



## YODER NATIONAL REUNION CELEBRATES 300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HANS YODER HOMESTEAD



Host Richard Yoder Tells Stories  
of His Growing up at the Homestead

Richard A. Yoder, principal owner of the Hans Yoder Homestead, felt the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ancestor acquiring the property in Oley Township needed to be celebrated in some way. He brought the pending tri-centennial to the attention of the Oley Yoder Heritage Association, which has previously hosted two National Yoder Family Reunions, and members Ann Balderrama of Reading and Shirley Stone of Boyertown stepped forward to organize the 2014 event.

Johannes “Hans” Yoder obtained the land in 1714 from the William Penn Family. “My ancestors paid taxes to the Crown for more than 60 years,” Richard said. He is a retired airline pilot who lives in Florida and is the last member of the family to have actually lived in the house when growing up.

Activities began Thursday evening, Sept. 11, 2014 with a registration reception and light buffet supper at the Country Inn and Suites, in Wyomissing, PA. Yoder family members gathered from 17 states (PA, DE, MD, NC, FL, AZ, MI, OH, CA, NJ, IN, ID, OR, NV, VA, TN, and MA) and one flew in from Baja California, Mexico. They represented the Oley, “Hans of Great Swamp”, Conrad Yoder of North Carolina, Melchior Yoder and Amish Yoder lines.

Friday morning, Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, YNL Editor Chris Yoder gave an overview of the various American Yoder lines and of what is known about their relationships. Reunion organizer Ann Balderrama revealed her findings on the previously unlinked Benjamin Yoder line (Code “AR” among the “unlinked” Yoders) and the evidence which supports the likely identification of his ancestry within the Yost Yoder family of Oley Yoders (see her article in this issue).

Over the lunch hour, a group went out to visit the homestead of 1742 Amish immigrant Christian Yoder (YR2). Leroy Hoppes, who has owned the homestead property for over 40 years, welcomed the visitors and talked about the property. The main house is partially of hand hewn log construction. On an aerial photo Mr. Hoppes pointed out a spot uphill from the barn where an elderly neighbor had told him a spring and remains of another structure had once existed.

That evening a banquet was held at the Pike Township Sportsmen’s Association. Abraham Yoder, a descendant of Hans Yoder, was the first president of this group. A silent auction of dozens of donated items was held to benefit the cemetery fund.

REUNION- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## POSSIBLE ORIGINS OF BENJAMIN YODER, UNLINKED AR

-By Ann Balderrama



Benjamin and Briggita Stones, photo by Neil D Scheidt

How do you begin to find the parentage of someone born 200 years ago? You begin with church and pastoral records in hopes of finding the baptismal record. You look in newspapers for obituaries naming surviving children. You look in court records to find the person named in a will, estate, or orphans’ court record. What do you do when you find nothing concrete to tie your subject to any parents or siblings?

Benjamin Yoder seems to have fallen from the sky (another one of those ancient alien theories)! Nothing seems to exist on him prior to his marriage to Briggita Hauseman on 13 October 1839. The marriage notice in the Reading Adler says he is from Rockland Township. From his tombstone, he was born 29 August 1817 and died 21 May 1899 (Tombstone Inscriptions, Frieden’s Church, Oley, PA, BCGS #467).

Scanty evidence and a lot of speculation point to Benjamin being the son of Jacob Yoder (OY45) and Anna Maria Barto. We know this Jacob lived in Rockland Township. They were apparently members of Christ (Mertz) Evangelical Lutheran Church, for in the church records we see that Jacob and Anna Maria took nine of their children to church on 5 May 1815 and had all of them baptized at once. The children were: Maria, born 12 March 1798; Sara, born 26 March 1800; Ruben, born 6 May 1802; Jakub, born 2 February 1804; Christina, born 13 November 1805; Lea, born 29 March 1807; Elisabeth, born 8 March 1809; Gideon, born 23 March 1811; and Catharina, born 1 July 1813. Another son, Benneville, was born 19 December 1821 and baptized 4 May 1822 (names spelled as transcribed in Christ (Mertz) Church, Rockland Twp. Berks Co. PA BCGS #559).

