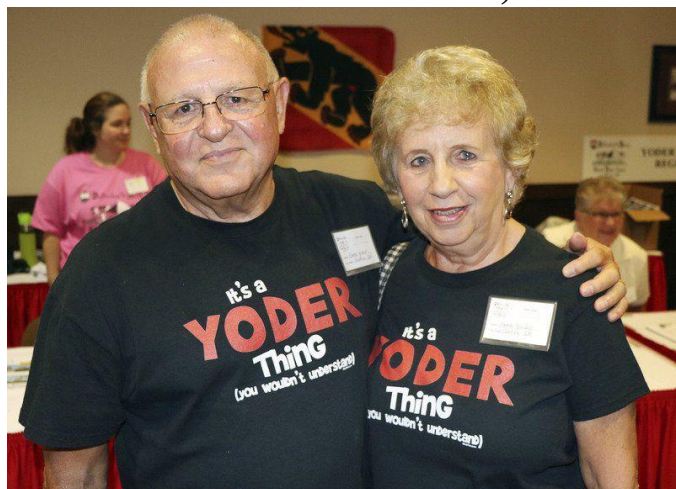




## HISTORIC YODER REUNION AT SHIPSHEWANA, IN



Gene and Fern Yoder of Goshen Attend Reunion  
(Photo Complements of John Kline, Goshen News)

The 2017 National Yoder Reunion in Shippshewana, Indiana was a rousing success with over 400 attendees coming from 26 states, Canada and our special guests from the Yoder hometown of Steffisburg, Switzerland --- Andreas and Maja Joder! This reunion celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Anabaptist Yoder in America, Hans Yoder of Bucks County, PA, who arrive on a ship in Philadelphia Aug. 17, 1717.

This first reunion hosted by the Yoder Newsletter itself began with a welcoming reception on Wednesday, 20 Sep., at the Blue Gate Garden Inn, where Shippshewana council representative Elmer Mast read the formal declaration of "Yoder Reunion Days" passed by the town council. Joe D. Yoder of the Mennohof museum, talked about driving safety in Amish buggy country, and proper etiquette when taking photographs, and an overview was presented of the activities planned for the week.

The next formal events, held Thursday night, were Amish Home Dinners, either at the Henry Yoder home, where the Lehman family entertained with songs and Amish minister Norm Yoder answered questions about Amish lifestyle, or at the Clyde Miller residence where Aaron Stutzman, sometimes joined by his sons Wesley and Walker, ages 5 and 4, entertained with a selection of yodeling, and carriage manufacturer Orley Yoder talked about Amish life. It just so happened that the date for these home dinners, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, marked the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Amish Yoder families of Christian Yoder and his sister-in-law "Widow Barbara" arriving in Philadelphia on the ship "Francis and Elizabeth"- Sept. 21, 1742!

Formal presentations began Friday at the Shippshewana Event Center, when Joe A. Springer, curator of the Goshen College Mennonite Historical Library, gave two excellent Powerpoint briefings - an overview of Anabaptist History in Switzerland, followed by one on his study of the Yoders in Alsace, where Jacob Amman and at least 40 families of his Steffisburg adherents settled after leaving Switzerland in the 1690s. Floyd Miller, librarian of the Northern Indiana Amish Library in LaGrange, talked about the first Amish coming to northern Indiana, and provided some details on the Yoder families involved in those early migrations.

2017 YODER REUNION- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## YOST YODER (YRB) THE MYSTERY MAN

Of all the Amish Yoders to arrive in the US during the 1700s, Yost Yoder (YRB) was the hardest for Dr. Hugh Gingerich and Rachel Kreider to figure out as they prepared their classic 1986 work, Amish and Mennonite Genealogies (AAMG). Gingerich wrote "No census records, tax lists, will, estate papers, Orphan's Court records or deeds have come to light concerning Yost Yoder". A family history work by descendant C. Z. Yoder is cited as the only source of information about this fellow. Thirty years after AAMG, John F. Murray has published an important work with his analysis on this fellow in the Jan. 2016 issue of "Mennonite Family History". John, as well as the magazine, have given us permission to reproduce portions of this article for our readers.

With the internet age, we can see that dozens of YRB family trees (perhaps a majority of them) have come to claim a set of parents for this Yost as being Johannes Yost Yoder and Catherine Lyster (sic Oyster) of Berks County, PA. Mr. Murray makes a very valuable contribution by debunking this error, reporting that Johannes Yost Yoder (OY1) was the son of Yost Yoder of the Reformed Church Yoder immigrants to the Oley Valley AND IN NO WAY a member of the Amish Yoder line (they would, at best have shared a great grandparent with the 1742 Amish Yoder immigrants).

