

Yotter Immigrants to Lee County, Iowa

Christian Joder and his wife Margarete Gerber were Swiss Mennonites who settled in the village of Eppstein in the Palatinate in the early 1700s. A century later some of their descendants immigrated to Lee County, Iowa, where Mennonites had established a community in 1839. Christian Gram (1810-1895), son of Johann Gram and Katharina Jotter, was probably the first Jotter descendant to arrive in the area. He came with his family in 1842. In 1852 his sister Veronika (Gram) Lehmann (1807-1880) and her four children joined him. Her husband Johannes and youngest son Daniel had died of cholera on the journey west. The immigrants established Mennonite churches at West Point, Franklin, and Donnellson. After a few decades the congregations began to decline; West Point and Franklin and were almost extinct by the late 1800s, when many members moved away or joined other churches. In America some descendants of the Eppstein couple retained Jotter as their surname, while others changed the spelling to Yotter.

Jacob Jotter, a great-grandson of Christian and Margarete, was the first of the surname to immigrate to Lee County. He was born at Eppstein in 1804 and arrived with his wife Catherine Roth and five children in 1844. The couple lived for a short time in Keokuk before moving to a farm in Charleston Township and later to West Point. They became members of the German Methodist Episcopal Church. Jacob died 3 November 1864 at West Point and is said to be buried in the cemetery there. After his death the family moved across the Mississippi River to Warsaw, Hancock County, Illinois. Catherine died between 1870 and 1880 and is buried there.

Children, first five born probably at Eppstein, last two in Lee County:

1. John Jotter, born 15 September 1833, married Elizabeth Strohm on 8 April 1858 in Lee County. She was born 20 May 1839. John and Elizabeth resided in Warsaw, where he was a brick mason. Elizabeth died 25 October 1921 and John on 8 November 1926, both in Warsaw, where they are buried.

Children, all born in Illinois:

- i. Edward H. Jotter, born 5 August 1859. He married Katherine A. O'Reilly on 11 February 1885 at St. Louis, Missouri. She was born in April 1862 in St. Louis. He was a bookkeeper for O.J. Lewis, a mercantile company. They died in St. Louis, Edward on 31 March 1896 and Katherine on 15 July 1920. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery. Two children.
- ii. Lydia C. Jotter, born 25 November 1861 and died in Warsaw on 10 February 1942. She is buried in the Oakland Cemetery there. She was a schoolteacher and never married.
- iii. Child who died young.
- iv. Emma Sybilla Jotter, born in January 1867. She married George Warren Williams Walker on 23 February 1892 at Warsaw. He was born at Warsaw on 22 February 1863. They moved to Southern California in the early 1900s. George died at Van Nuys, Los Angeles County 1 July 1935 and Emma at Ojai, Ventura County on 23 November 1951. They are buried at Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth. They had five children.

- v. Ida Jotter, born in December 1869 and died in May 1943 at Warsaw. She worked as a bookkeeper and store clerk. She never married.
2. Jacob Yotter, born 15 October 1835. He married Anna Carstens in September 1860 at West Point. She was born in 1840 in Ohio. They lived at West Point and Fort Madison. Jacob was a brick mason who built 15 churches and many residences. He served as a blacksmith in the Union Army during the Civil War and later as an alderman in West Point and a street commissioner in Fort Madison. Anna died 3 May 1901 and Jacob on 12 February 1911, both at Fort Madison. They are buried in the Elmwood Cemetery there. Children, all born in Iowa:
 - i. Francis T. "Frank" Yotter, born in July 1861, married Emma F. "Minnie" Robers on 11 November 1903 in Lee County. She was born 23 July 1865 in Iowa. They lived at Hannibal and St. Louis, Missouri, where Frank was a brick mason. He died 9 June 1928 and Minnie on 30 March 1963. They are buried in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis. They had three children.
 - ii. Charles Alexander Yotter, born 16 January 1864, married first Augusta B. "Gussie" Best on 19 October 1897 in Huntington County, Indiana. She died 15 April 1900 at Angola, Indiana. They had one daughter, Karolyn (1899-1910). Charles married second on 1 January 1902 in La Grange County, Indiana, Rena Sears, born 1 November 1877 in Indiana. Charles was a prominent lawyer in Angola. He died there 21 February 1931; Rena passed away 10 June 1955 at Glendale, California. He and both wives are buried in Circle Hill Cemetery in Angola. Charles and Rena had four children.
 - iii. George Edgar Yotter, born in September 1866, married Minnie Delashmutt 1 January 1903 in Lee County. She was born in June 1876 in Iowa. George operated a hardware store in Fort Madison. He died in 1909 and is buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Fort Madison. He had no children. Minnie later remarried to his younger brother, John.
 - iv. Sophy Yotter, born in May 1870. She worked as a saleswoman in a department store in Fort Madison and never married. She died 13 Mar 1953 in Fort Madison and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
 - v. John Oliver Yotter, born 9 September 1872. He served in Company B, 12th Minnesota Infantry in the Spanish American War, then worked as a street car conductor and railroad clerk in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. He married Minnie Delashmutt Yotter, widow of his brother George, about 1914. She died 25 March 1942 and he passed away on 11 April 1946, both in Thief River Falls. They are buried in Elmwood Cemetery. They had no children.
 - vi. Rosena "Nynn" Yotter, born in April 1875 in Iowa. She worked as a clerk in a shoe store in Fort Madison and never married. She died 26 November 1962 in Fort Madison and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
 - vii. Robert "Bert" Yotter, born in 1879 in Iowa and died in 1899. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery.
3. Mary Yotter, born 29 December 1837. She married Peter Roth 19 January 1858 in Lee County. He was born 24 April 1832 in Bavaria and immigrated to America in 1846. He was a cooper. Peter and Mary lived at West Point but later moved to Faribault, Rice County,

Minnesota. They both died at Faribault, Peter on 20 February 1916 and Mary on 16 February 1921. They are buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Fort Madison.

