

The Family of YR17 - John Yoder (c1732-1804)

Who remained in Berks County

The YR177 and the YR17a lines

YODER FAMILY INFORMATION--CYBERSPACE EDITION-2023

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August 2023- This file was assembled by Ann Balderrama as a part of her preparation of a featured article to appear in YNL82 which was limited to the earlier generations of those lines. This file is her complete update of these lines down to more recent times. Ann Balderrama is a Berks County, PA based genealogist who has been active in the Berks County Genealogical Society and the Oley Yoder Heritage Association. She was a key organizer of the 2014 National Yoder Reunion, hosted by the Oley Yoders and is a contributing editor to the Yoder Newsletter. Her previous articles have included several on her ancestor Frederick Yoder (unlinked code "B"), and one on Benjamin (1817-1899) who married Brigetta Hausman (unlinked code "AR", now believed to be a son of Jacob Yoder OY45). She may be reached at: alb1989@hotmail.com, use "Yoder" in the subject line so she doesn't think it's spam. Ann's complete update on the lines of YR177 and YR17a can be found at the Yoder Newsletter

The Amish Yoders Who Stayed in Berks County - By Ann Balderrama

A few years ago now, as I researched my unlinked Yoder line, I encountered many Yoders of the YR17 line in the same geographical area as my family. As we really had no idea of our Frederick's origin (unlinked B line), I decided to take a closer look at the YR17 line. Was it possible that Frederick may have belonged to this line? As I looked closer at this line it became clear that this was not Frederick's family, but I was able to gather a lot of information from credible sources to verify, supplement and correct the information in the YNL database for this line. Because I am based in Berks County, I only looked for the family groups that stayed in Berks County and environs, so there are large gaps in this update, for example: David "Long David" Yoder, YR174, was known to be in Mifflin County by 1804. Further information on him would be difficult for me to find, so I didn't follow the line of his family.

Much of the information in the YNL database is reasonably correct. The numbering system used for the Amish lines, I noticed, is that used in the massive work *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies* by Hugh Gingrich and Rachel Kreider. The original compilers of this information did an exceptional job, but as with anything done by humans, there are some errors. Some children are placed with the wrong parents, some children are missing from the database; with the way everybody used the same half-dozen or so names, that kind of mistake is perfectly

understandable. I have done my best to document my sources, although I may not list all of them here in the interest of saving space. If you would like to have the full documentation, contact me. If you find any mistakes, please let me know.

I have continued to use the numbering system already in place, I but made changes when I found children not already in the database, or when they were out of order. For this article, I will focus primarily on John YR17 and his sons John YR177 and Jacob YR17a, the ones that stayed in Berks County.

Let me begin by saying that I have not been able to find any information to tie the Amish and non-Amish Yoders together. I talked to someone a few years ago who claimed one of the local Yoders that joined the LDS church did that, but I don't believe it. If serious and academically trained researchers here and in Europe have failed to find the common ancestor of both lines, I don't believe an LDS convert found it while researching his family to satisfy church requirements. He may have found what I found, several marriages between YR17 Yoders and non-Amish Yoders. While this is interesting, it is not a link to any common ancestor.

Another point I would like to make is that, in some cases, where there is no conclusive evidence for some relationships, I try to arrive at a logical conclusion. When I do this without citing evidence, please remember it is my conjecture, my guess. If I have conclusive proof, I will present it. If the conclusion is speculation, I will state it as such. Please do not take these speculations of mine and add them to your family tree as "facts." I may have gotten it wrong!!

The mother of the Amish Yoders in America is Widow Barbara. Her husband remains unknown. There is some speculation as to his identity, but family trees on Ancestry.com with no documentation do not constitute proof. Widow Barbara and her children arrived in America in 1742 on the ship "Francis and Elizabeth" along with brother-in-law Christian Jotter (YR2) and his family at Philadelphia and moved up the Schuylkill River valley to a frontier region of Lancaster County in the shadow of the Blue Mountains. Ten years later the region would become part of the newly formed Berks County. The homestead, originally in Bern Township, is now in Tilden Township. Barbara's seventh child John YR17 married Anna Burkey; they had ten children that have been identified, seven girls and three boys. Two of their sons, John YR177 and Jacob YR17a, stayed in Berks County; some of their descendants are still members of the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren, the same church attended by John and Jacob. It is the progeny of these two that I have focused on.

Widow Barbara and Her Children

I tried to verify everything in the database regarding the first generation to arrive in the New World but met with only moderate success. I was unable to find anything on Widow Barbara. I don't know when she died or where she is buried. I can't even find a hint of a death date for her. There is no will or estate file for her in Berks County. The family settled in what was Lancaster County, but there are no wills in Lancaster County for Yoder or Joder until 1863. Barbara simply vanished.

The sons are fairly well documented, but not so much the daughters. Catherine YR11 married to Isaac Kauffman and Magdalena YR13 supposedly married to Christian Fisher, then to John Miller, have no estate files in Berks County, nor do their husbands. Either they had no estates, or they died somewhere besides Berks County. Barbara YR18 married to John Shirk has a will in Lancaster County (see YNL #2).

The Find a Grave listing for Anna Elizabeth Yoder YR15 says she was born in Berks County in 1728. This is wrong on two counts. First, Berks County did not exist until 1752, and second, her mother only arrived here in 1742 when Anna was already about 14 years old. She married Samuel Koenig and died in Berks in 1788. Her husband was born 1 January 1724 in Bern, Switzerland and died in Cumru Township, Berks County on 16 January 1777. They are both buried at Koenig Cemetery, Rickenbach, Berks County. Finding this bit was a surprise for me. When I located the cemetery on Google Maps, I discovered that I had been by that location many times, but I never knew the few houses at that intersection was known as Rickenbach. There are two small family cemeteries in that general area, Koenig and Rickenbach, both the final resting place for some of the Yoder women.

Veronica YR19 married John Hertzler. Her Find a Grave memorial says she was born in Switzerland in 1736, died in Belleville, Mifflin County, PA in January 1806. It includes the oft told tale of her father John Jacob Yoder who died at sea on the ship "Francis and Elizabeth" during his passage to America with his wife Barbara Rupp Yoder. As is usual with this story, no sources were cited. (There was a Jacob Yoder married to Barbara Rupp, but they are documented as AL in the unlinked section of the database; they were also a generation younger. Their daughter Veronica was born in 1795, died in 1867 and never married. This family was definitely not Widow Barbara and her husband.) According to the Hertzler/Hartzler family history that has clippings posted on Find a Grave, Veronica and her family lived in many different places in Berks County. Her husband died in Womelsdorf in western Berks in 1801; Veronica died five years later and many miles away in Mifflin County where at least three of her sons were living. At least one of her daughters remained in Berks County.

Veronica's daughter Barbara Hertzler was born 3 September 1759 in Alsace Manor, Berks County and died 23 March 1838 in Bern Township. Barbara Hertzler married Jacob Rickenbach, born 9 September 1757, died 15 January 1831, and both are buried in Rickenbach Cemetery. They were the parents of a daughter Veronica Rickenbach who married John Yoder YR177, her first cousin once removed (her mother's first cousin and her grandmother's nephew). Also, Jacob and Barbara's younger daughter Anna married Jacob Yoder YR17a, so two of their daughters married brothers.

John Yoder YR17

John arrived in America with his mother and siblings in 1742.

John Yoder YR17 was born about 1732 and married Anna Burkey; they resided in Bern Township. John made several purchases of land in Bern Township, the first a plot of 50 acres

made on 19 May 1755 from Adam Sweigart for five pounds ten shillings. He bought a tract from Christian Stutzman on 10 June 1756, one hundred acres for eighty pounds. These purchases may have been made prior to his marriage. I have not located the land on the map, so I don't know exactly where the parcels were located or if they were contiguous. He then sold both parcels to Joseph Sullaberger on 25 October 1763 for 240 pounds. According to the information I have, John's first child Barbara was born in June 1763, so he sold his lands just as he was starting his family. About two years after his tenth child was born, John became an official landowner again. He received patents for two tracts of land in Bern Township on 12 January 1785. The first tract of 255 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres was made up of two tracts, one of 178 acres and 138 perches warranted to John on 24 November 1784 and another contiguous tract of 76 acres and 140 perches warranted to John Horn/Horse on 24 August 1750. The second tract of 87 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres was warranted to Isaac Melin Jr. on 1 January 1735, for a total of 343 acres. Whenever John bought or sold land he was described as a resident of Bern Township. It is most likely that he raised his family on the land that he eventually patented.

Most of John's children moved on from Berks County. Barbara YR171 married Jacob Gnaegi and died before her father. According to the information in YNL, she resided in Lebanon County and died in 1798. Here is another historical inaccuracy. A portion of Lancaster County became Dauphin County in 1785; the eastern portion of Dauphin County became Lebanon County in 1813, fifteen years after Barbara's death. Veronica YR172 appears to have never married; her death date and burial place are unknown.

Anna YR173 married Christian Gerber. Her sister Magdalena YR176 married Abraham Gerber. The men may have been brothers, but I have not looked into that yet. Both couples migrated to Ohio, where they are buried in neighboring counties. Elizabeth YR175, as per her father's will, was married to Stephen Kurtz, but I can find nothing more on either of them. David YR174 was already settled in Mifflin County by the time John wrote his will in 1804. Sarah YR178, her husband Daniel Kauffman, sister Catharine YR179 and her husband John Hertzler all moved to Mifflin County, as well. The marriage of Catharine YR179 and John Hertzler had been recorded in the register of Schwarzwald Church on 28 July 1805.

That leaves John YR177 and Jacob YR17a. These two remained in Berks County, with few, if any Amish left in the area.

John disposed of his land before his death. On 24 August 1804, John deeded the two tracts totaling 343 acres that he acquired in 1785 to his sons John Yoder Junior and Jacob (YR177 and YR17a, respectively). He specified that they were to own the land "as tenants in common and not as joint tenants." Tenants in common own equal shares of the land, and each tenant is free to sell his share or leave it in his will. Joint tenants have a right of survivorship: if one tenant dies, the property passes to the surviving tenant. It seems John wanted to make sure that each of his two sons could leave their portion to their heirs. While this seems like a loving act of a father toward his sons, he didn't give them the land. John Jr and Jacob paid a total of £1000 for

the land. This was not unusual at that time; many men left their farms to a son, but the son then had to pay a certain amount of money to his siblings, to sort of even out the legacy.

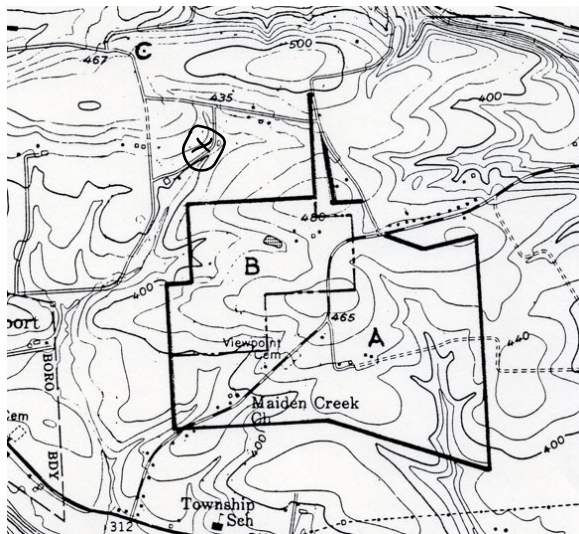
John's other legal act of 24 August 1804 was to write his will. Ten children are named: David, John, Jacob, Freny, single, Anna, wife of Christian Gerber, Magdalena, wife of Abraham Gerber, Elizabeth, wife of Stephen Kurtz, Sarah, wife of Daniel Kauffman, Catharine, single and the children of his late daughter Barbara, wife of Jacob Knegi. He left his son David the land in Mifflin County that he currently possessed; David was directed to pay the estate £200. John and Jacob were to have the land they were just deeded; they had to pay the estate £1000 (as was also stated in the deed). With the £1200, the executors were to pay the six daughters in equal shares plus one share to the children of "my defunct daughter Barbara." The widow Anna received a life estate; John directed his sons John and Jacob as to exactly what they must do for her. The will specifies how much grain to give the widow, and to take it to the mill and bring back the flour, how many milk cows she gets and that the sons must take care of them for her, that she be allowed access to the orchard and all the fruit she desires, etc. I have found this type of wording in other wills, and I wonder, were these children unlikely to take care of Mom on their own? Or was Dad leaving nothing to chance? George Yoder OH132 has similar language in his will.

At the time of Anna's decease, the executors were to divide the remainder of the estate between the three sons and six daughters with one tenth divided among Barbara's children. The executors were John Yoder, son, and Stephen Kurtz, son-in-law. There are no documents in the estate file relating to the disposition of the assets upon Anna's death. It is not known when she died.

Many who have previously written about John state that he died in 1804. I, most emphatically, say no, he did not. He wrote his will in 1804. According to the documents on file at the Berks County Register of Wills Office, letters testamentary were granted to John Yoder and Stephen Kurtz on 7 November 1807. On the same day the estate inventory was exhibited to the court. Wills were generally taken to court within a few days after the death of the testator (although I found an exception to this rule [more on that later], I find it hard to believe the executors waited three years). The early estate files did not include an affidavit of death as was later required, but I feel it is safe to say that John died not too long before the will was probated. Some of the duties related to estate settlement were performed by Justices of the Peace which allowed for the legal work to get done without the day of travel to and from the county seat, so it is possible that the will was presented to the local Justice, and he set in motion the inventory, and when that was completed, the documents were taken to Reading, a distance of about 15 miles.

John and Anna have a listing on Find a Grave, but as with other members of this family, the information is poorly documented. The listing says John was born in 1732 and died in 1804; Anna was born in 1740 and died in 1807. Both are buried at the Yoder Burial Ground on Callowhill Road in Centre Township. The listing also gives their date of marriage as 1762. The

citation for these “facts” is the book *Epitaphs – Handbook of Historic Family Graveyards, Berks County, Pennsylvania* by Jacqueline B. Nein, John Texter and Cynthia Jimenez. The entry in the book gives directions to the cemetery and a description of the burial ground. When the book was published in 1999, the authors stated the “family of Jacob Yoder buried here according to a descendant living in Mohrsville.” No grave markers remained at that time. The cemetery was located by a descendant in October 1998. “Activity indicates 1 row of 9 abreast laying east to west.” The book gives absolutely no names or dates of anyone suspected of being buried in this cemetery, so where did the person who posted on Find a Grave get that information? The cemetery is not on John’s 255-acre tract; perhaps this is the location of the other 87-acre tract.



A and B are the two tracts patented to John in 1785 that total 255 acres. The cemetery is at the circled X. Perhaps this was part of the 87-acre parcel also patented in 1785.

My question at this point is who is Jacob Yoder of this family cemetery? There were a few Jacobs in Berks County in the early days, but they all moved on except Jacob YR17a and we know he is buried at Viewpoint Cemetery. Is this a reference to Widow Barbara’s husband? His name is reported to be Jacob; perhaps his name actually was passed down in the family.

John Yoder YR177

John, referred to as John Junior in the deed from his father, was born in Berks County 22 December 1773. His marriage to Veronica (Frany) Rickenbach was recorded in the register of Schwarzwald Church on 20 July 1805. John and Veronica were first cousins once removed. They had eleven children. The three sons, named as executors in his will, were Samuel YR1771, who moved to Mifflin County; Jacob YR1772 went to Juniata County, and John YR1773 stayed in Berks County.

Daughter Judith YR1774 married Jacob Konig on 25 August 1832. She had five children, all of them under the age of 21 when the court appointed guardians for them on 2 January 1854. The appointment of guardians at this time was because of her father John’s death in 1853 and her legacy from him that passed to her children. Judith’s death date is unknown, but she had died before John wrote his will 16 April 1851.

Lydia YR1775 was born 4 April 1816 and died 6 November 1894; she never married. Barbara YR1776 married William Klein on 24 October 1840. William was appointed guardian to Judith's children. Emanuel YR1777 stayed in Berks as did Mary YR1778. She was born 4 March 1821, married Johannes Becker, and died 18 February 1892, leaving her husband and four children. Benjamin YR1779 stayed in Berks County.

John's daughter Caroline YR177a was born 20 March 1828 and died 27 March 1910. She married Isaac Braun/Brown of Bethel Township on 11 July 1857. As Caroline was kind enough to die at a time when a state death certificate was required, we have more information on her than on some of her siblings. Her son, Adam Brown gave the information that her parents were John Yoder and Veronica Rickenbach. This seems to have been an uncertainty when the YNL database was built; she was placed as a possible daughter of John Yoder AL6 and his wife Catharine. The uncertainty was due to the fact that John Yoder AL6 lived in Bethel Township, as did Caroline and Isaac Brown after their marriage. The husband of Caroline under John YR177 was named as Isaac Brower. We now know that is not correct and Caroline married to Isaac Brown is indeed YR177a.

The youngest child of John and Veronica, Joseph YR177b was born 19 January 1830. He died 1 January 1857, just short of his 27th birthday, unmarried.

John inherited land in Center Township from his father, along with his brother Jacob as tenants in common. During his lifetime, John acquired additional land in Maiden Creek Township that he mentions in his will. A parcel of about five acres was left to his daughter-in-law Eliza, as a home for John's grandchildren. The rest of his Maiden Creek land, two parcels totaling about 83 acres, was sold by his executors after his death. How and when John came to purchase this land is not known; deeds for these parcels were not recorded. Likewise, if he enlarged his landholdings in Centre Township, he did not record the deeds.

John's will names eleven children: Samuel, Johannes, Emanuel, Benjamin, Joseph, Jacob, deceased, Judith married to J. Köenig, deceased, Lydia, Barbara married to William Klein, Maria married to John Becker, and Caroline. The will was written 16 April 1851 and proved 3 June 1853. He made provisions for his wife, giving her a life estate, one hundred dollars and the interest from an investment of \$1300 for her lifetime. She also received his ten shares of stock in the Mohrsville Bridge Company.

John, in his will, gave his son John YR1773 "one part of my plantation on which he is presently living, situated in Maiden Creek Township." The will names several adjoining landowners "and the rest of my land, containing one hundred and twenty nine acres, and one hundred perches, according as it was surveyed on November 26, 1850." John, the son, was to pay the estate \$50 per acre. There is more talk of monies to be paid, but the photocopy of the will given to the translator was missing a line or two from the bottom of the page, so this information is incomplete.

Sons Emanuel YR1777 and Benjamin YR1779 received “my plantation on which I am presently living, situated in Centre Township, Berks County, joining on the land of: Jacob Joder, Samuel Stepp, Jacob Heffner, Jacob Joder, and others, containing one hundred and ninety-two acres.” The neighbors mentioned include two men named Jacob Yoder. I believe these were John’s brother Jacob YR17a and Jacob’s son, John’s nephew, Jacob YR17a5. John’s sons are further directed to pay \$40 per acre, with additional instructions to provide financially for Veronica.

John left a piece of land in Maidencreek Township to his daughter-in-law Elizabeth, widow of his deceased son Jacob YR1772, as a home for Jacob’s children. John refers to this as a “strip of land” consisting of five and one quarter acres. She is to have this land “so long as she remains a Yoder.” If she were to remarry or at her death, the land and house would pass to her children. To ensure that this would happen, John specified in his will “however the said house and strip of land shall be made out to the four children for five hundred dollars when my things are settled up after my death.”

All of the land John bequeathed was given to three of his sons, John, Emanuel and Benjamin, and the children of his deceased son Jacob. Son Samuel YR1771, the firstborn, and the daughters were not given any of the land. The executors were directed to give valid deeds to the purchasers of the rest of the property not bequeathed. All of John’s eleven children were named in the will: Samuel, Johannes, Emanuel, Benjamin, Joseph, Jacob (deceased), Judith (deceased), wife of J. König, Lydia, Barbara, wife of William Klein, Maria, wife of Johann Becker, and Carolina. They were all to receive an equal share of the money from the sale of the land, plus what the others were required to pay for the land. Samuel, Johannes and Emanuel were named as executors.

On 8 June 1853, Samuel appeared before a Justice of the Peace in Mifflin County to renounce his right to be an executor of his father’s estate. Census records indicate that he had been in Mifflin County since at least 1840.

Veronica’s death was announced in the Reading Adler, the German language newspaper, on 3 November 1874. It reported that she was the widow of the late John Yoder and daughter of “long-deceased Jacob Rickenbach.” She died 17 October 1874 at the age of 90 years, 6 months and 19 days (21 days according to her tombstone).

John and his brother Jacob YR17a married the Rickenbach sisters.

John’s children:

+YR1771 Samuel Yoder

+YR1772 Jacob Yoder

+YR1773 John Yoder

YR1774 Judith Yoder

YR1775 Lydia Yoder

YR1776 Barbara Yoder

+YR1777 Emanuel Yoder

YR1778 Mary Yoder
+YR1779 Benjamin Yoder
YR177a Caroline Yoder
YR177b Joseph Yoder

YR1771 Samuel Yoder

Samuel Yoder, first child of John Yoder and Veronica Rickenbach, was born in 1806. He married Sarah Kauffman, and at some point, they moved to Mifflin County, but I have no clear record of when that happened. Their first child, John, was born 31 January 1832 in Berks County, as was the second child William on 9 May 1833. No record was found for the birth places of subsequent children, but the family was in Mifflin County for the 1840 census. The Reading Adler reported Sarah's death in the issue of 1 September 1857; she died 17 August 1857. The Adler did not run obituaries, just notices, but Sarah's has a bit more information than what was usually included. It stated she was a resident of Mifflin County, formerly of Berks County, wife of Samuel and daughter of Jacob Kauffman. She was 50 years, 5 months and 17 days old.

Tracing Samuel back through the census records, there is a Samuel Yoder in Oliver Township, Mifflin County in 1840 with a household composition that is likely this man. Living in his household were two males 5 to 9, one male 15 to 19, one male 30 to 39, one female under 5, one female 5 to 9, and one female 30 to 39. By 1850, there is Samuel, 44, and Sarah, 43 still in Oliver Township; they, of course, are the 30-somethings from 1840. Their sons John, 18, and William, 16, were the two males aged 5 to 9; daughter Elizabeth, 15, was the female 5 to 9, and Mary, 14, and Caroline, 11, were the females under 5. His daughters Catharine, 9, and Sarah, 1, were born after 1840. The only person from 1840 that does not correspond to someone in 1850 is the 15- to 19-year-old male. This may have been a hired farmhand. From the death record, Sarah's birth date can be calculated to the end of February or beginning of March 1807, so she would have been 33 when the 1840 census was taken. If the 15- to 19-year-old male had been her son, she would have given birth when she was 14 (if he was 19) or up to 18 (if he was 15). That is a little too young to have children. As I have been unable to find a marriage date for Samuel and Sarah, I will stick to the hypothesis that this male was not their child, but rather a hired hand who lived in.

By 1860, three years after Sarah's death, Samuel had remarried. His place of residence had now changed to Bratton Township, but he probably had not moved. Bratton Township was formed from a section of Oliver Township in 1859, the last township formed in Mifflin County. Samuel's home may have been in the section of Oliver that became Bratton. His new wife was Catherine King, widow of Nicholas Miller. The 1860 census gives her age as 50, but by 1870, she had aged twenty years. I have found many examples of people that age more or less than the ten years between the census taker's visits, but I have never seen anyone age that much. According to Catherine's memorial on Find a Grave, she was born in 1800, so someone told a little white lie in 1860: her age at the time was 60, not 50. She was a few years older than Samuel. Also in the

home with Samuel in 1860 were his two youngest daughters, Catherine and Sarah. Sarah was still living with her father and stepmother in 1870. By 1880, the household consisted of Samuel, 74, daughter Sarah, 31, and a twenty-year-old granddaughter Catherine Yoder (likely YR177123). Catherine King Yoder died 18 November 1876 and is buried in Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery in Mifflin County.

No cemetery record was found for Samuel in Mifflin County, so what happened to him? Sometime after the 1880 census, Samuel moved to Ohio. He died in 1885 and is buried at Walnut Grove Cemetery, Alvordton, Williams County, Ohio. While Samuel's name is at the top, the most prominent name on the headstone is Landis, the married name of his daughter, Elizabeth, who is buried there with him. What prompted him, in his old age, to up and move to Ohio? He had other children that remained in Mifflin County and followed the Mennonite religion, where children take care of their aging parents. Elizabeth had lived in Ohio since about 1855. If Samuel had died in Mifflin County, I can think of no logical reason why Elizabeth would have his body transported to Ohio for burial, so he must have been living out there.

Samuel's children:

+YR1711 John Yoder

+YR17712 William Yoder

YR17713 Elizabeth Yoder

YR17714 Mary Yoder

YR17715 Caroline Yoder

YR17716 Catherine Yoder

YR17717 Sarah Yoder

YR17711 John Yoder

John "Red" Yoder was born 31 January 1832. Pennsylvania death certificates ask for a state or country of birth, but the informant on John's death certificate, his son-in-law J. C. Swigart, went one step further, stating that he was born in Berks County. John married Mary Sheerer, born 2 January 1835, died 28 December 1901, and worked as a carpenter. He died 4 June 1913 and is buried with his wife at the Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery, Mattawana, Mifflin County, PA.

John's children:

YR177111 Catherine Yoder

YR177112 Emma Sarah Yoder

+YR177113 William Yoder

+YR177114 Samuel Yoder

YR177111 Catherine Yoder

Catharine Yoder was born in Mifflin County on 2 December 1857 and died 24 April 1939. Her husband, John Conley Swigart was born 1 October 1851 and died 13 June 1933. Both are buried in Spring Run Brethren Cemetery, McVeytown, Mifflin County, PA.

YR177112 Emma Sarah Yoder

Emma Sarah Yoder was born in Mifflin County on 6 July 1860 and died 12 June 1941. She shows up in census records as Sarah E. and Emma S. Her husband Albert S. Barth was born 19 June 1859 and died 9 April 1917. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Bratton Township, Mifflin County, PA.

