



THE YODERS OF THE SAUCON MENNONITE CHURCH



PASTOR STEVE STRUNK AND THE YODER INDENTURE
(Photo credits to Jim Fazio)

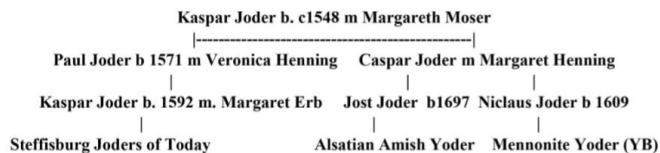
In YNL78 we wrote about the discovery of a Yoder Bible page which identified the family of Jacob Yoder (YB12) (1736-1807) and his wife Eva Landis. They were among the 11 families in the Saucon Mennonite Church who had their property confiscated and auctioned off for refusing to swear allegiance to Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. The first Saucon Meetinghouse was a log structure built in 1735 by early German Mennonite settlers. The church web site explains that the name "Saucon" came from the Indian word "sawkink" or "sakink" which means "mouth of the creek". This was supposedly the name of a large Indian village. Tradition has it that a dozen or more Saucon Indians participated in worship at the meeting house. They placed their bows and arrows on the ground outside while attending the services. An unmarked Indian burial mound is part of the cemetery.

The Allentown Morning Call ran an Oct. 3, 1985 article as the then 50 person congregation gathered to celebrate the church's 250th anniversary. The late historian Ken Hottle of Allentown is quoted as saying that the church:

"is about as early as they get around here. The (Coopersburg) area was settled around 1730. Records show the land (for the meetinghouse) was bought in 1735," he added. Hence, much of the history of the Upper and Lower Saucon area is tied into this church. "These people basically were among the massive immigration in the 1720s and '30s of Pennsylvania Germans. The area belonged to Mennonites and this was the central meeting place," Hottle said. "It was important in the Colonial period to the Revolutionary War. This was a central part of the area, about the earliest thing around here," he added. "I personally believe this (the original church building) was John Yoder's home; he owned the land and was a key member. By 1738, when some local histories say the church was built, I think Yoder had a bigger home built and gave this to the church to be used as a meetinghouse."

SAUCON CHURCH-CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

YODER REVELATIONS FROM THE "BIG Y" DNA TEST (700 MARKERS)



(Editor's note: The Yoder Newsletter began Yoder DNA testing over 15 years ago, using "Family Tree DNA", also used by National Geographic Magazine for its Human Genome Project. Over time, the number of individual markers on the Y chromosome measured by Family Tree DNA has grown to 700 (the "Big 700" Y DNA test). An Alsatian Yoder (Amish line) member of our test group had already upgraded his test to the 700 marker level, and the YNL used reader donations to pay for upgrades by a descendant from the American Mennonite Yoder line and another from the Joder family still living is Steffisburg, Switzerland. By triangulating these three tests we are able to present MOST of the 700 Marker Y DNA profile for their most recent common ancestor, namely Kaspar Joder bc1548 who m. Margareth Moser. This profile is summarized on the Yoder Newsletter webpage in the DNA section of the homepage at : www.yodernewsletter.org .

Many thanks to DNA expert Darwin Martin for his very technical analysis of how the Yoder/Joder surname branches from common ancestors long before surnames began to be used.)

Contributed by Darwin Martin

For about ten years we have known that the Y-DNA of the Swiss Mennonite/Amish Yoder, Zimmerman and Martin families match quite closely, indicating that all three families share a common paternal ancestor, perhaps 600 to 900 years ago, before the time of modern surnames. However, at that time we did not have access to testing with high resolution to determine how these respective families branched from a common origin. Now, in 2022, we have tested with high enough precision to determine how each of these family's relate to each other from before the time of surnames, however many questions remain unanswered. I last published on this topic in the *Yoder Newsletter* 72 (October 2018), page 7. I have now included an update along with a chart detailing these branches.

Typical Y-DNA testing examines and compares STRs (short-tandem-repeats) in the DNA code to determine how closely families of the same or similar surname are related within a genealogical time frame. These tests typically involve 37, 67, or 111 "STR markers." Each STR comprises a distinct section of Y-DNA where a unique sequence is repeated for a certain length of code. The number of repeats of any particular STR tend to be relatively stable. When they do change, they usually change only in single steps (one higher or one lower), therefore comparing these repeats have posed a good indication of how closely males are related through a common paternal ancestor. First cousin or second cousin males who descend from the same paternal ancestor will likely have exactly the same 111 STR markers, while more distantly related males will have increasing differences. Those repeats have been easier (and cheaper) to test than the full DNA code. This is the reason why Y-DNA testing for genealogy has moved in the direction of expanded STR testing. The most recent and elaborate tests are 500 or even 700 STR marker tests. We now have Yoders, Zimmermans and Martins who have

BIG 700 Y DNA- CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider (1909-2015)

Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; Kenneth W. Yoder, Circulation and Mail Manager, Goshen, IN; Paul Yoder, Asst Cir/Mail Mgr, 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, Richard Yoder and our Webmaster team of: Leon Yoder and Chad Yoder of Black Anvil Media, Inc.

Over the past 39 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 cnyder@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 site: www.yodernewsletter.org)

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 has not been updated for many years.)

**YNL Consolidated Volumes
A Perfect Christmas Gift!**

We have just published the 3rd consolidated volume of Yoder Newsletters 51 to 75 (with an every name index) and it is available thru Amazon Books in BOTH a Color and a Black and White version. Also available are Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) and Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) in soft cover volumes (B&W only). Go to Amazon books and search for "Yoder Newsletter".

