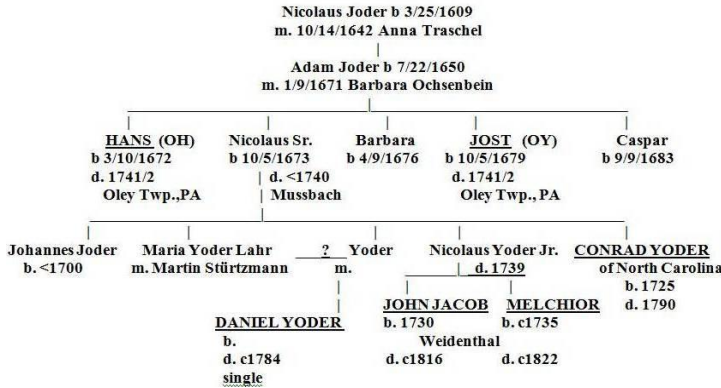




From Steffisburg to Weidenthal, and on to Globe Mills

by Barbara Tornstrom



The lure of fertile affordable land and religious tolerance most likely drew Hans and then his brother, Yost, to the wilds of Oley Twp. in Pennsylvania. Their brother, Nicholas (Sr.), however, chose another route away from their bucolic countryside homeland of Steffisburg with its grand views of the Bernese Alps. Leaving the religious strife in his community behind, he immigrated to Weidenthal, Pfaltz, Germany. Why this divergence occurred, and why Nicholas chose to stay in the Palatinate, one can only speculate.

Through the excellent research of Dr. Don Yoder, we know that Nicholas Sr. most likely married, but his wife's name is not known. One of his children, Nicholas Jr., was born in Weidenthal as was his son, Melchior, on August 15, 1736. Nicholas Sr. died in 1740 at the age of 67. Nicholas Jr. preceded him in death by a year in 1739. Melchior was only four years old at the time of his father's passing.

According to Col. George M. Yoder, Melchior Yoder had two brothers named Jacob and Daniel, and a sister named Eve. Eve Yoder married a Daniel Longacker. Don Honeywell's research leads him to conclude that she may have actually been Eve Moredock and not Melchior's and Jacob's sister.

"I can't say that a sister of Melchior, Sr. did or did not come with them, but I doubt the statement that a(n) Eve Yoder married Daniel Longacker and went to Greene county with him. I believe Daniel Longacker's wife Eve was born a Moredock, but I still can't prove this with a document. The clue comes from a land settlement in Greene County of her father. This Eve was born circa 1762-70, which makes her a generation younger than Melchior and his brothers."

Mary Lou Cook, a descendant of Melchior's son, Benjamin, notes that the children of Nickolaus Yoder Jr. were Jacob, Daniel, Eve, Henry, and Melchior. In the book *Snyder County (Pennsylvania) Pioneers* by Nancy Fisher and Charles A. Fisher, the authors claim that Melchior emigrated from Germany with a brother named Henry. Henry remained single without having fathered any children. He left his estate to his nephews Peter, Jacob, John, and Melchior Jr.

At what point in time Melchior came to Pennsylvania is not known but his passage over would not have been easy. From the Brobst Chronicles homepage on Rootsweb an excerpt is taken from the book, *Reise nach Pennsylvanien 1756*, by Gottlieb Mittleberger. It describes the experience of some of the Palatinate immigrants' voyages to America.

"It was a severely harsh trip, taking from six weeks to six months, on filthy ships which were hardly seaworthy and with passengers packed

ON TO GLOBE MILLS-CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Passing of Dr. Don Yoder Premier Family Scholar



-photo compliments of Dr Patrick Donmoyer

Dr. Don Yoder, our most eminent family historian, passed away suddenly at his home on Aug. 11, 2015, at the age of 93. Dr. Yoder, a resident of Devon, PA, would have celebrated his 94th birthday on Aug. 27th.

As a young scholar in the early 1950s he published information in a family reunion book pointing the origins of our family to the Swiss village of Steffisburg. Through the contacts he developed with European historians, in the 1970s, he was the person who connected the Oley Yoders to a specific the Steffisburg Joder family..

DR DON- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

St. Germanshof

by Bruce Stahley



Franco-German sheep on the border, near St. Germanshof

It was clear to me that the sheep were true believers in the new 21th Century Europe: some in the flock were nibbling on the spring grass in France; the others were a few feet away, grazing on German grass. In between ran the invisible border that had figured in so much tragic European history.

I was standing in France, looking a few hundred meters down the road, into Germany, toward St. Germanshof, which is the

ST. GERMANSHOF -CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

LETTER TO THE EDITORS:



On a recent trip to Virginia Beach I stopped to take a photo of Yoder Lane in Kempsville, VA. There were a number of Yoder farms located in this area prior to the current housing developments. -B/rgds,- Keith Yoder, Centreville, VA, yoder.iad@verizon.net

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The front cover of the August National Geographic shows a picture of Pope Francis standing in the Vatican, The featured story is titled "Pope Francis Remakes the Vatican". The writer is Robert Draper; however I happen to know the photographer, Dave Yoder. He's my nephew, otherwise known as YB137812211. Dave is a freelance photographer living in Rome, shooting for National Geographic and any other publisher who will buy his services. Check it out.