YR177113 William G. Yoder

William G. Yoder was born 23 October 1863 in Mattawana, Bratton Township, Mifflin County and died there on 30 January 1929. His wife, Frances Rebecca "Fannie" Yoder YR128641 was born 14 April 1875 in Bratton Township and died 2 February 1961 in Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, PA. Both are buried in Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery. Fannie was the daughter of Jonas Yoder (1835-1907) and Lydia nee Yoder (1838-1931).

William's children:

YR1771131 L. Bertha Yoder

YR1771132 John Myron Yoder

YR1771133 Jonas Everett Yoder

YR1771134 Harvey Herman Yoder

YR1771135 William Lewis Yoder

YR1771131 L. Bertha Yoder

L. Bertha Yoder was born in 1904 and died in 1904. She is buried at Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery.

YR1771132 John Myron Yoder

John Myron Yoder, found in the records as J. Myron or Myron, was born 25 February 1905 and died 18 October 1944, age 39, of a cerebral hemorrhage. His marriage to Mary Elizabeth Harshbarger was announced in the Harrisburg Telegraph on 1 March 1938. She was born 25 August 1909, died July 1996 in Clarion County, PA. Both are buried in Mattawana Cemetery.

During his lifetime, Myron worked as an insurance agent and served as the Republican chairman of Mifflin County. He was on the executive committee of the Lewistown Symphony Orchestra, president of the Bratton Township school board and superintendent of the McVeytown Presbyterian Sunday School. His obituary in The Sunbury Daily Item of Friday, 20 October 1944, does not name any survivors.

Elizabeth remarried after Myron's death; her surname at her death was Temple as listed in the Social Security Applications and Claims Index. Her name on her tombstone is Yoder. Myron and Elizabeth share a headstone with his brother Jonas and his wife Annie.

YR1771133 Jonas Everett Yoder

Jonas Everett Yoder was born 31 January 1907 in Mattawana and died 31 May 1997 in Belleville, Mifflin County, PA. His wife, Annie Matilda Kauffman was born 28 May 1915 and died 4 January 1998. Both are buried in Mattawana Cemetery. Jonas and Annie share a headstone with his brother Myron and his wife Elizabeth.

Jonas served in the Army from 12 July 1943 to 24 December 1944, with no overseas service. He filed a veteran's compensation claim on 21 March 1950, prior to his marriage.

YR1771134 Harvey Herman Yoder

Harvey Herman Yoder was born 14 June 1910 at McVeytown and died there 22 March 1911. He is buried in Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery.

YR1771135 William Lewis Yoder

William Lewis Yoder was born 20 February 1915 and died 21 March 1915 in McVeytown. He is buried in Hertzler Old Mennonite Cemetery.

YR177114 Samuel Sherman Yoder

Samuel Sherman Yoder was born 11 July 1865 in Mattawana and died 21 June 1920 in Tyrone, Blair County, PA. He married Sarah Emily Moore on 21 June 1905 in Tyrone, Blair County, PA, where they both resided. He was 39, she was 40, and it was the first marriage for both of them. She was born in December 1864 and died 13 May 1925 in McVeytown. They are buried in Mattawana Cemetery. Samuel was a telegraph operator for the railroad. According to the 1910 census, Sarah Emily, called Emma, had no children and none living; however, Samuel and S. Emily share a tombstone with an infant son with the date 1908.

YR1771141 Infant son

The infant son of Samuel and Emma was born and died 22 July 1908, according to the Find a Grave memorial. The birth and death occurred in Bratton Township, Mifflin County. For the name on the death certificate, it says "Still born." The person who filled out this document must have been distracted, because the date of birth is given as 7/23/1908 and the date of death as 7/22/1908, so the baby died the day before he was born. The burial date is 23 July, and the dates the physician attended the deceased was from July 22, 1908, to July 22, 1908. The names of the parents are Sam^l Joder and Emma Moore. The cause of death was "Still born from Malposition." Remember, even official documents can be incorrect.

YR17712 William Yoder

William Yoder was born 9 May 1833 in Berks County, PA. His first wife, Margaret Gro was born 23 April 1838 in Lewistown, Mifflin County, and died 19 August 1875. She was the mother of all William's children. His second wife, Elizabeth Greenawalt was born 27 September 1843 and died 17 March 1927. William and Margaret are buried at Moist Cemetery, Mattawana, and Elizabeth is buried in Mattawana Cemetery with a daughter she had out of wedlock.

According to information posted on Find a Grave, Elizabeth's daughter, Alice, was the child of Alexander Anderson, but when Elizabeth married William, her daughter took the name Yoder. I am going to call out the person who posted this. When the census taker came around in 1900, William and Elizabeth were not living together. William was living with his son Edward/Edwin. Elizabeth was the head of household, living with Alice, Alice's husband and their three children. One of the questions asked in that year was how long have you been in your current marriage. William said he was widowed, Elizabeth claimed to be married for 9 years, and Alice was married for 15 years. Alice was married six years longer than her mother, so if Alice was already married when her mother became Mrs. Yoder, why would she ever use her stepfather's name instead of her husband's name? I believe the person who posted on Find a Grave simply took a guess. I was able to find all this information on Elizabeth and her daughter in less than an hour, so why didn't the person posting this double-check? I have been unable to find any instance where Alice went by the name Yoder. When Alice's daughter filed her Social Security claim, she gave her mother's maiden name as Anderson, not Yoder.

William saw several months of service during the Civil War. He was mustered in on 11 March 1865 and assigned to Company A, 101st PA Infantry. The unit had been in existence since the beginning of the war, but it had been depleted by battle, illness and capture by the enemy. What remained of the unit was sent into garrison on Roanoke Island in the spring of 1865. In March, one hundred replacements were sent to Roanoke Island, which likely included William (I found no records explicitly stating that he was there). He was mustered out with the unit on 25 June 1865.

As previously noted, William and Elizabeth were not living together in 1900. William died 4 November 1901, and exactly two months later, on 4 January 1902, Elizabeth filed a claim for his war pension.

William's children:

YR177121 Laura Yoder
YR177122 Annie E. Yoder
YR177123 Catherine Hannah Yoder
YR177124 John Yoder
YR177125 Samuel Yoder
YR177126 Mary Yoder
+YR177127 Grant Yoder
YR177128 Franklin Yoder
YR177129 Edwin/Edward Yoder
YR17712a Sarah Yoder
YR17712b Arabella Yoder

YR177121 Laura Yoder

Laura Yoder was born 1 March 1857 and died 21 October 1905. She is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery. She shares a headstone with her brother Samuel.

YR177122 Annie E Yoder

Anna Elizabeth Yoder, called "Annie," was born 10 June 1858 and died 15 August 1902. She was married to James S. Grassmyer, born 31 August 1857 and died 18 July 1920. They are both buried in Moist Cemetery.

YR177123 Catherine Hannah Yoder

Catherine Hannah Yoder, called Kate, was born 10 March 1860 and died 3 January 1936. She is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery. In the 1910 census, she is a 50-year-old single woman living with her brother Edward. The name given on her death certificate is Kate H Yoder. I had a bit of difficulty find this because the transcriber read the name as "Goder."

YR177124 John C. Yoder

John C. Yoder was born about 1861. He appears on the 1870 census as a nine-year-old. He is still living with his father in 1880, age 20 and works on railroad tracks. I can find no other information on him.

YR177125 Samuel Yoder

Samuel Yoder was born 29 August 1862 and died 17 December 1909. He is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery. He shares a headstone with his sister Laura.

Samuel was a single man; he worked as a freight conductor on the Pennsylvania Railroad. His death occurred at Denholm, Juniata County, PA. The cause of death listed on his death certificate says, "No physician in attendance. Died from injuries received while on duty for P.R.R. Co. Death immediate."

The newspaper account of Samuel's accident is no more enlightening than the death certificate. The Harrisburg Telegraph of 17 December 1909 published a short article on the accident. There were no witnesses to what actually happened. According to the newspaper, "It is supposed he stepped between the cars and was killed. The first the train crew knew of the accident was when he was missed." He had been employed by the railroad for twenty-five years.

YR177126 Mary Yoder

Mary A. Yoder was born 29 October 1864 and died 19 December 1931. She married William Bratton Kauffman, born 3 July 1864, died 2 November 1957. Both are buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR177127 Grant Sherman Yoder

Grant Sherman Yoder was born 2 September 1865 and died 20 May 1928. His wife Anna Catherine "Annie" Huffman was born 6 June 1881 and died 4 June 1947. They are buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery. After Grant's death, Annie married Ira Masemore in 1934. He died in May 1945.

Grant's children:

YR1771271 Charles Edward Yoder
+YR1771272 William L. Yoder
YR1771273 Luella Margaret Yoder
+YR1771274 Eugene Franklin Yoder
YR1771275 Sarah Myra Yoder
+YR1771276 Theodore Grant Yoder
YR1771277 Guy Samuel Yoder
YR1771278 Esther Belle Yoder
YR1771279 Lester Joseph Yoder
YR177127a Glenn J. Yoder
YR177127b Betty Jane Yoder

YR1771271 Charles Edward Yoder

Charles Edward Yoder was born 12 September 1899 and died 23 July 1906. According to his death certificate, he died from a fracture of the base of his skull caused by being knocked down by a bull. He died four days after the accident.

YR1771272 William Lorain Yoder Sr

William Lorain Yoder was born 16 August 1902 and died 4 November 1986 in Lititz, Lancaster County, a resident of Moravian Manor. He was married to Margaret Catherine Beers, born 8 October 1908, died March 1980 (her obituary was published in the Altoona Mirror on 3 March 1980, but that edition is not available on newspapers.com). They are both buried in Mattawana Cemetery.

When William registered for the World War II draft, his address was in Altoona, but his wife's address was McVeytown, over fifty miles away. The 1940 Census shows William as a single lodger in Altoona, employed as a machinist on the Altoona Railroad, so he married after the 1940 census but before he registered for the draft on 16 February 1942. Margaret, in 1940, was still living with her parents, having attended college for two years. She was employed as a grade school teacher. By 1950, William and Margaret were living in Altoona with two young sons.

William's children:

YR17712721 William Lorain Yoder Jr.
YR17712722 Garry B. Yoder

YR17712721 William Lorain Yoder, Jr.

William Lorain Yoder Jr. was born 1947. He married Patricia Louise Szebin, born 1948, a divorcee, on 17 June 1972 in Winchester, Virginia. They were both residents of Altoona, PA.

YR17712722 Garry B. Yoder

Garry B. Yoder was born about 1949.

YR1771273 Luella Margaret Yoder

Luella Margaret Yoder was born 6 November 1904 and died 4 November 1959. She was married to Herman Jacob Kauffman, born 5 June 1899, died 4 November 1986. They are buried together at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Mifflin County, PA.

YR1771274 Eugene Franklin Yoder

Eugene Franklin Yoder was born 1 September 1908 and died 18 July 1996. He was married to Henrietta King, born 21 December 1906, died 25 October 1990.

Eugene's children:

YR17712741 Sarah Jean Yoder

YR17712742 William David Yoder

YR17712743 Ronald R. Yoder

YR17712741 Sarah Jean Yoder

Sarah Jean Yoder was born about 1927. She married David Kenneth Brown on 17 August 1947.

YR17712742 William David Yoder

William David Yoder was stillborn on 8 August 1935. He is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR17712743 Ronald R. Yoder

Ronald R. Yoder was born about 1937.

YR1771275 Sarah Myra "Niney" Yoder

Sarah Myra Yoder was born 16 April 1908 and died 8 September 2008. Her husband, John Clayton Shirk, was born 22 April 1908 and died 14 June 1989. They are buried together at Mattawana Cemetery.

YR1771276 Theodore Grant Yoder

Theodore Grant Yoder was born 28 January 1910 and died 2 August 1990. He married Salina A. Hartzler on 9 December 1931. She was born 21 July 1906 and died 24 March 2005. They are buried at Pleasant View Cemetery, McVeytown, Mifflin County, PA.

Theodore's children:

YR17712761 Edward Eugene Yoder
YR17712762 Robert Yoder

YR17712761 Edward Eugene Yoder

Edward Eugene “Ed” Yoder was born 21 December 1931 and died 21 December 2020, on his 89th birthday. He was married in 1958 to Myrna Darlene Zeigler, born 26 August 1938, died 24 June 2013. He had a son, Brian Yoder, and a daughter, Dana L. Yoder. At the time of his death there were also three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

YR17712762 Robert Yoder

YR17712762 Robert Theodore Yoder was born about 1936. He married Patricia. His daughter Sharon was born in 1962 and son Robert was born in 1965.

YR1771277 Guy Samuel Yoder

Guy Samuel Yoder was born 2 January 1913 and died December 1985. He married Alice E. Espigh, born 15 May 1913, died May 1975. Their shared tombstone in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery says, “Parents of Betty M., Samuel P., Shirley J., Eugene G., Marjorie L., Linda L.”

YR1771278 Esther Belle Yoder (twin of Lester)

Esther Belle Yoder was born 9 June 1916 and died 16 November 1974. She was married to James Elwood Mort on 26 October 1940 in Frederick County, Virginia. James was born 31 December 1918, and died 3 January 1978, buried in Juniata Memorial Cemetery. Esther was James’ second wife. She is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR1771279 Lester Joseph Yoder (twin of Esther)

Lester Joseph Yoder was born 9 June 1916. He died 27 March 1984 in Elyria, Lorain County, Ohio and is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery in Mifflin County. On 1 June 1948 he married Gertrude Polly Roach in Elyria. She born 16 April 1916, died 9 February 1999, and is buried in Umbria Cemetery, Osceola Mills, Clearfield County, PA. The name on her headstone is G. Polly Yoder.

Lester served in the Navy during World War II and his name appears in the US Navy Casualties Book. He was a gunner’s mate third class, US Naval Reserve. The nature of his wound was not included. He applied for compensation in Pennsylvania on 14 June 1950; his residence at that time was Elyria, Ohio. I have found no evidence that Lester and Polly had any children.

YR177127a Glenn R. Yoder

Glenn R. Yoder was born 9 October 1920 and died 30 June 2017 in Parkton, Baltimore County, Maryland. He married Teresa Ann Brown, born 2 April 1924 and died 9 August 2012. They are both buried in Garden of Faith Cemetery in Rosedale, Baltimore County, MD. Glenn served in the Marine Corps in WWII. He had three children, sons Glenn Jr. and Dennis, and daughter

Terry, wife of Richard Gervais, who predeceased him. At the time of Glenn's death, he had six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

YR177127b Betty Jane Yoder

Betty Jane Yoder was born 7 July 1923 and died 21 October 2018. Around 1944 she married Harold Luther Dunmire, born 29 April 1921, died February 1987. They are buried together in Mattawana Cemetery.

YR177128 Franklin B. Yoder

Franklin B. Yoder was born 30 December 1866 and died 23 February 1944. He married Nannie E. Renninger, born August 1878, died 27 April 1959. Her Find a Grave memorial identifies her as Nancy Elizabeth "Nannie" Renninger. Every other source I found calls her Nannie. Frank was a farmer. They are buried together at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Mifflin County.

Franklin's children:

+YR1771281 Lewis William Yoder
YR1771282 Harry Edward Yoder
YR1771283 Hazel Belle Yoder
+YR1771284 Charles Raymond Yoder
YR1771285 Ruth Mary Yoder
YR1771286 Ivy Catherine Yoder
YR1771287 Alden Frank Yoder
YR1771288 Alice Margaret Yoder

YR1771281 Lewis William Yoder

Lewis William Yoder was born 24 October 1903 and died May 1974. He married Dorothy Mae Fagan, born 1 December 1902, died 29 September 1992. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Mifflin County, PA.

Lewis' children:

YR17712811 Sarah M. Yoder
YR17712812 Clyde William Yoder
YR17712813 Frances P. Yoder
YR17712814 Esther K. Yoder
YR177128145 Nannie M. Yoder
YR177128146 Robert Yoder
YR177128147 Ronald E. Yoder

YR17712811 Sarah M. Yoder

Sarah M. Yoder was born in 1923. She was married on 6 April 1946 to Clair E. Espigh in Winchester, VA. Clair was born in 1922 and died in 1980, burial in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR17712812 Clyde William Yoder

Clyde William Yoder was born 17 October 1926 and died 8 October 2016. He married Margaret Elizabeth Stewart, born 10 September 1924, died 12 November 1997. Clyde served in the Army in World War II. He and Margaret had one son, Gregory Max Yoder.

After Margaret's death, Clyde married Louise Isabell (Norton) Forgy. She was born 28 July 1924 and died 2 December 2020. Clyde is buried next to Margaret in Mattawana Cemetery. Louise is also in Mattawana Cemetery with her first husband.

YR17712813 Frances P. Yoder

Frances P. Yoder was born 24 August 1928 and died 24 July 2020. She married Myron J. Cowan, born 18 May 1929, died 5 October 2021. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Mifflin County, PA.

YR17712814 Esther K. Yoder

Esther K. Yoder was born 8 April 1930 and died 15 September 1997. She married Lloyd Wilmer Kauffman, born 24 September 1928, died November 1983. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery, Mifflin County, PA.

YR177128145 Nannie M. Yoder

Nannie M. Yoder was born 24 March 1936. She married Edward R. Irvin, born 13 March 1935, died 28 January 1999. He is buried at Mattawana Cemetery.

YR177128146 Robert Yoder

Robert Yoder was born 17 September 1940. He married Marjorie. He was the twin of Ronald.

YR177128147 Ronald E. Yoder

Ronald E. Yoder was born 17 September 1940 and died 2 October 2022. He married on 8 February 1964 to Nancy L. Kauffman. He is buried at Pine Glen Cemetery. He had three children: Rodney L. Yoder married to Kelly; Roger L. Yoder; and Kelly Yoder married to John Phillips. Ronald was the twin of Robert.

YR1771282 Harry Edward Yoder

Harry Edward Yoder was born 17 April 1906 and died 5 July 1956. He was married on 26 October 1946 in Winchester, Frederick County, VA, to Bertha Alma Harshbarger, born 27 April 1906, died 22 November 2003. They are buried in Pleasant View Cemetery, McVeytown, Mifflin County. I wasn't expecting to find any children for this couple because they were both forty years old when they married, but Harry's obituary names a daughter Marie.

YR1771283 Hazel Belle Yoder

Hazel Belle Yoder was born 17 October 1908 and died 16 November 1999. About 1929 she married Ralph Lester Shottsberger, born 15 October 1907, died 24 June 1990. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

I found a marriage certificate from Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, dated 11 October 1956, for Erla Ruth Carr, 18, who said that her mother was Hazel Belle Yoder. The father's name was blank. If she was 18 in 1956, she would have been born about 1938. Hazel was married by that time, so was she fooling around? Hazel and Ralph were living together in 1940 with no children. The 1950 census shows Hazel and Ralph still living together, this time with twelve-year-old Erla Carr, a lodger, in their household. So where was Erla in 1940? She was living with Elizabeth Miller, 73, a widow, and identified as a granddaughter.

Erla Ruth Carr's senior class yearbook from Bratton High School in McVeytown also popped up on ancestry.com. One of the items in the write-up is "Pride and Joy" to which Erla responded, "Hazel and Ralph." This by itself makes me think that Hazel was not Erla's natural mother, but that Hazel and Ralph fostered her. But still, if she named Hazel as her mother on her marriage license, why not name Ralph as her father? What exactly was her relationship with Hazel?

YR1771284 Charles Raymond Yoder

Charles Raymond Yoder was born 10 February 1911 in Altoona and died 3 November 1956 at the State Sanatorium in Cresson Township, Cambria County, PA, from tuberculosis. He was married to Pearl Evelyn Renninger, born 17 April 1914, died 22 April 2005. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

Charles' children:

YR17712841 Beverly Ann Yoder

YR17712842 Baby Boy Yoder

YR17712843 Joan D. Yoder

YR17712841 Beverly Ann Yoder

Beverly Ann Yoder was born 11 June 1937 and died 8 October 2006. She married Jack L. Hockenberry, born 5 June 1932, died 10 November 1992. They are buried at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR17712842 Baby Boy Yoder

Unnamed Baby Boy Yoder was stillborn on 23 October 1944. He is buried with his parents at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR17712843 Joan D. Yoder

Joan D. Yoder was born 13 November 1946 and died 19 May 1948. She is buried with her parents at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR1771285 Ruth Mary Yoder

Ruth Mary or Mary Ruth Yoder (I found it both ways in the records) was born 8 March 1913, according to her birth certificate. Her headstone says she was born 8 April 1913. I choose to believe the birth certificate, since it was filed at the time of her birth. The name on the birth certificate was Ruth Yoeder (sic), but another hand in another ink wrote "Mary" before Ruth. Her tombstone says Ruth M. Yoder. She died 25 November 1978. Ruth was married to Luther James Yoder, born 21 August 1909, died 27 April 1999. He was the son of Samuel Yoder and Mary E. Harshbarger. After Ruth died, Luther married Hazel M. (Schmittle) Hicks on 17 February 1980.

Ruth and Luther are buried together at Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

YR1771286 Ivy Catherine Yoder

Ivy Catherine Yoder was born 23 June 1915 and died 29 October 2004. She married Samuel Claude Johns, born 4 June 1905, died 10 July 1955. They are buried in Juniata Memorial Cemetery, Lewistown, Mifflin County, PA.

YR1771287 Alden Frank Yoder

Alden Frank Yoder was born 16 May 1917 and died October 1986. He was married before 1940 to Betty J. Piper, born 11 July 1920, died 2 May 2015. They are buried together in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery.

Alden's children, as named in Betty's obituary (order uncertain):

Pattie Yoder married Amedeo Barbuscio; Pattie died before her mother

Connie Yoder married Dan Bagrosky

Betsy Yoder married Pete Moist

Bill Yoder married Dorothy

Randy Yoder married Teresa

YR1771288 Alice Margaret Yoder

Alice Margaret Yoder was born 15 December 1919 and died 16 January 2021. On 6 May 1939, she married Raymond Roy Smith, a Brethren minister, born 22 March 1912, died 24 September 1993. They are buried at Byron Run Cemetery, Juniata County, PA.

YR177129 Edward Yoder

Edward M. Yoder was born 10 November 1868 and died 20 August 1938. He was a farmer and shared his home in 1920 with his sister Kate YR177123. He never married. His Find a Grave memorial and his tombstone give his date of death as 23 August, but his death certificate says he died on the 20th, with his burial on 22 August. His cause of death was bronchial pneumonia with a contributory cause of first- and second-degree burns. The document also says that his

death was due to an accident on 14 August 1938 at his home, Lewistown RD2. There is no newspaper available online for that time, so I don't know what happened.

YR17712a Sarah A. "Sallie" Yoder

Sarah A. "Sallie" Yoder was born 13 February 1870 and died 24 March 1939. She married Porter T. Kauffman, born 26 July 1866, died 25 February 1943. They were the parents of two daughters.

YR17712b Arabella Yoder

Arabella "Belle" Yoder was born in December 1871 and died 23 October 1927. She is named as Belle on her death certificate, and her birthdate was not included. Her husband Elijah C. Smith was born 11 September 1863 and died 14 January 1943. As per the 1910 census for Bratton Township, she had given birth to three children, with two still living. Her husband worked as a pumpman for the railroad.

YR17713 Elizabeth Yoder

Elizabeth Yoder was born in 1834. Her first husband was Jesse Emig, born about 1829, a native of Dover, York County, PA. He was a resident of Mifflin County when he and Elizabeth married in York County on 13 November 1853. According to census records, Elizabeth's first child was born about 1854 in Pennsylvania, and the second was born about 1856 in Ohio. Sometime between the first two children, Jesse and Elizabeth moved to Williams County, Ohio. Jesse Emig enlisted in Company C, 38th Ohio Infantry at the age of 32 on 25 August 1861. After the Battle of Missionary Ridge, TN, on 25 November 1863, the unit reenlisted as a veterans' unit, and they were furloughed home. The unit was back in action at Resaca, GA, on 15 May 1864. Sergeant Emig continued on with his unit until he was killed in action in the battle of Jonesboro, GA, on 1 September 1864. Jesse Emig was initially buried in Jonesboro, GA, but later removed to Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, GA. Elizabeth gave birth to her fifth child in November 1864, two months after her husband's death.

Elizabeth married Samuel Landis on 2 January 1873, the second marriage for both. The couple had three children. Based on the death dates on Find a Grave, Samuel appears to have been divorced from his first wife; her death date is after his marriage date to Elizabeth. Samuel is buried in the same cemetery as his first wife, but not actually with her. Elizabeth is buried in Walnut Grove Cemetery, Alvordton, Williams County, Ohio, with her father, Samuel. I can come up with no logical explanation why Elizabeth would move her father from his long-time home in Mifflin County to her home in Ohio, but it seems that is what happened. Elizabeth died in 1914.

YR17714 Mary Yoder

Mary's tombstone photo on Find a Grave shows a birth year of 1835 and death in 1894. She married Frederick Setzler, born 1 January 1829, died 19 February 1908. His brother John married Mary's sister Caroline.

YR17715 Caroline Yoder

Caroline V. Yoder was born 13 December 1839 in Juniata County, PA, according to her Find a Grave memorial, and died 5 February 1917 in Bratton Township, Mifflin County. Her husband, John Setzler was born 31 May 1832 and died 11 January 1909. His brother Frederick married Caroline's sister Mary.

YR17716 Catherine Yoder

Catherine Yoder was born 11 December 1841 and died in La Grange County, Indiana, on 31 March 1933. Her husband was William Watters, born 20 November 1938 in Mattawana, died 11 June 1920. They are buried at Eden Cemetery, Topeka, LaGrange County, Indiana.