How did this error come about? Christian Z. (C. Z.) Yoder, in his 1932 work Genealogical Records of Descent from John Yoder, Jacob Zook, David Conrad, and Nathan Smiley unfortunately included an appendix which "as a matter of interest" mentions Johannes Yost and his wife of the Oley Township family quoting "Annals of Oley Valley". C. Z. clearly states "Our investigations have failed to relate him with other families of the same name" and "however the author has been unable to connect our ancestors with these men", but someone (NOT Dr. Gingerich or the YNL) chose to read into this annex and began to list them as parents of YRB, and others gladly copied this error (much as many trees have copied as gospel the various speculations on who the parents of YR1 and YR2 were - something which is also STILL NOT KNOWN).

Mr. Murray speculates that "Yost" may have been the grandfather of the YRB family, and was in fact the Amish Yost Yoder who arrived in American in 1744, about whom nothing further is known. The C.Z. Yoder family, in his book and earlier in an 1889 Wayne Co. history, maintained that YRB's oldest son

YOST- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

\*\*\*\*\*

## WILLIAM YOUTHER FOUND!

As early as Apr. 1987, in YNL7, an inquiry was listed by Charles Yother and his brother Michael "Ancestry wanted for William Yother. ... m. Saphorri Halifax Miller Oct.3, 1897 .... All events in Tennessee."

The location and closeness of the very unique spelling to the Yother line of Tennessee and Georgia led us to search in vain for his connection with the Conrad Yoder descendants. Now Michael's son-in-law, Jaleel Shujath, broke the logjam, when he discovered a transcription error in the 1880 Georgia census:

425	Yother, Jaleel	18.10.25	Male	1	Laboren
	— Sarah L.	18.12.25	Female	1	Reedley Mann
	— Mary	18.11.6	Daughter	1	
	— George L.	18.11.4	Daughter	1	
	— William	18.11.1	Son	1	

YOUTHER - CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; Kenneth W. Yoder, Circulation and Mail Manager, Goshen, IN. Other Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, 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, AND WELCOMING PAUL YODER OF GOSHEN and our new Webmaster team of: Leon Yoder and Chad Yoder of Black Anvil Media, Inc., and Dalonda Young!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past 35 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](mailto: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

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

For YNL 1-25 - \$16.29 plus postage

For YNL26-50 - \$16.99 plus postage

Descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr. (YR233) may also be interested in

The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Ancestry - \$15.99 plus postage

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEB TEAM!

\*\*\*\*\*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

On Sept. 23, 2017 I attended the National Yoder Reunion in Shippshewana, the first time ever. At the registration table I picked up several back issues of the Yoder newsletter. One of those was issue #44, Oct, 2004, and I was quite surprised to see a photo of the Israel Yoder homestead on the front page! That photo has been in our family for 80 years. When Mom passed away and her estate was divided among us 10 children, the picture was repaired at a studio and prints made for each of us.

Mom used to say that a man came to their house about 1936 or 1937 and asked if he could take a picture of the house. She gave him permission to go ahead and take the picture. I always assumed it was a roving photographer, a common thing in those days. So now I know it seems certain the photographer was a descendant of Israel Yoder. By 1936 the house would have been 87 years old.



The above property was located at 8130 W 50 N, Shippshewana, IN. The house was destroyed in the "Palm Sunday Tornado" of 1965. It was rebuilt to near its original shape.

-Emanuel E. Miller, Lagrange, IN

- - - - -  
A Shippshewana friend told the story of a visitor to her BnB asking a question after exploring Shippshewana for a day, visiting many businesses with 'Yoder' in the business name. "I know Amish is the name of a religion. Is Yoder another religion?"

-Titus King, Goshen, IN

- - - - -  
I wanted to thank you for all your work over the years on the Newsletter and the reunions. It is important that you understand that your work not only produces publications and gatherings but changes lives by reuniting people with long lost memories and finding unknown links, some of which are reflected in the attached message to Joe Springer. Mae would be pleased.

Ronnie Yoder, Alexandria, VA

*"This was an extraordinary version of the reunion. In addition to the fine presentations, I discovered an attendee from 1/2 a mile away in Alexandria, Va.; an attendee from Hubbard Hill in Elkhart who attended my solos for the retirement community in 2006 when my Aunt (actually a cousin) Mae Everest was there (she wrote "My First 90 Years" and died in 2009 at 100 while working on a sequel); an attendee from Florida who sang with me in the Apollo Boys Choir 67 years ago when he was 9 and I was 13, and his wife who grew up in Wakarusa, where both my parents came from."*

- - - - -



## UPDATED FIND-A-GRAVE COUNTS

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of July 17, 2017 the counts for interments were: 18553 records (an increase of +430 from Feb. 23, 2017) –Yoder; 486 (+8) – Yother; 291 (+2) – Yothers; 261 (+2) – Yotter; 68 (+0) – Yoter; 268 (+21) – Yoders; 63 (+2) – Ioder; 85 (+1) – Joder; 44 (+0) – Jotter; 1 (+0) – Joders; 9 (+0) Youder; 17- (+0); Youther; 7 (+0) Yothers; 2 (+0) Youders.