Children, all born in Iowa:

- i. Amelia S. Roth, born in January 1860. She married James Adolphus Sprague on 20 November 1888 at Faribault, Minnesota. He was born in November 1855 in Iowa. They farmed in Union Township, Des Moines County, Iowa until 1903, when they moved to a farm in Harrison Township, Hall County, Nebraska. James passed away 5 January 1939. Amelia died 10 August 1939 from injuries she received from falling downstairs in a department store. They are buried in Grand Island Cemetery, Grand Island, Nebraska. They had four children.
 - ii. William George Roth, born 8 September 1860. He worked as a wagon maker and blacksmith. He never married and died 10 July 1916 at Butte, Montana, where he was working for a mining company. He is buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault, Minnesota.
 - iii. August David Roth, born in December 1862, married Bertha O. Bauer on 19 August 1891 in Hennepin County, Minnesota. He had a photography business in Minneapolis. Bertha died 27 January 1933 and August on 18 April 1941, both in Hennepin County. They had two children.
 - iv. Edward Daniel Roth, born 14 November 1869. He married Emma Emily Koethe on 3 May 1894 at Faribault, Minnesota. She was born in Houston County, Minnesota in 1872. Edward had a printing company in Faribault. He died 8 August 1949; Emily passed away 13 November 1950. They are buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault. They had two children.
 - v. Katharina M. Roth, born 27 March 1873. She married Christian W. Hagen on 18 Jul 1899 in Rice County, Minnesota. She died 8 December 1901 in St. Paul, Minnesota and is buried in Maple Lawn Cemetery, Faribault. She had one child.
4. Elizabeth Jotter, born 22 September 1842. She married John B. Ross on 26 March 1862 in Adams County, Illinois. He was born 22 April 1839 in Hesse-Kassel and immigrated to the U.S. in 1857. John was a dry goods merchant in Warsaw, Illinois. About 1887 the family moved to Ellsworth, Kansas where he operated a clothing store. He died 6 April 1913 and Elizabeth on 30 September 1919. They are buried in the Old Ellsworth Cemetery.

Children:

- i. John W. Ross, born in Iowa in July 1862. He married Susa E. Root in Kansas in 1888. She was born in Illinois in March 1867. John and Susa resided in Dickinson and Herington, Kansas, where John was a salesman in a department store. Susa died in 1932 and John in 1950. They are buried in Sunset Hill Cemetery in Herington. They had four children.
- ii. Matilda G. Ross was born in Illinois in 1868 and married George W. Sparr in 1893. They resided in Kansas City, Missouri where John was a traveling salesman. John died 15 April 1926 and Matilda on 23 July 1927. They are buried in the Old Ellsworth Cemetery. They had no children.
- iii. Mary Eleanor Ross, born in July 1869 in Illinois. She married Thomas George O'Donnell, an Irish immigrant who was born 4 January 1866. They resided in Ellsworth, Kansas,

where Thomas was a salesman in a hardware store. Thomas died in 1943 and Mary in 1970. They are buried in the Old Ellsworth Cemetery. They had six children.

5. Catherine Jotter, born about 1844. She married Casper Herzog on 2 November 1865 in Hancock County, Illinois. He was born in Germany in May 1839 and immigrated to the United States in 1865. He was a blacksmith and wagon maker. Catherine died before 1870; on 12 January of that year Casper remarried to Eliza Ross. He died in April 1911 and is buried at Warsaw, Illinois.

Child:

- i. Oscar Henry Herzog, born in Illinois in 1866. He married Matilda Brueggemann in Hancock County, Illinois on 22 Jun 1893. Oscar was dead by 1900, as Matilda is listed as a widow on the census for that year.
6. Anna Jotter, born 29 September 1846. She married, as his second wife, Diedrich Renken on 13 May 1875 in Hancock County, Illinois. He was born 1 April 1834 in Germany. They resided in Hancock County, where Anna died 26 January 1897. Diedrich remarried to Melissa Jane Ritchie on 24 June 1901. He died 20 June 1914. He and Anna are buried in the McGee Cemetery in Hancock County.

Children, all born in Illinois:

- i. William F. Renken, born in January 1876. He married Bertha Belle Holtsclaw on 25 March 1908 in Hancock County. She was born there 1 April 1887. They farmed in Bear Creek and Wythe Townships. Bertha died 14 April 1946 and William in 1958. They are buried in West Cemetery in Basco. They had no children.
 - ii. Maude M. Renken, born in May 1878. She married George H. Hempen on 16 September 1896 in Hancock County. They farmed in Wythe Township. George died in 1938 and Maude in 1959. They are buried in Bethlehem United Church of Christ Cemetery in Sutter, Hancock County. They had three children.
 - iii. Emma Renken, born in July 1880. She was living in Hancock County in 1900.
 - iv. George D. Renken, born 13 November 1883. He married Estel Rice in 1907. He died 11 August 1910 and is buried in the Elvaston City Cemetery in Hancock County. Estel died 18 July 1971 in Orange County, California and is buried at Elvaston. They had two children.
 - v. John Edward Renken, born 9 May 1886. He married Minnie Amelia Boos on 1 April 1915 in Hancock County. They farmed in Bear Creek Township. John died 28 November 1964 at Carthage, Illinois. Minnie died in 1975. They are buried in West Cemetery at Basco. They had no children.
 - vi. Anna Renken, born in September 1888. She was living in Hancock County in 1900.
7. Peter Yotter, born in November 1852. He married Amelia Bensel on 31 August 1881 in Rice County, Minnesota. She was born in August 1861 in Minnesota. They moved from Faribault to Minneapolis where Peter was a harness maker for a moving and storage company and Amelia operated a grocery store. They later moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Peter died on 24 August 1936 and Amelia on 26 August 1946. They are buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne.

Child:

- i. Dottie R. Yotter, born 28 November 1882 at Faribault. She married Louis C. Mentz on 5 October 1899 in Minneapolis. He was born in Germany about 1874. They moved to

Cheyenne, where Louis was president of the Mentz Motor Company and proprietor of the Elkhorn Cafe. He died 30 July 1933 at Cheyenne. Dottie died 30 January 1966 in San Diego, California. They are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne. They had four children.

