

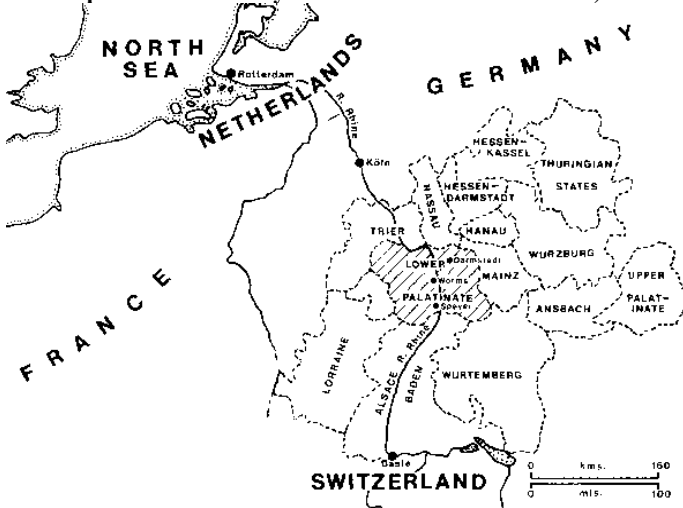


## The Voyages of the Frances and Elizabeth



An Approximate View of the Francis and Elizabeth

In the early days of the Yoder Newsletter, we collected family tree charts from our readers and found that well over 50% of their Yoder ancestors were descendants of the Amish Yoder families arriving in Philadelphia Sept. 21, 1742 on the ship *Francis and Elizabeth* under Capt. George North (in part because of multiple Yoders in many branches of their Amish trees).



The Trip Down The Rhine

They had sailed down the Rhine River to its mouth at Rotterdam, a route taken again and again by the early Palatine immigrants to America. We know our Oley Yoders originated in the village of Schwetzingen, a German town between Mannheim and Heidelberg, up a small stream leading into the Rhine from the east (See YNL5). We believe our Amish Yoder ancestors were perhaps a bit south in the Palatinate/Alsation areas through which the Rhine flows, but details of their residence have yet to be identified. Usually several families from a village or region left together, proceeding by boat down the Rhine, paying tolls at many borders. Pennsylvania German Pioneers edited by William John Hinkle, 1934, writes of this first phase of travel:

"The journey to Pennsylvania fell naturally into three parts. The first part, and by no means the easiest, was the journey down the Rhine to Rotterdam or some other port. Gottlieb Mittelberger in his Journey to Pennsylvania in the year 1750, writes: "This journey lasts from the beginning of May to the end of October, fully half a year, amid such

VOYAGES- CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## The House of Yoder 25 Years and Counting



This year marks 25 years since the opening of the House of Yoder in Garrett County Maryland, and it is a very good time to review the history of this wonderful addition to our family heritage.

### THE BEGINNINGS- contributed by Lowell Bender

It was the summer of 1992. While traveling along U.S. Route 40, several miles west of Grantsville, MD, Jack Dueck's (who was the manager of Penn Alps Restaurant, Spruce Forest Artisan Village Garrett Co, Md) attention was suddenly caught by the sight of an old barn that was being remodeled. Jack, having a special interest in history and the many stories carried with it, began to think, "what if some of those old logs could be salvaged and used for a historical purpose?"

Needless to say, curiosity overtook him and Jack paid a visit to the farm. There he discovered that it was owned by David N. Yoder, of an Amish family. As they visited, Jack noticed an old stone foundation in a field nearby.

Immediately, the conversation turned from discussing "wood" to "stone." When returning to Penn Alps Restaurant, Jack mentioned his finding to Alta Schrock. Alta, founder of Penn Alps, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, had already helped salvage other historical buildings and relocated them to the Village site. Alta was likewise interested in those stones.



Jack Dueck



Alta Schrock

HOY 25- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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, and our Webmaster team of: Leon Yoder and Chad Yoder of Black Anvil Creative, Shipshewana, IN. (all volunteers)

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Over the past 42 years, subscriptions have allowed us to support advertising of national reunions, to provide funding for many of the DNA tests, and to pay for new research into Swiss records. All of our staff members are volunteers.