- Ken Yoder (YB13781223), Goshen, IN

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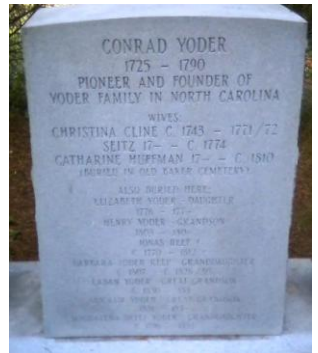
ABOUT THE DR. DON YODER ARCHIVES

From Dr. William Woys Weaver- "All of his Pa Dutch papers, including massive files on the Yoders will go to Kutztown University. There will be a Don Yoder Reading Room in the new library (to be built) and that is also where his cranky old German typewriter, his glasses, etc will end up, a "Yoder Shrine" so to speak. You can pass that around among the Yoders. ALL of Don's genealogical papers will be available to them if they want to do research or see his. I suppose their accessibility will depend on how soon they can catalog what is there. Money has been given to Kutztown to publish Don's "The German Bible in America" which is the book he was working on right up until the day he died. There have been some really remarkable obituaries put up on the Internet, now many flowing in from Germany. Don's papers will be accessible before the new library is built because Kutztown University is converting an old church into a temporary library. It will take months to clean out his "office" which is a massive pile of papers that must be sorted through carefully. Don wanted to be cremated and have his ashes scattered on his father's farm in the Mahantongo Valley, so that too will happen (some locals are going to help)."

New Engraving on Conrad Yoder Stone

- The Yoders of North Carolina voted at their 2014 reunion to have the names of others known to have been buried in the cemetery of Conrad Yoder, added to the back side of his stone. Michael Billy Huffman coordinated this action and it was completed on Jun. 25, 1915.

(Added Note: Michael and his mother Nellie Settlemyre (age 80) have maintained the Thessalonica Baptist Church Cemetery, Newton, NC, and adjacent slave cemetery for many years (see YNL63), paying all costs. Conrad's daughter Catherine Baker, grandson David Yoder and many other family members rest there. Donations to help with upkeep would be welcome.



Send to: Michael B. Huffman, PO Box 131, Hildebran, NC 28637 .

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; Kenneth W. Yoder, Mail Manager, Goshen, IN; Esther E. Yoder, Mail Manager Emeritus, Goshen, IN; Donald Kauffman, YNL Webmaster, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Other Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC.; and Ann Balderrama, Reading, PA . And our other Goshen area volunteer team members: Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, and Richard Yoder.

Over the past 33 years, subscriptions have allowed us to support advertising of national reunions, to provide funding for many of the DNA tests, and to pay for new research into Swiss records. All of our staff members are volunteers.

SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:

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

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

- YNL PRICE INFORMATION

-Annual YNL subscription (published Apr. and Oct.) for \$5.
-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$2 per issue. (or you can download them free 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder Newsletter web page: www.yodernewsletter.org -).

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

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

YNL CONSOLIDATED VOLUMES
NOW AVAILABLE

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

For YNL 1-25 www.createpace.com/5154791 \$16.29 plus postage

For YNL26-50 www.createpace.com/5051725 \$16.99 plus postage

Descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr. (YR233) may also be interested in The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Ancestry at www.createpace.com/4122327 \$15.99 plus postage

IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET GOOGLE
"YODA'S AMISH COUSIN"

At Long Last-Montbéliard Book Published!

"Montbéliard Mennonite Church Register, 1750-1958" by Joe Springer, curator of the Mennonite Historical Library in Goshen, Ind. The 2-volume set (1400 pages) makes available baptisms, marriages, and deaths as well as Springer's extensive notes and family genealogical outlines to include a major new analysis of the Alsatian Yoders. Numerous descendents of this congregation have since immigrated to various places in America, including northwest Ohio and Iowa. \$49 plus \$12 S&H. Order on-line at: <http://www.biblio.com/>

ST. GERMANSHOF- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

farming estate where my great-great grandfather Heinrich Stähli was born in 1810. A hundred years before, in 1710, Caspar Joder (Y6b) was living nearby at Langenberg. He and his family were Anabaptist refugees from Steffisburg, Canton Bern. Heinrich Stähli's son Daniel married Sarah Schmucker, a descendant of 1742 Amish emigrant Christian Joder (YR2). It has not been proven that Christian Joder was descended from Caspar Joder (Y6b), but at the very least they were near relatives.

This quiet border area had long been a safe haven for Anabaptist refugees. A primary landowner was Baron Ignace Louis Vitzthum von Egersberg. Nearby farming estates (for example, the Diefenbacherhof) around the Alsatian towns of Riedseltz and Wissembourg were mostly in the hands of Anabaptists. After French King Louis XIV proclaimed (in 1712) that Anabaptists in Alsace must leave, Baron Vitzthum intervened, and his Anabaptist tenants were allowed to remain, despite the protests of some local residents. Doubtless the economic benefits to Baron Vitzthum overrode the religious concerns of the French king and the local Catholic authorities.

Johannes Joder, presumed son of Caspar Joder (Y6b), born 1686), remained at St. Germanshof until about 1728. As late as 1735, the records mention the "old farmer Caspar Joder at Langenberg." In 1764, another Caspar Joder (possibly a son of Johannes Joder), along with others, renewed the lease at St. Germanshof, and in 1770 these same people sold the lease before its expiration. Stähli's are first mentioned at St. Germanshof in 1802.



St. Germanshof

Today St. Germanshof is a restaurant, hotel, and equestrian center. After my six kilometer walk there from the Wissembourg train station, I enjoyed lunch and a beer in the Biergarten while contemplating the buildings and landscapes where my Stähli ancestors and Joder relatives had lived. No doubt there have been alterations to the buildings over the years, but it is certainly possible to get a feeling for the place as it must have been two or three hundred years ago. It is easy to see why Anabaptists settled there. The location is isolated and beautiful, and it feels safe. With apologies to J.S. Bach, the sheep may safely graze.