YR17717 Sarah Yoder

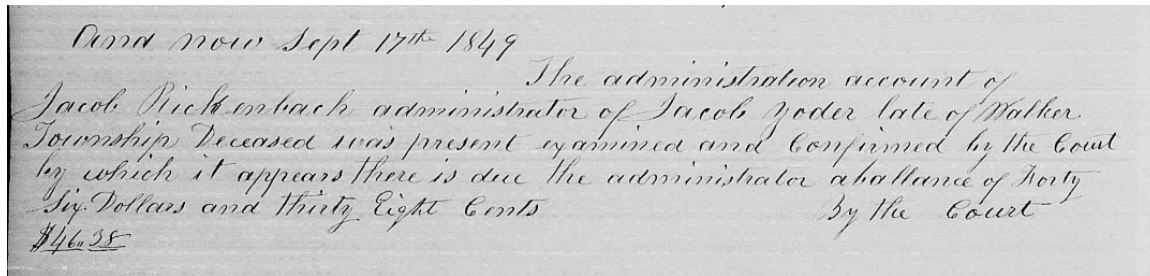
Sarah Yoder, youngest child of Samuel and Sarah, was born in Mifflin County on 4 December 1848. She died 19 April 1941 and is buried in Pine Glen Brethren Cemetery. The Find a Grave memorial says she is the daughter of Samuel Yoder and Sarah Kauffman; her death certificate says her mother is Elizabeth King, which is incorrect as Sarah was born nine years before her mother Sarah's death. The informant was J. E. Yoder, most likely Jonas Everett Yoder, born 1907, grandson of her brother John. He was too young to have known Sarah's mother or stepmother. Sarah never married.

YR1772 Jacob Yoder

Jacob Yoder has been a bit of a mystery. His date of birth is not certain, as is his death date. He married Elizabeth, often called Eliza, Phillips or Phillip, who was born in Berks County. Until recently when a clue emerged, it was believed that he spent his life in Berks County. One of Jacob's descendants, Dewey Lee Yoder, Sr. YR1772223 wrote a letter in 1938 to the postmaster at Yoder, Kansas, asking for information on how the town got its name, and other historical information. He included in the letter the information that his great grandfather Jacob Yoder left Juniata County, PA, and it was said he had gone to Kansas. I have been looking at this family for a number of years now, and I have never found anything to even hint that Jacob went to Juniata County, let alone Kansas. Using this new information, I looked at Juniata County court and census records. In the 1840 census, there is a Jacob Yoder with a family composition that matches almost exactly with what I know about this man. The only discrepancy was the Juniata household had a teenage male that doesn't fit in with Jacob's family. Jacob was a farmer with his oldest child under ten at that time, so it would make sense that he might hire a local teen to help out on the farm. Because the census did not list names of all individuals that year, we have no idea if this boy was a relative or not. All we can say for sure is that he lived with Jacob and his family.

The Orphans Court of Juniata County produced another clue. The court recorded on 17 September 1849: "The administration account of Jacob Rickenbach administrator of Jacob Yoder late of Walker Township Deceased was present examined and confirmed by the Court by

which it appears there is due the administrator a ballance of Forty Six Dollars and Thirty Eight Cents."



Order made Sept 17th 1849
The administration account of
Jacob Rickenbach administrator of Jacob Yoder late of Mother
Township Deceased was present examined and confirmed by the Court
by which it appears there is due the administrator a ballance of Forty
Six Dollars and thirty Eight Cents
By the Court
\$46.38

Is this our guy? Jacob Yoder is an extremely common name in this branch of the family, but I believe this is the one we want. The administrator's name, Jacob Rickenbach, is a big clue. Jacob Yoder was the son of Veronica Rickenbach. She had a brother Jacob that went to Juniata County. His Find a Grave memorial links him as Veronica's brother, so I feel confident that this is the Jacob Yoder we're looking for, and his estate administrator was his uncle.

The account of an estate is usually required by the court to be filed about a year after the death. The estate file in Berks County, referred to in the YNL files as a will, is not a will at all. The file, labeled Maiden creek Township 1848, contains two documents, one a petition by son John YR17721 asking the court to appoint a guardian for him, as he is a minor above the age of fourteen, and the other a petition by Jacob's brother John YR1773 to appoint a guardian for Jacob's son Jacob YR17724, a minor under the age of fourteen. Both documents state that their father died about five years ago and bear the date of 20 December 1853. That is all that is in the file, but it is enough information to help establish Jacob's approximate time of death, along with the Juniata County document, as 1848.

When John YR177 wrote his will in 1851, he left a piece of land with a house to his daughter-in-law Eliza for her use "so long as she remain a Yoder." If she were to remarry or die, that land and house would pass onto her children. Well, she died. As of 8 January 1853, her date of death, that land now would pass, according to John's will, to her children, all of whom were still minors. For lack of a specific death date, we can assume John died shortly before the probate date of 3 June 1853, so he outlived Eliza by about five months. Since Jacob had four children that were inheriting land from their grandfather, why are there only two petitions for guardians in the estate file? I believe the other two have been lost over the years. Once Grandpa died and the kids came into the land, they had to get guardians, thus the petitions to the court in December 1853.

From the document found in Juniata County, it seems certain that Jacob died there. When did Eliza return to Berks County? She was back in Berks in 1850 for the census, in Maiden creek Township, living next door to John Yoder YR1773, her brother-in-law. Three of her four children were living with other relatives: John was with his uncle John YR1773, Mary and Jacob were with their grandparents John YR177 and Veronica in Centre Township. Only Joseph was living

with Eliza; the surname of both is recorded as Philips. It is possible that Eliza was already living in the house that John YR177 was providing for her in his will.

For several years in the early 1850s, the State of Pennsylvania decided that counties should keep death records. Eliza died during that short period of time, so we have a county death certificate for her. The records says that she was born 3 August 1817 and died 8 January 1853, age 38 years, 5 months and 3 days. The cause of death was Epilepsia and she is buried at Belleman's Church Cemetery.

Jacob's exact date and place of death and his final resting place are yet to be discovered. I'd put money on it being in Juniata County.

YR17721 John Yoder

John Yoder was born 3 February 1834 in Berks County or possibly Juniata County, PA, and died 14 February 1910. On 20 May 1854 he married his first wife, Sarah Heinrich, born 23 April 1821, or 1824 (the death record; transcriber wasn't sure with the old handwritten record). If this birthdate for Sarah, found in the church record of her death, is correct, she was never truly honest with the census taker. The largest age difference in the census is ten years, but she may have been as much as thirteen years older than John. In the 1900 census, Sarah says she had given birth to two children with one living. I have no information on a second child. As she was so much older than her husband, it may be possible that John was her second husband and the other child belonged to a previous husband (my speculation – please don't post this to your family tree as fact!). It was quite difficult to find as much as I have for her. Seems she really didn't want to be found. Sarah died, as per the church record, on 3 September 1900, with burial on 7 September 1900. John then remarried; he gave her death date as 5 September 1901 on his marriage license application in December 1905. I have not found any obituary or death notice for her, and that includes looking around both the reported death dates.

The YNL database lists four children for John and Sarah; YR177211- Amos (c1853-), YR177212- Jacob (c1859-), YR177213- John (c1861-) and YR177214- Sallie (c1869-). These are, indeed, the children of John and Sarah Yoder of Maiden Creek Township, just not this John and Sarah. They belong to John Breyfogle Yoder OY4344 and his wife Sarah Sittler.

When the Civil War began, John waited a few months, then went off and enlisted, on 12 September 1861. He left his wife and one-year-old son at home and headed off to war as a private with Company E, 50th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. His unit began its active service in South Carolina, then saw action in Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, and back through Virginia. On 1 January 1864, John was among the group that re-enlisted as veterans. They saw action at the Battle of the Wilderness and then headed back across Virginia to Petersburg for the Battle of the Crater. They arrived in Harrisburg on 6 February 1865 and were furloughed home. The unit reassembled on 20 March 1865 at Annapolis. John was promoted to corporal on 1 May 1865. After more back and forth across northern Virginia, the 50th was

among the first regiments at Petersburg when it fell. From there they went to City Point and then by boat to Washington where they remained until the end of June. Extensive preparations had been made for laying the cornerstone for the National Monument at Gettysburg on July 4, 1865, and "by order of the Secretary of War, upon the recommendation of Lieutenant General Grant, the Fiftieth Regiment was ordered to represent the infantry of the army in the ceremonies of the occasion." (Source: Bates, Samuel P. (Samuel Penniman), 1827-1902.: *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861-5*; prepared in compliance with acts of the legislature, by Samuel P. Bates. Found at pacivilwar.com). The unit was mustered out on 31 July 1865, and John returned home.

His household in 1870 was John, Sarah, and son Jacob. By 1880 John and Sarah had 14-year-old Katie Reppert living with them. She is reported to be a niece, but I have no idea how she was related. Katie was the daughter of Benneville and Anna (Adam) Reppert of Richmond Township. None of those names appear anywhere in John's family, so she must have been Sarah's kin, but I haven't been able to find Sarah anywhere before her marriage to John. Sarah's parents are a complete mystery, as are any siblings or half-siblings that would bring the name Reppert to the family tree.

After Kate moved in, children started appearing in this household. Since the 1890 census was destroyed (the answers to all my questions are in the 1890 census), we have to move on to 1900. John is 66, Sarah is 76 having had two children with one living. Next is Kate Reppert, niece, 35, single, having given birth to three children with three still living. Also in the household are five boarders: Robert Weand, 9, born May 1891; James Bertolet, 5, born January 1895; Ellis Bertolet, 0/12, born April 1900; Laura Beard, 14, born December 1885; and William Koller, 13, born November 1886.

After Sarah's death John and Kate decided to take the plunge. At the age of 71, John took Kate as his second wife. It was her first marriage, and they did attract a bit of attention. The Reading Times ran a piece on 21 December 1905: "The wedding of John P. Yoder and Miss Kate Reppert, both of Leesport, will take place this week. The groom is 71 years of age and the bride 40. This is the groom's second matrimonial venture, his first wife having died four years ago." The marriage took place on 2 January 1906. Their son John was born on 26 April 1908. His birth certificate notes that he is the fifth child born to this mother.

By the 1910 census, John was gone, having died on 14 February 1910. The household consists of Kate, 45, claims to have given birth to six children with six living. Robert Weand and Ellis Bertolet from 1900 are still there, but now they are using the name Yoder. Two-year-old John is there, and last on the list is William Yoder, 22, William Koller from 1900. All are listed as sons of Kate. William always used the name Koller. Kate must have used Yoder on the census for appearances.

John's obituary says he is survived by children "Robert, James, Ellis and John, at home, and Jacob Yoder, of Hamburg. William Koller, of Maidencreek, and Laura, wife of Samuel Booth, of Lancaster, are stepchildren."

Kate died 17 June 1936. Her obituary names all six children as hers. John and Kate are buried together at Gernant's Church.

I can attribute the first child Jacob and the last child John to John. The others were probably not his biological children, but three of them used the name Yoder so I am including them. Here is a good DNA project.

John's children:

+YR177211 Jacob Yoder
+YR177212 Robert (Weand) Yoder
YR177213 James (Bertolet) Yoder
+YR177214 Ellis (Bertolet) Yoder
+YR177215 John Phillips Yoder

YR177211 Jacob Yoder

Jacob H. Yoder was born 29 January 1860 in Maidencreek Township and died 5 August 1916. He was married on 25 May 1885 to Rosa A. Wink, born 3 February 1863 and died 16 January 1956. His occupation given on his death certificate is that of painter. It also says he was widowed, but the informant was his wife. Another example of how you can't believe everything you read, even in official government documents.

Rosa lived almost forty years as a widow. She was survived by three of her five children, 24 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, and 15 great-great-grandchildren. She is buried with Jacob in St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

Jacob's children:

+YR1772111 John Llewellyn Yoder
YR1772112 Maud Yoder
+YR1772113 James W. Yoder
YR1772114 Sallie Yoder
YR1772115 Kate V. Yoder

YR1772111 John Llewellyn Yoder

John Llewellyn Yoder was born 9 April 1886 in Albany Township and died 16 January 1955. He was married on 25 February 1911 to Alice M. Stoudt, born about 1893 and died 14 September 1985. John was a fruit grower with his own orchard in Upper Bern Township at the time of his death.

John's children:

YR17721111 Edna May Yoder

YR17721112 Freda Malinda Yoder

YR17721113 Paul Jacob Yoder

+YR17721114 Junior John Yoder

YR17721115 Elmer James Yoder

YR17721116 Floyd S Yoder

YR17721117 Lloyd Stoudt Yoder

YR17721118 Luther Harold Yoder

YR17721111 Edna May Yoder

Edna May Yoder was born 4 March 1912 and died 14 January 1974. She was married to Samuel Calvin Adams, born 26 January 1907, died 25 December 1978. They are buried together at Friedens Union Cemetery, Shartlesville, PA.

YR17721112 Freda Malinda Yoder

Freda Malinda Yoder was born 4 September 1913 and died 12 November 2014 at age 101. She was married to Gordon R. Berger on 14 September 1929. He died 31 October 1993. They are buried together at Friedens Union Cemetery, Shartlesville, PA.

YR17721113 Paul Jacob Yoder

Paul Jacob Yoder was born 27 September 1916 and died 22 October 1948. He married Evangeline Haydt on 29 January 1938. She was born 4 October 1920, died 5 March 2003. I have run into a huge problem with this couple. Note that Paul died in 1948. On the 1950 census, Evangeline and two daughters, Alice, age 11, and Sandra, age 5, are living together with a lodger, Norman G. Ernst. When Evangeline died, her obituary names a son, Harold Yoder, and four daughters: Alice (Yoder) Epler; Sandra (Yoder) Wisner; Norma (Yoder) Dietrich; and Beverly (Yoder) Karabin. If these are all Paul's children and he died in 1948, where were they in the 1950 census? Simple answer: they weren't all his kids.

Evangeline married Stanley A. Zerbe, a widower, in May 1967. When he died in 1979, his obituary names all these Yoder kids as stepchildren, so none of them are his. Stanley's obit names Harold last, but Evangeline's names him first, so I'm not sure of his place in the birth order, but both obits name the girls in the same order. We know from the census and baptismal records that Alice Mae is the oldest, born 19 July 1938, followed by Sandra Marie, born 27 October 1944. The next one named is Norma. She married in 1968; the marriage license application notice in the newspaper gives her age as 17, so she was born about 1951. Too late to be Paul's child, but what about that lodger Norman? Was she named after her father? By the same process, Beverly was born about 1954, so Paul is definitely not her father, either. I can't begin to find Harold, as there are too many men named Harold Yoder, and if he was married,

his wife's name was not mentioned in his mother's obituary. Even though three of Evangeline's children were not biological Yoders, they used the name, so I have included them here.

Paul and Evangeline are buried together at Frieden's Cemetery, Shartlesville.

YR17721114 Junior John Yoder

Junior John Yoder was born 27 August 1918 and died 12 March 1977. On 4 April 1942 he married Martha Schaller, born 13 August 1920 and died 18 October 1998. Junior followed his father into the fruit business, owning and operating Yoder's Fruit Stand at the Reading Fairgrounds Market. Of course, the fruit came from Yoder's Fruit Farm, near Hamburg. He was an Army veteran of World War II and is buried with his wife in Frieden's Cemetery, Shartlesville, PA.

Junior's children:

Doris M. Yoder

Glenn J Yoder

YR177211141 Doris Mae Yoder

Doris Mae Yoder was born 30 December 1942. She married Richard Philip Stoudt about 12 June 1961. Richard was born 7 May 1940 and died 3 May 2020. An Army veteran of the Vietnam War, he is buried at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Lebanon County, PA.

YR177211142 Glenn J. Yoder

Glenn J. Yoder was born 25 May 1949 and died 4 October 2008, unmarried.

YR17721115 Elmer James Yoder

Elmer James Yoder was born 7 August 1920 and died 14 April 1921.

YR17721116 Floyd S Yoder

Floyd S. Yoder was born 22 August 1922 and died 10 October 1922. He was the twin brother of Lloyd.

YR17721117 Lloyd Stoudt Yoder

Lloyd Stoudt Yoder was born 22 August 1922 and died 24 September 1983. He was the twin brother of Floyd. The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, 15 March 1946, published the engagement announcement of Lloyd Yoder, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Yoder of Hamburg, PA, and Miss Josephine Gizelbach of Nanticoke, PA. I have found no evidence that the marriage ever took place. On 24 June 1949, Lloyd S. Yoder and Eileen E. Stone applied for a marriage license in

Manhattan, New York. Lloyd served in the Army in World War II, so he applied for a Pennsylvania pension on 20 April 1950. His residence at that time was Cedarhurst, Suffolk County, New York. His dependents were his wife Eileen and a daughter Kathleen.

Lloyd is buried in Calverton National Cemetery, Suffolk County, New York.

YR17721118 Luther Harold Yoder

Luther Harold Yoder was born 12 August 1932 and died 26 March 2002. Luther had four children: Gary L. Yoder, Craig Yoder, Virginia (Yoder) Gray, and Vicki (Yoder) Stoudt. He was married to Sarah Beissel, marriage license application 22 July 1982. Her first marriage was in 1942; she was around 54 years old when she married Luther, so his children can't be hers. Luther's son Craig had a son, Craig Jr, who died at the age of four. The child's obituary identified the paternal grandparents as Luther H. Yoder and Marvine A. (Gilmer) Esser. A search for Marvine led me to her father, Marvin Gilmer. His obituary of 18 December 1961 names his daughter, Marvine, wife of Luther Yoder. On 12 December 1964 Marvine Yoder applied for a marriage license, so her marriage to Luther ended before that date. I have no other information on Luther and his affiliation with Marvine.

YR17721112 Maud Yoder

Maude Ann Yoder was born 9 October 1887 and died 20 June 1955. She was married on 17 February 1906 to Joseph W. Hill, born 5 September 1882 and died 17 December 1963.

YR17721113 James W. Yoder

James Wink Yoder was born 10 June 1889 and died 5 September 1963. He was married on 17 April 1911 to Hettie M. Conrad, born 10 December 1892, died 17 January 1957. They are buried together at Fleetwood Cemetery, Fleetwood, PA.

James' children:

YR17721131 Sadie May Yoder

YR17721132 Helen Pauline Yoder

YR17721133 Norman James Yoder

YR17721134 Raymond Jacob Yoder

YR17721135 Dorothy Irene Yoder

YR17721136 Richard Arlen Yoder

YR17721137 Robert K. Yoder

YR17721131 Sadie May Yoder

Sadie May Yoder was born 15 June 1911 and died 24 April 1981. She was married on 20 November 1926 to Lester A. Heckman, born 11 July 1907, died 27 December 1990.

YR17721132 Helen Pauline Yoder

Helen Pauline Yoder was born on 21 October 1912 and died 13 November 1912 of pneumonia.

YR17721133 Norman James Yoder

Norman James Yoder was born 10 November 1913 and died 29 July 2002. He served in the Navy in World War II and is buried at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Lebanon County, PA. The beneficiary on his WWII compensation file in 1950 is Mary E. Yoder, possibly his wife, but I have no evidence to show he was ever married. His Find a Grave memorial links him to his parents and some of his siblings, but no one else.

YR17721134 Raymond Jacob Yoder

Raymond Jacob Yoder was born 12 June 1917 and died February 1985. He was married to Mary Johnston before he signed his World War II draft card on 16 October 1940. They had three children: Ann Carol Yoder born about 1941, died 29 March 2017, married 26 November 1960 to Gerald D. Reppert; David L. Yoder; and Donna M. Yoder married to William H. Bausher.

YR17721135 Dorothy Irene Yoder

Dorothy Irene Yoder was born 23 August 1918 and died 26 April 1998. She first married about 6 April 1936 to Clarence Rudolph Heck, born 16 September 1907 and died 23 December 1942 of tuberculosis. Her second marriage, about 7 June 1952 was to Clarence Long, born 7 December 1914, died 15 September 1996. Dorothy is buried with her second husband at St. Michael's Union Cemetery, Tilden Township, Berks County.

YR17721136 Richard Arlen Yoder

Richard Arlen Yoder was born about 1932 and died 12 March 1974. He married Margaret Budden. They had a daughter Jacqueline D. Yoder. Richard played softball with the Rising Sun Sunners from 1961 to 1963.

YR17721137 Robert K. Yoder

Robert K. Yoder, also known as Pee Wee, was born in 1934 and died 6 August 2021. He was married to Shirley P. Reber. Bob played baseball on the Brooklyn Dodgers farm team from 1953 to 1958. He also played softball with the Reading Sunners for 19 years.

Bob is buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

Bob's children:

Steven Yoder married Linda Zerr

Michael Yoder born 10 September 1957, died 29 April 2022, buried at Viewpoint Cemetery

Jeffrey Yoder married Betty Kunkle

YR1772114 Sallie Yoder

Sallie L. Yoder was born on 27 March 1896 and died 2 February 1958. She was the twin sister of Kate. Sallie married Edwin D. Bachman, a farmer from Albany Township, on 4 January 1913. He was born 20 March 1893 and died 27 August 1973.

YR1772115 Kate V. Yoder

Katie V. Yoder, twin sister of Sallie, was born on 27 March 1896 and died January 1971. On 14 January 1918, she married Walter Kessler, born 1888, died 15 June 1949, a World War I Army medic. Walter and Katie are buried together at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

YR177212 Robert Yoder; YR177213 James Yoder; and YR177214 Ellis Yoder

I need to deal with these three together before I look at them individually. In the 1880 census, John and Sarah have niece Kate living with them. Then the children started to appear. Kate is named as the mother of all five of the children living with John and Sarah in 1900. The two older ones, Laura and William, have someone else named as their father on their death certificates. The other three, Robert Weand, James Bertolet and Ellis Bertolet, all used the name Yoder by 1910. Their death certificates name their parents as John Yoder and Kate Reppert. I don't know if there was a legal adoption or if they just started using John's name, or if John really was their father. Kate named them as John's children when she applied for his Civil War pension. They used the name Yoder, and it is the name they passed on to their children, so I am including them in this project.

YR177212 Robert (Weand) Yoder

Robert O. Yoder was born May 1891 and died 18 September 1945. He married Mamie V. Stetzler, born 1903, died 31 December 1980. He was a veteran of World War I. He and Mamie are buried at Gernant's Church.

Robert's children:

YR1772121 Laura Helen Yoder

YR1772122 Robert John Yoder

YR1772123 Ralph Yoder

YR1772121 Laura Helen Yoder

Laura Helen Yoder was born 27 September 1921 and died 1 May 1928.

YR1772122 Robert John Yoder

Robert John Yoder was born about 1924 and died 4 April 2004. He was married about 16 March 1946 to Joyce Marie Stump, born about 1927, died 26 June 2019. He was an Army veteran of World War II. Robert and Joyce are entombed in the St. John's (Gernant's) Cemetery Mausoleum, Ontelaunee Township, Berks County. They had no children.

YR1772123 Ralph R Yoder

Ralph R Yoder was born about 1927 and died 9 December 2004. He was an Army veteran of World War II, unmarried, and is buried at St. John's (Gernant's) Cemetery, Ontelaunee Township.

YR177213 James (Bertolet) Yoder

James Yoder was born 20 January 1895 and died 23 December 1961. He was unmarried. He was a veteran of World War I and is buried at Gernant's Cemetery.

YR177214 Ellis (Bertolet) Yoder

Ellis Yoder was born April 1900, as per the 1900 census, but his Find a Grave memorial says he was born 20 March 1900, and died 8 March 1962. He married Mabel Phillips about 23 April 1920. Mabel was born 30 January 1901 and died 31 December 1935. She and Ellis are buried together at Gernant's Church Cemetery.

Ellis' children:

YR1772141 Edna M. Yoder

+YR1772142 Raymond Mahlon Yoder

YR1772143 Unnamed male Yoder

YR1772144 Ellis Calvin Yoder Jr

+YR1772145 John Jacob Yoder

YR1772146 Ruth Irene Yoder

YR1772147 Mildred M. Yoder

YR1772148 Charles Kenneth Yoder

+YR1772149 Leroy William Yoder

YR1772141 Edna M. Yoder

Edna M. Yoder was born 23 June 1920 and died 25 August 2009. She married Robert Guistwite, born 19 September 1921, died 15 September 1999.

YR1772142 Raymond Mahlon Yoder

Raymond Mahlon Yoder was born 28 August 1921 and died 17 August 1987. About 16 October 1950, he married Anna Rebecca Mayer, born 23 March 1928, died 16 September 2014.

Raymond's children:

YR17721421 Karen A Yoder

YR17721422 Lisa J Yoder

YR17721421 Karen A Yoder

Karen A Yoder married Charles T Seyler

YR17721422 Lisa J Yoder

Lisa J Yoder married Jeffrey Klansek.

YR1772143 Unnamed male Yoder

An unnamed male child was born to Ellis and Mabel on 19 December 1922 and died 22 December 1922.

YR1772144 Ellis Calvin Yoder Jr

Ellis Calvin Yoder Jr. was born about 1924 and died 5 April 1944. He was killed in action in Burma in World War II. He is buried at Manila American Cemetery, Manila, Philippines, and he has a monument in Gernant's Cemetery.

YR1772145 John Jacob Yoder

John Jacob Yoder was born 15 October 1925 and died 31 March 1992. He was married about 8 November 1952 to Laura Ann Strock, born 7 February 1921 and died 10 June 2003.

YR17721451 Randy Yoder

Randy Yoder is the son of John and Laura.

YR1772146 Ruth Irene Yoder

Ruth Irene Yoder was born about 1928 and died 28 March 2008. She was married about 28 February 1948 to Richard Glenn Hartranft.

YR1772147 Mildred M. Yoder

Mildred M. Yoder was born 1929 and died 20 February 2005. She was unmarried.

YR1772148 Charles Kenneth Yoder

Charles Kenneth Yoder was born 15 June 1934 and died March 1988.

YR1772149 Leroy William Yoder

Leroy William Yoder was born 29 October 1935 and died 16 October 1991. He was married about 25 July 1956 to Jean Pauline Bailey, born 16 July 1938, died 23 February 2023.

Leroy's children:

YR17721491 Gary Lee Yoder

YR17721492 Alan Scott Yoder

YR17721493 Laurie K. Yoder

YR17721491 Gary Lee Yoder

Gary Lee Yoder was born in 1957. He married Wendy Yenser.

YR17721492 Alan Scott Yoder

Alan Scott Yoder was born in 1959. He married Maureen Knowles.

YR17721493 Laurie K. Yoder

Laurie K. Yoder married Nelligan.

YR177215 John Phillips Yoder

John Phillips Yoder was born 26 April 1908 and died 6 November 1970. He married Rose Mary Scheuchenzuber, born 26 February 1915, died 17 March 1945. I believe John is the only biological child of John and his second wife Kate.

YR1772151 John Phillips Yoder Jr.

John Phillips Yoder Jr. was born about 1933 and died 1 December 2016.