Peter Jotter, older brother of Jacob, arrived in New Orleans in 1847 on the ship *John Holland* with his wife Anna Margarethe Strupp and three children. Peter was born in Eppstein on 17 January 1796; his wife was born in May 1808. The family traveled up the Mississippi to Lee County, Iowa, where they settled on a farm in Charleston Township. Peter was naturalized at Keokuk on 30 September 1852. By 1870 they lived in Franklin Township, where Peter died 13 May 1889. He is said to be buried in the Evangelical Cemetery there. Margarethe died 15 October 1899 and is buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery, Otoe County, Nebraska.

Children, born at Eppstein:

1. Margarete Yotter, born 1 January 1830. She married Johann Adam Hopp on 28 April 1848 in Lee County. He was born 14 October 1824 in Mannheim, Germany. They farmed in Charleston Township in Lee County all their lives. Margarete died 15 April 1894 and John on 20 June 1904, both at Charleston. They are buried in the cemetery there.

Children, born in Lee County:

- i. Jacob Hopp, born 19 March 1852. He married Elizabeth Renz in Lee County on 22 February 1877. She was born in Iowa on 8 April 1856. They farmed in Charleston Township. Elizabeth died 8 November 1899. On 25 November 1900 Jacob remarried to Magdalena Weber. He died in 1946. Jacob and Elizabeth are buried at Charleston. They had four children.
 - ii. Elizabeth Hopp, born 15 February 1854. She married John Lutz on 15 March 1876 in Charleston Township. He was born in Franklin Township on 28 August 1849. They were farmers. John died 3 August 1930 and Elizabeth in 1946. They are buried in Donnell Cemetery, Donnellson, Iowa. They had seven children.
 - iii. Adam Hopp, born 25 October 1855. He married Clara Elizabeth Lamb on 13 March 1881 in Lee County, where they resided. Clara died at Montrose on 20 March 1925. Adam passed away 24 July 1940 at Donnellson. They are buried in Montrose Cemetery. They had eight children.
 - iv. John Hopp, born 8 November 1858. He married Susan Miles on 19 December 1882. She was born 29 November 1863. They resided in Lee County. John died 20 September 1938 and Susan on 4 July 1939, both at Montrose. They are buried in Charleston Cemetery. They had four children.
2. Jacob Yotter, born 21 January 1832. He married Elizabeth Lutz in Lee County on 22 July 1855. She was born in Eppstein about 1834. They farmed in Franklin Township in Lee County until 1874, when they moved to Mazeppa, Wabasha County, Minnesota. They both died there, Jacob on 28 May 1907 and Elizabeth on 30 March 1913. They are buried at Mazeppa.

Children, first eight born in Franklin Township, Lee County:

- i. Jacob Yotter, born 25 August 1856, died 17 October 1856.
 - ii. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Yotter, born 10 August 1858. She married Lester B. Stull on 6 October 1883 in Wabasha County, Minnesota. He was born in April 1859 in Minnesota. Lizzie died 11 August 1919 in Goodhue County, Minnesota and Lester on 22 January 1941 in Wabasha County. They are buried in Mazeppa Cemetery. They had four children.
 - iii. Peter Yotter, born 8 November 1860. He was living in 1938.
 - iv. Wilhelm "William" Yotter, born 19 January 1863. He married Elizabeth Popke on 9 May 1892 in Stockholm, Wisconsin. William died 26 September 1940 in Turtleford, Saskatchewan, Canada. They had three children.
 - v. John E. Yotter, born 20 August 1865. He was a farmer and mail carrier in Mazeppa before moving to Winona, Minnesota about 1918. He married Mary Olsen of Winona on 5 July 1921 in Koochiching County, Minnesota. She was born about 1875 in Minnesota. They had a business selling cigars in Winona. John died there 27 November 1938 and is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. Mary died 2 June 1943, also in Winona. They had no children.
 - vi. Emma Christine Yotter, born 7 June 1868. She married, as his second wife, William Brown McKibben on 3 August 1910 at Mazeppa. They farmed and also operated a restaurant in Pemberton, Minnesota. William died 27 October 1931 at Pemberton and Emma on 20 May 1952 in Hennepin County, Minnesota. They had no children.
 - vii. Jacob Yotter, born 30 November 1870. He married Marie Anna Woods about 1901. She was born 1 November 1881 in Ireland. Jacob and Marie farmed in North Dakota before moving to Desert Lake, Emery County, Utah. Marie died there 7 May 1925. Jacob died 13 November 1961 at Grand Junction, Colorado. They are buried in Price City Cemetery, Price, Utah. They had four children.
 - viii. Henry Albert Yotter, born 28 January 1873. He married Prudence White on 9 September 1909 at Fennimore, Wisconsin. She was born in 1876 at Mount Hope, Wisconsin. Henry operated a hardware store in Glasgow, Montana for many years. He died 24 Jun 1949 at Glasgow. Prudence died 16 May 1956 at Franklin, Louisiana. They are buried in Highland Cemetery in Glasgow. They had one child.
 - ix. Frederick Charles Yotter, born in July 1877 at Mazeppa. He married first Charlotte A. Fox on 20 May 1903 at Mazeppa. She was born 3 February 1880 and died 23 January 1904. Frederick married second Maud Jo Cliff on 25 November 1909 in Wabasha County. He worked as a mail carrier and grain elevator operator in Mazeppa before moving to Denver, Colorado in 1924. There he was the proprietor of a gas station. Maud died 8 October 1964 and Frederick on 20 July 1965 at Denver. They are buried in Mazeppa Cemetery. Frederick had a son by his first wife and daughter by his second.
3. Elizabeth Yotter, born 8 April 1834. She married Wilhelm "William" Brehm about 1856 in Lee County. They farmed in Franklin Township until the 1870s, when they moved to a farm in Spring Creek in Johnson County, Nebraska. Elizabeth died 11 March 1906 and William on 10 August 1910. They are buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery, Otoe County, Nebraska.
Children, born in Lee County, Iowa:

