



Melchior Yoder Line In Ohio, Indiana and Montana



Stone of Melchior Yotter (1799-1859) (M31) Claypool, Indiana

Over a period of years, the poorly documented Melchior Yoder family has been slowly revealing itself in a variety of ways. The most noteworthy of these was the confirmation that the "Y-o-d-e-r-s" line of southwestern Pennsylvania (unique in that spelling from any others in the world), was the off-spring of Melchior's second son Jacob, a potter. (See YNL 24, 26, and 29). His immediate family group follows:

M- Melchior Yoder (c1735 Gmy/Switz-c1822 in then Union County, Pa). Carpenter. m. c1764 in Philadelphia County, PA to Anna Godshalk (born c1739 in Towamencin Township, Philadelphia County, PA; d/o Godshalk Godshalk and his wife, Eve Custer - d. 1786). Naturalized 11/17/1765 at Perkioming, Hatfield Township, Philadelphia County in 1774-1782 when he moved to Limerick Township where he was taxed through 1796; bought land in Penn Township, Snyder County, PA. 1796; taxed for 350 acres in 1799; carpenter. Will probated May 1822.

M1- John Yoder (11/27/1768-10/20/1833) m 11/14/1790 A. Catherine Hart (Hert/Hirt) (4/17/1769-1843) both bur. Rush Cemetery, Globe Mills, PA. , a weaver.

M2- Jacob Yoders (c1770-1/10/1845) m. Elizabeth _____ (1771- 2/6/1845) both bur. Amity, Washington Co., PA.

M3- Benjamin b. ca1773 (see below)

M4- Henry Yoder b. c1775 m. Catherine Seidel (c1776-2/19/1831) (Catherine was bur. Laurelton Cem. at Laurel Run) Weaver.

M5- Melchior Jr b. ca1777 (see below)

M6- J. Peter Yoder (1780 Phila. Co., Pa-4/15/1856) Peter buried in Immanuel Lutheran Cem., Thompsontown, Pa-

M7- female b. 1774-84

Melchior's sons John and Peter lived in Pennsylvania. Son Henry had a wife Catherine Seidel who died in 1831 and is buried in Laurelton....but we have not yet discovered what became of Henry himself. With a recent discovery in Indiana by Mrs. Helen Caraveo, however, and more data gleaned from the Ohio Historical Society archives, we now feel ready to present partial pictures of what became of Benjamin and Melchior Jr and their families.

Benjamin, listed as Melchior's third son above, died young... probably by 11/15/1801. In the 1800 census, he is shown as "Benjamin Youter", living in Northumberland Co, Pa., married, with one son under 10 years of age. His will was probated on 30 November 1804, and it showed him as a resident of Penn Township,

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Who Was "Schweitzer Christian" Yoder (YR23)



Have you ever looked back at your family tree and wondered what kind of person an immigrant ancestor may have been? Well, here's your chance to meet one of them through the wonders of handwriting analysis! In YNL 14, we published the following note, found on a small scrap of paper among the pages of an Amish family's old Martyrs Mirror :

The English, as translated by Leroy Beachy said:

"Our brother Menno Simons died in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ 1561 on the 31st of January in Westenfelde and is buried there. So it is from that - time to the present 1809, the 31st of January, 248 years. But according to the old time, I think.....
-----Christian Yoder, the old."

Of the several Christian Yoder's around in 1809, YR23 (Known as "Schweitzer Christian") appeared the almost certain author for several reasons. Christian (YR23) would have been over
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George Yoder of Venango County Origins Confirmed

In YNL 29, we published correspondence received in the last century by a North Carolina Yoder researcher. Col. George M. Yoder corresponded with William L. Yoder (OY4246) (1830-1900) of "Matatawny City, Pa". William was the son of Daniel Yoder (1789-1871) , a tanner, who married Mary LaRosa. William L. spoke of his father's brothers: Benjamin who was said to have settled in Columbia County, Pa. ; and George who settled in "Orange County", Pa. In that article we pointed out that there is no "Orange County" in Pennsylvania, but that a handscripted version of "Venango" County could easily be read as close to "orange" as you could get in any counties of the state. Add to that a mystery George Yoder (1800-1872) living in Venango with his wife MARGARET....and we felt the case was strong that he was the man in question.

Thanks to Richard H. Yoder of Bechtelsville, Pa. we now have further information which we believe further establishes the connection. The father of Daniel, Benjamin and George was Peter

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FROM THE EDITORS

Chris Yoder, Editor, Battle Creek, MI; John W. Yoder, Circulation Manager, Middlebury, IN; Rachel Kreider, Senior Contributing Editor, Goshen, IN; Esther E. Yoder, Mail Manager, Goshen, IN; Donald Kauffman, YNL Homepage Webmaster, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Other Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Hubert A. Yoder, Charlotte, NC; Dorothy Yoder Coffman, Malvern, PA; Dr. Don Yoder, Devon, PA; Neil D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC; and Dr. Delbert Gratz, Bluffton, OH

SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:

-FOR CIRCULATION ISSUES ONLY such as new or renewed subscriptions, changes of address, orders for back issues to: Yoder Newsletter, P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527-0594.

- ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE- Dealing with ancestral queries or contributions for future YNLs or archives (such as reunion notices, letters to the Editor, copies of Bible records or other historical information) to: Chris Yoder, 203 Lakeshire Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49015 (or by electronic mail to "75757.3371@compuserve.com").

YNL PRICE INFORMATION \$\$\$

-The YNL subscription is on an annual basis-two issues for \$3.
-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$1 per issue.

-Yoder Newsletter Issues 1 Through 25 - bound 240 page volume includes a topical index of major articles, an "every name index". (Price \$28 post paid).

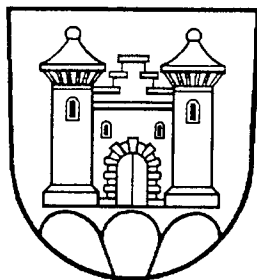
Order from: The Yoder Newsletter, P.O.Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527.

CORRECTION TO YNL 32: "Johannes" vs "Zanneh"- On page 2 of YNL 32, we presented an on YR251118, with the bible record provided by Joseph T. Yoder of Federal Way, Washington. We included an annotation which deciphered the German script as saying "Zanneh"--thanks to Rachel Kreider for correcting our interpretation of this script---it really says "Johannes".

