



YODER NEWSLETTER



Issue Number 26

P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527

October 1995

“Southern Hospitality” Greets Yoders at National Reunion



Yoder Bus Tour Visits Grace Church Cemetery

As the Saturday program inside the Catawba County Courthouse came to an end, the assembled crowd of around 250 people joined in a heartfelt and moving chorus of “Faith of Our Fathers”. They sang as one voice, with an emotion which was evident and noted by many. Earlier, Virgil Yoder had presented his slide show of Joder historical sites in the Old World and America. A panel made up of members of different branches of the family had given an historical overview of the major Yoder immigrant lines to America.

This was but one of several events which took place when over one hundred Yoders from around the country, almost all of them YNL readers, were welcomed and feasted by the “Yoders of North Carolina” in Hickory, NC from 11-13 August.

It had all begun the day before. Car by car, Yoders began to check in to the Econo Lodge in Hickory. Few of these folks knew anyone else present. Soon people were congregating in the lobby of the motel, getting acquainted and sharing Yoder lore. Over the space of the next two days, these strangers shared bus tours, programs, barbeques, and songs. They worshiped with their North Carolina cousins in the Grace and Zion Lutheran Churches. They celebrated their families, the love which binds one generation to the next, and the related blessings they have received in their own lives. What began as a gathering of strangers moved with surprising speed to a warm and deeply felt fellowship.

After the pot luck meal on Sunday, there was a tinge of emotion in the voices of many of the the speakers. When Eva Mae Crist of York, Pa and her 92 year old mother Eva Yoder Barton paired to sing several devotional songs, many were moved to tears.

It was a wonderful event, universally appreciated and treasured by those of us who joined in it. God Bless the leaders of the North Carolina Yoders for their dedication and efforts which brought the “Gathering of the Yoder/Joder Clan” to such a successful conclusion. (For more details see pages 4-5 and 8)

Yoder House Groundbreaking Scheduled !!

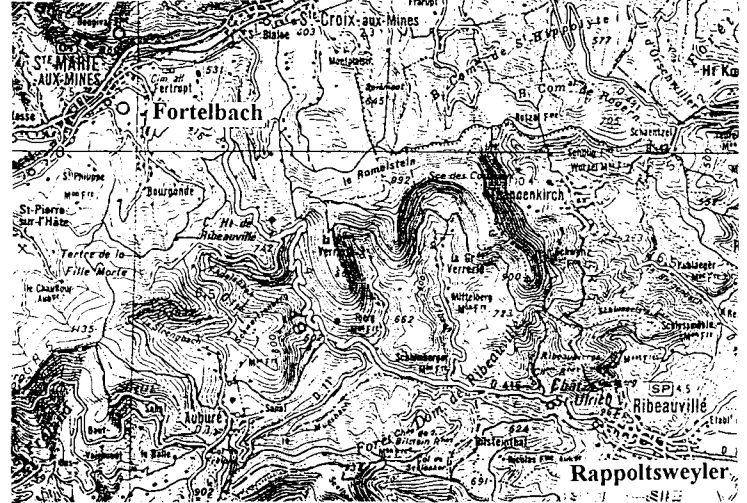
& John Yoder House Restoration see page 3

Steffisburg Joder Émigré Clues in France!

In the January 95 issue of Mennonite Family Life, J. Virgil Miller of Sarasota, Florida introduced his translation of a list of early Anabaptists who were buried in the Alsace at Fortelbach (the German name for the town)/Fertrupt (the French town name). This listing had been discovered by Erwin Hochstattler of Cologne, Germany in the Archives du Haut-Rhin in Colmar, France.

For a student of the Old World Joders, this listing had clues which begged to be explored. The focus of this community of Swiss Anabaptists was the village of Ste. Marie-aux-Mines. They settled in this area under the leadership of Jacob Ammann himself, founder of the Amish sect. Jacob Amman and his followers left Switzerland in the early 1690s and soon settled in the Alsace. Joder's from Steffisburg, Switzerland were known to be followers of Jacob Ammann, but the details of their migrations are not well established.

The burial records of Fortelbach (Fertrupt) include direct references to Joders and related Steffisburg families living at the town of Rappoltsweyer (Ribeauville in French). Over a period of decades, most of the Amish left this area due to persecution, and the emigrations to America occurred from these further settlements. This



Map Complements of Dr. Delbert Gratz

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William Yoder of Carroll Co., Ohio Identity Established

In YNL #2, Dorothy Yoder Coffman contributed an article about Melchior Yoder, one of our least documented early Yoders. Dorothy had become interested in Melchior because the origins of her ancestor William Yoder (who married Mary Longacre) seemed to lead back in his direction through Greene County in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Dorothy spent many years of research attempting to find proof of the ancestry of William. In the process, she made a wonderful contribution to all Yoders by assembling and publishing Yoder census records from Pennsylvania and Ohio. It was her assembling of county tax records which provided the clue (see YNL #24) which seems to establish the identity of the Jacob Yoders of SW Pa as the son of Melchior. Jacob appears in the Jefferson Twp., Greene Co., Pa tax

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

FROM THE EDITORS

Chris Yoder, Editor, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; John W. Yoder, Circulation Manager, Middlebury, IN; Rachel Kreider, Senior Contributing Editor. Other Contributors: John W. Yoder; Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Hubert A. Yoder, Charlotte, NC; Dorothy Yoder Coffman, Malvern, PA; Dr. Don Yoder, Devon, PA; Neil Wilfong, Cleveland, NC; and Dr. Delbert Gratz, Bluffton, OH

SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:

-Dealing with circulation issues such as new or renewed subscriptions, changes of address, orders for back issues to: Yoder Newsletter, P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527-0594.

-Dealing with ancestral queries or contributions for future YNLs or archives (such as reunion notices, letters to the Editor, copies of Bible records or other historical information) to: Chris Yoder, Unit 61306, Box 56, APO AE 09803-1306 (allow 3-4 weeks for reply) (or by electronic mail to "75757.3371@compuserve.com").