YR17722 Joseph Yoder

Joseph Phillip(s) Yoder was born, according to the conventional wisdom, in Berks County, but with the recently discovered information that his family had been in Juniata County, it's possible that he may have been born there. He was born on 5 August 1835. He married a woman whose name takes many forms. She appears as Elizabeth or Lizzie, sometimes Lissy. What we all need to remember in this case is that the region where these people lived is called "Pennsylvania Dutch Country." Many families in this area spoke Pennsylvania German, or "Pennsylvania Dutch" at home well into the twentieth century. If you have ever heard anyone speak English with a hard Pennsylvania Dutch accent, I guarantee you would have a difficult

time understanding that person. Someone with that accent would say “Lissy” when talking about Lizzie. Her middle name takes different forms, as well, either Ira or Iva. Joseph and Lizzie were married on 15 March 1860. The announcement in the Reading Adler gives her name as Lissie Ira Stoudt; the minister’s record names her as Lissy Iva Stoudt.

Joseph was a blacksmith, and his obituary provides a lot of information about his many places of residence. “When 17 years old he became apprentice with Jacob Wagner, of Lebanon, and finished his trade with John Lease, of Meyerstown, where he remained 5 years. Subsequently he worked at Evansville 12 years, Molltown 13 years, Dreherstown 1 year, Greenawald’s 15 years, and 3 years at Trexler.” Joseph was born into a family that followed one of the “plain” religions, Amish, Mennonite or Brethren, but Joseph became a convert to Lutheranism. He was baptized into the Lutheran Church on 8 October 1902. He died the following day, 9 October 1902. Lizzie was born 3 September 1839 and died 29 March 1908. They are buried together at Frieden’s Church, Wessnersville, also known as Stony Run, Berks County, PA.

Joseph’s children:

YR177221 John Yoder

+YR177222 James Stoudt Yoder

YR177223 Sallie Yoder

YR177221 John Yoder

I have no evidence to support this child. He is listed in the YNL database as stillborn in 1861. Since the database is information submitted by families, I will accept this until it is proven false.

YR177222 James Stoudt Yoder

James Stoudt Yoder was born 1 January 1868 in Berks County, PA, and died 13 April 1938 in Harrisburg, PA. On 18 April 1893 in Roanoke County, VA, he married Nannie Belle Wertz, born 3 November 1866 in Roanoke, VA, and died 20 February 1958 in Hummelstown, PA. They are buried together at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Delaware County, PA.

James worked at various jobs, from farmer to railroad brakeman to engineer in a chemical plant. The family started out in Roanoke, then moved to Reading, PA, where one of their children was born and another one died. James appeared in the Reading city directory only one year, 1898, as a brakeman living on Hudson Street. By the 1900 census, the family had returned to Cave Spring, Roanoke County, VA.

James was a truck farmer in Cave Spring in the 1910 census, but by 1920, he had moved his family to Philadelphia, where his occupation was recorded as a mechanic in the print industry. By 1930, James had moved his family to the suburbs, to Rutledge, Delaware County, and was working in the chemical plant.

James was very active in the Knights of Pythias, having served in leadership positions in the Philadelphia and Roanoke lodges. At the time of his death, James was living with his daughter Elsie/Elise in Harrisburg. His widow, Nannie, survived him by twenty years.

I switched the ID numbers for James and his sister Sallie. The YNL database gives Sallie's birth year as "1867 (or 69)." I have sufficient evidence that her birth was in 1869, making her younger than James. The ID numbers now reflect that.

James' children:

YR1772221 Elsie/Elise Yoder

YR1772222 Joseph F. R. Yoder

+YR1772223 Dewey Lee Yoder, Sr.

YR1772224 Pauline Jeanette Yoder

YR1772225 Irene Mae Yoder

+YR1772226 James Roland Yoder

+YR1772227 Theodore Wilson Yoder

YR1772228 Paul Rathborn Yoder

YR1772229 Georgia Gladys Yoder

YR1772221 Elsie/Elise Melville Yoder

I have found this individual in the records as both Elsie and Elise, but there are more instances of Elise. Her name is also spelled Eleese and Leise (could be pronounced L-ees?). Elise was born 3 April 1894 in Blacksburg, VA. She married Frank Woodson Echols in Roanoke on 16 September 1912 and gave birth to a daughter Elsie Emily Echols on 3 July 1913. Within a few years of the marriage, Frank and Elise divorced. Frank died 31 October 1974, long after Elise married Martin Hobart Remsburg on 14 November 1918 at Hopewell, VA. She says on the marriage license application that she is divorced, but no date is asked, or given. On both marriage license applications, her name is given as Elsie. When Elise married Martin, her daughter was sent to live with her grandparents, who were living in the Philadelphia area in 1920. Elsie and Martin were in St. Louis, MO, that year, he working as an accountant in the oil business and Elise (actually Elsie on the census) was working for a doctor. By 1930, they are in Haverford, Delaware County, PA, with their six-year-old son Martin, Jr., born in PA, daughter Elsie still living with her grandparents. Elise and Martin then moved on to the Harrisburg area where Martin was employed by the State of Pennsylvania. They appear to have stayed in south central Pennsylvania for the rest of their lives.

Martin died in August 1974, Elise in December 1988. Both are buried in Quarryville Cemetery, Quarryville, Lancaster County, PA. The Find a Grave memorial for Elise names her as Elsie, but the photo of her stone clearly shows Elise carved in it. Her obituary notes that she is survived by a few siblings and grandchildren, but it does not mention her children. Her son Martin predeceased her; her daughter Elsie disappears from the records after the 1930 census.

YR1772222 Joseph Frantz Rathborn Yoder

This child was born in Cave Springs Township, Roanoke County, VA, on 19 June 1896. He died in Reading, PA 1 January 1898. He was buried the following day at Charles Evans Cemetery. The cemetery records list his name as Joseph F R Yoder, age 1-6-12.

YR1772223 Dewey Lee Yoder Sr

Dewey Lee Yoder Sr. was born 5 May 1898 in Reading, PA, and died 24 March 1958 in Abingdon, Montgomery County, PA. He was married in Philadelphia in 1923 to Hazel Louise McLure, born 12 July 1899 and died 25 December 1987. They are buried together at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, Delaware County, PA.

Soon after Dewey's birth, his family moved back to Roanoke County, VA. When Dewey was five years old, his two-year-old sister Pauline met with a near fatal misadventure. She had fallen in a tub of water in the back yard. Dewey came to look for her and found her drowning. He yelled and his parents came rushing out of the house and pulled her from the water and revived her. As put in the newspaper account of the event, "Little Dewey is the hero of the neighborhood."

Dewey was a genealogical researcher. Much of the knowledge of his branch of the family on the YNL website is information that Dewey collected during his lifetime. A letter he wrote in 1938 led me to Juniata County and further information on his great-grandfather Jacob Yoder YR1772.

Dewey's children:

YR17722231 Louise Yoder

YR17722232 Nancy Yoder

YR17722233 Dorothy Yoder

+YR17722234 Dewey Lee Yoder Jr

YR17722235 Richard Wertz Yoder

+YR17722236 Conrad Frantz Yoder

YR17722231 Louise Yoder

Louise Yoder was born 24 November 1923. She married Eldon Lindley on 23 October 1943 at Media, PA. Her second husband was Hermon Wells, married 4 February 1967.

YR17722232 Nancy Yoder

Nancy Yoder was born 10 July 1925 and died 12 November 2009. She married Walter Thomas Kruzel, Sr., born 9 March 1924, died 14 August 1993. They are buried together at George Washington Memorial Park, Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County, PA.

YR17722233 Dorothy Yoder

Dorothy Yoder was born 10 October 1927. She died of cancer on 18 October 1960. She was married to Larry Mark in December 1947 in Glenolden, PA. At the time of her death, she was married to Robert P. Hayward.

YR17722234 Dewey Lee Yoder Jr

Dewey Lee Yoder Jr, known as Lee, was born 18 July 1930. A track athlete at the University of Arkansas, he finished second in the 1952 NCAA track and field championships, competed in the 1952 Olympics in the 400m hurdles and later won a bronze medal with the US field hockey team in the 1967 Pan American Games. He managed the US field hockey team in the 1984 Olympics.

Lee married Patricia Jean Farnsworth at Fort Smith, Arkansas on 27 June 1953.

Lee's children:

YR177222341 Stacy Jill Yoder

YR177222342 Rebecca Paige Yoder

YR177222343 Robin Leigh Yoder

YR177222341 Stacy Jill Yoder

Stacy Jill Yoder was born in 1956 and married David Paul Kaminski in 1988.

YR177222342 Rebecca Paige Yoder

Rebecca Paige Yoder was born in 1959 and married Rene Celestin in 1997.

YR177222343 Robin Leigh Yoder

Robin Leigh Yoder was born in 1963 and married Phillippe Martin in 1990.

YR17722235 Richard Wertz Yoder

Richard Wertz Yoder was born 3 August 1933 and died 23 November 1996. He married first Barbara Joan Duddy. His obituary names his wife as Polly Manney.

Richard served in the Air Force from 26 February 1952 to 31 January 1960.

YR177222351 Sandra Ann Yoder

Sandra Ann Yoder married James Joseph Hartey/Harty on 20 September 1980.

YR17722236 Conrad Frantz Yoder

Conrad Frantz Yoder was born 18 July 1938 and married Elsie Lynn Moore on 15 June 1968.

Conrad's children:

YR177222361 Nathan Alexander Yoder

YR177222362 Jennifer Lynn Yoder

YR177222363 Jonathan Lee Yoder

YR177222361 Nathan Alexander Yoder

Nathan Alexander Yoder was born in 1971 and married in 1998 to Cynthia Ann Graham, born 1977. They are the parents of Jessica Lynn Yoder, born 1995, and Nicholas Alexander Yoder, born 1999.

YR177222362 Jennifer Lynn Yoder

Jennifer Lynn Yoder was born in 1973.

YR177222363 Jonathan Lee Yoder

Jonathan Lee Yoder was born in 1974 and married Amy Vogeding in 1995. They are the parents of a son Zachary Lee Yoder, born in 1997.

YR1772224 Pauline Jeanette Yoder

Pauline Jeanette Yoder was born 6 December 1900 near Roanoke, VA. She married Herschal Bruce Hansen of Perry County, Oklahoma on 3 September 1923. Before his marriage, Herschal served in the Navy during World War I. The couple lived in Auburn, NJ, and had two children. Herschal was born 7 August 1896 and died 16 September 1986. He is buried in Oklahoma. Pauline died 20 November 1998. She is buried in Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, PA, and shares a headstone with her sister, Irene.

YR1772225 Irene Mae Yoder

Irene May Yoder was born 7 May 1902. She was issued a Virginia delayed birth certificate in 1942, with her proof of birth noted as an unaltered record in the family Bible. Irene never married and died 3 February 1993. She is buried at Arlington Cemetery, Drexel Hill, PA and shares a headstone with her sister Pauline Hansen.

YR1772226 James Roland Yoder

James Roland Yoder was born 15 August 1903 in Roanoke, VA, and died in Norristown, PA, 3 April 1983. He married Sara L. Coulston on 26 November 1926. They had three children. Sara died in December 1972. James was an electrician.

James' children:

YR17722261 Ruth Elaine Yoder

YR17722262 James Roland Yoder Jr.

YR17722263 Janet Virginia Yoder

YR17722261 Ruth Elaine Yoder

Ruth Elaine Yoder was born on 30 December 1926. She married George Abner Riley of Norristown on 15 January 1946.

YR17722262 James Roland Yoder Jr.

J. Roland Yoder was born on 8 November 1930 and died 19 December 2012 in Norristown, PA.

YR17722263 Janet Virginia Yoder

Janet Virginia Yoder was born on 14 June 1933. She married Donald Jerome Mowery, both of Norristown, on 8 March 1952.

YR1772227 Theodore Wilson Yoder

Theodore Wilson Yoder was born 25 October 1904 in Roanoke, VA, and died 27 December 1989 in Philadelphia, PA. He is buried at Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Philadelphia with his second wife, Mary Steska Yoder, born 1917 and died 2017.

Theodore was first married to Martha E. Hill of Norristown, PA, around 1926. Their first child was three years old in the 1930 census. Ted may have fallen on hard times, like so many others, during the Great Depression of the 1930s. By the time of the 1940 census, he was living with his in-laws in Norristown, the same place he was living in 1935. By 1950, Ted and Martha had separated, she and son Theodore living with her parents in Norristown and Ted lodging in Philadelphia where he worked as a supervisor for a radio manufacturer. The Norristown city directory 1947 edition lists Ted and wife Martha, but the next available directory, 1949, lists Martha by herself. Martha, it appears, never remarried and died in March 1982.

Theodore's obituary does not mention any children, only two stepchildren.

Theodore's children:

YR17722271 Theodore Meredith Yoder

YR17722272 James Crossley Yoder

YR17722271 Theodore Meredith Yoder

Theodore Meredith Yoder was born 16 April 1927 in Norristown, PA. At the end of World War II, Theodore entered active service in the Army on 14 May 1945 at Los Angeles, CA (according to his veteran's compensation application; his enlistment record says he entered service at New Cumberland, PA), and served four months overseas until 2 March 1946, when he was discharged at Ft. Dix, NJ. His enlistment record indicates his education level was two years of high school. He was required to register for the World War II draft, but that did not happen until 18 November 1946, after the war ended. On the line on the card for employer and address, he put "student – veteran." The 1947 Norristown city directory lists Theodore as a student. By the 1950 census, his parents had separated, and he was living with his mother at her parents' home in Norristown. No record of a marriage has been found; also, I can find no record of his death, so I must assume at this time, he may still be living.

YR17722272 James Crosley Yoder

James Crossley Yoder was stillborn on 25 February 1940.

YR1772228 Paul Rathborn Yoder

Paul was born 2 July 1906 and died 29 June 1907 at the family home near Roanoke, VA. He had an obituary in the Roanoke Times, which stated he died after a brief illness. He was buried in the family plot at Fairview Cemetery in Roanoke.

YR1772229 Georgia Gladys Yoder

Georgia died in infancy, born 4 March 1910, died 2 July 1910.

YR177223 Sallie Yoder

Sallie Yoder was born 21 December 1869. There is some question of her birth year in the YNL database, that she could have been born in 1867, but her marriage license, death certificate and census records all support a birth year of 1869. On 21 April 1889, she married Charles A. Kistler. Sallie and Charles celebrated 60 years of marriage a few months before she died on 18 November 1949. She was survived by six children, 17 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

I switched the ID numbers for Sallie and her brother James. The database gives Sallie's birth year as "1867 (or 69)." I have sufficient evidence that her birth was in 1869, making her younger than James. The ID numbers now reflect that.

YR17723 Mary Ann Yoder

Mary Ann Yoder was born 2 September 1837 and died 25 October 1878. She was married to George Klick, born 6 April 1834, died 10 December 1895. Mary Ann, George, and at least three of their children are buried in Zoar Lutheran Cemetery, Lebanon, Lebanon County, PA. The children's stones are weathered and difficult to read. The dates of one child are unknown, another is 17 April 1858 – 29 May 1860, the last is 30 March 1864 – 3 May 1864.

YR17724 Jacob Yoder

Jacob Yoder was born May 1841 (month and year given in 1900 census), most likely in Juniata County. As appears in the 1860 census, a resident of Jackson Township, Lebanon County, he was nineteen years old and apprenticed to George Klick, a master carpenter, and also his brother-in-law. He married Melinda Christ on 15 December 1864. He lived in Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, in 1880, occupation carriage maker. He was living in Reading in 1890 when his wife died on 4 September. Her body was sent by train to Rehrersburg, Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, PA, her hometown. After her death, Jacob moved to Philadelphia and lived with his son William. Jacob survived his son and grandson. Jacob died 26 March 1916 at Philadelphia Hospital, of pneumonia following a fractured hip accidentally received by falling from a bungalow. After the inquest on 28 March, Jacob was buried in Greenmount Cemetery in Philadelphia on 30 March 1916.

Jacob's children:

+YR177241 William C. Yoder

YR177242 John Grant Yoder

YR177241 William C. Yoder

William C. Yoder was born 16 April 1866. His Philadelphia Death Certificate lists his birthplace as "Rearsburg, PA." His Find a Grave memorial says he was born in Rebersburg, Center County, PA. This is another case of someone grabbing information and, with inadequate knowledge, jumping to an erroneous conclusion. The family lived in the Bethel Township, Berks County/Jackson Township, Lebanon County area. His mother was a native of Rehrersburg, Tulpehocken Township, Berks County.

William was a barber in Philadelphia, where he died on 7 December 1904. His wife Catherine "Kate" Reardon was born, according to information she gave to the census taker in 1900, in May 1872. She claimed to be 22 on her marriage license application in 1895. Her Philadelphia death certificate says she was born 1 May 1875; she died 5 April 1907 of tuberculosis. William and Kate were both residents of Philadelphia when they applied for a marriage license in Berks County; William said he was born in Rehrersburg. Kate was born in Libertytown, Frederick County, Maryland. The marriage took place on 5 March 1895 in Reading. William and Kate are buried at Holy Redeemer Cemetery, Philadelphia.

After William's death, Kate married Francis J. Flanagan, born 18 April 1875, a widowed undertaker, on 26 May 1905. Kate's birthdate on the marriage license is 1 May 1875. She must have made the adjustment to her age so she wouldn't be older than her husband.

YR1772411 Randolph William Yoder

Randolph William Yoder was born August 1899 and died 21 March 1900. He is buried at Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

YR177242 John Grant Yoder

John Grant Yoder was born 4 September 1868 and died 16 July 1869.

YR1773 John R Yoder

John R. Yoder was born sometime in 1809, on the eleventh day of the month. His tombstone is weathered to the point that parts of the inscription are illegible. The transcriber's best guess is that the birth month is November and age at death is 80-11-27. If that is his age, then he would have been born in April, based on his known death date of 7 April 1890 as stated in the affidavit of death contained in his estate file, even though his tombstone was read as 8 April. I can find nothing in any of the local newspapers relating to John's death or funeral. His Find a Grave memorial incorrectly identifies his year of death as 1899. John left a will, written on 22 August 1888, and letters testamentary were granted to his son Samuel and son-in-law William Willits on 3 May 1890. John left a life estate to his wife Sarah and named children Samuel, Sarah, Lydia, Catherine, and Amanda.

John and Sarah provided a home for several children that were not theirs. In 1850, nephew John Yoder YR17721 lived with them as well as a twenty-six- year-old Sarah Yoder, that I have been unable to identify. In 1860, nineteen-year-old Joseph Becker, younger brother of John's brother-in-law, John Becker, husband of his sister Mary YR1778, was in his household. By 1870, John and Sarah had all their known children in their home, the youngest, thirteen-year-old Amanda. Then two more children were listed: six-month-old Anna and William, age twelve. I suspect William may be John's nephew, son of Emanuel YR1777, but who is the baby? Sarah would have been fifty years old by this time. It could possibly be her child, but I wouldn't bet the farm on it. I have not been able to identify this child.

John, a farmer, was married to Sarah Bahr/Baer/Bear, born 15 April 1820 and died 3 December 1898. John and Sarah lived in Maiden Creek Township, Berks County, PA. They are buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

John's children:

YR17731 Caroline Yoder
YR17732 Samuel Yoder
YR17733 Sarah Yoder
YR17734 Lydia Yoder
YR17735 Catherine Yoder
YR17736 Amanda Yoder

YR17731 Caroline Yoder

Caroline Yoder was born about the end of March 1843 and died 20 July 1874, at age 31-3-24. Her age at death in the YNL database is given as 39, but that would have made her mother twelve years old when Caroline was born. Caroline's tombstone was damaged, and the repair has obscured part of that line. The cemetery transcriber read her age as 31, but included a note that it may not be correct. Census records support a birth year of 1843, thus her age at death would be 31. Caroline was unmarried.

YR17732 Samuel Yoder

Samuel Yoder was born 27 April 1845 and died 7 September 1890. The YNL database, developed from information submitted by the families, indicates that Samuel was first married to a woman named Amelia. I can find no evidence of her existence anywhere.

Samuel was living in his parent's home in 1870, age twenty-five. There is also an unidentified six-month-old girl, Anna, living there. Since the relationships of the persons in the household were not recorded until 1880, we can only guess who this child may be. Samuel's mother Sarah was fifty years old, so it is unlikely, yet not impossible, that it was her child. Is it possible that she is the child of Samuel and Amelia? There was plenty of time between census years for Samuel to marry, have a child, and lose his wife. If this is the case, Amelia would never have

been captured in the census as his wife. No one identifiable as this child Anna is evident in any other families, and she does not appear in any subsequent records.

Samuel married Emma C. Hottenstein, born 22 March 1850, on 10 June 1871. The only census year they appeared as a couple, 1880, shows that no children were born to this union. After Samuel's death, Emma married Henry K. Borcky/Burcky/Borkey of Molltown. Emma was 45, Henry 41, at the time of this marriage. They had no children. Emma died 2 October 1904, and she is buried at Gernant's Church near Leesport, under the name Emma Hottenstein. Her inscription reads, "In Memory of Emma, daughter of Henry & Eliza Hottenstein Born Apr. 5, 1852 Died Mar 23, 1904, aged 51y, 11m, 18d." There are a few discrepancies here with her age, but it is hard to read the weathered stone. Her obituary of 5 October 1904 gives her age as 54-6-11.

Samuel has an estate file that states that his date of death was 7 September 1890, and he was survived by a widow, Emma, his mother Sarah and four sisters: Sarah Dreibelbis, Lydia Noll, Kate Kemmerer and Amanda Willits.

Samuel, like his father, has no obituary or death notice in any of the local newspapers. He has no Find a Grave memorial, so as of now, his final resting place is unknown.

YR17733 Sarah Yoder

Sarah Yoder was born 2 February 1848 and died 24 January 1925 of a malignant ovarian cyst. On 12 June 1869, she married John Dreibelbis, born 6 July 1851 and died 6 December 1910.

Sarah's son, William Y. Dreibelbis, married Cora Y. Guldin, daughter of Amelia Yoder OH13253a and Jeremiah Guldin.

YR17734 Lydia Yoder

Lydia Yoder was born 9 July 1851 and died 4 April 1915. On 22 September 1881, she married David O. Noll, born 6 February 1853, died 11 December 1900. Lydia was confirmed in the Lutheran Church, along with her daughter Carrie Noll, her sister Kate Kemmerer and Kate's daughter Cora Kemmerer on 19 April 1902 by Rev. B. D. Zweizig at Gernant's Church.

YR17735 Catherine Yoder

Catherine B. "Kate" Yoder was born 1 March 1855 and died 17 October 1914. She married Frank K. Kemmerer, born 19 May 1861 and died 29 December 1946. Kate was confirmed in the Lutheran Church, along with her daughter Cora Kemmerer, her sister Lydia Noll and Lydia's daughter Carrie Noll on 19 April 1902 by Rev. B. D. Zweizig at Gernant's Church.

YR17736 Amanda Yoder

Amanda Yoder was born 16 March 1857 and died 10 September 1926. She was married to William Willits, born 4 October 1852, died 26 May 1938. William was of Quaker heritage.

Amanda was a member of the Lutheran congregation of Blandon Union Church, where she is buried next to her husband. According to William's obituary, he was a member of the Maiden creek Society of Friends.

YR1774 Judith Yoder

Judith Yoder married Jacob Konig on 25 August 1832. While her death date is uncertain, it is known that she died before 16 April 1851, the day her father wrote his will. It seems that Judith had no estate to leave her children, but they inherited her share of her father's estate. William Klein, Judith's brother-in-law was named guardian for her children on 2 January 1854, those children being Jared, Francis, Carolina and Sarah, minors above 14, and Amelia, under 14.

YR1775 Lydia Yoder

Lydia Yoder was born 4 April 1815 and died 6 November 1894, age 79-7-2. She was not married. Lydia is buried at Ziegler's Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Rehrersburg, Berks County, PA.

YR1776 Barbara Yoder

Barbara Yoder was born about 1817 or 1818. On 24 October 1840, she married William Klein. William was born 21 July 1814, according to a family tree on ancestry.com that cites the family Bible; his Find a Grave memorial gives his birthdate as 14 August 1814. Both sources give his death date as 11 March 1878. He is buried at Ziegler's Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Rehrersburg, PA. Find a Grave notes that he is the husband of Barbara Yoder, but there is no evidence that she is buried with him, and no link to a memorial for her. So where is Barbara? She survived William and was living in Bethel Township, Berks County, in 1880 with her son Adam Yoder Kline. A few years later, Adam moved to Kansas, but I can find no evidence that he took his mother with him. I don't know where or when Barbara died or where she is buried.

YR1777 Emanuel Yoder

Emanuel Yoder was born 19 February 1819 and died 18 February 1886. His wife, Sarah Koenig/King was born 6 April 1830 and died 24 November 1905. The records that we have for this couple name seven children, however, Viewpoint Cemetery has two stones for "A Daughter of Emanuel Yoder" and two more for "A Son of Emanuel Yoder." None of these four stones have any dates on them, so all we know is that Emanuel and Sarah had four more children. I have not tried to figure out where they may fit into the birth order, as with no dates to work with, that would be very difficult. Let it be entered into the record here that there were two more sons and two more daughters.

Emanuel was a farmer in Centre Township. The 1876 Berks County atlas shows that Emanuel had a molasses mill on the eastern edge of his property, next to the railroad tracks north of the village of Mohrsville, and just west of the Schuylkill River. The western edge of Emanuel's land was separated from the land of his cousin Reuben YR17a6 by the public road between Shoemakersville and Centreport.

In 1867, a meeting house was built for the religious group called Dunkards, German Baptists, or the name used on land records, the Brothers of Christ. That name appears on a deed dated 18 December 1867 from Emanuel to the trustees of the church that conveyed a one-half acre parcel, sold to the church for \$50. That land became Viewpoint Cemetery, where Emanuel, Sarah, several of their children and many members of their extended family are buried.

Emanuel was a very active member of his church. The Reading Times reported on 1 June 1880 that a Dunkards' love feast was held at his farm house, and was "very largely attended throughout." A love feast is an imitation, or reenactment, of the last supper, beginning with foot washing, followed by a meal and bread and cup communion.

