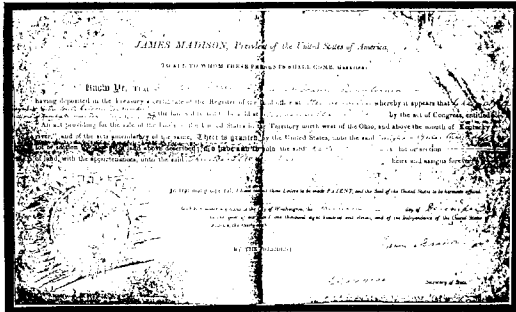




1811 OHIO YODER LAND GRANT FOUND SIGNED BY TWO PRESIDENTS

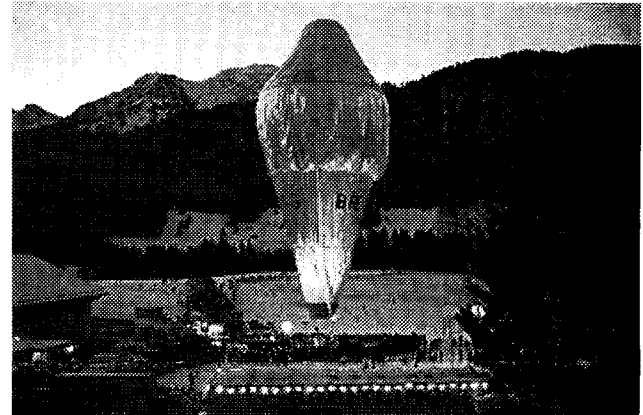


On Dec. 13, 1811, one Christian Yoder received an Ohio land patent signed by the President of the United States and also by the man destined to be his successor.

This document has recently been rescued from the hands of an autograph dealer. All that is known of its origins is that it was purchased from a prior dealer in Boston, Massachusetts about five years ago.

Continued on Page 6

Joder Instrument Guides Historic Balloon Trip



Companies owned by Swiss cousins Andreas and Peter Joder provided the altimeter (variometer) and pressure sensor which helped the hot air balloon "Breitling Orbiter 3" become the first to sail non-stop around the world. Captained by the Swiss-English team of Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones, the balloon broke all previous records for duration and distance, traveling 19 days, 21 hours and 55 minutes before landing in Egypt on Mar. 21, 1999. The team won a \$1,000,000 prize was awarded by Anheuser-Busch. The balloon is featured on the Sept. 1999 cover of National Geographic magazine. We thank John Bieber, for the details of his recent trip to Switzerland and his visit with the Joder family which appears below.

Yoder Steffisburg Web Links

by John W. Bieber

My work sometimes takes me to Switzerland, and on several occasions I've taken the opportunity to visit Steffisburg, ancestral home of the Yoder family. After my first trip, I put some photos of Steffisburg and the nearby castle town of Thun on the Internet, linked to the Yoder Homepage, where Andreas Joder, a distant cousin from the Old Country, came upon them. We corresponded by e-mail and arranged to meet during my latest trip to Switzerland in March 1999. In this way modern technology helped restore family connections that were broken three centuries ago.

Andreas Joder --- "Andy" to his English-speaking acquaintances --- is a friendly, energetic man. My first night in Thun he picked me up at my hotel, and we drove to a restaurant on the shores of Lake Thun. I had a delicious meal of "Nüssli" salad and local lake fish. I don't know the English translation of "Nüssli," if there is one, but it became a favorite of mine the first time I tasted it.

Andy is an Electrical Engineer who spent a number of years in the United States, in Lafayette (Indiana), Minneapolis, and San Francisco. While in the United States, he once paid a visit to Ben Yoder, co-founder of this Newsletter.

Since returning to Switzerland, Andy has been an entrepreneur involved in several high-tech companies, including one that builds pressure sensors used on balloons and hang gliders. The recent Swiss-English team that achieved the first non-stop, around-the-world balloon flight flew with instrumentation manufactured by this Joder company. Currently Andy is focusing his energy on a new company providing Internet services.

The next morning Andy, now accompanied by his father Hans-Jakob (Hans) Joder, picked me up for a day tour of the local area. We first traveled up the lovely "Simmental" (Valley of the Simme River) to Erlenbach, famed for the frescoes painted on the walls of its church in 1420.

Continued on Page 4

SCHWARTZWALD CHURCH PROVIDES INTERESTING MIX AND NEW INFORMATION



Schwartzwald United Church of Christ, Built in 1870, Exeter Township, Berks Co., Pa (Photograph with permission of Justine Walter)

Marriage records for the Schwartzwald congregations of Berks County were kept by the Rev. William Boos between 1781 and 1811. Included are records of a number of Oley Valley Yoder, but surprisingly enough a couple of their Anabaptist cousins as well! The Schwartzwald Lutheran and Reformed church is in Exeter Twp., located 5 miles east of Reading on Rt. 562. According to the Berks County, Pa GENWEB site, these congregations probably date from the early 1740s. A 1745 diary entry and a 1754 letter by H. M. Muhlenberg state that he dedicated this "union church" (meaning shared between Lutheran and Reformed Congregations) in the early years of his service. A communion tankard dated 1744 in the church supports Muhlenberg's statement. A sturdy building served the two congregations until 1811 when a new one was erected. The photo above shows the present structure which was built in 1870 as a United Church of Christ church. During much of the time between its founding and 1793, it appears pastors from Reading served Schwartzwald.

Continued on Page 5

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by
Ben F Yoder (1913-1992); Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider

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 \$\$\$\$ (Price unchanged since 1983!)

-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, and an "every name index". (Price \$28 post paid).

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

CORRECTION TO YNL 33: The photo of the West Virginia Yoder couple on the back page was not identified. It is of Fidela (Delia) Yoder and her husband Michael Mosteller.