YODER HOMEPAGE MENTIONED IN STEFFISBURG PUBLICATION

The "Burger-Post der Burgergemeinde Steffisburg" highlighted our Yoder Newsletter homepage and its internet address (www.yodernewsletter.org) in the November 1998 issue.

In September, YNL Webmaster Donald Kauffman placed a "counter" on the homepage, and we're proud to say that by mid February, we had already been visited over 4,500 times!



Burgergemeinde Steffisburg

Request for Help on Disease Research

The Beth Israel Medical Center is seeking people of Amish/Mennonite descent who suffer any of the following symptoms; "involuntary muscle contractions, abnormal movement or twisting of any part of the body, uncontrolled blinking, neck and head pulling, distorted speech, deteriorating handwriting, or a turning inward of the foot. These are characteristics of a neurological disorder which most often does undiagnosed, called Dystonia".

Through a large family in the Goshen, Indiana area, the cause has been linked to a gene mutation somewhere on chromosome 8. Now, more families are needed to participate. Participation is voluntary, and would involve, at least, the donation of blood samples. All expenses paid. Please contact: Sally Brown, 1325 Greencroft, Apt. 366, Goshen, IN 46526; or August Baetsle, 224 E Grove St., Mishawaka, IN 46545 (219) 256-2058; or Deborah Raymond, MS, Dept. of Neurology, Movement Disorders Center, Beth Israel Medical Center, 10 Union Square East, NY NY 10003 (212) 844-8713

Letters to the Editor

Dear YNL,

..my immigrant ancestor Johannes Yoder (3/11/1795-4/28/1878) m. Mary Schmucker. There is some local information that his sister Barbara married his wifes brother Daniel Schmucker. After Daniel died in 1834, she immigrated in 1835. Her children then married local Swiss families.

The Berne Witness obituary of my great-grandfather Jacob (3/26/1828-11/4/1904) (son of Johannes) gave his place of birth as Altkirk, Alsace.

This last Sept. I was privledged to be on the Swiss Mennonite heritage tour with escort Delbert Gratz. We had more people on the tour with Yoder ancestry than any other name. We were not sure the bus would make it up the windy road to the St. Yoder Chapel as the electric fencing for the animals was close to the road and when the bus made some of the turns the fencing was close. After some backing up we made it OK.--Car R. Yoder, Berne, In

To The Editor,

A big thank you for making it easier to find family and history. I first got into my search in Feb of this year, a novice and very "green." Now I have located 3 first cousins, and about 6 second cousins. I know my heritage back to the 1600's and have learned where I come from. My dad, James Allen Yoder ran away from PA as a teen and never went back or talked about his family. I didn't know what it meant to be a Yoder. Now I count myself lucky to be among your numbers. I plan on attending the National reunion and look forward to hearing more about it. -- Jaydine Yoder-Knight

YODER SKETCHES BY LYNN LORAH



HANS YODER, JR. HOMEHEAD Pleasantville, Penna.

House of Hans Yoder Jr. (OH11)

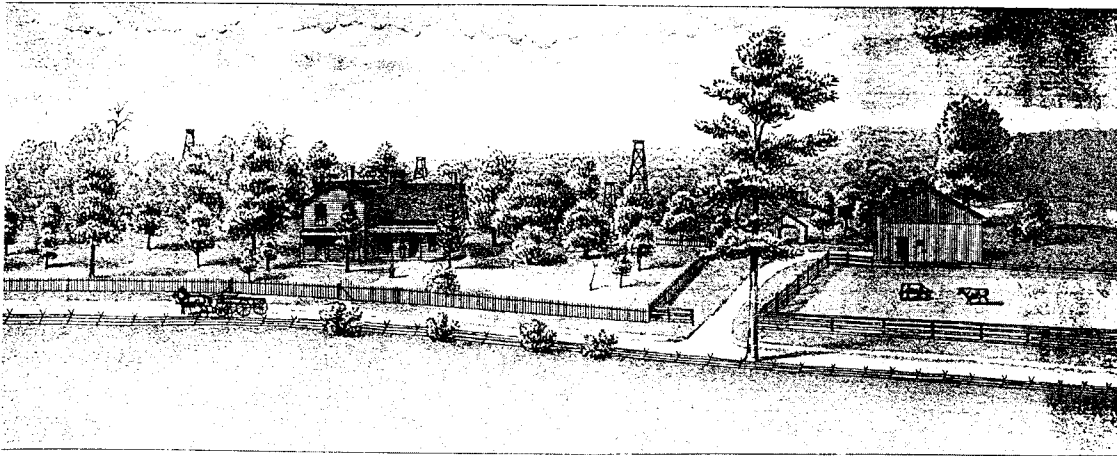
Talented area sketch artist Lynn Lorah created a number of original works to commemorate the Oley Valley "Heritage Tour". These beautiful sketches are still available. For further information contact: Lynn Lorah, RD2, Box 144, Oley, Pa 19547.

Fragments of the Past- Reprinted

"Fragments of the Past" by Dr. Peter Bertolet has been reprinted by the Oley Valley Heritage Association, P.O. Box 401, Oley, Pa. 19547. It can be ordered from that address for \$18.00 (postage included). This important work on the early settlers of the Oley Valley, is a "must" for anyone with ancestors in the area, and has a separate chapter on the Yoder family. Act quickly, as copies are limited!!

JOHN S. YODER HOME

The Amish Heritage Foundation in Sugarcreek, Ohio plans to open the John S.Yoder Home to the public this summer. We have spent three years working to preserve and prepare this original 1869 Amish Home as authentically as possible for the curious tourist. It has been landscaped and painted and will be furnished with antique Amish furniture mirroring the 1869 era. The village of Sugarcreek was platted from the John S. Yoder Farm.-Blaine F Miller, Sec. Treas.



RES. & FARM OF ELIAS YOTER, SITUATED ON FRANKLIN & TITUSVILLE ROAD, 2 MILES FROM FRANKLIN, VENANGO CO. PA. 424 ACRES.

From History of
Venango County
Pennsylvania- 1879
by J. A. Caldwell,
Columbus, Ohio

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Yoder (OY42), also known as "Irish Pete". He was a grandson of immigrant Yost Yoder, through son Jacob who married Maria Keim. Peter is said to have been a farmer, a merchant and a hotel keeper. He married Anna (Nancy) Oyster, Aug. 17, 1784. At the time of his death in 1817, he owned two tracts of property in Pike Township, Berks County- one of 156 acres, and another of 51 acres. The Orphans court record dated January 1818, cited widow Anna and listed son George as a minor at that time.