When I look at the family of Jacob and Anna Maria in the YNL database, I am struck by the 8-year gap between the last two listed children (1813-1821). All the other children are spaced one and a half to two years apart. Why, suddenly, this huge gap? Were there one or more children in there? Benjamin was born in that time period. Does he belong here? Jacob and Anna Maria had all their known children baptized at Mertz Church. Did they take others elsewhere? Why? One reason I came up with was that there may have been a new pastor that they didn’t like, so they went somewhere else until a pastor they liked came to the church. So I checked and,

BENJAMIN-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by**

Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider  
Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; John W. Yoder, Circulation  
Manager, Middlebury, IN; Rachel Kreider, Senior Contributing  
Editor, Goshen, IN; Kenneth W. Yoder, Mail Manager, Goshen, IN;  
Esther E. Yoder, Mail Manager Emeritus, Goshen, IN; Donald  
Kauffman, YNL Webmaster, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Other  
Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Dr. Don Yoder,  
Devon, PA; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC.; and Ann Balderrama,  
Reading, PA . And our other Goshen area volunteer team members:  
Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, and Richard Yoder.

Over the past 33 years, subscriptions have allowed us to support  
advertising of national reunions, to provide funding for many of the  
DNA tests, and to pay for new research into Swiss records. All of  
our staff members are volunteers.

**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, 551 S. Maple St.,  
Saugatuck, MI 49453 or email at cyoder@tds.net .

- YNL PRICE INFORMATION  
-Annual YNL subscription (published Apr. and Oct.) for \$5.  
-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$2 per issue. (or you can  
download them free 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder  
Newsletter web page: [www.yodernewsletter.org](http://www.yodernewsletter.org) ).  
Visit: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/subscribe.html> for the mail-in  
subscription form.

YODER DATA ON DISK- Includes back issues of YNL text, census  
and county records, family group data and pictures and scanned  
images. The price for our "Yoder Data on Disk" is \$10 (postage  
included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Most of this info is also  
available free at the YNL Homepage and changes VERY slowly.)

**YNL CONSOLIDATED VOLUMES  
NOW AVAILABLE**

Twenty years ago, after the publication of the first 25 issues of the  
Yoder Newsletter, we published a consolidated hardcopy volume of  
issues 1-25, with an index. When we reached the 50 issue milestone,  
costs of ordering and holding an inventory of books, amount of effort  
to index the issues, and the accessibility of all issues on the internet  
led to a decision NOT to publish a second consolidated volume.

Last fall, Ken Heeter, nephew of the late YNL co-founder Ben  
Yoder, contacted us and offered to create the index. "Online  
publishing" and "print on demand" technology now available led to  
a decision to go ahead with Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) and to republish  
Volume 1 (Issues 1-25). Both soft cover volumes are now available  
for order on-line. See:

For YNL 1-25 [www.createpace.com/5154791](http://www.createpace.com/5154791)  
For YNL26-50 [www.createpace.com/5051725](http://www.createpace.com/5051725)

Descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr. may also be interested in  
The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Ancestry at  
[www.createpace.com/4122327](http://www.createpace.com/4122327)

**CORRECTION:** In both YNL60 and the briefing given at the 2014  
National Reunion, credit was given to Ann McAllister for her work  
on parts of the Conrad Yoder line which went to Indiana. The Yoder  
data which appears in Ann's two volume work on the Henry  
Weidner family for the line of Conrad's son Jacob (married  
Catherine Dellinger) is actually credited by Ann to Certified  
Genealogist Kathy Gunter Sullivan.

**LETTER TO THE EDITORS:**

For some reason silly songs seem to be my forte. Since we  
learned mainly about Hans Yoder at the reunion, I wanted to learn  
more about Yost when I came home. Read old Yoder Newsletters  
and surfed the Internet. Wrote this little ditty to the tune of the  
Disney Davy Crockett theme song.

*Born on a mountaintop in Switzerland  
Learned to hunt and track wild animals just like a mountain man  
Killed him five wolves in only one night  
Wrestled with the Native Men but never did they fight  
Refrain: Yost, Yost Yoder prince of Penn's Woods frontier*

Do you think I have too much time on my hands?  
Barbara Tornstrom, Boxborough, MA



Thank you for coming to the reunion. 300  
years is quite an accomplishment.  
Sometimes I feel like I've been here all that  
time. Thanks to all for the support to the  
cemetery project...A while back I had my  
DNA tested, and they tell me I'm a direct  
descendant from the Hans line...Wish I had  
known that when I was in Switzerland in  
1960. - Joseph O. Yoder,  
Pres. Oley Yoder Heritage Assoc.