UPDATED FIND-A-GRAVE COUNTS

Visit the Find A Grave site at: www.findagrave.com. As of 10 Feb 2022 the counts for interments were: 21,545 records (an increase of +285 from 9 Aug 2021 -adjusted for "Yoders" double counted last issue) -Yoder; 540 (+2) - Yother; 358 (+10) - Yothers; 304 (+2) - Yotter; 73 (+0) - Yoter; 311 (+1) - Yoders; 80 (+1) - Ioder; 111 (+1) - Joder; 58 (+6) - Jotter; 1 (+0) - Joders; 11 (-1) - Youder; 3 (+0) - Youders; 18 (+0) - Youther; 9 (+1) - Youthers; 7 (+2) - Younder.

HOUSE OF YODER ATTENDANCE- The 2021 hosting season at The House of Yoder was a success, with 4,021 (that signed the guest book. Many visitors do not sign) visitors to The House. All states were represented except: NH, ID, CA, and MA.

BIG 700 Y DNA- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

completed all these tests. This gives us a much better picture of how these three families (and a few others) all descend from a common male paternal ancestor.

In addition to these STR markers, Y-DNA testing has advanced into testing specific mutations (SNPs) at exact positions on the Y-Chromosome. The Human Y-Chromosome includes some 58 millibase pairs. This testing has advanced to determine an exact position upon which an "A" in the code changed to a "T," a "C", to a "G" or any combination thereof. These changes are so specific and occur so infrequently that they can be nested chronologically and geographically across the whole spectrum of human existence. Yoders, Zimmermans and Martins have all expanded testing to include SNPs we share in common, along with several SNPs that are now defined as unique and distinct to each family. In fact, this recent testing resulted in newly discovered and newly named SNPs that are represented in common in only our branch of a few selected families of Bernese Swiss origin.

On the chart below the SNPs pertinent to the Yoders and those families closely related to the Yoders are nested chronologically into their respective lineages based on Y-DNA. The chart begins with SNPs we share in common with diverse families across northern Europe, likely from the time our Germanic ancestors lived in the territory north of the Roman Empire. Corresponding to what we know about socio-political history, our common ancestors were likely among the Germanic tribes who caused the fall of the western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD, and thereafter settled in western Switzerland, within what is now Canton Bern.

The red numbers before each list of named SNPs is an estimate of the generations back in time indicating an approximate time frame for the creation of those SNPs. Where multiple SNPs appear of the same line, we have not yet developed chronological differentiation between individual SNPs on that line. In time, the chart will become more detailed as data from more testers becomes available, but the basic chronology will remain the same. We can now say with confidence that the Yoders and the Martins are slightly more closely related paternally to each other than either family is to the Zimmerman/Carpenter lineage.

(see chart on page 8)



Darvin L. Martin began to construct his own family tree by the age of ten, and at that time could not have dreamed about the future ways science would enable us to connect everyone into a world family tree. He chaired the Lancaster Family History Conference from 2003-2019. Martin initiated a DNA project through the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society in 2010, which has currently tested over 500 individuals and is providing the basis for specifically constructing family lineages from before the time of surnames. The project was renamed "Mennonite and Amish Immigrants to Pennsylvania" and is open to anyone no matter what connection to Mennonite or Amish ancestry. (Contact: darvindna@gmail.com)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: I went through Yoder Newsletter #78 with Dad over the phone shortly before his passing. Many thanks for the Pennsylvania Yoder Reunion article. Although Dad did not remember my "Pop pop" travelling often, he was thrilled to hear that the 1949 reunion included his father, his uncle Ira, and I believe his cousin Sarah (Manville). You never know how a simple newsletter entry touches people!- Mark Yoder, son of Clarence C.

SAUCON CHURCH- CONTUNED FROM PAGE 1

The current church sanctuary, located at 6639 North Main Street in the city of Coopersburg, Upper Saucon Township, in present day Lehigh County, PA., was built in 1841, with separate entrances for men and for women. A basement was dug by hand in 1954 to add room for a Sunday school. The site was originally in Bucks County, then Northampton after 1752, and Lehigh after 1812. The Yoder family had a close association with this church from the time of its founding, and John Yoder (YB1), b c 1708, one of the sons of Mennonite Yoder immigrant "Hans of Great Swamp", is the one who deeded three acres of his property as the home of the church and adjacent graveyard. The indenture for this 1751 transaction is today framed and hangs in the present church building (see photo with Pastor Steve Strunk above). The indenture reads in part:

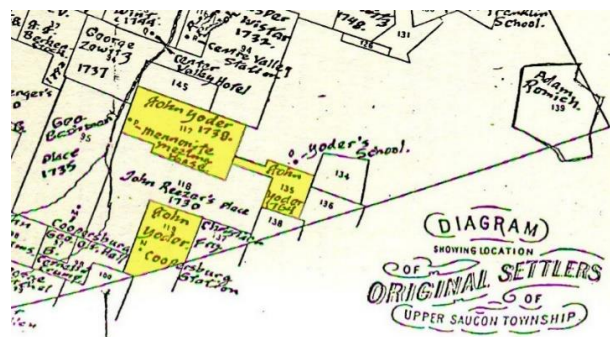
This indenture made the Fourth day of June in the Twenty-third year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second King of Great Britain and in the year of Our Lord and Savior One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty One. Between John Yoder of Upper Sauconah in the County of Bucks and the Province of Pennsylvania yeoman of the one part and George Packman, Phillip Kelfinger, John Reefer, Samuel Newcomer, and Samuel Bechle, all of the same place yeomen of the other part. Whereas there is a certain piece of parcel of land situate in the said Township of Upper Sauconah. Beginning at a post thirty perches (495 feet) distant North from the white oak sapling at corner of said John Yoder's land in a line of George Packman's land, then north by the same nineteen perches and one fifth (317 feet) to a post, then East by the John Yoder's land twenty-five perches (413 feet) to a post then South by the same nineteen perches and one fifth (317 feet) to a stone then West 25 perches (413 feet) to the place of beginning. Containing three acres of land being part and parcel of One Hundred and Sixty Four acres granted unto the said John Yoder by Deed of Lease and Release from William Allen, Esq. of Philadelphia and Margaret his Wife bearing date twenty-first and twenty-second day of January Anno. Dom. 1735 being part of Ten Thousand Acres which William Penn Esq. Chiefs proprietary and Governor of this Province did by his Last Will and Testament Devise unto his grandson Springer Penn, and his heirs and assigns which Ten Thousand acres this said Springer Penn did Grant unto his youngest brother William Penn in fee by Indenture of the tenth day of April Anno. Dom. 1729 and the said William Penn the same by Indenture bearing date Sixteenth day of April Anno. Dom. 1729 on record at Philadelphia in book ___ volume ___ page ___ did grant the same ten thousand acres unto the said William Allen Esq. in fee as by the said Indenture doth appear.

