



# YODER NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NUMBER 61

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APRIL 2013

## GROWING UP YODER: A MIRROR?

-by Edwin M. Yoder Jr.



"Know thyself" is ancient wisdom. But our selves are shaped by others, especially by parents, so that knowing our mentors is one route to self-knowledge. As I record the following reflections, I hope you may find in them a sort of mirror -- but a mirror with a question mark after it.

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## DNA FOR AN UNLINKED OLEY, AND TWO SURPRISES

We have three particularly exciting DNA results to report!! One helps us move toward the identification of an unlinked Schuylkill Co., PA Yoder line, and two bring surprises which add to the mysteries of our Yoder heritage.

ELIJAH/ELIAS YODER, PINE GROVE, PA

The first test result is from a descendant of Elijah (aka Elias) Yoder (1803-1880). He first appears in the Schuylkill Co., PA census for 1830 as "Elijah Yoder". Until now, he has been numbered among our "unlinked" with an identifying code of "AC". His first wife was Kitty Reed (1802- ), and his second wife was Anna Margaret \_\_\_\_ (1811-1885). Both he and his second wife are buried in Jacobs Cemetery, Pine Grove, PA. His twelve marker DNA test matches to the unique Y-DNA profile of OH13 Samuel Yoder. Samuel's male children's families are fairly well documented, with the exception of Abraham (b. 1768) who was featured in YNL 56. Abraham was an early resident of Schuylkill County before moving on. Based on the matching and unique DNA profile, it seems certain that Elijah was a grandson of Samuel, most probably one of the as yet unnamed children of Abraham Yoder (OH135).

DNA SURPRISES- CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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## NATIONAL YODER REUNION HELD IN NC



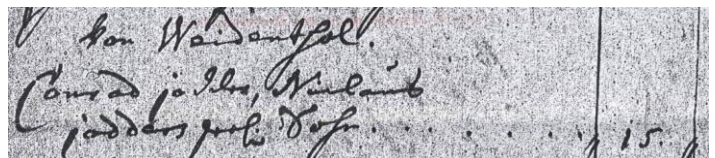
People came from seventeen states to attend the 2012 National Yoder Reunion in Hickory, NC, Oct 23-25, 2013 (AL, CA, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, MD, MI, MS, NC, OH, OR, PA, TN, TX, VA). Major presentations at the Catawba Historical Society in Newton were complemented by a variety of social events (and as always great Southern hospitality and delicious cooking!). Dr. Don Yoder outlined his findings which linked the old world Yoders; Dr. Gary Freeze spoke about Col. George M. Yoder, early historian of the NC Yoders; Pulitzer Prize winner Edwin M. Yoder Jr. told of "Growing Up Yoder" (See his lead article in this issue); Chris Yoder of the YNL reviewed the past 30 years of the newsletter; and Jack Augustus (and Phyllis) Yoder, the only surviving 7th generation descendant of Conrad Yoder, told stories from their lives.

Other key events included: a trip to the wonderful annual Hart Square Folk Festival; a special Vespers Service, conducted in German by Rev. Drs. Larry and Nathan Yoder at the Old Grace Union Church; a memorial service at the Conrad Yoder graveside; and a Sunday pot luck at Zion Lutheran Church hosted by the NC Yoders.

NATIONAL REUNION- CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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## CONRAD YODER BAPTISMAL IMAGE



Here is the actual image of the baptismal record of Conrad Jodder, age 15, "son of the deceased Niclaus Jodder", which is to be found in the Church Records of Mussbach, Germany. The YNL used some funds from our kitty to have a professional researcher get this copy for us from the Mussbach records. Their review found no additional records in that source for the Joder family in the decades surrounding that event. (The image is used with permission of the Zentralarchiv der Ev. Kirche der Pfalz)

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The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by

Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider  
Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; John W. Yoder, Circulation  
Manager, Middlebury, IN; Rachel Kreider, Senior Contributing  
Editor, Goshen, IN; Esther E. Yoder, Mail Manager, Goshen, IN;  
Donald Kauffman, YNL Webmaster, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.  
Other Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Dr. Don  
Yoder, Devon, PA; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC.; and Ann  
Balderrama, Reading, PA .

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Over the past 30 years, subscriptions have allowed us to support  
advertising of national reunions, to provide funding for many of the  
DNA tests, and to pay for new research into Swiss records. All of  
our staff members are volunteers.  
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SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:

-FOR CIRCULATION ISSUES ONLY, such as new or renewed  
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Newsletter, P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527-0594.

- ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - dealing with ancestral  
queries or contributions for future YNLs or archives (such as  
reunion notices, Letters to the Editor, copies of Bible records or  
other historical information) to: Chris Yoder, 551 S. Maple St.,  
Saugatuck, MI 49453 or email at cyoder@tds.net .

- YNL PRICE INFORMATION

-Annual YNL subscription (published Apr. and Oct.) for \$5.

-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$2 per issue. (or you can  
download them free about 1 yr after publication from the Yoder  
Newsletter web page: [www.yodernewsletter.org](http://www.yodernewsletter.org) ).

Visit: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/subscribe.html> for mail-in  
subscription form.