- i. Wilhelmina "Minnie" Brehm, born 22 January 1857, married John Deutsch on 26 June 1879 in Johnson County, Nebraska. He was born about 1856 in Lee County, Iowa. They farmed at McWilliams, Nebraska. Minnie died 2 February 1882 and John in 1887. They are buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery. They had two children.
- ii. Elizabeth Brehm, born about 1859, married William Dermann on 29 March 1883 in Otoe County, Nebraska. He was born 13 October 1856 in Missouri. They farmed at McWilliams. Elizabeth died 16 December 1922 and William on 5 May 1932. They are buried in Saint John's Cemetery, Talmage, Nebraska. They had three children.
- iii. Charles Peter Brehm, born 2 July 1860, married Wilhelmina Doermann on 24 April 1884 in Johnson County, Nebraska. She was born 11 September 1859 in Missouri. They farmed in Spring Creek Township. Wilhelmina died 2 February 1937 and Charles on 15 January 1951. They are buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery. They had six children.
- iv. John Brehm, born about 1862. He was living in Spring Creek Township in 1885.
- v. Christina Brehm, born about 1864, married 26 May 1885 in Johnson County, Nebraska, Edmond Perrenoud. He was born 2 October 1860 in Switzerland. Christina died before 1895, when Edmond remarried to Marie E. Tschudy. He died in March 1953 in Portland, Oregon. Edmond and Marie are buried in River View Cemetery in Portland. Christina and Edmond had three children.
- vi. Frederick William Brehm, born 15 November 1866. He married Augusta Wellensiek on 7 December 1893 in Otoe County, Nebraska, where they farmed for many years. Augusta died 4 December 1925. Frederick remarried to Alvina Halm Schacht in 1932. Alvina died 17 September 1952 and Frederick on 10 April 1965. Fred, Augusta, and Alvina are buried in Park Hill Cemetery in Otoe County. Fred and Augusta had seven children.
- vii. George Brehm, born 10 January 1870, married Josephine Christine Ernst on 10 April 1895 at Talmage. She was born 17 March 1871 at Tecumseh, Nebraska. George operated a hardware store for many years. He died 9 January 1949 and Josephine died 17 August 1958. They are buried in Saint Paul's Cemetery. They had three children.
- viii. Anna Margaretha Brehm, born 8 August 1873. She married Wilhelm Martin Ernst on 30 November 1893 in Johnson County, Nebraska. He was born at Hillsdale, Illinois on 4 May 1869. They farmed in Johnson County. Wilhelm died 4 October 1950 and Anna on 25 May 1964, both in Tecumseh, Nebraska. They are buried in Tecumseh Cemetery. They had three children.

Christian Yotter, a third great-grandson of Christian and Margarete, arrived in Lee County in 1858. He was born in the village of Sembach in the Palatinate on 12 December 1831, the son of Johann Jotter, a native of Eppstein, and his wife Agnes Gobels. In 1850 Christian and his younger brother, Heinrich, ages 18 and 16, immigrated to America on the ship *William Tell*. They joined their mother, stepfather, and three of their siblings who had settled in Alden, Erie County, New York in 1846. According to family stories the boys left their homeland to avoid having to serve in the army.

Christian married Katherine Boyer in Erie County on 27 March 1854. She was born about 1837 in New York. The couple moved to Franklin, Lee County, Iowa, where many relatives had settled. After being in America for 10 years Christian became a naturalized citizen, taking the oath in the Lee County court on 21 August 1860.

Katherine died in January 1862, along with her baby, leaving her husband with two small children. Christian married Sarah Schmitt on 16 March 1862 in Lee County, just two months after Katherine's death. John Carl Krehbiel, a cousin of Christian's father, was the Mennonite minister who married them. Sarah was born on 27 November 1842 in Friesenheim and was christened as Sara Baumgartner on 4 December 1842. The name of her father is not given in the records. Sarah's mother, Katherine Baumgartner, married Heinrich Schmitt in 1844. In 1847 the family came to America on the ship *John Holland*. Peter Jotter and his family were fellow passengers. They landed in New Orleans and probably traveled by steamboat up the Mississippi River to Lee County, Iowa.

Christian and Sarah farmed in Lee and Louisa counties until 1902, when they bought a house in the village of West Point where Christian died on 14 July 1914. After his death Sarah moved to Mount Pleasant in Henry County, Iowa. She died there on 15 August 1924. They are buried in the West Point City Cemetery.

Children of Christian and Katherine (Boyer) Yotter:

1. Johann Wilhelm (John William) Yotter, born 12 January 1855 in Erie County, New York. He married Margaret Viola Bowers in April 1880 in Louisa County, Iowa. She was born 2 January 1860 in Des Moines County, Iowa. They farmed near Oakville, Louisa County. John died there 13 November 1923 and Margaret on 2 August 1937 at Burlington, Iowa. They are buried in Edwards Cemetery in Louisa County.

Children, all born in Louisa County:

- i. William Henry Yotter, born 24 September 1881. He and his younger brother Edward operated a hog farm near Oakville. William married as her second husband Edith (Zell) Abbott on 22 December 1921. She was born in Illinois. On 16 September 1942 William was killed in a farm accident. He is buried in Edwards Cemetery in Louisa County. His wife's name is on the gravestone with a birthdate of 1880 and no death date. It is unknown whether she is also buried there. William had no children.
- ii. Edward Louis Yotter, born 27 October 1883. He married Bessie Glenn on 19 August 1925. She was born 2 January 1894. Edward died 22 January 1961 at Oakville and Bessie on 8 April 1984 at Wapello. They are buried in Edwards Cemetery. They had four children.
- iii. Sarah Ann "Sadie" Yotter, born 12 December 1887. She married William V. Sperry on 3 April 1913 at Burlington, Iowa. He was born 22 January 1880 at Harford, Missouri. They moved to a farm near Corvallis, Montana in 1926. William died 11 June 1950 and Sadie on 10 July 1967. They are buried in the cemetery at Corvallis. They had seven children.
- iv. Lena Mae Yotter, born 4 June 1890. She attended college at Cedar Falls, Iowa and taught school for seven years. She married Dr. Herbert C. Cram, a veterinarian, on 11 August 1919. He was born 25 April 1891 at Morgan, Kentucky. They resided at Wapello, Iowa;

Memphis, Tennessee, and Richmond, Virginia, where Lena died on 11 September 1936. Herbert remarried to Maria Lofton and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he died 9 January 1961. He and Lena are buried in the Edwards Cemetery in Louisa County, Iowa. They had no children.