YNL PRICE INFORMATION \$\$\$\$

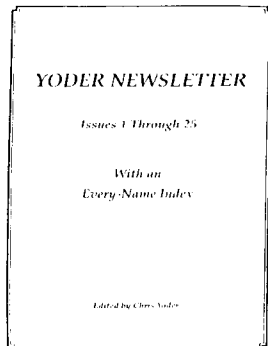
The YNL subscription is on an annual basis and the rate is \$3. BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$1 per issue. A bound set of back issues 1-25 is available for \$25 plus \$3 postage and handling). These may be ordered from the Goshen YNL address.

Thanks to: David Yoder of Evanston, Il for helping with the typing of the Yoder Data Update; Ruth Miller for helping with mailings in Goshen; Dorothy Yoder Coffman for offering her Yoder census data for addition to Yoder Data on Disk; Rich Yoder of West Chester for sending YNL group sheets with the 95 Oley Yoder Reunion mail-outs.

YNL HARDBOUND SET PUBLISHED

In August 1995, the YNL published a hardbound compilation of our first 25 issues. This attractively bound 240 page volume includes a topical index of major articles at the front, and an 18 page "every name index" at the back.

Copies may be ordered from: The Yoder Newsletter, P.O.Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527. (Price \$25 plus \$3 postage and handling for each book).



"Series By Yoder"--Thanks to : Helen Sherck of Wooster and Mary Stutzman of Peebles, OH for identifying "Series by Yoder" as a product of YODER BROTHERS, INC of Barberton, OH.

Is our face red! We outlined this firm in YNL #15.

(CORRECTION TO DATA IN YNL 24 article- Dates of birth for Jacob and his wife Elizabeth are shown on the chart on page 5 as 1781 for Elizabeth and 1775/80 for Jacob. These should be 1771 for Elizabeth and c1770 for Jacob.)

TYPING HELP NEEDED- Do you type and have a computer? We are continuing to enter data for the next issue of YODER DATA ON DISK. We expect to double the amount of information with the spring release. If you'd like to help, contact Chris Yoder !

Present version of Yoder Data on Disk (1.2 meg)-can be ordered from YNL for \$5.50. (3.5" High Density unless otherwise specified).



YODERS ASSEMBLE IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

(left to right) Ron Yoder (of YR23975 line), Lt. Rick Yoder (of OH14526 line), Mrs. & Mr. David Yoder (of Frederick Yoder line described in YNL 25), and Chris Yoder (of YR2337a line) get together for an Arabic meal in Riyadh. Rick, who was in Riyadh to command a Patriot missile battery, showed a video from his family visit to Switzerland. Missing from this photo is Tim Yoder from Ft. Wayne, also of Riyadh, who could not attend.

Letters:

To The Participants of the 1995 Clan Gathering in Hickory/Newton, NC- Thank you for honoring us with your presence. I appreciate your patience and kindness. My only regret is that I didn't get to talk to more of you for longer times. Nonetheless, this event was a highlight of my life. I'm so glad I'm a Yoder!

Your "vetter"- Ted M. Yoder

Victor Yoder is celebrating his 94th birthday on Oct.15. He is the youngest and only living child of Isaac C. and Hannah (Tee) Yoder, and grandson of Henry S. and Hannah Yoder. Victor married Elizabeth Townsley of Reading, Pa. in 1927 and they had six children. Victor moved the family from Pennsburg, Pa to Phoenix, AZ in the late forties and he now resides there. He is hale and hardy and enjoys hearing from kin-folk near and far. His address is: c/o Sweet Magnolia, 1867 W. Butler, Phoenix, AZ, 85021

Special Offer for YNL Readers- Amish Immigrants of Waldeck and Hesse, 231pgs. 263 Amish immigrants-including several Yoders, 52 different surnames. Regular price \$22 (inc. P&H)...for YNL readers only \$17.50. (in quantity- 6 for \$75-postpaid). Order from John M Byler, 5845-B CR 80 Rt 3, Frederickstown, OH 43019.

YODER RELATED BOOKS

Descendants of Frederick Swartzendruber 1825-1895 and Sarah Yoder 1829-1867 by Esther S. Glick and Carolyn S. Nafziger. This nicely done hardback genealogy includes both an ancestral history for this early Johnson Co., Ia Mennonite church leader and his wife, and their descendant data. Sarah was a daughter of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr of the Glades in Somerset County, Pa (YR2337). 544 pages, indexed. The book can be ordered from: Esther S. Glick, 1414 Hampton Circle, Goshen, IN 46526 for \$29.95 plus \$5 for postage and handling.

Yoder Newsletter Issues 1 Through 25 - bound 240 page volume includes all YNL issues, a topical index of major articles and an "every name index". Order from: The Yoder Newsletter, P.O.Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527. (Price \$25 plus \$3 postage and handling for each book).

Pleasantville Union Cemetery-A Photographic Review from Richard H Yoder, 47 Bause Road, Bechtelsville, PA 19505. \$6 plus \$1 for postage and handling. (The old cemetery of the Oley Valley Yoders).

Black Spider Over Tiegenhof. A new historical novel by James D. Yoder, involving the experiences of a Mennonite family living in Hitler's Germany. (Price \$10.95 plus \$2.50 P&H. Order from: Herald Press, 616 Walnut Ave., Scottsdale, Pa 15683).