Sources:

Jean Hege: Les Anabaptistes de Weiler, Germanshof et Langenberg
Werner Kuhn: Bobenthal: ein Wasgaurdorf und seine Geschichte

Updated Find-A-Grave Counts

Visit the site at: www.findagrave.com. As of Aug. 24, 2015 the counts for interments were: 16,668 records (an increase of +676 from Jan. 2015) –Yoder; 427 (+14) – Yother; 264 (+8) – Yothers; 237 (+11) – Yotter; 59 (+5) – Yoter; 200 (+16) – Yoders; 54 (+2) – Ioder; 79 (-1) – Joder; 40 (+2) - Jotter family members; 1 (+0) - Joders.

DR. DON- CONTNUED FROM PAGE 1

Don's "official" obituary, prepared by friend Patrick Donnmoeyer and cousin Dr. William Woys Weaver, follows:

"Dr. Don Yoder, 93, of Devon, Pennsylvania, passed away at his home of natural causes on Tuesday, August 11th. He was born on August 27th, 1921, in Altoona, Centre County, to the late Jacob H. and Ora M. (Cronister) Yoder, and spent his summers as a youth in the Hegins Valley with his grandparents. Dr. Yoder was the co-owner of the Roughwood Collection with Dr. William Woys Weaver. He is predeceased by a sister Mary (Yoder) Miller.

"Dr. Don Yoder was Emeritus Professor of Folklife Studies, Religious Studies, and American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he taught for forty years (1956-1996) and directed sixty PhD dissertations. Dr. Yoder was responsible for the introduction of the term "Folklife" to its present academic use in the United States, and he helped to found the Center for American Folklife at the Library of Congress. In 1947, he received his PhD from the University of Chicago in religious studies, and in his early career he taught at Franklin and Marshal College, and later at Muhlenberg College. In 1949, Dr. Yoder co-founded the Pennsylvania Folklife Center with Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker and J. William Frey, and together they established the Kutztown Folk Festival in 1950, the first ethnic festival of its kind. Dr. Yoder has published seventeen books, and countless articles on Pennsylvania Dutch folk culture. He was widely known in Europe and his work was influenced German composer Hindemith and the compositions of H. L. Mencken. He was considered the dean of German-American genealogy. A self-described "incurable Pennsylvanian," Dr. Yoder devoted his life to the study and cultural preservation of the folkways of his native people, and has inspired new generations in reviving and maintaining the spirit of the Pennsylvania Dutch."

From his formal obituary, and the many plaudits which were published by others after his death, you can see the preeminent role he played in his field for almost 70 years. More personal to us Yoders is what he has done for the Yoder family. In Apr 1985 he contributed his first article to the Yoder Newsletter (YNL5) - "Origins of the Oley Valley Yoders" - in which he outlined his own ancestry and revealed how the clues surfaced to connect these "first Yoders" to their Swiss ancestors. In Oct 1989 (YNL14), he provided another article "The Mahantongo Yoders" which gave some detail on his branch of the Oley family that moved northwest into Schuylkill County. We were so pleased that he accepted an invitation in 1991 to be listed among the contributing editors of the Yoder Newsletter.

In Aug. 2000 Don was the featured speaker at the National Yoder Reunion, hosted by the Yoders of North Carolina. It was not only the millennial year, but also the 50th annual reunion of the Conrad Yoder family. Don told the audience; assembled from 22 states, the story of how the ghost of Yost Yoder came to visit his daughter Elizabeth (the YNL later featured this story in YNL42.)

In 2002, he personally led a Pennsylvania Heritage Tour to many of the Yoder heritage sites. The core for his group was many of those he met at the National Reunion and through the Newsletter, including fifteen Yoder descendants from Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and Washington state. His article about this tour appeared in YNL40, Oct 2002.

When a Midwestern family gifted to the Historical Society of Berks County the original "indenture of release" from four of the children of Oley pioneer Yost Yoder, Don was promptly notified. His article about this document, and the new details it revealed about the Yost Yoder family, appeared in Apr 2011 as "New Light on Yost Yoder, Oley Valley Pioneer" (YNL57).

DR DON- CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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'like herrings' and exposed to rats, disease, thirst, and starvation. Their provisions fell short, and in the last eight weeks they had no bread; but a pint of grouts was all the allowance for five persons per day. They all ate rats and mice they could catch. The price of a rat was 18 pence; a mouse was 6 pence, and water 6 pence a quart. Frequently the survivors had to pay not only for themselves but also for those who died during the voyage.'

Colonel George Yoder states that Melchior settled in a place called Drop in Philadelphia County now Montgomery County. Mrs. Dorothy Coffman Yoder comments in her notes on December 7, 1996, that where the village of Drop was is not known. It is acknowledged that Melchior did settle in Philadelphia County which became Montgomery County. He married Anna Godshall or Godshalk in 1764. She was the daughter of Eve Custer and Hermans Godshall - both believed to be of the Mennonite faith since Herman's father was the Reverend Jacob Hendrichs Godshall. Rev. Godshall was an important figure in the Germantown Mennonite Church. He became its preacher in 1702 and performed the first baptism and communion of the Mennonites in America according to Donna Basinger on her genealogy.com post about Jacob Hendricks Godshall.

Melchior and his wife became naturalized citizens on October 17, 1765, at Perquimong, Hatfield Township, and Philadelphia County, PA. They were the proud parents of seven children. John born November 27, 1768, Jacob born 1770, Benjamin born 1773 or 1774, Henry born 1775, Melchior Jr. born 1777, John Peter born 1780, and Catherine born 1783 or 1784.

In 1769 Melchior was on a tax list in Lower Salisbury Township, Philadelphia County. In 1774-1782 he moved to Hatfield Township and was taxed on 130 acres of land. In 1796/7 he moved to Limerick Township.