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**SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:**

-FOR CIRCULATION ISSUES ONLY, such as new or renewed subscriptions, changes of address, orders for back issues to: Yoder Newsletter, P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527-0594, or [ksv1255@protonmail.com](mailto:ksv1255@protonmail.com)

- 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](mailto:cyoder@tds.net)

**YNL PRICE INFORMATION**

-Annual YNL subscription (published Apr. and Oct.) for \$5.  
-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$3 per issue. (or you can download them free - 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder newsletter web site: [www.yodernewsletter.org](http://www.yodernewsletter.org))

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YODER DATA (now on a 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 \$15 (postage included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Much of this info is also available free at the YNL Homepage).

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**YNL Consolidated Volumes**

We have also published the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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".

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Henry Yoder (YR261)  
23 Mar 1756 BP- 18 May 1829  
SP, Old Joel Hershberger Farm Cemetery, Elk Lick Township, Somerset Co., PA

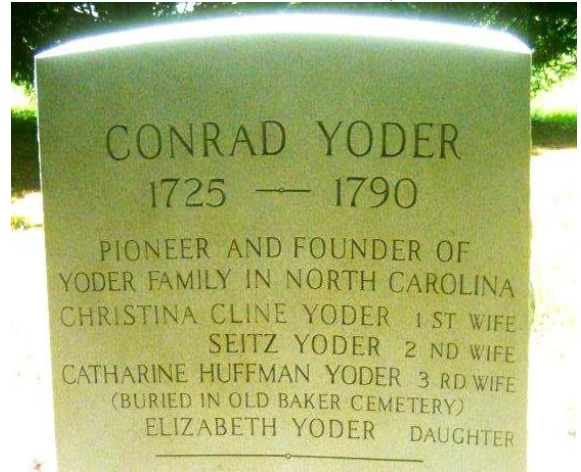
**UPDATED FIND-A-GRAVE COUNTS**

Visit the Find A Grave site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of 15 Aug 2024 the counts for interments were: 23,328 records (an increase of 260 from Feb. 15, 2024) for -Yoder; 558 (+8) - Yother; 377 (+4) - Yothers; 313 (+5) - Yotter; 74 (+0) - Yoter; 321 (+10) - Yoders; 85 (+0) - Ioder; 116 (-4) - Joder; 63 (+3) -

Jotter; 1 (+0) - Joders; 10 (-1) - Youder; 3 (+0) - Youders; 26 (+3) - Youther; 7 (-1) - Youthers; 6 (-1) - Younder.

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**CONRAD YODER 300 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN NC OCTOBER 23-26, 2025**



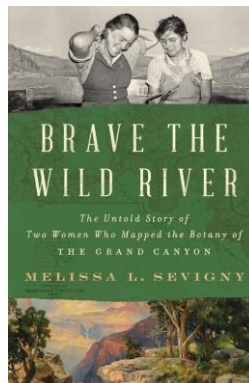
"Come on down and celebrate with us the 300th anniversary of our own Conrad Yoder's birthdate and learn how Dr. Don Yoder discovered the link to all of our Yoder lines from Melchior to Conrad and their move during the 1700s from Steffisburg, Switzerland to America. At the old Courthouse Museum, hear Chris Yoder and other noted genealogists and historians describe the fascinating accounts of how Yoders fought wars, lived and survived with other Europeans and the Catawba and Cherokee Natives. Spend the day on Saturday at Hart Square Village, the nation's largest collection of historic log cabins [www.hartsquare.com](http://www.hartsquare.com). Worship together at our sacred Pennsylvania Deutsch vintage candlelight vespers. Wear your new Yoder shirt(s) as you enjoy our Southern hospitality, cooking, bluegrass music, dancing, storytellin' and visiting other historic sites, beautiful autumn countryside and weather, and the Blue Ridge Mountains along the way. The weekend will be a truly Southern experience, exciting, Yoder informative, and just a great time together, again including some popular things that we did previously in the Nationals and adding some new activities and sites. Come on down, bring your family. Have fun while teaching them our Swiss-American culture and heritage (with a Southern accent)!" - To be added to the reunion mailing list contact President Rachael Kennedy, 704-467-2272, or email: [rachaelkennedv466@gmail.com](mailto:rachaelkennedv466@gmail.com)