Emanuel's obituary in the Reading Eagle described him as "a very estimable gentleman and a faithful member of the Dunkard Brethren church." Several days later, his funeral was reported to be the largest that ever took place at that church. Sarah's funeral, nineteen years later, was also "largely attended."

Emanuel's children:

YR17771 Catherine Yoder

+YR17772 Moses K Yoder

+YR17773 Jonathan K Yoder

+YR17774 William K Yoder

YR17775 Fanny Yoder

+YR17776 Joel Yoder

YR17777 Sarah K Yoder

YR17771 Catherine (Cassie) Yoder

Catherine Yoder was born 29 November 1852 and died 13 May 1918, unmarried.

YR17772 Moses K. Yoder

Moses K. Yoder was born 18 November 1854 and died 16 February 1913 at his home in Reading, PA. He married Elizabeth C. Stoudt/Staudt on 28 April 1877. Elizabeth was born 21 April 1845 and died 22 August 1920. When the census taker came around in 1900, Moses and his son Amandus were counted as boarders in a home in Reading, and both were counted again at their permanent residence in Penn Township, along with Elizabeth and daughters Cora and Ida, his occupation that of laborer at both locations. By 1910, Moses and Elizabeth were empty nesters living on Rose Street in Reading. Moses was employed as a watchman at the Rick Knitting Mills. They are buried together at Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading.

Moses' children:

YR177721 Amandus Yoder

YR177722 Cora May Yoder

YR177723 Ida Elizabeth Yoder

YR177721 Amandus Yoder

Amandus Yoder was born 18 September 1884 and died 26 December 1943. He lived a full life in many locations. He was in Reading with his father in 1900. When Moses died in 1913, his obituary states that Amandus was in Saskatchewan, Canada. Amandus' World War I draft registration card of 12 September 1918 had him in Portland, Oregon, occupation steam fitter. His next of kin was Elizabeth C. Yoder of Reading, PA. In 1920, Amandus was living in Los Angeles, CA, a boarder working as a steam fitter. Apparently, his landlady gave the information for the census; his marital status is recorded as "unknown." He was not mentioned as a survivor in his mother's obituary in this year, although he clearly was. The 1930 census is a bit of a problem; Amandus, still living in Los Angeles, does not show up on the census, but his wife Elsie does. She was a lodger, 43 years old, born in Michigan, working as a general clerk in a printing office. While I have not found a marriage record for Amandus and Elsie, they were married by 1922 because they are listed on the California Voter Registration rolls, living at the same address in various years from 1922 to 1942. There must have been some lively political discussions between this couple because in some years, they were registered in the same party, other years they were registered in opposite parties.

His entry in the 1940 census said Amandus was 55 years old with a four-year college education. He worked as a mining engineer in gold mining. His wife, Elsie J., was 56 years old and also had a four-year college education.

On the World War II draft registration card filled out on 25 April 1942, Amandus said he was born 18 September 1884 in McKeensburg (sic, it is properly McKeansburg), PA, located in Schuylkill County. He was 57 years old and employed by California Shipbuilding Corp., San Pedro.

On the day after Christmas, 1943, Amandus reported for work, as usual, began chatting with his coworkers and then collapsed, dead of a heart attack. His obituary notes that he left a widow, Elsie.

Both the California Death Index and the Find a Grave memorial state that Amandus' date of birth was 17 September 1883, close but still different from the date of 18 September 1884 that Amandus himself gave on the two draft registrations. That's the date I'm going to believe, since he gave it while he was alive.

Elsie Benner Yoder, birth unknown, died 3 March 1954. Both Elsie and Amandus are buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, Los Angeles County, California.

YR177722 Cora May Yoder

Cora May Yoder was born 22 May 1886 and was baptized 18 July 1886, according to St. Michael's Reformed Church records. Her Taufschein, an ornately decorated baptismal certificate, is included in the book, *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition Volume III*, edited and translated by Corinne Pattie Earnest and Beverly Repass Hoch, CGRS,

1994 [ISBN 1-879311-07-0]. She became a teacher, and married fellow teacher Herbert S. Rausch on 4 August 1909, when they were both 23 years old. Cora died at the age of 75 on 24 January 1962 at her home in Girardville, Schuylkill County, PA. She was survived by her husband and three children, seven grandchildren, and her sister Ida. Her final resting place is Zion's United Church of Christ Cemetery, Perry Township, Berks County. Her husband, Herbert Samuel Rausch, former principal of the Girardville School District for 30 years, was born 16 October 1886 and died 22 July 1964. He is buried with Cora at Zion Cemetery.

YR177723 Ida Elizabeth Yoder

Ida Elizabeth Yoder was born 14 February 1890 and baptized 31 March 1890, at St Michael's. Ida was a single lady for a good number of years, working as a nurse in Reading. As I researched Ida several years back, I was trying to follow her in the city directories. I did not have access to all of them, so the best I could do is find that she was working in nursing in 1954, but by the next available directory, 1963, she was no longer listed. My brain said maybe she died, so I tried looking for an obituary or other indication of death, but I found nothing, so I put her aside to come back to later.

Later came, and by this time some saint of a woman connected with the Longswamp Township Historical Society undertook the Herculean task of indexing the obituaries in the Reading Eagle that appear on Google News Archives, including maiden names. That is how I found her, Ida Rausch, nee Yoder. Ida died 29 November 1986, widow of Herbert S. Rausch, who died in 1964. Yes, she married her brother-in-law, her late sister's widower. Her obituary says she retired from nursing in 1963. I don't have the record of exactly when Ida and Herbert married, but I am reasonably certain it coincided with her retirement. I found an article in the Pottsville (PA) Republican and Herald published 13 August 1962: "Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Rausch of Preston avenue, left for Seattle, Wash., where they will spend several weeks at the World's Fair." Another item published 4 September 1962: "Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Rausch have returned to their home on Preston avenue, following an 18-day tour of the Midwest, where they visited historic and geographic points of interest. The tour was privately conducted and included approximately 12,000 miles of traveling via rail and bus." Was this their honeymoon trip? One more item published 18 August 1962, while they were away, noted that Herbert was selected for jury duty. It would seem, therefore, that Herbert and Ida married within about six months or so after Cora's death. I suppose at their age, you can't hang about.

Of course, Ida and Herbert had no children, as Ida turned 72 less than a month after Cora's death. Ida's marriage to Herbert didn't last too long because he was already 75 and died two years later.

Ida is buried in Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading, PA, with Paul Jonathan Wiznat, 11-day-old son of her niece, Cora's daughter Helen. Ida's obituary refers to Cora's daughters as her stepdaughters, rather than her nieces. It also included that she worked as a nurse until her

retirement in 1963, having graduated from the Community General Hospital School of Nursing (Reading) in 1926.

YR17773 Jonathan K. Yoder

Jonathan K. Yoder was born 13 August 1856 and died 4 December 1933. On 6 November 1886, he married Emma Rausch, born 20 August 1864, died 12 June 1951. This couple belonged to the Lutheran congregation of Zion's Union Church, Perry Township. Jonathan was a farmer in Ontelaunee Township, Berks County, but later relocated to Tilden Township. The YNL database lists five children for Jonathan and Emma, but in the 1910 census, Emma said that she had given birth to eight children and five were still living. The three that are missing from the database died in early childhood and were never captured on the census. Those three children are buried in the Zion Church Cemetery, as are Jonathan and Emma.

Jonathan's children:

+YR177731 Clayton Daniel Yoder

YR177732 Mamie Yoder

+YR177733 Thomas Yoder

YR177734 Edna May Yoder

YR177735 Agnes Yoder

+YR177736 Frank Yoder

YR177737 Raymond Yoder

YR177738 Samuel Yoder

YR177731 Clayton Daniel Yoder

Clayton Daniel Yoder was born 30 October 1887 in Centre Township, Berks County, PA, and died 26 April 1961. On 23 November 1912, he married Katherine E. Glasmire of Leesport in New Castle County, Delaware. Katie was born 25 December 1883 and died 24 January 1963.

At the time of his marriage, Clayton worked in a broom factory. Before that, he worked on the family farm. By the time he registered for the draft for World War I, he was working as an assembler for Hahn Motors, a company famous for their fire trucks. By 1930 he had his own farm which he worked at until he retired prior to the 1950 census. The farm was located just west of the area known as West Hamburg.

After Clayton retired from farming, he turned his farm into a housing development known as Yoder Heights. The main road thorough the development is Clayton Avenue. The rest of the streets are named after his wife and children. Of course, there has to be a Yoder Street. As I write this in 2023, Yoder Street terminates in the driveway of my brother, Charles Yoder.

Clayton and Katie are buried together in St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

Clayton's children:

YR1777311 Ruth Mary Yoder

YR1777312 Irene Yoder
YR1777313 Stillborn male
YR1777314 Hazel Katherine
YR1777315 Carl Jonathan
YR1777316 Paul Alexander
+YR1777317 Earl Clayton

YR1777311 Ruth Mary Yoder

Ruth Mary Yoder was born 15 March 1913 and died 8 November 2008. She was married to Earl Henry Berger, who died 17 March 1957. They are buried at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

YR1777312 Irene Yoder

Irene M. Yoder was born about 1915 and died 31 March 1983. She was the wife of George M. Grieff.

YR1777313 Stillborn male Yoder

Unnamed stillborn male Yoder was born and died 18 December 1917.

YR1777314 Hazel Katherine Yoder

Hazel Katherine Yoder was born 29 November 1918 and died 9 September 2011. Her husband L. Edwin Long died 2 March 1991. They are buried at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

YR1777315 Carl Jonathan Yoder

Carl Jonathan Yoder was born 7 December 1920 and died 18 October 1995 in Baltimore, Maryland. He married Mildred M. Spealman. The 1950 census identified Carl's occupation as a chemist in a steel plant. He served in the US Navy in World War II. Carl and Mildred had three sons: Carl Jonathan Yoder, Jr., George R. Yoder, and Richard K. Yoder.

YR1777316 Paul Alexander Yoder

Paul Alexander Yoder was born 25 April 1924 and died 18 July 1994. His first marriage on 10 May 1947 to Clara Viola Henne ended in divorce. His second wife was Dolores M. Riegel, married about 19 November 1968. Paul was an Air Force veteran of World War II and Korea.

Paul and his first wife were the parents of Rodney A. Yoder, born 1948, Rose Ann Yoder, born 1949, married to David Saul, and Scott Paul Yoder, born 21 September 1955 and died 7 May 1958. With his second wife, Paul was the father of Alex P. Yoder, born 1968.

YR1777317 Earl Clayton Yoder

Earl Clayton Yoder was born 29 May 1926 and died 31 October 2007. He married Helen Grace Wagner on 14 June 1947. Helen was born 5 November 1927 and died 24 March 2019. Earl and Helen are buried at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

Earl's children:

YR17773171 Douglas Earl Yoder

YR17773172 Neil Dennis Yoder

YR17773171 Douglas Earl Yoder

Douglas Earl Yoder was born in 1949 and married Donna Luckanitz. They are the parents of two children, Jarrod P. Yoder and Jessica N. Stephens.

YR17773172 Neil Dennis Yoder

Neil Dennis Yoder was born in 1952. In 1976 he married Jody Lynn Emerich, born 1955, died 28 August 2009. They had two daughters: Stacey Beth Yoder who married Bradley J. Welker in 2007, and Melissa Dawn Yoder who married Melvin D. Miranda, also in 2007.

YR177732 Mamie Amanda Yoder

Mamie Amanda Yoder was born 24 November 1888 and died 18 November 1976. She married Adam D. Hartman on 28 January 1911. Adam was born 9 November 1886 and died 29 August 1949. Mamie and Adam are buried together at Zion United Church of Christ Cemetery, Perry Township.

YR177733 Thomas Yoder

Thomas Llewellyn Yoder was born 8 June 1890 and baptized 13 September 1890 at Belleman's Church. His first census appearance is in 1900 as a servant in the home of Garean Christ, the son of Sarah Yoder Christ YR17a4. He is living with his parents in 1910 at age 19, employed as a carpenter at the automobile works. When he registered for the World War I draft in 1917, he was a resident of Hamburg with a wife and two children, and he stated that his occupation was a woodworker at the Keystone Vehicle Company in Reading. For the question about lost limbs or other disabilities, he answered that he lost the forefinger of his right hand.

Thomas, at age 22 and a resident of Reading, married Maggie K. Trump on 1 January 1913. She was born 22 May 1891 and died 4 March 1931 of acute appendicitis. Thomas and Maggie had six children, five girls and a stillborn baby boy.

After Maggie's death, Thomas had a housekeeper, Martha (Whitenight) Brobst, in his home in 1940. That year the census included a daughter not named as a survivor in Maggie's obituary. In fact, based on her age, she couldn't be Maggie's daughter. Seems Mrs. Brobst was a bit more than a housekeeper. Martha was still living with Thomas in 1950, this time identified as a maid.

The home address given in Martha's obituary in 1978 was the same address given in Thomas' obituary in 1980. Thomas, however, is not mentioned in Martha's obituary, but it does say her husband Edwin Brobst died in 1976. Edwin's Find a Grave memorial has his obituary, with no mention of Martha, or any wife. Martha and her husband may have never divorced, yet she

lived with Thomas for over 40 years. When Thomas died on 15 March 1980, his obituary mentions his late wife Maggie, but not Martha.

Thomas is buried with Maggie at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA. Martha is also buried there.

Thomas' children:

YR1777331 Esther Yoder

YR1777332 Viola E Yoder

YR1777333 Emma Anna Yoder

YR1777334 Pauline Catharine Yoder

YR1777335 Stillborn male Yoder

YR1777336 Pearl Jean Yoder

YR1777337 Doris Marie Yoder

YR1777331 Esther Yoder

Esther M. Yoder was born about 1914 and died 11 June 1997 in Selinsgrove, Snyder County, PA. Her obituary stated that she had been a resident of Penn Lutheran Village since 1982, so she had resided there for about fifteen years. Before that, she had been a resident of Selinsgrove State School since 1948, about thirty-four years. The Pennsylvania State Schools were institutions for the mentally handicapped, what we would today call "special needs." There was a State School in Hamburg, so it's puzzling as to why she wasn't placed there, closer to home. Esther is buried at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg.

YR1777332 Viola E Yoder

Viola E Yoder was born in 1916 and died in 2004. She was married on 29 August 1936 to Lester Froelich, born 1908, died 1995.

YR1777333 Emma Anna Yoder

Emma Anna Yoder was born 25 October 1917 and died in 1997. She married Hugo Jordan on 12 June 1937. Hugo died 22 February 1986.

YR1777334 Pauline Catharine Yoder

Pauline Catharine Yoder was born 22 July 1922 and died 28 October 1943. She was married about 13 January 1940 to Clarence J. Brobst, son of her father's paramour.

YR1777335 Stillborn male Yoder

This stillborn son was born and died 22 July 1922. The evidence to support this child is his Pennsylvania death certificate.

YR1777336 Pearl Jean Yoder

Pearl Jean Yoder was born 8 September 1928. She was the second wife of Herman H. "John" Valentine, an Army veteran of World War II, born 13 January 1925, died 15 September 1981. Pearl and Herman had no children. When her time comes, Pearl will be buried next to John at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Reiffton, PA.

YR1777337 Doris Marie Yoder

Doris Marie Yoder, sometimes D. Marie, was born about 1933 and died 20 November 2015. She married Raymond Clarence Miller Jr about 28 May 1952.

YR177734 Edna May Yoder

I found Edna May Yoder a while ago in the records of Zion's UCC Cemetery, Perry Township, PA. Her stone has her name and the dates Sept. 10, 1890-Mar. 2, 1891, and the name of her parents, Jonathan and Emma, so there is no doubt she belongs to this family. Knowing that her brother Thomas was born in 1890, is it possible they were twins? I could find no evidence to support that theory. My notes from the Zion Church death records lists Edna Yoder Sept. 10, 1890-Mar. 2, 1891.

Looking back at the information on Thomas, born 8 June 1890, I noticed a problem. If all these dates were correct, Edna was born only three months after Thomas. Something was obviously wrong, but who's birthdate was off? Because Edna died at such a young age, there are very few sources for her. Everything I found on Thomas continued to support the 1890 birth year.

When I got seriously into writing this paper, I pulled out all of my notebooks with information I had been collecting (but not organizing) for years. I found the record of Edna's baptism at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hamburg. Edna May Yoder was born 10 September 1891. Her tombstone was wrong! I was so happy that I cleared up the date discrepancy between Thomas and Edna. But wait a minute. I still had a problem. Now Edna died before she was born.

When researching your family, don't forget to look in the newspapers. I searched the local papers for the name and got a hit! The Reading Times from Wednesday 9 March 1892 ran this piece: "An infant daughter of Jonathan Yoder died of whooping cough and convulsions, and was buried today. Interment in the Zion's church cemetery in Perry township. No funeral was held."

This article never gives the name of the child, but as she was the only infant daughter Jonathan Yoder had at the time, it had to be Edna. So, not only is her tombstone wrong, but the church records are also wrong. She was born 10 September 1891 and died 2 March 1892.

Edna is one of the children of Jonathan and Emma that is missing from the YNL database. By inserting her here in her proper place in the birth order, the next two children, Agnes and Frank, have had their ID numbers adjusted.

YR177735 Agnes Yoder

Agnes Lizzie Yoder was born 19 December 1893. She married Charles E. Knause on 9 June 1917. Agnes died 7 February 1952, and she is buried in Forrest Hills Cemetery.

ID number changed; older sibling added.

YR177736 Franklin Yoder

Franklin Emanuel Yoder was born 7 July 1895 and died 14 February 1981. He was married on 20 January 1917 to Edna I. Balthaser, born about 1896 and died 23 August 1978. They were members of Zion Lutheran Church, Perry Township, and they are buried in the Zion United Church of Christ Cemetery.

ID number changed; older sibling added.

Frank's children:

+YR1777361 Luke Yoder

YR1777362 Kathryn Yoder

YR1777363 Betty Yoder

YR1777361 Luke Yoder

Luke Franklin Yoder was born 30 December 1917 and died 21 September 2001 in Monroe Township, New Jersey, where he had resided for three years. He was a member of St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Shoemakersville, PA. He married Virginia R. Noecker about 1 April 1939. Virginia was born about 1923 and died 3 October 1991. They are buried at Zion United Church of Christ Cemetery and share a headstone with his parents Franklin and Edna.

Luke's obituary states he died in New Jersey and is survived by a grandson but makes no mention of children. Virginia's obituary names a son David, residing in New Jersey.

YR17773611 David L. Yoder

David L Yoder was born about 1945. On 11 June 1966, he married Barbara A. Moyer. At that time, David was a member of the US Air Force stationed at Niagara Falls, NY. Another marriage record for David appears in the Indiana marriages; he married Susan E. Joslin in Indianapolis on 14 April 1990.

David resided in North Brunswick, New Jersey, in October 1991 when his mother died. Her obituary names him as a survivor. He was not mentioned at all in his father's obituary in September 2001, although an unnamed grandson survived. His Aunt Betty's obituary in 2018 names a surviving nephew, David Yoder of North Carolina.

YR1777362 Kathryn Yoder

Kathryn Prudentia Yoder was born 9 March 1922 and died 22 July 1997. She married Paul J. Loose about 5 September 1940. Paul was born 2 June 1917 and died 27 July 1975. They are buried together at St. John's Cemetery, Hamburg, PA.

YR1777363 Betty Yoder

Betty Jane Yoder was born 30 October 1932 and died 18 February 2018. About 18 May 1953 she married John D. Beissel, born 31 March 1926, died 30 March 1996. They are buried together at Zion United Church of Christ Cemetery, Perry Township.

YR177737 Raymond Yoder

Raymond Yoder was born 2 April 1897 and died 11 October 1892, according to the records of Zion's Church in Perry Township. Yes, the records actually say this child died five years before he was born. His Find a Grave memorial has a photo of the stone, on which you can clearly read the date of birth is 2 April 1897 and the date of death is 11 October 1897.

YR177738 Samuel Yoder

Samuel Yoder was born 18 August 1898 and died 7 September 1899. He is buried at Zion United Church of Christ Cemetery, Perry Township.

YR17774 William K. Yoder

William Koenig Yoder was born 20 August 1858. He married Emma U. Phillips on 25 September 1880. Emma was born 15 May 1860 and died 30 January 1939. Three of the couple's seven children died in early childhood. When William's sister Sallie died shortly after giving birth, they took in the child, who was living in their household in 1900. Emma had another child after 1900; Sallie's son was not with them in 1910.

William was found dead in a chair by his daughter on the morning of 21 October 1942, as noted in the title of his newspaper obituary, the official cause of death being coronary artery occlusion. He is buried with his wife at Belleman's Cemetery.

William's children:

+YR177741 Calvin Yoder

YR177742 Sallie Susanna Yoder

YR177743 Catherine Charlotte Yoder

YR177744 Harvey Penrose Yoder

YR177745 Minnie Minerva Yoder

YR177746 Jenny Irena Yoder

YR177747 Clarence Edwin Yoder

YR177741 Calvin P. Yoder

Calvin Yoder was born 2 January 1881 and died 5 August 1947. He married Rosa L. Schlenker on 14 November 1903. Rosa was born 17 July 1877 and died 10 April 1967.

Calvin's children:

YR177411 George Clarence Yoder

YR177412 Carrie Mae Yoder

YR1777411 George Clarence Yoder

George Clarence Yoder was born 18 June 1904 and died 19 November 1906.

YR1777412 Carrie Mae Yoder

Carrie Mae Yoder was born 16 September 1907 in Kutztown, PA, and died 6 February 2001 in Allentown, PA. She is buried at Hope Cemetery, Kutztown. Unmarried.

YR177742 Sallie Susanna Yoder

Sallie Susanna Yoder was born 5 January 1883 and died 26 February 1885. This child also appears in the records as Alva S. Yoder with the date of birth sometimes recorded as 1885. The family Bible records her birthdate as 1883.

YR177743 Catherine Charlotte Yoder

Catherine Charlotte "Cassie" Yoder was born 4 November 1885 and died 14 January 1963. She married John C. Grimes on 15 April 1905. He died 24 October 1962.

YR177744 Harvey Penrose Yoder

Harvey Penrose Yoder was born 1 January 1887 and died 8 November 1890.

YR177745 Minnie Minerva Yoder

Minnie Minerva Yoder was born 8 January 1889 and died 13 August 1973. She was a teacher at the Robeson Elementary School and never married. She shares a headstone with her brother Clarence and his wife at Heidelberg Cemetery, Robeson, PA.

YR177746 Jenny Irena Yoder

Jenny Irena Yoder was born 16 July 1891 and died 18 March 1898.

YR177747 Clarence Edwin Yoder

Clarence Edwin Yoder was born 28 November 1903 and died 6 September 1985. He was married about 18 February 1928 to Mabel M. Manbeck, born 23 January 1905, died 1 May 1994. They are buried at Heidelberg Cemetery, Robeson, PA.

Clarence's children:

YR1777471 Clarabelle Anne Yoder

YR1777472 Geraldine Rebecca Yoder

YR1777471 Clarabelle Anne Yoder

Clarabelle Anne, or Anne, Yoder was born 20 July 1928 and died 11 February 1995. She was married about 6 October 1950 to George Edwin Rhoads, born 1926, died 1985. They are buried at Heidelberg Cemetery, Robesonia, PA.

YR1777472 Geraldine Rebecca Yoder

Geraldine Rebecca Yoder was born 27 June 1931 and died 20 April 2018 in Peabody, MA. She was married about 20 December 1952 to William Jacob Heffner, born 19 January 1930, died 18 November 2012 in Peabody, MA. They are buried in Heidelberg Cemetery, Robesonia, Berks County, PA

YR17775 Fannie Yoder

Fannie Yoder was born 4 December 1862. She appears in the census records as Fronica, Freany, and Fanny, and like many others, her age on census records varies to the point of questioning her actual age. She was a single lady who lived in Berks County most of her life. In her later years she resided at the Brethren Home in Neffsville, Lancaster County where she died on 4 June 1931. She is buried at Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17776 Joel Yoder

Joel Yoder was a hard man to track down. His Find a Grave memorial says he was born 10 June 1865, but by calculation using his death date and age at death in the church records, his birth date is 10 July 1865. In the 1870 census, he is three years old and fourteen in 1880. Joel applied for a marriage license in Lebanon County, PA, on 26 November 1887. He was a 22-year-old farm laborer, born in Centre Township, Berks County, residing in South Lebanon Township. His bride, Lydia Rutter (not Ritter as in the YNL database) was "about 19 years." She was born in Millcreek Township, Lebanon County. The license was issued on the same day, and they were also married that day. Their first child was born a little over three months later, so there was a bit of urgency to the marriage. Joel and Lydia had three children, with the first two dying one month apart, shortly before Joel died on 29 December 1890. His Find a Grave memorial gives a death date of 26 December, but the handwritten church record says he died on the 29th at the age of 25-5-19. Lydia was named administratrix of Joel's estate on 1 April 1891.

With this family losing two young children and the father in about six weeks' time, I'm sure there is a story as to what happened, but I can't find it. Just the fact that three deaths in one family happened so close together should have caught the attention of a reporter from the local paper, but there is nothing, not even a story of any epidemic in the local community.

Lydia Rutter Yoder, as per her Find a Grave memorial, was born 26 December 1868. She died 19 December 1896 of tuberculosis, at the home of her sister in Myerstown, Lebanon County, PA. Lydia had obituaries in the Reading Eagle and the Lebanon Daily News.

The Yoder database had Joel and his sister Sarah in the wrong order. I have changed their ID numbers to reflect their correct birth order.

Joel's children:

YR177761 Irvin Paul Yoder

YR177762 Fanny May Yoder

YR177763 Sallie Yoder

YR177761 Irvin Paul Yoder

Irvin Paul Yoder was born 6 March 1888 and baptized 6 February 1890. He died 14 November 1890 at age 2-8-8.

YR177762 Fanny May Yoder

Fanny May Yoder was born 23 May 1889 and baptized with her brother Irvin on 6 February 1890. She died 14 December 1890, age 1-6-21.

