



The Joders of Canton Lucerne

In the late German Yoder researcher Karl Joder's "Chronik" (see <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/nonamish/chronik.html>) he writes "There is no doubt that the Joders living in the Huttwyl-Altbüron- Altishofen-Dagmersellen and in Muri near Bern and the Joders in the Steffisburg-Amseligen-Thun area and Sigriswil are a single clan from the earliest Middle Ages. However, our direct provable ancestors lived in Steffisburg and its environs, and for our family chronicle we shall research only this Joder line, of which the descendants still live in Steffisburg.."

"One Jost Joder was 'Statthalter at the Lauenen by Thun' in the year 1428. As 'magistrate' the freemen elected from their own ranks a man who would then be confirmed in office by the Count in the castle at Thun. Jost Joder presented a golden heraldic lily on a blue ground in his coat-of- arms, the same lily on blue ground seen in the arms of the officials Uli Yoder, 1462, at Altbüron and Hans Joder, 1557, at Altishofen - further proof that all belonged to the same clan from the earliest days."



Jost Joder Crest from the Church at Steffisburg

Karl writes elsewhere of the Joders: "They are also represented from early on in high offices of the regional and village administrations, as for example a Jost Joder, who is mentioned in 1428 as a high official of at Lauenen by Thun. (For Staathalter we would say something like 'County Supervisor' or 'Magistrate' today.) In 1462 a Uli Joder was an official at Altbüron, from 1552 to 1575 Hans Joder was an official at Altishofen, and his grandson Hans Joder was named judge at Altishofen in 1619. That only the most capable were elected or named to such offices, those who had the necessary knowledge, goes without saying." Altbüron, and Altishofen are both in Canton Lucerne, which is immediately to the east of Canton Bern.

Although Karl, and his compatriot Otmar Jotter, did not report on the Lucerne Joders in any detail, an email received by the Yoder Newsletter in September of 2021 led to a year-and one half exploration of some of the Joder records in Lucerne, which now results in this article.

Whereas the Joders who are the ancestors of all known American Joders moved from Huttwill in Canton Bern (where some of the earliest records exist for the surname) southwest to Steffisburg, the ones in Lucerne apparently moved northeast over several centuries, first to Altbüron, then on to Altishofen, and finally Dagmersellen - a total distance of just over 14 miles. And unlike the Joder's of Steffisburg, who were Protestant, those in Lucerne affiliated with the Catholic Church. During the

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Mary Yoder Burkhard India Missionary

Contributed by her grandson Walter Burkhard Bauer



1900- Jacob and Mary Arrive in Dhamtari, India

It began with a thank you letter. Mary Yoder had just turned 20 on Feb. 2, 1900 and was already a mission worker at the Mennonite Mission House in Chicago, Illinois. She was well-liked and enjoyed her work there. Previously, in the fall of 1899, she had been a student at the Elkhart Institute, Elkhart, Indiana, and after two short terms, was called to serve at the Chicago Mission House.

On Mar. 8, 1900, Mary wrote a newsy letter to Jacob Burkhard, a casual friend and former classmate at the Elkhart Institute, thanking him for lending her a book she was returning to him. She said she was happy with her work at the Mission but expressed a longing to go to a foreign field. Eight days later Jacob wrote a long Spirit-filled letter to Mary saying he had had a missionary spirit for some time and now because of a severe famine

MARY YODER BURKHARD-CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Changing of the Guard In the Melchior Yoder Line



After decades of effort, Melchior Yoder Line Coordinator Don Honeywell, ably assisted by his wife Grace, have handed off their files, data base, and responsibility for this line to Emily Richardson. Emily, the daughter of the late Dorothy Coffman (an early researcher of the Melchior line- see YNL 3, April 1984) is a retired university administrator, and now a professional genealogist. More details to come in a future Newsletter.

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: Emily Coffman Richardson, Denton, Texas; 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 Creative, Shippshewana, IN.

Over the past 40 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 site: www.yodernewsletter.org)

YODER DATA ON DISK (now on an 8GB USB stick) - Slowly keeping up with technology! 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 USB" is \$10 (postage included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Most of this info is also available free at the YNL Homepage and changes hardly at all.)

**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). To order any of these, 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 6 Feb 23, the counts for interments were: 22390 records (an increase of +120 from 22 Aug 2022) for -Yoder; 547 (+5) - Yother; 372 (+1) - Yothers; 306 (+1) - Yotter; 73 (+0) - Yoter; 311 (+0) - Yoders; 83 (+0) - Ioder; 108 (+0) - Joder; 58 (+0) - Jotter; 1 (+0) - Joders; 11 (-1) - Youder; 3 (+0) - Youders; 19 (+0) - Youther; 8 (+0) - Youthers; 7 (+0) - Younder.



David J Yoder
Birth 26 Feb 1880
Death 28 Jul 1970 (aged 90)
Burial Yoder Mennonite Church Cemetery, Yoder, KS
Host of the 1947 Yoder Reunion

Did any of your family attend?
Contact cyoder@tds.net

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Editor's comment- Celebrating the 40th birthday of the newsletter, makes it particularly appropriate to again thank our dedicated readers. Of our first 100 subscribers 40 years ago, 16 are still with us (not counting those who may have lapsed and then resubscribed). Subscriber number 4, Albert Christian Yoder III, has the earliest continually active subscription, so we invited him to send in his "story". So glad that he said "yes"!