Texts differ as to which family member first settled in Middle Creek Township, Pennsylvania. Some authors say it was Melchior Jr. and his wife, Anna while others note that Melchior Sr. bought 103 acres of land from Judah Roberts. Colonel George Yoder claims that Melchior Yoder came to the area in 1749 with his wife Anna. It appears that by the late 1700's Melchior and his sons were residents of Middle Creek. Depending on when Melchior Sr. arrived, his wife, Anna, could have left this world before her husband made his home in the central section of Pennsylvania. The time of Anna's death varies from 1786 when she was 47 or after 1790 around the age of 51. As a historical reference, Pennsylvania was granted its statehood in 1787.

Why Melchior, his sons, and daughter settled in Middle Creek is another mystery. One can only imagine if a Middle Creek newspaper would have existed at the time. Visualize an advertisement reading, "Help Wanted Skilled Craftsmen". And talented the Yoder family proved to be! Melchior was a carpenter by trade, John, a weaver, Jacob, a potter, and Henry, a cooper. Mary Lou Cook states that all but one of the sons were carpenters. In Middle Creek they emerged as leaders of their community. All the sons must have farmed in this fertile land of the Buffalo Valley.

Settling in this area was not without its perils. Before the Yoders established themselves in Middle Creek, it was inhabited by Native people. The History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys by Franklin Ellis, published in 1886, tells us that some of the early European pioneers to Middle Creek were Stock (Stuck), Leitzel, Dentz, Wertz, Wetzel, Seiber, and Schoch families. On the north of Middle Creek lived the Stock family. Around 1781 they had some sort of quarrel with the Natives. With Mr. Stock and three of his sons out clearing a field one day, Mrs. Stock and a daughter-in-law stayed at home to tend to their chores. A party of thirty Native men overtook the women and killed them. When the Stock men arrived back home and found their women massacred, they took off in pursuit of the culprits. They found the Native men just before the New York border. Night had fallen, and the Native men sat around a campfire retelling the tale of their deadly deeds.

Unaware of an outside presence, the Stocks surprised and overwhelmed the men.

In 1774 a man by the name of John Rush purchased 164 acres of land in Middle Creek. Upon his death in 1799, he willed land to his son Daniel and daughter Catherine Myers. On June 13, 1799, Daniel, through the intentions of his father before his death, deeded a parcel of land to the Trustees of the Middle Creek Society. These members included Melchior Yoder, Peter Godshall, John Yoder, and Samuel Myer. This society was charged with the building of a church and school which included the Rush Burying Ground also called Zieber's, Sieber's or Globe Mills Cemetery. My mother wrote that "John migrated from Montgomery County to Globe Mills in 1798." Where she obtained this information I do not know. If her information is accurate, it places the Yoder's in Middle Creek a year before the trustees were named.

The church and school were built around 1805 and went through several name changes. Some publications call it Sieber's or Zieber's Lutheran and Reformed Church or Sieber's of Globe Mills Lutheran Church. Peter Zieber came to the area and is said to have donated money and services to the building of the church. Melchior and his sons facilitated in constructing the church, and at least two of the sons married Lutheran women.

We know where and when Melchior was born but not of his final resting place. Possibly it was in the Globe Mills Cemetery. He died before December 22, 1820. At the back of this cemetery flush with the ground, its margins encroached by years of soil and grass buildup, the worn, white marble remains of John Yoder's headstone lie. The etched German words, "*Auf den November 1790, geb er sich in den Ehesland mit Catherine Hert und ierigten mit einander einer Sohne ud eines Tochter wovon ein Sohne und ein Tochter vor ihm in die eiwigkeit gegangen sind.*", mark his final resting place. The English translation of the inscription thanks to Don Honeywell reads, "On the 14th of November 1790 came to this area with Catherine Hert, together with a son and daughter, who remain."



John Yoder



Samuel Hart Yoder

John, designated (M1) in the genealogical charts, was born November 27, 1768 and died October 20, 1833. While compiling family trees on Ancestry.com, I found that his middle name is often listed as Godshall or Godshalk after his mother's maiden name. This pattern of carrying on the mother's maiden name is a trend in my branch of the Yoder family. John's wife was Catherine Hart (Hert or Hirt) born April 17, 1769, and died in 1843. Catherine bore three known children - Elizabeth Hart (M11) born January 20, 1795, Nancy (M12) born 1801 and my great-great grandfather Samuel Hart born (M13) born July 8, 1807. John, as mentioned earlier, was a weaver.

Samuel Hart Yoder married Sarah Hilbish in 1829. She descended from another Palatinate German family who immigrated to Pennsylvania. Her father was Peter (1763-1834) Hilbish and her

mother Susanna Schell (1768-1857). The town of Schellsburg, PA, is named after Susanna's family. Her father, John Schell, donated large tracts of land for schools, churches, and lots to the town.

Samuel Hart and Sarah were the parents of John Peter Hilbisch (M132) born November 1831, my great grandfather Samuel Hilbisch (M133), and Mary Ann Hilbisch (M134) born 1849. All three children were born in Middle Creek Township. From the book, History of that Part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania written in 1886, it is listed in 1840 that, Samuel was one of the residents of Middlecreek. His occupation was that of a farmer.

Alicia Hilbisch Blackman wrote extensively about the Hilbisch descendants in America. She includes the will of Sarah Hilbisch Yoder's father, Peter. It appears that he left two wills. The first one left \$750 to Sarah. In the second will he leaves the bulk of his estate to his wife and anything remaining to be divided equally among his nine children. It is not known how much money Sarah actually inherited..

In a testimonial for John Peter Hilbisch Yoder written by his children for the book Commerative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania by Beers, 1898, they also write about their grandfather Samuel Hart Yoder. Their father J.P. Yoder came from one of the oldest families in Snyder County. Their father lived on the farm where four generations of his family resided.

"The founder here was John Joder, who came from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania over a century ago and took up his residence upon this place, where his death occurred. Among his children was Samuel (Hart) Yoder, our subject's father, who was born on the old homestead July 8, 1807, and was reared as a farmer boy, receiving such an education as the country schools of his day afforded.