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YODER DATA ON DISK- Includes back issues of YNL text, census  
and county records, family group data and pictures and scanned  
images. The price for our "Yoder Data on Disk" is \$10 (postage  
included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Most of this info is also  
available free at the YNL Homepage and changes VERY slowly.)  
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Cartoon complements of  
Olin Yoder,  
our Yoder artist.  
(see YNL 46)

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**Yotta** is the largest unit prefix in the International System of Units  
(SI), denoting a factor of 10 to the 24th power or  
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000. It has the unit symbol Y.

- from Wikipedia

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations on 30 years of a great newsletter, you do a  
fantastic job. As you know, I dabble in the genealogy of my direct  
family. It seems that every time I get a brainstorm of where to look,  
YNL has already been there. I don't know how you possibly have  
time to research everything you have. Please don't stop!

While passing out accolades, I have to mention Rachel Kreider  
and Hugh Gingerich. It seems that my starting point for anything is  
either YNL or AAMG. I am always amazed at the work that these  
two have done. First in the research volume alone that was involved  
in this work but also in the organization of the data, on index cards  
no less before computers. It boggles my mind!

Lastly, in issue 60 I was surprised to learn that Webmaster  
Don Kauffman, in addition to the YNL website also developed  
"Mennobits". This too is a fantastic research tool.

So to all at YNL, again, congratulations, thanks, and I look  
forward to issues 60 to 120!- Regards- Ron Yoder

From Circulation Manager John W. Yoder

...or at least choose the same restaurant.

Lunch at a truck stop near Richfield, WI. Two stools down the  
counter a guy noticed me reading The Yoder Newsletter. Turned  
out, not only was he a Yoder, but his first name was also John. We  
even spoke a little deitch.- ... JWY

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NATIONAL REUNION- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One of the highlights of the reunion program came at the  
Catawba County Courthouse, when 103 year old Yoder researcher  
Rachel Kreider (YNL Sr. Contributing Editor and co-author of the  
classic Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies) greeted the  
audience by speaker phone from her home in Goshen, Indiana. She  
also spoke individually to Dr. Don Yoder and Judge Ronnie Yoder,  
and has sent the following note:

"It was a high point for me to have a chance to send greetings  
to the reunion at Hickory, NC. As usual, I didn't get around to  
saying some things I really wanted to get said!

"I wanted to express my appreciation to the Yoders in Carolina  
for their having kept the spirit of Yoder reunions alive. I also  
wanted to say thank you and pay tribute:

"-to Prof. Don Yoder for opening the gate to Yoder research  
long ago (as well as recently solving a Yoder puzzle for us).

"-to the many unknown Yoder historians who record data for  
their families and preserve family stories.

"-to my friend Chris Yoder for his diligent study and coding of  
not only the major branches but also the individual immigrants he  
can find as he pursues DNA, informs and holds us all together,  
especially with the Newsletter.

"In the spirit of valedictory I say Cheers! Blessings! Prosperity!"

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SURNAME COUNT 2000 CENSUS

Name	2000 rank	count
Yother	30552	721
Yothers	52935	367
Yotter	58130	327
Yoder	707	44,245
Yoders	64750	287
Yetter	11632	2,475
Yeutter	93006	183
Yother	30552	721

In the 1990 census, Yoder was the 1,118th most frequent surname  
with an estimate of about 35,000 Yoders. So we jumped 411 places!!!  
Can we perhaps thank our Amish brethren for being so prolific?

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"I have even called thee by thy name; I have surnamed thee..." -

Isaiah 45:4, KJV

## GROWING UP YODER- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I was lucky in both father and mother. I describe my good fortune, not entirely in fun, as the result of a mixed marriage. My mother's Georgia people were gay (in the old-fashioned sense of that abused word), sociable, gregarious, and high spirited, always fun to be around. And some of the gaiety was enhanced by the fruit of the vine. Without invidiousness, I need hardly tell you that the Yoders -- as a rule -- are none of the above. They are scholarly, history-minded, political, reserved, dutiful, responsible and sober. Playfulness is not their long suit.

I feel both strains in my nature, but today I want to concentrate on the Yoder genes. I take my father, I hope with due filial piety, as a representative specimen. His influence on me was great, as I wrote when he died in 1985:

Careful, observant scrutiny of a world he could no longer even barely affect, let alone control, suggested his unquenchable curiosity. Early on the morning of his funeral...I watched a freight train crawl through the small North Carolina town whose schools he had administered for 40 years. I thought: He was the only man I knew who could have told you what those odd-shaped cars were built to carry, whether they still did so, where the cargoes were mined and made. For good measure he could have named the founders of the rail lines -- rascals in his book, most probably -- and told by what imposture against the public interest they had prospered. His information was vast, seemed especially so to a boy....And by the way, to know was to know exactly. Once he ran through a geometrical demonstration with me as I sat, only half comprehending, by his reading chair. "See, sonny?" he asked. "I think I do," I responded. "In geometry," he said, "proofs are not a matter of opinion. They are either right or wrong." He felt that way about many things --not only math and science but history, behavior and politics. Especially behavior. He conceded little to the twilight.

