IC16 Sophia Renner b 4/5/1809  
IC18 Susanna Renner 5/20/1813-4/6/1861 m Jacob Saylor c1809-2/23/1877  
Possibly married 2 William Smith, married 3 Aaron Baltzel b c1814  
IC19 Elizabeth Renner b 9/29/1816  
IC3111 Mary E. Overholt 1853-1945 NE, Fred R. Smith 4/1848 CAN-dp 1910  
IC3117 Emma Frances Overholt 11/29/1869-1959 m1 Arthur Furness, m2 1898 James Beverly Aulph b 3/13/1878  
IC3118 John Wesley Overholt b 3/10/1875 m Ruby Aulph b 8/31/1878  
IC312 Elizabeth Gregory b 4/19/1834  
IC3121 Joseph E. Overholt b 1/26/1855 ONT m Helen [-?] b 8/19/1865  
IC3125 Lloyd Overholt b 1/13/1863  
IC314 Mary B. Overholt 1/25/1832 CAN-2/3/1916 Harlan, IA m Gilbert Gregory 1820 CAN-dp 1892 CAN  
IC3141 Isaac Gregory b 1854 CAN m Christy [-?] b c1855 PA  
IC3142 William Gregory b 1856 CAN  
IC3143 Almeda Gregory b 1858 CAN  
IC3144 James Gregory b 1860 CAN  
IC3145 Barney W. Gregory 3/27/1867 CAN-2/7/1942 m 3/2/1892 Ida R. Burke 3/27/1869 IA-3/27/1962 CA  
IC315 Ira Bentley Overholt 1833-1928 m Eleanor McDonald 1844-1914, both bur Harlan Cem, Shelby Co. IA  
IC3151 Frank Overholt m Carrie Noble d 1/28/1940, both bur Harlan Cem.  
IC3153 Eleanor Elizabeth Overholt 12/1862-6/21/1869, bur Harlan Cem.  
IC316 John Courtnage b c1833 CAN  
IC3161 William Courtnage m c1886 Anna [-?] b c1865  
IC3163 Charles Courtnage m c1886 Mary Belle Beckley b 1868  
IC3164 Judson Courtnage m c1902 Letha [-?] 12/10/1880-5/1972 CA  
IC3167 Frank Courtnage m c1898 Elenette [-?] b c1873  
IC317 Sarah Jane Overholt 7/4/1841 CAN-5/23/1928 IA m Joseph Brock Smith 9/14/1835 CAN-10/26/1888 IA  
IC3171 Royal A. Smith 1861-1946  
IC3172 Peter B. Smith 1862-1943 m Eliza [-?] 11/1867  
IC3173 Jennie Smith 3/20/1864-1/24/1945 TX m1 Wm. J. Crawford 9/1860-5/12/1896, m2 Alexander McDonald 1876-1972  
IC3174 Luella M. Smith 1865-1866  
IC3175 Pearle Smith 1867-1869  
IC3176 Jacob H. Smith 1869-1870  
IC3177 Sarah D. Smith 1872-1924 m George Koch b 1871  
IC3178 Alice A. Smith b 12/29/1875 m Dr. William H. Cook b 12/9/1868  
IC3179 LaMaud Smith 1881-1975 CA m Frank Menneke 10/5/1880-4/30/1963 CA  
IC318 Amanda E. Overholt d 5/15/1881 m [-?] Miles, bur Miles Cem, Jackson Co. IA  
IC319 Judson D. Overholt m1 6/5/1872 Sarah Watts 1851-11/18/1882 IA, m2 Marguerite Ellison b 4/1853 NY  
IC3191 N\_\_\_\_ Overholt (F) b c1875  
IC3192 Betsy Overholt b c1879  
IC32 Michael Overholt d 12/14/1897 CAN, Mary Everett 1810-9/23/1881 CAN, both bur Princeton Cem, Oxford, ONT  
IC322 Sarah Overholt m Donald McRae c1822-10/6/1897  
Known children-  
IC3221 Martha J. McRae c1855-2/11/1864  
IC3222 Mary McRae c1861-7/27/1885 m Thomas H. Scott  
IC3223 Isabella McRae d 11/26/1869, age 7 months

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

Dennis Oberholtzer of Paradise, PA called my attention to a mistake in the August 2005 BULLETIN on page 5. The code number for Daniel L Overholser should read SL2783. I then had two cataract operations to correct my sight!