There are two Find a Grave memorials for a daughter of Joel and Lydia, Fanny and Harriet. The photos of the stones, posted about eleven years apart, look like two different stones, although they are of an identical style. The information on the stones is identical with the possible exception of the first name. The camera angles of the two stones are different, making it difficult to read the stone belonging to "Harriet." Fanny's stone, the later photo, is very easy to read, as if the stone had been cleaned or the photo in some other way enhanced to make the inscription more visible. Having found the church record book of the Seventh Street Lutheran Church of Lebanon, PA, with all the family records together, if Joel and Lydia had two children that died on the same day at the exact same age, there would have been two baptismal records and two death records. The only logical conclusion is that "Harriet" and Fanny are the same child, the stone having been misread at the earlier time.

YR177763 Sallie Yoder

Sallie Yoder was born 26 September 1890 and baptized 1 February 1891, as per the church record. Her death certificate says she was born 28 September 1890. Sallie lived in Myerstown, Lebanon County, PA, after her mother's death, with her mother's sister. She died at the age of 17-5-15 on 13 March 1908 (18th on Find a Grave). The doctor initially recorded the date of death as 14 March, then wrote a 3 over the 4 several times to make sure it would be read as a 3, probably because Sallie died at 11:45 PM, so close to the 14th. Her cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. She had been employed at the shirt factory of S. Liebovitz & Sons, which was closed for her funeral so her former coworkers could attend the services.

YR17777 Sarah K. Yoder

Sarah "Sallie" K. Yoder was born 3 October 1870. She was married on 26 November 1891 to Edwin C. Bates, born 2 November 1868. She died 26 December 1898 of puerperal fever, eleven days after giving birth to a son. She had lived in Reading since her marriage. She is buried in Viewpoint Cemetery. Edwin remarried; he died 7 August 1933 and is buried in Richland Cemetery, Lebanon County, PA.

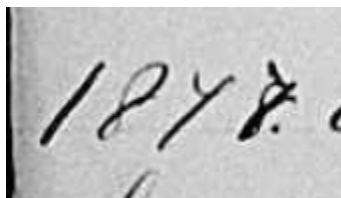
The Yoder database had Sarah and her brother Joel in the wrong order. I have changed their ID numbers to reflect their correct birth order.

YR1778 Mary Yoder

Mary Yoder was born 4 March 1821 and died 18 February 1892. Her husband, Johannes (John) Becker was born 19 May 1820 and died 14 August 1900. They are buried together at Belleman's Church Cemetery.

YR1779 Benjamin Yoder

Benjamin Yoder was born about 1827 and died 5 October 1877. He was married to Sarah Saux/Sax/Saxe/Socks, or any other variation of the spelling. She was born 7 December 1829 and died 13 August 1869. These two were a little difficult to pin down. His headstone is weathered and hard to read; his Find a Grave memorial says he died in 1878, but that is not correct. I suffered through a bit of confusion until I finally established his death date as 1877. Usually, when someone dies leaving an estate and minor children, someone goes to court to start the process of settling the estate a few days after the death. Not in Benjamin's case. That didn't happen for over a year. I can see that the person who posted the memorial, unable to read the stone, would turn to estate records. However, when the affidavit of death was written, the wrong date was put on the paper. Is that 1877 or 1878? The seven appears to be a bit darker than the eight, but not dark enough to be certain.



The document has another date, the date it was filed with the court. That date is indisputably 1878, so your logical brain would tell you that the first date should also be 1878, as the document was executed two weeks after the date of death (if 1878 is correct).

Berks County S.S.
 Reuben & George Yoder Administrators of
 Benjamin Yoder, late of Centre Township deceased. being
 duly sworn doth depose and say that the said Benjamin
 Yoder, died in the said Township of Centre, Berks County
 and State of Pennsylvania on the 5th day of October A.D.
 1877 at about 3 o'clock A.M.
 Sworn and Subscribed } Reuben Yoder
 before me this 19th day } George Yoder
 of October A.D. 1878. }
 P. V. Edelman
 Registrar

The register is Peter Yoder Edelman, son of Maria Yoder OH1453 and John Edelman.

Estate files are usually well along towards settlement one year after the death, but in this case, it was just beginning. I don't know why delay, except perhaps it is because the sons George and Charles were only twenty years old at the time of Benjamin's death. By waiting a year, they were old enough to take on the duties of estate administrator. Charles may have been in Iowa at that time, so George and Benjamin's cousin Reuben were appointed administrators.

Whatever the reason for the delay, the proof positive that Benjamin died in 1877 was the article in the Reading Times, Saturday, 6 October 1877: "Benjamin Yoder, a prominent citizen of Centre township, died on Thursday night after a short illness." It was followed up on Friday, 12 October 1877; "Benjamin Yoder, farmer, of Centre township, who died of dropsy, was buried today at the Dunkard burying ground in the same township. The funeral was largely attended by relatives and friends."

Benjamin's wife Sarah was also persented a problem. Her tombstone says her death date was 25 August 1871. If she died in 1871, why couldn't I find her in the 1870 census? I found Benjamin and the kids, but no sign of Sarah. Then she turned up! In the 1870 Federal Mortality Schedule. That is a list by household of everyone who died in the year leading up to the census. Census Day 1870 was 1 June, so the Federal Mortality Schedule listed deaths from 1 June 1869. There she was in Benjamin's household, Sallie Yodder, 39, died August of typhoid fever. Searching through all my notes, I also found her death notice from the Reading Adler, edition of

24 August 1869. On 13 August, Sarah Ann Yoder, 39-8-6, wife of Benjamin, Centre Township, daughter of John and Elizabeth Saxe. The date on her tombstone is wrong.

After Sarah's death, Benjamin had a series of housekeepers to look after the children. One of them, Elizabeth Seidel, took his estate to court to secure repayment for a \$50 loan she claimed she made to Benjamin. His unmarried sister Lydia and his daughter Malinda were called as witnesses. The claim was denied, as she failed to produce a note signed by Benjamin. Lydia was living with his children in 1880.

Benjamin and Sarah are buried at Viewpoint Cemetery, about a quarter of a mile from their home.

Benjamin's children:

YR17791 George Yoder

+YR17792 Charles Yoder

YR17793 Malinda Yoder

YR17794 Benjamin Yoder

+YR17795 Joseph Yoder

YR17796 Annie Yoder

+YR17797 John Yoder

YR17791 George Yoder and YR17792 Charles Yoder

Before I look at George and Charles separately, I need to deal with them together. Their first appearance in the census record was in 1860, both aged 2 years. The census taker took the time to note that they were twins. However, that is the ONLY time I have ever found them at the same age. George is always a year older than Charles in subsequent census years. When they died, the birth dates entered on their death certificates were only five and a half months apart. Anyone with the most basic knowledge of human biology, i.e., anyone that has ever had a child, knows that something is wrong with this. You can't have children that close together.

One of the most accurate sources of birth dates, I feel, is baptismal records. You may forget exactly how old someone is when they are in their thirties or forties, but you can remember that the baby is two months or three months old when the baptism occurs. The problem here is that George and Charles were born into a Brethren family, a religious group that does not subscribe to the idea of infant baptism. If these two were ever baptized, I can find no record of it. Next to baptismal records, I like to look at the first time someone appears in the census. As stated, those thirty- and forty-somethings may not know their exact age, but a two-year-old is different from a five-year-old. You can't mistake the two. I prefer to work on the theory that George and Charles are twins, born late 1857 or early 1858.

YR17791 George Yoder

George S. Yoder was born in late 1857 or early 1858. According to his death certificate, he was born 26 July 1857.

As with his birth date, his residence is also confusing. George was named an administrator of his father's estate, along with his father's cousin Reuben YR17a6. He signed the administration account on 7 April 1880. He signed another document on 6 July 1880. There was a George Youder, age 23, born in Pennsylvania, a boarder with a farmer in Battle, Ida County, Iowa, in the 1880 census. Census day was 1 June 1880, between the two dates that we know George was in Berks County. Is this the right guy? We know George was living in Cedar County, Nebraska, on 10 February 1883 when he gave power of attorney to his brother Charles. In 1900, there is a George Yoder in Daily Township, Dixon County, Nebraska, a farm laborer born in Pennsylvania, who gave his birth as July 1861. Dixon County is the next county east of Cedar County, so he was in the same area where we know George had been. When our George died in 1919, the first notice of his death that appeared in the newspaper implied he was born in 1861. Men are vain and want to be younger than they are, I suppose.

What I do know is that George came back to Pennsylvania. I'm not sure exactly when he came back, but his name appeared in the Lebanon, PA, newspaper on 3 October 1905 when he was a guest at the home of Thomas Brown. Another article from 14 August 1906 speaks of Mr. and Mrs. George Yoder. Yes, George came back from the "west" as a still single man, but by the 1910 census, he was married for five years to Amanda. She was Amanda C. Brown, sister of Thomas, whom George was visiting in 1905. Amanda was born 12 December 1868 and died 10 January 1944. She was the daughter of Isaac and Carolina (Yoder) Brown. Carolina is YR177a; George's father Benjamin is YR1779, so, yes, George married his first cousin. There were no children born to this union.

George was working as a mason helper on the railroad at the time of his death on 11 September 1919 in Lebanon, PA. George and Amanda are buried together in Bethel Cemetery, Berks County.

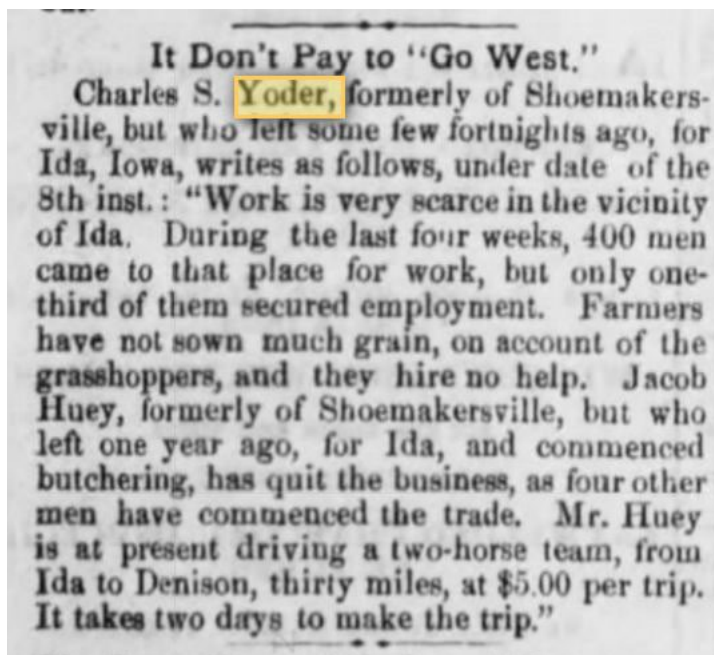
YR17792 Charles Yoder

Charles S. Yoder was born in late 1857 or early 1858. His death certificate says he was born 13 January 1858, but the cemetery record says he was born 13 December 1858. He died 24 January 1930. Charles was married on 26 November 1881 to Valeria Loose by the Rev. B. D. Zweizig, the Lutheran pastor at Belleman's Church. Valeria was born 19 December 1859 and baptized 22 February 1860 into the Lutheran congregation at Belleman's Church.

The information in the YNL database says that Charles was a resident of Cedar County, Nebraska as of February 1883, but I don't believe this was so. He did go west in 1877, but he went to Ida County, Iowa, as per a series of articles in the Reading Times. On Thursday, 12 April 1877, it was reported that a man from Shoemakersville was having a public sale of his household goods that Saturday, and leaving on Monday for Ida, Ida County, Iowa, along with several others, including Charles Yoder. That would have been 16 April 1877, the day he headed west. His brother George was not mentioned, so I don't believe the brothers went together.

Another item on 30 April 1877 reported, "Charles Yoder, of Centre township, has gone to Dennison, Ida County, Iowa."

The grass, it seems, is not greener on the other side, as in the title of the next article of 22 May 1877:



Only three weeks from the time he left home, he was clearly unhappy with the results of his decision. He returned to Berks County, but I don't know when. There were no newspaper reports of his return, but he was back in Berks County by 23 February 1880, when he petitioned the court to appoint guardians for his sister Annie and brother John, both minors under the age of fourteen. On 24 February 1883, Charles elected to purchase the real estate from his father's estate.

Charles later kept a tavern in Centreport and then briefly in Reading. Charles S. Yoder first appears in the Reading city directory in 1896, working as a bartender. He later worked in the factories in Reading. Valeria died in Reading on 25 August 1917. Four years later, on 14 July 1921, Charles married Mrs. Alice Kerling, nee Bower. She died after Charles, on 23 January 1940 and is buried with her first husband in Good Shepherd (Hinnershitz) Cemetery, Muhlenberg Township, Berks County, PA. Charles is buried next to Valeria at Belleman's Church Cemetery.

YR177921 Howard Yoder

Howard Loose Yoder was born 16 April 1884 and died 27 July 1949 in Harrisburg, PA. He married Alice Pflugfelder on 12 April 1906. Alice was born in Reading on 22 December 1885. Howard and Alice and their three sons moved to the Harrisburg area where Alice died on 7 July 1922. She is buried in the Pflugfelder family plot at Aulenbach's Cemetery in Reading. Son

Albert returned to Reading and resided with Alice's sister, while the other two boys, Donald and Robert, stayed with Howard. He remained in Harrisburg for the rest of his life and never remarried. Howard is buried in Rolling Green Memorial Park, Camp Hill, Cumberland County, PA.

YR1779211 Albert Yoder

Albert Harold Yoder was born 29 December 1913 and died 15 January 1954. He was the advertising manager for the Crystal Rock Beverage Company, and at the age of 40, he died on the train while on his way to a sales meeting in Philadelphia. Albert was married to Kathryn C. Harter, born 7 May 1914, died 25 October 2013. Albert and Kathryn are buried at Gethsemane Cemetery, Laureldale, Berks County, PA.

Twenty plus years after Albert's death, Kathryn married Wilson I. Blatt in 1976. The only reference I found to this marriage was in daughter Carol's obituary in 1977; her mother is named as Kathryn Yoder Blatt. The marriage license was taken out in Berks County. Mr. Blatt died in 1981. His wife, who died in Tucson, AZ, in 2000, must have been an ex-wife. Find a Grave has links to eleven children of Wilson and his wife. Kathryn's son Richard's obituary in 2007 and Kathryn's obituary in 2013 make no mention of this second marriage, so perhaps it was not a happy one, one that everyone wanted to forget. The fact that this second husband is not mentioned may indicate a divorce. I would have to search in records not available online to find out.

Albert's children:

YR17792111 Carol A. Yoder

YR17792112 Albert L. Yoder

YR17792113 Nancy M. Yoder

YR17792114 Richard A. Yoder

YR17792111 Carol A. Yoder

Carol A. Yoder was born about 1937 and died 13 June 1977. According to her cousin, Peggy Harter, Carol took her own life. She was married to James H. Connolly.

YR17792112 Albert L. Yoder

Albert L. Yoder was born about 1941. He married Brenda J. Rutolo in 1962.

YR17792113 Nancy M. Yoder

Nancy M. Yoder was born about 1943. Her first husband was Gerard J. Skrocki, whom she married in 1970. She married her second husband, Donald E. Potteiger, in 1980.

YR17792114 Richard A. Yoder

Richard A. Yoder was born 7 May 1947 and died 9 September 2007.

YR1779212 Donald Yoder

Donald Charles Yoder was born 14 May 1915 and died in 1970. He was married to Edna Mae McCandless, born 1917, died 2004. They are buried at Rolling Green Memorial Park, Camp Hill, Cumberland County, PA. Donald's son Robert Leonard Yoder was born 27 December 1936 and died 9 February 1987; he is also buried in Rolling Green Memorial Park.

YR1779213 Robert Yoder

Robert Eugene Yoder was born 23 December 1917 and died August 1978. He married Mildred I. Grubb about 1938. Their children as of 1950 were: Donald, born 1939; Roberta, about 1943; and Thomas, born 1947.

YR17793 Malinda Yoder

Malinda Yoder was born 28 October 1859 and died 11 February 1934. She married Jeremiah Bower in Reading on 26 April 1884. He was born 2 August 1861 and died 27 November 1910. Malinda and Jeremiah lived in Reading and are buried at Charles Evans Cemetery.

YR17794 Benjamin Yoder

Benjamin Yoder was born 3 October 1862 and died 24 July 1886, at age 23-9-21. He was committed to the insane asylum at Harrisburg around 1882 or 1883. I have not found any documents for the original admission, but a jury of six plus a commissioner held a hearing in Reading, reported in the Reading Times on 30 September 1885, in the case of Benjamin Yoder, an inmate in the insane asylum. There was witness testimony that he "had developed symptoms of insanity for the past three years." There was no mention of who gave testimony. It was noted that Benjamin had an estate worth \$700. "The jury decided that he was still insane, and recommended that he remain at the State hospital." His brother Charles, the committee of Benjamin Yoder, as named in court documents, released Benjamin's guardian from further obligation, since Benjamin had reached the age of 21 (he was actually 23 by the time this happened) on 8 January 1886. Benjamin died several months later. His funeral was held from the home of his brother Charles and the interment at Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17795 Joseph Yoder

Joseph Yoder was born 17 November 1863 and died 8 April 1926. He worked for the Lebanon Paper Box Company. He was married to Catherine "Kate" Kurtz, born 21 September 1864, died 6 April 1948. In the 1900 census, Kate said that she had given birth to two children with one living.

Joseph and Kate are buried in Covenant Greenwood Cemetery, Ebenezer, Lebanon County, PA.

YR177951 Wayne Henry Yoder

Wayne Henry Yoder was born 6 March 1886 and died 8 October 1886, buried in Covenant Greenwood Cemetery, Ebenezer, Lebanon County, PA. He has a Find a Grave memorial with no details besides birth and death dates. Since Kate said she had given birth to two children, this must be her other child, as they are all buried in the same section of the cemetery.

YR177952 Claude Augustus Yoder

Claude Augustus Yoder was born 20 March 1889 and died 28 October 1984. He married Lillian M. Huber, born 22 February 1892, died 14 April 1982. Claude retired as manager of the Cornwall branch of the First National Bank of Lebanon, after a 30-year career. Claude and Lillie are buried in Covenant Greenwood Cemetery, Ebenezer, Lebanon County, PA.

YR1779521 Catherine E Yoder

Catherine E. Yoder was born in 1918 and died 30 May 1976 in Harrisburg, PA. She was first married about 1938 to Miles Kermit Koons, born 11 September 1916, died 24 July 1976. Her second marriage, about 1943, was to John A. Reigle Jr, born 20 May 1915, died 1 September 1992. She is buried with her second husband in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens, Harrisburg, Dauphin County, PA.

YR17796 Annie Yoder

Annie Yoder was born 4 July 1866 and died 13 October 1956 at age 90. On 28 December 1886, she married William C. Maurer, a cigar maker from Reading. The space on the marriage license application for the names of parents for Annie simply says, "Parents dead," and noted that her guardian was Isaac Fraunfelter, who had to give permission for her to marry as she was not yet twenty-one. Annie became a member of the Lutheran Church, and, at her death, was survived by two children, four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She is buried in the cemetery of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Reading.

YR17797 John Yoder

John Yoder was born before 13 August 1869, the date of his mother's death, but exactly when, I have not been able to find. John is missing from every census record that contains this kind of vital information, but everything I have found does support a birth date some time in 1869. He was not with his father and siblings in 1870, so I looked at other Yoder families in the area. I even researched his mother's family, hoping that someone took in the poor motherless child, with no success. I simply don't know where he was in 1870. In 1880, he appeared with his cousin, Adam Yoder Kline, son of Barbara Yoder YR1776, in Bethel Township, Berks County.

Also in 1880, Charles Yoder YR17792 petitioned the court to appoint a guardian for his sister Annie and brother John, minors under the age of fourteen; on 8 March 1880, Benjamin Schlappig was appointed John's guardian. The next sign of John in Berks County was at the office of the local Justice of the Peace, on 7 February 1890. John executed a document to claim his inheritance and release his guardian from any further obligation. He states in this document

that he is a resident of Axtell, Marshall County, Kansas, and has arrived at the age of twenty-one. He received a sum of \$1,710.05 from the estate of his late father Benjamin Yoder of Centre Township, all of this spelled out in the document, so we know this is the right John Yoder.

Sometime in the early 1880s, Adam Y. Kline moved to Kansas, as did John. I don't know if they went together. It is likely, as John was still a minor. While John lived in Axtell, Adam lived about 45 miles west in Washington, Kansas. The earliest evidence I have found of either one in Kansas was a notice in the newspaper dated 5 July 1884 that Adam had a letter at the post office. The Washington Register, on 6 December 1889, published a notice that Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. Kline and children had left for Pennsylvania to spend the winter. I have no proof, but it is quite possible that Adam met up with his cousin John and they travelled together. I have not found any report, either in Kansas or Berks County newspapers, of when Adam returned. This trip east coincided with the time that John was in Berks County collecting his inheritance.

John shows up as a twenty-six-year-old in the Kansas state census of 1895, and on 10 June of that year, he married Elizabeth "Lizzie" Smith, 18, the Roman Catholic priest officiating. The wedding was reported in the Axtell Anchor.

John was a farmer during his time in Kansas, but he decided to sell up and move on. The Axtell Anchor advertised the public sale of his equipment and stock to take place on 10 September 1898. The next week the newspaper reported that the sale had been postponed "owing to bad weather last Saturday." The sale was held in front of the drugstore. The day after the sale, John and his family, a wife and two sons at this time, left for St. Joseph, Missouri. The article stated that "John don't know just yet what he will do," but speculated that he would find work in the packing houses, which he did.

John was a no-show for the 1900 census that asked month and year of birth. By 1910, John at 41, Lizzie, two sons born in Kansas and two daughters born in Missouri make up his household. Lizzie told the census taker that she had given birth to five children, so we're missing one [at this point, I wouldn't know where to begin to fit this one in]. Daughter Stella's obituary identified this child as a boy. The daughters were still living with John and Lizzie in 1920. John shows up in the St. Joseph city directories up to 1926, but that is the last I can find of him. Lizzie was still in St. Joe in 1930. The marriage announcement for one of the daughters in April 1930 begins, "Mrs. Elizabeth Yoder... announces the marriage of her daughter..." with no allusion to John.

The State of Missouri maintains a website with death certificates, and John is not there. The death certificate for Lizzie Johanna Smith Yoder gives her date of death date 16 June 1939. She was born in Peoria, IL, 5 March 1876 and is the widow of John Yoder.

So, what became of John? I can't find him as a baby, and I can't find his death. He must have died somewhere besides Missouri, but he doesn't turn up anywhere else, either. The closest I can get is that he died after 1926 and before 1930, place unknown.

John's children:

+YR177971 Ray Francis Yoder

YR177972 Pearl Emmett Yoder

YR177973 Della Yoder

YR177974 Stella Marie Yoder

YR177971 Ray Francis Yoder

Ray Francis Yoder was born 17 December 1895 in Axtell, Kansas, and died in 1976 in St. Joseph, Missouri. He served in the Army as a bugler in Europe in World War I from 17 April 1917 to 23 November 1918, and later worked in the Union Pacific Railway Shops. He was married to Genevieve Martin, born 17 August 1901 in Oklahoma, and died 7 May 1968. They had one son. Ray and Jennie are buried at Saint Joseph Memorial Park.

YR1779711 Raymond Albert Yoder

Raymond Albert Yoder was born 21 May 1921 and died 31 March 1989. He left no issue. He is buried in Saint Joseph Memorial Park.

YR177972 Pearl Emmett Yoder

Pearl Emmett Yoder was born 6 January 1898 in Axtell, Kansas and died 10 July 1978 in Pomona, California. He was a World War I veteran, and he lived in California for many years. He was a tap dancer who performed on the Orpheum circuit under the stage name of Billy Black. He had a write-up in the St. Joseph Gazette on 12 February 1929 when his act came to town, and while there, he visited with his mother, sister, and brother. By the World War II draft in 1942, he owned a roller-skating rink in Los Angeles. There is no mention of a wife in his obituary, but he was survived by a son, John E. Yoder, of Pomona, CA.

Searching for Pearl's wife produced evidence of two marriages. The California voter lists were most helpful. In 1942, Pearl was an actor living in Los Angeles County. In 1944, Pearl E. Yoder and Mrs. Charlotte Yoder are listed at the same address, both with the same occupation: co-manager of a skating rink. In the rolls of 1946, 1948 and 1950, Pearl and Charlotte are at the same address as in 1944, but occupations are no longer listed. I can't find them in the 1950 census, so I don't know what happened between them or if Charlotte is the mother of John.

The California Divorce Index lists Pearl E. Yoder and Darla M. divorcing in Los Angeles in July 1969. No marriage records were found for either union.

Pearl died in Pomona, CA and is buried back home at St. Joseph Memorial Park.

YR177973 Della I. Yoder

Della I. Yoder was born about 1906 in St. Joseph, Missouri and died 31 May 1969 in Cook County, Illinois. She was married on 7 April 1930 to Loren Neal, born about 1902 and died 24

August 1991 in Yuma, Arizona. Della and Loren lived in the Chicago area where he owned a landscaping business. There were no children.

YR177974 Stella Marie Yoder

Stella Marie Yoder, often called Marie, was born 17 January 1908 and died 4 July 2001. In 1931, she married Otto R. Ozenberger, born 4 May 1903, died 5 November 1957. Stella and Otto were the parents of a son and a daughter. They are buried in St. Joseph Memorial Park.

YR177a Caroline Yoder

Caroline Yoder was born 20 March 1828 and died 27 March 1910. She was married to Isaac Brown on 11 July 1857. The marriage was announced in the Reading Adler newspaper in the edition of 11 August 1857. His name is given as Isaac Braun. The YNL database gives his name as Isaac Brower, but this is incorrect.

There was some question in the YNL database that this Caroline may have been the daughter of unlinked AL6 John Yoder of Marion Township and his wife Catherine. Caroline's marriage information appears under this couple with a question mark, but the evidence shows that she was the daughter of John and Veronica. Caroline's death certificate states that her parents are John Yoder and Franey Richenbach. The informant was Adam Brown, her son. The confusion comes from the fact that there are too many John Yoders, and both AL6 John and Caroline lived in the same corner of Berks County.