John's father, "Hans of Great Swamp" (YB) was first reported on in the YNL in an article by the late Ken Hottle (YNL3) and seems likely to have been born in Steffisburg, Switzerland in 1677 (see YNL55). Following the lead of area historians Ken Hottle and Richard J. Yothers (author of the detailed 1984 book Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks County, Pennsylvania), Karolyn Rae Roberts, of Urbana, Illinois has assembled a somewhat detailed collection of information about the descendants of our Mennonite Yoder family. She writes of Hans Sr.:

'He purchased a tract of 99 acres in Lower Milford Township, Bucks Co., PA (then known only as "The Great Swamp" from Joseph Growden of Trevoze, PA on January 17, 1720 for fifteen pounds current silver money. Hans of Great Swamp LAND RECORD says "11/22/1724, Minute Book "I" John Nich. Sentz &

Hans Yoder request the grant of 100 acres of land at Sawcany." p726, Early PA Land Records edited by William Henry Egle. (Yoder Newsletter, n40, Oct.2002; Donald Honeywell) Pennsylvania Land Warrants and Patents has a record of purchase of 100 acres and another entry for 51 acres with no dates. (PA Land Warrants and Patents: v1). Then on January 4, 1737, is a record of purchase for 250 acres.

A petition was presented to the Assembly in 1734 from the "Inhabitants of Bucks Co.," stating the petitioners were from Germany, and having purchased lands, they desired naturalization that they may hold the same and transmit them to their children. John Yoder, Sr. and his son, John Yoder Jr., names were on the petition (Bucks Co. Pioneers of the 18th Century, Westchester Library; Bucks Co. History, p425, 426).



From History of Lehigh Co., 1914, by Charles Rhodes Robert

On this map of the original township settlers, you can see the names of John Yoder Jr, with a mark for the location of the church, and two of the other parties mentioned in the indenture, George Bachman (Packman in the document) and John Reezer (Reefer), all of three of whom were adjacent property owners. According to Hottle the oldest tombstone in the church graveyard is that of George Bachman and reads, in part, "The honorable George Bachman was the overseer; married 38 years, 11 children; died Nov. 1753." Genealogists in his family say he was born Abt. 1686 in Ibersheim, married Anna Maria Schnebelli in 1715 in Ibersheim, Worms, Rheinhessen-Pfalz, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany and the Ibershiem connection is confirmed by a Bible record. He is believed to have arrived Aug 1717 in Philadelphia with his wife and infant son, Henrich. He traveled west and settled near present day Coopersburg, Upper Saucon Twp., Lehigh Co., PA. Family tradition says that his father (name not known) was born in Canton of Berne, Switzerland, and at age 19 left to spend two years in London. There he met William Penn who reportedly engaged him as his secretary to accompany him on a trip to Philadelphia in 1682. For services rendered, Penn "gave him two townships in the new state of Pennsylvania. However, in 1684 Bachman returned to Switzerland. There he married and had a son, John George Bachmann, who after reaching maturity and marrying, decided to come to the new country and claim his father's heritage. He was naturalized in 1724 in Philadelphia."

As it would be likely that the Mennonite congregation moved together as a group, it seems possible that his pre-emigration location in Germany, and his arrival in Philadelphia would tell us something about the movements of our Mennonite immigrant "Hans Yoder of Great Swamp" as well. Ibershiem is a small community of about 700 people (as of 2007). Wikipedia reports that the Mennonite community there has been in existence since about "1661 when there was a major wave of economic and religious refugees from Switzerland's Zürich region, whom the Elector allowed to settle in the region. Then in

SAUCON CHURCH CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SAUCON CHURCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

1671, a mass emigration of Mennonites from the Bern region occurred. Of all the Mennonites worldwide, around 10% originate in this region." The Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793 by Hermann and Gertrud Guth and J. Lemar and Lois Ann Mast (1987) page 16, show a Hans Bachman "with 4 brothers and sisters" in the Sept.10, 1685 census of Ibersheimer Hof. The Newcomer mentioned in the indenture also hints at an Ibershiem connection, and there were members of that family at that location during the same timeframe.

The children of "Hans of Great Swamp" included oldest son John Jr. (YB1) b. ca1708, another son Casper Sr. (YB2) b. ca1720, and a daughter Magdalena (YB3) b. ? who was the second wife of Michael Shell (1693-1769). It was John Jr. and his family who settled in Saucon Township.

Returning to the *Morning Call* article,

Hottle said the history of the church offers "an elusive aspect of the local history of the area. People by nature did not leave records, as if they almost deliberately covered it up. But a lot of history lies in this cemetery - a lot." All dates aside, "the bottom line is there is a lot of history here that has never been written, from the German point of view, anyway," said Hottle, who "adopted" the church cemetery for study several years ago. He was fascinated with the history of the old tombstones, with their German inscriptions and occasional folk art; the stones that tell of the German people. The more Hottle researched and talked to area people about their ancestors, the more fascinated he became with the people who had made up the Saucon Meetinghouse.