Photo by Ernie Steele-FAG

Elias Yoder  
(Unlinked “AC” but likely  
a son of OH135)  
Birth: Jul. 9, 1803  
Death: Jun. 7, 1880  
Pine Grove,  
Schuylkill County, PA

Jacobs Lutheran Church  
Cemetery  
Pine Grove

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2017 YODER REUNION- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Presentations continued Saturday with our featured event - a greeting by Andreas Joder from the Yoder family still living in Switzerland, including video greetings from Steffisburg mayor Christian Schlappbach and from Andreas's father, Hans Jakob, a historian of some note who helped prepare the briefing. Finally, YNL Editor Chris Yoder presented an overview of the America Yoder branches and then a summary of the results from the Yoder DNA Project.

More than 200 family members attended the concluding banquet Saturday night. Entertainment was provided by Schmidt's First Love, the Emma Mennonite Church Men's Choir, and the YellowCreek Mennonite Church Men's Quartet (each of whom had Yoder family members in their group). In celebration of our Anabaptist Heritage, Amish minister Norm Yoder, of the Shipshewana district, offered the invocation, while Mennonite minister Daniel Yoder, College Mennonite Church, Goshen, the concluding one.

---

## REUNION PRESENTATIONS ON-LINE

The Friday and Saturday reunion presentations were “live streamed” through the Yoder Newsletter FACEBOOK page as they were delivered, and are available as videos on that page for view at any time. For Amish readers without internet, the audio portion of these has also been loaded to the Amish Mennonite Conference Line and can be heard at.

Recording Playback Phone Number: 1-712-432-8776

2 Minutes, 6 = Fast-Forward 2 minutes. Press the corresponding number for the option that you want.

Pin Number	Date	Sharing Id	The Speaker(s)	Subject(s)
*9633717*	September 22, 2017	92217	Floyd Miller	The Amish Come To Northern Indiana
9633717	September 22, 2017	922171	Joe Springer	The Amish in Switzerland
9633717	September 22, 2017	922172	Joe Springer	The Alsatian Yoder Community
9633717	September 23, 2017	92317	Andreas Joder	of Steffisburg Switzerland
9633717	September 23, 2017	923171	Chris Yoder	American Yoder Family Overview
9633717	September 23, 2017	923172	Chris Yoder	Yoder DNA Studies

Printed copies of the charts for each presentation may be obtained from Floyd Miller. Contact him at 260-463-2401 or 4460 W 100 S, LaGrange, IN 46761.

\*\*\*\*\*

INVITATION FROM HANS JAKOB JODER:- At my home, we all gathered around the living room table and exitingly watched the fantastic Amish & Yoder presentations. You are always welcome in Steffisburg and I will show you all the exiting historical sites and give you all the historical facts & stories about the long Joder history in Switzerland. For as long as I can!---«Hans Jakob von Steffisburg»

## BISHOP RAY FREED YODER REUNION



Steve Yoder of the Bishop Ray Freed Yoder Family (YB137333) and his Phoenix-based company “National Mallfront and Design” provided two backclothes to the reunion which allowed folks to take their own photos from Steffisburg and from the St. Joder Chapel. What a treat!



Reunion Staff Gather for a Steffisburg photo- Chris Yoder, Jerusha Hayden Yoder, Al Yoder, Ken and Susan Yoder, Carroll Yoder, Cheryl Parsons, Marilyn and Richard Yoder, and Andreas Joder (missing from the photo was volunteer Titus King). This backcloth and another of the St. Joder Chapel was furnished by Steve Yoder of Phoenix, AZ.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Reunion Memories from Andreas Joder

Almost 2 years of planning suddenly ran into unexpected health problems and the unpleasant decision to cancel my father Hans Jakob's and sister Barbara's trip to the reunion.

Now that the ‘main actor’ Hans Jakob dropped out, all the unexpected fame (& work) fell on me and my wife Maja. We were overwhelmed and deeply impressed by the size and the highly professional organization of this Yoder Reunion. Despite of the fact that Maja and I did not know anybody personally, we immediately felt very welcome and part of the fantastic Yoder family. It was especially exciting to get an insight into the life of the Amish people and to learn more about the Yoder immigration to the USA. I have also discovered the power and potential of Chris's DNA activities.