Richard H. Yoder reports that later land records showed that Anna owned property in Columbia County directly beside her son George. Columbia County Deed Book, No. 4, page 338, 15 May 1820 shows Sabastian FOUST & wife Elizabeth of Albany Twp, Berks Co, deeding property to George Yoder ---message & tract in Catawissa Twp, containing 152 1/2 acres, beginning at a corner of Nancy Yoder's land. "in and out of 5 equal and undivided thirteenth parts, parts of 800 acres of land in Schuylkill Co. which were taken up in the name of Conrad Martz and George Flower---patent dated 4 Jan 1788 and conveyed unto a certain Jacob FOUST as in and by said patent enrolled in the Rolls office for the state of Pa. in Pat. Bk #12 pages 90 & 91---. Relation being thereunto had more fully at large appear Whereas the said Jacob Foust being so seized and possessed thereof died intestate leaving 14 children one of who died intestate and without issue and whereas five of the children of the said Jacob Foust deceased in and by their several duty executed did grant and convey unto Sabistain Foust and to his heirs---and the said Sabistain Foust and Elizabeth his wife by their deed of Indenture bearing date of 15 April 1820 did convey the above mentioned 5/13 of the 800 acres of land in Schuylkill Co. aforesaid (inter alia) unto George Yoder---recited indenture recorded at Danville in the office for recording deeds in and for Columbia Co. in the Deed Book D pages 338,339". According to Richard, there is no such Deed Book in Columbia Co, nor is there any entry in their Grantor/Grantee index books.

In the 1820 census, George "Yitter" (age 16-26) is shown living in Hemlock Township, Columbia County, Pa with his wife and one son under 10 years of age.

Deed Book 4, page 521 11 Apr 1826 shows George Yoder and Ab. Strohm--Adm. of Ann Yoder deceased to James Pantacost 29 1/2 acres---It being the same tract, from the estate of Jacob Foust. Abraham Strohm was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Peter and Anna. George sold part of the above property to James Pantecost DB 4-521 11 Apr 1826 and part of it Jacob Shulze DB 5-511 on 5 April 1828. (NOTE: Northumberland County was established in 1772, Schuylkill in 1811, and Columbia Co in 1813.)

By 1830, George disappeared from Columbia, but George "Yeoters" of the same age, with a matching son over 10 years (and other children) shows up in Venango Co. Cherry Twp. In 1840 we see this fellow in "Sugar Creek Twp"(as "Yoder"), and in 1850 (as "Yoter") and 1860 we see him in Oakland Twp. In the later two censuses, we also see the name of his wife...Margaret. Alice E. Morrison of the Venango County Genealogy Club writes that the German migration to Oakland Twp came from Berks and Center

Counties, and this also matches George's origin. George Yoter died on 3/12/1872 at the age of 71y 5m 11d and is buried in the Oakland Cemetery in Dempseytown, Pa, Venango County.

In February of this year, the YNL was contacted over the internet by Charles and Jill Ferguson of Denver, Colorado. These folks are the first we've ever run into who are descended from this George. They have added to the record the name of George's wife..."Margaret Shickel" based on the death certificate of his daughter Sarah Yoter Benninghoff, who died in 1909 in Mercer Co, Pa. They also contributed the sketch of George's son Elias Yoter's farm (shown above). They cite a Jacob Shickel, 1820 & 1830 censuses, in Columbia county, Hemlock Twp. In 1820, he is next door to George Yoder, and they speculate he may have been Margaret's father.

Here is George's family group as best as we have been able to establish it at this point:

OY426- George Yoter (Yoder) b c 10/1/1800 PA m Margaret (Peggy) Shickel (c1793 or 1800-) d 3/12/1872 age 71y 5m 11d buried Oakland Cemetery, in Dempseytown, Venango County, Pa. farmer .(References: Elias's Veterans pension; Venango Genealogical Society, Elissa M. Stuttler-'97) (Will dated 2/16/1872, recorded 3/25/1872 for George Yoter, Oakland Twp. Lists wife Margaret, son Elias, gd Mrs. Sarah Ann Carter, son William, and daughter Sarah Bennyhoof)

OY4261- male b 1815-20 (William-living in1872-?? pos. 1850 Lawrence Co, Pa; & William Yoter b. 5/-/1819 Pa -1900 Gage Co.,Nebraska) ("granddaughter"- d/o OY4261?- Sarah Ann b 3/7/1846 m 1/3/1867 Thomas Theodore Carter d 1918 bur Bethel Meth Church Cem, Oakland Twp, Venango Co (Marriage Reference "Venango Spectator" 1/11/1867-cited husband's name as John W. Carter-both of Oakland)

OY4262- male b 1820-25
OY4263- Sarah (3/3/1822-8/7/1909) m. Charles Benninghoff Resided in Venango Co, Pa, Arcola, Il , and Mercer Co, Pa
OY4264- male b 1825-30

(Thomas b c1832 d 7/12/1854 age 22 on Salmon River, CA of congestion of the bowels-(Per Venango Spectator Tobias Yoter d.7/12/1854 age 21))
+OY4265- male b 1830-35 Elias b 1836

OY4265- Elias Yoder (10/1/1836-2/28/1905 Florence, Co-reportedly drowned) m 4/11/1860 (or 4/16/1862) Dempseytown, PA by Rev Jacob Weikel to Mary A Weikel (c1838-6/8/1899 age 61 Florence,Co) moved to Florence c1895, res Galloway, Sugar Creek Twp in 1880 (Venango Deed book 105, page 110 from Elias Yoter and Mary A. Yoter, his wife, of Sugarcreek Twp., received title to this land by will).(No will recorded for Margaret in Venango) Farmer

OY42651- Ella V b 12/3/1866 m J G Johnston res 1880 Galloway, Venango Co, PA, res. Florence, Col. at time of father's death)
OY42652- Maud Phipps Yoter (-1/24/1881 age 11 months)
"d/o Elias Yoter"

Elias Yoter served in the Civil War, enlisting as a private at Franklin, Pa. on Oct. 6, 1862 in "Co. A Unattached Pennsylvania Militia" and . "Guthries Ind B Co". He was discharged at Harrisburg on Jul. 23, 1863. He applied for a disability pension in 1895 while living in Colorado.

Elias Yoter
(Signature.)

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Snyder County (part of Northumberland County from 1772-1813). Survivors were his wife: Elizabeth, and children Melchior, Catherine, Elizabeth, all under 14. Mathias Schoch was appointed guardian for the young children.