Ludwig Berndt of Clovis, CA questioned JL2732 Mary A People with spouse William Carroll in the book and in the February 2004 BULLETIN her spouse was James M. Taylor. The marriage in the book came from a relative in a 1941 letter to Rev. I.E. Oberholtzer. In checking several sources, I found she married James M. Taylor in 1859 when she was 19.

Homer Thiel of Tucson, AZ was kind enough to check the 1850 census for Sarah Ann Overholtzer (August 2005 BULLETIN page 3) and he found she was living with Catherine Coffman and her two children.

Margie Koutroulis of Livingston, TX continues to send interesting items on the various families for the OFA files as she has done for many years. Kate Stirk of Acworth, GA and Jennie Sperling of Lansdale, PA also continue to send interesting items for our files.

Dess Johnson of Grand Ledge, MI sent information about the first reunion of the family of William Overholt (1820-1902) MT3222 which was on 12/30/1892 in Dutton, Michigan. It was held at the old homestead of Rufus Overholt with 27 members attending. The report was that there was good sleighing.

Kay Dorman Atkinson of Dayton, Ohio writes that a few years ago she visited an Overholt farm in Swago, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. The farm had some Overholt graves, the Overholt Saltpeter Cave (closed by owner), and the Overholt Blowing Cave (no access). Kay is from the Marcus Oberholtzer line (MV).

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### ELIZABETH NASH, WIFE OF MARTIN OVERHOLT [MT3]

I found the date of Elizabeth (Nash) Overholt's burial in the "Early burials" of Deep Run Mennonite Church. There is no other record and no tombstone inscription mainly because the names and dates have been lost on the field stone markers.

The will of Martin Overholt said "my widow shall have the same privilege (as son Abraham) in my house seller barn garden and in every point as she lives now without being hindered or molested during her natural life."

The parents of Elizabeth were William Nash and Agnes (Kolb) Oberholtzer. Her father, William Nash was the son of John Nash and Ann Colley who was the daughter of John and Susanna Colley. The Colley family, which included daughters Ann and Susanna, arrived in Philadelphia on the ship *Eliza & Mary* in 1683. In 1686, John Colley, a hatter, bought land in Philadelphia County (now Upper Dublin, Montgomery County). He was dead by 1715. John Nash died 1727 and his wife Ann (Colley) Nash died 1755.

REF: Correspondence with the late Stanley W. Nash, British Columbia, Canada

### OFA Treasurer's Report

	<b>Savings</b>	<b>Book Fund</b>	<b>Checking</b>
<b>Balance 8/18/04</b>	\$1,554.27	\$9,173.57	\$271.54
<b>SUMMARY</b>			
<b>8/18/04-7/18/05</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Contributions</b>	\$634.00		
<b>Purchases</b>		\$439.89	
<b>Interest credited</b>	<u>9.35</u>	<u>45.41</u>	<b>Total</b>
	\$643.35	\$539.30	\$1,182.65
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>AOL</b>		\$258.00	
<b>2 OFA Bulletins</b>	\$628.88		
<b>General Expenses</b>	<u>\$99.43</u>	<u>\$40.87</u>	
	\$728.31	\$298.87	\$1,027.18
<b>Transferred to checking to pay fund expenses</b>	\$651.74	\$298.87	\$950.61
<b>Ending Balance</b>			
<b>7/18/05</b>	<b>\$1,540.71</b>	<b>\$9,389.82</b>	<b>\$114.97</b>

Annual expenses not shown, as in '04 paid before 8/18/04 and this year paid after 7/18/05:

Yoder's Restaurant \$26.50  
Terre Hill Community Center \$80.00

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn O. Kendall, Treasurer

## MINUTES OF THE 96<sup>TH</sup> OVERHOLSER FAMILY ASSOCIATION REUNION

The Overholser Family Association met at the Terre Hill Community Center on August 6, 2005. Rev. John Weiler gave a prayer before we had a delicious supper. After each guest told the line they were from, a group picture was taken by Jim Ford.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Overholser and he began by recognizing the World War II veterans in attendance. He then acknowledged the present day Mennonites who were attending the reunion.