Our editor, Chris Yoder, recently informed me that I was the first general subscriber to the YNL. That did surprise me - and make me feel old. In view of my continuing dedication he asked that I say a bit about myself and my "Yoderness." I became interested in Yoder genealogy through my grandfather, Albert Christian Yoder Sr

(YR2337521). I remember him taking me as a young boy to family reunions in Shippshewana Indiana, just as he had taken my father. We were raised Methodist, but I was certainly fascinated by the Amish with their beards and buggies. And I know my grandfather talked about Yoder genealogy with Rachel Kreider, one of the founders of the YNL. He was also a well-known family doctor in Goshen, Indiana, and was named Doctor of the Year by the American Medical Association (YNL issue 12). I remember accompanying him on his "rounds" to the outlying farms, often getting paid with eggs and vegetables. My father became a well-known dentist in Goshen. I, however, became a professional student and academic, again probably the influence of my grandfather. I received a B.A. from Wabash College, an M.A. from Indiana University and a Ph.D. from Florida State. I taught for a few years and then spent most of my career as a Dean of Instruction.

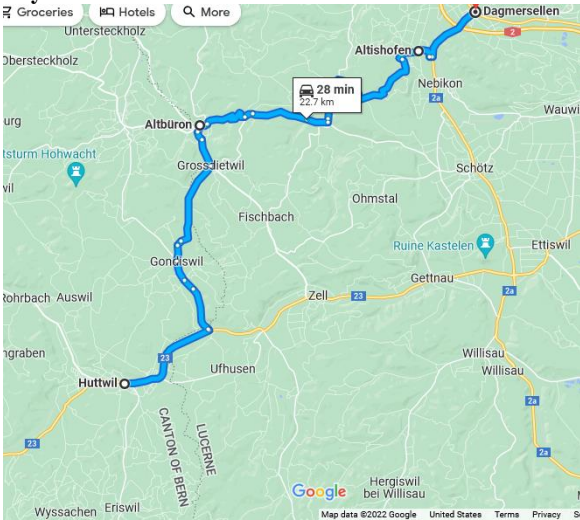
I would be hard put to define "Yoderness", unless it is through our Amish connection. I know the Amish are widely respected for their craftsmanship being great builders, cabinet makers and the like. But since I am incapable of nailing two boards together, that cannot constitute Yoderness. However, I do know that when you tell someone your name is Yoder, they invariably ask if you are Amish or Mennonite. A short time ago I was playing tennis in Charlottesville, Virginia, where I now live, and two girls came on court wearing dresses to their ankles and the white caps. I asked them if they were Mennonite and they said yes, so I told them I was probably related to them. They asked why that was and I told them my name was Yoder, and one of them exclaimed that her name was Yoder. So I think Yoderness is a common ancestry, a shared history. And this makes the YNL so important to us as it details what, through many generations, we have in common. It is why I look forward to each issue and even read the bits that do not pertain to my specific line. - Al Yoder, alvoder23947@yahoo.com

HOUSE OF YODER VISITORS 2022

In 2022 there were 4, 594 visitors to the HOUSE OF YODER from 42 states and the District of Columbia , as well as 17 other countries.

See the Yoder Newsletter FACEBOOK page for details about being a host there in 2023. Scheduling information and answers to questions may be obtained from Mayla H. Yoder 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA 15530. 814. 279.2787. Leave a message.

JODERS OF LUCERNE- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Reformation Lucerne was one of the Cantons which remained staunchly Catholic.

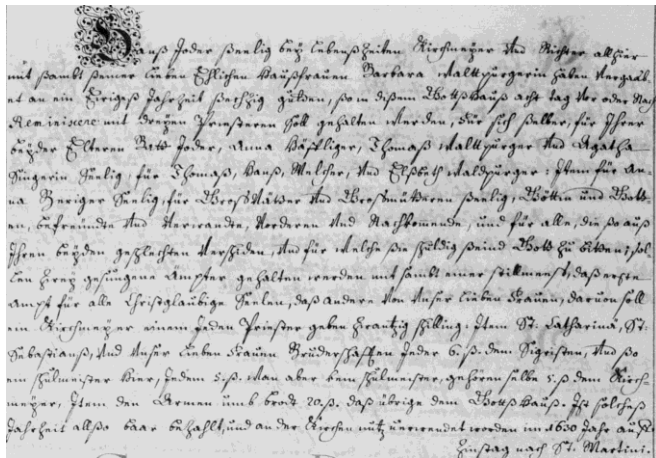


- Steffisburg to Huttwil- 36.1 miles
- Muri to Huttwil- 31.7 miles
- Huttwil to Altbüron- 6.4 miles
- Altbüron to Altishofen- 6.2 miles
- Altishofen to Dagmersellen- 1.6 miles
- Huttwil to Dagmersellen – 14.1 miles

One reference found on-line claims that the Ulli Joder, born in Huttwil in Jan of 1340/41 and who married Elsi Zaug is the same person who was the magistrate at Altbüron, but no evidence is cited and this is impossible as he would have been 121 years old in 1462. It is conceivable that the fellow at Altbüron was, however, a descendant of the earlier Ulli.

Again the Chronik reports “from 1552 to 1575 Hans Joder was an official at Altishofen, and his grandson Hans Joder was named judge at Altishofen in 1619.”