The name "Melchior" is a very rare one among the Yoder line (only known to have been used three times in the U.S. and found once in Alsace). It is thanks to this uniqueness that we have been able to track the movement of Melchior Jr. (M5) and also of Melchior (M31), son of Benjamin, on into Ohio. I'll use their numbers to try to make clear in the text which one I'm talking about.

Melchior Jr. (M5) is listed in the 1810 Northumberland County, Pa. census, age 26 to 45, with a wife and one son under 10 years of age. In 1816, he is listed as one of the legates in the will of his uncle Jacob Yoder, bachelor of Centre Twp, Union County, Pa. He is gone from that county by the 1820 census. The History of Franklin and Pickaway Counties, Ohio, page 302, tells of an early settler to Washington Township, Pickaway Co., Ohio named "George Heise". At the age of 17 he came from Pennsylvania in 1818, "driving the team of Mahlon Yetter and family", who also settled in the township. Interestingly enough, there was no "Mahlon Yetter", but the 1819 tax record for the township shows the addition of "Melcher Yoder"....obviously the same person.

The 1820 listings shows two entries for Melchor Yoder...one for a 41 acre plot, the second for a 25 acre plot with the occupation "taylor" written beside Melchor's name. Dual Melchor Yoders appear up through 1829. In that year the name is spelled "Yotter" and the property owners are listed as Melchor Yotter with 1 horse and 4 cattle, and the other Melchor Yotter, this time shown as "Jr", with 2 cattle. It was not clear from the 1829 record which one relates to the 41 acre plot, and which to the 25 acre plot, but it would seem that a tradesman (the taylor) would need less livestock than a farmer.

Early marriage records for Pickaway County show:

-May 20, 1819, Catherine Yoder m. Andrew Dill

-Jan. 22, 1826, Melchor Yoeder m. Catherine Pontious.

-Feb. 24, 1828, Martha Yoeder m. Daniel Somers

The "Melchior Yeoder" in this marriage list is known to have been born in 1799, and therefore matches the son of Benjamin (M31). Catherine matches the name and approximate age of one of his known sisters. The identity of Martha is in question...she could have been the other sister (listed as "Elizabeth" in the estate of Benjamin) or an unrecorded daughter of Melchior Jr. The Pontius family had come to Washington Township from Centre County, Pa in 1806.

Index entries show that in 1829, an executors bond was recorded in Pickaway County, for a "Melchior Yoder". Letters to the county courthouse have not succeeded in locating the details of this record. It is certain that this was the senior of the two Melchior Yoders (M5). The 1830 Pickaway County Census, shows his widow Catherine Yoder, age 40-50, with only a girl in the household age 5 to 10, on page 41 in Washington Township. On page 46, the younger Melchior Yoder (M31) is listed, age 20 to 30, with one son and one daughter under 10. Tax records for Washington Twp in 1830 show "Melchor Yodder" with 41 acres (apparently the farmer vs the Tailor). Just then, the closing bell rang at the Ohio Historical Society, so there is obviously more to work out here. What became of the widow Catherine, we don't yet know...Nor do we know if she and her husband had any children of their own. The executors bond, if ever found will be invaluable in working this out.

We do know, however, that in 1833 Melchior Yotter (M31) bought land in Seneca County, Ohio--about 115 miles to the north: *History of Seneca County, Ohio, Original Land Entries of Adams Township, page 1065:*

Melchior Yotter, s.w. 1/4 s.w. 1/4 sec. 21, Jan. 25, 1833.

Melchior Yotter, s.e. 1/4 s.e. 1/4 sec. 20, March 25, 1833.

Members of the Pontius family had moved there several years before, and perhaps this link to his wife's family was the attraction that took them north.

In 1840, Melchior is recorded (age 40-50) in Adams Twp, Seneca Co, with wife (age 30-40) a son and daughter (between 10 and 15), another son and daughter (between 5 and 10), and another son under 5. Their children came to adulthood and several married while in Seneca County. They apparently were members of the Coffman Methodist Episcopal Church in Adams Township, as

several grandchildren who died as infants were buried there. On May 17, 1858, "M. Yotter" sold his two tracts of 40 acres each for \$980 and \$1300 respectively. On the same day, "C. Yotter" sold another 40 acre tract for \$1300 (perhaps his wife Catherine selling an inheritance). On Nov. 3 of the same year, their son John Yotter sold the 80 acres he had purchased 7 years previously for \$2300.

The family moved on to Kosciusko County, Indiana, settling in Claypool Township. "Melcher Yotter" wrote his will on November 13, 1858 -naming sons John and Jacob executors, mentioning wife Catherine and "two youngest sons Henry and George". Just four months later, he died on 28 March 1859 (age 60y 3m 25d) and was buried in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, State Route 15, 15 miles north of Claypool, in Row 8, Lot 6.



Mt. Pleasant Church and Cemetery, north of Claypool, In.

Widow Catherine survived him by many years. She is seen in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 Censuses of Kosciusko County, and in 1886 tax assessment list. In 1860 Census, 72 year old Susann Pontius (her mother perhaps?), resided with her. Catherine died Jun. 2, 1892, age 84y 7m 1d, and is buried with her husband.

Their family group is outlined as follows:

M31- Melchior Yotter (3/28/1799 perhaps in Penn Township, Snyder County, Pa- 3/28/1859) m. 1/26/1826 Pickaway Co, Oh. to Catherine Pontius (born 11/2/1807 - died 6/2/1892). All children b. Ohio.

M311- John Yotter (1827 Pickaway Co, Ohio-1881 Kosciusko Co.In) m. 1/23/1849 in Seneca County, Ohio by Nicholas Noel to Elizabeth Beigh (March 1830 Pa->1900) Had three children buried in the Coffman Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in Adams Township, Seneca County, Ohio; 2 sons and a daughter of J. & E. Yotter died 1854-1855. John's will dated 6/24/1881 names John of Silver Lake, wife Elizabeth, and daughters Mary (Hill), Adaline (Lowry) and Ella Yotter.

M312- daughter born 1825-1830.

M313- Susanah born 1830-1835. m. 3/20/1856 in Seneca County, Ohio by Wm. Jones, MG to Anthony HUBER

M314- Jacob Yotter (8/13/1836 Seneca Co, Oh-1/27/1860 consumption age 37y 5m 9 days, Kosciusko Co, In) m. 10/11/1855 in Seneca County, Ohio by Michael Long, M.G. to Amanda Frances Williams (7/14/1835 Oh-11/24/1874 in Ohio age 39y 4m 10d). Both interred at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Had children Jasper, b. 9/20/1857 and Martha, b. c1859. On the death of both parents, their uncle Cyrus Williams was named guardian in 1878.