Some Recent Yoder Contacts:

- YR1213723- Rufus Yoder- Randy E. Yoder , randy.yoder@eds.com
- Con39251- French Robert Yoder- warlock666_69@webtv.net
- MUH11- James Yoders- Rose Cowan, Van Burean, Ark
- OH13387- Amos Yoder- Carol (Myers) Brown, cdbrown@wesnet.com and Paul Myers <pmyers@bright.net
- YB137135- Clarence T. Yoder-Darroll Chowning, dchow@gte.net
- YR12a3219- Amos Howard Yoder- Steven Amos Yoder, 4351759@email.msn.com
- YR23b446- William John Yoder - Kaye Strause, Muscatine, Ia.
- YR12a333-Levi David Yoder- James Yoder, British Columbia JyODER@bc.sympatico.ca
- YB2142-Mary Yoders -Cindy Barber ,<CBzz@aol.com>Scottdale, PA
- Con533- Nancy (Yoder) Suddeth- Lynne Blanscet, N.Little Rock, Ark.
- YR127327- Samuel P. Yoder- Jack Zornes Jr ,Daleville, AL <jzornes@ala.net>
- YB13724- Noah Nold Yoder- Brenda Jean Yoder <yoderb@bully.net> Starkville, MS
- YR125615- Mary Yoder- Winter Burke Stokes, Berks Co, Pa, WINLYNSTO@aol.com
- YR256244- Ezra T.Yoder & YR2571332- Sallie K. Yoder - Daniel T. Yoder Jr. Wallingford, CT USA <dtYoder32@email.msn.com>
- YR25126- Barbara Yoder -Gerald L. Smith, St. Joseph, MO
- YA33- Christian J Yoder--Nathan Yoder <nateyoder@hotmail.com> Fort Wayne, IN USA
- YR2344341- Rudolph A. Yoder--Carol McGraw, Hutchinson, Ks jefa@midusa.net
- YR146294- Christian B. Yoder-- Marjean Standridge <standridgejj@erols.com>
- YR2337523- James M. Yoder-- J.Bill Yoder, Jr. jbilljc@juno.com
- YR23443485- John A. Yoder--Victor Yoder <victory9@idt.net>
- YR2611341-Noah J Yoder - Loretta Yoder Miller, Uniontown, OH <ls_miller@yahoo.com>
- YA2A--Jacob Yoder.-Deb Sutter<debjsutter@aol.com>St. Louis, MO
- YR23b315--Beatrice Yoder Everton --Scott D. Craigie, Hastings , MN <sdcraigie@aol.com>
- YRB189-Mary Ellen YODER-- Peg Kenaga, clayken@teleport.com

Letters to the Editor:

Hi Chris, I just got back from a vacation to the west coast today. On the way back through Wyoming we stopped by the town of Yoder and checked out the ONLY business in town, the "Yoder Bar". This place is advertised out on the highway by letters and an arrow someone has painted on the side of a metal building with an aerosol can. It seems the town has not prospered much beyond trailer park status in spite of it's age.

I walked into the Yoder Bar and told the waitress why I was interested in the town of Yoder.I asked if there were any other businesses open in town or if this "downtown" area was all there was. She said no there was nothing more to the town the a few houses (maybe 30 or 40) and the bar. The town consists of a population of 136 according to the sign and an altitude of about 5400 ft. It also features a post office, two water towers (proudly proclaiming YODER), a community center, school, and a Yoder Grain Co. We posed for a few pictures.

The people in the bar were kind of excited that there was actually someone interested in coming to Yoder. They treated us well, giving me quite a nice "Yoder Bar" hat, a menu and several business cards. The waitress who was from Ohio commented that Yoder was an Amish name. Looking in the phone book I found that there are no Yoders listed there or in any towns nearby. One old timer sitting at the bar said that Oscar Yoder had died or moved away some years back. He said there was still an adobe house out on the homestead a few miles out of town. We got directions but didn't make the trip out to see it. I chatted with a few more of the locals there till the burgers were ready. Friendly people, but not a Yoder to be found. I'm going to send them a copy of the YNL that has the article about places named Yoder. My map program lists towns or specks on the map in the states of AR,CO,IN,KS,OH,KY,OR, and of course WY. There are also places like Yoder Gulch (no kidding), Yoder pond, ranch and island. Some day I will visit all these places. John W. Yoder

FROM THE WEBPAGE GUESTBOOK: "I never thought that I would be able to find so many ancestors - my grandfather's parents died when he was 2 and we had so little information. This site has helped enormously in tracing the lines - I am a descendant of Yost Yoder (OY)!" Carrie Yoder <frogger_3@hotmail.com> Orlando, FL

"Best regards from Switzerland. I am a Joder (Yoder) originated from Muri near Bern, the capital city of Switzerland. I know their are many Yoders in the US originated from Steffisburg, situated 10 miles south of Muri. It would be interesting to know if their are some Yoders (Joder) originated from Muri/BE. I am enjoy to see there is a big Yoder (Joder) family in the USA." Michel Joder. <100116.3123@compuserve.com> Biel/Bienne, BE Switzerland

For more "Letters to The YNL" , visit the Yoder Homepage Guestbook at: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/guestbook.html> where over 50 folks have posted items since the beginning of April 99.

Yoder Sketches by Lynn Lorah



House of Has Yoder Jr. (OH1)

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.

The John Yoder Homestead A Mifflin County Appeal



ARTICLE BY: Mabel V. Brunk, 1325 Greencroft Drive #383, Goshen, In 46526

An original Yoder home still stands in Big Valley, Mifflin County, Pa. Built by John (YR251) & Barbara Yoder, this probably earliest home of Amish settlers in Big Valley deserves preservation. A metal porch roof across the front end has already disappeared. Action is needed to save the structure before it is either razed or crumbles to ruins. Descendants of John and Barbara Yoder need to act.