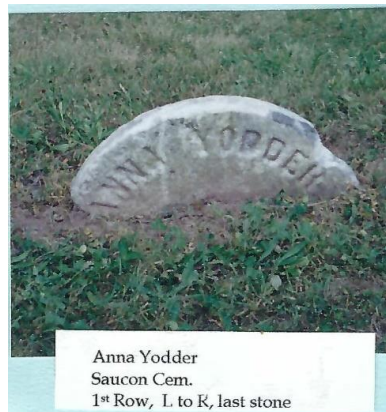


From the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online Website

Karolyn's recently updated records can be found on the Yoder Newsletter web page under the "Non-Amish Yoder" tab. She reports on John Jr:

YB1-John Yoder Jr was b ca 1708 in Europe and died in Mar or Apr 1782 near Coopersburg, Upper Saucon Twp. PA he married Anna Maria Bachman Originally settled in Milford Twp. John Yoder, Jr. bought several tracts of land in Northampton Co. (now Lehigh Co.)(3 tracts of land from his father Hans [John]) and later sold them to his three sons. According to the PA Land Warrants and Patents, John Yoder on October 24, 1738 bought 175 acres (Patent Index A and AA: v19? A1p231); on January 29, 1739 bought 199 acres (vA9p450); on July 11, 1741 bought 50 acres (v9p450; and on March 14, 1743 bought 105 acres (vA11p175). One of the tracts was next to the Saucon Mennonite Church. All his land was in Upper Saucon Twp. Near the present town of Coopersburg. John and his wife were members of the Saucon Mennonite Church.

There is no remaining stone for John Jr, but one which could be his wife is pictured below. Dorothy K. Landis, in notes held at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, says that his wife Anna Maria was the daughter of George Backman. George and wife were married in 1715 and the Schnebelli-Bachmann Family Bible shows their first child was born in 1717. No "Anna Maria" is included in the bible record, so this Anna's relationship to him is uncertain, and there is even speculation that the Anna Bachman was instead the Anna ___ married to Hans Sr. A close family relationship might be hinted at by the fact that in George Bachman's will he named his wife as Executrix and his son Henry, friend Abraham Clemens and friend John Joeder, Jr., as overseers.



Anna Yodder
Saucon Cem.
1st Row, L to R, last stone

Three sons of John Jr and their families are also buried in the old cemetery adjacent to the Saucon Church. Sons John, his brothers Casper (see Ken Hottle article in YNL12) and Abraham can be found there and several generations of these families, with many markers still quite legible today- many in German script. Karolyn's reports on these sons of John Jr includes the following:

YB11-Casper Bachman Yoder b. abt1745 Upper Saucon Twp., Bucks Co., PA-d9/1798 PA (Ancestral Records) - m1763 Veronica (Fronica) Sell (daughter of Hendrick Van Sintern Sell [old country, Sellen] & Mary Schell) b10/23/1734 PA - d8/22/1831 PA] (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) - Casper bought his father's farm of 99 acres in Milford Twp. And 10 acres in Richland Twp. That his father had purchased from John Lester. He sold half of his farm to his son-in-law, Jacob Landis, and the other half to his son-in-law, Samuel Slotter. Both transactions occurred in 1831. [On April 13, 1768, he bought three tracts of land in Upper Saucon Township, Northampton Co., PA totaling 202 acres. He bought these tracts of land from his father for the sum of 175 pounds. This property was near the Saucon Mennonite Church. He and his wife were members of the Saucon Mennonite Church and are buried there.] (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) In June of 1778, he was among those imprisoned at Easton for refusing to swear an oath required by the recently passed Test-Act. On July 5, 1778, he was one of the twelve non-associators named in an unsuccessful petition to the Supreme Executive Council of PA., presented by his friends and neighbors. In 1782 and 1783, he was included in the general muster rolls of the fourth and second Battalions, respectively, of the Northampton County Militia. His position was class fourth, in company two, under Capt. Christopher Johnson. This does not mean that he served. Casper in 1785 was one of the six members that contributed to new shutters for the Saucon Mennonite Meetinghouse. (YNL, Issue #12, Oct, 1988) The will of Casper

Yoder, Jr. was probated in Northampton Co., Easton, PA on October 5, 1798: proved Vol 3 page 143 Casper Yotter (of Saucon) wife Fronica; sons John, Jacob; 5 dau: Anna m Jacob Moyer; Molly m ? Christian Shamie (?); Susanna on the 27th May next following the last; Fronia; Barbara. Exec. Abraham Yoder. (YNL) Bur: Saucon Mennonite Cemetery (Fronica is buried north side of the church by Barbara Yoder, Karolyn & Tammy Roberts)

Wesley J. Yoder writes of Casper at: <http://yodernewsletter.org/bios/hanssr.html> "Casper Yoder bought three tracts of land from his father on April 13, 1768 totaling about 202 acres for 175 pounds. This land was later to become all or parts of the Army, Jacoby, and Bixel farms as well as what is now the Saucon Valley Living Memorial grounds. One of the tracts was 15 acres of woodland on flint hill near what was later Yoder's school."

YB11- Casper (buried Saucon Mennonite Church) m. Fronica Sell

YB111- Anna Sell Yoder b. 4-16-1764 d. 5-14-1841 – m Jacob Meyer (son of Rev. Jacob Meyer) b11/8/1757 - d2/17/1830- buried Springfield Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, PA

YB112- Maria Sell (Molly) Yoder b. 12-13-1769 d. 1-16-1828 m Christian Schimmel b1762-d1829- buried Springfield Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, PA

YB113-Johannes (John) Sell Yoder b 10/16/1771-d 11/2/1839 – m Susanna Meyer/Moyer b 12/23/1774 – d 5/4/1815 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church) - believed deed signature?