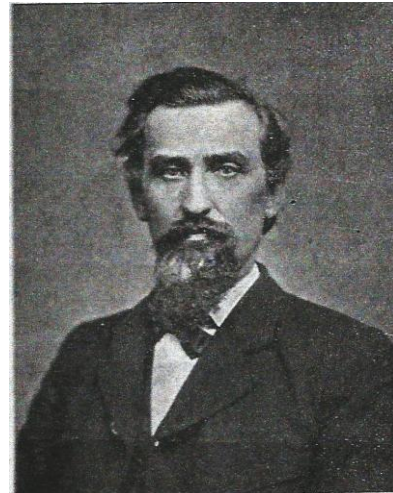
On February 10, 1829, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Hilbisch, who was born in Washington Township, Snyder County, April 28, 1808, and daughter of Peter and Susannah (Schell) Hilbisch. Their entire married life was spent at the Yoder homestead, which the father successfully operated. He was an officer in the Reformed Church, with which he and his wife were connected, and, being a great student of the Bible, was well posted on the Scriptures. He was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and was widely and favorably known. His death occurred October 23, 1883, and his wife's January 14, 1887, and both were laid to rest in the Zeiber Cemetery.

In the family of this worthy couple were the following children: Emanuel, born April 11, 1830, is one of the substantial and reliable men of Middle Creek Township, but for the past sixteen years he has been a cripple, the result of several accidents. He is an elder in the Reformed Church, and in politics is a Republican. J.P. of this sketch, is next in order of birth. Samuel H., who served as associate judge, died in 1895 at Globe Mills, Pennsylvania. Mary A. wedded George K. Fagley, the present sheriff of Northumberland County, and died September 3, 1869."

Samuel Hilbisch Yoder (M133), my great-grandfather, was born April 4, 1838. It appears that, like his father, he was a man of "more than ordinary intelligence". He pursued many occupations and interests in his lifetime. According to his obituary he was the "vice-president of the First National Bank of Middleburg, a member of the Pennsylvania Millers' State Association, a Mason, and a consistent Lutheran".

Samuel married Barbara Ann Walter. Her family also originated from the German Palatinate. Her great-grandfather, Jacob Walter, immigrated to Pennsylvania around 1753. The Yoders became a busy family with the birth of seven known children in a span of eleven years. Sallie was the first child who was born on March 11, 1866. Anna came shortly afterward on July 16, 1867. Their first son, Banks, arrived on September 4, 1868. Not far behind Banks appeared John, born May 11, 1870. Their last son, W. Grant, was born August 3, 1871. Mary Jeanette came next on February 24,

1873. Their last child, my grandmother, Dora Alice, arrived on December 2, 1877.

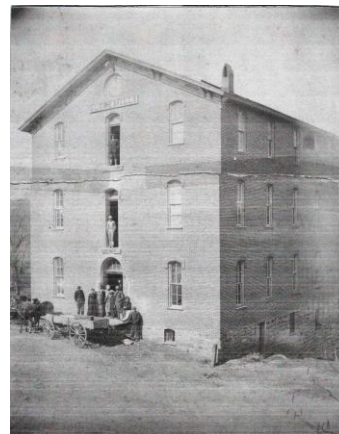


Samuel Hilbisch Yoder

Samuel Hilbisch Yoder, according to records obtained from MilitaryHistoryOnline.com, served for a short time in the Civil War. He enlisted as a 1st Sergeant in Company C on October 28, 1862. He received his disability discharge on November 29, 1862. He also earned the title, Honorary, because he served as an Associate Judge of Snyder County. He performed in this capacity in the fall of 1878 and fulfilled his full term.

In 1788 Henry Meiser constructed a saw-mill. Around this time a grist mill was also built along the S. & L. Railroad (Sunbury and Lewiston) line. The area became known as Meiser's Station. The post office address was Globe Mills. This diminutive village is located on the north side of Middle Creek. It is part of Middlecreek Township in Snyder County.

After working in the mercantile business for twenty years, Samuel decided to buy Meiser's now decrepit mill. In 1885 he replaced the old mill with a three story brick building. It was said to have been built with the most modern equipment and became the first roller mill in central Pennsylvania. In his son, John's obituary, it is claimed that Samuel named the mill Globe Mills. Colonel G.M. Yoder stated that this flouring mill had the capacity of producing 10 barrels a day. Samuel's commute to work proved to be a short distance as the family's two story home was located directly across the street.



Samuel Yoder Mill- Then and Now

Today, even in its state of disrepair, Samuel's mill is a magnificent structure. The windows are broken or nonexistent, as it has been abandoned for many years. Its last incarnation was that of

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a chinchilla factory. His once stately home is also lies in a broken-down state even though it is currently occupied.



Samuel Hilbish Yoder Home – then and Now



As mentioned before, Samuel's father, Samuel Hart Yoder, was a member of the German Reformed Church. At some point the family changed religious affiliations. Three different references write about the origins of the church that the Yoder family attended. One is History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys, another by Colonel G.M. Yoder, and the rootsweb.ancestry.com listing of Snyder County Pennsylvania Cemeteries. Perhaps the original church built by the Trustees of the Middle Creek Society fell into disrepair. A Daniel Zieber came to the area in 1816 and donated money to the building of a church. In 1840 a church building was erected and dedicated on May 28, 1840. It was known as Seiber's or Zeiber's Church also St. Peter's Lutheran and Reformed Church. Col. Yoder stated that at one time the Lutherans numbered about 200 and the German Reformed about 25 members. Both denominations shared the building, allowing no ministers from other faiths to preach there. Perhaps the German Reformed members dwindled to the point that the Samuel Hilbish Yoder's family became Lutheran. In 1902 the church was strictly a Lutheran church because the German Reformed membership was too small to continue.