The following record of a prominent Hans Joder who was deceased by 1630 seems to be perhaps the same Hans Joder who was judge in Altishofen in 1619, it is translated (thanks to Bruce W. Stahly) as follows:



The late Hans Joder, during his life Kirchmeier and magistrate in this place, together with his dear lawful wife Barbara Walttpürger, bequeath sixty guilders, in perpetuity, so that in this house of God, eight day before or following Reminiscere [second Sunday in Lent], offices shall be held with three priests; one for themselves, for both parents Batt Joder and Anna Häftlinger, Thomas Walttpürger and the late Agatha Singer, for Thomas, Hans Melcher and Elsbeth Walttpürger. Also for the late Anna Beriger, for the late grandfathers

and grandmothers, godfathers and godmothers, friends, relatives, forbearers, descendants and for everyone from their different clans who are obliged to pray to God; two sung offices shall be held together with a mass, the first office for all Christ-believing souls, the other by our dear women; to that end shall the Kirchmeier give each priest 20 schillings. Also, St. Catharina and St. Sebastian, and for our dear female sisters, each 6 batzen, and for the sigrist, and to the schoolmaster here, 5 batzen. If there is no schoolmaster, the same 5 batzen goes to the Kirchmeier. Also to the poor, 20 batzen for bread. The rest to the church. The first year paid in cash, the church received the donation on the quarter-day after St. Martini, 1630.

(The batzen is an historical Swiss, south German and Austrian coin. It was first produced in Berne, Switzerland, from 1492, named for the bear (Batz, Bätz, Petz), the heraldic animal of Berne that was depicted on the coins.)

With this writing as a guide and the information from Karl we might hypothesize that Hans Joder (official at Altishofen 1552 to 1575), was the father of Batt Joder who married Anna Häftlinger, who was in turn the father of Hans who was named judge at Altishofen in 1619, and it was the later fellow who died in 1630.

Another Hans Joder was Kirchmeier (i.e., the person who looks after the church property, collects rents, sells harvests etc.) at Dagmersellen from 1631 to 1646. The book 900 Jahre Dagmersellen by Alfred Felber, published in 1976, explains on page 260 that Dagmersellen was an autonomous parish from around the year 1270 and later it was integrated into Altishofen, at least in their church records, until about 1814. The book also tells us that one family held the role of church elders and took their surname from that function (Kirchmeier). This dynasty is documented from 1314 to 1451, as one of the richest families of Dagmersellen. At that time they migrated to Lucerne. It is then only from 1625 on that the names of the other church elders are reported. From 1631-1646 one Hans Joder held the office of Kirchmeier.

We found no separate church records for Altbüron, but baptismal records exist through the LDS genealogical site “Family Search” for Altishofen from 1619-1775, and using these, we have compiled the following family data into the mid-1600s, when the male Joder lines seem to have moved along. We suspect, but cannot prove, that some of the early Joder families might descend from one or both of the earlier Hans Joders... and one of these may be the fellow who was Kirchmeier between 1631 and 1646.

From the Altihofen Baptismal (Taufen) records at FamilySearch - www.familysearch.com we find:

- Joannes Joder and Anna Beriger (as cited above in bequeath?)
 Joan Martinus Joder bapt. 6 Apr 1623
- Hans Joder and Anna Beriger
 Catharina bapt. 17 Apr 1625
- Nicklaus Joder and Verena Jory
 Margaretha bapt 3 Aug 1625
- Joannes Joder and Margareth _____
 Maria bapt 11 Nov 1630
- Hans Joder and Elsbeth Keiser
 Balthasarus bapt 25 May 1632
 Anna Maria bapt 24 Sep 1633
 Dorothea bapt 14 Sep 1640
- Marti Joder and Eva Gutt
 Joannes bapt 29 July 1632
- Martinus Joder and Eva Kaufman
 Elsbeth bapt 10 Nov 1631
 Jacobus bapt 17 Mar 1634
 Anna bapt 29 May 1635
 Anna bapt 21 Mar 1637
 Martinus bapt 20 Jun 1638
 Jacobus bapt 15 Jun 1642

MARY JODER BURKHARD-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in India, there was an urgent plea for people to help. Letters continued back and forth, and the two both felt the same call. On March 31, Jacob went to visit Mary in Chicago. They agreed they should be married and go together as missionaries. The marriage date was set for April 18, just two weeks away.

On Apr. 17, 1900, they were examined by the Mennonite Evangelizing and Benevolent Board and approved for a five-year term as missionaries in India. The next day they were married at the Elkhart Mennonite Church. Afterwards a warm reception and dinner was provided by the faculty and students from the Institute followed by a devotional service. The Evangelizing Board had no money for them, and Jacob and Mary had practically none themselves. But the Institute was able to present them with a \$50 purse, and the newlyweds had the utmost faith that the Lord would provide them the necessary funds to get to India by the fall.

They first traveled to Jacob's family in Nebraska. Jacob was born in 1873 at Freeport, IL, but grew up outside Roseland, Nebraska. He the first-born of 11 children of Daniel and Hannah (Snyder) Burkhard. The Burkhard and Snyder families both had roots in Mennonite communities in Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Mary was born to a Mennonite family on a farm south of West Liberty, OH, the oldest of three daughters of Rufus A. Yoder (YRB1732) and Eri Etta (Byler) Yoder. Rufus (b. 1849) had been a successful farmer, but his life was cut short by "consumption" in 1896. Rufus's father, John C. Yoder (1824-1876), and grandfather, Christian Yoder (1799-1872), were also successful farmers that had migrated from Mifflin County, PA to the Amish-Mennonite community in Champaign Co, OH, near Oak Grove Mennonite Church.