Caroline's daughter Amanda married George Yoder YR17791, her first cousin. Caroline lived with Amanda and George for five years before her death. She is buried at Salem Reformed Church Cemetery, Bethel, Berks County, PA, as is her husband, Isaac, who was born 26 November 1835 and died 10 May 1901.

YR177b Joseph Yoder

Joseph Yoder was born 19 January 1830 and died 1 January 1857, age 26-11-12, as per the records of Ziegler's Meeting House, Bethel Township, PA.

YR17a Jacob Yoder

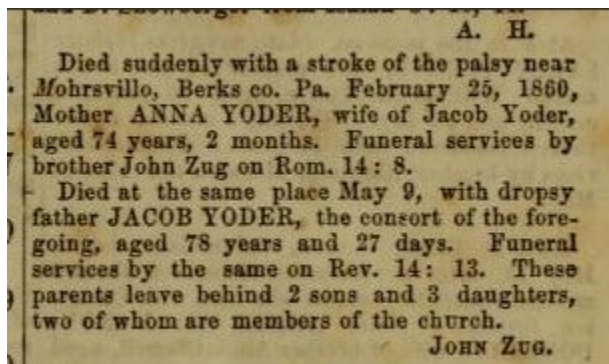
Jacob Yoder was possibly born 13 April 1782. This is the date recorded in the Lancaster Pennsylvania US Mennonite Vital Records. The records consist of names and dates typed on a card. This date also appears on Jacob's Find a Grave memorial, but I have found no primary source to document this. If it is not the correct date of his birth, it's close. Jacob married Anna Rickenbach. She was born 26 September 1785, and they both died in 1860.

Jacob was a farmer in Centre Township, Berks County, working on the land he inherited from his father. The 1850 census lists "Jacob Yotter," age 64, farmer, his wife Anna, age 61, son "Rheuben," 28, and daughter Anna (Nancy), 30, plus three other non-family members.

By a deed executed on 9 June 1853, Jacob and Anna sold a parcel of land, consisting of four perches, to the "School Directors of Common Schools of Centre Township district" for five dollars. One hundred sixty perches is equal to one acre, so it was a very small piece of land, just enough to put a small school on.

Jacob and Anna both died in 1860, before the census was taken, so they appear in the Federal Mortality Schedule, and their passing was noted in the Gospel Messenger, the publication of the Brethren Church. Anna died 25 February 1860 and Jacob died 9 May 1860. Jacob has a Find a Grave memorial; Anna does not. Jacob's memorial says he died in Mifflin County. Let me get back up on my soapbox again to discuss the issue of people who post their guesses as fact. Jacob lived all his life in Berks County, as far as I know, and none of his children moved to Mifflin County, so why would he go there to die? The Gospel Messenger clearly says that Anna died near Mohrsville, and Jacob died at the same place. Mohrsville is in Berks, not Mifflin County.

Another issue with Jacob's Find a Grave memorial is that the person who posted it cited the Gospel Messenger, saying that Anna's death was reported as occurring in 1869. He noted the date discrepancy, but still let it go as fact. First off, how can anyone publish an obituary nine years before the death? Here is a copy of that obituary:



That clearly says Anna died in 1860. Perhaps a bug got squashed on the copy that other guy had, making that 0 look like a 9. Anna and Jacob are buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

Jacob and his brother John YR177 married the Rickenbach sisters.

Jacob's children:

YR17a1 Elizabeth Yoder

YR17a2 Anna "Nancy" Yoder

YR17a3 Abraham Yoder

YR17a4 Sarah Yoder

+YR17a5 Jacob R. Yoder

+YR17a6 Reuben Yoder

YR17a1 Elizabeth Yoder

Elizabeth Yoder was born 16 December 1810 and died 7 May 1893. She married Jonathan Koenig born 13 December 1801 died 8 September 1874.

YR17a2 Anna “Nancy” Yoder

Anna “Nancy” R. Yoder was born 14 August 1812 and died 8 January 1899. At the time of her death, she was living with her nephew David YR17a62. She has an estate file under her legal name, Anna. According to her obituary in the Reading Eagle, she must have been a feisty old girl. It states: “She had been sitting on a chair in the room with the family, when it was noticed that she was not as well as usual. They carried her up stairs and put her to bed against her will, where she shortly expired.”

YR17a3 Abraham Yoder

Abraham Yoder was born 12 November 1813 as per the Lancaster, PA, Mennonite Vital Records. No other information has been found on this individual.

YR17a4 Sarah Yoder

Sarah Yoder was born 15 September 1815, died 8 April 1887. She married Daniel Christ, born 27 September 1810, died 29 April 1890. They are buried at St. Michael’s Union Cemetery, Tilden Township, Berks County, PA. Their son Garean Christ married Tamsen Yoder, daughter of Alfred Yoder of the unliked B line.

YR17a5 Jacob R Yoder

Jacob R. Yoder was born 2 May 1818 and died 26 September 1881. On 7 November 1846, he married Maria Koenig, anglicized to Mary King, born 10 March 1827, died 20 October 1906.

Jacob was a farmer, and his obituary from the Reading Times, 28 September 1881, says he “is the owner of one of the finest farms in Centre township.” He was also a preacher in the Brethren Church. In his will, Jacob provided for Mary, and has his estate divided into equal shares for his seven children.

Jacob and Mary are buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

Jacob’s children:

YR17a51 Timna Yoder

YR17a52 Rebecca Yoder

+YR17a53 Levi Yoder

+YR17a54 Cornelius Yoder

+YR17a55 Aaron K Yoder

+YR17a56 John King Yoder

+YR17a57 Reuben Yoder

YR17a51 Timna Yoder

Timna Yoder was born 4 August 1849 and died 4 March 1941, burial at Maidencreek Brethren Church. Her husband, Adam K. Rentschler was born 1 March 1841 and died 30 October 1891. He is buried at Frieden's Cemetery, Shartlesville, PA.

YR17a52 Rebecca Yoder

Rebecca Yoder was born 22 July 1851 and died 27 April 1936. She was unmarried and belonged to the Richland Brethren Church.

YR17a53 Levi Yoder

Levi K Yoder was born 15 March 1854 and died 24 March 1935. His name was given as Lafayette in his mother's obituary. He married Sarah Hummel, born 18 December 1855, died 2 December 1908. Levi was a farmer in Lebanon County. Levi and Sarah are buried at the Tulpehocken, or Royer's Meeting House Cemetery.

Levi's children:

YR17a531 Adella Yoder

+YR17a532 Isaac Yoder

YR17a533 Cassie Yoder

+YR17a534 Adam Yoder

YR17a535 Lizzie Yoder

YR17a536 Eva Yoder

YR17a537 Mary Yoder

YR17a531 Adella Yoder

Adella Yoder was born 1 June 1876 and died 16 May 1961. She was married to Peter Phillipy who died about 1949. Adella was a member of Richland Church of the Brethren. She was survived by one son, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

YR17a532 Isaac Yoder

Isaac Yoder was born 26 August 1878 in Centre Township, Berks County, PA, and died 26 October 1947. A long-time resident of Myerstown, Lebanon County, PA, he was married to Estella Leitner, born 25 May 1882, died 4 June 1971. Both were members of the Meyerstown Church of the Brethren, and they are buried together in Royer's Cemetery.

Isaac's children:

YR17a5321 Irene Mable Yoder

YR17a5322 Ralph Curtis Yoder

YR17a5321 Irene Mable Yoder

Irene Mable Yoder was born 11 March 1912 and died 26 March 1912 of inflammation of the bowels. She is buried at Royer's Cemetery.

YR17a5322 Ralph Yoder

Ralph Curtis Yoder was born 26 March 1922 and died 13 January 2008. He served in the US Army Air Force in World War II, after which he married Mildred Irene Layser on 1 June 1946. Mildred was born 12 May 1926 and died 6 September 1990. Ralph and Irene had two daughters: Dianne Louise, born about 1947, married to Lester Beamesderfer, and Kathleen M., born after 1950, married to Vince Wilczynske, Jr.

After Mildred's death, Ralph married Betty Weiss. They resided at ECC Retirement Village, Myerstown. Ralph is buried with his first wife Mildred at Richland Cemetery, Lebanon County, PA.

YR17a533 Catharine (Cassie) Yoder

Catharine Yoder, known as Cassie, was born 1 November 1880 and died 9 September 1971. She married Edwin S. Ernst, born 14 August 1881, died 9 October 1963. They are both buried at North Heidelberg Church Cemetery, Robesonia, PA.

YR17a534 Adam Yoder

Adam H. Yoder was born 3 July 1888 and died 12 March 1972. He was married to Katie N. Binkley, born about 1892 and died 6 July 1953. Two weeks before her death she suffered injuries to her neck in a fall from a hay wagon onto a pitchfork. Adam and Katie lived and farmed in the area near Sheridan, Lebanon County, PA. They are buried in Millbach Community Cemetery.

Adam's children:

YR17a5341 Mabel S. Yoder

YR17a5342 John L. Yoder

YR17a5343 Verna Yoder

YR17a5341 Mabel S. Yoder

Mabel S. Yoder was born 6 June 1918 and died 8 March 2014. She married Charles Witman Becker, born 7 November 1916, died 13 September 2000. They are buried together at Heidelberg Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Myerstown, Lebanon County, PA.

YR17a5342 John L. Yoder

John L. Yoder was born 16 December 1920 and died 16 October 2005. He married Stella Smith Flory, born 6 November 1921, died 2 February 2011. John worked as an auto mechanic and served in the US Army during World War II. John and Stella are buried together at Millbach Meeting House Cemetery, Millbach, Lebanon County, PA.

John's children, as named in his obituary (birth order uncertain):

John Yoder married Nancy

Glenn Yoder married Dorothy

Dale Yoder married Lois
Lee Yoder
Dennis Yoder
Carol Yoder married Robert Kleinfelter
Donna Yoder married – Nies
Joanna Yoder married Douglas Miller
Sandra Yoder married Jack Hartman
Karen Yoder married Thomas Fisher
Patti Yoder married Douglas Penvose

YR17a5343 Verna Yoder

Verna Yoder was born 14 July 1922 and died 23 March 2008. She married Homer W. Heffelfinger, born 18 February 1920, died 1 April 2014. They are buried together at Heidelberg Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Myerstown, Lebanon County, PA.

YR17a535 Lizzie Yoder

Lizzie Yoder was born 24 March 1883 and died 26 December 1963. She married Isaac Franklin Heffley, born 29 May 1881, died 1 April 1961. They are both buried in Albright Cemetery, Kleinfeltersville, Lebanon County, PA. Lizzie was a member of Texter Mennonite Church.

YR17a536 Eva Yoder

Eva Yoder was born 30 September 1891 in Berks County and died 29 October 1971. She married Curtis Lewis Weiss, born 25 September 1890 and died 28 November 1965. They are buried at Millbach Meeting House Cemetery, Millbach, Lebanon County, PA.

YR17a537 Mary Yoder

Mary A. Yoder was born 23 March 1893 in Jackson Township, Lebanon County, and died 10 September 1976. Her husband, Harry J. Sonnen, was born 21 September 1889 and died 5 July 1978. They are buried at Millbach Cemetery, Millbach, Lebanon County, PA.

YR17a54 Cornelius Yoder

Cornelius K Yoder was born 6 July 1856. He was married on 8 March 1884 to Emma Susanna Schlappig by Rev. B. D. Zweizig, a Lutheran minister. Emma was born 1858 and died 14 October 1941. Emma's obituary says she was a member of the Reformed congregation at Belleman's Church. According to the information given to the census takers, she had only one child, her son Edwin. Cornelius died 16 February 1943, and he is buried at Viewpoint Cemetery and Emma is at Belleman's Cemetery. They have matching tombstones, just in different cemeteries.

YR17a541 Edwin Yoder

Edwin Yoder, sometimes Edward, was born 2 September 1889 and died 14 September 1955. He married Mae Josephine Kieffer or Weber (she was born Kieffer; her mother died when she was less than two years old, and she was adopted by another relative named Weber). Mae was the great-granddaughter of Daniel Yoder, identified as BF in the unlinked section of the YNL database. Mae was born 31 December 1898 and died 9 May 1972. Ed and Mae were members of the Brethren Church and are buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

Ed's children:

YR17a5411 Fern C. Yoder

YR17a5412 Jackson K. Yoder

YR17a5413 Benjamin K. Yoder

YR17a5411 Fern Catherine Yoder

Fern Catherine Yoder was born 21 December 1921, according to her Find a Grave memorial, in Central African Republic. Also included on Find a Grave is her obituary that states she was born in Centre Township, Berks County. I think I'll accept the latter birthplace. As I have said many times before, verify! Fern's first husband was Herbert Leo Keller, born 21 December 1913 and died 19 December 1963. Her second husband, Clarence Richard Luckenbill, was born 7 April 1919 and died 25 March 1994. He is buried at Friedens Union Cemetery, Shartlesville, with his first wife. Fern died 24 June 2016 and is buried with Herbert in Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17a5412 Jackson K. Yoder

Jackson K Yoder was born 16 May 1923 and died 25 April 1999. His tombstone at Belleman's Church Cemetery is inscribed, "Father, Grandfather and Friend." He served in the military during World War II and filed a compensation claim in 1950, giving his enlistment date as 4 June 1945. On 20 June 1953, he married Ruth V. Quinn, from Mohrsville, PA, in Loudoun County, Virginia. Ruth was born 18 May 1928 and died 2 April 2019. The marriage must have fallen apart because Ruth's obituary makes no mention of a husband, but does name two daughters, Jaclyn and Margaret. She is buried at Gethsemane Cemetery, Muhlenberg Township, PA. I have not found an obituary for Jackson.

YR17a5413 Benjamin K. Yoder

Benjamin K Yoder was born 14 August 1925 and died 15 September 2019. He married Verna M. Young, born 8 November 1927, died 26 August 2022. They were married on 21 August 1948. Benjamin was a US Navy veteran of World War II. Ben and Verna had two children, a son Philip, married to Lynette Kulp, and a daughter Deborah, married to Moore. Both Ben and Verna were members of the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren and are buried together in Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17a55 Aaron K. Yoder

Aaron Yoder was born 16 February 1859 in Mohrsville, Berks County, PA, and died 10 December 1933 in Peabody, Kansas. He was married in Indiana on 26 May 1888 to Veronica "Fannie" Yoder YR234b25, born 26 April 1864 in Indiana, died 11 June 1953 in Peabody, Kansas. They are buried at Prairie Lawn Cemetery, Peabody, Marion County, Kansas.

When Aaron left Pennsylvania, his first stop appears to have been Indiana, where he married. I have not found the place of birth of his first child, Nellie, but by August of 1890, when son Perry was born, they were in Kansas. An article in the Reading Times, 26 January 1892, reported that Aaron, his wife and two children (at that time, Nellie and Perry), after spending several months in Mohrsville visiting friends, left for their home in Walton, Kansas. A month later, Nellie died. She was buried in Indiana in the same cemetery as Fannie's parents. Perhaps they stopped in Indiana to visit Fannie's family on the way home. The Walton Reporter of 10 March 1893 published a notice that Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Yoder had a son born on March 3rd.

The Reading Eagle published an obituary for Aaron on 12 December 1933. It states that he "moved to Kansas 55 years ago," which would mean he went to Kansas in 1878, but he and his brother John show up in the 1880 census in Centre Township, Berks County, ages 21 and 17, respectively. I can find no notice in the newspaper when they left for the west.

Aaron's children:

YR17a551 Nellie Yoder
+YR17a552 Perry Yoder
+YR17a553 Ammon Yoder

YR17a551 Nellie Yoder

Nellie Yoder was born 2 June 1889 and died 11 March 1892. She is buried in Forest Grove Cemetery, Middlebury, Elkhart County, Indiana.

YR17a552 Perry Yoder

Perry L. Yoder was born 16 August 1890 in VanArsdale, Harvey County, Kansas, and died in December 1967, in Newton, KS. He married Mabel Louise King on 23 December 1914 at the home of her grandparents in Marysville, Kansas. Mabel was born 2 April 1893 and died 12 July 1957. They are buried at Prairie Lawn Cemetery.

Perry's wife Mabel and his brother Ammon's wife Beulah were sisters.

Perry's children:

YR17a5521 Infant son Yoder
YR17a5522 Fred Harvey Yoder
YR17a5523 Robert Eugene Yoder

YR17a5521 Infant son Yoder

Perry and Mabel had an infant son born 13 February 1916. The baby died about an hour after birth. He is buried in the Dunkard cemetery in East Branch, Kansas.

YR17a5522 Fred Harvey Yoder

Fred Harvey Yoder was born 27 October 1922 and died 17 July 2007 in Peabody. On 22 May 1948, Fred married Colleen Bertha Regier, born 18 March 1930, died 21 April 2013. They are buried together at Prairie Lawn Cemetery, Peabody, Marion County, Kansas.

ID number adjusted; older sibling added.

YR17a5523 Robert Eugene Yoder

Robert Eugene Yoder was born 1926.

ID number adjusted; older sibling added.

YR17a553 Ammon Yoder

Amon/Ammon Floyd Yoder was born 3 March 1893 in Marion County, Kansas, and died 12 February 1941, also in Marion County. On 12 December 1917, he married Beulah Eliza King, born 23 September 1897 and died 2 July 1984. They are buried in Prairie Lawn Cemetery.

Ammon's wife Beulah and his brother Perry's wife Mabel were sisters.

Ammon's children:

YR17a5531 Mildred Ann Yoder

YR17a5532 Mary Louise Yoder

YR17a5533 Marion King Yoder

YR17a5534 Patricia Yoder

YR17a5531 Mildred Ann Yoder

Mildred Ann Yoder was born 12 October 1922 and died 11 April 2007. On 17 October 1943, she married Don A. Harding, born 7 July 1923, died 12 July 2002. They are buried together at Haven of Rest Cemetery, Hillsboro, Marion County, Kansas.

YR17a5532 Mary Louise Yoder

Mary Louise Yoder was born 17 October 1924 and died 31 January 2021. She married Raymond A. Ritter, born 6 January 1922, died 3 September 2021. Raymond was a captain in the US Army Air Force in World War II, so the couple are buried at Yellowstone National Cemetery, Laurel, Yellowstone County, Montana.

YR17a5533 Marion King Yoder

Marion King Yoder was born on 4 August 1928 in Peabody and died 9 March 2006 in Wichita. He was cremated and his ashes scattered on his farm. He married Betty L. Reed on 12 February 1961. He was survived by a son, James A. Yoder.

YR17a5534 Patricia Yoder

Patricia "Patsy" Yoder was born 1940 and married McLendon.

YR17a56 John K. Yoder

John K. Yoder was born 7 October 1862 in Berks County, PA, and died 10 January 1909 in Newton, Kansas. The YNL database gives his year of death as 1902, but when I looked at the birthdates of his children, I realized that this couldn't be right; if it was right, children numbers two and three weren't his, as they were born more than nine months after his death. Once again, newspapers to the rescue! John's obituary appeared in the Peabody Gazette-Herald, 21 January 1909, stating his date of death, 10 January 1909. Those kids were his after all.

John's obituary says he came to Kansas in 1884. John striking out for a new life in 1884 makes complete sense. He inherited money from his father's estate, but he was unable to claim it as his own until he was 21 years old, which happened in October of 1883. Now that he could collect his money, there was nothing to stop him. I don't believe he came with his brother Aaron, because we know Aaron was in Indiana in 1888 getting married. Aaron must have joined up with John after a few years. His obituary also says that John bought a farm six miles north of Walton, where he lived for nine years, before buying another farm in East Harvey where he lived for the last fifteen years of his life. Like others who went west, John returned home for a visit. The Reading Times of 19 February 1891 reported that John K. Yoder of Newton, Kansas, had been in Berks County for about two months and had left for home. His niece, Miss Rentschler accompanied him, to stay for a visit. This niece was the daughter of his sister Timna YR17a51.

On 22 April 1900, John married Lissa Sinex. The YNL database gives her name as Elizabeth, and her Find a Grave memorial uses Melissa, but the only name I have ever found for her is simply Lissa. The photo of her tombstone clearly shows her name as Lissa. The census records and newspaper articles call her Lissa. Her daughter's death record records her last name as "Sinney," which I believe may be the proper pronunciation.

John was a farmer, which can be a hard life, as John's story shows. On 29 August 1904, the Newton Kansan ran a story, "Knocked Senseless: Pleasant Township Farmer Struck by Lightning." John was working in his field with a team of four horses when a storm blew in quickly. The last thing John remembered was turning the team for home. When he regained consciousness about 30 minutes later, "he was lying on the ground with his horses piled up in front of him." One of the horses had been killed, but he managed to get the rest back home. He "felt pretty sick from the effects of the shock" and went to bed. "He suffers a great deal from

pains in his breast. It is feared he may be hurt internally.” The attending physician did not think his condition too serious.

John has the kind of obituary I wish everyone had. His whole life story is in that small article. He was baptized into the Brethren church on 28 May 1905, shortly after the lightning strike. He was a good man, kind husband, loving father, loved and respected by all who knew him. He was seriously ill with heart trouble but seemed to be slowly improving when he died. I can’t help but wonder if the “pains in his breast” from the lightning strike and the heart problems were related, as his death occurred less than four and a half years later.

John’s obituary says he is survived by a wife and two children, but the YNL database says he had three. The third child was born two months after John died. John’s brother Aaron was granted letters of administration on the estate on 2 February 1909.

John’s widow, Lissa Sinix, was born 10 October 1878 and died 24 December 1968. She was a chiropractor in Newton, with the earliest reference I found being 15 October 1914 in a report about a new building going up in town, and “Dr. Lissa Yoder will occupy two rooms on the north side of the hall as her office.” There are numerous other notices in the newspaper about her practice and her patients. Her obituary says she was a chiropractor for forty years. She died in a nursing home at the age of ninety. Widowed at age 30, she never remarried. She is buried with John at Greenwood Cemetery, Newton, Harvey County, Kansas.

John’s children:

+YR17a561 Raymond S. Yoder

YR17a562 Nora S. Yoder

+YR17a563 John King Yoder

YR17a561 Raymond S. Yoder

Raymond S. Yoder was born 23 June 1901 and died 17 September 1988. He was an electrical engineer working in the radio business. His first wife was Margaret A. Haldane. They were living in Michigan with their young son in 1930. At some point, they were divorced and both remarried.

On 1 March 1940, Raymond married Evelyn Gordon in Cook County, Illinois, and the census that year shows them living in Chicago. Raymond had a four-year college degree and worked as the chief laboratory engineer in the radio industry. His occupation in 1950 was electrical engineer in radio manufacture. Also in his household was wife Evelyn and her mother. There were no children.

Evelyn was born 10 November 1911 and died 27 September 1997. She and Raymond are buried in Chapel Hill Gardens West, Oakbrook Terrace, DuPage County, IL.

YR17a5611 Everett Raymond Yoder

Everett Raymond Yoder was born 24 October 1928 in Muskegon, Michigan and died 22 March 2022 in New Mexico. He was married to Jean M. Little on 5 June 1959, and they had two children, son Thomas Yoder and daughter Ann M. Yoder. Everett was cremated.

YR17a5612 Robert Haldane Yoder

Robert Haldane Yoder was born on 19 June 1934 in Cook County, IL. He married Sylvia Joy Wheat in Bexar County, Texas, about 21 December 1956.

YR17a562 Nora S. Yoder

Nora S. Yoder was born 8 April 1903 and died 19 November 1987 in Riverside, CA. On 11 June 1927 she married Donald M. Wilson, born 12 February 1898 and died 5 January 1995. Nora was a graduate of the Kansas State Agricultural College, which became Kansas State University. She was a teacher. Donald was a captain in the US Marine Corps. They are buried at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA.

YR17a563 John King Yoder

John King Yoder was born 25 March 1909 and died 30 June 1988. John's Find a Grave memorial says he died in 1985, but from the photos of his stone, you can clearly see the year of death is 1988. The Social Security Death Index also says he died in 1988, as does his obituary. John was living in Muskegon Heights, Muskegon County, Michigan, in 1930, working as a mechanic. He married Anita Marie Laurin, a native of Quebec, Canada, on 29 October 1930, so I'm willing to stick my neck out and guess that he met her while he was living in Michigan.

John returned to Kansas not too long after he was married. His first child, born about 1933, was born in Kansas. By 1940, John had returned to farming.

Anita was born 31 October 1912 in Hull, Quebec. Her Find a Grave memorial includes her obituary that says she was married in Kansas, but her marriage record in Michigan says otherwise. Anita lived in Hull until 1919, then Muskegon, MI, from 1919 to 1930, and the rest of her life in Kansas. She died on 27 September 2000. She is buried with John at Greenwood Cemetery in Newton.

John's children:

YR17a5631 Joseph Loren Yoder

YR17a5632 Donald Lee Yoder

YR17a5633 John King Yoder Jr.

YR17a5634 Clarence Ray Yoder

YR17a5631 Joseph Loren Yoder

Joseph Loren Yoder was born about 1933.

YR17a5632 Donald Lee Yoder

Donald Lee Yoder was born 30 December 1934 and died 9 May 2018. He married Delores Jean on 16 February 1958. The back of their tombstone says: Parents of Deanna, Michael, Michelle, Melanie, Jason. He is buried in Walton Cemetery, Walton, Harvey County, Kansas.

YR17a5633 John King Yoder Jr.

John King Yoder Jr. was born about 1938.

YR17a5634 Clarence Ray Yoder

Clarence Ray Yoder was born about 1947.

YR17a57 Reuben Yoder

Reuben K. Yoder was born 12 March 1865 and died 6 September 1936. He married Elmira U. Rentschler on 8 September 1888. Elmira was born 29 November 1865 and died 30 May 1942.

An item in the Reading Times reported, on 7 October 1882, under the heading *Local Brevities*: "Reuben K. Yoder, of Mohrsville, rides two miles to his work daily on a bicycle." Reuben was 18 years old at the time. The article did not state where he worked.

Reuben was a farmer and a member of the Lutheran congregation of Belleman's Church, where he is buried with Elmira.