Samuel died from typhoid fever on May 27, 1895, at the age of 57 years, 1 month, and 23 days. Barbara, because of having a fever at the time, was unable to attend his funeral. She passed away on June 21, 1900. One of her obituaries reads that she died from hardening of the liver while another says cancer of the liver. She lived to be 58 years, 10 months, and 10 days. She is described as being "a quiet unassuming Christian lady who was held in high esteem by her neighbors and friends".

Rose colored marble rises above Samuel Hilbish Yoder's grave in Globe Mills Cemetery. Slate grey marble marks his father Samuel Hart Yoder's resting place. Both of their wives are buried with them. Samuel Hilbish Yoder's grave is unmistakable with its stately and distinctive round marble ball on the top.

A mystery entails one of the Yoder children. Among my late mother's memorabilia is a picture of Ida Fields. On the back of the photograph was written "94 years, 5 months, Aunt Ida Fields, half-sister of Dora Bolig." She was also mentioned in John O. Yoder's

obituary as his sister, Mrs. Ida Fields of Johnstown. Was Ida the product of Samuel by a previous marriage? Could she have been raised by her maternal grandparents? Was she Barbara's daughter? Ida was not mentioned in Barbara's obituary but obviously the Yoder children knew of her existence.

The Yoder's oldest daughter Sallie (M133-1) married William Thomas Dietrich. They were parents to three sons, John (M133-11), and twins Ray (M133-12) and Roy (M133-13). Sallie died on April 27, 1932, at the age of 66. Family lore claimed that after the stock market crash of 1929, Sallie's husband Tom no longer believed in storing his money in a bank. It was said that he hid his money under the mattress. As a little girl visiting my mother's Uncle Tom and his son, Roy, it was very tempting to peek under the mattress. Apparently the money moved from the bed to the pot belly stove in the middle of the living room. Such horror I felt when I wondered what would happen if someone lit the stove. Uncle Tom's and Cousin Roy's wealth would be eaten up by flames!

Anna Yoder (M133-2) married David Hottenstein. They married on Christmas Day 1888. The product of their short relationship became their daughter, Ella Barbara (M133-21), born on July 25, 1890. Ella's father passed away at the age of 23. A newspaper clipping about Globe Mills claimed that David passed away from typhoid fever. Don Honeywell's notes state that David died from a grain elevator accident. He was employed as a book-keeper in a Shamokin, PA store. Anna remarried Benneville (Ben) Smith.

Ella seemed to have been a ward of her uncle Banks. She became deaf due to contracting tuberculosis. I am in possession of the family Bible that her grandparents gave her parents on the occasion of their wedding. Tucked away in the Bible with newspaper clippings of family obituaries, quotes, and other mementos was a copy of the sign language alphabet. Ella married her fifth cousin Harry Ritter. They produced one child Barbara Ann Ritter (M133-211), who died soon after birth. I remember them both as warm, loving people. Ella must have had the ability to read lips.

Banks Walter Yoder (M133-3) was a lumber dealer who partnered in business with an ex-judge John Fields. He also became a director of the Swineford Bank. His obituary stated that he turned out to be a successful businessman. He used part of his earnings to help those in need, preventing them from any confrontation with the law. Banks fathered a daughter, Stella May, born on April 27, 1894. Stella was adopted by Thomas P. and Lizzie Derr. Thereafter her name was Stella May Derr. He married Sue Knauer in 1915 according to his obituary. That union produced no heirs.

John Oscar Yoder (M133-4) followed the family's penchant to pursue academic success. His education began in a village school house. He attended Freeberg Academy, Susquehanna University, Bucknell University, Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary. One obituary claimed that he received his doctor of divinity from Gettysburg Seminary. Two others make no mention of Bucknell, Gettysburg College or Gettysburg Seminary. They assert that he attended and received his doctorate from Muhlenberg Seminary.

John's occupation was that of a much respected Lutheran minister. Stewartsville, New Jersey was the site of his first calling. He served the community for eight years and next accepted the invitation to serve at a parish in Silver Run, Maryland. He remained their pastor for seven years. His final calling sent him to St. Paul's Church in Akron, Ohio. He built the congregation while there from 200 members to about 2,000. He also oversaw the building of a new church. He retired from the ministry in 1928.

When he left Akron, Ohio, John returned to the town of Middleburg, PA, not far from his roots in Globe Mills. On January 30, 1933, his life came to a close. He reached the age of 62 years, 8 months, and 19 days. He was so well thought of that seven Lutheran ministers officiated at his funeral service. An excerpt from one of his obituaries reads;

"Equally he was at ease in the company of the learned or of the unlearned, and held himself not above the plane of the lowly in all his

work and associations with them. He could deliver a profound discourse to the high dignitaries of the Church as an equal, and he could couch his language in simple words readily understood by anybody. And too, he was not above consoling childhood's sorrows, and in displacing bitter sobs and tears with merry peals of laughter. Yes, everybody thought well of him, and spoke well of him."

As well as being a minister, John reached the level of a 32 degree Mason. My mother remembered her uncle as being a charismatic man. He used to take a daily walk when he visited their home. My mother and her friends always tagged along. I'm not sure if the attraction was due to his magnetic personality or the possibility of candy lined pockets.

John's wife was Annie Steck, Malick, or Melich. Two of his obituaries have conflicting names and the third surname was found on the Yoder website. I believe the third surname is correct. Annie hailed from Stewartville, NJ, and possibly was one of John's parishioners. Annie lived to be close to if not over 100. I can't find her date of death. Our family hoped that she would be televised on the *Today Show* as one of Willard Scott's prized centenarians. My mother always advised us to be on our best behavior in Aunt Annie's presence, for she was a "proper lady". My cousins and I would break into peals of laughter when we tried to act appropriately. It caused Aunt Annie to remark, "My! You have such happy children."