Jacob and Mary then traveled eastward, raising funds at churches, staying with friends and relatives, including Mary's home in Ohio. Mary's mother, Eri Etta (Byler) Yoder, was a strong supporter for her daughter and new husband, even though she was a widow with two young daughters to still raise.

They sailed from New York on Sept. 19th. In London they transferred to a ship that carried them to Bombay, where they arrived on Oct. 19th. They were welcomed warmly by American missionaries there, and soon traveled by train to the Mennonite Mission at Dhamtari, in the Central Provinces.



Jacob and Mary 1900- on train to Dhamtari

The Mennonite Mission at Dhamtari had opened just the year before. When Jacob and Mary arrived, J. A. Penner was the only American missionary there. They were quickly put in charge of 180 orphaned boys and girls in the orphanage. They also began earnest study of the Hindi language.

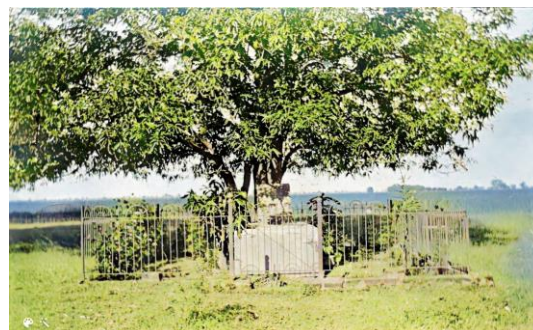


Dhamtari Orphan Girls – c1905- Mary and Jacob -rear

For six years they labored at the Mission and due to necessity and a lack of funds, they were never able to take a vacation to get rest from their heavy workloads. In the Indian famine of 1900, the mission expanded greatly with orphans, and later, lepers, Indian widows, and other rejected social groups. Jacob was ordained in Apr. 1901 and began preaching in Hindi. Jacob also became the trusted bookkeeper for the Mission and wrote many thank you letters to financial supporters in America thanking people and thoughtfully and prayerfully asking for more support, both in prayers and funds. Funds were always scarce, and the setbacks were many. But Jacob and Mary persisted because they never doubted that they had been called by God to do foreign mission work.

Jacob became known as a man of prayer. He put his total trust in God. When things looked impossible and there seemed to be no solution to the needs of the mission, Jacob and Mary doubled their efforts in prayer to God and held fast that their needs would be met. It was their love for God in fulfilling the Great Commandment to go out and spread the Good News of Jesus and the Word that sustained them.

By Sep. 1906, they were exhausted from overwork. They were also overdue for a furlough back home. That summer, due to a lack of money at the Mission, they had to give up their vacation time so another missionary who was sick could get medical attention and could take a medical leave to America. By then they had two small children, Esther and Samuel, and on September 1st their third child, Anna Lois, was born at Raipur, because there was no doctor at Dhamtari. A few days later, Jacob developed a boil on his back. It would not go away and daily it worsened. It developed into a carbuncle and finally, into blood poisoning. Jacob became delirious. Mary and baby were able to return to Dhamtari, and Jacob came out of his delirium briefly and was able to hold his new daughter before dying on Sep. 29, 1906. Due to the heat in India, services were held quickly, and he was buried within 12 hours.



Jacob Burkhard Gravesite Dhamtari, India

Mary, just 26 years old, was left with these three small children. A friend later said she never saw such a sad woman as Mary that year. And in November, Esther and Samuel had a serious attack of cholera, but both recovered. But these setbacks did not stop Mary from working. In December, it was reported that she and a sister missionary went on a 500-mile trip each way to Calcutta on a business trip.

In early 1907, Mary and the children returned to America. In New York, they were met by a Mission Board representative and taken to a hotel. The next night, just as the children had gone to bed, there was a knock at the door. She opened it and there were her mother and two sisters. What an overwhelming moment it must have been for her.

Mary, the children, and her sisters, Anna and Catherine, travelled together to their home at West Liberty, Ohio to stay for a while. They then traveled to Goshen where her mother had become the matron for the girl's dormitory at Goshen College. The summer was spent at Jacob's parents' home in Nebraska, and they returned to Ohio to spend almost a year on the farm now run by Eri Etta's brother, Christian Byler.

In Feb. 1908, tragedy again struck the Yoder family. Mary's sister, Kathryn, a first-year student at Goshen College, suddenly became very ill with a high fever and died.



1910 Mary and her Girls' Bible Class

In spite of these personal tragedies, Mary's missionary spirit remained as strong as ever, and with the support of her mother and remaining sister, was again approved by the Mission Board in the fall of 1908 for a second term in India. Her two oldest children, Esther, and Samuel were left in loving care of Jacob's parents in Nebraska, and Mary returned to Dhamtari, India in November 1908 with two-year old daughter, Anna Lois. During this term, Mary taught in the Bible school, assisted the Indian Bible women, became matron of the girl's orphanage, and even taught the orphan boys to sew, so that they would have a trade.

