



YODER NEWSLETTER



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Sorting Alsatian Yoders

-By Joe A. Springer

A continuing challenge of Yoder research has been the effort to integrate multiple strands of descendants into a logical, unified chart. The research by Karl Joder into Yoder Steffisburg origins long ago provided a general schematic into which we continue to attempt to weave all of the various Yoder threads. As I began, nearly 30 years ago now, to research the Amish Mennonite communities in southern Alsace, Belfort, and Montbéliard, I naively assumed that in the course of my work, I would identify compelling evidence to link the comparatively small population of Yoders in that region to their Steffisburg parents or grandparents. So strong was my desire to accomplish this that I postponed finalizing the Yoder family outlines included in my Montbéliard Mennonite Church Register, 1750-1958 (MMCR) until months before that work finally went to press in 2015. Despite comprehensive study of many records from mid-18th century forward, I found it impossible to achieve that goal. I even ended up teasing apart some lines that others had, at least tentatively, linked to each other. In the end, I presented the Yoder information I studied in five separate outlines. In this article I will review the evidence for likely background of the Yoder families I studied, and then introduce each of the five families.

17th-century/early 18th-century documentation

The extensive outline of Steffisburg Yoders compiled by Karl Joder, although carefully constructed, includes points of speculation and is likely incomplete. Enhanced and corrected by subsequent research (see, for example, "What We Knew Then and What We Know Now," YNL60), we still find critical gaps in our knowledge. Robert Baecher provided useful analysis of Yoders and other Steffisburg families who began appearing in France in the late 17th-century with documentation from Steffisburg (summarized in YNL54). From that research, we can speculate that the Yoders who show up in later generations could have a connection to Y64 Peter, Y68 Christian, or Y6a Yost. (Y6b Caspar appears to be firmly established as having settled further north than the areas inhabited by families presented below.)



Montbéliard (aka Mumpelgart) Chateau

Between the 1690s and the mid-1750s, much of our knowledge regarding the Amish Mennonites inhabiting the region of the southern Alsace, Belfort, and Montbéliard, derives from a variety of lists of names, often without much detail other than head of household. These "censuses" have appeared in various forms and in

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300 Years of Anabaptist Yoders in America

On Aug. 24, 1717 it was reported that three ships carrying 363 Mennonites arrived in Philadelphia. Among these is believed to have been the founder of the Mennonite Yoder line in America, Hans Yoder "of Great Swamp". Earlier Mennonite immigrations had occurred in 1710, when proprietor William Penn wrote the British Ambassador to the Netherlands "there were fifty or sixty Swissers, called Mennonites, coming for Holland in order to go for Pennsylvania". These immigrants included a number who took warrants for land in Lancaster County that same year. Among this group, one Martin Kendig was designated to return to Europe and encourage other Mennonites to come to America. His apparent success can be seen in estimates that by 1732 nearly one fifth of all Mennonites living in the German Palatinate had immigrated to America. ¹

The names of the 1717 ships are not known, nor are the names of all the passengers, but among them were the congregants who were to settle in the area to be known as "Great Swamp", not far from Quakertown in Milford Township, Bucks Co., PA. The biographical record on Find-A-Grave for Bishop Valentine Clemmer (born 1655 near Zurich), one of the 1717 immigrants, explains that "Grooten Schwamb" meant "Great Meadow" in German. But the German word for meadow sounded like the English word for Swamp. ²

On Jan 17, 1720, Hans Yoder purchased a 99 acre Lower Milford Township tract from Joseph Growden for fifteen pounds silver. The late Ken Hottle, a primary researcher of this line, wrote

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2017 National Yoder Reunion

2017 Reunion	Weds-20th	Thurs-21st	Fri-22nd	Sat-23rd	Sun-24th
7am					
8am					
9am	Last Day of Wkly	* Tailored Menno- hof Tours and Local Opportunities, plus Open Time	Registration - BGI 8 to 11am	Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale Elkhart Fairground 7am to 2pm	Open Time
10am					You Are Invited to Attend Area Churches Safe Travels
11am	Shipshewana Flea Market 8am to 5pm		Open Time		Registration-EC
12pm			Open Time		
1pm			Open Time		
2pm	Reunion Registration - BGI 2 to 6 pm	Blue Gate Theater Option (1)	Anabaptist History & Alsatian Yoders - by Joe Springer EC 1-3pm The Amish Come to Northern Indiana by Floyd Miller EC	Steffisburg, Switzerland - by Han Jakob & Andreas Joder EC 1:2-4:5pm American Yoder Family Overview & Yoder DNA Study - by YNL - EC 3-5pm	
3pm			Blue Gate Theater Option (2)		
4pm					
5pm					
6pm					
7pm	Welcoming Reception - Ice Cream Social - BGI 7pm to 9:30	Amish Home Dinners - 7 to 9:30	Open Time	50th Annual Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale Elkhart Fairground 5to9pm	Registration Continued - EC
8pm					
9pm					Banquet EC 7 to 9:30
10pm					
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS as of Feb 2017					
Open Time: Shopping; Buggy Rides; Menno-Hof Heritage Museum 9 to 9; Hudson Car Museum 10 to 10:4; Theater Options 1 - Mennonite Girls Can Cook and 2- Home Game					
BGI-Blue Gate Inn EC-EventCenter					

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Make plans now to attend the 20-23 Sept. 2017 National Yoder Reunion in Shipshewana, IN!! Come for all or a part of the activities. Feature presentations will be by: two Joders from our ancestral home town of Steffisburg, Switzerland, Hans Jakob and Andreas Joder; Joe Springer of Goshen College; YNL Editor Chris Yoder, and local Amish historian Floyd Miller!! There will also be opportunities to go to: the famous Shipshewana Flea market; the 50th Annual Michiana Mennonite Relief Sale in nearby Goshen; the Mennohof Amish/Mennonite History Museum; and to attend: an Amish home dinner; two local theater productions (Mennonite Girls Can Cook, The Home Game); and hear presentations on Anabaptist and Yoder family history. All YNL subscribers should have received a separate registration mailing before this April 2017 newsletter was distributed. Follow the news on the YODER NEWSLETTER FACEBOOK PAGE for continuing updates.

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by
Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder &
Rachel Kreider (1909-2015)

Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; John W. Yoder, Circulation
Manager, Middlebury, IN; Kenneth W. Yoder, Mail Manager,
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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 34 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.

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- 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 -).