Mennonites interested in Valley history could spearhead an effort to preserve the house. The Mifflin County Historical Society could accept this challenge. Descendants of John and Barbara Yoder could be asked to contribute the costs of purchasing the structure. Current President of the Historical Society is Paul E. Bender. Interested descendants can contact him at the Historical Society, P.O. Box 5603, Belleville, Pa 17004, phone 717-935-5574.

John Yoder YR251, "Yotter Hannes" was born in 1754 in Berks Country, Pa and married Barbara Rickenbach RB31 (AAMG p.500). John and Barbara were probably the first Amish settlers in the Big Valley (Mifflin County)PA, coming in the spring of 1791 from Elk Lick Township, Somerset County, PA. Their son, "Keifer Christ", ancestor of many Big Valley residents, was born in Somerset County in 1784.

In 1791 John purchased 212 acres of land from Henry Milroy in Armaugh Township, Mifflin County, Pa, near Milroy. Purchase price was 710 pounds. Henry Milroy and family reserved the "right to occupy until death one room and part of another in teh mansion and a weaver shop" and could harvest the "crop of rye and what is to be sown and the grass now in the new meadow" (Mifflin County Deed records, A-319, 1792).

John and Barbara's two-story house, northeast of Milroy, had "I and BY 1804" inscribed in the top store. The "I" in German is the same as the "J" in English. The log barn was probably built by the Yoders. (Ezra Kanagy, Kanagy Roots and a Branch, 1987, Sugarcreek Oh, p. 23). Newer siding now covers the logs, but through cracks in the deteriorating barn, some of the original logs are visible.

John also purchased land in Half Moon Township, Centre County, Pa where various relatives lived. In 1813 John and Barbara sold their 222 acres (apparently they had added 10 acres) in Armaugh Township for 2500 pounds to Jacob Kenagy. John and Barbara moved to Wayne County, Oh where John died.

In 1984 Bob Close owned the Armaugh Township land, including the house. The burial plot on the McCoy farm is back of the barn. The farm was divided on the west side and in 1984 was owned by Laney McCoy. The deed to this farm, No. 2, has a clause about the right to lay a lead pipe to the spring on farm #2. "Bob Close said several years ago an apple tree blew over and the roots came up, uncovering the lead pipe." (Ezra Kanagy, p.23)

John Yoder's parents were immigrants John Yoder and Anna _____. This John's father was Christian Yoder (YR2).

Barbara Rickenbach's parents, John and Anna, immigrated from Switzerland. John died in 1782 in Berks County, Pa. The Rickenbach line can be traced five more generations to a Michael Rickenbach who lived in Switzerland in the sixteenth century.

While the stones are still in place, John and Barbara's original Yoder House asks to be saved!

Christian Yoder (YR122) Date of Death Discovered

In the classic Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies, by Gingerich and Kreider, the children of "Hamburg Christian" (YR12) are listed by name, but the "order of issue" is uncertain. Approximate birth dates are shown beginning in 1745 and ending in 1765. The second child in this order was a son named Christian Yoder, born "about 1747". AAMG indicates he was believed to have been living in Somerset County (then Bedford) by 1790.

In our YNL 30 feature on the descendants of YR12, we revealed evidence that the unmarried Christian later lived in Stark County, Ohio and wrote his will their on Sept. 7, 1824. We now can add more information, thanks to the local paper "The Ohio Repository" dated Sept. 30, 1824, page 3, column 3: "DIED...In Canton township, of the 16th inst. Mr. Christian Yoder, age 80 years".

Assuming the age at death is correct, Christian was apparently born about 1744....This might make him the oldest of the children in his family.

Nappanee community honors centenarian

YR239a65
Goshen News,
Jun. 7, 1999

■ Former teacher,
farm wife receives
congratulations

NAPPANEE, Ind. — The Nappanee community gave a special resident a special birthday party Sunday at the Stump Homestead at C.R.s 50 and 15.

A crowd of family members, former students, neighbors and friends joined in the celebration of Wilma Yoder George's 100th birthday at the homestead where her father was raised.

George is a lifelong resident of Nappanee and became well-known in the community as an educator and as a hostess at Amish Acres. Mayor Larry Thompson read a proclamation Sunday designating Wednesday as Wilma George Day in honor of her birthday.

Wilma Gertrude Yoder was born on June 9, 1899, at the Jonathan Yoder home on C.R. 52

in Locke Township, one mile north and two miles west of Nappanee. She was the youngest of four daughters born to Jonathan Yoder and Mary Jane Michael Yoder. She was brought up Presbyterian, but spoke only German at home until she went to school. Most of her neighbors were Amish.

Wilma remembers that the family always maintained strong ties with the Stump family. When her father was orphaned at the age of 14, he was taken in by his uncle Solomon Stump, son of Bishop Daniel Stump, an early church leader in Union Township.

Her first memory was the death of President William McKinley in 1901 when she was only 2. She remembers her father's somber discussion of the president's assassination. She also remembers an early Christmas where the tree stood to the ceiling and was decorated with real candles — "most glorious," she recalls.



Celebrating 100 years

Another reason for my interest in Erlenbach is that it was the birthplace (1642) of Jakob Amman, a religious leader whose followers came to be called "Amish." Today, no Amish remain in Switzerland. They all emigrated long ago --- including some bearing the name Joder/Yoder --- and they flourish today in parts of the United States and Canada.



Andy, John, and Hans at Schadau Castle "Schloss Schadau"

We continued on to the quiet village of Amsoldingen and visited its beautiful Romanesque church, practically unchanged from the time it was built in the 11th century. We then drove to Thun for a quick lunch of coffee and cake in Schadau Castle.