Her term was over at the end of 1914 and she returned to America in January 1915, where she took up residence with her children in Goshen, IN, where her mother and sister now lived. She lived in a house just north of Goshen College and maintained herself and children at various jobs, taking in laundry, raising chickens, cooking for professors and being matron in the girl's dormitory. She was also very involved with the local sewing circles where she was said to "rock the boat" with suggestions that sisters should become more involved with the affairs of the church. This did not sit well with the male leadership. But Mary and Clara Eby Steiner of Ohio worked together to bring a number of local sewing circles together to form a national organization, called the

Mennonite Woman's Missionary Society. It first met in August 1915, and a year later Mary became its first president, a position she held through 1923.

In 1924, with her children now grown and in college, Mary wanted to return to India for still another missionary term. She applied but was rejected by the Mennonite Church mission board in Elkhart, probably because of her "strong views." But she was subsequently approved through the General Conference Mennonite Board for another term. On October 26th, 1924, she left from New York on the ship S.S. *City of Calcutta* for direct travel to Bombay, arriving there on Nov. 28th.

For this term, Mary was assigned to the Champa district, about 150 miles north of Dhamtari. However, she first visited Dhamtari and was warmly greeted by everyone who had known her. She toured all the missionary compounds and was greatly impressed by the expansions and improvement since leaving 10 years before.

A few days later Mary arrived at Korba, a station established by C. H. Suckau and his wife in 1914. She worked there for about year, teaching at the Bible school, traveling with native evangelists for weeks at a time to surrounding villages, managed the Bible women, and traveled many places from Dhamtari to Calcutta on missionary business. In frequent letters she lobbied her children, now young adults, to join her as missionaries in India, but none were to do so. All instead married and remained in the US.



Mary (seated) her children L to R- Esther, Samuel, Anna Lois

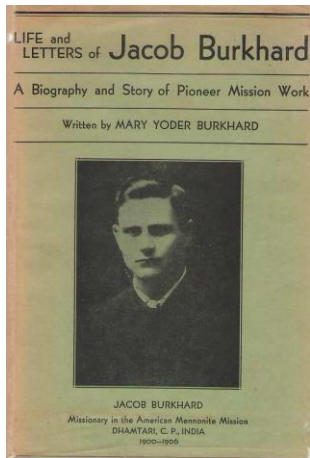
In early 1926, Mary was reassigned to Jagdeeshpur, a new station near Basna that was being carved out of the jungle by Dr. and Mrs. S. T. Moyer. Years later in 1957, Mrs. Moyer wrote an article in *Missionary News and Notes* about her memories of Mary and said "She [Mary] fitted right in. If she ever missed the civilized amenities of living, she never mentioned it. One room in the first thatched house and a tent was all that we could share. We had the same. She entered into the arduous living with glad zest and agreed gladly to push the need of better educational facilities."

Mary worked toward establishing a boarding school for girls of the area. With a few rupees and some coolie labor, a one-room hut was constructed. Mary groomed a matron to oversee the first girls. Their needs were simple. They slept on the tamped dirt floor,

MARY YODER BURKHARD-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

MARY YODER BURKHARD-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5
 cooked outdoors, gathered fuel from the underbrush, shopped weekly for their food needs. What was on hand was sufficient for a start, and it was all directed by Mary. Mrs. Moyer also wrote "Today how many lives call Mrs. Burkhard blessed! Girls without hope, who knew not their loving Saviour, are today Christian mothers, evangelists, and pastors' wives because Mary Y. Burkhard gave her best for them, and her utmost for her Lord, Jesus." Mary's previous terms of work at Dhamtari really paid off at Jagdeeshpur because she knew the Indian people and could relate to them in their own language.

In Nov. 1930, Mary left India for the last time, but her missionary spirit remained strong as ever until she died years later. She returned to Goshen and lived with her mother and sister, Anna. To support herself, she became a representative for various firms using cloth samples to sell cloth door-to-door to housewives.



Soon after returning from India in 1930, she was encouraged to write about the life of her husband, Jacob. After consulting with friends and being encouraged by the Secretary of the Mission Board, Mary wrote a 214-page biography titled *Life and Letters of Jacob Burkhard*. It was self-published by her in 1936. By using Jacob's personal journals and his many letters to family, friends, and others, she let Jacob tell the greater part of the story of his life in his own words. J. A.

Ressler, founder of the Dhamtari Mission, wrote the Introduction, and said that it was his hope that the book would awaken others to surrender themselves to God to serve and proclaim the Word as Jacob did. C. Z. Yoder, of Wooster, Ohio, wrote that "This [book] should awaken a greater zeal among the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ to labor more earnestly for our Lord and Master in spreading the blessed Gospel."

One thousand copies of *Life and Letters* were printed. It sold for \$1.00 for a hardbound copy and 60¢ for a softbound. Mary sold them herself and used agents to sell within other Mennonite circles. It was not a money-making venture, but it was a story that needed to be told and Mary was the best person to tell it.

In 1938 her mother died, and Mary and her sister, Anna, moved to a house on S. 7th St. and they lived together until Mary died in 1957. Mary's grandchildren fondly remember going with their parents to Goshen many times to visit "Grandma and Aunt Anna." And Mary and Anna made many visits to Ohio on many holidays and other occasions to see her children and grandchildren.

She continued her involvement in Mennonite women's organizations and strong support of foreign missionary work. She attended Mennonite conferences and events throughout the Midwest and eastward in Pennsylvania and Canada. Annually she attended the week of mission study in Winona Lake in Wisconsin. She was one of the organizing influences of the Indiana Mennonite Women's Missionary Rally. As late as 1956, Mary attended the 50th anniversary session of the Mennonite Board of Missions and Charities in Kitchener, Ontario, where she gave a presentation and

was honored as a pioneer missionary of the (Old) Mennonite church.