Visit: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/subscrib.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

Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) and Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) are both
available in soft cover volumes for order on-line. See:

For YNL 1-25 www.createpace.com/5154791 \$16.29 plus postage

For YNL26-50 www.createpace.com/5051725 \$16.99 plus postage

Descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr. (YR233) may also be
interested in The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Ancestry at

www.createpace.com/4122327 \$15.99 plus postage

YNL WEBMASTER RETIRES

After 20 years of volunteer
service, the YNL webmaster,
Donald Kauffman of
Edmonton, Alberta, has
retired. When the YNL on the
web was first launched, the
master files were kept in Battle
Creek, MI, the server site for



the web files was located in California, and our web magician, Don,
was in Canada. Thanks so much Don!

Any volunteers out there to take his place? Workload is not very
great as changes are quite infrequent. Interested parties, please
contact YNL editor Chris Yoder at cyoder@tds.net, 616-212-3443.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I have always been interested in my Yoder name (mainly
because I so admire my father - he is the smartest and greatest man I
have ever met - his name is Wilbur C Yoder and the C is for his
fathers' first name Cletus) and tracing how far back I could go. I am
also very proud of my uncle Simon Yoder who is a very great man. I
came across the Steffisburg connection many years ago from the
Yoder Newsletters and always wanted to check it out as well as the St
Joder Chapel. Last year I agreed to do some speaking engagements
in Europe, with several free day to tour somewhere. For me, deciding
where to go was an easy decision.



THE MOSES TABLET



CREST IN CHAPEL WINDOW

I went to Steffisburg to visit the church with our Jost and
Caspar Joder crests in the Moses Tablet. I also visited the Thun
Castle but didn't realize that there may at one time have been a
Joder imprisoned there for Anabaptist beliefs? It was one of those
places you visit and get that special feeling (the one that is hard to
describe). I remember the same feeling when I visited the University
of Notre Dame campus when I was in graduate school there). I would
highly recommend you stay at a hotel called "Schutzen" right there
in Steffisburg.

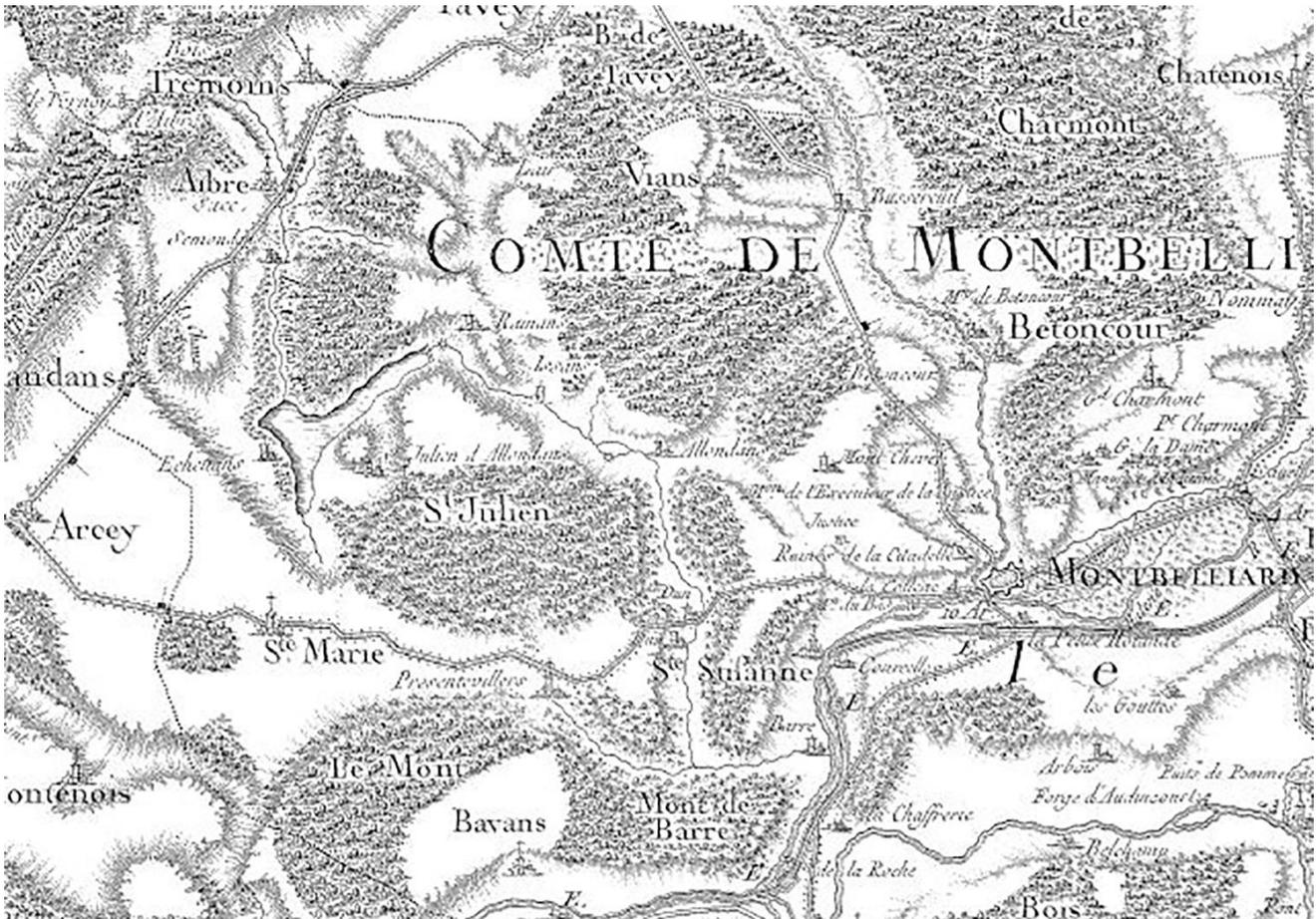


ST JODER CHAPEL

Later, I finally found St Joder Chapel. It is not easy to find, I
must say, and it requires quite a little drive up the winding mountain
- but well worth the effort. I took hundreds of pictures but haven't
had a chance to sort through them yet - my goal is to recreate the
paintings of the "St Joder Bell" story in life size (maybe 6 feet by
6feet) on one of the walls in my home office. I also want to make a
story book out of the photos in German and English for each of my
amazing children (Autumn 18, Benson 15, Ari 13, London 4 and a
new baby boy due May 28th).- - Todd W. Yoder, Irving, TX
(Descended from Alsatian Yoders- YRB35 (Joe Springer's coding for
his book) - Christian Yoder (ca1787/91 Morvillars-06/14/1852
Blotzheim) m.04/12/1816 Barbara Schott (SHO1) (11/17/1794-
02/07/1879 St Jacob) - son of > YRB3- Hans Yoder (ca 1765-by
1831) m.1 Barbara Stauffer (SF12) (ca1762-7/8/1813 Morvillars)- >
son of > YRB - Benz Yoder (?- before 1773 La Maie) m. Elizabeth
Gunten (ca1723- 3/26/1807 Granzele).