2. Maria E. (Mary) Yotter, born 21 September 1859 in Franklin Township, Lee County, Iowa. She married Christian Ellenberger, a cabinet maker, on 30 October 1881. He was born 29 February 1852 in Iowa. They resided in West Point, where Christian died on 8 December 1923 and Mary on 19 October 1950. They are buried in the cemetery there. They had no children.
3. Child who died as infant in 1862.

Children of Christian and Sarah (Schmitt) Yotter:

1. Heinrich (Henry) Yotter, born 5 December 1862 in West Point Township. He married Olive van Hying on 10 November 1892. She was born in December 1872 in Iowa. They resided in Woodbury County, Iowa before moving to Yakima, Washington where they were fruit farmers. Henry died 11 May 1923 and Olive on 20 August 1936, both in Yakima. They are buried in Tahoma Cemetery there.

Children:

- i. Glenn Amos Yotter, born 28 August 1893 at West Point, Iowa. He married Mary Alice Durall at Yakima on 27 May 1914. She was born 12 May 1893 at Chanute, Kansas. Glenn worked for Standard Oil Company for 31 years. He died 20 September 1956 in Seattle. Mary died 15 October 1987 in Yakima. They are entombed in Acacia Mausoleum in Seattle. They had two children.
 - ii. Essel Estella Yotter, born 5 February 1897 at Anthon, Woodbury County, Iowa. She married Fred Albert McDowell on 27 June 1923. He was born 15 July 1884 in Oregon and worked as a mechanic. Fred died 8 February 1961 while on vacation at Manteca, California. Essel died 9 March 1988. They are entombed in Acacia Mausoleum in Seattle. They had no children.
2. Anna Katharina Yotter, born 12 February 1864 at West Point. She married, as his second wife, George Kentch on 31 March 1886 at Denmark in Lee County. He was born 1 October 1853 in Lee County. They moved to Willow Springs, Howell County, Missouri in 1898. George died 10 March 1914 and Anna on 9 April 1948, both at Willow Springs, where they are buried.

Children:

- i. Elizabeth D. "Lizzie" Kentch, born 5 January 1887 at Denmark, Lee County, Iowa. She married Floyd S. Williamson in 1905. He was born 9 June 1887 in West Virginia. They resided in Willow Springs, where Floyd died 23 April 1960. Lizzie died 11 February 1982 in Mountain View, Missouri. They are buried in the cemetery at Willow Springs. They had eight children.
- ii. Ella Cleveland Kentch, born 24 October 1888 at Denmark, Iowa. In 1906, at the age of 17, she married Thomas H.B. Stovall, age 40, in Howell County. He was born 27 October 1856 in Webster County, Missouri. They farmed near Willow Springs. Thomas died 25 December 1953 at Willow Springs and Ella on 16 February 1979 at West Plains. They are buried in the Epps Cemetery in Howell County. They had three children.

- iii. Edward Leonard Kentch, born 5 December 1890 at Denmark, Iowa. He served in the U.S. Army in World War I in Company G, 10th Ammunition Train. On 26 February 1919 he married Bidy Lou "Nina" Richardson at Willow Springs. She was born 10 May 1900 at Sparta, North Carolina. In 1928 they moved to Overbrook, Osage County, Kansas, where they were farmers. He died 27 May 1980 at Topeka, Kansas. Nina died 21 August 1993 at Overbrook. They are buried at Overbrook. They had four children.
 - iv. Elmer Ezra Kentch, born 1 April 1893 at Fort Madison, Iowa. He married Katie Corn in 1941. She was born 1 July 1901 at Olden, Missouri. They were farmers in Howell County. Elmer died 17 November 1973 at West Plains and Katie on 27 March 1991 at Willow Springs, where they are buried. They had no children.
 - v. Eva Sarah Kentch, born 15 June 1895 at Fort Madison, Iowa. She married Earl Craig Radford in Howell County, Missouri in 1917. He was born in Cabool, Missouri on 15 February 1895. They lived in Wyoming, Missouri, and California before moving to Silverton, Oregon in 1970. Earl died 15 March 1981 at Silverton; Eva died 18 March 1999 at Mount Angel, Oregon. They are buried in the Silverton Cemetery. They had two children.
 - vi. Emmett Chester Kentch, born 17 April 1897 at Fort Madison, Iowa. In 1923 he married Bernice Burns, who was born 17 January 1904 in Tennessee. They farmed in Howell County. Emmett died 19 October 1983 at Mountain View, Missouri. Bernice died 26 January 2000 at Springfield, Missouri. They are buried at Willow Springs. They had four children.
 - vii. Emory Arthur Kentch, born 15 January 1900 at Burnham, Missouri. He married Lula Turner 13 January 1925 at Willow Springs. She was born 26 September 1904 at Dry Creek, Missouri. Emory was a farmer and merchant. He was killed in a traffic accident 12 February 1962 near Caulfield, Missouri. Lula died 24 February 1993 at Willow Springs. They are buried at Dry Creek Cemetery, Pomona, Missouri. They had two children.
 - viii. Ernest Floyd Kentch, born 12 April 1906 at Willow Springs, where he married Blanch E. Murrell on 22 September 1926. She was born 11 September 1908 at Willow Springs. They resided in Colorado; Mountain Home, Arkansas; and Warsaw, Missouri. They both died in Clinton, Missouri in 1994: Ernest on 30 January and Blanch on 24 April. They are buried Howell Memorial Park in West Plains, Missouri. They had two children.
 - ix. Emma Adelia Kentch, born 9 January 1908 at Willow Springs. She married John Oscar Spence there on 1 January 1924. He was born 5 December 1905 at Burnham, Missouri. They were farmers. John died 3 November 1993 at Springfield and Emma on 12 October 2000 at Willow Springs. They are buried in Howell Memorial Park, West Plains. They were the parents of six children.
3. Elizabetha Dorothea "Lizzie" Yotter, born 29 June 1866 at West Point. She married, as his second wife, Samuel Morton Kitchen at Fort Madison on 26 March 1895. They were farmers at Ottawa, Ohio, where Samuel died on 5 January 1912 and Lizzie on 12 November 1913, both of cancer. They were buried in the Harmon Cemetery at Ottawa.