Mary Addresses Mennonite Board at Conference- 1956

In late Aug. 1957, Mary had a serious stroke and died in Goshen on Sep. 7th. Her funeral was held at the 8th Street Mennonite Church, where she had been a member since returning from her second term in India in 1915. Over 300 individuals and families signed the funeral register, including 22 with the Yoder surname. Burial was at Prairie View Cemetery just South of Goshen.

Besides her own father, Rufus Yoder (YRB1732) (1849-1896), Mary was a Yoder descendant seven other ways through Magdalena Yoder (YR13) (1724-1769) (twice), Veronica Yoder (YR19) (1736-1806) (twice), Elizabeth Yoder (YR24) (1729-1771), Magdalena Yoder (YR252) (1761-1815), and Anna Yoder (YR264) (1765-1849). Abbreviations are from *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies* by Hugh Gingerich and Rachel Kreider, 2nd Edition, 2007.

YODERS OF NC TO HOST NATIONAL REUNION-OCT 2025 - SAVE THE DATE

The 72nd Annual NC Yoder Family Reunion was held Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 at a Yoder Family House (built ca. 1882 by William Yoder) Shepherd's Hill Farm, Lincolnton, NC. New officers are: Rachael Hahn Kennedy, Pres.; Adam Coffey, Vice Pres.; Neal Wilfong, Sec./Historian; Ellen Yoder Cranford, Treas.; and Pr. Nathan Yoder, Chaplain. They began early planning to host a national Yoder reunion in October 2025 to celebrate the 300th birthday of Conrad Yoder. More details to come.

Old Oley Yoder Cemetery Fund Restarted!

After an interruption of several years, a formal bank account has been re-established for the maintenance of the Pleasantville Cemetery, where Oley Yoder immigrants Hans and Yost Yoder, and many of their early descendants are buried. Donations are now being accepted to support any needed cemetery work and can be made out to the "Pleasantville Cemetery Company", and sent to the treasurer for the group: David Yoder, 300 Via Escuela, Apt. 1, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Once they have an idea on costs, the organizers intend for plots to be made available for sale for burials in the next year or so - both for full burials and for cremations.

Any questions ask David at dbvoder911@gmail.com

Hans Joder and Babi Arnold
 Anna bap 3 Mar 1642
 Hans Joder and Cathri Rolli/Colli (Umlaut)
 Johannes bap 4 Jan 1646
 Hans bap 29 Nov 1646
 Barbara bap 2 Mar 1648
 Johan Jacobus bap 12 May 1649
 Magdalena bap 7 Sep 1652
 Hans Joder and Catharina Walli
 Jacob bap 13 Aug 1651

We also find various Joder girls having their babies with husbands from 1626 into the 1640s and 50s. The last of these was Cathe Joder who had a child with Hans Mangoldt by 1665.

I stopped reviewing the Altishofen records on page 110 in 1672, after going several decades finding no more records with male Joders- perhaps indicating the family had moved by that time with only the last listed daughter showing up as mother of newly baptized children. There were a number of major plagues in Switzerland during the 1600s, and migrations after the end of the 30 Years War in 1648, so it is possible families died out or moved elsewhere.

Between the 1650s and the early 1800s, of records we sampled in neighboring towns, we found some individual Joder records, but none we could tie with any certainty to the families in Altishofen.

One example: a Martinus Joder, Death or Burial Date, 21 Oct 1655, burial place – Reiden (Reiden is about 2 miles north of Dagmersellen). Also in Reiden we see the marriage of Adam Joder to Barbara Wagner and births of their children - frequent transcription errors on his name make tracing difficult.

Adam Joder m. 8 Jul 1709 to Barbara Wagner at Reiden
 Johannes Baptiste bap 14 Apr 1710
 Barbara bap 22 Mar 1712
 Antonius bap 17 Jan 1714
 Peter bap 9 Sep 1717
 Anna Maria bap 26 Jul 1721
 Maria Verena bap 13 Feb 1724
 Ludovicus bap 12 Dec 1727

Later on 27 Nov 1742 a marriage in Reiden is shown for Johann Joder and Clara Wirtz - Johann died 11 Feb 1757. No children have yet been found for this couple.

Back in the Altishofen church records we find:

Johannes Joder who married Verena Rimer 27 Jan 1783
 Anna Maria bap 11 Aug 1787
 Anna Maria Rosa Elisabeth bap 28 Jun 1789
 Joannes bap 9 May 1791
 Anna Maria Rosa Elisabeth bap 4 Mar 1797
 Josephus bap 11 Aug 1802
 Jacobus bap 11 Aug 1802

In the Dagmersellen, the earliest baptismal and communicant records of the Catholic Church are from 1812 and 1814. The communion of a Joder son Johann is shown in 1715, with the family living in the local hamlet of Zügholz. Joder birth records begin to appear in the records in the 1830s and seem to end before 1880. Some records can be defined as families, for example:

Jacob Joder and Elisabeth Kauffman
 Mauritz Bap 24 Sep 1834
 Anna Maria Bap 24 Jul 1837
 Elisabeth Barbara bap 12 Jan 1839
 Anton bap 24 Feb 1840

Jacob bap 13 Jul 1841
 Joseph bap 3 Oct 1844

The marriage of Jacob's parents was recorded 27 Jan 1783 in the the Parish of Altishofen showing Johann Joder (of Reiden) and Verena Rimer (of Dagmersellen). Jacob was born in 1791 in Altishofen and married in 1827 in Dagmersellen to Elisabeth Kaufmann (her father was from Wauwil, a village beside Dagmersellen). Jacob died at Dagmersellen on Aug 24, 1850, his widow Elisabeth died in 1867 in Dagmersellen (Kreuzberg).