I am here in Honduras nowbut was born in Goshen, Indiana
... one of the Yoders who were a result of the Rosanna .of the Amish
book. I would like to meet by FACEBOOK with some of the others
...etc... Am proud of my name ! - Bonnie Yoder Medina.

<https://www.facebook.com/bonnie.v.medina>



18th-century Cassini maps showing first places where Yoders were documented, in Montbéliard region: Vernoy (hard to read) and Tremoins (easier to read) at upper left corner, Bavans near bottom, and Montbéliard towards right

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various published works over the years. They inform most efforts to identify relationships among Alsatian Yoders. Most of these lists are directly related to tracking the “anabaptistes” who were leasing property from the Prince of Montbéliard. The most comprehensive and careful presentation of these sources is Robert Baecher’s transcription in the 1999 issue of the French Mennonite historical journal *Souvenance Anabaptiste* (pp. 78-90). The earliest Yoders we notice in these lists are in 1715: Christian Yoder (perhaps Y68?) at Bavans and what seem to be two different Yost Yoders (one of whom may be Y6a?) one at Le Vernoy, one at nearby Trémoin. In 1717, we seem to have again the two Yost Yoders, but not Christian). Unfortunately, the 1715 and 1717 information was probably not original collected as comprehensive censuses, but compiled from several documents. Since no ages or spouses are reported we cannot fully identify these individuals.

Supporting the identity of these Yoders as falling somewhere in the lineage of Y6 Yost Yoder/Anna Trachsel is the presence in 1718 of Anna Yoder and her husband Christian Blank at Abbévillers-Marchelavillers. This 1718 record reports names and ages of each allowing relatively secure identification of Anna as Y69. The estate they lived on was about 20 miles southeast of the habitations of the male Yoders, but belonged also to the Prince of Montbéliard. As far as I know, no one has located archival documents related to any early leases held by Yoders in this region.

The most important evidence is a 1723 list of those occupying the estate at le Vernoy. This list provides names and ages of both spouses and their children. In addition to Yost Yoder, age 42, and his wife Elisabeth [née] Yoder, and their 5 children (ages 5-16), there

is an Anna Yoder (age 44) with her husband Hans Blank (age 45) and 5 children (ages 2-10), as well as assorted other individuals. Might Anna have been a sister or cousin of Yost Yoder? A 1733 census suggests that the Blank household remained at Le Vernoy, but the Yoder household had relocated to Dambenois (about 12 miles east). Several years after the 1999 publication of the early censuses, Robert Baecher discovered another list from 1727 that reported what appears to be the same Yost Yoder family living at Exincourt (about 10 miles southeast of Le Vernoy, and 5 miles southwest of Dambenois). On the 1727 list the eldest child (who in 1723 might either have been a male Christian or a female Christine) was absent, the ages of other children suggesting birth years 3 or 4 years younger than suggested by the 1723 list, and adding a daughter Christine born about 1725. These discrepancies remind us that even what appears to be clear, specific evidence may not be as accurate as we would like.

Mid- to late-18th century documentation

By the end of the 1750s, better documentation began to exist for Yoder families living in the region of Montbéliard. In 1759, Amish Mennonite leaders prepared a detailed census of their congregants in the region, including three Yoder households. This same census prompted the beginning of the 200-year church register, the translation and editing of which as MMCR provided my reason to look at these Yoders. (MMCR includes authoritative transcriptions and translations of the original source document reflected in Edith Joder’s research notes provided in YNL’s “Alsatian Yoder Documents.”) A similar congregational register at

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nearby Belfort was started in the 1790s but includes some information regarding events as early as 1729. The French Revolution brought with it the beginning of a modern, compulsory system of civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths (1793).

From that period forward, it is relatively straightforward to follow family events in known locations. Civil records from this era are available online through French departmental archives, either as index entries (Doubs) or as full records (Haute-Saône, Belfort, Haut-Rhin).

Five Yoder families

In presenting the synopsis below, I am using the same codes used in my two-volume Montbéliard Mennonite Church Register, 1750-1958 (MMCR). For ease of identification with earlier Yoder Newsletter family outlines I include in square brackets the code used in either or both lists of Alsatian Yoders distributed by Yoder Newsletter. Speculatively, I imagine that YR & YRA may be more closely related to each other than are YRB, YRC, YRD to YR. YRB and YRC, both of whom apparently lived earlier at Heildolsheim (about 58 miles northeast of Belfort) may actually be brothers. It seems feasible that YRD could fit into the YRC line. I will include the outline of the first generation of each line and then a description of family members in the second-generation who also bore descendants surnamed Yoder. I will also mention North American immigrants from each line. Consult MMCR for additional, fuller information on descendants both in Europe and in North America. In keeping with the editorial practice of MMCR names are presented in standardized form that may or may not reflect that person's actual usage (for example "Hans" may have been known in U.S. as "John.")

YR (MMCR) Yost Yoder married to Elisabeth Yoder

This is the family that appears to be documented at Le Vernoy in 1723 (possibly as early as 1715), Exincourt in 1727, and apparently at Dambenois in 1733. YNL YA4 ancestry misidentifies this man as FA1 (and misidentifies spouses). Yost and Elizabeth appear to have been of similar age, both perhaps born about 1681. Both had likely died before 1759. Were they 1st or 2nd cousins? As far as I could determine, any direct male descendants in this line surviving after 1837 emigrated to North America. If descended from AAMG's Y6 Yost Yoder/Anna Trachsel, Yost and Elisabeth were perhaps in the generation of Y6's grandchildren.