On this family occasion, I take as my theme the persistence of what can be explained as genetic endowment. In the age of DNA, we know far more about what lurks in the chromosomes than we did a few decades ago. But that knowledge has by no means solved the ancient puzzle which we know as Nature versus Nurture. It is a wise child who can arbitrate exactly between the two. But I will give it a shot.

To begin with, my father had a double quartering of whatever is intrinsic to Yoder-ness. His father and mother were cousins, both Yoders. He was stamped with certain traits that will not seem strange to you who are his near or even distant kin. He certainly was not humorless -- I will get to that presently -- but he was never frivolous and rarely playful. Poetic sensibility and the play instinct were lacking -- though to be fair, he had sustained a life-changing spinal injury when I was barely six; and chronic pain was his companion to his dying day.

He was a man of natural reverence and decorum, a gentleman always. But he lacked that facility for hypocrisy that goes with intense religiosity. He remained a life-long Lutheran, although in the absence of a Lutheran church in Mebane he attended, and taught the Men's Bible Class, at the Presbyterian Church for a quarter century.

I know, however, that he did not admire Calvinism. To the extent that his nature was at all theological, he remained faithful to Dr. Luther's uncluttered doctrine of the two sacraments. He and I did not much speak of theological matters. But when we did so the point was almost invariably ethical. He detested religious bigotry and probably the expulsion of Charles Jones from the First Presbyterian pulpit in Chapel Hill (when I was a freshman there) washed up his limited tolerance of that denominational flavor -- forever.

When John F. Kennedy's Catholicism was under attack in 1960, he made it his mission during those autumn Sundays to keep a

beady eye on the mousy Presbyterian parson, whom he suspected of an intent to propagandize. The sight of E. M. Yoder on a back pew with his arms skeptically folded was not calculated to loosen a prejudiced tongue.

He could be amusing without exactly intending to be. One evening at our dinner table, my favorite Aunt said that a woman she knew back in Stapleton, Georgia, had been keeping watch at her late husband's grave for years, waiting for him to rise from the dead.

"History is against it, Rubye," was my father's dry comment.

He was not a scoffer, however. For him, religion was of ultimate importance; but it was about charity and good conduct, not metaphysics. The biblical quotation I heard him cite most often was, "Judge not that ye be not judged." Far from incidentally, he was, in the Lutheran tradition, a natural teacher of the Bible. I learned that at an early age when he gave a stunning lesson on the story of Jacob and Esau. I have described it as follows:

On the day when my father substituted for [the usual teacher], business-like as always when discharging an academic task, the lesson of the day was the story from Genesis of Jacob's sharp practice against his brother Esau and his shameful deception of his father, the blind and aged Isaac -- a story replete with potential for moralizing. But my father, reared in the Lutheran tradition of serious biblical scholarship, framed it historically...and gave us a spellbinding account of the context of Hebraic custom in which the tale played out: the birthright expectations of first-born sons, and the institution of primogeniture....He added, for perspective, that primogeniture was an important feature, still, of English common law and had prevailed in a number of the American colonies until Thomas Jefferson led the movement to abolish it in Virginia. He went on to say that Jacob, having tricked his father, would in turn be tricked by his prospective father in law, Laban, who substituted his homelier elder daughter for the younger and more beautiful Rachel. I am sure this appealed to his unwavering sense of fair play. But I wonder, even now, how many Sunday School teachers anywhere could have matched this bravura performance.

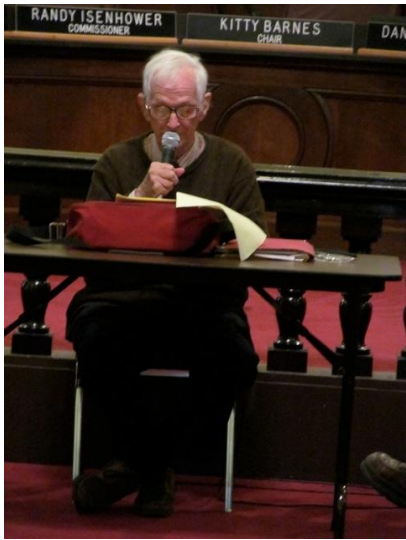
In the family tradition, he was intensely political, a faithful son of my grandfather who was once described as "the last wheel-horse of populism in North Carolina." My grandfather was a dedicated follower of Sen. Marion Butler, and the Fusionist coalition that sent him as a progressive for one term to the US Senate. This was before conservative Democrats overthrew that coalition. It was natural that my grandfather and his sons would become Yellow-Dog Democrats, once the others "caught up," as he was said to put it. By catching up, he meant recognizing the political virtues of William Jennings Bryan -- I admit that from my perspective those virtues were well concealed; but I lack my grandfather's immediate perspective..

Since my father abhorred bigotry, he was quick to form bipartisan friendships. The following is a true story. He knew that my fiancée was the daughter of a Republican family in Tennessee. He had not been long in her company for the first time when he told her, reassuringly, that "some of my best friends are Republicans." It happened to be true. I don't think he grasped the distant echo of the assurance our Jewish friends identify as a cardinal giveaway of anti-Semitism.