WELCOME YODER FAMILY

July 20, 1996

Hans and Yost Joder (Yoder) Family Heritage Trail

Oley Valley-Pleasantville, PA

"We started here" in 1714

Visit and hear the history at the original sites:

- Hans' Joder Homestead (YNL #1, 5, 14, 15, 16)
- Yost Joder Hamestead (YNL #1, 5, 16, 17)
- The Yoder Family Cemetery (YNL #16,19,23)
- Hans Jr's Original Home- Covered Bridge
- Jacob and Maria Keim Yoder House (YNL #9, 16)
- Lobachsville Mill-Last Operated by Clarence Yoder
- Daniel Yoder Papermill
- The Crooked Dam
- Oley Forge Site (YNL #16)
- Hans Jr's/Griesemer's Mill/Covered Bridge (YNL#11, 16)
- Samuel Yoder/ Zook Farm (YNL #14, 16, 17)

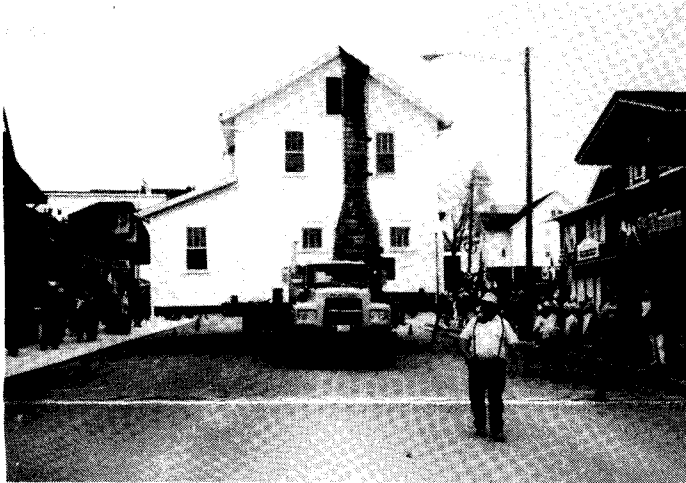
Guided Bus Tour, Picnic Lunch, Evening banquet.

Are You Interested?? Complete and return flier

to: Yoder Reunion Assoc., 415 State St., Pottstown, PA, 19464

Elizabeth B Yoder Celebrates 90th On Sunday, July 16, 1995, family members attended the 90th birthday party of Elizabeth B. Yoder, of West Chester, PA. Mrs. Yoder is the wife of Walter Reuben Yoder (1899-1978), son of Henry Cleaver Yoder and Grandson of Henry S. Yoder of Pleasantville, PA. In attendance were 11 of Mrs. Yoder's 13 children (2 deceased), 35 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren and their spouses.

JOHN YODER HOUSE RESTORATION



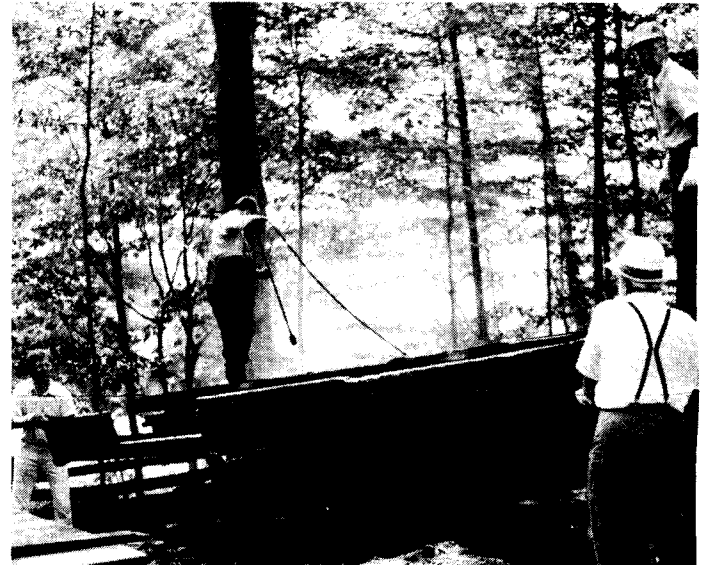
The home of John S Yoder (YR12577), built in 1869, is believed to be the first built in what is now the village of Sugarcreek. It was moved from its original site to its new location on May 9, 1995 by the Mast Construction Co.(assisted by a symbolic team of seven Belgian horses). Efforts by the Amish Heritage Foundation are underway to restore it as a lasting memorial to the village of Sugarcreek and its Amish community. Tax deductible gifts should be sent to: Amish Heritage Foundation, Box 704, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. (A \$250 gift entitles donor to a "Yoder Home Scrapbook" documenting the relocation and restoration. Sponsors: Gold-\$1000; Silver-\$750; and Bronze-\$350 will receive a plaque and their name will be included on a plate in the Yoder Home.)

thanks to Esther Strook for telling us about this

YODER HOUSE Ground Breaking Ceremony

Oct. 21, 1995

The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Yoder House is scheduled for 2pm Saturday, Oct. 21, 1995 at Penn Alps, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Grantsville, Md. Representatives from each Yoder immigrant family are expected to take part. EVERYONE IS WELCOME at this exciting, informational and inspiring program.



Neatly stacked and Begging to be Used

Earlier this year, several dozen Yoders met to clean, remove nails, and in true Yoder fashion stack neatly this beautifully weathered wood to be used in the project. The National Yoder Reunion in North Carolina provided the spark for increased fund raising successes. Over \$12,000 in material has been gathered and hopes are to have \$30,000 in cash by the date of the ground breaking.

Spruce Forest is a 501-C-3 organization and will provide a tax exempt receipt for donations. Memberships are being taken in various amounts, ranging from \$25 (individual for one year) to \$1,500 (couple for life). For a fund-raising and informational brochure, write: Yoder House Project, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, 177 Casselman Road, Grantsville, MD 21536. (The project has been incorporated under the title "House of Yoder, Inc" - Contact Kenneth L Yoder (301) 895-5687 with any questions you may have about these impressive efforts.

*****Queries*****

The YNL will publish Yoder related inquiries or exchanges at no charge. Please limit as possible to include a full return address. All inquiries are checked against our records to see if we can help too. If you receive added info, please share it with the YNL for our files.

Send to: Chris Yoder, Unit 61306 Box 56, APO AE 09803-1306

WHERE IS H.A. Yoder Jr? In 1985 we ran a query by H A Yoder Jr of Washington, D.C. Does anyone know how we may reach him or any member of his family?? We have Civil War pension information to share with him which helps answer his questions.