YR1 Christian b. 1707

YR2 Anna b. 1709/12

YR3+ Hans 1714/15-11/11/1762 m Zimmermann, Verena

YR4+ Yost 1717/20-04/14/1793 m Kropf, Anna

YR5 Jacob b. 1718/22

YR6 Christina b. ca1725

YR3+ [=YNL YA4 ancestry FA13] Hans Yoder was married, probably by 1752 to Verena Zimmermann (ca1711-1770), who had earlier been married to a man surnamed Ummel. By 1759 the couple was living on an estate in Grand-Charmont about 2 miles north of Montbéliard, where both also died. This couple had at least four children; YR31+ [=YNL YA4 ancestry FA131] Joseph (ca1752-1825, married Maria Stucky), Jakob (d. 1778, not married), Hans (d. 1767, died young), and Verena (ca1759-1813, married Peter Klopfenstein). Although YR31+ Joseph Yoder and Maria Stucky both died in France, five of their seven known children emigrated to North America: YR311+ [=YNL YA8] Jakob (1779-aft1842, married to Barbara Lichti), YR313 Verena (ca1784/88-aft07/1835, married to Peter Schmucker), YR315 Barbara (1793-bet1860-70?, married to Daniel Schmucker), YR316+ [=YNL YA4] Hans (1795-1878, married to Maria Conrad), YR317 Christina (1797-aft08/1870, married to Joseph Gerig).

YR4+ Yost Yoder was married, probably by the early 1750s to Anna Kropf (ca1705-1794). In 1759 the couple was living at Dung, about 3 miles west of Montbéliard. At the time of their deaths, they

were living in Étobon, about 13 miles northwest of Montbéliard. Yost was a deacon in the Montbéliard congregation. The couple had two known children: Verena (d. 1799, married to Christian Geumann) and Yost (ca1753?-1795, not married).

YRA (MMCR) Christian Yoder married to Anna Hochstetler

This couple was located in the territory of Héricourt on an estate the 1759 census calls "Brinoli" (which may be Brevilliers, about 6 miles north of Montbéliard). I was unable to document a primary source that reported his birth as occurring in 1724 at Bavilliers (a different town further north, as reported by several secondary sources). He was likely born about 1720 and died 09/21/1797 at Belfort (age & date of death from civil record, the Belfort church record book reports died 05/20/1797). Anna Hochstetler was born about 1726 and died 09/28/1796, also at Belfort. It is challenging to distinguish among children of YRA and the similarly-aged YRC Christian Yoder. If descended from AAMG's Y6 Yost Yoder/Anna Trachsel, he was perhaps in the generation of Y6's great-grandchildren. Some secondary sources identify YRA as son of YR Yost Yoder/Elisabeth Yoder. YRA's presence in the 1759 census (along with YR3 & YR4) suggests the possibility that YRC may be more closely related to YR than to YRB/YRC. However, unless the 1727 census record of what appears to be YR's family misidentifies the youngest child's name it seems unlikely that the man who died in 1797 fits as a son in the YR family. I was unable to track any male descendants of the YRA line in France past 1849. (Male children born in 1832 & 1841 in France may have survived to have descendants.) Several male lines continued in the U.S. after emigration.

YRA1+ Christian 03/10/1750-07/14/1819 m Lehmann, [Maria] Elisabeth

YRA2 Barbara ca1753-04/26/1822 m Stoll, David

YRA3 Katharina d. 02/20/1783 not married

YRA4+ Hans ca1760?-aft1828 m1 Lehmann, Barbara; m2 Ernst, Maria.

YRA5+ Jakob 09/1/1761-10/21/1838 m1 Geumann, Anna; m2 Graber, Anna; m3 Gauss, Katharina.

YRA1+ Christian Yoder and [Maria] Elisabeth Lehmann (1755-1810, sister of YRA4's wife) had at least 8 children of whom three emigrated to North America: YRA15 Simon (1789-1870, married Anna Maria Stucky, no known children); YRA17 Anna (1792-aft1860, married Michael Finck); YRA18+ [=YNL YA3] Christian (1796-1850, married Maria Yoder YRA51).

YRA4+ Hans Yoder had at least 1 child by first wife Barbara Lehmann (ca1756-1814, sister of YRA1's wife) and at least 3 children by second wife Maria Ernst (b. 1796). It is unlikely that there were further descendants in this line.

YRA5+ Jakob Yoder had at least 2 children with first wife Anna Geumann (ca1752-1800); at least 4 children with second wife Anna Graber (1779-1807) and at least 4 children with third wife Katharina Gauss (ca1776-aft1838). Only his eldest daughter YRA51 Maria (wife of YRA18+ Christian Yoder above) is known to have emigrated. His son YRA54 Daniel had several male children, but I was unable to document this family after 1849 (at which time they remained in France).

YRB (MMCR) Bentz/Benedikt Yoder married to Elisabeth [Guntzen?]

Lease documents show that this man lived at Heildolsheim (about 58 miles northeast of Belfort) before 03/20/1759 when he entered a 9-year lease for the farm La Maie (Éguenigue) which was a main meeting place for the Amish Mennonite congregation in the region of Belfort. His wife's surname appears as Nafziger in one contemporary source, but more often in forms that may be corruptions of the surname Guntzen. After YRB's death she married the widower YRC Christian Yoder which combined with the marriage of YRB1 Barbara to YRC1 Christian Jr. has led to confusion in some previous attempts to document the YRB & YRC

families. I have seen no documentation to name parents of either YRB or YRC, both of whom apparently lived at Heidolsheim and so may have been brothers or cousins.

YRB1 Barbara ca1753-05/16/1824 m1 Yoder, Christian YRC1+; m2 Lichti, Nicolas

YRB2 Anna Maria ca1755-08/07/1834 m1 Zempe, Claude; m2 Juillet, Jean Pierre; m3 Perronier, Pierre