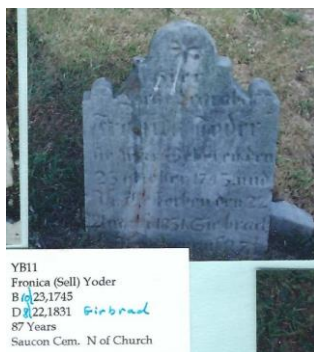
YB114-Susanna Sell Yoder b 10/13/1774 - d5/11/1861 m Jacob Wersch (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB115-Veronica Sell Yoder b 2/12/1778 – d 2/12/1858 – m Daniel Geissinger b 1778-d 1853 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB116-Barbara Sell Yoder b 9/29/1780 – d 9/23/1852 single (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB117-Jacob Sell Yoder b. 3-29- 1784 d. 2- 26- 1844– m Elizabeth Geissinger b 11/15/1785 –d 6/23/1859 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

Caspar's stone is also no longer visible, but his wife Fronica Sell Yoder's stone can be seen below.



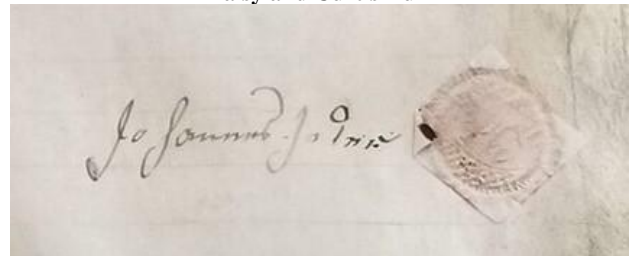
YB11
Fronica (Sell) Yoder
Bd 23,1745
D 22,1831
87 Years
Saucon Cem. N of Church

Two indentures were offered for sale on eBay over the last several years showing the sale of property by Johannes Yoder (YB113) to his oldest child John Jr. (29 Aug 1805- 22 Jan 1892) (YB1131) Burial Saucon Mennonite Meeting House Cemetery . Each of these was witnessed by Jacob Yoder (who we assume was Johannes's brother YB117). One of these indentures was purchased by the YNL and donated following the 2017 National Yoder Reunion for display at the House of Yoder (HOY). One for 6 acres, and one for 100 acres in Springfield Twp. This

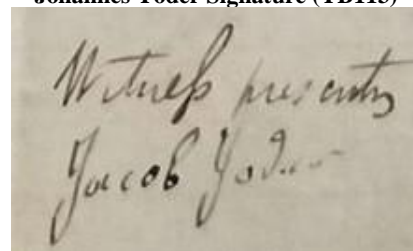
framed indenture is pictured here with Daisy (Yoder)(YR2611912115) and Curtis Duff of Oakland, MD. Daisy, is the daughter of John Yoder also of Oakland MD. Daisy and Curtis who were HOY hosts the first week in Sept. 2021. The second of these indentures was still offered for sale on eBay as of October 2021.



Daisy and Curtis Duff



Johannes Yoder Signature (YB113)



Jacob Yoder (Believed YB117)

YB12 - Jacob Bachman Yoder – b 10/1734 Upper Saucon Twp., Bucks, PA – d 2/8/1807 – m Eva M. Landis S (Daughter of Johannes Landis & Anna Musselman) (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) b 1736 – d 1809. On December 5, 1766, Jacob bought 40 acres in Bucks Co. (later known as Northampton Co.) (PA Land Patent Index A and AA: v7p158) [On April 11, 1768, he bought 178 acres of land from his father, in Upper Saucon Twp., Northampton Co., PA. He bought this land from his father. In 1773, he was executor of the Will of John Musselman of Upper Saucon Twp. Jacob and his wife were members of the Saucon Mennonite Church and are buried there. (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) Bur: Saucon Mennonite Cemetery (North side of Saucon Church. Tombstone Inscription: Jacob Joder/war geboren 1734/im october u ni gel'farben im jahr 1807/28? February Sein Al'fer war 72 jahr und/3monar[read by Karolyn & Tammy Roberts,8/1998])

Wesley Yoder adds "Jacob Yoder bought about 178 acres of land from his father on April 11, 1768 for an unknown sum. Sometime later he also bought 34 acres from Adam Romich.

SAUCON CHURCH CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

SAUCON CHURCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Jacob's land was located east of Center Valley and was later to become all or part of the Mennonite Home and Orphanage farm. He sold all or parts of his lands in 1797 to his sons-in-law, Abraham Meyer and Abraham Geissinger."

YB12- Jacob (buried Saucon Mennonite Church) updated based on YNL78

YB121- Elizabeth b. 5/25/1761

YB122- Fronica b. 10/19/1763 (?8/6/1765) m. Joseph Schelley (1/8/1758-11/11/1818) d. 1807 buried West Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA

YB123-Anna L. Yoder b 11/29/1768 (?12/27/1767) – d 1843 – m Abraham Meyer (b1766 - d1831) (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB124- Barbara b. 5/11/1770 d. 1/6/1850 m. Francis Schelly (5/1/1766-1/18/1858) buried West Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA

YB125-Eva L. Yoder b 1/44/1773 – d 6/8/1858 – m Abraham Geissinger (9/11/1771 -6/23/1860)? (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)



Jacob



Eva Landis Yoder (1736-1809)

YB13 - Abraham Bachman Yoder - Sb12/12/1747 Upper Saucon Twp., Bucks, PA -d12/30/1820 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church) – m Maria (Mary) Sell (Daughter of Hendrick Van Sintern Sell & Maria Schell) b4/09/1750 (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) of Germantown, Philadelphia, PA or Saucon Twp., Northampton, PA - d10/27/1827 PA (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA by Richard J. Yothers, 1984) Age: 77 years – On Apr. 12, 1768 he bought 203 acres of land in Upper Saucon Twp from his father for the sum of 40 pounds. In 1791, he was one of the executors of the will of his nephew, Michael Shelly. In 1794, he was one of the executors of the will of his brother-in-law, Valentine Noldt. In 1798, he was one of the executors of the will of his brother, Casper. He and his wife were members of the Saucon Mennonite Church and are buried there. (Descendants of Jacob Yothers, Bucks Co., PA, by Richard J. Yothers, 1984).