He could work himself into a lather over political outrages. He was an early and instinctive critic of the Vietnam folly, and sometimes raged that he would like to take his shotgun to Washington and punish Lyndon Johnson for getting us into it. But obviously this was mere bloviation. At their best his views were informed by exceptional historical grasp. Mrs. Ben Smith, who taught him at the Startown Farm Life School, told me years later that he was the best history student she had ever taught. He did not pose as infallible. I heard him tell one story on himself more than

GROWING UP YODER- CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# PICTURES FROM THE REUNION



**Dr. Don Yoder Speaks of Yoder Discoveries**



**Audience From as Far as Oregon**



**Dr. Gary Freeze on Col. George Yoder**



**Ted Yoder Speaks at Conrad Yoder Gravesite**



**Chris Yoder - 30 Years of the YNL**



**Ready for Dinner**



**Edwin Yoder Tells of "Growing Up Yoder"**



**Hart Square Folk Festival**



Sunday Feast



Neal Wilfong -Recognized for 25 Years as NC Yoder Secretary  
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 DNA SURPRISES- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Dirt Covered Stone for Elias  
 Photo from Find-A-Grave

Thanks to ancestry.com we know that the verse used at his funeral was II Timothy 4:6 (KJV) "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

**JOST JOTTER/YETTER (1770-1845)  
 - A SURPRISE "AMISH PROILE"**

Over the years, we have investigated a number of lines of "Yettters". The families of pre-1800 progenitors Samuel Yetter (of Columbia County, PA), of Henry Yater (of Kentucky/Indiana), and Ludwig Yetter (of Mifflin County, Pa) are said to be descendants of a Johannes Yetter from around Stuttgart, Germany who was b. 1724. Their Y-DNA profiles match to one another, and are quite different from that of the Swiss Joders of Steffisburg.

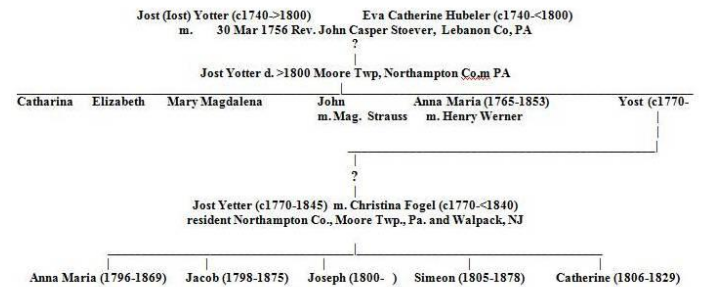
In the Oley Yoder line, descendants of OH1127- Daniel (2/28/1797-3/9/1854) who m. c1825 (Nancy) Agnes McKallip took on

the Yetter spelling. They share the Steffisburg Joder profile of the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) for the Joder family. Another "Yetter" line grows out of Aaron, one of the believed sons of OH135 Abraham Yoder , see YNL56 and 57 (and suspected brother of Elias above).

About fifteen years ago, we began looking at a family of Yettters who settled in Walpack, Sussex County, New Jersey in the 1820s. Key researchers of that line were then Harry C. Werner of Denver, Colorado, and Richard Berg, of New Jersey. Walpack is a sparsely populated township just across the Delaware River from Pennsylvania. Jost Yotter (b. c1770) of Moore Township, Northampton Co., PA married Christina Fogel (Fogle) and by the 1820's had sold his property in Moore Twp, and purchased land in Walpack, NJ. There, the family took on the spelling "Yetter".

After many years looking, we have found a male Yetter who seems certain to be connected to this New Jersey branch of Yettters. As a gift for his approaching 90th birthday, the daughter-in-law of a California Yetter contacted the YNL for our help in researching his ancestry. We traced his line to a Johann George ("George") Yetter (b.c1805) and his wife Catherine Steel (b. 12 Jul 1808 Delaware, Pike Co, PA). This George Yetter appears in the census in both Pike Co., PA 1830 and Richmond Twp, Huron Co, OH in 1840 and 1850 directly beside his father-in-law Jacob Steel (b. 13 FEB 1785 in Delaware Twp., Northampton County, PA-d. 25 SEP 1871 New Haven, OH) and his wife Anna Margaret BERK (b. 14 MAY 1786 in Walpack, Sussex County, New Jersey-d. 1860 in Richmond, Ohio). Jacob Steel and Margaret "Peggy" Berk were married in Sussex Co, NJ 5 Jan 1806. Pike Co., PA is directly across the river from Sussex Co., NJ.

We cannot say who George Yetter's parents were, but the connections to this line of Yettters seem clear. A DNA test was arranged by the daughter-in-law, and was paid for from the YNL kitty. We expected that perhaps the result would be a match to the German Yeutter/Yetter family. To our great surprise, he matched to the "Amish profile" of our Steffisburg Switzerland line! As you will see below, there seem no connections in this family to Amish communities or surnames (other than perhaps one listed baptismal sponsor who was a Kauffman- another good Steffisburg name).