Child:

- i. Ethel Cora Kitchen, born 25 August 1896 at Qahirah, Ohio. After her parents' deaths she resided with her grandmother, Sarah Yotter, in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She was married there on 22 August 1917 to Carl Emanuel Sterner. He was born 5 July 1894 at Las Animas, Colorado. They resided in Des Moines, Iowa, where Carl was an accountant. They both died in Des Moines, Carl on 24 April 1984 and Ethel on 5 August 1987. They are buried at Highland Memory Gardens in Des Moines. They had three children.
- 4. Emma V. Yotter, born 2 April 1868 at Oakville, Louisa County. She was a dressmaker and lived most of her life in West Point and Mount Pleasant. In 1960, according to the local newspaper, "she was paid a visit by over 100 members from Mennonite churches throughout the United States. The group was part of the church delegation which had gathered for observance of the centennial of the organizing of the Mennonite general conference in this vicinity. Miss Yotter is the only remaining member of the first Mennonite church organized in West Point." Emma died 22 January 1962 at Fort Madison and is buried in the cemetery at West Point.
- 5. Hannah Yotter, born in September 1869 in Iowa and died before 1880.
- 6. Klara Margaretha "Clara" Yotter, born 14 April 1871 in Franklin Township, Lee County. She was a twin of Sarah. She married Charles Bubb, a farmer, on 19 March 1890 at Fort Madison. He was born 4 December 1861 in Lee County. They both died in West Point Township, Charles on 1 May 1935 and Clara on 15 December 1942. They are buried in the cemetery at West Point.

Children, born in Lee County:

- i. Philip Bubb, born 15 July 1891 at Fort Madison. He served in the 88th Division of the U.S. Army, 349th Infantry, Medical Detachment, in World War I. After the war he farmed in West Point Township until his death on 12 January 1964. He never married. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Washington Township, Lee County.
 - ii. Cora Alma Bubb, born 25 June 1893 at Fort Madison. She married, as his second wife, James Leonard Davey on 6 December 1917 at Fort Madison. He was born 29 December 1884 at Morning Sun, Iowa and worked in a button factory. James died 31 October 1955 and Cora on 10 November 1960, both at Fort Madison. They are buried in the Oakland Cemetery there. James had a son from his first marriage. Cora had no children.
 - iii. George Edward Bubb, born 10 February 1895 in Washington Township. He served in Company L of the 133rd Infantry in World War I and later worked for the Sheaffer Pen Company. George married Violet Reid at Camp Point, Illinois on 6 June 1922. She was born 23 June 1901 at Augusta, Illinois. Violet died 13 December 1966 at Fort Madison; George passed away 8 January 1968 near Sawyer, Iowa. They are buried in Oakland Cemetery. They had two children.
 - iv. Dora Ethel Bubb, born 8 February 1899. She married Ezekiel D. Steinhilber on 8 December 1917 in Lee County. He was born 15 July 1888 in Hartford City, Indiana. They divorced in 1922. Dora married Elmer Briles on 4 November 1942 at Keokuk, Iowa; they divorced in 1945. Dora died 25 March 1990. She is buried in Grand View Memorial Park, Glendale, California. She and Ezekiel had three children, two of whom died as infants.
 - v. Carl Charles Bubb, born 9 March 1903. He served for nine months in the Army Air Corps during World War II. On 30 June 1943 he married Grace Nisle in Cook County, Illinois. She was born 29 May 1917 at Chicago. Carl died 8 July 1974 at Chicago and is buried in

Burr Oak Cemetery in Worth, Illinois. Grace died 17 May 1999 and is buried in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines, Illinois. They had no children.

7. Sarah Louisa Yotter, born 14 April 1871 in Franklin Township, Lee County. She was a twin of Clara. She resided in Lee County until 1914, when she moved with her mother and sister Emma to Mount Pleasant, Iowa. On 2 May 1923 she married Albert E. Van Ness in Lee County. He was born 28 December 1877 in Pennsylvania and worked as a mechanic. He died 7 September 1924 at Mount Pleasant and is buried in the Forest Home Cemetery there. After his death Sarah lived with her brother Charles in Plymouth, Iowa. She contracted small pox and died there 21 February 1925. She is buried at Plymouth.
8. Henrietta Yotter, born 21 March 1873 in Iowa and died there 6 December 1876.
9. Christian C. "Chris" Yotter, born 8 January 1875 near Oakville, Louisa County, Iowa. As a young man he moved to Woodbury County, Iowa, where he met Sarah L. "Sadie" Malcom. She was born 15 August 1877 at Avoca, Iowa. They were married 1 March 1900 at Lucky Valley, Iowa. After their marriage they farmed at Anthon, Iowa; Clark County, South Dakota; Stevens County, Minnesota; and Wright County, Minnesota. Chris died 29 July 1921 near Waverly, Minnesota and Sadie passed away 10 April 1964 at Albion Center, Minnesota. They are buried at Howard Lake, Minnesota. Children, first three born at Anthon, Iowa:
 - i. Claude Leroy Yotter, born 7 January 1901. He drowned on 7 July 1921 while swimming in the Crow River near Waverly, Minnesota. He is buried at Howard Lake.
 - ii. Muriel Murine Yotter, born 14 May 1902. She resided at St. Peter, Minnesota and never married. She died 29 May 1987 at Howard Lake and is buried there.
 - iii. Maurice Emmett Yotter, born 15 January 1904. From 1925 to 1928 he served in the U.S. Army, then moved to Rock County, Minnesota. He married Mabel (Elholm) Johnson, a widow, on 24 December 1946 at Montevideo, Minnesota. She was born 23 September 1898 at Kanaranzi, Minnesota and died 20 March 1950 at Sioux City, Iowa. She is buried next to her first husband, Arthur Johnson, in Ashwood Cemetery, Kanaranzi. On 21 April 1951 Maurice married Clara (Herrmann) Rost at Garfield, Minnesota. They lived at Luverne and Bloomington, Minnesota. Maurice died 5 December 1988 at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Clara died 19 October 2006 at Luverne. They are buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. Maurice had no children but helped to raise four stepchildren.
 - iv. Ellis Roe Yotter, born 10 July 1907 at Clark, South Dakota. He attended the University of Minnesota, then returned to Wright County, Minnesota, where he farmed with his younger brother Harold for many years. He died 16 April 1999 at Buffalo, Minnesota and is buried in the cemetery at Howard Lake. He never married.
 - v. Wallace Vernon Yotter, born 2 December 1908 at Clark, South Dakota and was raised in Wright County, Minnesota. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps and in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He married Adeline Wiest on 19 July 1941 at Lancaster, Wisconsin. She was born 19 June 1919 at Cresco, Iowa. They lived in Zumbrota, Minnesota where Wallace worked for the Goodhue County Electric Co-op. He died 2 July 1986 at Rochester, Minnesota and Adeline on 27 September 2002 at Waukon, Iowa. They are buried in Zumbrota Catholic Cemetery. They had no children.