A cousin of mine posted this picture on another  
page, I thought you all would enjoy it. The back  
of the picture identifies the person 4th from the  
right as Benjamin Yoders. "Last of the GAR  
From the "Greene County Club of California  
Collection."- Lonnie Riley  
(M235 Benjamin Woodruff Yoders born 6  
October 1836 in Jefferson Township, Greene  
County, PA. Stone mason; day laborer, 1900.  
Enlisted with three of his brothers, John Jasper  
Yoders, M236, William Newton Yoders, M237,  
and Joseph C. Yoders, M238, on 21 November 1862 -- 1st Sergeant,  
Company A, 163rd Regiment, 18th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry  
- discharged 11 July 1865; granted invalid pension.)

**Swedish Race Fan Locates Goshen Yoder  
Driver through YNL FACEBOOK**

Dan Axelsson of Båstad, Sweden wrote with a  
question about a "Ebe Yoder. Goshen, Ind. , who  
was entered in a Redmer Special for the  
Indianapolis 500 race in 1953 (He later failed to  
arrive for the actual race)." We posted a note on  
the YNL FACEBOOK page and within 24 hours  
heard back from his son Steve Yoder, who said,  
"He was my father and extremely successful. He  
was not allowed to attempt qualification by AAA  
officials." There were also comments by a  
grandson and a nephew! Dan sent his thanks.



**OLEY REUNION- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Proceeds from the auction, and from sales of back issues of the Yoder Newsletter, brought in over \$220.

On Saturday morning a special presentation was given at the Country Inn & Suites by Winnie Woll, daughter of a Pearl Harbor nurse, on the "Women of Pearl Harbor"- not a Yoder specific topic, but something which proved a very interesting sidelight. From there, the group drove on to a 1030am tree planting ceremony at the Pleasantville Union Cemetery. Oley Yoder historian, Richard H. Yoder of Bechtelsville, PA, joined to answer questions about the history of the local Yoder families. The graveyard rests at the intersection of properties owned by Hans and his brother Yost Yoder, and both are felt certain to rest here, with a marker for them added years ago by the family at a previous national reunion. The oldest Yoder gravestone in America, for Daniel Yoder grandson of Hans who died in 1749, is still visible as well as many others dating to the mid-late 1700s. The "Oley Yoder Heritage Association", sponsor of this national reunion, has as its main focus the restoration and maintenance of this historical family burial ground.



*Franklinia alataamaha* by William Bartram (1782)

"Franklinia alataamaha", commonly called the Franklin tree, a member of the tea plant family was chosen to commemorate the event. This tree is native to the Altamaha River valley in Georgia, but has been extinct in the wild since the early 19th century. It commonly grows to 15-25 feet tall and has a fragrant white flower, similar to Camellia blossoms. Once established, Franklinia can live a century or more. The tree was planted by Scott Swackhamer of Long Swamp Township, a Yoder descendant, assisted by other family representatives David Yoder, of Palm Springs, CA, and his sister Eve Mae Buchholz - who had traveled from Baja Mexico to join the reunion. David and Eve Mae are the children of the late James Victor Yoder (OH145262c).

After the tree was planted, Oley Heritage Association Member Jim Newell led those assembled in a prayer of dedication.

*Tree Planting Ceremony*

*We have come together as partners in the joyful and sacred work of creation — the planting of a tree. In our Bible, the tree is a metaphor for the righteous who trust in God and delight in God's teachings. We rejoice today in this planting, offering thanks that this opportunity is ours.*

*The world of nature was given to us to join with, not to conquer. We enter the world as its caretakers, not as its owners. It is our privilege to be entrusted with its care, with its safekeeping.*

*We can sense God's presence in nature. Where can it be found? Here, where lavish nature reminds us of the Garden. Here, where we pause in awe at nature's elegance. Here, where we remember that we stand within that elegance and not outside it. Here, where we gather to plant anew.*

*Today we have gathered to plant a tree.*

*Each tree absorbs a bit of our pollution, and then transforms it into oxygen, a source of life; therefore, each tree is truly a "tree of life."*

*And each planting is a reminder of our responsibility. We did not make this world; we are its product and not its producers. But it is ours*