Seeking information on William Yoder born late 1700's or early 1800's. married Mary Longacre. Son Daniel b. 1819/1820. m Sarah Clark. William was in Carroll Co, OH in 1840.- Clyde Pinkley, 2063 Springhill Dr., Columbus, OH 43221 (see article this issue for answer)

Wanted: Information on family of David H. Yoder (b. 3/28/1859), son of Absalom, m Amanda Barkman. Contact: Marvin J Yoder, RD 1, Box 195, Salisbury, Pa 15558. (Per YNL-YR26182)

Events At The



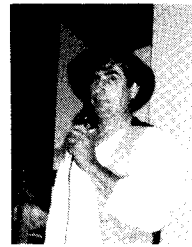
Visiting Yoders Welcomed at Lodging



While Yoders enjoyed a barbecue supper on the east side of the Catawba County Courthouse, the travelling Vietnam Wall was on the west side... bearing the names of Bruce A. Yoder, Larry E. Yoder, James S. Yoder.



Yoder History Panel and who each covered, from left: Kenneth Yoder (YR2), Paul Marshall Yoder (YR1, YRC), Neal Wilfong (Conrad), Chris Yoder (Melchior, YRB); Terry Yoder (Oley); Carl Yoder (Mennonite Yoders); Ted Yoder (Conrad)



Dr. J. Larry Yoder as "Conrad"



Eva Mae Crist and Eva Yoder Barton Sing



Ted Yoder and sister Joyce Cockman

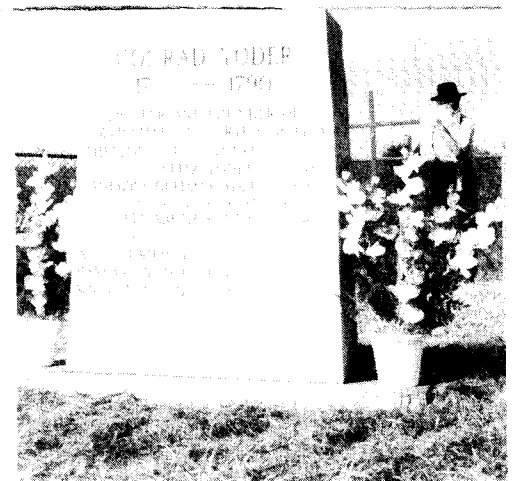


Virgil Yoder with Yoder Family of NC President, Rachel Hahn Kennedy



Attentive Audience Watches Virgil Yoder's Excellent Slide Show

Thanks to Evelyn Buchholz, Edith Godfrey, and Virgil Yoder for sharing their photos



Crist Yoder Of Baltic, Ohio looks on at Conrad Yoder Memorial

Yoder Reunion



Delicious Pot Luck- Compliments of The North Carolina Yoders

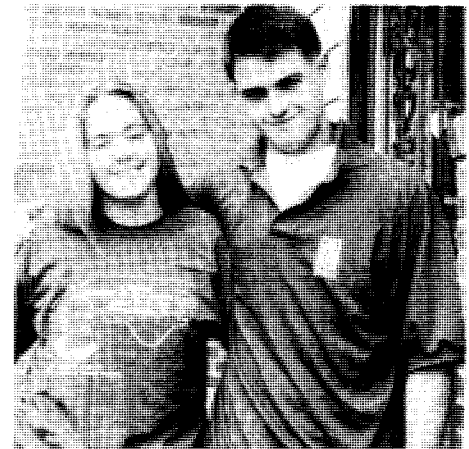


Stone of Col. George M. Yoder (1826-1920) at Grace Church Cemetery. First historian of the North Carolina Yoders, the present Reunions grew up around his annual birthday celebration.



Reunion Goers Joined in Sunday Worship at Grace Church (above) and Zion Church.

Das Vaterunser - The Lord's Prayer
Unser Vater in dem Himmel, dein Name werde geheiligt.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.



(modelled by Jerusha and Christian Yoder)

Shirts (both forest green). Limited quantity left of National Reunion T-shirt \$13 (Large or XL only). Will take orders for Polo shirt with Jost Joder Crest. Shirts will be ordered if sufficient demand. Otherwise yourcheck will be returned. Indicate Size Desired- adult S,M,L,XL,XXL. Polo Shirt \$22. Write to: Yoder Family in NC, P O Box 10281 Mountain View Station, Hickory, NC 28602



Gerald M. Yoder presents a check for the Yoder House to Kenneth L. , Gerald A., and Esther Yoder



Dr. J. Larry Yoder, Mrs. Barton, Edith Godfrey, Mrs. Dr. Yoder, Eva Mae Crist, Mrs. and Mr. Marvin J. Yoder, Mrs. Clement Hahn, Evelyn Buchholtz

Jost and Nicolas Joder, sons of Caspar Joder and Margret Henning of Steffisburg, Switzerland

Jost Joder b 11/20/1607 m. Oct.14, 1642 Anna Trachsel

Hans b. 4/21/1644 m. 7/17/1671 Catherine Risser	Anna b.4/19/1646	Verena b.9/12/1647 m. N. Rupp	Peter b.1649 m. 12/13/1684 Stahli (?) (5)	Jakob b.4/4/1652 m. 1/9/1685 Verena Kaufmann (5)	Anna b. 7/17/1653 m. 12/13/1680 Christian Blank (5)(6)(8)	Barbara b. 10/28/1655 m. N. Berger	Christian b. 5/10/1657 m. 3/10/1684 Barbara Gerher (5)(7)(10)	Caspar b. c1664 m. 1/21/1681 Verena Stauffer (1)(5)(11)	Catherin b. 7/8/1666 m. 1/9/1685 Hans Rupp
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Nicolas Joder b 3/25/1609 m Oct.14, 1642 Anna Trachsel