YRB3+ Hans ca1765-by1831 m1 Stauffer, Barbara; m2 Jeannot, Jeanne Marie-Félicité

YRB4 Elisabeth ca1768-08/13/1845 m Klopfenstein, Nicolas

YRB5 Christian d. 04/23/1778 not married

YRB3 Hans Yoder was ordained as a preacher in the Amish Mennonite congregation at Belfort in 1787. He took up residence as the miller at Morvillars (about 10 miles south of Belfort, and about 8 miles east of Montbéliard). He had 8 or 9 children with his first wife Barbara Stauffer. I was unable to locate evidence that he had any children with his second wife. Most of these did not marry, but two daughters had children out of wedlock and his son YRB35+ [=YNL YA2] Christian seems likely to have been identical with the husband of Barbara Schott (1794-1879). Of the daughters, YRB37+ [=YNL YA27] Katharina (c1797-aft04/1857) emigrated to the U.S. following her two surviving children YRB372+ Joseph (1821-1888, married Anna Kempf) and Katharina (1831-1893, married Joseph C. Zehr). The husband of Barbara Schott lived ca1787-91-06/14/1852, dying in France, but seven of their 13 children emigrated as well as several children of their eldest son YRB351+ Nicolas. The children who emigrated were YRB356+ [=YNL YA24] Joseph (1825-1911, married first Katharina Roth and second Barbara Stucky); YRB358+ [=YNL YA26] Hans (1829-1904, married Verena Miller); YRB359 [=YNL YA27] Katharina (married Hans Liechty); YRB35a+ [=YNL YA28] Isaak (1833-1921, married Rosina Graber); YRB35b [=YNL YA29] Magdalena (1835-1917, married Christian R. Nafziger); YRB35c+ [=YNL YA2a] Jakob (1838-1914, married Susan Nafziger); YRB35d [=YNL YA2b] Maria (married Jacob Snyder). YRB351+ [=YNL YA21] Nicolas (1817-1876, married Barbara Würigler) had two daughters and possibly a son emigrate. YRB3512 Barbara [=YNL YA212] (1845-1939, married first Jacob P. Schmidt and second Adam Hostetler; YNL also speculates incorrectly that the first husband might have been married to YNL YA23) and YRB3515 [=YNL YA218] Maria (1849-1928, married Nicolas Kaufmann) both died in Missouri, as perhaps did their brother YRB3513 [=YNL YA213] Christian (1846-by1828, not known to have married). (YNL YA218 mistakenly identified "Marie" as married to a Boegli. A younger sister YRB351e Elisabeth was married to Joseph Boegli.) It is through another son, YRB3518+ [=YNL YA215] Joseph (1854-ca1915, married Marguerite Moser) that French researcher Edith Joder descended.

YRC (MMCR) Christian Yoder married first to Barbara Gerig, and then to Elisabeth [Guntent?]

This man lived for many years at Morvillars (where YRB3 also later lived), but died at Bettendorf (almost 20 miles east of Morvillars). His civil death record reports that he was born at Heidolsheim. Like YRB, his first appearance in lease documents near Belfort is around 1760 and he apparently was at Morvillars by 1772 when his first wife Barbara Gerig died. Within months of his first wife's death he had married the widow of YRB. YRC8 Magdalena is the only child from the second marriage. Documentation for daughters Anna & Maria is sparse. It is possible that they may instead have been daughters of the similarly-aged YRA+ Christian. Of YRC's children, only the youngest emigrated (to Ontario), but there are numerous other descendants who emigrated. It is also through YRC that most of the Yoder descendants in France today have descended.

YRC1+ Christian d. 08/26/1788 m Yoder, Barbara YRB1

YRC2+ Hans ca1750-12/10/1804 m Klopfenstein, Katharina

YRC3+ Yost 1754?-10/04/1852 m Ernst, Barbara

YRC4 Barbara 1756-04/27/1820 m1 Schad, Hans; m2 Schad, Christian

YRC5? Anna d. aft03/1768

YRC6? Maria d. 02/28/1811

YRC7+ Joseph ca1761-04/13/1814 m Stauffer, Katharina

YRC8 Magdalena 06/?/?/1773-aft1851 m Lichti, Hans

YRC1+ Christian and YRB1 Barbara Yoder had at least 4 children, of whom one, YRC13+ Hans (ca1783-bet1860-65, married Katharina Schott), emigrated in 1857 to Lewis Co. NY with several adult children and grandson YRC1361 Joseph (1856-1920, married Katherine Zehr) who was the son of YRC136 Anna and an unknown father.

YRC2+ Hans Yoder and Katharina Klopfenstein were parents of 3 daughters who stayed in France and 2 sons who emigrated: YRC23+ Christian (1786-1869, married Katharina Klopfenstein, a niece of his mother) and YRC24+ [=YNL YA1] Joseph (1790-1874, married Barbara Weiss).

YRC3+ Yost and Barbara Ernst had 2 sons, both of whom stayed in France. Grandson YRC313+ [=YNL YA4] Joseph (1808-1886, married Anna Klopfenstein) emigrated. YNL used faulty documentation of earlier secondary research when describing the grandfather of YRC313/YNL YA4. The 7 children of YRC7+ Joseph also remained in France, but several grandchildren emigrated, including grandsons YRC723+ [=YNL YA22: YNL incorrectly identified as son of YRB35/YA2 but lists spouse/children of YRC723] Christian (1815-by1860, married Barbara Goldschmidt); YRC725+ [=YNL YA24 & YA9] Hans (1819-1899, married first Katharina Stucky, and second Elizabeth Short); YRC728+ [=YNL YA6] Michael (1825-1873, married Verena Roth); and (perhaps) YRC777 Christian (b. 1839, who seems to have obtained a passport to emigrate in 1865).

YRD (MMCR) [=YNL YA7] Christian Yoder and Anna Klopfenstein

This Christian was reportedly born in France 05/17/1811 but I was unable to locate a civil birth record there for him. He married Anna Klopfenstein (1809-1889) in Stark County, Ohio. Christian died 01/15/1897, also in Stark County. It is feasible that he might be the son of YRC23 Christian Yoder who was married to YRD's future wife Anna's aunt Katharina Klopfenstein, but I was unable to locate a civil birth record in France for him in places that couple is known to have lived. YNL suggests that Joseph B. Yoder (1839-1876) may have been a child in this family [YNL YA73?]. I believe Joseph is more likely a son of MMCR's YRC2322 (Joseph Yoder/Anna Baecher).

YRD1 Christian 08/19/1835-04/16/1854 not married

YRD2 Anna 12/04/1836-10/14/1902 m Brumbaugh, Daniel H.

YRD3 Barbara 01/13/1839-10/17/1909 m Markley, Isaac

YRD4 Peter 04/30/1841-08/23/1924 m1 Folk, Nancy; m2 Gehman, Lydia

YRD5 Maria 12/?/?/1845-10/10/1902 m Pontius, Andrew V.