*to enjoy, to explore, and, most of all, to protect. We protect it by planting and by remembering and by connecting, from generation to generation.*

*We plant this tree in order to remember, in order to remind, in order to keep and connect with God's Creation, our home.*

*We plant this tree in order to remember, in order to remind us of our ancestors, for without them we would not be.*

*We plant this tree in order to remember, in order to remind us of Hans and Yost, who undertook a long and dangerous voyage to come to this land.*

*It is our prayer that this tree shall continue to flourish. May its foliage be luxurious, and may all that it is prosper.*

*Please join us in prayer.*

*Dear Lord, Bless this tree and the memory of our ancestors. Help this tree grow tall and strong as we strengthen our connection to those who came before us. Bless all of us as we carry on the name, tradition and family honor.*

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Amen.*

All then assembled at the Hans Yoder Homestead for a picnic lunch and tour by Richard A. Yoder and his family. Richard described how the property had changed since his boyhood. He went into detail about how his father and grandfather would operate the water powered saw mill in the barn.

See the article in YNL15 where Sarah Hays Succa shared a 1932 letter by her grandmother Margaret Mauger Hays which includes an early floor plan of the main house and the shop to the east of it. Margaret wrote of the attic in this shop which was used for "storage and quarters for itinerants."... "Johnny Applesseed stayed here frequently. He came for apple seeds. There was a fine apple orchard on the farm and a cider press. My grandmother often told me about him. She said he was "queer" but very kind to children -she was a child - telling them long and interesting stories" (Jonathan Chapman 1774 Mass-1845 Ind).

In mid afternoon we visited Belleman's Church Old Church, near Mohrsville, where church historian John Rausch told the history of the structure and the organist took hymn requests as the various Yoder voices lifted in praise to such favorite tunes as "Blest be the Ties that Binds" and "Faith of our Fathers". The Bellman's Church was attended by a number of Yoders including the family of Frederick Yoder (see YNL 59) and the only members of the Widow Barbara Amish line to remain in Berks County (the YR17 line).

And from there all went to the Church Social Hall for a chicken barbeque dinner made ready by family volunteers. After dinner entertainment was provided by Amy Balderrama, Joan Yoder and David Lurie. Eve Yoder Buchholtz had composed an original Yoder song, to the tune of "Pretty Baby", and she took to the piano while her brother David helped to lead the audience in singing it:

*"I'm a Yoder"*

*Everybody loves a Yoder – so we'll sing so merrily  
I'm a Yoder, I'm a Yoder  
Hand in hand we'll sing the praises of the Yoder family  
I'm a Yoder, I'm a Yoder  
From the north and south and east and west  
– we come here with love  
– we tell each one we see  
We are happy to be Yoders  
And Shout it out with Glee  
We're all Yoders now  
Special Yoders now  
We're the Yoder family.*

As the final event, attendees met at the Daniel Boone Homestead North picnic grounds for a Subway Sandwich picnic lunch, and a tour of the Homestead buildings. The Boone family were early Oley Valley settlers and were associated with the Yoders in several ways – which we may write about in the future.

\*\*\*\*\*

# 2014 National Yoder Reunion



Yoders Gather at Registration



Anna Balderrama and Richard Yoder



Banquet at Pike Sportsmen's Association



Raffle Items all Lined Up



Oley Historian Dick Yoder (left)



A Tree is Planted



The Ceremony Observed



Rachel Kennedy & Harold Yoder from NC



Leroy Hoppes at YR2Homestead

# 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hans Yoder Homestead



Hans Yoder Homestead c1738



Yoders arrive for Lunch



Mill Stone



Richard Tells of Growing Up Days



Yoders Inspect the Property



Historic Belleman's Church



300<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake!



Shirley Stone



Chowing Down!



Deeee-licious!

Many more pictures  
can be found on the  
Yoder New letter  
FACEBOOK PAGE

**BENJAMIN-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

no, Rev. John Knoske served Mertz Church from 1811 until 1837.

Next stop was the courthouse. Jacob died in 1837, so at least one of the known children, Benneville, was a minor. If Benjamin was his son, he would have been a minor, too, and there should be guardianship papers. Well, there are guardianship papers for Benneville and a sister, Mary Ann, both minors above the age of fourteen. Every reference to these two children names Mary Ann first, so I believe she is the older of the two. But still, no mention of Benjamin; he may have been 21 by the time the matter got into the court system, or he just fudged on his age. All the documents in Jacob's estate file are written in English, except the four-page will, written in German. The executors, sons Gideon and Reuben and son-in-law Henry Heffner, paid the considerable sum of \$8 to have the will translated, but the translation is not in the file.