- vi. Lilva Opal Yotter, born 30 December 1912 near Donnelly, Minnesota and was raised in Wright County. While working in Chicago she met Rudolph Schatschneider, who was born 28 December 1913 in Marathon County, Wisconsin. They were married at Buffalo, Minnesota on 21 July 1948. They lived in Chicago until 1952, when they moved to Phoenix, Arizona. Lilva was a nurse's aide and Rudolph a sheet metal worker. They both died in Phoenix, Rudolph on 29 November 1958 and Lilva on 5 April 1982. They are buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Phoenix. They had one child.
 - vii. Harold Chester Yotter, born 24 June 1917 in Wright County, Minnesota. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II and farmed for many years with his brother, Ellis. He then worked for the Pako Corporation, a manufacturer of photographic equipment, for 20 years. On 30 May 1955 he married Dora Rader, a hairdresser, at Spruce Grove, Minnesota. She was born 5 Jun 1922 at Perham, Minnesota. Harold died 1 December 1993 at Albion Center and Dora on 20 April 2001 at St. Paul. They are buried in the Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Middleville Township, Wright County. They had three children.
10. Edward Yotter, born 3 November 1876 near West Point, Iowa. As a young man he joined his brothers Henry, Chris, and Charles in Woodbury County, Iowa. He was a farmer all his life and never married. He died 3 July 1955 at Sioux City, Iowa and is buried in the cemetery at West Point.
11. Karl "Charles" Yotter, born near West Point on 6 November 1879. He moved to Woodbury County, Iowa and became a Methodist minister. He served a number of churches in Iowa towns, including Rock Branch, Diamond, Hornick, Curlew, Peiro, Mallard, Inwood, Plymouth, and Mason City. In the 1940s he moved to Chicago, where he was an evangelical speaker. Charles married Nellie Pearce on 25 November 1909 at Sioux City. She was born 21 February 1885 at Peiro, Iowa. Charles died 13 November 1961 at Chicago; Nellie died in July 1971 at La Grange, Illinois. They are buried in Evergreen Park Cemetery in Chicago.

Children:

- i. Ronald Charles Yotter, twin, born 27 February 1911 in Wolf Creek Township, Woodbury County. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II and later worked as a chemist. In 1948 he married Sarah Alice O'Quinn. She was born 6 November 1923 in North Carolina. They resided in Willow Springs, Illinois and over the years were the parents of 17 foster children. Ronald died 18 November 1996 and is buried in Evergreen Park Cemetery in Chicago. Alice died 25 July 2013 at Kinston, North Carolina and is buried in the Tyndall Family Cemetery in Pink Hill, North Carolina.
- ii. Unnamed twin boy, born and died 27 February 1911 in Wolf Creek Township. He is buried in Peiro-Bethel Cemetery in Woodbury County, Iowa.
- iii. Elsie Olive Yotter, born 20 September 1914 in Grant Township, Woodbury County, Iowa. She was a longtime employee of Capper & Capper, a men's clothing store in Chicago. She died in July 1978 in Chicago and is buried in Evergreen Park Cemetery. She never married.
- iv. Florence Ruth Yotter, born 3 July 1919 at Rush Lake, Iowa. She worked as an accountant for Foote, Cone & Belding, an advertising agency in Chicago. She died at LaGrange, Illinois on 30 June 2008 and is buried in Evergreen Park Cemetery. She never married.

- v. Edna Marie Yotter, born 5 August 1925 at Plymouth, Iowa and died the next day. She is buried at Plymouth.
12. Oolie Yotter, born 3 November 1885 in West Point Township. He worked as a printer and typesetter for *The West Point Bee*, the *Fort Madison Daily Democrat* and from 1928 to 1946 for the *Daily Register* in Oelwein, Iowa. He retired to West Point and died 9 February 1960 at Fort Madison. He is buried at West Point. He never married.

Jakob Jotter, a great-great grandson of Christian and Margarete, was born 19 December 1803 at Eppstein. On 26 May 1827 he was married at Friesenheim to Maria Deutsch. She was born in 1805 at Hemshof, a district of Ludwigshafen am Rhein. Jakob died 28 November 1844 and Maria in 1871. Of their eleven children four—Christian, Elizabeth, Maria, and Abraham--came to the United States. They were all born at Hemshof.

Christian Yotter was born 2 February 1828. He and his sister Mary arrived in New York on the steamship *Vanderbilt* from Bremen on 16 November 1858. Christian was in St. Louis, Missouri by 1861. On 18 October of that year he enlisted as a private in Battery I, Second Regiment, Missouri Light Artillery. He was mustered out on 24 August 1863 at Benton Barracks, Missouri. On 23 February 1864 he enlisted at Keokuk, Iowa as a private in Company D, Seventh Regiment, Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered out at Louisville, Kentucky on 12 July 1865. By 1885 he was a resident of Donnellson, Lee County, Iowa and was granted an invalid pension of \$8 per month. The amount was raised to \$12 per month in 1891. Christian died 26 February 1892 at Donnellson. He was buried in Keokuk National Cemetery, Keokuk, Iowa. He never married.