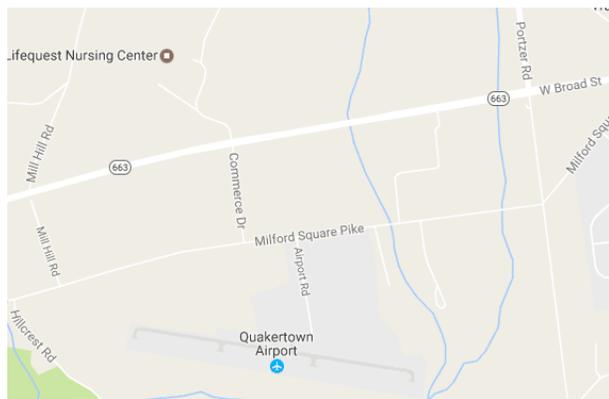


Joe A. Springer, curator of the Mennonite Historical Library at Goshen College since 1986, will be a featured speaker at the 2017 National Yoder Reunion. He will provide an overview of Swiss Anabaptist history and of the Amish schism, as well as a presentation on his Alsatian Yoder findings. He will be available for a book signing of his important new work, *Montbéliard Mennonite Church Register, 1750-1958*.

300 YRS IN AMERICA- CONTINUED FROM PG 1

that the land was between Jacob Clemmer (a son of the Bishop) and George Bachman. In his April 1984 YNL3 article³, he described the property as:

“bound on the north by Route 663, on the east by the Milford and Richland Township boundaries, on the south by the road from Quakertown to Milford Square and the Upper Bucks County Airport, and extends westward by two-thirds of a mile or half the distance between Portzer Road and Milford Square. The entire property basically remains farmland and is what is now known as Route 663 Produce and Nursery.”



Hans Yoder Sr. Property - Map data ©2015 Google

In 1725, Bishop Valentine “Velte or Felty” Clemmer was the “Great Swamp” signatory when the Pennsylvania Mennonites of southeastern Pennsylvania, of the Franconia and Lancaster Conferences reaffirmed their support for the 1632 Dortrecht Confession of Faith.⁴ Article 17 of his statement of belief, dealing with shunning, played an important part of arguments some 30 years earlier between Swiss Brethren Jacob Amman and Hans Reist which led to the Amish division.

In 1734, the names of John Yoder Sr., and oldest son John Yoder Jr. (born 1708) appeared on a petition to the legislature from “inhabitants of Bucks county,” which stated: “that the petitioners were from Germany, and having purchased lands, they desire naturalization that they may hold the same and transmit them to their children.”⁵

Other Mennonites on this petition included Christian Clemmer, John Jacob Clemmer, Abraham Shelly, Jacob Musselman, John Landes, and Abraham Heystandt. Yoder neighbor George Bachmann had applied for naturalization a few years before this time, as had Bishop Clemmer.

ORIGIN OF NEIGHBORS

We do not know where Hans Yoder of Great Swamp lived before coming to America. It is reasonable to look at where his closest neighbors (the Bachman and the Clemmer) are believed to have been living before coming to America as they may have known one another before immigration. Clues can be seen in the genealogical work of Bachman and Clemmer descendants which point to two Mennonite communities in Germany- Ibersheim and Freidelsheim.

Yoder neighbor George Bachmann, said to have been born about 1686 near Zurich, is reported to have married Anna Maria Schnebelli in 1715 in Ibersheim, Germany. Like Bishop Clemmer, he is identified as having been among the Mennonite immigrants of 1717. Ibersheim, a Mennonite settlement from around 1660 forward, is located about eight miles north of Worms. Immigrants from Ibersheim are found in many of the Pennsylvania Mennonite settlements populated by the 1717 arrival. Two of the other surnames found in the 1734 Great Swamp naturalization petition, Landis and Heistand, can also be seen in a listing of Mennonite families still living at Ibersheim in 1732. (A relationship between

Hans of Great Swamp and the Bachman family is claimed in a report to the Landes reunion dated 1950, where Dorothy Landis writes that the wife of John Yoder Jr was Anna Maria Bachman⁶. She provides no evidence to support this claim, and speculation has been that an Anna Bachman could have been the wife of father, son, or neither. Hans Sr’s wife was known to have been “Anna”. His son John Jr’s wife is known to have been an “Anna Maria”.)

Clemmer Family histories report that Bishop Valentine and wife and Barbara lived at Affoltern, Switzerland in 1678 next to his brother Casper & his wife, Catherina Frey. The family is not found at Affoltern or Ottenbach after 1678, and it is believed that he moved to the German Palatinate about 1679, possibly around the Friedelsheim area near his brother Hans Jacob.⁷ Mennonites were in Freidelsheim by 1682, and a list of names there from 1715 includes one Hans Rüsser, a prominent Anabaptist family name in the Yoder origin town of Steffisburg, Switzerland. Rüsser family genealogical data on ancestry.com maintain that this family did indeed originate in Steffisburg. Vol. 2 of the Steffisburg Birth Register⁸, gives the earliest reference to Anabaptist citizens when in 1609 Hans Rüsser is referred to as a suspected Anabaptist who presented a child (three years old) for baptism. Child’s name seems to be Verena. Members of the Shelly family mentioned in the 1734 Bucks County naturalization petition were also at Freidelsheim.

SUSPECTED ANCESTRY OF HANS OF GREAT SWAMP

DNA testing by the YNL shows that descendants of Hans Yoder of Great Swamp match exactly the ancestral Y-Chromosome profile of the Steffisburg Joders and that which is continued through the American descendants of Nicholas Joder b. 1609 - namely the Oley Valley Yoders, the Melchior Yoder line, and the Conrad Yoder line of North Carolina⁹. The descendants of Hans DO NOT share the unique one marker mutation which appears beginning with Nicholas’s brother Jost Joder b. 1607, and which is displayed by the various branches of Amish Yoders.

In YNL 55, April 2010, we presented newly transcribed Steffisburg estate records for the settlement of an estate belonging to Caspar Joder b 1748, son of Nicholas.¹⁰ This Caspar, married Anni Zaugg on 1/7/1670. Among their children was one Hans Joder, b 10/7/1677. In settlement of the father’s estate the other children filed an “Acknowledgment of obligation” in 1735 which stated that their brother Hans has been due 48 Kroner since 15 April 1724. The acknowledgement further said that Hans “about 40 years old, is in some foreign country; moreover it is not known whether he is still alive”. In this article we went on to present as a reasonable hypothesis that this missing Hans was in fact “Hans of Great Swamp”, given: his age; his departure from Europe prior to 1720; the reference to being in “foreign lands”; the fact that no other early unlinked Hans Yoder is known in America that early; consideration that he is the only American Yoder to have the name Caspar among not only his children, but also grandchildren; and the DNA links which rule out the Amish Yoder lines. Readers will note that on the tree chart we have presented on the Yoder Newsletter FACEBOOK page and elsewhere we use a single question mark to signify that the relationship is UNPROVEN.