There is also a Tamar Yoder mentioned in Jacob's estate file, along with Mary Ann, as having received some cooking pots. Is this another heretofore unknown daughter? If so, she may have been over 21 in 1837, hence no guardianship papers. That means she would have been born in 1816 or earlier. This date falls right into that eight year gap.

If there is one child not baptized at Mertz Church, are there more? It seems a little strange that Jacob and Anna Maria took nine children to be baptized at the same time, those children ranging in age from not quite two to over 17, and the last baptized at less than five months old. Where is Mary Ann in the baptismal records? From the court documents, we know she was Jacob's daughter. There are other gaps in our knowledge of the family according to the census, assuming that all the children in the household are actually the children of Jacob and Anna Maria.

By looking at the birthdates of the children, we can try to figure out which family is the right Jacob in the census records (there was more than one Jacob Yoder in Rockland Township). The following charts show my guess as to who the individuals were, and what their ages would have been at the time, followed by the number given in the census.

1810 Jacob Yoder of Rockland Township					
Male			Female		
Under 10	16-25	26-44	Under 10	10-15	26-44
Jacob 6 Reuben 8	?hired hand or nephew?	Jacob 38	Elizabeth 1 Lea 3 Christina 5 Sara 9	Maria 12	Anna Maria 33
According to Census					
2	1	1	4	1	1

This fits, with the exception of the 16-25 male. Jacob and Anna Maria were married 28 February 1797 by Rev. William Boos (BCGS # 2800). They could not have a son this old at this time. With the oldest son less than ten years old, Jacob probably had someone living with him to help out on the farm.

1820 Jacob Yoder of Rockland Township							
Male				Female			
Under 10	16-18	16-25	45+	Under 10	10-15	16-25	26-44
Gideon 9 Benjamin 3?	Reuben 18 Jacob 16	Reuben 18 Jacob 16	Jacob 48	Catharine 7 Mary Ann? Tamar ?	Christina 14 Lea 13 Elizabeth 11	Maria 22 Sara 19	Anna Maria 43
According to Census							
2	1	2	1	3	3	1	1

Of the known children, one of the daughters in the 16-25 age range could be married by this time and living elsewhere. I have found no marriage date for either one of them. The other discrepancy here is only one male recorded by the census in the 16-18 range. Both Reuben and Jacob fit in here. Perhaps Reuben was considered over 18. Age was not as important back then as it is now. Nobody really cared if you added a year.

The count for the family this year has extra children that don't fit in with what we know. As I have discovered, there is another daughter, Mary Ann. There is also room for Tamar mentioned in the estate file and for Benjamin.

1830 Jacob Yoder of Rockland Township Male				
5-9	10-14	15-19	30-39	50-59
Benneville 9	Benjamin 13?	Gideon 19	?	Jacob 58
According to Census				
1	1	1	1	1

1830 Jacob Yoder of Rockland Township Female					
<5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	50-59
?	?	Mary Ann? Tamar?	Catharine 17 ???	Elizabeth 21 Or Lea 23	Anna Maria 53
According to Census					
1	1	2	2	1	1

The 1830 census raises more questions. We can fit the known and suspected children into the household, but who were the two young girls? These must be grandchildren, as they would surely have been named in guardianship papers had they been children of Jacob and Maria. So who were the male in his 30's and the second 15-19 year old female? Hired help?

All of Jacob's known children died before 1900. Newspaper obituaries of that time, if they exist, focus on who is left behind, rather than who came before. Benjamin's obituary in 1899 names his surviving children, but not his parents or any surviving siblings. Looking for obituaries of Jacob's children that died before 1899 (that may have mentioned a surviving brother Benjamin) was an exercise in futility. The Reading Adler, the German language newspaper only gave a one-liner: so-and-so of such place died on this date. The Reading Eagle began publication in 1868, with the early years being almost exclusively advertisements. Any obits were of prominent men, usually residents of the city. When Jacob's daughters died in the 1870's and 1880's, they never made the paper; they lived in the rural area too far outside of Reading, and they were women. Gideon, who died in 1893, had no obituary, just a death notice and a brief mention in the "Deaths" column; no survivors, not even his wife were mentioned.