Barbara b. 3/8/1644 m. 1/30/1666 Hans Rupp	Anna h. 4/13/1645 m. 1/7/1670 Hans Berger	Caspar b. 6/4/1648 m. 1/7/1670 Anni Zaugg	Adam b. 7/22/1650 m. 1/9/1671 Barbara Ochsenbein (2)	Hans b. 7/22/1650 m. 3/9/1688 Anna Eicher	Magdalene h. 2/29/1652 m. 4/26/1689 Peter Meyer	Annegret b. 4/10/1653 m. 2/10/1673 Ulli Risser	Jost b. 1/13/1655 m. 1/9/1685 Barbara Rupp (4)(6)(12)	Salomea b. 4/13/1656 m. 3/7/1678 Hans Gerber (3)(9)
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(1)- Great grandfather of Michael Yoder, 1825 immigrant to Somerset county, Pa whose father Samuel wrote in 1806 from Germany to his "Dear Cousins" (YR23 and YR25);(2)- parents of Hans and Yost Yoder, Reformed Church settlers to the Oley Valley of Berks Co., PA- first Yoders in America; (3)-Labeled as Ababaptist in 1691; (4) suspected as baptist in 1690; (5) identified in 1690 court records as suspected Anabaptists; (6) Staatsarchiv of Bern record of 7/16/1690 "the government orders the provincial governor of Trachselwald to find out whether the Anabaptists Jost Joder and Christian Blank of Steiffisburg, as have been reported, are staying in Schangnau and whether they took their capital with them..."; (7) The Staatsarchiv of Bern record 4/8/1695 "The Anabaptist Christian Joder of Steffisburg, has left the country. For the property he took along he must pay a 5% fee of 10 lbs(?)"; (8) A Christian Blank was one of the ministers accompanying Jacob Ammann during his tour of 1693 to seek support for his ideas; (9) A Hans Gerber was known to be with Jacob Ammann at Heideisheim, Alsace in 1711; (10) Their son Christian who married Margret Gerber settled in Eppstein, Germany (see YNL10); (11) Their descendants lived in the Spfalz, Germany; (12) Possible parents of Barbara Jotter, d. 1750, bur. Fortelbach, Alsace.

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important finding, however, does help demonstrate a part of the migration pattern for the Steffisburg Amish (Joders apparently included) as they left their Swiss homeland. In this article we'll identify some of the most significant of the burial records and then list some of the related records which are grounds for a speculative linking Steffisburg Joder family of around 1690.

SIGNIFICANT FORTELBAACH RECORDS:

"Vrena Hochstattlerin, single woman, living with Michael Blank, her brother-in-law, d. Nov.20,1741, age about 25, after an extended illness of 14 weeks" (b c1716)

"Hans Blank. living at the noble-man's mill at Rappoltsweyler, d. Dec. 23, 1742, age about 91" (b. c1653)

"Michael Roth of Stephansburg, miller at Hofrath Kroeber's mill at Rappoltsweyler, d. Apr.11, 1744, age about 72" (b. c1672)

"Johannes Blank, miller at the Herrenmuhl at Rappoltsweyler, b. at Stephansburg in Canton Bern, d. Dec.18,1744, age about 66" (b c1678)

"Barbara Stauffer, widow of David Ommel, staying with Nicki Blank, b. Canton Bern, d. Feb.17,1745, age about 91" (b. c1654)

"Anna Imhofin of Hohenburg in Canton Bern, staying with Michael Blank (auf der Matten, in the meadow) d. Aug. 4,1747, age about 50" (b. c1697)

"Barbara Jotter, single, from the region of Bern, d. Apr.14,1750, age between 64 and 65, bu. in Fortelbach" (b c1685-6)

"Nicholas Blank of Rappoltsweyler, formerly a miller, b. in Stephansburg in Canton Bern, d. Aug. 3, 1753, and was bu. on the 5th of the same month here in Fortelbach, age about 61" (b. c1692)

"Christian Blank, single, miller at the Schlundenmuhl by Rappoltsweyler, was buried Aug.12, 1760, age about 69." (b. c1691)

Other names in the Fortelbach records include ones prominent in American Amish circles or which appear in the birth records of Steffisburg: Hochstattler, Gerber, Sommer, Rupp, Risser (Russer), Zimmerman, Gungerich. There is even a Barbara Ammin (?Ammann), wife of Ulrich Sommers, bookbinder at the landhaus who died in childbirth in 1743 (age 33)..

RELEVANT STEFFISBURG ("Stephansburg") JODER RECORDS:

date	child	parents	sponsors
10/16/1681	Christen Blanck	Christen Blanck and Anna Joder	Hans Russer Ulrich Konig Barbara Stauffer
6/21/1685	Hans Blanck	Christen Blanck and Anna Joder	Hans Rupp Jr Jost Joder in Ortbuhl Barbara Jmhof
8/29/1686	Barbara Joder	Jost Joder and Barbara Rupp	Christen Blanck Kathrin Russer Saloma Joder
1/4/1685	Barbara Joder	Caspar Joder in the Au and Verena Stauffer	Penny Jenny Christina Murer Kathrina Krebs
12/21/1690	Barbara Blank	Christian Blank and Anna Joder	Hans Rupp Jr in the Au Verena Kauffmann Barbara Gungerich
(Remark in register speaks of Christian Blanck as a Anabaptist, the son of Hans Blank the elder in Riedereren)			
10/29/1699	Christian Roth	Michel Roth and Anna Joder	Christian Donen Rudolf Neuschwender Barbara Neunschwender

LISTING OF JODER FAMILIES WHO STOP RECORDING CHILDREN IN STEFFISBURG BY THE EARLY 1690 s:

Jakob Joder m 1/9/1685 Verena Kauffmann
 Hans b 11/19/1685
 Christian b 2/6/1687
 Anna b 9/16/1688