M315- Henry (1840-6/4/1872 age 32y 2m 26d). Remained single. Interred in Row 6, Lot 7, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, beside his brother Jacob.

M316- George W. Yotter (10-/1841 Oh-) m. Esther Jane (6-/1841-)

Jasper Yotter, son of Jacob, married Margaret Shobe in 1880. He moved to Montana in 1889 and engaged in mining at several locations. In 1919 he moved to Whitehall and became a prominent businessman there, along with his son Rollin. He formed community bands in both Claypool and Whitehall, and was active in his church...serving as choir director and Sunday School superintendent when in Indiana. He remained in Whitehall until his death in 1932.

(Thanks to Helen Caraveo for the photographs of Jacob and Jasper Yotter on the following page)



M315- Henry Yotter



Amanda Frances Williams Yotter

80 at this time, and it is known that he had played a respected and leading role in the Amish church for many years. The text was interesting, in itself, but recently we provided a copy to a well respected authority in handwriting analysis. Mr. Malcom Sadler. Mr. Sadler, who reads no German, was told nothing about the writer. His personality assessment, made directly from features revealed in the handwriting itself is as follows:

"EMOTIONS: The writer of this specimen is a person who is inclined to be very impulsive, but all indications point toward him keeping his emotions well under control most of the time. He drives himself extremely hard and may tire before the day ends because he uses so much energy on every project. He likes good times, excitement, travel, and all good things that pertain to his social life which I would not mention. There are indications that this person likes rich food that is highly seasoned and may be a little ale to put in his tank in case he or she might run into a virus.

"FEELINGS: His feelings are deep and enduring and life experiences are written upon his personality.

"MENTAL: In dealing with this writer's mental capacity I find him to be sharp as a tack. He is very analytical and has the capacity of sifting facts and selecting essentials. (I do not know what sex I am dealing with...since we cannot tell from the writing...so in this case I assume this is a man). He has a good memory and pays close attention to small details. His writing points to an inquiring mind, along with an interest in new things. His thinking appears to be careful and he has the capacity to change from one thought to another with ease and rapidity. His mind works like a smooth transmission in a new automobile. With fluidity in speech and deed he has the ability to adjust to a group or situation.

"IMAGINATION: In the abstract fields of imagination (Philosophical, Theoretical and spiritual fields) this author appears to have roamed these hills in search for many of his answers. In the material field he searched, but according to his writing he did not bring much to reality.

"FORCES TO ACHIEVE: From what I can see, this writer set his goals rather high. He enjoyed and planned for distant things, feeling that what he wished for in life was worth working and waiting for. His will power was rather strong and enduring. In all likelihood, it would take many obstacles to discourage him once he made up his mind. His determination was a ladder to success, and he felt when you stop climbing your only way was down. This writer was very aggressive and with his persistent nature he indicated he wanted to go on repeating his effort to gain his objective.

"FEARS: In dealing with his fears I feel he had a desire for attention, or a flair for doing things in a manner that focuses attention to himself. Another fear this writer had was a fear of being left out, and this may be a need to excel over others or a fear of being rejected. We definitely know he was jealous. And there is repression. Repression is when we have rejected from your conscious mind unhappy incidents, thoughts, memories and feelings, thereby curbing our ability to be freely self-expressive. This writer had a fear of expressing his undesired feelings and they were buried in his unconscious mind, fear of expressing them caused him to repress them.

"DEFENSE: In his defenses this writer had the ability to communicate with ease and this helps him swing others to his point of view. Objections would seem to melt before his smooth flow of well-chosen phrases. Also, this writer had a little temper that tended to sputter and that drives people away. A poor defense since it exposes a prime weakness.

"INTEGRITY: This writer has many characteristics that display his integrity. He is very zealous and determined in whatever he undertakes to do. He has a straight forward approach to matters that concern him and generous toward others in a controlled way. He is very stable and this is supported by his dignity and poise. There are indications of his understandings and appreciations in fine arts of life and this is a contributing force to his social life.

"COMMENTS: There is no doubt that this person had much going for himself. He had strong determination, goals set rather high, very persistent, rhythm stable, will power strong and with that high powered emotional engine to drive him, success was bound to have been his destination."



W. D. Miller



M314- Jacob Yotter (1836-1860) taken in Tiffin, Ohio

Jasper Yotter (1857-1939) wife Margaret M. Shobe, and children Thaddeus Rollin and Frances Catherine in Warsaw, In.

Some Recent Yoder Contacts:
YR1284143- Samuel M. Yoder- Rebecca Scott,rrscott@visuallink.com
G38-David W Yoter, Bonnie Yoter Reifsnyder, Hershey, PA
YR23378- Elizabeth Yoder , Mrs. Chris Shearer Cooper
YB139336-Rev. Abram Yoder-Herbert Yoder, gradusa@netscape.net

YODER MONUMENT WORKS



This tent and exhibit from the 1923 Elkhart County fair lists: "Yoder Monument Wks. Cemetery Memorials, 205 E. Linc. Ave, Goshen, In". The photograph was found at an antique store in southern California. Who can tell us about this firm and it's owners?

D.C. YODER AT ANDERSONVILLE PRISON



Thanks to Marie Yoder of Temple, Pa. for this photograph of the grave of "D.C. Yoder of Indiana" who died in the Andersonville prison camp. A review of all male Yoders of 13 years+ as of 1860 census with a first initial of "D", seems to eliminate all but David Yoder (Con67) age 42--whose whereabouts after the war is not known. Nearly 13,000 prisoners died during the 14 months the prison was operated, before its liberation in April of 1865. Over 45,000 Union soldiers had been held prisoner there, including Pennsylvanian Samuel Yoder (OH13386) who survived the war and died in 1880 at Fristburg, Clarion Co.,PA. Also, David Yoder (1842-1897) who is buried in the Reformed Cemetery, Greenburr, Pa., is known to have spent 4 weeks in Andersonville during his period of imprisonment.

Noah Yoder (YR1462a)



Thanks to Barbara Fink for sharing this photo, found in the pictures of her mother. It was marked "Granddad Yoder". From the age of the photo it seems clear that this is of Noah Yoder (YR1462a) (4/10/1827 MP-2/4/1917 Logan Co, O) rather than his son John W...who lived until 1933. Noah and his first wife are buried in the Yoder cemetery, Logan County, O). Barbara Fink, 5085 Springbank Rd., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043.