Looking south over the city of Steffisburg, church to the right

The afternoon was spent in Steffisburg, where members of the Joder family have lived for centuries, and where Hans Joder still lives today. Hans took early retirement from the Swiss telephone company in order to pursue more actively his myriad interests. Among these are sailing, beekeeping, tree pruning, local history, and historical preservation. Hans was involved in the renovation and archaeological investigation of the Steffisburg church, and he is active in efforts to preserve another Steffisburg landmark: the "Höchhuus" built by the knight Heinrich Matter in 1449.



Steffisburg landmark the "Höchhuus"

These days Matter's Höchhuus has a restaurant on its ground floor and apartments on the upper floors. Hans's family actually lived there for a time when Andy was a child. Andy recalls that he and a friend would play tricks on their neighbors by tossing a wallet attached to a string from one of the openings in the Höchhuus's attic. When a passerby bent to pick up the wallet, they would snatch it away.

My visit with my Swiss cousins concluded with a trip to Steffisburg church. Its present form dates from 1681, though portions of the structure survive from the 11th century, the same era as the church in Amsoldingen. Dominating one wall of the church is the "Moses tablet," an artistic rendering of the Ten Commandments painted on wood and dated 1682. Around the periphery of the tablet are shields naming prominent citizens of Steffisburg of that day. Among them we find the names Caspar and Jost Joder. Hans related that this treasure was recovered from a local farmhouse where it was serving as a wall between two rooms. We should thank that farmer for preserving it in this way. After repair and restoration, it looks almost as good as new.



Yoder Crests appearing in the "Moses Tablet"

The following day was my last full day in Switzerland during this trip. I was on my own, and I wandered through Steffisburg and the surrounding countryside snapping photos and taking notes. I was collecting material to add to my Internet Webpage on Steffisburg and Thun. You can view the results if you have Internet access. Go to the Yoder Newsletter site (<http://www.yodernewsletter.org/>), and click the "Steffisburg and Thun" link on the main page.

YODER MONUMENT COMPANY IDENTIFIED

The owners of the "Yoder Monument Wks" mentioned in YNL 33 have apparently been identified. Daniel R. Yoder (YR2337a3) and his son LeRoy E. (Toby) Yoder, the business in Goshen, Indiana, during the 1930s & 40's. The picture shown in the YNL was found in Southern California and one of LeRoy's sons (Daniel) lived in the Southern California area during the 1940s to the 1950s. --Thanks to Mrs. Richard L. Yoder for this information

Andreas Joder Recalls Visit with YNL Founder Ben Yoder

Since I was a child my family was in tight contact with Karl Joder from Karlsruhe in Germany. Karl was already retired when we were in contact. He was doing most of the ancestral work here in Europe and he spent quite some time in Steffisburg. Through him we received the first Yoder News Letters which were written by Ben. Karl and Ben work tightly with each other. I am sure that Chris Yoder knows more about the relationship between Ben and Karl.

Of course when we, my wife and myself, moved to Lafayette in 1982 we wanted to visit the famous Ben in Goshen and we also were very excited to visit the Amish country. Over a long weekend we drove from Lafayette to Goshen where we met and stayed with Ben and his wife. At that time Chris was not at home since he was 'stationed' in overseas with his family.

Ben and his wife were great hosts and we were impressed about the energy and dedication they were putting into the Yoder family. You have to understand that this was completely new to us since in the old country we are not so conscious and aware of our ancestors as the people in the new world.

During our stay in Goshen we went to a real Amish shop where I was trying to speak in Swiss German with the local people. I was surprised to understand most of it but not all. Isn't it amazing to see the cultural root after so many years of separation between the Amish and the Swiss/Germans. I felt like watching and living in an old movie.

I don't know if this makes up for a good story but this is what happened.---Best regards,Andy.

Continued from Page 1

- Jotter, Esther of Oley Twp (OY49) m. 14 Jan 1794 Isaac Bertho
- Jotter, Catherina of Oley Twp. (?OY174) m. 21 Jan 1797 m. Daniel Weitner
- Jotter, Jacob (OY45) m. 28 Feb 1797 Anna Maria Bertho, Oley Twp.
- Jotter, Samuel (OH1321) m 21 Apr 1799 Elisabeth Wahl (?) Oley Twp.
- Jotter, Hannah of Oley Twp. (OH1111) m. 27 Dec 1801 Jacob Knab
- Jotter, Abraham (OY44) m. 26 Sep 1802 Elisabeth Breyvogel of Rockland Twp.
- Jotter, Esther of Oley Twp. (OH1323) m. 2 Dec 1802 Henrich Schreckengast
- Jotter, Johannes (OH145) m. 1 Sep 1803 Catharina Levan Oley Twp.
- Jotter, David (OH134) m. 8 Jun 1805 Catharina Hoch of Oley Twp.
- Jotter, Hannah of District Twp (OY421) m. 4 Jun 1805 Abraham Mensch
- Jotter, Johannes (YR177) m 20 Jul 1805 Frany Rickebach, Bern Twp.
- Jotter, Catharina of Bern Twp. (YR179) m. 28 Jul 1805 Johannes Hertzler
- Joder, Elisabetha, Oley Twp. (OH1326) m. 24 May 1807 Samuel Meyer
- Jotter, Samuel (OY413) m. 6 Nov 1808 Esther Robert Oley Twp.
- Jotter, Susanna (OY416) m. 23 Apr 1809 Wilhelm Weitener

COMMENTS:

One surprise in this list is the 1805 appearance of two children of John Yoder (YR17). John was the only Amish Yoder of his generation to remain in Berks County through the Revolutionary War period and into the next century. Much of this family became Church of the Brethren...as the Amish had all left the area.

The Samuel Jotter who married Esther Robert (Reppert) in 1808 is also new information. It is increasingly apparent that we've worked this fellow out as the Samuel who settled in Union County, Pa and died there in 1870.