It was an unbelievably exiting experience for Maja and me. My biggest thanks to the organizing committee for giving us such great time. My best regards to all my Yoder cousins!- Andreas

\*\*\*\*\*





**Welcome to Shippshewana**



**Ice Breaker**



**Amish Home Dinner**



**Plenty to Eat!**



**The Event Center (Kline, Goshen News)**



**Registration Table (Kline, Goshen News)**



**A Visit to the St. Joder Chapel**



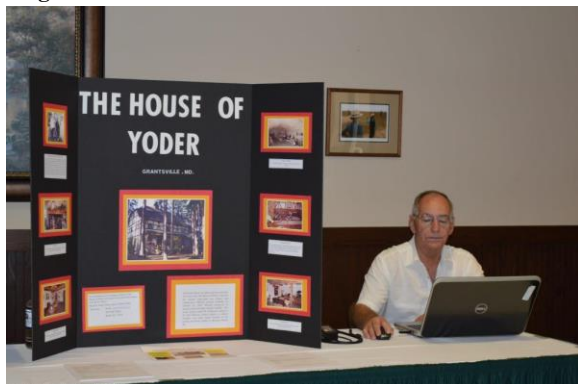
**Registration Table**



**Joe Springer is Introduced**



**Andreas Joder and a Steffisburg Greeting**



**Jim Yoder Mans House of Yoder Display**



**The Saturday audience at the Shippshewana Event Center**





**More of the Audience**



**Schmidt's First Love**



**Banquet Diners**



**Emma Mennonite Men's Choir**



**More Diners**



**Yellow Creek Men's Quartet**



**A Banquet Panorama**

## YOST-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christian had been born in Europe, coming to America about 1770 and was then bound to a Berks county farmer to help pay his passage. Murray's hypothesis that this Christian was born in America is supported by the 1870 census records for two of his children, both of which state their father was born in PA.

Mr. Murray writes: *As a descendant of three different children born into the "YRB" Yoder family, namely Christian, Elizabeth and Magdalena, I would like to have fellow researchers rethink and evaluate with me what has been said and written about this family.*

When Hugh Gingerich was researching families for his book, *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies (AAMG)*, he called me several times asking if I knew any-thing about this Yost Yoder family written by Christian Z. Yoder. On one of my research trips to Pennsylvania, I even took a side trip to Silver Spring, Maryland, to discuss family history with Gingerich at his home. Who was Christian Z. Yoder, commonly called C.Z. Yoder? He was (YRB1131), a son of John K. Yoder (YRB113), son of John Yoder (YRB11), son of Christian Yoder (YRB1) who died just 20 years before C.Z. was born in 1845 in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania. But C.Z. grew up in Wayne County, Ohio, near the Oak Grove Mennonite Church where both he and his father in turn served as pastors in that congregation. Living just south of his family in Ohio were the families of Jacob Plank married to Mary Yoder (YRB5). A little further south in Holmes County lived the families of John Plank married to Magdalena Yoder (YRB8). Also in this Ohio mix were families of the children of Elizabeth Yoder (YRB2). So in 1932 when C.Z. published his book *Genealogical Records of Descent from John Yoder, Jacob Zook, David Conrad and Nathan Smiley*, he had firsthand acquaintance with descendants of the "YRB" Yoder families and the tradition that their ancestor was Yost Yoder from Switzerland.

In our discussions, both Hugh Gingerich and I accepted C.Z. Yoder's list of eight children from Christian (YRB1), born December 3, 1761, to Magdalena (YRB8), born 1778. We also accepted the spouses of these children whose marriages must have taken place in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, before 1800. If Yost was the father of this "YRB" Yoder family, he had to have lived until 1778 when his youngest child was born. But we did not find this Yost in any records except for the 1744 ship list (discussed below). The family is as follows:

YRB1 Christian Yoder, b. Dec. 3, 1761 m. Magdalena Yoder (YR252)

YRB2 Elizabeth Yoder, 1764-June 9, 1803 m. Jacob Yoder (YR234)

YRB3 Barbara Yoder, June 20, 1766-Apr. 13, 1850 m. Christian Plank (PK42)

YRB4 Isaac Yoder, 1768-1841, d. Wayne Co., Ohio m. Catherine he died without children; his will mentions David Yoder, son of sister Elizabeth and Jephtha Plank, son of sister Mary

YRB5 Mary Yoder, Feb. 13, 1771-Mar. 28, 1830 d. Wayne Co., Ohio m. Jacob Plank (PK41)