The Pennsylvania Gazette-July 9, 1747

"Philadelphia, July 9. 1747. RUN away the 5th of this instant, from John Yoder, of Oley township, Philadelphia county, two Irish servant men; the one named Daniel Donahew, about 40 years of age, of middling size, long thin visage, much pock mark, has a large scar on his left cheek, and another on his neck, black hair, if not cut off, by trade a miller. Had on when he went away, a felt hat, homespun shirt, a light brown linsey jacket, with brass buttons, two trowsers, yarn stockings, and half worn shoes. The other names Thomas Lynch, about 20 years of age, well set, much freckled in his face, black hair, if not cut off. Had on when he went away, a chestnut colourlinsey jacket, a fine hat, an ozenbrigs shirt, tow trowsers, and new shoes. They took some other cloaths with them, and perhaps may change those describ above. Whoever takes up and brings the said servants to their master, or secures them in any goal, so that he may have them again, shall have THREE PISTOLES reward for each, and reasonable charges, paid by JOHN YODER."

(Thks to Jeff Reimert <JREIMERT@landata.com> for sharing this)

**Moses Yoder and Eliza Mullen (YR2393)
 Canadian Yoder Cousins**



Thanks to David Luthy of the Heritage Historical Library, Aylmer, Ontario, for sharing this photograph of the gravestone of Moses Yoder and his wife. Moses (YR2393 and DBH318), was the son of the John and Barbara Yoder mentioned in the Somerset County, Pa. cemetery clean-up appearing elsewhere in this issue.

Moses (1799-1880) and his wife are buried in the Springfield Cemetery, which is 5 miles north of Aylmer. According to a Centennial article appearing in the June 15, 1977 issue of the Aylmer Express, Springfield got it's name from the fact that the original buildings were in a field in which there were a number of springs. The name was reportedly proposed when Moses owned the farm by his daughter Susanna (Mrs. Jehill Mann). At Moses' death, the property passed his son John (1835-1890) who operated the "Cloverly Apiary" and a well equipped cheese factory.

 For information on the Heritage Historical Library, write:
 David Luthy, Route 4, Aylmer, Ontario, N5H 2R3.

 Some Recent Yoder Contacts:

- M271- Mary Yoders- James L. Fisher, Banning, jlfisher@pe.net
- OY43416- John R. Yoder, KarenFrancis@webtv.net (Karen Francis)
- YR23566- Susanna Yoder, Brenda Woodling" <brenvan@bright.net>
- YR23958c- Annie Yoder, Jean Wall <JWALL98@EROLS.COM>
- FA112- Jean Joder b. 1744 md. Catherine Klopfenstein
- Mr Jody Dee Jones <jdj@swttools.fc.hp.com>

*****Queries*****

The YNL will publish Yoder related inquiries or exchanges at no charge. Please limit as possible to include a full return address. All inquiries are checked against our records to see if we can help too. If you receive added info, please share it with the YNL for our files. Send Queries to: Chris Yoder, 203 Lakeshire Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49015 or email at 75757.3371@compuserve.com.

Looking for information on Hannah Yoder (6/16/1841-12/9/1901) m. c1866 to Isaac Zellers (11/30/1838 Union Co, Pa-2/21/1902) resided near New Columbia, Union Co, Pa. Was the daughter of Benjamin Yoder and his wife Hannah (? the same who married Hannah Klein in 1825, near Reading) (see Yoder unlinked, code "BX"). Isaac was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery. Don't know where Hanna was buried. Reply to address is: Bill Zeller, 217 Brainard Ave., Fayetteville, NC., 28301 at: peterzel@foto.infi.net

I've just started researching my family and have very little information. My father was Lewis Ernest (nee Ernestus) Yoder, born in 1915. He had a brother Harry Leroy Yoder. His father was Robert Kinderdine Yoder and his mother was Gertrude Hoffman. His grandfather was Lewis M. Yoder and came from Germany. That is all I have. Can anyone help me? My address is: Jerrie Yoder Stover, 2327 Hill Ave., Middletown, Ohio 45044 <Classy@chatnet.com>

I'm looking for any information about David Yoder born in Miami Co., OH, Sept. 19, 1845. He died March 12, 1908. His wife was Caroline Dickey Yoder, born Darke Co., OH, May 29, 1852. Died March 20, 1909. Their son David Benson (Benjamin) Yoder born Oct. 10, 1887, Darke Co. OH, died Aug 15, 1971. Any help in further family history would be greatly appreciated. Also would love to hear from cousins. "AV2" - David B. I think was my grandfather. Reply to: Ron Yoder, P.O.Box 602, Brighton, MO 65617-0602

My family has kept no written records over the past 2 or 3 generations. My grandmother was Edna Yoder, was born around Franklin, PA. Married Lee Fry and had her first child at the age of 13 on June 10, 1929. Had 8 more children over the next 23 years. She had several brothers and sisters on farms in the Franklin area. Names I remember are "Skin", "Baldy", "Red", and "Aunt Orrie" who loved baseball and who's husband enjoyed magic as a hobby. Not sure these people were my grandmother's siblings or my grandfather's, but I think they were Yoders. One lived on a farm called "River Bend", located on a river outside of Franklin. My great grandfather Yoder died sometime between 1954 and 1959. My mother's name was Helen Lorraine Fry Carpenter and was born at home June 10, 1929. She then spent 5 years in a foundling home before my grandparents brought her home again. Her siblings were Peggy Fry Ennis, Virginia ?, Willie Fry, Patricia Weaver, James and Robert (twins) Fry, Thomas Fry, and Richard K. Fry. Please reply to: Nancy Carpenter Newman, 5326 Institute Lane, Houston, TX 77005 - e-mail address: pegnew34@aol.com

YB13942- Joseph Detweiler Yoder--Anyone with connections to this family line I would like to talk to. I believe that Anna E. who married Morris Freed is our Anna Yoder Freed we were looking for. Her Son - Harold Yoder Freed Birth: 8 Jan 1915 PA Death: 1 Dec 1989 Ogden, Utah Was in the Military WW. Mrs. Walker, PO Box 160062, Clearfield, UT. 84016-0062 <Babjem@aol.com>