Annie, too, was acknowledged for her charisma with children. An internet posting of the Pastors of the Silver Run Parish states,

"Their (the children of the parish) interpretation of the kingdom of heaven seemed to be the privilege of sitting on Mrs. Yoder's lap during the Sunday sermon hour. There was a weekly waiting line for this honor."

William Grant Yoder (M133-5) first married Hattie Icie Dora Ulsh. She bore him two children, Ruth, who lived to adulthood, and Jay, who died at two. They also adopted a son John, who appears to have died before 1920. Hattie's father, Alvin, served as the Post Master of Middlecreek. In Samuel Hilbish Yoder's obituary it stated that Hattie died a few weeks before her father-in-law. Was she too a victim of typhoid fever?

Grant's next wife was Daisy E. Gift. Daisy's parents were W.D. Gift and Ada Bowersox. Daisy and Grant were married by Rev. Foster U. Gift, a Lutheran minister and Daisy's brother. In the book, History of the Gift, Kern, and Royer Families, it noted that Grant was a rural mail carrier. Daisy and Grant had no children.

After her mother's death, Ruth Melvina Yoder (M133-51) lived with her maternal grandparents, Alvin Ulsh and Amanda Reigel. She married Cloyd Shambach. Ruth passed away in August of 1950 at the age of 58. Her husband Cloyd died in June of 1967 at 75.

Originally I believed that Stoy Clark Yoder (M133-32) was the son of Banks Yoder. Recently I found a note written by my mother that Ruth Melvina Yoder and Stoy were both the children of Grant Yoder. Before 1920 Stoy was adopted by Ruth and her husband Cloyd. In 1920 all three -- Ruth, Cloyd, and Stoy - lived with Cloyd's parents Millard Adam Shambach and Ellen McClellan. At some point in time Stoy began to use the surname of Yoder. Perhaps he was told the truth about his parentage. Stoy married Mary Leitzel. He lived to the age of 51, passing away on May 2, 1963.

Mary Jeannette Yoder (M133-6) married Nelson App of Monroe Township. She died before her mother, which would have been before 1900. I have no further information.

Dora Alice Yoder (M133-7), my grandmother, is my last direct link to the Yoder family. "Quiet and unassuming" were the attributes that my mother used to describe her. Possibly this description came from Dora's mother's obituary. Barbara Walter Yoder was also described in this manner. Dora married Clyde David Bolig. In letters written to him before their marriage she addressed him as "My Dear Friend". They knew each other for many years before they wed. Her brother, the Rev. John Yoder, officiated at

their wedding. In a letter written to his sister that detailed plans for her wedding, John offered her this advice.

"Dora, your dearest friend does not ask you to be a doll to him with which to play, nor an ornament for the parlor. He wants you to be his helpmeet. You two shall be one. What is his business, is your business, and your business is his business."

Dora and Clyde produced four children - Mark Yoder Bolig (M133-71), Edwin Walter (M133-72), Clyde David Bolig Jr. (M133-73), and my mother, Martha Esther Bolig (M133-74). Edwin became the first of their children to die at the age of one month.

Clyde Sr. first held the profession of a school teacher. He left his beloved vocation because a teacher's salary didn't pay enough for him to feed a wife and family. He became a rural postal carrier instead. Clyde died a tragic death at the age of 54. While exercising one of his horses, which he used to pull the mail truck, a car came into the horse's path. This caused the horse to rear, and it threw my grandfather to the pavement. He sustained a fractured skull from the fall. Dora never fully recovered from the death of her husband and passed away at the age of 65. She cried herself to sleep almost every night until her death. Her son Mark lived to be 68, Clyde, Jr., 58, and Martha died at 93. Their legacy lives on through my cousins Margo and Chuck through my Uncle Mark, David, Clyde's son, and my brother Tom and me through Martha.

Family history makes its journey to the present through fond and faded memories, information learned by analyzing historical documents and genealogies, books, and websites, attendance at family reunions, reading treasured family newspaper clippings, and visits to family plots. For my cousins, brother, and me Globe Mills Cemetery in Middleburg, PA, held the history of five generations of our family. Instead of just marble headstones, our Yoder family has been given new life through many caring Yoder relatives.

The story of our branch of the Melchior Yoder line would not have come to fruition without the incredible work provided by so many people. Many thanks are extended to these dedicated researchers: Dr. Don Yoder, Dorothy Yoder Coffman, Don and Grace Honeywell, and Mary Lou Cook. Jim Newell provided me with the date, 1959, and place, a park in Lewisburg, PA, where a Yoder Reunion was held that we both attended. It has been a pleasure to begin to get to know my cousins, Don Honeywell and Lonnie Riley through the Jacob Yoders line, and Phil Yoder who is a descendant of John Peter Yoder. All three descend from Melchior too. Thanks to the Hans and Jost cousins, and the many other Yoder cousins that I was able to meet at the 2014 Yoder Reunion. I'm grateful to my late mother and uncle as well as their cousin, the late Ellie Ritter. All provided me with first-hand knowledge, photographs, memorabilia, and newspaper clippings. A special thanks to Chris Yoder and his hard working staff who create the Yoder Newsletters. Without you my family would not have learned so many facts about our family. Chris also put me in contact with our Steffisburg cousins. Warm regards are extended to Hans Jakob and Andreas Yoder for sharing a day with my husband and me in their spectacular homeland. It truly is paradise.