The first concrete evidence in the records of Benjamin's existence is his marriage as reported in the Reading Adler. He, from Rockland Township, was married to Brigitta Hausman, from Pike Township, on 13 October 1839 by Rev. Daniel Kohler at Kutztown (issue of October 29, 1839, Reading Adler Marriages BCGS # 265).

Jacob had his known children baptized at Mertz Church, but the only time Benjamin's name appears in the Mertz records is as a baptismal sponsor, along with Brigitta, for James, son of Benjamin and Catharine Angstadt, born 5 September 1840, baptized 15 November 1840. Catharine is the daughter of Jacob and Anna Maria Yoder. Another Angstadt child, Sara, born 25 August 1835, baptized 20 December 1835 at Mertz Church, had Reuben and Magdalena Yoder as sponsors, so we know that Catharine had her siblings serve as baptismal sponsors for her children.

Gideon, a known son of Jacob, and Benjamin married sisters.

-BENJAMIN- CONTINUED PAGE 7

This is certainly no proof that they were brothers, but it does put them in the same location. They certainly knew each other.

Florinda (Florinty or any other variation), the daughter of Reuben, son of Jacob, along with Tilghman Hauseman, Brigitta's brother, were the baptismal sponsors of Benjamin's daughter Mary Ann in 1851. This child died at the age of 10 months (Friedens Church Oley PA Tombstone Inscriptions BCGS #467), and Benjamin and Brigitta used the name again for a daughter born in 1856. We now know that Jacob had a daughter Mary Ann. Was she a favorite sister of Benjamin, and was he so determined to have a daughter named after her that he used the name twice?

Christina, known daughter of Jacob, had 21 children, including a set of twin boys on 29 October 1833, named Benjamin and Gideon. After their baptism on 7 March 1834, I can find no record of the twins. Another Benjamin Hilbert, born in 1840 was the son of Christina. Did she use the name Benjamin twice to honor a favorite brother?

While all of this is an interesting look at a possible family dynamic, it proves absolutely nothing. The suggestion is made, several times over, that Benjamin may be the son of Jacob and Anna Maria Barto Yoder, but the "smoking gun" still eludes us. It is most unfortunate that Jacob left a will. Had he died intestate there would likely be a document in his estate file listing all his heirs (i.e., children). His will, written in German as mentioned previously, does not list his children. The phrase "Frau Maria" appears twice, and the names Gideon and Reuben are discernible, but that is all. Mary Ann and Benneville, named as his children in other estate documents, do not appear in the will itself.

The most promising piece of evidence placing Benjamin in Jacob's family is an application for membership in the *Sons of the American Revolution*. Winfield Allen Herbert Reider, son of Benjamin's daughter Sarah and her husband Abraham Reider, followed the Hauseman line, that of his grandmother, so he never needed to mention Benjamin's parents on the application. He does, however, state that his grandfather is Benjamin Barto Yoder. This is the only documented source of even a middle initial for Benjamin that I have found. As we all know, the child's middle name usually was the mother's maiden name.

What makes this believable? The applicant, Winfield, was born 27 March 1870; Benjamin died 20 May 1899, shortly after his grandson's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. Winfield surely must have known his grandfather and got this information from him. Mr. Reider's source of information, as stated on his application, was his uncle, Tilghman Hauseman, who clearly knew Benjamin; he was the baptismal sponsor for Benjamin's first daughter Mary Ann in 1851, as well as his brother-in-law.

While I haven't been able to pinpoint Benjamin's origins with irrefutable proof, the circumstantial evidence seems to place Benjamin in the OY45 line. Consider this an interim report, as I am still researching this family trying to find the proof of Benjamin's parentage.

\*\*\*\*\*



Greetings from Reading, PA. We met at the Yoder 300th Anniversary event in Oley in September. I am attaching a photo our son (Keith Yoder) took of us in Oakland, CA where he lives. It was certainly startling to come across on the streets of Oakland!