Claire/Clara Jane YODER born 23 June 1862 at ????. She was married to John Frederick FABEL/FABLE on 06 Dec 1881 in Liberty, Tioga Co., PA. She died 04 Dec 1885. Their children were: Sarah Catherine born 1882; Anna Amelia born 1885. Who were Claire/Clara's parents? Ola M. Santoni, 9745 Enniskeen Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89129-8004 - osantoni@sprintmail.com

What was the ancestry of Jacob Yotter (1837-1899) who married Anna Maria Fulmer of Freemansburg, Pa? Jacob was a "boatman" , served in the Civil War, and was the son of a John Yotter and his wife Sarah (unlinked "A"). Linda J. Eters, 2505 N. Eagle Valley Rd., Howard, PA 16841, 814-355-8820, Betta1942@aol.com

My connection to the Yoder line begins with John Christian Yoder (1895-1989) when he married Lulu Henrietta Shaffer. I have record of only one child, John Landis, who married Gwen Youngworth. J. Christian & Lulu were buried in Harrisburg. I would like to know anything else about this family that I could. Deborah Eater, 164 North Turn Lane, Levittown, PA 19054, debeater@netreach.net

Does anyone know of a John Yoder, son of Samuel, who lived to be at least 90 years old? He may have lived Union Co, PA or Berks Co. John was listed in his father's will as having children Samuel & Henry. He might have had the birthday of 21 May 1809. He would have been a sibling of my grgr-grm who was Hannah (Yoder) Guyer (c1829-1891), dau of Samuel Yoder (OY413) and Esther Reppert. I would like enough information to look for an obit. Estella Kling Johnson, Duelwood Farm, 11447 NY40, Schaghticoke, NY 12154 ekjohnson@worldnet.att.net

Wanted: Ancestry of my grndfather Henry Zook Yoder (YR234163), b. 1/18/1844 in Holmes Co, Oh. m. Sarah Ann Luke in 1882, after moving to Johnson Co., Ia. Then moved to Goshen Co., Wyo. Reply: Alda (Ann) Stewart, 200 San Carlos Dr., Hemet, Ca. 92543

David Yoder b. 1830. David was Mennonite. I found a prayer book belonging to my grandmother, Anna Yoder Wilson, which was Mennonite. David Married Martha (aka Mattie, Magdalena) Kendall born 26 May 1836 in Walnut Creek Twp., Holmes Co., OHIO. also m. Mary J. Drake b. 8/19/1857 died 1/23/1936 Elkhart Co., IN. Children included: Malinda was born 1858 married Will Pierson 9 Jan 1876; John died 1891 Marshall Co., IN.; Nehemiah b. 23 Aug 1863 - Ohio, d. 10 Oct 1883--Janet Ruof, 11519 Jurupa Road, Mira Loma, CA 91752; email: janta@earthlink.net

MISSING YODERS

NOTICE- IF YOU KNOW THE PERSONS BEING LOOKED FOR, PLEASE CONTACT THEM AND LET THEM BE THE ONES TO INITIATE CONTACT!! THANK YOU!!

LOOKING FOR ALEXANDRA YODER!!- I met Alexandra Yoder in San Francisco, summer 1987. We were together for only two hours and started writing letters for many years. When she left for Bloomington university we lost contact. The only thing I know is that she lived at Crabtree lane, Elkhart, In. I would like to re-establish our contact. Henno C. Meijerink, Burg. v/d Voort v. Zijplaan 62, 3571 VX, Utrecht Netherlands, <h.meijerink@organon.oss.akzonobel.nl>

My name is Ferrin Hicks, I live in Lakeland, Florida, and went to Lakeland Senior High School, class of 1958. Am trying to find a woman named Susan Yoder. She went to school with me and we were close friends. We lost touch after school and I would love to find her. J. Ferrin Hicks, 1046 Cherry Lane, Lakeland, FL 33811-2626. (941) 648-5096 Phone, FHicks7455@aol.com

Looking for John Yoder. We went to school in Cherry Hill NJ. The last I knew he lived on Rt. 73. I believe the town was Berlin, NJ. There were 2 schools that we attended together; an elementary school (Archway Elementary School), the second was a high school named The Alternative School. My mailing address is: Bonnie MacKenzie (aka Bonnie Cole); 528 E. Imperial Hwy Apt F; Fullerton, CA, 92835-1120

Looking for MYRA YODER of Charlotte, NC- My name is William Parnell. Looking for an old friend--her name is Myra Yoder, we were in Harding High school in Charlotte, N.C. together. I believe she said she and her folks were from Lincolnton NC--William Parnell, c/o R&T Auto Sales, 2626 Wilkinson Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28208

Some Recent Yoder Contacts:
YR12a33- Elias Yoder- cfluharty@mednet.ucla.edu
AY4- Emanuel Yoder who married Sarah Crist- Esty Childress
Con2961- Edward Everit Yoder- Daniel L. Yoder, Dlyoder@aol.com
YR233743- Valentine D. Yoder, Karen English <bigblue37@juno.com>
YR234434- Aaron T. Yoder, Keith Yoder, Centreville, VA

Christian Yoder (YR23) Cemetery Status

The brass marker has been ordered...

Old Yoder Cemetery

This cemetery lies on the original homestead of "Schweitzer" Christian Yoder (c1728-1816). He purchased a 606 acre plot in Somerset Co. on Oct 9, 1775 for \$968. Christian brought his large family from Berks Co., and was a founder of "the Glades" Amish congregation. He originally arrived at Philadelphia on the ship "Francis and Elizabeth" on Sep. 21, 1742.

Son John Yoder purchased the homestead in 1796. John and his wife Barbara rest under two of the only marked graves in this cemetery. It is likely that "Schweitzer" Christian and many of his other descendants lie under the unmarked stones.

1999

We'll need to raise additional funds to pay for the stone on which to mount it, and for the actual placement at the gravesite. As indicated in the last YNL, anyone contributing \$25 or more will receive a free copy of "The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Descendants" (he was a great grandson of YR23, and his own family number is YR2337a). Please send contributions to "Christian Yoder Cemetery fund-Yoder Newsletter", 203 Lakeshire Rd, Battle Creek, MI 49015.

NORTH CAROLINA YODERS will hold their 49th annual reunion at their normal time in August 1999. Family members are welcome. For details contact: Ted M. Yoder, P.O. Box 10281, Mountain View Station, Hickory, NC 28603.

Plans are still underway for hosting a National Yoder Reunion in August of 2000 (also the occasion of their 50th annual reunion). Watch the next YNL issues for more details.