Elisabeth Jotter was born 6 March 1832. She married Jakob Dettweiler on 10 January 1859. He was born 14 August 1832 in Hammerhof, Bavaria. In 1871 they immigrated to Summerfield, Illinois, where there was a Mennonite community. They resided there until 1874, when they moved to Halstead, Kansas, where Jakob was a farmer and butcher. Elisabeth died 12 Jun 1914 and Jakob on 7 February 1916, both at Halstead. They are buried in the Halstead cemetery. They had 13 children, six of whom died in infancy.

Children, first five born in Bavaria:

1. Jacob E. Dettweiler, born 26 October 1859. He married Louise Rabens Kampman on 1 October 1896 at Salem, Oregon as her second husband. She was born 7 September 1854 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Jacob was a butcher in Turner, Oregon and Geary, Oklahoma. He died 22 April 1926 in Clackamas County, Oregon and is buried in Silverton Cemetery, Silverton, Oregon. Louise died 27 November 1939. She was buried in Geary Cemetery, Geary, Oklahoma. Jacob and Louise had no children.
2. John A. Dettweiler, born 11 November 1860. He married Clarissa Canfield on 13 November 1888 in Marion County, Kansas. She was born 7 February 1870 in Indiana. They farmed in Blaine County, Oklahoma for many years. They died in Oklahoma, John on 6 April 1923 at Watonga and Clarissa on 29 July 1939 at Okmulgee. They are buried at Watonga IOOF Cemetery, Watonga. They had five children.
3. Mary Julia Dettweiler, born 24 March 1862. She married John Wesley Welty on 13 March 1881 in Halstead, Kansas. He was born 12 June 1852 in Bluffton, Ohio. They moved to Marion County, Oregon where John was a carpenter and farmer. They died in Marion County, John on 17 June 1922 at Pratum and Mary on 15 April 1934 at Silverton. They are buried in the Silverton Cemetery. They had eight children.
4. Abraham H. Dettweiler, born 27 October 1863. He married Nannie Harman 5 May 1897 at Newton, Kansas. She was born 19 August 1875 in Missouri. Abraham owned an ice plant in Halstead, Kansas for many years. They died in Fort Worth, Texas, Abraham on 28 October

1952 and Nannie on 2 November 1963. They are buried in the Halstead Cemetery. They had five children.

5. Christina L. Dettweiler, born 24 January 1866. She married Frank Toevs 16 December 1888 at Halstead, Kansas. He was born in Ukraine 3 October 1863. They moved to Oregon where Frank was editor of *The Oregon Statesman* and later *The Portland Telegram*. He died 25 June 1919 at Portland. Christina died 7 December 1965 at Oceanside, California. They are buried in Lincoln Memorial Park, Portland. They had three children.
6. Bertha Amelia Dettweiler, born 1 April 1877 at Halstead, Kansas. She married Dillman B. Hess on 15 October 1903 at Halstead. He was born 15 October 1881 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and was a Presbyterian minister. They resided in Cucamonga, Los Angeles, and Merced, California. Bertha died 6 December 1951 at Oroville, California. Dillman remarried on 8 May 1952 at Merced to Ethel Bradley Hogancamp, a widow. Dillman died 18 January 1962 at Merced. He and Bertha are buried in Winton Cemetery, Winton California. They had two children.
7. Maria "Mary" Jotter was born 19 December 1836. She arrived in New York with her brother Christian on 16 November 1858 on the steamship *Vanderbilt*. Mary married Johann "John" Pelgen about 1862. He was born about 1836 in Bavaria and by 1861 was working as a cooper in Quincy, Illinois. In 1870 they lived in Keokuk, Lee County, but by 1880 they were residing in St. Louis, Missouri. After a few years they moved to Kansas City. Maria died before 1910 and John before 1920.

Children, born in Iowa:

- i. John W. Pelgen, born 22 January 1863. He married Albertina Loesch on 11 April 1898 in St. Clair County, Illinois. She was born in October 1871 in Missouri. John worked as a mail carrier in St. Louis and died there of pneumonia on 17 April 1904. Albertina remarried to Edward Costigan on 15 September 1919. She died 29 December 1944 in St. Louis. She and John are buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery, Belleville, Illinois. They had no children.
- ii. Johanna Pelgen, born 16 October 1869. She married Colonel Crawford Parrett on 16 May 1894 in Kansas City, Missouri. He was born in November 1859 in Ohio. Her second marriage was to Peter Mitchell on 7 September 1905 in Kansas City, Kansas. He died 17 September 1909. She married third William L. Smith on 11 January 1911 in Kansas City, Missouri, and her fourth marriage was to Frank Haskins, who died about 1927. Johanna died 9 January 1949 in El Centro, California. She is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery there. Four children.
- iii. Eugenia Olympia Pelgen, born 29 May 1872. She married Ferdinand Rudolph Korres on 7 September 1895 at Kansas City, Kansas. He was born 15 August 1869 in Lithuania. They lived in Fort Worth, Texas; Wichita, Kansas; Seattle, Washington; and Sherman Oaks, California. Ferdinand died 16 May 1952 and Eugenia on 3 April 1962, both at Sherman Oaks. They are buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California. Three children.

Abraham C. Jotter was born 23 March 1845 and married Margaret Rab in 1871. Four of their five children died before they immigrated to the United States in 1881, accompanied by their surviving son, Otto. They settled in Halstead, Kansas, where Abraham's sister Elizabeth Dettweiler lived. There he worked as a butcher. He was naturalized at Hutchison, Kansas on 18 September 1906. Margaret died 19 December 1908 and Abraham on 14 June 1912, both at Halstead. They are buried in the cemetery there.

Child:

1. Otto H. Jotter, born in 1876 in Bavaria and was raised in Halstead. He worked in the grocery business but died 3 October 1894 at the age of 18 from heart and kidney disease. He is buried in the cemetery at Halstead.