OTHER YODERS IN THE PALATINATE

It may be useful to look at what is known of where other Yoders settled in the German Palatinate. These are all known descendants of Nicholas Joder b. 1609 in Steffisburg and his son Adam.

- Nicolaus Joder b. 1609 m 10/14/1642 Anna Trachsel
- Adam b. 1650 m 1/9/1671 Barbli Ochsenbein
- Hans (Oley) b. 1672 – at Schwetzingen 1709 to US
- Nicolaus Jr. b. 1673 – family Mussbach/Weidenthal
- Conrad (of NC) b. 1725
- Johannes - at Mussbach by 1722
- Nicholas –
- Melchior (to US) b. Weidenthal 1736

300 YRS IN AMERICA- CONTINUED FROM PG 6

Hans Yoder (who later settled in the Oley Valley of Berks County), is mentioned in the 1709 Schwetzingen, Germany church records as having emigrated to “the Island of Pennsylvania”. In Berks County, he and his brother Yost were associated with the “New Born” sect of Matthias Baumann, who lived in Lamsheim (about twenty miles from Schwetzingen).



Friedelsheim- Mussbach-Weidenthal Map Data @ 2017 Google

Twenty-seven miles to the east, at Mussbach, his brother Nicolaus’s family lived both at Mussbach as well as thirteen miles further at Weidenthal. Nephew Johannes, is shown at Mussbach in the 1732 Mennonite census. Although descendants of Nicolaus Jr’s grandson, immigrant Melchior Yoder, later became affiliated with Union and Lutheran churches, the earliest generation intermarried in America with known Mennonites.

If our speculated identity is correct, Hans of Great Swamp would be a first cousin of Oley Hans Yoder and of Nicolaus Jr of Mussbach/Weidenthal. Mussbach is only 8 miles away from the Mennonite settlement of Friedelsheim, while being 35 miles away from Ibersheim. Documentation may never be found which proves or disproves the German origin point for Hans of Great Swamp, however the geographic proximity to other Yoders and the connection to the Steffisburg Anabaptist Rüsser family (which intermarried with the Joders in Steffisburg) seems to make Friedelsheim a more likely point for investigation than Ibersheim. Will we ever know the answer? Emily Coffman Richardson (daughter of late Yoder researcher Dorothy Coffman) checked for Friedelsheim and Ibersheim records recently with the experts at the LDS Library in Salt Lake, and found none other than the Mennonite ones at Ibersheim previously referenced. Thanks for trying Emily!

1. 1710 Pequea Settlement Tour Resource Information Book, Samuel E. Wenger, Mennonite Historical Society.
2. Biographical record of Bishop Valentine Clemmer on Find A Grave.
3. Hans Joder of Great Swamp, by Ken Hottle, YNL3, April 1984,
4. Information on the First Mennonite Church of Phila. from Cassel, D.K., History of the Mennonites, Philadelphia, 1888, p. 267.
5. THE HISTORY OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, by W.W.H. Davis, 1876 and 1905, CHAPTER XXVII, MILFORD, 1734.
6. Dorothy R. Landis. Report or the 31st Reunion of the Landis-Landes Families (Bethlehem, Pa: Times Pub. Co., 1950) p. 44.
7. Ancestral Lines Of Our Family, by Kathy and Larry McCurdy, Okemos, MI.
8. Steffisburg Records, www.yodernewsletter.org
9. Yoder DNA Results, www.yodernewsletter.org
10. YNL55, April 2010, AVE WE FOUND “HANS OF GREAT SWAMP”?

*******Queries*******

Send your Yoder related queries to: Chris Yoder, 551 S. Maple St., Saugatuck, MI 49453 or email at cyoder@tds.net

OY43- Johannes Yoder (1763 - 1847 Richmond Twp, Berks Co, PA) m. 12/23/1788 Exeter Twp, Schwartzwald Ch. to Phronica Emmerich – Looking for: 1) a bap. record which establishes David b. 4/13/1804 Richmond Twp as their son; and 2) descendants of adopted children of David’s son Dr. Daniel A. Yoder (1833-1920) of at Catasauqua, Lehigh Co., PA who m. Amanda E. Glace. Dr. Yoder reportedly wrote a family history and I’d like to learn if someone has a copy of it. Reply to: LaMae K. Perez, 6 Woodstock Lane, Annadale, NJ, 08801, memmie406@gmail.com

Updated Find-A-Grave Counts

Visit the site at: www.findagrave.com. As of Feb. 22, 2017 the counts for interments were: 18,123 records (an increase of +379 from Aug. 2016) –Yoder; 478 (+23) – Yother; 289 (+7) – Yothers; 259 (+10) – Yotter; 68 (+4) – Yoter; 247 (+14) – Yoders; 61 (+6) – Joder; 84 (+0) – Joder; 44 (+0) - Jotter; 1 (+0) – Joders; 9-Youder; 17-Yother; 7-Yothers; 2-Youders.

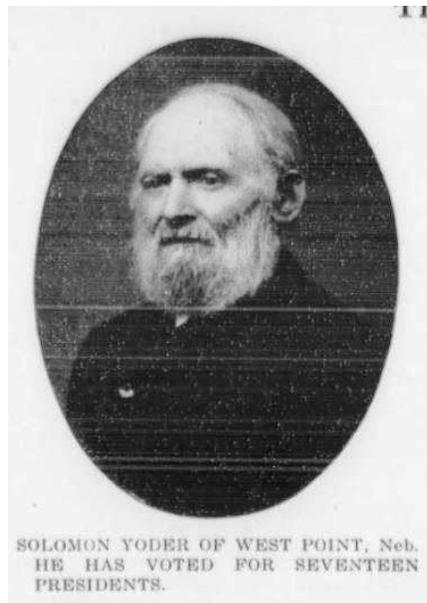


George Wilson Yother (Con82)
Born: Jul. 9, 1811 NC
North Carolina, USA
Died: May 6, 1865, Daisy
Hamilton Co., TN

Union Fork Community Cemetery
Hamilton County
Tennessee, USA

Photo by “Phantom 309”