Jost Joder m 1/9/1685 Barbara Rupp
 Barbara b 8/29/1686
 Anna b 7/1/1688
 (additional children per Karl Joder)
 Johann b 1710
 Christian b 1712

Hans Joder m 7/17/1671 Kathrin Reusser
 Cathrin b 7/28/1672
 Anna b 1/25/1674
 Jost b 9/19/1675
 (m Magdalene Gerber (daughter of Hans Gerber and Salome Joder).
 Gutsbacher in Oggersheim, Germany. Reported by Karl Joder to have
 gone to US. YNL has no documentation of this)
 Barbara b 8/14/1678
 Christian b 4/9/1680
 Verena b 2/12/1682
 Hans b 3/29/1691
 Verena b 3/12/1693

Christian Joder m 3/10/1684 Barbara Gerber
 Peter b 8/2/1685
 Christen b 3/20/1687
 (see "Eppstein.doc"- for the descendants of this Christian-Yoder Data On Disk)

Jost Joder m 1/9/1680 Christina Schlecht
 Christina b 5/4/1684
 Hans b 7/5/1685
 Christina b 3/20/1687

ANALYSIS:

Looking at the Steffisburg records, the Barbara Jotter buried at Fortelbach would seem to be either the daughter of Jost Joder and Barbara Rupp, or that of Caspar Joder and Vrena Stauffer. A further review, however, apparently eliminates Caspar and Vrena. They had another daughter Barbara in 1703 (a sign that the first Barbara had died young). The names of baptismal sponsors (Risser, Blank) for the daughter of Jost relates more directly to the Steffisburg families at Rappoltsweyer, and our speculation is that this was she.

A COMMENT ON THE BLANKS:

The large Amish Community living in the valley of Ste. Marie aux Mines is said to have moved southward to the area around Montbeliard. According to AAMG, John Blank (PK1) was issued a passport at Montbeliard France on 5/1/1752 and appeared on the ships list dated 9/23/1752 with a Nicholas and Frederick Blank. The names Nicholas, Michael and Christian (common in Rappoltsweyer) also appear among the Amish first Blank generations in America.

None of these Blanks in Rappoltsweyer appear to be children of Christian Blank and Anna Joder. The YNL only has selected Steffisburg Blank geburtsregister records at hand, but we feel an analysis of the remaining ones against the Fortelbach data would be productive.

My Dear Joe: and Dear Alice:, companion volumes edited by Mabel V and Ivan W Brunk, present the Letters of Alice Yoder Brunk and her husband J E Brunk regarding his adventures as a Mennonite relief worker in Turkey in 1920-21. Two thirds of the proceeds go to the Mennonite Central Committee and the balance to the Historical Committee. Order from: Historical Committee of the Mennonite Church, 1700 S. Main St., Goshen, IN 46526. (Price: \$10.95 each or both for \$19.95)

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records from 1807 onward. Dorothy's William shows up in these same records from 1814 to 1825... apparently showing his coming of legal age for listing in 1814 and then his migration to Ohio before 1827. One might have been able to infer that William was a son of Jacob, but there was nothing to establish this as fact.

Now, thanks to the continuing efforts of Carl Yoders of Yardville, NJ, a letter has come to light which clearly identifies William as being a son of Jacob Yoders. The letter was written by Mrs. Mary Miller Smith of Washington, Pa in 1927 to Mr. Robert H Yoders, at that time of Meadville, Pa. It lists the children of her great-grandfather (who was Jacob Yoders) as follows:

My Dear Cousin; Nov. 6, '27
 I do not know the name of my great grandfather Yoder. He was the father of nine children eight boys and one girl. The names of the boys were as follows: John, Jacob, William, Daniel, Mahlon, Lindsay, Joseph and George. The daughters name was Elizabeth. She married Zachariah Sharp. I think I can get the date of her marriage and birth and death. She was the mother of six boys. One is still living in Washington and is now in eightys, he is the last of the family also her youngest child..... His son John went to Ohio. I do not know about them. Daniel, I think, went to Aleppo township, Greene Co., Jacob married Phebe Gordon she went blind. Lindsay at one time was recorder in Greene Co. He married a Jordan of Jefferson....My grandfather--your great grandfather--George and Joseph married sisters. Joseph lived at Rice's Landing. Grandfather-George was married three times. His first wifes child was Elizabeth - named for his sister. She married a Clutter and lived in Amity... Grandfathers second wife as I have already told you was a sister to Joseph's first wife. his third wife was Sally Funk....
 .. When I was in Westmoreland Co. about forty-seven years ago I mentioned the name Yoders. They called them Yathers.. a sounded like in ah. I think the same as we called Yoders.... I used to hear Aunt Mag Hupp call some of the Yoders Yethers. Now I think Yoders and Yoder are all the same. One family here in town used to write the name Yoders now is Yoder....

Yours truly, Mary Miller Smith

It is significant to note that Ms. Smith sites an grandson of Jacob who was still living at that time. William and the other children of Jacob have been this man's aunts and uncles, and would certainly have been know by him. Another scrap of paper in the material Carl gathered (whose note is not known) also lists William as being a son of Jacob. Often researchers of family history will find that certain names "run in the family". William's children all have names which match the other known sons of Jacob, to wit: Daniel, Jacob, William Jr., James, and Joseph (refer to the chart on page 5 of YNL 24 and the family group below):

- William Yoder b. c1794 m1. ca 1809-1819 Greene Co.,PA Mary Longaker (ca1791- >1860<11/15/1867 Carroll Co.,OH) (daughter of Daniel Longacre and Eve ?Moredock) m2. ? Elizabeth _____ Wm. d after 1870.
- 1)- Daniel Yoder b. 3/25/1820 PA m. 11/13/1845 Carroll Co.,OH Sarah Clark (1/3/1820 OH - 10/2/1881 OH) d. 5/21/1862 Knox Co., OH both bur. Loudenville, OH.
 - 2)- Jacob Yoder b. ca 1824 PA/OH m. 11/17/1853 Carroll Co.,OH Mary A. Benson enlisted from Richland Co, WI d. 11/11/1863 Memphis TN
 - 3)- William Jr. b. 1827 OH m. 12/21/1848 Carroll Co.,OH to Mary Jane Huston
 - 4)- James L. Yoder b. 3/19/1832 OH m. 3/22/1855 Carroll Co.,OH to Mary Clark d.6/22/1898 bur. Mech. Pres. Church 5)- Joseph Yoder b. 3/21/1834 OH m. Elizabeth Hardgrove (12/14/1834-7/4/1904) d. 1/21/1914 Carroll Co.,OH both bur. Mechanistown Pres. Cem.