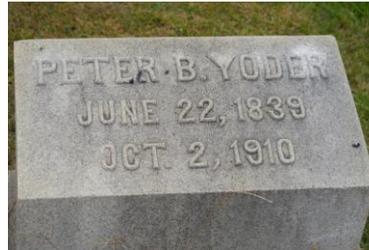
Our son posted it on FACEBOOK with the caption "parents visiting Oakland" and many people commented, one suggesting it should be our Christmas card! We didn't go that far, but we did find it amusing. Not sure Hans and Yost would have approved, but have a look and enjoy.. Zelda and Mark Yoder

\*\*\*\*\*

## “Find-A-Grave” - Document Your Own Yoder Line on the Internet

The “Find-A-Grave” web site allows you: to post the name and dates of your ancestor in the cemetery where he or she rests; to add his or her photo (s); to add a photo of the gravestone; and to post a biographical summary or obituary.

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of Jan. 15, 2015 the counts for interments were: 15992 records (an increase of +660 from Aug. 2014) –Yoder; 413 (+15) – Yother; 256 (+12) – Yothers; 226 (+6) – Yotter; 54 (+0) – Yoter; 184 (+3) – Yoders; 52 (+2) – Ioder; 80 (+0) – Joder; 38 (+0) - Jotter family members; 1 (+0) - Joders. You can either add your ancestor to a cemetery, or post data on an existing record. For assistance write: Chris Yoder at: [cnyder@tds.net](mailto:cnyder@tds.net) . A sample gravestone is shown here.



Peter B. Yoder (OH14561)  
See YNL 49, pg 3. His birth Fracktur is on display at the House of Yoder  
Born: Jun. 22, 1839  
Died: Oct. 2, 1910  
Fairview Cemetery,  
Allentown,  
Lehigh County, PA  
Photo by Chuck Schubert

\*\*\*\*\*

## LINKS SURPRISE YNL STAFF

We have long known that three of the primary YNL volunteer staff shared a common ancestry in the 1800s, but we were recently surprised to see that 5 out of 6 did! Last spring, co-founder Rachel Kreider's son convinced her that, at 104, she needed to hand off the family files for descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr (YR233) which she inherited from her uncle John Weaver, and had maintained for decades (see YNL 54). These now reside with YNL Editor Chris Yoder and he has been very slowly working his way through them.

Rachel's files began with records assembled by Chris's g-g-grandfather Reuben Yoder who was a son of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr. (YR2337) of Somerset Co., PA. Rachel herself was the g-g-granddaughter of two of Reuben's sisters. Webmaster Donald Kauffman is the g-g-grandson of their brother David. John W. Yoder is also a g-g-grandson of David through his mother. Esther Yoder's late husband Henry was a g-grandson of their sister Elizabeth.

YR2337- Bishop Christian Yoder Jr., b. 1790

YR23374- David b. 1817 m Susanna Miller – Donald and John

YR23376- Magdalena m. Joseph C. Yoder - Rachel

YR23377- Catherine m. John Johns - Rachel

YR23378- Elizabeth m. Samuel Beachy – Henry

YR2337a- Reuben m. Harriet Riehl - Chris

Only new Mail Manager Kenneth W. Yoder takes a different line, being descended from Mennonite “Hans of Great Swamp” YB13781223. However all 6 of us link up a bit further back with Caspar Joder b 2/24/1571 m 7/4/1596 Margret Hennig (the apparent common ancestors of all American Yoders)

\*\*\*\*\*



Just for fun, I am attaching a pic of one of the Yoder trucks which used to rumble through PA from the '50s until the '90s. Mark E. (Edwin) was my grandfather, and he ran the company until my father Thomas E. took it over, sold out around 1995. - Mark (George) Yoder, Reading PA

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## YODER PASSINGS

-William "Dave" Yoder, 79, Hartville, Ohio, died July 24, 2014. Son of William "Bill" and Emma Stutzman Yoder. (William was son of Phineas - YR1253581)

-Robert A. "Bob" Yoder, 87, of Eureka, IL passed away Tuesday morning, Nov. 25, 2014, son of Ray A. and Virginia M. (Yoder) Yoder. (Ray may be son of Vernon YR23383a2)

-Yoder, Miriam M., June 3, 1958 - July 16, 2014 Sugar Creek, OH daughter of Clarence and Minnie (Helmuth) Yoder, Clarence son of Moses D. YR26113226

-Violet J. Yoder, 91, Strawberry Lake, MN, died Dec. 7, 2014 born June 4, 1923 near Wolford, ND to Thomas (YR2579252) and Emma (Witmer) Yoder

-Roger D. Yoder, 78, of Tower City, PA died Dec. 3, 2014. Son of the late Bruce & Flossie Adams Yoder.