Samuel Jotter who married "Elisabeth Wahl (?)" in 1799 is the fellow we identified in YNL 25 as probably being OH1321...and a likely father for Frederick Yoder of Centre Twp., Berks County. The question mark in the record beside the spelling of the wife's name indicates the copier had difficulty making out the handwritten text.

171 readers currently on the Yoder "listserver"

"Book of Golden Deeds" Award Presented to Cecil and Helen Yoder (YRB178265) by the Crystal Valley Exchange Club of Middlebury, Indiana. The award recognizes "a worthy person or group that continuously donates time, talent, and energy to help those in need". In 1992, Helen won the "Senior Queen" contest in the Middlebury Summer Festival.--Contributed by Rachel Kreider

YODER TEEN IS NATIONAL RUNNER-UP

Brio Magazine, published by Focus On The Family for Christian teenaged girls, sponsored a world-wide "Get Organized" contest. Girls were to improve what they considered a mess, such as their room, closet, attic, their neighbor's barn, their brother's bedroom or their Dad's workshop, etc. Before and after photos were to be submitted. There were more than 500 entries. The contest was won by Kimberly Collins of Kingsport, Tn. but Wendy YODER of Shipshewana, Indiana is one of the ten (10) runners-up
-- contributed by Don Honeywell, Baltimore County, Maryland

House Built by Jacob Yoder (YR1423)



Photo by Jim Pugh and article by Ken Pinkley

This Jacob Yoder stone house is east of Millersburg, Ohio about 3 miles on Route 39, then left on Twp. Road 351 a short distance and down the first lane on the right. Jacob (YR142) built the house in 1845. Oxen were used to haul the stones in. As the house was built higher a ramp was made from the old orchard to the house and a two wheel wheelbarrow was used to haul the stones up. When Jacob got old he built a "Grandpa House" next to the stone house. It is to the left as you are looking at the picture, and off-camera. The small building in the lower right corner is an outdoor bake oven which were common in the early 1900 and before, but is not usable at the present time.

His son John Yoder Sr. lived in the stone house til later in life then also moved into the "grandfather's house". His son John Jr (my great grandfather) & my grandfather Milo were born in the house. When my grandfather and his siblings lived in the stone house, they would go to the attic windows to blow bubbles and watch them float.

At this time Fannie & Noah Schlabach live in the Grandpa House & up to several years ago their brother, John lived in the stone house. They are the children of: John Y. Schlabach & Mary Yoder; John Y. was the son of Mary Yoder & John Schlabach; Mary was the daughter of John Yoder Sr & Sussanna Mast; John Sr. was the son of; Jacob Yoder & Elizabeth Kurtz; Jacob(1779LP-1850 HO) was the son of; Jacob Yoder & Christiana Blank; Jacob was the son of; Jacob (Strong) Yoder & Anna .

Information about the house is taken from the book A Memorial History of John Yoder Sr and Susanna Mast. Information was collected by Sovilla J. Yoder, Mr and Mrs. Joe L. Yoder, Paul & Ardis (Yoder) Pinkley, and Mr and Mrs. Atlee Yoder

Continued from Page 1

JAMES MADISON, President of the United States of America
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Know Ye, That *Christian Yoder, of Somerset County, Pennsylvania,* having deposited in the Treasury a certificate of the Register of the land office at Steubenville whereby it appears that *he has made full payment for the South half of Section Number thirty one of Township number ten, in the Range Number eight* of the land directed to be sold at Steubenville by act of Congress, entitles "An act providing for the sale of the lands of the United States in the Territory north west of the Ohio, above the mouth of the Kentucky river," and of the acts amendatory of the same, There is granted, by the United States, unto the said *Christian Yoder the half lot section of land* above described: To have and to hold the said half lot of section of land, with the appurtenances, unto the said *Christian Yoder his heirs and assigns* forever.

In testimony whereof I have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the Seal of the United States to hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington, the *thirteenth* day of *December* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the thirty-six.

BY THE PRESIDENT: *James Madison*

Jas. Monroe Secretary of State

Where was this land located? Gary Vincent, a student of Ohio lands in the opposite end of the state indicates that it appears this parcel is in the Ohio River Survey, which places it in Stark County, very near Canton, OH. This is the only case he could find that simultaneously satisfies the conditions of Township 10, Range 8, and within the jurisdiction of the Steubenville Land Office. This is confirmed by a Stark County marking dated 1909 found on the reverse of the document when it was taken out of its matting.

There are two Christian Yoders who lived in Stark County that early. The first is the apparent Christian Yoder (YR122) (see YNL 30 and the obituary article elsewhere in this issue). The second is his presumed nephew and heir Christian Yoder (YR1256). The elder Christian died in 1824. The younger one had his first known child in April of 1812, reportedly already in Stark County. Further study is needed to confirm which of these gentlemen received this patent. Any analysis or clues from our readers?

Andrew Yoder (YA14)

b. 10/16/1825

d. 8/5/1918 St. Joseph Co., In

"Born on the Ocean"



Great website! I have been searching for information on Joseph Yoder who was born in Switzerland in 1789 and fought in Napoleon's army in Russia and also Waterloo, survived and later settled in Maximo Ohio. He married Barbara Weiss. Believe it or not my Mother has a large topaz ring that was warn on a fob on Joseph's uniform in the Moscow war and Waterloo...

The picture above is of my Grandmother's maternal Grandfather, Joseph's son Andrew (1825-1918), who was born on the ocean en route to the US. Pierre Stephenson, splugy@aone.com

Yoders' Awarded For Military Service



Carl and Mary Alice Yoders Married 56 years last February



Carl M. Yoders, a Sgt. in Co. M 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, WWII, was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal of the State of New Jersey. The honor, signed by Governor Christine, was presented on May 20, 1999 in a ceremony held at the Westfield, New Jersey National Guard Armory.