Ruth Overholser led us in singing the reunion song.

AWARDS: Oldest-Spencer Overholser who hasn't missed a reunion since 1951

    - Youngest-Lynn Oberholtzer

    " Traveled farthest-Dick & Gwen Lucas from Canada  
          Ann & Tom Duke from Kentucky

Our secretary Kim Weiler was absent due to the death of her grandmother and a sympathy card will be sent to her.

The minutes of the last reunion were approved as printed in the February 2005 Bulletin.

Treasurer Caroline Kendall gave her report (see page 7) and she read greetings from the following people-Ruth Oberholtzer, Juanita Brown, Don Felts, Ruth Seas, Sue Fields and Lyndon Overholser. She also reported that \$252 was collected at the reunion.

Barbara Ford gave a report that 17 books were sold this past year.

There was a discussion about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first reunion next year and how we could increase the attendance. Ella Rydzewski volunteered to help promote it. It was suggested using the Internet, calling people, contacting descendants of the first reunion and advance mailing to announce it.

Noah Oberholtzer, Jr. had his ancestry published in the Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage and copies were available to purchase.

Jack Sholl gave a presentation of his experience with the Normandy Liberty Bell and a very interesting article appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer about it. Jack comes from California to volunteer as a guide at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.

The meeting was adjourned with notice that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be August 5, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Oberholtzer, Acting Secretary





**OFFICIAL OVERHOLSER FAMILY REUNION PICTURE  
TAKEN BY JIM FORD AUGUST 6, 2005**

**ROW 1**

Naomi Pletcher, Jim Overholser, Carolyn Kendall, Jack Sholl, Ruth Overholser, Spencer Overholser, Vera Savary, Barbara Ford, John Weiler

**ROW 2**

Paul Pletcher, Ann Duke, Gwen Lucas, Darlene Redcay, Linda Parks, Earline Oberholtzer, Elaine Gerhart, Ella Rydzewski, Eleanor Weiler

**ROW 3**

Tom Duke, Fred Oberholtzer, Lynn Oberholtzer, Dick Lucas, Kathy Overholser, Ernest Weinhold, Gordon Gerhart, Harold Overholtzer, Dennis Oberholtzer, Daythal Kendall

**OFFICERS**

Lines		
SL	President	James G Overholser, 2115 Avenel Ave SW Roanoke, VA 24015      jgoverholser@earthlink.net
AS	1st Vice President	Jack Sholl, 128 Christa Ct. Palm Desert, CA 92280      jesholl@aol.com
SL, JL	2nd Vice President	Paul Weiler, 10738 Buchanan Trail East Waynesboro, PA 17268      kwpw8@earthlink.net
SL, JL	Recording Secretary	Kim Weiler, 10738 Buchanan Trail East Waynesboro, PA 17268      kwpw8@earthlink.net
SL	Treasurer	Carolyn O Kendall, 1617 New Holland Pike Lancaster, PA 17601      d.c.kendall@earthlink.net
SL	President Emeritus	Spencer Overholser, 58 Downing Drive Wyomissing Hills, PA 19610
SL	Past President	Dennis L Overholtzer, 49 Paradise Lane Paradise, PA 17062      dloberholtzer@comcast.net
SL, JL	Chaplain	Rev John E Weiler, 526 Wood St. Apt. 424 Bethlehem, PA 18018      Nelljw1@aol.com
MC	Genealogist, Editor Necrologist	Barbara B Ford, 313 Henry Lane Wallingford, PA 19086      bbfordofa@aol.com

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**A NEW COMPUTER**

This summer I purchased my 3<sup>rd</sup> computer since I became the OFA genealogist in 1987. I have found that there are a lot of things that aren't as simple as I was used to. In trying to get out of something I didn't want, I ran into the following: "Normal + No widow/orphan control. Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers." Please let me know if you find any Latin or Asian text in this issue.

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**Overholser Family Association**  
313 Henry Lane  
Wallingford, PA 19086