YRB6 Peter Yoder, 1773-1849 m. 1) Veronica Kauffman (KFB8) m\_2) Gertrude Kauffman (KF537)

YRB7 Jacob Yoder, b. 1775 m. Elizabeth Rickenbach (RB324)  
YRB8 Magdalena Yoder, 1778-ca1830 d. Holmes Co, Ohio m. John Plank (PK43)

Gingerich was frustrated with his research on the "YRB" Yoder family because he could not find any Bible, tax, will, deeds, or any other records that had the name of this Yost Yoder. Furthermore, the age difference between Yost (of the ship list) and the "YRB" children raised questions. We both agreed that Yost was with little doubt an immigrant in 1744 on the ship Muscliffe Galley. Other Amish names on this ship included Hans and Stephen Kurtz; Jacob, Christian, and Samuel Koenig/King; Peter Jutzy; and Valentine Dillenbaugh. Only men 16 years old and older are named on the ship list which means that Yost/Jost was at least 16. But for a 16 year-old person to travel

without parents was very rare. Therefore, he must have been 21 or older.

Because of the inter-marriages between the "YRB" and "YR" Yoder families, we agreed with C.Z. Yoder that these Yoder families were not closely related. We also noted that the Yoder families of 1742 and 1744 were the only Amish Yoder families who came in the 1700s and settled in Berks and Lancaster Counties, Pennsylvania. Leaving many questions unanswered, Gingerich summarized his research on the "YRB" Yoder family in "Note A(10)" included with his notes on the other Yoder families in his book AAMG on page 490. A second problem for Gingerich was the fact that he was told by a reliable source that Christian Beiler's (BY3) second wife was Barbara Yoder. Christian's widow was named Barbara, but Gingerich could not find her into any of the known Yoder families. I recall discussing this with Gingerich, and he suggested that Barbara might have been a widow of a Yoder and even possibly the widow of Yost. But this last idea was ruled out by the fact that the youngest children in the "YRB" Yoder family were the same ages as Barbara Beiler's children. The name Beiler is also spelled Byler.

... If Yost had children with him in 1744 when he arrived in Pennsylvania, who could these children be? In the 1770, 1772, and 1773 tax lists for Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, we find the family of a Joseph Yoder. Already in the 1769 tax list for Earl Township, Joseph Yoder is listed as "poor." In 1771 and 1772, he was also taxed in Salisbury Township as an "inmate," meaning a renter. These tax lists were discovered after Hugh Gingerich published his research and so this information was unknown to him.

The Joseph Yoder of these tax lists does not fit into any "YR" Yoder family. There was only one Joseph Yoder born before 1780 into the "YR" Yoder families, and he was born in 1756 to Christian Yoder (YR12) and Barbara (Beiler BY1). However, in the "YRB" Yoder families there are two sons and six grandsons named Joseph. Could this Joseph in the tax list be the father of the "YRB" Yoder family? Could Yost and Joseph be the same person? We will return to these questions, but first we need to see the whole picture.

Also in the above tax records for Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, are the following: Christian Byler [sic] (BY3) who about 1772 married his second wife Barbara; Jacob Yoder (YR14) married to Anna Beiler (BY2), sister of Christian Byler; John Yoder (YR25) married to Anna Mast whose daughter Magdalena (YR252) married Christian Yoder (YRB1); and John and Anna Yoder's nephew Jacob Yoder (YR234) married Elizabeth Yoder (YRB2).

Further of great interest to me is the fact that the Melchior Plank (PM) family in the 1790s lived in Caernarvon Township and three of the sons, Christian, Jacob, and John, married three of the "YRB" Yoder daughters, Barbara, Mary, and Magdalena. In those days, neighbors married neighbors. These marriages of children in the "YRB" Yoder family prove that this "YRB" Yoder family lived in Caernarvon Township, and the only possible father in the tax records at the time when the "YRB" children were born was Joseph Yoder.

We now know another important fact that Christian Beiler's second wife was Barbara Yoder, born in 1738. She cannot fit into any "YR" Yoder family. Because the only other Amish Yoder family in Pennsylvania was the "YRB" Yoder family. Barbara has to be the daughter of our Yost Yoder who came in 1744. Judging by the ages of his children, Joseph Yoder fits well as a child born in the 1730s to Yost Yoder, and as a brother of Barbara. Both lived in Caernarvon Twp.

Now the question: Could Yost Yoder of the 1744 ship list and the Joseph Yoder in the 1770 tax lists be the same person and father of the "YRB" Yoder family? No, Yost could not have children born in the 1730s and then have another set of children born in the 1760s and 1770s.