Speculative connections point to this Yost as a possible son of a senior Jost Yeotter. The Rev. John Caspar Stoever (1707-1779) was the first evangelical Lutheran preacher ordained in Pa. In "Early Lutheran Baptism and Marriages in Southeastern Pennsylvania 1730-1779, records of John Casper Stoever" Lebanon Co., PA., and in "W.H. Egle's, Notes and Queries 1898 annual volume" we find information which gives clues to this first generation of this family, and possible siblings of the elder Jost. These records are from the Quitopahilla (Hill) Lutheran Church, near Annville, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, where Stoever served as pastor for 46 years:

- From Stoever:
  - married 30 Mar 1756, Iost Iotter (Jotter) and Eva Catherine Huebler
  - married 18 Nov 1755, Johann Adam Stoehr and Eva Catherine Jetter (Yetter)
  - married 14 Feb 1758, John Jacob Bickel and Eva Margaretha Jetter (Jetter)

DNA SURPRISES- CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

From Egle:

- born Mar. 18, 1757, bapt. Apr. 16, 1757 Mary Magdalene of Jost Jotter and wife Eve, spon. Christian Kauffman and wife.
- born Sep. 27, 1759, bapt. Sep.3, 1759 John of Jost Jotter and wife Eve, spon. John Kuemmerling and wife.
- born Mar. 10, 1768, bapt. Apr. 1, 1768 Eva Mary of Peter Jetter and wife Anna Mary, spon. George Sprecher and wife Eva Margaret
- born Dec. 16, 1769, bapt. Jan. 17, 1770 Mary Catherine of Peter Jetter and wife Ana Mary, spon. Mary Catharine Stoever
- born Jul. 10, 1772, bapt. Aug. 2, 1772, Anna Mary of Peter Jetter and wife Anna Mary, spon. Tobias Stoever and wife Hannah

On Jul. 14, 1777 "Jost Yotter" took the "oath of affirmation" in Northampton Co., on Jul 14, 1777. He warranted 65 acres of land in Moore Township of that county in 1785. This fellow and his wife "Eva Catharine" had several known children, including daughter Anna Maria who married Henry Werner. In the 1790 census this elder Jost is listed as "Jost Juther" with 2 males over 16 and 3 females. Jost deeded his property on 1 Sep 1800 to son-in-law Henry Werner for 16 pounds and that Werner would "well and sufficiently maintain support and keep the said Jost Yotter during his natural life with good and sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing, lodging, plug and smoke tobacco and attendance in sickness and in health". In the 1800 census, Jost appears in the Henry Werner household as a male over 45. The Communion Lists of the Salem Lutheran and Reformed Church in Moorestown, showed Eva Catherine to be an active communicant between the years of 1774 and 1793. Her husband did not appear. Perhaps he was not a religious person.

Family researcher Richard Berg felt it likely that the Yost Yetter, who married Christine Fogle, was a son of the senior Yost, but has no evidence other than wife's name, connections to Stoever, and proximity in Northampton. Harry Werner asked for more proof before being willing to declare this connection.

**KARL JODER FAMILY- ANOTHER SURPRISE- MORE RE-DEFINITION TO EARLY JODERS?**

The late German Joder researcher Karl Joder traced his line back to Caspar Joder who married Verena Stauffer and who he thought had left Steffisburg in the 1690s. In YNL55, we established through Steffisburg death and contract records that the Caspar Joder who married Verena Stauffer WAS NOT the son of Jost Joder (b. 1607) whose family was filled with Anabaptist children. He WAS NOT the Amish Caspar Joder living at Weiler in 1708 with his wife and nine children and referred to as "well to do". And he DID NOT leave Steffisburg, but rather died there in 1735. The wife of the Amish Caspar seems also to have been named Verena - perhaps the reason for Karl's conclusion. We then assumed that the rest of his data was correct, and that the families he connected himself to in Germany were in fact descended from the other Caspar Joder (the Amish one) - and that he had merely misidentified the progenitor in his line.

What Karl defined for the Palatinate (Pfaltz) Joders identifies the Christian Joder who married Anna Maria Claus and the younger Christian who married Maria Steinmann as being the Amish bishops of the same name and approximate ages. His data goes on to show links to two known Amish immigrants to the US - Michael Yoder (YRC8) and Joseph Ioder (D). Male descendants in each of these other two lines have had DNA tests, and each show the unique Y-DNA profile shared by the Amish Yoder immigrants of 1742 (YR1 and YR2) which we have come to call "The Amish Profile" (a value of "16" at marker "19" instead of the "15" present among the non-Amish immigrant Yoders and those living in

Steffisburg today - some of whom are indeed descended from Caspar Joder and Verena Stauffer).

Karl Joder's tree below , as he defined it in the his records of the Palatinate (Pfaltz) Yoder (see YNL web site)



So, with the premise that Karl had merely misidentified the Caspar Joder in his ancestry, and that his other connections for Palatinate Joders were correct, when a member of his extended family agreed to a DNA test, we expected to see another "Amish Profile" DNA result. SURPRISE!! We instead found a match to the Non-Amish profile!

What is happening here? Well, perhaps Karl's own connections to the Steffisburg Caspar Joder and Verena Stauffer are correct, but the ties he makes to German Joders of the Amish lines are invalid. One thing which now jumps out at us is the surnames of the wives...even in the earliest generations of his tree (Claus and Steinmann) are not ones we see elsewhere in the Amish community (although there is a Steinmann Mennonite Church in Canada). Has he merged the identity of some Amish Joders with people of the same first name and approximate age living in the same general area? It seems possible.