Carl joined the Army in 1940 and on June 6, 1944, D-Day, he was part of the Normandy invasion of France...landing on Utah beach. Carl, the leader of a heavy machine gun squad, was wounded after a week of fighting, on June 14, 1944. He spent the next year in hospitals --both in England and the United States.

Carl is the son of the late Sgt. Clarence E. Yoders, Co K 110th Inf. 28th Div., WWI. Clarence Yoders was awarded the State of Pennsylvania Distinguished Service Medal for his military service in WWI.

Readers of the Yoder Newsletter will recall Carl's critical role in establishing the relationship of the "Yoders" family of Southwestern Pennsylvania to the Melchior Yoder family (YNL24) and his active participation in the development of the "Yoder House" at Penn Alps.

In May 1999 Carl was also the subject of an article in an English tabloid "Express & Echo" entitled "PENSIONER'S HOPES OF A GI REUNION DASHED". The story tells of Peter Nelson, a 67 year old pensioner, who met Sgt. Carl Yoders when he was stationed in Exmouth in preparation for the D-Day landings in 1944. The grandfather of Mr. Nelson had been from New Jersey, and he asked among the American soldiers until he found one from that location as well. Following the invasion, he was told that Carl had been killed and only recently learned the truth. A planned late May tribute by the village to their war-time guests, almost brought the two together once more. Poor health kept Carl from attending- thus the headline.

BOOK AUTHORED: "Last fall I finished the Nelson Family History - my husband's mother's family--from Emmytown (LaGrange, In area). Wrote up the Daniel & Elizabeth (Eash) Yoder family several years ago."--Mrs. Daniel J. Yoder, 124 Russell, Blackwell, Oh 74631

NEW DATA IN YODER ARCHIVES:

Thanks to: Marlys Rice for Yoder cemetery data from Buchanan Co., Ia; Kaye Strause for typing the 1920 Indiana Yoder Census; Carol Schad for providing Williams Co., Ohio Yoder data; Sam Detwiler for providing Yoder extracts from the "Leetonia Reporter" ...

NEW YETTER Data Added to Yoder Web Archives: Thanks to Richard Berg, we are pleased to announce the addition to the Yoder Archives of a descendant registry for Yost Yetter (c1770-c1844, Walpack, Sussex Co., N.J.) and his wife Christina Fogel (c1770, Bethlehem Twp., Northampton Co. Pa.- bef 1840).

RELATED WEB SITES ESTABLISHED:

- Hans of Great Swamp Web Site, by Karolyn Rae Roberts <http://www.fullnet.com/u/gkrob/yoder.html>
- John Yetter b.1835 in Vollmersweiler, Rheinpfalz, Germany by Mary Spurgeon, <jary@nvsn.com> : <http://members.aol.com/Mspurgeon/yetterindex.html>
- Jacob Yoder (YR1423) by Kenneth Pinkley <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/5791/amish/amish.html>

*****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.

My Gfather was Gidion Yoder Steam Valley Pa., my gfather was Harold Albert Yoder Sr. His sister Mildred Naomi had polio. My gfather told me their parents believed her middle name had something to do with it so they took her middle name away from her! My grandfather also had polio. He died in 1973. He had a brother named Ted, who lived in New York. Reply to: Kathryn Y. Yoder Cowher, 1222 W. 3rd St., Williamsport Pa. 17701 ,Email : JMAK777@aol.com

Seeking descendants of following Washington County, Iowa families: Marvin C. Yoder (1917-????) and his wife, Mildred M. Shebeck (1919-????); Henry T. Yoder (no dates) and his wife, Louisa M. Jacobs (1907-1988); Mable D. Yoder (1931) and her husband, Chester R. Miller (1924). David L. McMonigle, 800 Riverbend Lane, Middleville, MI 49333 616/795-7818, davemcmo@voyager.net

Looking for James Yoder of Newton, NC, my gggrandfather who married Mary Alice Catherine (maiden name Sigmon or Jarette?) Nell-my gggrandmother, m.Frank Whitworth & lived in Clover, SC. My gggrandparents had about 5 children, res. York, SC. India Hodges, 226 E. Liberty St, Apt.#3 York, SC 29745 <betty1957@yahoo.com>

Who were the parents and siblings of BARBARA YODER (b. 1754/6 Berks Co., Pa- d. 10 Apr 1838, Montgomery Co., Oh) married in Pa. (1) ISAAC MILLER (b. ?- d. 1785 Somers Co., Pa) married (2) JOSEPH FORNEY, widower with ? children. Any helkp on this family will be much appreciated. Dorothy Crabb, 4315 Long Grove Dr., Seabrook, TX 77586-4309, email: dotcrabb@juno.com

Came across some Yoder's that I can't find in my Yoder data. Can anyone identify? Henry Beuchler Yoder (1881-1956); Henry's son: William Henry Yoder (1909 Pine Grove, PA-1975); William's children: Mary Alva Yoder (2-11-1928 Pottsville, PA-12-7-1989), Sarah Louise Yoder (8-27-1930-), W.H. Yoder Jr. (6-6-1934 Schuylkill Haven, PA-) James Huratiak, 969 Rt. 113, Sellersville, PA, 18960

My grandmother was Hester Catherine Youter, (born in White Deer, PA July of 1866 - died 1945 at Conrad, Montana) her father was Benjamin (1815 in Holland, died 1893) and her grandfather was Samuel (dates, places not known). If the above fits in with what you have I would appreciate more information. Bernard Guy, 492 Country Hill Rd., Anaheim, CA 92808-1353, email: badguy@ibm.net.