To sum up, I believe the following can be true: If we can accept the family tradition that Yost Yoder was the Swiss ancestral 1744 immigrant of the "YRB" family, then Yost must have died before his name got into any known Pennsylvania records. From this lack of documents bearing the name of this Yost Yoder, his possible age when



coming to Pennsylvania, and the age differences between him and the children in the "YRB" Yoder family, we might conclude that Yost was not the father, but instead the grandfather of the "YRB" family. This Yost Yoder should not be confused with Yost Yoder (YR26) who was born in 1734 and died in Mifflin County. Yost Yoder (YR26) married 1) a daughter of Andreas Holly (HL1), and 2) Mary Siever (SV3).

Judging from the marriages of the "YRB" children that must have taken place in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, the repeated use of the name Joseph among descendants in the "YRB" Yoder families, and the above tax lists for Caernarvon Township, we might conclude that the father of the "YRB" family was Joseph Yoder. This Joseph Yoder cannot be a son in any of the "YR" Yoder families, and therefore must be a son of Yost Yoder, the 1744 immigrant. Because the "YR" and "YRB" Yoders are the only Amish Yoder families known to have come to Pennsylvania in the 1700s, by deduction, Joseph was the son of Yost. As explained above, Yost and Joseph cannot be the same person.

For Joseph to have been the father of this "YRB" family and the son of Yost Yoder, Joseph was born in Europe about 1736 or 1740, came with his father about age four or eight in December 22, 1744, and married about age 20 or 24 in 1760 with his first child born on December 3, 1761. Then he would have been about 38 or 42 when his youngest child was born in 1778. These possibilities fit well into the "YRB" Yoder family and the above marriage and tax records for Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County.

What about Barbara, the second wife of Christian Beiler (BY3)? In the new updated AAMG (2007) book on page 55, her name is given as Barbara Yoder, born in 1738 but with no Yoder connections. Judging from the 1770 tax lists and the birth dates of her children, she and Christian Beiler (BY3) were married about 1772 in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County. Born in 1738, she has to be a daughter of Yost Yoder and a sister of Joseph Yoder who also was living in Caernarvon Township. She was about two years older or younger than Joseph, and six years old when Yost came in December 22, 1744. Then she was about 34 years old when she married in 1772, and had four children born from 1773 to 1780, well within the child-bearing years for a mother. It is also of interest to note that Barbara's first child and only daughter was named Anna and the last of her three sons was named Joseph. Did she name Anna for her mother and Joseph for her brother?

At this point, we have no name for Yost's wife. Was she a sister to any of the other men and women on board the ship? Was she born about 1710 to 1715 in Switzerland? Did she outlive Yost? Did she die on the ship? If Barbara and Joseph became orphans in need of a home, might there be an orphan court record in Lancaster or Reading confirming this? But the Amish often raised orphaned children without going through the legal process. From available records, it appears that both Barbara and Joseph married and lived in Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County.

In my research, I began to suspect that somehow the wives of Yost and Joseph Yoder were related to the Kurtz family immigrants. The tax lists mentioned above show an Abraham Kurtz (KZA1) family living in Earl Township, Lancaster County, just west of Caernarvon Township, and a Jacob Kurtz (KZA2) family living south in Salisbury Township. Christian Kurtz (KZA11) lived in Caernarvon Township by 1790. Also John Kurtz (KZB62), a son of Hans Kurtz, a 1744 immigrant with Yost Yoder, lived in Salisbury Township by 1790. But none of the "YRB" Yoder family members married into these Kurtz families which may indicate a close relationship between these Kurtz and "YRB" Yoder children.

An old Bible record shows that Hans and Stephen Kurtz, the 1744 immigrants, had two sisters, Annali/Anna (b. 1715) and Maria/Mary (b. 1720). One of these sisters had a son or daughter living in Germany to whom John Holly (HL13) was writing a letter in 1805 when he died. In this unfinished letter, John Holly mentioned Hans and Stephen Kurtz as brothers to the mother of the person to whom he was writing. This mother was Maria Kurtz (b. 1720), wife of Jacob Holly, a relative of John Holly (HL13).<sup>7</sup> The sister Anna (b. 1715) was

the right age to have been the wife of Yost Yoder (YRB 1744 immigrant) and mother of his children born from 1736 to 1744, but this is unconfirmed. But, if true, it affirms the idea that Barbara Yoder Beiler named her first child and only daughter Anna for her mother and the last of her three sons for her brother Joseph.