Could the DNA profile have mutated back from the value "16" to one of "15"? Possible, but not likely. Out of almost 100 some DNA tests, we have seen that happen only once (in a test from the line of YR25 -John Yoder). We don't have access to the details of the research on which Karl Joder based his tree, so we cannot at this time identify where there may have been an error. These DNA results do, however, bring more uncertainty to what he has identified as the family of the Amish Casper Joder in the Palatinate.

Thanks to our DNA Test Donors! All three of these tests were funded by contributions to the YNL DNA project kitty. Thanks to those of you who have been a part of this efforts.

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**THANKS FOR YOUR YNL SUBSCRIPTION!**

\*\*\*\*\*Queries\*\*\*\*\*

The YNL will publish Yoder related inquiries or exchanges at no charge. Send Queries to: Chris Yoder, 551 S. Maple St., Saugatuck, MI 49453 or email at cyoder@tds.net .

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Who can tell me about Mary Zook who was 2nd wife of Joseph ("Red Yost") Yoder (YR257)? My 3rd G -Grandmother was a Mary Zook b 15 Aug 1779, Chester Co. PA & m. Casper Schrock in 1801 in Somerset Co, PA. The Mary Zook that married Red Yost Joseph Yoder abt 1830 in Centre Co., PA is shown with the same birth date as my 3rd G - Grandmother & I've found info that says she died about 1837. I found the 1850 census of Joseph Red Yost Yoder in Fayette, PA with a wife, Mary of the correct age. Was this the Mary Zook Schrock? and if so, when did she really die? Do you have evidence where Joseph Red Yost Yoder was buried in 1856? If so, was a Mary buried near him? Does anyone know if these are both the same Mary Zug or if they are two separate Mary Zugs? Thanks - Jennette White, [jennetteww@verizon.net](mailto:jennetteww@verizon.net)

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## GROWING UP YODER- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

once. He was in a seminar at Chapel Hill taught by Dr. Dudley D. Carroll. Dr. Carroll was critical of some nation. My father piped up that the said society had a good standard of living and seemed to be doing well. "So are the pigs," said Dr. Carroll.

One day during the 1948 presidential campaign I read in the Burlington paper that Henry A. Wallace, who was running on the Progressive ticket, had been chased from a platform in that mill town by a bombardment of eggs and tomatoes. I assumed that since Mr. Wallace was trying to lure voters from Mr. Truman my father would approve of the Burlington episode. I commented that Wallace "seems to have gotten what he deserved." My father all but rose from his reading chair and dressed me down in crisp terms. The performance of the Burlington "rag tag and bobtail" (I feel sure this was the designation; it was one of his favorite phrases) was disgraceful. People had a right to speak in this country and it was absolute. It was a brisk lesson in civility and tolerance -- and the right of free speech -- that I never forgot.

Indeed, the 1950s when I was coming of age politically were stressful times in North Carolina, with hysteria over communism running strong. One victim was Dr. Frank Graham, former president of UNC and one of my father's heroes, and now in the Senate. He was under racist assault in the Democratic primary and my father risked his job -- he was, after all, a public servant -- to distribute Graham posters. I saw them one morning on the floor of his car when he drove me to my summer job. I can see them yet: a testament to his fidelity to truth and civility.

He would not have been a Yoder had he not attached great importance to learning. My chronic inattention to my studies up until mid-adolescence was vexing to him. I managed better in school than I deserved, but that did not begin to satisfy his standards. In the summer vacations he would bring home dry textbooks for me to study, especially in math and physics. I was more interested in baseball statistics and Ted Williams's historic batting averages -- and my golf handicap. It was not the physics books that I read with a flashlight after lights out.

As I have said, he was far from humorless. In his later years Jane and I would take turns with my brother Jim staying with him during my mother's summer visits to Georgia. One morning I was slicing a banana as we sat at the breakfast table.

"Sonny," he said, "you aren't slicing the banana correctly." If I had ever dared return a smart-alec retort to him I would have said, (as I silently thought) Well, this is news: that there are right and wrong ways to slice a banana. I merely asked him mildly to show me the right way. (If any of you would like a demonstration, see me at breakfast tomorrow.)

His reminiscences of youth always had point, and they were credible because no human being was ever more dutiful. He often terrified me by threatening to buy a farm where I could learn to work -- the word had a talismanic force for him. He liked to recall how he and two brothers were sent out one hot summer day to pick cotton. He picked conscientiously; they goofed off. No wonder that he often said that he sympathized with the dutiful elder son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son! I took the cotton-picking anecdote at its apparent face value.

One night, when he had told the story for perhaps the dozenth time in my hearing, Jane commented: "Surely, granddaddy, it is more natural for boys of that age to loaf than to work, so you were the exception, not they." This new gloss seemed to stun him. Certainly it had never occurred to me.