(Wesley adds: "Abraham Yoder bought about 203 acres of land in 5 tracts from his father on April 12, 1768 for 40 pounds. Four tracts were adjoining and were located along what is now Passer road. They later became all or parts of the Urmey, Bixel, Jacoby, Sutter, and William H. Yoder farms. The separate piece of 71 acres was located Northeast of Center Valley and became all or parts of the Waterman, Weiss, and Sassaman farms. In 1799, he bought a 67 acre tract from Phillip Geissinger, which later became Ed. Fehnel's farm. In 1817, he sold his lands to three of his sons.")

YB13- Abraham (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)- Row 1 on east side of church is the family of Abraham & Maria Yoder. M Maria Sell.

YB131 - Anna Sell Yoder – b 4/22/1771 Springfield, Bucks, PA – d 7/15/1862 – m 1793 Springfield, Bucks, PA William Moyer b

10/18/1763 Knedersville, PA d 1831- Springfield Mennonite Meetinghouse and Cemetery Pleasant Valley, Bucks County, PA YB132 - Henry Sell Yoder - b 1774 – d 1816 – m Elizabeth Meyer (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB133 - Susanna Sell Yoder – b 4/27/1776 – d 7/11/1861 – m Jacob O. Stauffer –b 1786 -d 7/11/1839- buried Upper Milford Mennonite Church Cemetery Zionsville, Lehigh County, PA

YB134 - John Sell Yoder – b 6/11/1777 PA – d 7/11 or 8/11/1866 - m Anna Geisinger Kauffman (Ohio) - buried Midway Mennonite Church Cemetery Mahoning County, Ohio

YB135 - Abraham Sell Yoder (Joder) S – b 10/20/1780 – d 9/9/1834 at 53 years (read Tombstone, Tammy & Karolyn Roberts) - m Eva Gehman (dau. of Abraham Gehman & Franey ? of Lower Milford Twp.) b 6/20/1791 – d 9/3/1834 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

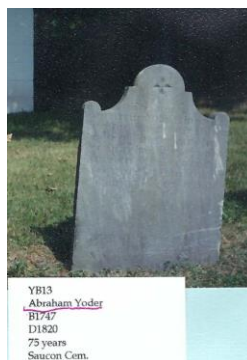
YB136 - Maria Sell Yoder – b 12/2/1783 – d 1849 – m Michael Landis -b 1767-d1839 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB137 - Peter Sell Yoder – b 7/16/1786 – d 1/15/1861 Midway, Mahoning, OH –m Elizabeth Brunner b 4/28/1793 d 3/21/1867- arrived in Ohio 1826- buried Midway Mennonite Church Cemetery Mahoning County, Ohio

(Peter is the g-g-g-grandfather of YNL Circulation and Mail Manager Kenneth W Yoder)

YB138 - Barbara Sell Yoder – b 1790 – d 1862 – m Jacob W. Landis – b 1790 –d 1869 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)

YB139 - Jacob Sell Yoder – S b 1792 – d 1865 – m Elizabeth L. Meyer b 3/18/1797 – d 7/19/1858 (buried Saucon Mennonite Church)



Maria Sell Yoder (1750-1827) w/oYB13 Abraham



In addition to these sons, there was a daughter (apparently the oldest child), whose family lived elsewhere: Barbara Yoder Shelly Nolt, b. c1730 - - d. - - m. 1. Michael Shelly b. - - d. 9 - 1758 Son of Abraham and Eliz. Shelly m 2. Valentine Nolt b - - 1727 d. 2- 1- 1794 Born in the Palatinat prob. Bur. East Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA Issue:

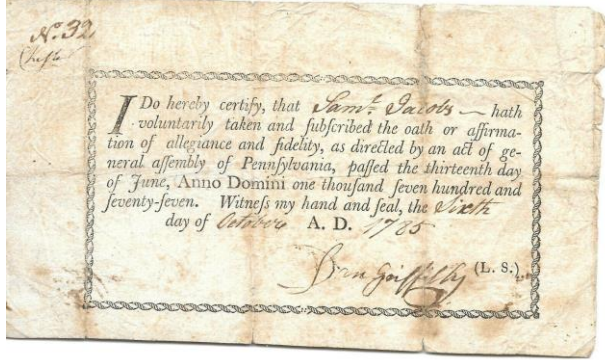
1. John Shelly b. - - d. - - buried East Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA
2. Michael Shelly b. - - d. - . Elizabeth Musselman (1757-Sep 1793) - 1790 buried East Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA
3. Elizabeth Shelly b. - - d. - -
4. Anna Shelly b. - - d. - -
5. Maria Nolt b. - - 1761 d. - - 1761 - buried East Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA
6. Eve Nolt b. - - 1762 d. - - 1797
7. Jacob Nolt b. 14 Nov 1765 d. 22 Aug 1836) - m Susana Sell (14 Nov 1765-22 Aug 1836) buried Nold Mennonite Cemetery, Leetonia, Columbiana County, Ohio
8. Maria Nolt b. - - 1767 d. - - 1775- buried East Swamp Mennonite Cemetery Quakertown, Bucks County, PA,

SAUCON CHUR CH CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

SAUCON CHURCH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

The Saucon Mennonite Church and the Revolution- The Oath of Allegiance

As mentioned in the YNL78 article “Lost Bible Page, during the Revolutionary War, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed an act, dated 13 June 1777, that all men must sign the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance, renouncing the authority of King George the III. This act provided for the enrollment of all persons fit for military duty and established a test and oath of allegiance. The impact of this act fell heavily on the members of the Saucon Mennonite Church, with eleven households having their “moveable property” confiscated and sold at auction. The harshness of application in this and other areas reportedly led to a later modification by the Council of the initial application of the law.