-Keith Yoder, DDS, Ft. Wayne, IN, age 78, died Jan 5, 2015. Longtime YNL subscriber, attended national reunions, one of the first to take a DNA test. Medical mission work for over 40 years. and was named distinguished Hoosier by Gov. Mitch Daniels. Son of Lowell Yoder (YB1378122), bro. of YNL Mail Manager Ken Yoder.

-Paul E. (H) Yoder, 93, of Grantsville, MD, d. Jan. 11, 2015. He was the son of Eli L. (YR26119123) and Amanda (Hershberger) Yoder. Paul served three 5-year terms on the House of Yoder Board of Directors, from its inception. He was secretary through 2007. Part of his duties were to coordinate the week-end hosting programs and to open and close the house for the hosts. He also served as host, himself, as long as his health permitted.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANOTHER 300<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 2017 NATIONAL YODER REUNION PLANNED IN AMISH COUNTRY



In YNL 3 Ken Hottle of Allentown, PA, wrote about the first of the Anabaptist Yoders to arrive in America, Mennonite "Hans Yoder of Great Swamp". He felt that Hans likely arrived with other members of his congregation in 1717. And so we are going to celebrate this as the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of arrival for our Anabaptist Yoders in America! We will focus on our Mennonite and Amish branches, and for the first time sponsor a National Reunion closer to the center of the country. Tentative plans are for a reunion Sept. 20-24, 2017 around the time of the Annual Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale held at the Elkhart County Fair Grounds. Reunion events will be centered in the Amish tourist town of Shipshewana, IN, location of the renown Menno-Hof Historical Museum (<http://mennohof.com/>) . Pencil in the dates and watch for more details over the next two years in the Yoder Newsletter and on our FACEBOOK page.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2015 Reunions

-Menno Yoder (YR2337a 5) Family Reunion June 27 at noon at the Wolfe Building in Shipshewana, IN. POC if questions - R. (Ronald) Alan Burkhard, 630-221-9848, [ronburk453@gmail.com](mailto:ronburk453@gmail.com)

-Conrad Yoder Reunion, Oct. 10-11. Grace Lutheran Church south of Newton, NC. Contacts: President Nathan Yoder [yoder234@hotmail.com](mailto:yoder234@hotmail.com) or Secretary Neal Wilfong [ndwilfongoptiker@aol.com](mailto:ndwilfongoptiker@aol.com)

## SOMERSET CO. CEMETERIES

Keith Yoder of Centreville, VA reported "My brother and I decided to stop and check out how the marker is holding up at the Old Yoder Cemetery. It's in great shape but the cemetery and marker have really been overgrown in the ensuing 15 years. I've attached a couple of photos so you can see the current site condition. That's my brother Kevin looking at the monument - I thought it showed some perspective as to how overgrown it has become."



KEVIN YODER INSPECTS BEFORE THE CLEAN-UP

Mark Yoder of Berlin, PA (husband of House of Yoder newsletter editor Mayla) got on the stick and within a couple months arranged not only a clean-up of the Old cemetery ("Schweitzer Christian" Yoder- YR23) but also the nearby cemetery of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr. (YR2337).



OLD YODER CEMETERY-AFTER CLEAN-UP



BISHOP CHRISTIAN YODER JR. CEMETERY

Many thanks to Mark Yoder for his work!!

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE HOUSE OF YODER HOSTING!

Would you like a week or two in the beautiful hill of Garrett County MD??? Volunteer hosts are needed Jun-Oct. Volunteer for 1 week or more. Open The House for visitors from 10am till 5pm. One free day to devote to your own pleasure. Penn Alps Restaurant offers 25% discount for hosts. Your hosting services provide you free living in a cozy apartment, with shopping near by. The House of Yoder is a Swiss house of the 1700's, the homeland of the Yoders and portrays some of their early life in America. It is located in Spruce Forest Artisan Village, beside the Casselman River and next door to Penn Alps Restaurant and Gift Shop. For application forms and hosting information, contact: Mayla H. Yoder. 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA 15530 814-267-3383. [www.houseofyoder.org](http://www.houseofyoder.org)