These points all taken together make it clear the question of William's origin has been resolved. We'll continue to present the unravelings of our Yoder "missing links" as they occur and welcome the support of all readers in assisting such efforts.

Family Has National Reunion

Hickory was the site of the first national reunion of the Yoder family during the weekend of Aug. 11-13. Members of the Yoder clan representing major lines of the Swiss family attended.

The North Carolina Yoders were hosts at the event, which was based at the Becono Lodge on U.S. 70 West. Attending an orientation meeting were people from 23 states and one foreign country.

Descendants of the main Yoder immigrant lines included the Oley Valley (Berks County, Pa.), Hans of the Great Swamp (Mennonites of Lehigh and Bucks counties, Pa.), Widow Barbara Yoder, Christian Yoder, Melchior Yoder, Samuel and Michael Yoder (of Pennsylvania), and Conrad Yoder (the founder of the North Carolina family).

Rachael Hahn Kennedy of Charlotte, who is president of the N.C. Yoders, welcomed the group. Ted M. Yoder of Hickory, who serves as a special assistant to Ms. Kennedy, described the variety of events planned during the three-day festivities. The Rev. L. Clement Hahn of Charlotte delivered the invocation.

Approximately 90 people enjoyed hors d'oeuvres prepared and served by the host family. The food committee included Harold M. Yoder, Sarah Yoder Coffey, Regina Yoder Hoyle and Ellen Yoder Cranford, members of the family of Ralph E. Yoder of Hildebran.

A Capella Fellows, an area barbershop quartet, entertained the crowd.

Ms. Kennedy introduced special guest Chris Yoder of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As editor of the Yoder Newsletter, printed in Goshen, Ind., Yoder brought greetings from the publication. Copies of the first 25 issues of the newsletter, which have been case bound, were unveiled. Dedicated to co-editor Ben F. Yoder, who died in 1992, the book as well as subscriptions to the Yoder Newsletter may be ordered by contacting the publication at P.O. Box 594, Goshen, Ind. 46527.

On Aug. 12, chartered busses took the group on a tour of historic sites of special importance to the local Yoder family. Guests saw the Weidner-Wilfong "Rock House," the Conrad Yoder family cemetery, Grace Lutheran Church and Old St. Paul's Church, among other landmarks. Tour guides were Neal D.

Wilfong, J. Larry Yoder, Richard E. Yoder and Ted Yoder.

Later that afternoon, the crowd convened at the Catawba County Museum of History in Newton for a program which focused on family, tradition and history. A mercantile store stocked with Yoder wares was set up in the basement of the former Catawba County Courthouse. W.A. "Bill" Yoder of Hickory and Bryan Wascomb, an Amishman from Union Grove, operated the general store.

Dr. J. Larry Yoder, professor of religion and philosophy at Lenoir-Rhyne College, opened the session with prayer. The meeting was held in the old Superior Courtroom on the second floor of the 1924 structure.

Bill Yoder introduced Robert L. Hibbits, chairman of the Catawba County Board of Commissioners. The Virginia native brought greetings to the Yoder family, saying in part that the early clan helped to build Catawba County. A proclamation issued by the commissioners was presented to Ms. Kennedy and Chris Yoder on behalf of the family at large on the occasion of its 45th annual reunion.

Maribeth Yoder White of Statesville led the audience in singing the hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers." Sidney Halma, director of the Museum of History, extended greetings to the assembly.

A sound and slide program, "Pilgrimage of Faith, the Journey of an Anabaptist Family," was presented by Virgil E. Yoder of Irwin, Pa. The documentary was produced in 1992 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the first Amish Yoders in America.

The "Yoder" name is derived from Theodorus, a fourth-century monk who crossed the Alps to carry the Christian gospel to southern Switzerland. After his death, the missionary was canonized and became more familiarly known as St. Joder. The Anabaptist movement, begun in 1525, was the spiritual ancestor of the Amish and Mennonites. The Amish derive their name from Jacob Amman and the Mennonites from a Dutch priest, Menno Simons.

Ted Yoder commented that the Rev. R. Paul Stroup of Orrville, Ohio, a grandson of Dr. Robert Anderson Yoder, a co-founder and first president of Lenoir College (now Lenoir-Rhyne College), has loaned to the Catawba County Museum of History several volumes of the diaries kept by his grandfather.

Announcement was made that a reunion of the descendants of Hans and Jost Yoder will be held in Pleasanton, Pa., next July.

Kenneth L. Yoder of Grantsville, Md., chairman of the Yoder House committee, spoke about a project to construct a home typical of early Yoder immigrants in the Penn Alps.

Steve Abee, a descendant of McKinley Yoder, talked about a limited-edition handmade crock that he had made and donated to the Yoder House Museum.

A genealogy panel offered background information and facts about the various Yoder branches attending the national convention.

The patriarch of the North Carolina family, Conrad Yoder, was portrayed by the Rev. Dr. J. Larry Yoder. A self-described "enigma," the simple Swiss stone mason and farmer promised to reveal more of himself at the Sunday afternoon session. J. Larry Yoder is a lineal descendant of the immigrant who settled in Catawba County in the late 1750s to early 1760s. The pioneer died in the spring of 1790.