Example of a Signed Oath

In his book Conscience in Crisis: Mennonites and Other Peace Churches in America, 1739-1789, Richard K MacMaster, names all households included in the Saucon Mennonite Church confiscations at pages 399-400: "Harsh enforcement leads to repeal of some provisions. Frederick Limbach, the Northampton County justice whose harsh enforcement of the 1777 test act drew a reprimand from the Pennsylvania Council, applied the letter of the law in forcing the test oath on Mennonites and Moravians and jailing them when they refused. His excesses led finally to repeal of some of the harsher provisions in the 1778 act. Sheriff John Siegfried and Stephen Balliet and Jacob Miller, commissioners of confiscated property, sold the cattle, horses, farm implements, books, and furniture of George Bachman (1724-1806), Casper Yoder (1743-1798), and Abraham Geisinger (1749-1825) to the highest bidder on August 24, 1778. Relatives and friends recovered some household goods. Others sold at low prices to neighboring farmers and even Sheriff Siegfried and Justice Limbach loaded farm tools into their wagons when the sale was over. Over the next few days auction sales disposed of the property of Henry and Peter Zell (1757-1829), John Geisinger (1739-1811), Henry Geisinger (1737-1817), Abraham Yoder (1747-1825), Christian Young (1742-1813), Jacob Yoder (1734-1807), and John Newkommer (1739-1804). The sales brought a total of £6,455..7..5 into the coffers of the Commonwealth.

The three Geisingers were brothers, and sons of Philip Geisinger (1701-1791) who is said to have been born 2 Jun 1701 in Ibershiem, to have arrived 18 Sept 1727 in Philadelphia on the ship William and Mary, and to have been naturalized in 1731. His wife was Anna Maria Schuder (1711-1779).

Oath of Allegiance records from other areas of the state seem very incomplete, but in Lancaster County, PA we see two “Yoder” references among those who did comply:

Name of Affirmer or Subscriber - Year - Deed Book 'L' Page Number – date of signature

Yoter, Martin 1778 400- June 1, 1778 (possibly Martin Yeater of Mannheim Twp as of 1782)

Yotter, Yoest 1778 399 Affd Nov 14, 1777 (believed to be “YRB”- see YNL72 letter to editor from John M. Byler)

Wikipedia explains “Affd” - “In law, an affirmation is a solemn declaration allowed to those who conscientiously object to taking an oath. An affirmation has exactly the same legal effect as an oath but is usually taken to avoid the religious implications of an oath; it is thus legally binding but not considered a religious oath.”

Many thanks to Pastor Steve Strunk and James Fazio for providing updated photos and information about the Saucon Church and Cemetery. Pastor Strunk has been serving Saucon Mennonite Church since 2005, as interim pastor and then pastor on a part time basis. He reports “We have a large contingent of senior citizens and a sprinkling of young families. The church has a rich history and it has been my privilege to be part of God’s work here. Our desire is that the church will continue to be testimony to God’s grace in this community.” There are no current members of the church with the Yoder surname. Based on the cemetery data the last burial of a male Yoder was John Yoder (1805-1892) (YB1131) who was the grandson of YB11-Casper Yoder and Feronica Sell- he is also the man who received the indentures now on display at the House of Yoder. The last person buried born with the Yoder maiden name was Emma K. Yoder Landis (1864-1954) who was a granddaughter of YB135 - Abraham Sell Yoder and Eva Gehman. Thanks also to Karolyn Roberts and Wesley J. Yoder, and a very big thanks as well to the late Ken Hottle and Richard J. Yothers!



Ken Hottle



Richard J. Yothers



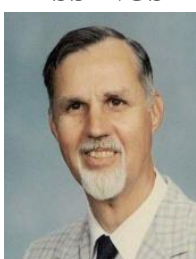
TREES REPLACED AT HOUSE OF YODER

A Tornado on April 8, 2020 destroyed 46 trees in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village, Grantsville, MD including several

adjacent to the House of Yoder (HOY) causing some damage to the structure, The damage has long been repaired. New trees arrived last October to be placed throughout the village. Some of these now surround the House of Yoder! Thanks to Tim Moyer and Mayla Yoder for the pictures!