Joseph and Maria Ann (Madlena) Bucher
 He was born 1827, a son of Jacob Joder, d. 1901, & Elisabeth Kauffman, born 1846 to Joseph Bucher & Anna Brumann. d. 1914
 Johann bap 19 Jan 1872
 Anna Bap 13 Oct 1873
 Joseph bap 27 Feb 1875
 (Scanned records end in 1875)

The last female member of this family died about 50 years ago, perhaps the last of the Lucerne Joders- Katharina Kneubühler-Joder b. Oct, 17, 1876 and died Aug. 16, 1963 at Richenthal (now part of Reiden)

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THE DNA ADVENTURE



Simon Wermelinger lives in Geneva, and is head of unit at the Urban-planning-office of the Canton of Geneva. When he wrote to the Newsletter in 2021, he was intrigued by the fact that his 37 marker Family Tree DNA Y-DNA profile showed that his closest matches were to members of the American Yoder family. His grandfather was born and grew up in Triengen (Canton Lucerne)

near to Dagmersellen. He does not know the surname of his grandfather's father, but he was local to that area. At 37 markers his closest matches are 2 or 3 steps away from members of various American Yoder lines.

Simon speculated that his grandfather's unknown father might have been a Joder or descent from a male Joder, and he started looking for Joders in the region his father was born. He wanted one who might agree to a DNA Test to help solve the mystery. He located three Joders currently living in the Canton. Two have Steffisberg roots and the other from the neighboring Bernese town of Muri. The best he could do was to find a lady who is the granddaughter of a female Lucerne Joder. After consulting about the benefit of further Y testing with DNA expert Darvin Martin, the Newsletter agreed to share the cost of upgrading Simon's test to the "Big Y" (700 marker test). At 67 markers he still is 2, 3 or 4 steps removed from other Yoder testees. At 111 markers his closest matches are still American Yoders as close as 5 steps away. With the BIG Y test (taken by a much smaller population of individuals) the Martin surname is closest to him in matches, and a Steffisburg Joder is fourth in the overall listing.

What does this all mean? We turned once again to Darin Martin, who is our "expert on tap" for his analysis.

"Simon's common ancestor to the rest of the Yoder testers is further back than where the Steffisburg Joder and the Americans Yoders have a common ancestor (Kaspar Joder born 1548). This

JODERS OF LUCERNE- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

does not necessarily mean Simon is or is not a Yoder, but instead he fits earlier in the tree. We don't know exactly when the surname started, and there is some sense that Simon (being from Lucerne) lines up well with the idea first presented by Karl Joder, that the Steffiburg Joders come from Huttwil—which is very near the Bern/Lucerne border.

I-Y7280	19	Y7280, BY47949, FT13462, FT46942, FT6997, FT7988, FT8244, FT8482, Y30735, Y30736, Y7281	12
I-Y7818	17	Y7818, BY46579, Y7819	3
I-Y29666	6	Y29666, FT10865, Y30730, Y30731, Y30732, Y30733, Y30734 Includes, Yoder, Martin, Tomme, Foeller and Wermelinger	7
I-BY166952	1	BY166952, BY167177, BY210935, BY211430, FT443035 Yoder, all branches	5
I-BY166829		BY166829 Yoder (three American Yoder families of Swiss descent)	1
I-FT84192	3	FT84192 common SNP to Martin, Tomme and Foeller family	1
I-BY28636	2	BY28636 common SNP to Martin and Tomme family	1
I-BY28637	1	BY28637 1727 immigrant David Martin (d. 1784) and 1731 immigrant Hans Heinrich Martin (d. 1784)	1
I-BY3097		BY3097, Y44176 David Martin (1785-1839)	2

“The charts currently have a three way split downstream from SNP I-Y29666 between 1) Simon (Wermelinger), 2) all the tested Yoder, Joder families in I-Y29666, and the 3) Martin/Tomme/Foeller block that I descend from. Once this three way split is further resolved we could find that the Martin/Tomme/Foeller lineage splits first and then a generation (or two or three) later Simon's line splits from the rest of the Yoder tree. In fact, the scenario makes the most sense when we see how close Simon matches the American Yoders in regards to the STR values of the 67 marker and 111 marker tests.”

We have not solved Simons' mystery, however are grateful to him for lighting the spark which caused us to dig into these Joder cousins who once lived in Canton Lucerne! Spreadsheets containing some Lucerne Joder records from Family Search can be found at: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/courts.html#anchor2676045> . As a word of warning- transcription errors for the Joder surname make the index less than complete.

YODER PASSINGS:

-Brenda Sue Gaede, 63, of Las Vegas, died Nov, 18, 2015. She was the author of the Oct. 2009 YNL54 article about Noah W. Yoder (YR233315), the g-g-grandfather of her husband Earney.