ANNUAL OLEY REUNION

The Oley Yoders are having their annual regional reunion on July 17th at the Oley Fire House, commencing at 10 am. Details and pre-registration can be obtained by contacting: Yoder Reunion Association, 415 State St., Pottstown, PA 19464. We will mail-out individual invitations to those on our mailing list, later this spring. Our annual reunion for 2000 is scheduled for July 15th.

YODER COOKBOOK REPORT

Yoder Cookbook Committee Report: No more recipes needed. They are ready to go to print, "now".; Cookbooks will be available for sale, at the summer Oley reunion.(7/17/99); Price-\$10.00 each, plus postage and handling of \$2.50. (this is also the cost for multiple purchases) we can only place one cookbook in each envelope.;Send \$12.50 to Alice Yoder, 433 Manor House Lane, Souderton, PA 18964-2802. Make checks out to: Yoder Reunion Association

NATIONAL REUNION-2001

The date for the next National Oley Yoder Reunion is July 21, 2001 Planning includes a Friday the 20th-"add-on" consisting of a "Yoder Amish Heritage Tour of Berks County", conducted by Lois and Lemar Mast, publishers of "Mennonite Family History".

3rd Annual Meeting of House of Yoder

43 persons gathered on a beautiful autumn Saturday (November 14, 1998) at Penn Alps in Grantsville, MD for the third annual meeting of House of Yoder, Inc. The program included an inspiring tour of the Yoder House under construction. \$3110 in contributions came in during the day and this amount was matched from funds in a matching grant. Virgil Yoder gave an informative multimedia presentation of the Yoder story dating back to European origins. A reporter and photographer from the Cumberland Times were present and an article on the annual meeting and the Yoder House appeared in the November 15 issue of that newspaper. The Yoder House is almost under roof at this point with the rafters in place and only the cedar shake shingles needing to be installed. For further information, contact Lonnie Yoder, Publicity/Membership Coordinator, Yoder House Project, 1066 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, 540-432-6467. Itby@shentel.net.

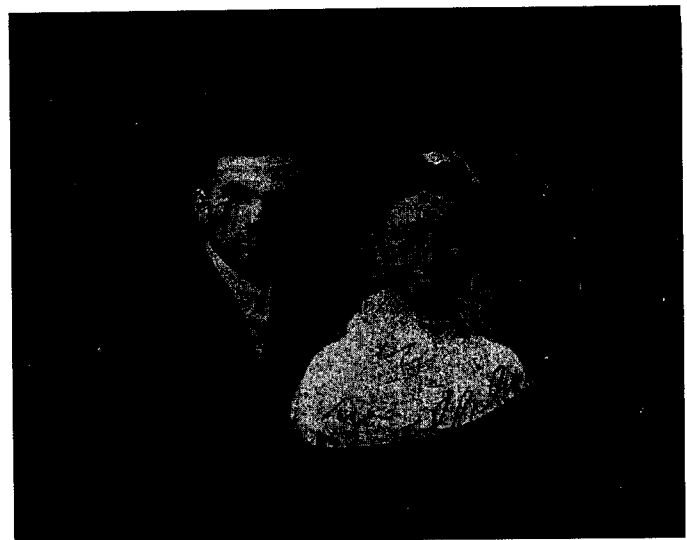
WILLIAM BALL DIES
WISCONSIN VS YODER ATTORNEY

William Bentley Ball, a nationally know champion of religious freedom died Jan. 10, 1999 at the age of 83. He was a teaching fellow in Notre Dame's German department; an attorney with W. R. Grace and Co. in New York and with the drug firm Pfizer Inc. He also taught law at Villanova University and was the general counsel for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. He is best remembered for his efforts to preserve the Amish way of life. On December 8, 1971 Ball argued a major case before the Supreme Court on religious freedom in "Wisconsin vs Yoder". State officials had tried to force Amish children to attend public school until 16 years of age. The court held in his favor on May 15, 1972. (News provided by Carl M. Yoders)

Passings:

-Hatten Yoder III (5/7/1960-11/14/1998) Burtonsville, Pa, beloved son of Dr. and Mrs. Hatten S. Yoder Jr
 -Milton Blatt, 88, historian Salem (Bellemans) Union Church, and retired teacher, Mohrsville, Pa. died 11/11/1998.

West Virginia Yoder Update



Thanks to Connie Mosteller (email:Mikconmost@aol.com) for the update on this family:

Con392-Calvin E. (A.) Yoder b. 6/26/1836 Hickory, Catawba Co., NC m. 10/13/1867 Hickory, Ctwb., NC. Sara Fulbright (5/22/1838-8/4/1919 (or 8/4/1918-per C.M.) d. 1/19/1909 St.Albans, Kanawha Co., WV both bur. Mosteller/Yoder Cem. Tornado, Kanawha Co.,WV ("take Coal River Rd from St Albans to Fallis Creek Rd, go 1 mile turn right on gravel Rd) Civil War- Co D, 36th VA Inf (Connie Mosteller-9/98)

Con3921 Martin Alonzo b.4/12/1867 Hickory, Ctwb., NC d. 5/15/1953 Tornado, Kan., WV Buried Most./Yod. Cem. Tornado, Kan.,WV m. Jane Elizabeth Mosteller (1872-1942)

Con3922 Fidelia (Delle/Delia) b. 8/13/1870 d. 6/19/1924 Tornado, Kan., WV bur. Most/Yod Cem. m. Michael E. Mosteller m.8/7/1887 Lin. Co., NC

Con3923 Mary E. b. 5/18/1872 d. 1920 bur. Wood/Oxley Cem., Browns Ck., S.A.,Kan.,Wv m. Julius Robert Smith

Con3924 Ida E. b. 4/12/1874 d. 3/10/1942 bur. Mt.Tabor Church of God Cem. S.A.,Kan.,WV m. William I. Hall

Con3925 Thomas Alexander b. 4/19/1877 d. 1962 Tornado, Kan. Co., WV m. Delia Butcher (1881-1939) (gfather of Eloise Nicholls, Box 527, Whitesville,WV 25209)

Con3926 Minty Mae b. 4/16/1897 d. 9/2/1947 Kan. Co., WV bur. Cunningham Cem., S.A., Kan. Co.,WV m. A.H. Lambert

NOTE: two other Yoders at this Cemetery- Elizabeth Yoder (4/8/1831- 7/16/1919) and Martha Yoder (3/3/1841)- unknown