G-grandfather is Ira Yoder....Gfather is Ido Yoder who lived in Mifflinburg, Pa- had a restaurant there. Am very interested in reaching others from this family line. Various family information has been compiled regarding the Ido Yoder family. I have read that from my grandfather Ira Yoder approx 1,500 people have been born! ...Catherine Yoder, 10401 Grosvenor Place, #623, N. Bethesda, MD 20852, 301.670.3325 <catherine_yoder@urscorp.com>

Am compiling descendants of Bishop Jonathan Yoder (YR12a3) and am trying to find the complete names of all 3 men that were married to his youngest daughter, Anna M. Yoder, (YR12a3b). In poss. Illinois or Missouri she married a Mr. Hein, and years later- after Mr. Hein's death, she married a Mr. Plank. After Plank's death, she moved to Oregon by 1909 and about 1913 or 1914 married a Manasses Hershberger, of Hubbard in Marion County. Anna d. 1914 bur. Smyrna Cem., Yoder, OR. Some of the Hein descendants still live in Oregon, but I live in Canada, and do not have contact with them. Reply to: Jim Yoder, 10060 Aintree Crescent, Richmond, B.C. V7A 3T8, Canada; or by e-mail: jyoder@bc.sympatico.ca>

Over 10k visits to Yoder Newsletter Homepage. Since 9/98

Looking for ANY connection to Austin Yetter .He moved to Arizona as a young man. His father's name was Joseph who was born 1818 and married Charlotte Eaton.. His siblings: Elvira, Abbie, Royal, Laure & James Arthur. (The original name was Gurtin changed to Yett, Yetta then to Yetter. Does anyone knows of a Harold Yetter, if so, what info do they have. Thanks, Shirley Logue, 22 Patton St., King City, Ontario. Canada. ,L7B1G4.. <ealogue@ibm.net>

Brown County, IN Yoder families: Generation 1- Jacob Yoder & wife Mary. Generation 2 James Marion Yoder (b. 1843) m. Eliza Jane Baughman. Generation 3 Daniel Boone Yoder (b. 1886) married Ada Eberle on 2/11/1914. (YNL note- Daniel B is Con2919)-Tom Hooker, 2 Whipoorwill Lane, Palmyra, VA 22963 THooker974@aol.com

Am beginning research for my cousin-by-marriage, Debby Klose. Her parents were Joseph Comly Klose Jr. and Edith Irene Yoder, daughter of Melvin Lee Yoder Sr. and Wilda Ream of Pennsylvania. If anyone knows of these folk, please reply: Terry Lane, P O Box 5275, Lancaster, PA 17606-5275

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

I am looking for information for my daughter. She is wanting information on her father. His name was Daniel Lee Yoder. We were told he is deceased. He would have died between 1989-1996. She wants to know something about his family. Any help would be appreciated. Lisa Linder; 25 Grace St., Tiffin, OH 44883. phone 419-443-1554. <Sabrinass@bright.net> Tiffin, OH

Looking for lost Siblings-- Have tried extremely hard to find 3 lost siblings. Father Terry Lee Yoder had: Tony Lee Yoder, Shawn Thomas Yoder, and Beatrice Gene Yoder. All my dad told me was that they had moved to California and their ages are 30-35. I just found out my father isn't doing too well. He is the only blood relative of mine left on his side. I just recently got married and have a 7 month old son that I would love to have someone to call aunt and uncle. If anyone can help I would greatly appreciate it. Danielle (Yoder) Harris 35 Winery RD. Fulton, Ms 38843 Amhdad@intop.net

Seeking TAJSHA YODER. My best friend in 8th grade. Last I heard, she lived in Stafford, VA. Getting ready to graduate from VCU. Want her to come. Danielle Marsteller ,108 N. Lombardy St., Richmond VA 23220. Phone (804) 355-9251<s2ddmars@titan.vcu.edu>

House of Yoder Update

Work continues apace on the construction of the Yoder House in Grantsville, Maryland. Nearly 53 tons of stone are being laid on the exterior walls and almost as much stone is being used to construct the interior walk-in fireplace. Over 400 persons toured the Yoder House on July 10 during the 22nd Annual Summer Festival and Quilt Show of Grantsville. The root cellar and walk-in fireplace were clear hits with the guests. On Saturday, November 13 from 11 a.m. through mid-afternoon the 4th Annual Meeting of House of Yoder will be held in Grantsville. A guided tour of the Yoder House, business meeting, genealogy display, and a possible speaker on Amish dimensions of the Yoder story are on the agenda. Everyone is welcome! Funds are needed to complete construction of the interior of the Yoder House. Inquiries or contributions can be directed to Lonnie Yoder, House of Yoder, 1066 Smith Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, ltby@shentel.net, or 540-432-6467.

(NOTE: The YNL has contributed a second \$500 from our kitty to this effort. Matching funds bring our contributions to \$2000 to date!)

PHOEBE YODER FEATURED: Thanks to Don & Pat Reed for pointing out the July 99 "Pennsylvania Mennonite Life" article on Phoebe Yoder, a Kansas Mennonite girl who served her adult life as a missionary in Africa. She was the daughter of Charles D. Yoder.

NORTH CAROLINA YODER REUNION

Catawba County native **Neal Wilfong**, who now lives in Cleveland — the one in Rowan County — had a busy day on a recent Sunday when the pioneer Yoder clan held their 49th yearly reunion. He and **Bill Yoder** of Hickory, the family group president, and other relatives are already planning to host in August 2000 a national convention of Yoder families. The three-day event will follow the clan's first national convention held here in 1995. Keynote speaker next year will be historian Dr. **Don Yoder**, formerly of the University of Pennsylvania, according to Hickory's Ted Yoder. The big news at this year's gathering is

that Neal has been chosen to update the published clan history book, *History of the Yoder Family in North Carolina*, which traces the life of patriarch **Conrad Yoder**, a German immigrant to this area in the mid-18th century. The late Dr. **Fred Roy Yoder**, a university professor, wrote the original work in 1970. Neal, who has been secretary of the Yoder family for 21 years and a descendant of Conrad, is going to edit a revised version for publication. This chore is nothing new for Neal, who has authored *Tombstone Inscriptions of the Old St. Paul's Church Cemetery and Hayfields and Ploughshares, A History of the Blackburn Family of Catawba County, NC*. Both those works were published by the Catawba County Historical Association.