When these sisters married, the Kurtz family lived in Steinweiler near Muhlhofen, Germany. Jacob and Maria Kurtz Holly became the leaseholders at Muhlhofen and had five known children. The Kurtz, Koenig, Yoder, and Jutzy immigrant families on the 1744 ship had roots in Steffisburg, Switzerland. In fact, Anna was born there. I offer these clues only to give direction to further research realizing that some questions may never be answered.

In reviewing the above, it appears to me that Yost Yoder, the 1744 immigrant, was most likely the Yost/Jost Yoder (YB1a) born December 21, 1710 (in Switzerland!)(sic?-see below) He married about 1733 in Steinweiler near Muhlhofen, Germany, and had at least two children, Barbara (b. 1738) and Joseph (b. 1736 or 1740) who came with him to Pennsylvania in 1744. He died shortly after coming to Pennsylvania, leaving no documents for researchers to find. His daughter Barbara became the second wife of Christian Biller (BY3), and his son Joseph married about 1760 and was the father of the "YRB" Yoder family. This explanation affirms the family tradition that Yost Yoder was our immigrant ancestor from Switzerland and explains why we do not find Yost's name in the records of Pennsylvania beyond the ship's list.

(Editor's note: Murray looks at the Swiss Joder Records and speculates that the 1744 immigrant could have been Jost born in 1710 to Jakob Joder (see YNL 55) and Margreth Staehli of Steffisburg, however this is not likely as that fellow was not Anabaptist, and DNA shows YRB to have shared the "Amish Y Chromosome profile" of the line of Jost Yoder b. 1607, all of whose children seem to have departed Steffisburg by 1695.)

Murray continues: As I now look back and review my discussions and research with Hugh Gingerich, I note that we were always looking for children born in Pennsylvania to Yost Yoder rather than looking for descendants of Yost who were born to his children who came with him to Pennsylvania in 1744. We followed C.Z. Yoder's notes that missed a generation between Yost and the "YRB" family. In defense of C.Z., he was focused on the descendants of the men in the title of his book rather than their ancestry.

Long-standing family tradition has been that our Yost Yoder was Amish from Switzerland. Such traditions have some truth. On the positive side, my primary records are the tax records, the 1744 ship list, and the birth years of the "YRB" Yoder children and Barbara Yoder Beiler/Byler. The other records are the situational and circumstantial evidence mentioned above. I am open to receive new verifiable data pro or con to what I have written.

\*\*\*\*\*



"John F. Murray is a retired Mennonite pastor and overseer and public high school teacher. His interest in genealogy began in 1969 when asked by the Hooley Reunion to write a history of his Grandfather Joseph Y. Hooley. He has written articles for the Gospel Herald, the Mennonite and genealogical publications. A few of his articles, sermons, and book reviews are available on his website: <<http://johnmurraymusings.wordpress.com/>>. His email address is: [murrayjm@cox.net](mailto:murrayjm@cox.net)

\*\*\*\*\*

Editor's note: Gingerich and Kreider quickly dismissed the claims of a Johannes Yost/Catherine Lyster (sic) connection, which even then was being included in some people's family trees. In a Jan. 21, 1987 letter Rachel explained this to Mrs. Lester Yoder of Custer, WA. She also apparently had not reached any firm conclusion on a YRB/1744 Yost immigrant connection. Mr. Murray has presented a reasonable hypothesis. Hopefully we will someday have the answers.