-Hilda Elizabeth Minton Newsom, 102 1/2, died Oct. 11, 2022. She was the daughter of Clarence Shuford (Painter) and Juanita Victoria (Henson) Minton, of East Ellijay, GA. She was a Conrad Yoder descendant through his son Adam and wife Eleanor “Nelly” (Davis) Yother, and was the beloved mother of Anita Nail, researcher of the Adam line. Anita writes: “She loved attending the Yoder Reunions and meeting her cousins.” During WWII, she was the first woman in

Mississippi to enlist in the WAVES.

-Emil Kreider, 83, Harrisonburg, Va., died Oct. 28, 2021. He was the first child of the late Leonard and Rachel (Weaver) Kreider (co-founder of the Yoder Newsletter, and co-author with Hugh Gingerich of Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies).

-Jay Harold "Sarge" Yoder, 94, longtime professor emeritus of physical education and head coach at Goshen College, died Apr. 14, 2022, surrounded by family. He was the son of Stephen (s/oYR251492) and Esther (Lehman) Yoder. The Goshen College baseball field was named in his honor in a ceremony Oct. 3, 2015.

-Thelma (Yoder) Yoder 98, Dublin GA, died Aug, 5, 2022. She was the daughter of Simon L (YR26119126) and Lydia (Yoder-d/oYR2611973) Yoder.

-Larry Eugene Yoder, 58, Berlin, PA died Nov. 14, 2022. He was the son of Edward F. (s/oYR26119b) and Georgetta (Holly) Yoder.

-Marlene Yoder, 85, Middlebury, IN, died Nov. 29, 2022. She was the daughter of Quentin (YR234166a) Yoder and Edith Yoder YR2337a67) (Yoder).

-Dennis Lee Yoder, 69, of Owensville, MO, died Nov. 7, 2022. He was the son of Frank Jr. (s/o OH134149) and Betty Ann (Brill) Yoder.

-Irvin Yoder Jr., 79, Colon, MI died Oct. 8, 2022. He was the son of Irvin L. (s/o YR1253594) and Rosa (Delegrange) Yoder.

-Richard Esser Yoder, Sr., 99, died Sep. 28, 2022 in Naples, Florida. He was the son of Harry B. (OY434562) and Florence Esser Yoder.

-Richard Eudell Yoder Jr., 74, Toledo, OR died Mar. 16, 2018. He was the son of Richard Eudell Sr (s/o YR2333356) and Willelen Steinhauer Yoder.



The Rev. Dr. Jacob Larry Yoder, 79, of Lincolnton, NC, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at his family home, Shepherd's Hill, after a long illness. Larry was the eldest son of Jacob Ralph and Mary Kathryn Miller Yoder.

-Elmer A. Yoder of Topeka, IN, age 71 died Nov. 23, 2022. He was the son of Abe (YR23443473) and Sarah (Kauffman) Yoder.

-Cora Anna (Yoder) Yoder, 80, died Oct. 7, 2022, d/o Alvin Henry Yoder (YR26119143) and Martha Maust, wife of Marvin J. Yoder (YR26182117), longtime volunteer at the House of Yoder.

-John Mitchel Yoder, 84, Wildwood, IL, died Apr. 9, 2022. He was the son of Donald (s/o YR2336516) and Juanita Yoder.

-Ronald E. Yoder, 82, McVeytown, PA died Oct. 2, 2022. He was the son of Lewis (s/o YR177128) and Dorothy (Fagan) Yoder.

- Sanford Yoder, 91, died Feb, 27, 2022, Santa Rita de Rio, Costa Rica, missionary, son of Benjamin (YR23344321b) and Mary (Nisley) Yoder as well as his son Pablo Yoder, 64, died Oct 22, 2022, Waslala, Nicaragua, missionary.

-Larry Yoder, 86, of Syracuse, IN Died Sep. 1, 2022. He was the son of Ray (YB13788) & Mary (Freed) Yoder.

-Elfriede Yoder, 90, Wilton, CT, died Mar 3, 2022, widow of Carl Yoder (YB13729b12) attended several national Yoder reunions with her husband.

-Melvin A. Yoder, 85 Kalona, IA, died Jan. 8, 2023. He was the son of Amos (s/o YR234432c) & Edna (Yoder) (d/o YR2344275) Yoder.

-Raymond S. Yoder, 89, Davidsville, PA died Jan. 7, 2023. He was the son of Edward (s/o YR234575) and Ethel (Thomas) Yoder.

-Jeff L. Yoder, 82, Plymouth, IN, died Jan 1, 2023. The s/o Newell W. (g/s of YR12532b) & Myrtle M. (Patricia) Hartman Yoder.

-Frederick Porter Yoder, 83, Towson, MD, died Nov. 29, 2022. He was the son of Walter Norman (YR26119154) and Lillian Pearl Porter Yoder.

-Milton Grant Yoder M.D., 77, died Dec. 30, 2022. He was the son of Harold (s/o YA2456) and Dorothy (Grant) Yoder.

OHIO VETS TO RESTORE YODER GRAVE

American Legion Post 494, of Sugarcreek, Ohio, along with the Sugarcreek Twp. Trustees, and the Shanesville Historical Society, are undertaking a project entitled, "Save The Monument"- will straighten the leaning stone and add a Veteran stone to the grave of Civil War veteran Dr. Noah Webster Yoder (YR233315). For more details about his life see: YNL 54.



Clue to Reunion in YNL80 p3
“I see my grandparents, Sanford Calvin Yoder (YR2341861) and his wife Emma (Stutsman) Yoder- Karl Yoder Hostetler