Hickory Mayor **Bill McDonald** was at the reunion at historic Zion Lutheran Church in the Mountain View community and noted that the town's first mayor was **Marcus Yoder**. As with the many clan reunions in Catawba, the Yoders took time to congratulate the eldest relatives at the gathering: 93-year-old **Hubert Yount** of Hickory and 92-year-old **Dan Yoder** of Newton, as well as **Maenell** and **Gerald Yoder** of Hickory, who had observed their 60th wedding anniversary in July. Lenoir-Rhyne College professor-clergyman **Larry Yoder** led a memorial service the evening before at the old Yoder cemetery where ancestors are buried. He described the family heritage as "a treasure and a challenge."

EZRA T. YODER REUNION

We had the third annual Ezra T. Yoder (YR256244) this past Sunday (8/29/99). I visited Ezra's grave to find out exactly when he died. Unfortunately his stone was marked with the month and year only. My aunt checked his obit and called me the next day, he died March 10, 1973. She is going to send me a copy. Ezra is buried in the cemetery behind the Lutheran Church in Petersburg PA.

---Dan Yoder (YR25624423)<dttyoder32@email.msn.com>

CONRAD YODER BOOK UPDATE

The *History of the Yoder Family in North Carolina*, by Dr. Fred Roy Yoder, was published in 1970 and reprinted in 1976. It focuses on the two sons of Conrad Yoder who remained in North Carolina. If you are interested in helping the effort to update and republish this work, contact: Bill Yoder, 2797 Zion Church Rd., Hickory, NC 28602.

Oregon Yoder Reunion

More than 75 persons from the western US and British Columbia gathered in Yoder, Oregon, for the 64th annual reunion on August 1, 1999. Many family members still live in this Willamette Valley community, named for several descendants of Bishop Jonathan Yoder (YR12a3) who moved to Oregon during the late 1800's. The Smyrna United Church of Christ (Congregational), where the reunion was held, listed several Yoders as charter members when it was established in 1891. During the business meeting following a potluck dinner, historian Ada Sinclair, a great-granddaughter of Bishop Yoder, reported two clan marriages, two births and five deaths in the preceding year.

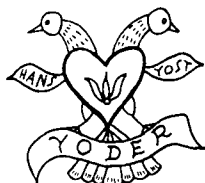
Joel Daniels described a recent trip to McLean County, Illinois sites mentioned in the 19th century journal of Mahala Yoder (YR12a334). Her original notebooks have been placed in the archives of the Mennonite Historical Society at Metamora. Professor Kyle Sessions of ISU at Normal plans a series of essays based on the journal. Persons interested in joining a heritage tour to Illinois and Missouri next year should contact Joel for details.

As "millennium projects," collections of family recipes and traditional stories or reminiscences will be compiled. Midyear reminders will be sent so these can be completed by the 65th reunion, to be held at the Smyrna church on August 7, 2000.

-Report by Muriel M. van Veen

YODER HERITAGE COOKBOOK-A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

A composite of traditional family recipes sent in by YODERS across the country. Reasonably Priced - Buy One for each family member. ONLY \$10.00 each. Over 175 pages of RECIPES and other valuable cooking information. Proceeds to be used to maintain the Pleasantville Union (Yoder) Cemetery. Send check or money order to: Heritage Cookbook, Yoder Reunion Association, 415 State St. Pottstown, PA 19464. Please include \$2.50 per copy for postage and handling (regardless of Qty). Immediate delivery in time for CHRISTMAS



Y2K NATIONAL YODER REUNION

ALL YODERS AND YODER DESCENDANTS ARE INVITED

...to attend the National reunion of the Yoder Family, to be held in North Carolina. This three day event will be hosted the weekend of the 2nd Sunday in August by the Yoders of North Carolina. This event also commemorates the 50th annual reunion of the North Carolina Yoder family. Make your plans Now!!!

Noted Pennsylvania historian and author Dr. Donald Yoder will be the keynote speaker!!

We'll provide lots more information about this in the April YNL.

Christian Yoder (YR23) Cemetery Status

(photo will appear in YNL 35)

Thanks to the efforts and contributions of many, a brass marker has recently been placed at the Old Yoder Cemetery in Somerset County, Pa. This cemetery is on the original homestead property of 1742 Amish immigrant "Schweitzer Christian" Yoder (YR23).

A sampling reported in YNL 6 (Oct 1985) showed that over 30% of our readers at that time were descendants of "Schweitzer Christian". This early founder of the Glades congregation in Somerset county had a large family which has continued to multiply.

We'd like to recognize the following folks who made this goal a reality: Gordon Yoder, Milton H. Walker, Michael Yoder, Eleanor Williams, Tom O. Yoder, M. W. Yoder, Karen Okeson, Henry Erb, Catherine Lancaster, Charles Yoder, Rachel Kreider, Anna Mary Yoder, Keith Yoder, Chris Yoder, Lonnie Yoder, Elwood Yoder.

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".

1999 Oley Yoder Annual Reunion

Held Jul. 17, 1999 at the Oley Firehouse. Approximately 75 attended and everyone seemed to have a good time.

PASSING

--Former Elkhart superior Court Judge Worth Yoder, age 73, died Jan. 3, 1999 at the Elkhart general Hospital after an illness. Judge Yoder is survived by his wife Dixie and two sons. He was a long-time support of the Yoder Newsletter.

--R.K. (Reuben) Yoder died Mar.29,1998. He was the son of Levi S. and Anna Hette Yoder.

--Mary Rose Yoder Morris died Aug.22,1999 after a year long struggle with cancer. An accomplished musician, she and her late husband performed at the 1995 National Yoder Reunion. .