YR17a571 Anna Bertha Yoder

Anna Bertha Yoder was born 4 August 1889 and died 19 August 1907, just after her 18th birthday. Her death certificate states the cause of death as an operation for appendicitis with a contributory cause of heart failure. She married Charles D. Stetzler on 3 November 1906 and left behind a daughter May.

YR17a6 Reuben R. Yoder

Reuben Yoder was born 27 July 1821 and died 7 December 1899. His obituary says he was a retired farmer and during his lifetime held various township and borough offices. He was a member of the town council of Centreport at the time of his death.

Reuben's farm was on part of the land that his grandfather John YR17 patented. Some of this land came to Reuben from his father Jacob YR17a. On 26 December 1867, Reuben sold a one-half acre plot of land to the trustees of the Brothers in Christ Jesus for their church. Morton L. Montgomery's *History of Berks County*, 1886, states that the church was built in 1867, and the deed refers to the edifice; it sounds like the church was built before the land was deeded to the church. It seems possible that Reuben would allow the church to be built on his land, as he was a faithful member. However, this was not a gift; the church paid \$50 for the land.

Reuben's first wife was Susanna Stepp, born 16 May 1827, died 13 September 1867. Her death date was a mystery for a while. Her tombstone at Viewpoint Cemetery was repaired with bolts

and cement obscuring the death date, so the cemetery reader was unable to identify the month, but she thought the day was 10 and the year was 1867. The YNL database says Susan died 10 September 1864. I knew this couldn't be right because she was the mother of all Reuben's children except Nathaniel born in 1872, but I had no proof of her death date. Susan's father, Samuel Stepp, died in 1866, and while his estate was being settled in 1867, the estate documents record the death of his daughter Susanna, intermarried with Reuben Yoder. The court documents state that she died 13 September 1867.

The 1870 census presents a mystery. Reuben is listed as head of household, age 48, with Malinda Yoder, age 57. The folks at ancestry.com assume this to be his wife, but she was not. Since Susan had died, leaving several young children, it would make sense that Reuben had some household help, but I can find no Malinda, born a Yoder or married to a Yoder, that fits this age. Maybe she was someone else and the census taker assumed she was a Yoder. Also living in the household that year was Catharine Ludwig, 45, identified as a domestic servant. Reuben's oldest daughter Ellen was 19, certainly old enough to help look after her younger siblings. So, who was Malinda?

On 24 September 1870, Reuben took a second wife, Eleanora Hiester, born 28 August 1834, died 25 June 1910. Reuben and Eleanora's family Bible was shown to the late Schuyler C. Brossman who wrote *Our Keystone Families*, a genealogy column that appeared in The Lebanon Daily News. The owner, who wished to remain anonymous, allowed the inscription to be copied for use in Column No. 575, published on 3 October 1977. The single entry was the birth of Reuben and Eleanora's only child, Nathaniel, born on 14 March 1872. It was written in German.

Reuben and both his wives are buried at Viewpoint Cemetery.

Reuben's children:

YR17a61 Ellen Yoder
+YR17a62 David Yoder
+YR17a63 James Yoder
YR17a64 Emma Stepp Yoder
YR17a65 Israel Yoder
YR17a66 Tamsen Yoder
YR17a67 Harrison Yoder
YR17a68 Mabry Yoder
+YR17a69 Jacob S. Yoder
+YR17a6a Absalom S. Yoder
YR17a6b Nathaniel Yoder

YR17a61 Ellen Yoder

Ellen Yoder was born 18 December 1851 and died 7 August 1924. She married Thomas Egolf on 5 September 1876. He was born 20 November 1852 and died 10 October 1925. They are buried

at St. Thomas Cemetery, Bernville, PA. Ellen's Find a Grave memorial gives her name as Ellen Stoudt Yoder, because the name carved prominently on the stone is Stoudt. However, there is no initial on the stone, just "Ellen Egolf." She and Thomas are buried with their daughter Herma and her husband, William Stoudt. The poster just assumed her maiden name was Stoudt. Another instance of someone jumping to the wrong conclusion.

YR17a62 David Yoder

David Stepp Yoder was born 14 October 1852 and died 22 November 1934. His first marriage to Emma Kline occurred in 1874. Emma was born 24 July 1851 and died 6 September 1879. She is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Centerport, PA. David and Emma had one son, Mabry.

David was a schoolteacher. After teaching in several area schools, he moved to Kutztown, PA, where he lived for the last thirty-four years of his life. Nineteen of those years he taught at the State Teachers College, now Kutztown University.

In 1883, David married Ida May Spatz, born 22 October 1862, died 12 October 1956. Ten years later, Ida gave birth to the couple's only child, a son Clarence. As per the 1900 census, David also provided a home for his nephew, Russell.

Ida's obituary identifies her as the oldest resident of Kutztown, age 93, when she died at a nursing home in Malvern, PA. David and Ida are buried in Fairview Cemetery, Kutztown, PA.

David's children:

YR17a621 Mabry Yoder

YR17a622 Clarence Yoder

YR17a621 Mabry Yoder

Mabry Kline Yoder was born 16 September 1874. His death date was an issue for a while. The transcription of the Fairview Cemetery records says he died in 1939. Then, I asked, why was he not named as a survivor in his father's obituary? After some digging, I discovered that the reason he was not named as a survivor of his father was because he wasn't one. Mabry died in 1933, a year before his father died. His Find a Grave memorial has a photo of the headstone which clearly shows his death date of 1933. The transcriber made a mistake. Mabry died 9 September 1933.

Like his father, Mabry was a teacher, graduating from Keystone State Normal School, now Kutztown University, Class of 1898. He also worked as a clerk for the Kutztown Foundry and Machine Company.

On 23 July 1908 Mabry married Laura L. Heffner, also a graduate of Keystone Normal School, Class of 1904, and a teacher. Laura was born 14 July 1886 and died 2 September 1959. They are buried together at Fairview Cemetery in Kutztown.

YR17a6211 Grace Yoder

Grace Yoder was born in 1914 and died 30 May 1985. Grace, like her parents, was a graduate of Keystone Normal School. She taught music from her home. She was the organist and choir director for the Grace Evangelical Congregational Church in Kutztown for fifty years. She was unmarried.

YR17a6212 Clarence Yoder

Clarence Howard Yoder was born 30 December 1893 in Shoemakersville, PA, and died 24 October 1984 in New Jersey. He graduated from Swarthmore College in 1920 with a major in political science. His wife, Helen Gertrude Sieber was born 11 August 1895 in Mifflintown, Juniata County, PA, and died 7 January 1996 in Westfield, Union County, New Jersey, at age 100. Clarence and Helen were married in Philadelphia in 1927 and were the parents of three daughters: Nancy Ann Yoder, born 8 July 1928 in Philadelphia, died in Worcester County, Massachusetts on 8 January 2016; Barbara Helen Yoder, born about 1932; and Susan Yoder', born about 1937. The family lived in Westfield, New Jersey, where Clarence worked in the personnel department at a company in the electric industry. Clarence, Helen and Nancy are buried at Fairview Cemetery, Kutztown, PA.

YR17a63 James Yoder

James Yoder was born 30 April 1854 and died 10 August 1946. He was married 4 November 1876 to Mary Ann Haag, born 2 August 1858 and died 11 October 1946. James was a farmer in Berks County until he sold up and moved to Lititz, Lancaster County, PA, about 1888.

I've been having a bit of a problem putting this family together. In the census of 1900 and 1910 adult women were asked how many children they had given birth to and how many were still living. Both times Mary's reply was three children with one living. I can only account for two. Mary's memorial on Find a Grave notes that she had children Mahlon H. born 1882 and William B. born 1882. Mahlon was born 28 May 1882, so if Mary had another child in 1882, it had to be a twin to Mahlon. There wasn't enough time in 1882 before or after Mahlon's birth for another child. Unfortunately, the newspaper at that time did not have a "New Arrivals" column as it did in the mid-twentieth century, so we have to rely on baptismal records. Mahlon was the only child of James and Mary at the baptismal font on 2 July 1882, so if he had a twin, he died very shortly after birth. James and Mary's first child, Rebecca, who died in 1881, is buried at Belleman's Church Cemetery, but there is no evidence of a brother in the cemetery. Of course, the person who put the information on Find a Grave may not be in possession of the facts. Maybe it wasn't a boy named William, and maybe he wasn't born in 1882. Whatever the case, I still can't find James and Mary's third child.

James and Mary are buried at Moravian Cemetery, Lititz, Lancaster County, PA.

YR17a631 Rebecca Emma Yoder

Rebecca Emma Yoder was born 16 August 1879 and baptized into the Lutheran Church by Rev. B. D. Zweizig on 28 September 1879. She died on 21 February 1881 of measles and breast fever.

Her death notice in the Reading Adler states that she was the only child of James and Mary Ann. She is buried at Belleman's Church Cemetery.

YR17a632 Mahlon Yoder

Mahlon Harold Yoder was born 28 May 1882 in Berks County and baptized 2 July 1882 at Belleman's Church. On 21 December 1909, he married Lillie Irene Baker. Mahlon was a physician. They had no children. Lillie died 1 December 1967, and Mahlon died 10 January 1970. They are buried at Moravian Cemetery, Lititz, Lancaster County, PA.

YR17a64 Emma Stepp Yoder

The transcribed record of Belleman's Church says that Emma was born 30 December 1858, but her death certificate says she was born 1 January 1858. She married Harry F. Long on 15 September 1883 when they were both 23 years old, putting her birth around 1860. So, when was she born? Emma and Harry resided in Lititz, Lancaster County, PA where she died 27 June 1939. Harry F. Long was born 22 January 1859 and died 5 April 1934. Emma and Harry are buried at Machpelah Cemetery, Lititz, Lancaster County, PA.

YR17a65 Israel Yoder

Israel Yoder was born 10 July 1855 and died 3 March 1872, age 16 years, 7 months and 23 days. He is buried in Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17a66 Tamsen Yoder

Tamsen Yoder was born 10 August 1861 and died 15 August 1869, the same day as her brother Harrison, of typhoid. They share a headstone in Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17a67 Harrison Yoder

Harrison Yoder was born 11 November 1863 and died 15 August 1869, the same day as his sister Tamsen, of typhoid. They share a headstone in Viewpoint Cemetery.

YR17a68 Mabry Yoder

I can find absolutely no sign of this child anywhere. He certainly could have existed; there is enough time between Harrison and Jacob for another child, but I can't find him.

YR17a69 Jacob S. Yoder

Jacob S. Yoder was born 7 August 1865 and was a farmer near Centreport. On 28 July 1888, he married Mary Ann Pautsch, born 7 June 1865. They were the parents of two daughters. Mary Ann died on 30 July 1917, from injuries sustained when she was hit by a train in Shoemakersville while attempting to cross the track at the station. She was taken to her home where she died several hours later. Jacob married again, to Mamie Rupp, daughter of Dr. John Rupp of Shoemakersville, about 22 March 1921, the date of the marriage license application.

Mamie was born in 1881 and died 19 July 1972. Jacob and Mamie had no children; she is buried in St. Luke's Cemetery, Shoemakersville, with her parents.

After Mary Ann's death, Jacob retired from farming and moved into Shoemakersville, where, on 8 November 1921, he was elected to a four-year term as a councilman on the first borough council (Shoemakersville was incorporated as a borough on 12 September 1921). He died at his home in Shoemakersville on 12 February 1941 and is buried at Belleman's Church Cemetery with his first wife, Mary Ann.

Jacob's children:

YR17a691 Emma Rebecca Yoder

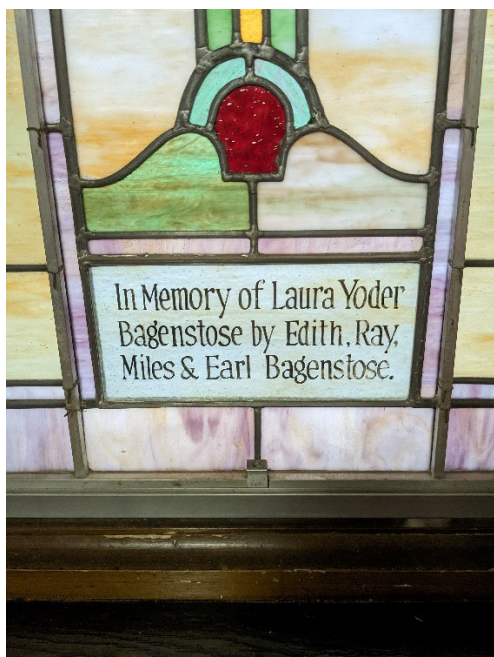
YR17a692 Laura May Yoder

YR17a691 Emma Rebecca Yoder

Emma Rebecca Yoder was born 24 October 1888 and married Rev. Henry Harrison Reber on 31 July 1909. He was the pastor at the Brethren church. She was the mother of three children and died 7 July 1924 of tuberculosis at the age of 35.

YR17a692 Laura May Yoder

Laura May Yoder was born 29 April 1890 and married Calvin Bagenstose on 11 September 1909. She died 6 December 1918 of pneumonia. Her death certificate states a contributory cause of la grippe. I took this photo of the memorial stained glass window in Belleman's Church. I was confused for a while, because the window was presented by Edith, Ray, Miles, and Earl. The first three are her children named in her obituary, but I had no idea where Earl came from. I finally found Earl's Find a Grave memorial and discovered that he was born 4 December 1918, just two days before Laura died. If the childbirth contributed in any way to her death, it is not noted on the death certificate. Laura is buried at Belleman's Church Cemetery.



YR17a6a Absalom Yoder

Absalom S. Yoder was born 5 November 1866 and died 4 January 1954. His first wife was Sarah Catherine "Sallie" Yoder, born 6 September 1867, baptized 13 October 1867 into the Lutheran congregation of Belleman's Church, the daughter of Alfred Yoder and Mary K. Haag from the unlinked B line. Sallie and Absalom were married on 29 May 1886. After their marriage, they moved to Lititz, Lancaster County, PA, where Absalom was a schoolteacher. Sallie and Absalom joined the Evangelical Congregational Church. While in Lititz, the couple had five children, with two of them dying young. A few months after giving birth to her fifth child, Sallie died on 12 February 1893 and she is buried in the Congregational cemetery in Lititz.

Absalom's name appeared in the Lititz newspaper several times over the years, sometimes because of his job as a teacher, sometimes because of his political aspirations (he was the Prohibition party candidate for the position of inspector in 1892; he lost, as did all the Prohibition candidates in that election). The first religious event that got his name in the paper was a camp meeting held in August of 1889. He represented the Lititz Evangelical Sunday School at the Lebanon District convention in September 1890.

After Sallie's death, Absalom and the children returned to Berks County. Absalom was living with his brother Jacob in 1900, while the children were with other relatives. In 1910, Absalom, a postal clerk, and his son Russell were boarders in Reading. He held the position of postal clerk in Reading for 29 years. On 17 October 1916, Absalom married again to Carrie B. Mock. He was active in his church, the First Evangelical Congregational Church, teaching Sunday School and the Ladies' Bible Class. His wife, Carrie, was born 28 December 1882 and died 6 January 1966. Absalom and Carrie are buried together at Charles Evans Cemetery, Reading, PA.

YR17a6a1 Herma Yoder

Herma Yoder was born 25 September 1886 in Lititz, PA, and baptized into the Evangelical Congregational Church on 25 December 1889. She died 23 August 1963 in the US Public Health Service Hospital in Baltimore, MD. After losing her mother when she was six years old, Herma lived with her mother's parents, Alfred and Mary (Haag) Yoder of the unlinked B line. She became a schoolteacher, graduating from the Kutztown State Normal School, now Kutztown University, and teaching at several schools in Centre Township, Berks County, and another school in Monroe County, PA. At the time of her death, she was a member of Emery Methodist Church, Washington, DC.

Herma married Lawrence Machemer Fisher, born 26 August 1886, died 5 July 1979, in Seattle, Washington, on 9 December 1911. Lawrence was a native of Tilden Township, Berks County. He was employed by the US government and had been conducting a survey of the coast of Alaska. When that was completed, the two met up in Seattle, married, and left the following week for the Philippines for his next government assignment. Their Washington marriage license says her occupation is teacher, and his is surveyor. Lawrence's Find a Grave memorial says he was in charge of malaria control operations at military installations in the Norfolk, VA area. Because of his government employment, Herma and Lawrence are buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA. They were the parents of five children.

YR17a6a2 Laura Mary Yoder

Laura Mary Yoder was born 6 November 1887 and died 4 April 1888 in Lititz, Lancaster County, PA. Laura's death date appeared in the Lititz Express on 29 December 1888 in the annual Mortuary List. There is no mention of parents, but the name Yoder does not appear often in that newspaper at that time. When it does, it is usually a reference to Absalom in his church or political interests. Laura is buried at Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church Cemetery in Lititz. The only other Yoder buried there is Sallie, so it just seems a logical conclusion. The time is right, the place is right, so I feel confident that Laura is the second child of Absalom and Sallie.

YR17a6a3 James Russell Yoder

J. Russell Yoder was born 18 October 1890 in Lititz, PA, and was baptized 14 December 1890 in the Evangelical Congregational Church, and died 14 February 1975. He married Minnie Marguerite Lutz on 23 October 1914. Minnie was born 14 March 1893 and died 10 June 1995.

After Russell's mother died, he lived with his uncle, David Yoder YR17a62, in Kutztown in 1900. The YNL database incorrectly identified him as a child of David, but he is clearly identified in the census as a nephew. By 1910, Russell was living with his father, both boarders, in a home in Reading. Russell's occupation at that time was a teacher in the public school.

Russell became a bank director and served as president of St. Lawrence Borough Council. He was a member of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church. Russell and Minnie are buried at Forest Hills Memorial Park, Reiffton, Berks County, PA.

YR17a6a31 James Russell Yoder Jr.

J. Russell Yoder Jr. was born 7 July 1916 and died 18 February 2004. On about 15 November 1946, he married Fern Irene Bortz, born 31 October 1923 and died 26 March 2013. Russell had served as treasurer of the Exeter School Board for 33 years. He was a World War II Navy veteran. Russell and Fern had two sons, Larry A. Yoder and Scott R. Yoder.

YR17a6a4 Child Yoder

The only evidence of this child is Sallie's obituary that said she lost two children, so I don't know if this is the proper position for this child. This one could possibly be the third child and Russell the fourth.

YR17a6a5 Daisy Yoder

Daisy E. Yoder was born 15 September 1892 and died 20 September 1973. On 28 October 1911, she married George S. Miller, born 26 December 1890, died 23 July 1952. They had no children and are buried together at St. Michael's Cemetery, Tilden Township, Berks County.

After her mother's death, Daisy went to live with her aunt, Tamsen Yoder Christ, her mother's sister. She lived there until she married. Tamsen Yoder was married to Garean Christ, son of Sarah Yoder YR17a4.

YR17a6b Nathaniel Yoder

Nathaniel Yoder was the only child of Reuben and his second wife Eleanor "Nellie" Heister. He was born 14 March 1872 and died 2 December 1935. He served as a minister in the Brethren church for nine years. He never married.

David Milton Yoder

I found David Milton Yoder, also known as D. Milton Yoder, or just Milton Yoder, from Upper Bern Township. His obituary says he is the son of David and Hettie (Seaman) Yoder. Written that way, it implies that the parents were married, but when I looked for a marriage between these two, there was nothing to find. Digging a little deeper, I discovered that Hettie Seaman was the mother of two children, yet she appears as a single lady in all the census records and on her death certificate. The obituary of her older son, Mahlon Daniel Stoudt, born 13 October 1865, died 3 August 1897, did not shed any light on my mission of discovery. Hettie's obituary did not help, either.

David Milton Yoder was born 13 March 1872 and died 6 December 1947. In the 1880 census, Milton Yoder, age 7, was living in Upper Bern in the home John Seaman, his maternal grandfather, along with John's wife Hetty, daughter Hetty, and grandson Mahlon Stoudt. In 1900, Milton was a farmer and the head of household in Upper Bern with his wife Annie and his mother Hettie. Her occupation was "capitalist." Milton and Annie were newlyweds, married less than one year. The marriage license application identified the bride as Annie Ruth of

Robesonia. She and Milton were married on 16 December 1899. Annie was born 20 January 1876 and died 29 January 1909. The cause of death was "Hemorrhage resulting from a rupture of a "Tubal Pregnancy."" She is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery.

In 1910 and 1920, Hettie moved up to the head of household status, living with her son. By 1930, she is still the head, with D. Milton Yoder, 58, son, doing farm work. This year, though, there is a housekeeper living there, Catherine C. Leshner, 60 and single. Hettie died 12 June 1932 at the age of 85. She is buried in St. Michael's Cemetery. Six months after her death, on 3 December 1932, Milton and Catharine applied for a marriage license. Since he was 60 and she was 62, there were no children born to this couple.

David Milton Yoder is buried at St. Michael's cemetery with his first wife Annie. His second wife, Catherine Carolina Leshner Yoder, born 25 April 1869, died 14 November 1952, is buried at Trinity United Church of Christ Cemetery, Rehrersburg, PA.

So where does he fit in? Milton's death certificate says he was the son of David Yoder and Hettie Seaman. The informant was his wife, Catherine. Since Milton was born in 1872, we need to find a David Yoder living somewhere in the vicinity of Hettie's Upper Bern Township home, possibly around 18 or 20 years old, that might be out to sow some wild oats. The only candidate I can find is David Yoder YR17a62. The 1876 Berks County atlas shows the homes of David's father Reuben in Centre Township and Hettie's father John Seaman in Upper Bern Township. The two homes are only about seven miles apart, more or less. Hettie had already had a child, so she was the experienced "older woman." She was born in 1846, David in 1852, so she was six years older. David didn't marry until 1874.

I have no proof that this is the right David Yoder, but I haven't found any other likely candidate. If he is the one, there is nothing I found in his personal history to indicate that he ever acknowledged the child. While searching out this family, I have encountered other illegitimate children, and there generally seems to be no recognition of the fact by the father, although the child knows of his paternity. The father's name shows up on baptismal records, death certificates and in obituaries. This one follows that pattern.

This concludes my findings on the YR17 line.
9 August 2023

YR17 Lands in Centre Township, Berks County, PA, from Illustrated Historical Atlas of Berks County, Reading Publishing House, 1876, reprinted by Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 2001.



Sources:

I made every attempt to document every date I used in this work. Some dates came from multiple sources, so rather than put notes or multiple footnotes in the text, I will list all the sources here. Too many in-text citations I find to be distracting. As I stated previously, if you want specific source information, contact me. If I found date discrepancies, I explained that in the text. The details in this work would not have been possible without the collection of the Berks County Genealogical Society. Those items are indicated as BCGS followed by the library accession number.

Viewpoint Cemetery, Centre Township BCGS #7389; Cemetery read by Pauline Leffel

Fairview Cemetery, Kutztown, PA BCGS #698

Fairview Cemetery of Salem Belleman's Church BCGS# 2648

A Directory of Burials on Salem Belleman's Graveyard BCGS# 2651

St. John's Cemetery, Centerport, Berks County, PA BCGS #4242

Evangelical Lutheran & Reformed Congregations, Windsor Township (now Perry), Berks County, PA, also known as Zion or Ziegel Union Church 1762-1867 BCGS # 1626 (Burial Record typed 1966)

Early Records of Friedens Church, Wessnersville (Stony Run), PA BCGS #1634

Gernant's Church Cemetery, Ontelaunee Township, Berks Co., PA BCGS #358

Records of Rev. B.D. Zweizig 1859 – 1871 BCGS #3169

Naftzinger Funeral Home Burials BCGS #2652

Trinity UCC Rehrersburg PA Cemetery BCGS #114

Royer's Meeting House, Jackson Twp., Lebanon Co., PA BCGS #8305

Reading Adler Marriages, multiple volumes, Berks County Historical Society #GA M359r and also BCGS

Tombstone Inscriptions from Aulenbach Cemetery, Reading PA BCGS #78

Births, Baptisms and Marriages, Salem Belleman's Union Church BCGS #2655

The Leibensperger Funeral Home 1935-1996, Hamburg, Berks County, PA BCGS #4021

Records of Rev. Mabry L. Herbein BCGS # 6080

Reformed Records of the St. Peter's United Church of Christ, Richmond Township, BCGS #4081

Friedens Reformed Church, Shartlesville, BCGS #2899

St. John's Lutheran Church, Hamburg, PA BCGS #4532

Zion UCC cemetery gravestone inscriptions, <http://www.berksweb.com/zionucc/stone.html>

This website was extremely helpful, but the owner has removed it.

Yoder Newsletter, referred to in the text as YNL, yodernewsletter.org.

Newspaper obituaries and other articles are mostly from the Reading Eagle, mainly from microfilm at Berks County Genealogical Society, some from Google News Archives, and the Reading Times on newspapers.com. Other newspapers were useful for those individuals that lived outside of the area covered by the Reading papers. Those were accessed at newspapers.com.

Marriage license information came from the Berks County Register of Wills Office. I went to the office on multiple occasions and looked at the microfiche of the applications. For those that I did not actually see, I used their online index. When I state that a couple was "married about" a certain date with day, month, and year, that indicates that I used the index and did not see the actual application. The date of the marriage would be on the document. Images of older applications are available on ancestry.com. Any marriage licenses from outside Berks County were accessed on ancestry.com.

The Berks County Recorder of Deeds office has images of land records available on their website that I accessed for the information on the transfer of land.

The Pennsylvania Archives website was the source of patent information.

Ancestry.com was invaluable for their images of census records, Pennsylvania birth and death certificates, World War I and World War II Draft Cards, and many more images of document including, but not limited to, original handwritten church records, ministers' records and civil records.

Philadelphia Death Certificates were accessed on familysearch.org.

Pennsylvania Probate Records, 1683 – 1994 were accessed on familysearch.org.

Civil War information, especially unit histories, was from pacivilwar.com.

Epitaphs – Handbook of Historic Family Graveyards, Berks County, Pennsylvania by Jacqueline B. Nein, John Texter and Cynthia Jimenez, 1999.

Find A Grave, findagrave.com. Many of the dates came from this site. There were some discrepancies and some incorrect links. When I was able to identify the inconsistencies, I stated that in the text.

More recent obituaries were found on various funeral home websites, located by searching on the name of the decedent with the word "obituary."