A catered barbecue was served on the grounds of the museum after the program. Live music was provided by the Woodies, a Unifour bluegrass band. Jamdango, a cultural event sponsored by the Catawba County Council for the Arts, continued the entertainment. Etta Baker of Morganton performed, as well as the Jazz Trackers and the Interstate Stompers.

A traveling replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial in Washington was displayed on the west side of the courthouse square.

The Yoder family had an opportunity to attend one of two worship services in churches dear to the clan. At a worship service held at Grace Lutheran Church southwest of Newton, Dr. Larry Yoder offered the Lord's Prayer in both German and English in testimony to the European origins of the Yoder family. A second traditional worship service was available to others at Zion Lutheran Church, where the 45th annual reunion of the Yoder family was scheduled Aug. 13.

Michael B. Huffman, vice president, welcomed everyone present for the Yoder family homecoming. Huffman introduced Ms. Kennedy. The moderator recapped highlights of the weekend.

After an invocation by Larry Yoder, home folks and guests feasted on a covered-dish picnic served in the Zion parish hall. At the business meeting, Larry Yoder continued his monologue about N.C. Yoder founder Conrad Yoder. The pioneer stressed four points: that the Yoder family should be congratulated on continuing its tradition of assembling together as a family; that things are so different today compared with pioneer times; that long ago the family members read the Bible and attended to their souls; and that a bouquet of flowers was appropriate to honor Ms. Kennedy.

Ms. Kennedy read a letter of congratulations from Ryan LaHurd, president of Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Several couples were recognized by Ms. Kennedy. People who had been married for 50 years or longer joined the Yoder family head around the piano while Hugh and Mary Rose Yoder Morris of Houston and Karen Norris of Richmond, Va., serenaded the special duos.

Lorena Shell Eaker of Church Hill, Tenn., who wrote the two-volume "Shoe Cobbler's Kin" genealogical tomes, spoke about her latest work, "German Speaking People West of the Catawba River in North Carolina, 1750-1800." Copies of the new publication were available from the author.

Secretary Neal D. Wilfong cited excerpts from the 1994 minutes.

Ted M. Yoder recognized his father, Gerald M. Yoder of Hickory, who has served for more than 15 years as treasurer of the N.C. Yoder family reunion. The elder Yoder has been present for all 45 annual reunions. He is also the caretaker for the 18th-century family burial ground. He recalled neighbors Norman S. "Pinkie" and Inez Hamrick James, who were benefactors of the Yoder family reunion in the late 1970s and early 1980s. A Hickory businessman, James served several years as president of the N.C. Yoder family reunion. James was instrumental in designing the large family lineage boards which are traditional fixtures at the annual homecomings.

Gerald Yoder revealed the gift of a significant amount of money to the Yoder reunion in honor of his three children, three grandchildren and one "soon-to-be" great-grandchild. Further, the retired U.S. Postal employee and cattle dealer announced

a donation of \$1,000 to the Yoder House project in Grantsville, Md. Kenneth and Esther Yoder and Gerald A. Yoder accepted the contribution on behalf of the Yoder House.

Neal D. Wilfong remarked that 50 known deaths had been noted in the Yoder and allied Reep families during the last year. He said 11 births and 11 weddings were also relevant to the Yoder family.

Chris Yoder commented on family values common to the Yoder family.

Richard E. Yoder of Hickory, a former family president and chairman of the nominating committee, announced a slate of officers that include Ms. Kennedy, president; Regina Yoder Hoyle, first vice president; Willie A. "Bill" Yoder, second vice president; Neal D. Wilfong, secretary; and Gerald M. Yoder, treasurer. Officers will serve a term of three years. Michael B. Huffman was named by Yoder as a lifetime consultant in genealogy for the Yoder family. Ted M. Yoder will continue as special assistant to the president.

Chris Yoder said much Yoder family data is now available on computer disk. He donated the disks, with all proceeds earmarked for the N.C. treasury.

Ms. Kennedy described limited-edition T-shirts monogrammed with the crest of Swiss official Jost Yoder. Staff members wore the official shirt during the three-day national convention. Because of popularity and demand, orders were taken for additional shirts.

Eldest members of the Yoder family attending the 45th annual reunion included Eva Yoder Barton, 92, of Pinto, Md., and Louie Baker, 88, and Hubert Yount, 89, both of Hickory.

Ruth Lall of Hickory displayed the Bible of her ancestor, John Abel Yoder, who died in the Civil War at the Battle of Bristow Springs. Other exhibitors included Helen Yoder Hahn, Michael B. Huffman and Neal D. Wilfong. The bedstead of 19th-century historian Col. George M. Yoder and a chest of drawers and rocker attributed to Mary Ann Yoder Yount were showcased by Ms. Kennedy.

scattered and many did not know each other.

After a period of about 35 years, a reunion of this family was held Sunday, June 18, 1995, at the Community Park in McEwensville, PA. Ninety-five people attended, coming from California, Texas, South Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania.

Following the invocation by Hope Yoder of California, everyone enjoyed a delicious picnic dinner. This was followed by time for fellowship and picture taking. Verna Mae Yoder Hartranft was presented with a corsage in celebration of her 94th birthday which was to take place on July 9th. Verna Mae is the oldest living member of the family and the last surviving child of Charles and Emma Jane.

The 1996 Charles Fisher Yoder Family reunion will be held June 23, 1996 at the Community Park in McEwensville, Pa.-For information contact: Mr & Mrs Walter E Moore, 300 Willow Valley Lks Dr, Apt E-104, Willow Street, PA. 17854

CHARLES FISHER YODER REUNION HELD



The descendants of Charles Fisher Yoder and his wife Emma Jane Yoder suspended holding regularly scheduled Yoder family reunions after the death of Mrs. Yoder in 1958. Following the completion and distribution of the booklet "The Ancestors and Family of Charles Fisher Yoder" by Mae Yoder Moore and Walter E Moore in late 1994, it became apparent the 32 living first cousins were