I don't think a more generous man ever lived. His pay was never high, though he was an ingenious steward of his modest wealth. He regularly sent checks to my grandparents in their old age. When I was studying abroad the monthly cheque came as regularly as the turn of the calendar page. He helped his associates, not for gratitude, although like most of us he appreciated it when it was extended. The cynical saying, "no good deed goes unpunished"

would have stunned and perhaps puzzled him -- if he had ever heard it. A sense of paradox was not in his nature.

In closing, I return briefly to the old issue of nature against nurture. I feel the force of the family heritage. But it is beyond me to referee between the maternal and paternal, or distinguish between genes and example. As he was a distinctive and forceful man, I feel his presence in my bones and tissue. They are inescapable; nor would I wish to escape them. In his marvelous novel *A Summons to Memphis*, which is really about his own powerful father, my late friend Peter Taylor paints a revealing symbolic scene. The central character is flying from New York City back home to Memphis to deal with a family emergency, having been admonished by his fiancée that he should learn to see his father as a person, as he must see himself, rather than as an abstraction or an icon -- a desirable stage of growing up that often comes late, as it did to me. In the crowning scene of his novel, Peter describes how the waiting father has himself driven to the runway side as his son's plane is landing -- an impossibility, obviously, but a scene of ingenious insight, as illustrating the peremptory power of powerful fathers. It certainly resonated with me.

Growing up Yoder, as I have called it, was not exactly a joy ride. But I would not swap that heritage -- lightened, as it was, by the more playful maternal genes -- for any other.

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It is truly a privilege to publish an original article by a Pulitzer prize winner in the YNL! This article was prepared for the National Yoder Reunion, held in North Carolina, Oct. 25-28, 2012, by Edwin M. Yoder, Jr., renowned American journalist, author, and descendant of Conrad Yoder. He gave one of the keynote addresses at the reunion. He is a graduate of U of NC Chapel Hill, and a Rhodes Scholar at Jesus College, Oxford, studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He was then an editorial writer for various newspapers including the *Charlotte Gazette*, the *Greensboro Daily News*, and the *Washington Star*. During his time at the *Washington Star*, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing in 1979. He has been a columnist on the *Washington Post* since 1982. In 1992, he was appointed Professor of Humanities at Washington and Lee University and was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of Jesus College, Oxford in 1998. The a photo with this article is from the cover of his memoir "Telling Others What to Think" and is used courtesy of Washington and Lee University and LSU Press.

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## 2012 Oley Yoder Reunion Report

We had to change the date for several reasons including that Bob Keller, our longtime treasurer passed away, and we are all getting older with more health problems. Anyhow...The Oley Yoder Family Reunion was held on Saturday, September 8, 2012 at the Oley Fire House in Oley, PA. After much visiting and updating, a delicious family-style meal of ham, turkey, potato filling and assorted salads and vegetables as well as blueberry and apple pie was served. After dinner prizes were awarded to the oldest and youngest men and women. Edna Dierolf and George Yoder received fruit baskets for being the oldest, and Ann Balderrama and Jay Phillips received snack baskets for being the youngest. Helen Newell entertained us with a tale of St. Joder and the Devil, and we all took a test to see how much we knew about our local ancestors and details in their lives. We now know a lot more than we did before the test. We all enjoyed a raffle of gifts and everyone went home with something, and the money from the raffle will go to help keep our Pleasantville/Yoder cemetery mowed and attractive. We are hoping to have a national Yoder reunion in 2014 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Hans Yoder homestead.- Helen Newell

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Found-additional daughter for George Yoder YR1271 - Catherine (20 March 1833 Ohio-19 July 1889). Married Ruben George Stout on 19 Feb. 1857, in Freeport, IL- from Nancy Hartman, Feb 2013

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## YODER PASSINGS

- Dwane F. Yoder (October 16, 1928 - May 16, 2011) 82, retired U.S. Navy Captain, died at his home in Mechanicsburg, PA. He was the son of Richard and Grace Yoder.

- Lewis B. Yoder, 87, of Valley View Haven, Belleville, PA d. Jan. 26, 2013. Was the son of Jesse (YR253c512) & Annie M. (Byler) Yoder.

- Stanley L. Yoder, 83 years old, Edwardsburg, MI d. Jan. 11, 2013 Son of Edward (YR2612261) and Jeanette (Trainor) Yoder.

- David W. Yoder, 99, Laurel View Village, PA d. Dec. 23, 2012, son John Sr. (YR2345715) Yoder and Polly Custer.

- George R. "Pappy" Yoder, Sr., 89, of Souderton, PA d. Nov. 30, 2012. Son of the late George S. and Gertrude D. (Ritter) Yoder.

- Paul Eugene Yoder, 92, of Onsted, MI, d. Oct. 24, 2012. Son of Lewis "Babe" Yoder and Pearl (Doner) Yoder, Williams Co., OH.

- Myron Yoder, 85, Sugarcreek, OH d. Oct. 7, 2012. Son of the late Ben and Emma (Yoder) Yoder.

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## "Find-A-Grave" - Document Your Own Yoder Line on the Internet

The "Find-A-Grave" web site allows you: to post the name and dates of your ancestor in the cemetery where he or she rests; to add his or her photo (s); to add a photo of the gravestone; and to post a biographical summary or obituary.