100	Z190, FT2426, FT2677, FT3240
	* - common with certain Germanic families that spread across western Europe during and after the Roman Empire. certain families of POWELL, JENNINGS, PATTERSON, EMERSON, SEWELL, KELLDORF
80	FGC17811 - defined geographically as German Rhineland, Dutch, English, Swedish, and some Finnish
	* - common families GOEKE, GOERTZEN, OLOFSSON, HEAPS, HARRINGTON, NORRIS, DEWESS
60	Y7280, BY47949, FT13462, FT146942, FT46943, FT6997, FT7988, FT8244, FT8482, Y30735, Y30736, Y7281
	* - defined geographically as Swiss or Palatine, families include JACOBS
40	FT422838, FT422060, FT423335
	* - JORDI family (a derivative of YODER?), BECKWITH family
40	Y7818, BY46579, Y7819 -Switzerland
	* - Swiss LAMPERT family (from Fläsch, Graubunden, Switzerland)
30	Y29666, FT10865, Y30730, Y30731, Y30732, Y30733, Y30734 (YODER, MARTIN, TOMME, FOELLER)
12	BY166952, BY167177, BY210935, BY211430, FT443035 - (YODER only)
	* - YODER, a descendant who remained in Switzerland
9	BY166829 - SNP distinct to three American YODER families of Swiss descent
20	FT84192 - SNP common to MARTIN, TOMME, and FOELLER family
	* - FOELLER, a descendant of Caspar Foeller, Niederhausen, Pfalz, Germany
15	BY28636 - SNP common to MARTIN and TOMME family; Rueggisberg, Bern
	* - TOMME, a descendant of Jacob Tomme, Bernese Swiss immigrant to New Bern, NC, c1710
9	BY28637 - MARTIN descendants of 1727 imm. David Martin and 1731 imm. Hans Heinrich Martin
	7 BY3097 - MARTIN descendants of immigrant David Martin's grandson David Maritn (1785-1839)
25	BY176351, FT16521 - SNPs in common for ZIMMERMAN/CARPENTER, BROWN and ZRYD family
	* - ZRYD family (Switzerland to Ohio)
17	A10757, A10756, A10759, Y167705 - SNPs in common for ZIMMERMAN/CARPENTER family
9	FTA98318 - ZIMMERMAN family of Frederich Wilhelm Zimmerman, 1729, of Washenheim, Germany
12	BY194926, BY141579, FT13475, FT46944, Y168848 - (ZIMMERMAN and BROWN)
	* - ZIMMERMAN, descendant of Michael Zimmerman (b. 1617; Steffisberg, Switz.)
7	BY193465 - BROWN, descendants of William Brown (b. 1812, of Switz.)
	BY176350 - SNP common to remaining ZIMMERMAN/CARPENTER family
9	A10758 - CARPENTER family (Steffisburg, Switzerland to Lancaster Co., Pa., to North Carolina)
9	BY177050, BY1766998 - ZIMMERMAN
6	FT83713, FT83146, FT84202 - descendant of Daniel Zimmerman (b. 1813; Ger., immigrant to Ohio)

YODER PASSINGS



Ray Yount..... Agnes Yount

-Dr. Ray Allen Yount, PhD, 87, of Hickory, N.C., died Aug, 28, 2021. His wife Agnes passed on Sept, 7 of last year. Ray was an active Yoder, attending many of the national reunions. He was the son of the late Reuben Hubert Yount (grandson of Julia Ann Yoder b. 1858-Con1181) and Lora Morrison Yount. At the House of Yoder (HOY), before moving home to N.C., Ray

served as librarian, cataloging books and acquiring obituaries. Agnes provided accounting services for HOY and together they planted and tended the beautiful flowers and shrubbery around the building.

-Clarence ("C") Yoder, 91, Pocomoke City, MD died Dec. 15, 2021. He was the son of Elizabeth (Berry) and Walter Reuben (OH1452682) Yoder.

-Clyde A. Yoder, 91, of Souderton, PA; died Sept. 8, 2021. He was the son of J. Walter (YB1393322) and Grace L. (Alderfer) Yoder.

-Kathryn E. "Kate" (Yoder) Doty, 91, of Milford, IN died Sept. 6, 2021. Daughter of Pete (YR23443417) and Edna Yoder.

-Irwin Philip Yoder, 78, of Cottonwood, CA, died Jan 26, 2020. Son of Irvin P. (s/o Con2961) & Goldie (Olka) Yoder.

-Florence L. Yoder, 95, Goshen, IN, died Oct. 24, 2021. She was the daughter of Joseph F. (YR2341866) and Belva (Stutzman) Yoder.

-Carrie B. Kanagy, 82, died Oct. 26, 2021, at Mt. Hope OH. Daughter of Levi (s/o YR251438) & Lydia (Peachey) Yoder.

-Enos A. Yoder, 78, of LaGrange, IN died Oct. 23, 2021. Son of Andrew M. (s/o YR2611384) and Emma (Schrock) Yoder.

-Paul Richard Yoder of Rossford, Ohio, died Oct. 6, 2021. He was the son of Christian (YA671) and Stella Yoder.

-Harold L. Yoder, 84, of Middlebury, IN died Oct. 13, 2021. He was the son of Manas (s/o YR1253234) and Louise (Schwieter) Yoder.

-Monroe "Moose" Yoder Jr., 82, of Goshen, Indiana, died Oct. 2, 2021. Son of Monroe (YR26121524) & Emma Yoder.

-Merlin (Merle) Yoder, 82, Grand Island, NE died Sep. 30, 2021. He was the son of Ralph (YR23374862) and Esther (Saltzman) Yoder.

-John Richard Yoder, 99, Carlsbad, CA, died Apr. 19, 2021. Son of Leonard Arner Yoder (YB1372b1) and Edythe Marie Bollinger Yoder.

-James Thurland Yoder, 90, Ames, IA died Dec 25, 2021. He was the son of Lester (YR2337a53) and Helen (Wineger) Yoder.

-Monroe J. Yoder, 85, Grantsville, MD died Jan. 13, 2022. He was the son of John D. (YR2618211) and Lydia (Tice) Yoder.

- Anna D. Yoder 94, of Baltic, OH died Jan. 10, 2022. She was the daughter of Dan J. (YR2617475) and Sarah (Miller) Yoder.

-Cecil C. Yoder Sr., 88, London, Ohio, died Dec. 27, 2021. He was the son of Odell H. (M22376) and Elsie (Kroninger) Yoder.

-Raymond David Yoder, 91, of Cortez, CO died Jan. 27, 2022, Son of John P. (YR2539351) and Lomie (Yoder) Yoder.

-James Kenney Yoder, 83, Newport, NC, died Jan. 26, 2022. Son of William (Sr.) (OY424632) & Catherine (Hill) Yoder.

-Elwood D. Yoder, 77, Berlin, PA died Jan. 7, 2022. He was the son of Bruce L. (YR2395b87) and Dorothy (Leazier) Yoder. (see YNL32).