From the Omaha Daily Bee Oct 5 1902



“Solomon Yoder of West Point, Neb., is another of the good old timers. He was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania on April 25, 1812, and lived there until 1872, when he removed to Cuming county, Nebraska. For twenty-nine years he has been a daily reader of The Bee and still consults it daily. In politics he always takes great interest and although he has never sought an office he keeps thoroughly posted on the doings of the parties. Seventeen times he has voted for president, and prides

himself on never having voted for a democratic candidate for president, vice president, governor or congressman. He hopes to be spared to vote for Theodore Roosevelt in 1904, which he is quite likely to do., for he has excellent health for a man 90 years of age.” (Unfortunately Solomon passed away Feb., 1, 1904 at West Point, Neb, but “Teddy” won election despite not having his vote. - Solomon (OH11132) was the son of Martin Yoder and Susanna Peter. His 1st wife was Mary B. Yoder (OY1721)(she d. 1845 in PA))

YODER PASSINGS

- Mary Marie (Yoder) Collins, 97, of Amarillo, TX passed away Jan. 16, 2016. Daughter of Emmon J. (YR26126113) and Ruby Glen (Cross) Yoder.
- Andrew Ray Yoder, age 92, of Leonard, MO, died Dec. 3, 2016, at Clarence, MO. Andrew was the son of Noah C. (YR2344814) and Eliza Yoder (YR261169b).
- Benjamin Lynfred Yoder , 92, Fernley, NV, son of Edward and Bertha E. Weikel Yoder.
- Clyde W. Yoder, 89, of McVeytown, died Oct. 8, 2016, Belleville, PA. Son of Lewis and Dorothy Fagan Yoder.
- William "Bill" L. Yoder, Jr., 94, of Raleigh, NC died July 19, 2016. Son of William L. Yoder (OY424632) and Elizabeth Brown Yoder.
- Willard Raymond Yoder, 96, died Mar. 20, 2016 Kalona, IA. He was the son of Joseph D. (YR2341855) and Annie (Yoder) (YR2611628) Yoder.
- Stanley Cortland Yoder, 90, died May 11, 2016 Tucson, AZ. Son of Stanley Ross Yoder (Con15a2) and Florence Goodwin.
- Robert W. Yoder, 94, Aug. 24, 2016, Turbotville, PA. Oldest son of Palmer B. (YR127224b) and S. Catherine (Zettlemoyer) Yoder.
- Amos Jonas Yoder, 86, Oley, Pa., died May 12, 2016. Son Jonas K. (grandson of YR25791) and Fannie S. (Beiler) Yoder.
- Dale E. "Buck" Yoder, 87, of Kansas, OH died Oct. 24, 2016, son of Ovid (M26152) and Helen (Hedden) Yoder.
- Lloyd H. Yoder, 79, Hutchinson, KS died Jan. 23, 2017. Son of Harry and Barbara (Helmuth) Yoder, g-son of Menno YR2354234).
- Charles Ray Yoder, 81, Catawba Co, NC died Mar. 30, 2016. He was the son of Paul Ray & Blanche Bolick Yoder.(g-son of Con1133).
- Clayton J. Yoder, 86, Iowa City, IA, died Dec. 28, 2016. Son of Alva D. (YR1213442) and Lydia Hochstetler Yoder.
- Donald E. Yoder, 87, Wauseon, OH died Dec. 19, 2016. He was the son of Christ and Stella (Rupp) Yoder (s/o YA67).
- David L. Yoder, 89, Kalona, IA. Son of Jonas R. (YR2617416) and Magdalena (Miller) Yoder.
- Felyt W. Yoder, 86, of Topeka, IN. died July 20, 2016. Son of (YR23374352) William D. and Susie (Yoder) Yoder.
- J. Olen Yoder, 97, died Nov. 14, 2016. Son of Olen (YR2337a51) and Barbara (Mishler) Yoder in Middlebury. Elkhart County Farm Family of the Year in 1982.
- Robert D. "Bob" Yoder, 90, Springfield, OH died Jan. 23, 2017. He was the son of the late Robert E (YRB18612) and Luella (Carpenter) Yoder.

YODER ARTIST CREATES REUNION SHIRTS



Many thanks to Angela Ann J. Yoder for designing our Sept. 2017 National Yoder Reunion T-Shirt! Several years ago, Angela submitted the winning designs for the free St. Joder's Day cards still available for download from the Yoder Newsletter website.

A Colorado native, Angela moved to Washington state in 1995 and hasn't regretted one moment. As an artist, her work consists of piecing together what it means to be from Amish and Catholic heritages. To visit Angela's web site go to: www.villaparkhearts.com

NC Yoders Lose a Stalwart



Nellie Poovey Settlemire, 82, of Hildebran, went home, Tuesday, February 21, 2017 to be with her beloved son, William. She and many generations of her family have maintained the Thessalonica Baptist Church Cemetery, Newton, NC where many early Conrad Yoder descendants are buried, and the adjacent slave cemetery (see YNL63), paying all costs. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family c/o Michael Huffman, P.O. Box 131, Hildebran, NC 28637. Our sincere sympathy and prayers go out to her son Billy Michael Huffman and the rest of the family for their loss.

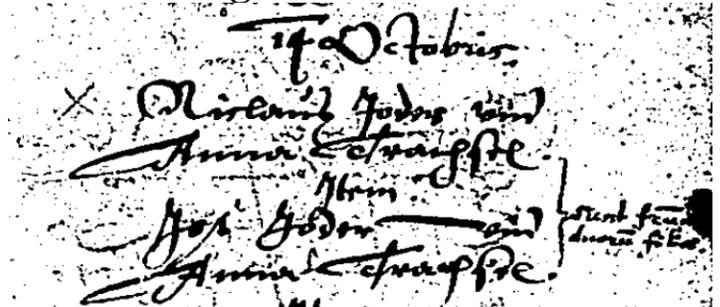
Guest Host at House of Yoder?



House of Yoder Grantsville, Maryland

The Yoder House has some weeks available needing guest hosts. If intereted, contact Mayla Yoder at: 814-267-3383 or mhyoder@msn.com.

Steffisburg Church Books Online!



JODER-TRACHSEL MARRIAGES OCT. 14, 1643

(Thanks so much to Bruce Stahly for sharing this information)
The Bernese church books are now available online at:

<http://www.querv.sta.be.ch/archivplansuche.aspx?ID=37>

When you open up the "Kirchenbuecher" link, only the first group of parishes are shown (alphabetically). You have to click on the next group to show Steffisburg, as it is far down in the list. When you find it, open it up and see a list all 24 books of the parish register. Click on one, and then on the pdf file when it shows up. All of the detail is there.