## YODER PASSINGS

- Kore E. Yoder, 96, Belleville, PA, died Nov. 30, 2017. He a son of the late Abraham S. Sr. (YR257182) and Salome (Zook) Yoder.
- David Allen Yoder, age 68 of Chesterton, IN passed away Oct. 18, 2017. He was the son of Reuben (YR2337a58) and Clara (Dietrich) Yoder.
- David W. Yoder, 97, Elkhart, died, Oct. 24, 2017. He was the son of Harvey N. (YB137814) & Eliza (Newcomer) Yoder.
- John David Yoder, 89, of Goshen and Avon Park, Florida, died May 4, 2017 in Sebring, FL. He was the son of Jonas S. (YR1211731) and Delilah (Burkholder) Yoder.
- Alan David Yoder, 82, formerly of Selinsgrove and Middleburg, passed away on Nov. 3, 2017, at the Scranton Health Center, Scranton. He was the son of Ira L. Yoder (OH1452684) and Sarah Herbein.
- Merle Wesley Yoder, 81, of Forrest, IL, passed away Sept. 11, 2017. He was a son of Wesley (g-grandson of YRC13 in YNL69) and Clara Steidinger Yoder.
- Raymond Floyd Yoder, age 74, of Fairview, Michigan d. Aug. 2, 2017. He was the son of Elwood (son of YR1462719) and Elizabeth (Weaver) Yoder
- Alton Yoder, 79, Shipshewana, IN, died Aug. 11, 2017. He was the son of Noah J. (YR26121525) and Mattie J. (Yoder) (YR23443337) Yoder..
- Duane L. Yoder, 82, died Ashland, OH on Sep. 29, 2017. He was the son of Gordon Simon (YA33a4) and Ila (Hess) Yoder.
- Paul E. Yoder, 91, Kalona, IA, died Apr. 26, 2017. He was the son of Jonas R. (YR2617416) and Magdalena (Miller) Yoder.
- Merrill J. Yoder, 101, Mishawaka, died Nov. 9, 2017. He was the son of Harvey (YB137814) & Eliza (Newcomer) Yoder.
- Aaron K. Yoder, 91, of Killbuck, OH, died October 12, 2017. He was the son of Joel and Leah (Kauffman) Yoder.
- Robert R. Yoder, 79, Duquesne, PA, died Nov. 12, 2017. He was the son of the late Edwin (YB139944) and Margaret (Weber) Yoder.
- Adlai E. Yoder, 93, Sullivan, IL passed Nov. 19, 2017. He was a son of Eli D. (YR2611686) and Katie Ann (Mast) Yoder.
- Garth A. Yoder, 63, Auburn, PA d. Dec. 1, 2017. He was a son of the late Daniel A. and Fay B. Reich Yoder. Fay was recording secretary for the Oley Yoder Heritage Association til her death in 2014.
- Ken J Heeter, 80, of Bel Air, MD died May 30, 2017. The nephew of YNL co-founder Ben Yoder, he was the middle son of DeLacy J and Anna (Yoder) Heeter. Ken created the indexes for the two consolidated volumes of YNL1-25 and 26-50.

\*\*\*\*\*

### YOUTHER – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In the 1880 Census listing for Ellijay, Gilmer County, GA, the Daniel Yother family was transcribed as “Fother”. Members shown are:

Daniel age 25 laborer  
Sarah A. age 25 housewife  
Mary age 6  
Nancy A. age 4  
William age 1

-----  
Daniel was the son of Ephraim Yoder/Yother who m. Susannah Mathews Aug 1, 1838 in Lumpkin Co, GA. (See Anita Nail article in YNL55). Daniel married Sarah M Elliott 29 Nov 1871 in Gilmer County, GA. She died around 1880, and then Daniel married her sister Nancy Annie on 17 July 1881. Daniel b c 1853 d. 26 Oct 1918 Dayton, TN bur Garrison Cem, Rhea Co, TN- death cer says father Dan mother Annie. , FAG says father Ephram A (1816-1894) mother Nancy Ann.

William married Sofronia Allifair "Allie" Miller, 03 Oct 1897 at Ellijay, GA, and they are shown together in the 1900 Ellijay Census with one son. By 1910, Allie is a widow living with two sons in Hamilton Co, TN. Allie died in 1947 in Brownstown, IL.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SOMEONE’S WORKING OVERTIME!

In his presentation to American Yoders, Andreas Joder extrapolated from European phone directory information to give estimated counts of present day Joders. He estimated about 350 in Switzerland, 224 in Germany, and 141 in France. Many more American Yoder descendants were in the room listening to him than in any one of these nations.

The YNL has shared American Yoder counts before, initially from the census record (where the numbers represent families through 1840 and individuals starting in 1850.)

Name	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1920	1930
YODER	23	36	56	91	130	152	409	2652	11,719
YOTHER		1			2		12	66	274
YODERS						2	8	58	256
YOTTER	12		2	7	6	4	5	61	201
YOTHERS					1	6	7	54	195
IODER		2						16	35
YOTER			4	10	4	17	11	8	23
JODER		8	1			1	1	6	22
YOUTHER								2	21
JOTTER							3	9	14
YODDER	2		2		5	19	51	10	8
IOTER									1

### HOW WE HAVE GROWN (NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN CENSUS)

More recent published records for the surname show that in 1990 “Yoder” was the 1,118<sup>th</sup> most common name with around 35,000 members. In 2000, it was the 707<sup>th</sup> most common name, with over 44,000members. And by 2010 it was the 598<sup>th</sup> most common name, with 56,410 members. As mentioned at the reunion, there is a pattern here and it seems “Someone has been working overtime!”

\*\*\*\*\*

## HANS YODER HOMESTEAD FROM THE AIR



Many thanks to Dale Yoder of the Oley Yoder line for this wonderful aerial photo of the Hans Yoder (OH) Homestead (see YNL 65 for scenes from the 2014 Reunion which celebrated its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary under family ownership).

\*\*\*\*\*