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of Feb. 14, 2013 the counts for interments were: 12,733 records (an increase of +940 from Aug. 2012) - Yoder; 321 (+31) - Yother; 196 (+33) - Yothers; 140 (+4) - Yotter; 50 (+1) - Yoter; 143 (+6) - Yoders; 45 (+19) - Ioder; 76 (+7) - Joder; 25 (+1) - Jotter family members; 1 (+0) - Joders. You can either add your ancestor to a cemetery, or post data on an existing record. For assistance write: Chris Yoder at: [cnyder@tds.net](mailto:cnyder@tds.net).



A sample gravestone is shown here.

Barbara Ioder  
(1804- Jan. 13, 1878)  
Willow Springs Cemetery  
Tiskilwa, Bureau County  
Illinois, USA  
(wife of Joseph Ioder "D")

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## YODERS OF NORA SPRINGS, IA

Nora Springs, Iowa, is probably not be a name widely known to many, but it is a place that now holds a very special place in my heart as I work to untie the knots that represent my family heritage.

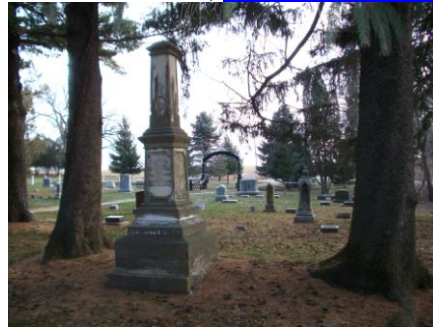
Via the internet - per guidance from our own Yoder Newsletter! - I've spent some time trawling through Findagrave.com. I quickly discovered several generations of family buried in Rock Grove Cemetery, Nora Springs, Iowa. I, in turn, wrote the kind lady in Minnesota who had taken the photographs simply to thank her for providing this visual history of my kinfolk. After several back-and-forth conversations, it was exciting and surprising to discover that she, too, has Yoder links - hers through marriage, mine by birth.

Joan directed me to the marvelous leaders of the Nora Springs Historical Society because my wife and I had, by then, decided a road trip was necessary to see first-hand what had been documented pictorially. And boy am I glad we did! It's always striking how quickly the kindness of strangers can turn folks into friends. And that's exactly what happened when we met Mike and Allan at Rock Grove Cemetery. They provided plot maps of the cemetery, had located all the family graves so that we wouldn't have to struggle,

and then led the way to other sites of interest. Adding Hugh to their team of interested historians we visited remnants of the one-room schoolhouse our family would have attended as children, two historical/museum buildings developed and maintained by the Historical Society, and a living house-museum from the 1930s - left as if time had stopped! We stood in the blacksmith shop where our ancestors would have gone for their needs. We spotted the trough from which their horses would have drunk while the folks went about their business. We wandered the back roads where they went to visit township and town leaders and friends. It's all there. And it's part of your life and mine. I think the verse fits us Yoders just right: "...surely I (we!) have a delightful inheritance." (Psalms 16:6b)

Let me know if you decide to head to Nora Springs, too - plenty to see and do in the area - including lots of Amish Yoders, too (Riceville, Osage, McIntire, and beyond)!

Stephen Yoder Con232a13; [stephenpaulvoder@aol.com](mailto:stephenpaulvoder@aol.com)



Rock Grove Cemetery, Armilda Marker at Front

Here's a list of those immediately linked to the Conrad (Con)/Jacob (Con2) line who find their resting place there:

- Henry Yoder Con23 b. 15 Aug 1804 d. 17 Dec 1871
- Ruthy A. (Rader) Yoder wife of Con23 b. 24 May 1813 d. 29 Nov 1873
- Francis Marion Yoder Con232 (grave marker there - actually buried in the State of Washington) b. 17 Feb 1835 d. 11 Nov 1927
- Armilda Yoder wife of Con232 b. 3 May 1836 d. 24 Dec 1876
- William H. Yoder Con2321 b. 11 Oct 1856 d. 19 Sep 1872
- Infant Yoder Con2323 b. 1 Jun 1863 d. 2 Jun 1863
- Anna Yoder Con2324 b. Dec 1869 d. 1 Mar 1870
- Isaac Yoder Con2352 b. 27 Feb 1868 d. 19 Feb 1873
- Myrtie Gertrude Yoder Con2361 b. 25 Dec 1869 d. 18 Jan 1870
- Lela Lillian Yoder Con2364 b. 15 Jul 1876 d. 3 Jan 1881
- Amanuel Yoder Con24 (also Emmanuel; Amanuel on the gravestone) b. 5 May 1806 d. 18 Dec 1903
- Rachel Yoder wife of Con24 b. 12 Apr 1811 d. 15 Jan 1898
- John Jasper Yoder Con244 b. 12 Apr 1841 d. 25 Dec 1927
- Amanda M. Yoder wife of Con244 b. 18 Dec 1842 d. 23 Sep 1896
- Charles Yoder Con2441b. 22 Nov 1869 d. 19 Jul 1947

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## YNL STAFF CELEBRATES 30 YRS



John W. Yoder, Rachel Kreider, Chris Yoder, and Esther Yoder celebrate the 30th year of the YNL at an Anniversary Dinner.