NC YODER REUNION HELD 9 AUG 2015

A service of remembrance was held following the luncheon at the Conrad Yoder Cemetery. One of the readings was from the 78th Psalm, verses 1-4 - "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." See the full 11 minutes on youtube...The date for next year is Sunday 14 Aug at the Grace Lutheran Church in Newton. Make plans to attend. For info contact: Rev. Dr. Nathan Howard Yoder, yoder234@hotmail.com

YODER PASSINGS

- Phyllis Weaver Hearn, of Harrisonburg, Va, died Apr. 13, 2015, dau. of Myron J. Livengood and Freda Yoder Livengood. She was a generous donor to the House of Yoder. As long as her health permitted, she participated in the annual House of Yoder meetings.
- Warren Yoder Sr, 84, of Schertz TX died Jan. 15, 2015. Warren was the historian of the Adam Yoder family of Seneca Co, OH (unlinked code "AD" b 1818 Pa and m. Harriet A. Isanhart)
- Wayne Noah Yoder, age 99, died Mar. 29, 2015, at his home with his family by his side. Born Aug. 25, 1915 in River Styx/Wadsworth, OH, son of Enos (YB137243) and Margaret (Kindig) Yoder.
- Winona Yothers, 64, of Lansing, MI died Mar. 17, 2015, dau of Leander & Winona (Largen) Yothers, granddaughter of Cambell Yothers (YB214952).
- Marvin L. Yotter, 75, Belle Fourche, SD, died Jun. 1, 2015, son of Orville and Reta Yotter, gson of Joseph & Ada Yotter (YR268125)
- Ambrose R. Yoder, 90, died Apr. 19, 2015, Belleville, PA, son of Harry (YR1461283) and Carrie (French) Yoder.
- Forest R. Yoder, 84, Louisville, OH, (YA74441) died Jun 29, 2015, son of Russell W. and Lola I. (Brechtbill) Yoder.

WHERE ARE THE ORIGINALS?



Isaac T. and Hannah Tee Yoder (OH145262)

"About 2005 my sister Joy visited cousin Bessie Phillips in Boyertown. Bessie had given her a number of old photos that included the Marriage Certificate of our Grandparents. The original photos of Isaac Tobias (1861-1955) and Hannah Tee Yoder had been removed and replaced with fax copies of the photos. I would like to donate this to YODER HOUSE, if only I could find the original photos. (When I was a child, marriage certificate was in a dark oval shaped Mahogany frame and hung just inside the living room of my grandparents home just above the PAPER MILL, in Barto, Pa.

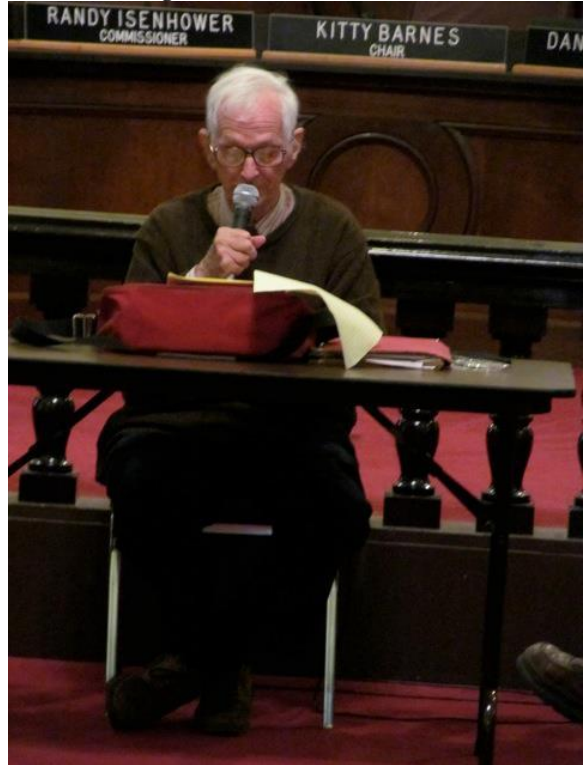
"There must be someone out there who might know where these photos of Isaac and Hannah Tee Yoder are. It would be wonderful to have the original frame, but that is more than anyone could hope for. This certificate needs to be at Yoder House for all Yoders to see and enjoy."- Contact- Eve Yoder Buchholz, 1813 N. Rio Yaqui, Green Valley, Arizona 85614, Phone: 520-393-1975, bajayanni@yahoo.com

2017 NATIONAL REUNION PLANS!

Plans are continuing for a national Yoder reunion Sep. 20-24, 2017 in the tourist town of Shipshewana, Indiana. We'll be celebrating the 300th anniversary of the arrival of our first Anabaptist Yoders, and focusing on our Mennonite and Amish family lines. Several surprise "special guests" have agreed to speak. No, we aren't going to tell you the most exciting news this early, but we know you'll like it when you hear it. Stay tuned to the Newsletter and our FACEBOOK page for details.

DR DON- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Perhaps the culmination of his efforts was his piecing together of information on the relationships between the Oley, Melchior and Conrad Yoder of North Carolina families, published as "The Conrad Mystery Solved", Oct. 2011 (YNL58). A confirmation record for Conrad had been discovered in the church archives of Mussbach, Germany and, together with records from Weidenthal for the Melchior line, this helped to "connect the dots." The following year, he was again to be the featured speaker at a National Reunion in North Carolina, where a rapt audience in the Catawba County Courthouse listened as he spelled out the links between three major branches of Yoder immigrants to America.



Dr. Yoder Speaks at the 2012 National Yoder Reunion

It was indeed an honor to meet him at his home in the 1980s and at two national Yoder reunions, and to have corresponded and exchanged phone calls with him over the past 30 years.

We firmly believe that no single individual has contributed so much as he to the ancestral knowledge of one extended family. Now, we are certain, those remaining mysteries are being answered as he interviews generations of ancestors, taking copious notes.



Dr. Don Yoder, 2011 at the Lynn-Heidelberg Historical Society dinner banquet. (with permission LHHS)