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**New Book Published**

In YNL 64 we ran a feature about Lois Jotter Cutter, and her history making 1938 trip as one of the two first women to float down the Grand Canyon. She was the granddaughter of William Bender Jotter (1847-1924) whose father Peter Jotter (1819-1891) immigrated from Germany to Butler Co, OH by 1840, and was naturalized there on 9/13/1848.

The 314 page book may be ordered on AMAZON books and other places on the internet. See our YNL feature



at: (<https://yodernewsletter.org/vnlpdf/YNL64.pdf>)

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## HOY25- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Together, Jack and Alta paid another visit to the Yoder homestead. David was willing to allow these stones to be put to good use. Various possibilities for their use were explored. Would the Yoders in the area be interested in building a Yoder house?

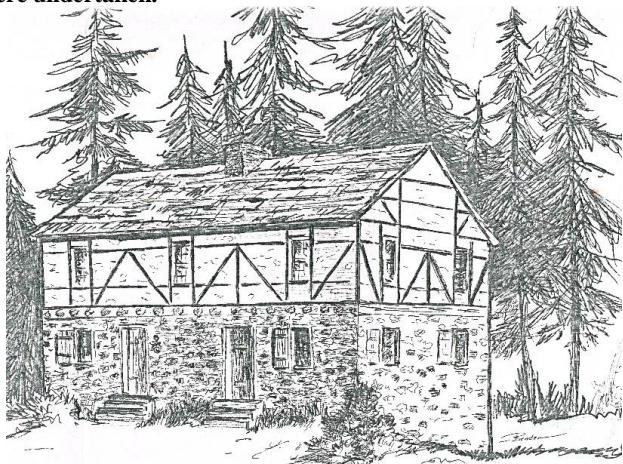
The Amish Yoder's arrive in 1742 and settled in Berks County, PA and later some moved to Somerset County, PA and Garrett County, MD, where, in 1881, Solomon Yoder (YR261191) chose the site on the east slope of Negro Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Grantsville, MD on the Posy Row Road. His homestead faced south, overlooking the beautiful Casselman Valley. After their visit to the old homestead, Jack and Alta decided to see Eva (Yoder) Barton, one of Solomon's granddaughters. After hearing about the idea of the Yoder House, Eva became very excited.

From there, the plan was shared with several other Yoder's who likewise were very enthusiastic. It was decided that the idea should be tested among a larger group of Yoder's. The perfect time and place was at the annual gathering of the Casselman Valley Historians, which would be held at the Maple Glen Church, Grantsville, MD on September 4 and 5, 1992.

Coincidentally, the focus for the weekend was on the history of the Yoder's. Following the first session, an announcement was made for all interested persons to meet the following morning to discuss this new idea of a Yoder House. The next morning, 35 individuals showed up for a time of discussion and brain storming. Interest in the building was strong.

Lowell Bender served as Chairman, Alta Schrock secretary. The group agreed to establish a working committee consisting of Jack Dueck, Alta Schrock, Lowell Bender, Kenneth Yoder and Esther Yoder. On April 27, 1993, a steering committee met with Doris Ours, Phyllis Weaver, Charles (Bud) Yoder, Henry Yoder, Esther Yoder and Lowell Bender in attendance to continue discussions on the next steps.

December, 1993 found the design team, which consisted of Kenneth Yoder, chair, Doris Ours, Phyllis Weaver, Gerald Yoder, and Henry Yoder, visiting several Yoder houses in the Reading, PA area. This committee proposed that a pre-1750 composite of Early American and European design house be built and steps to finalize a design, acquire materials and needed funds were undertaken.



**PROPOSED YODER HOUSE**

Within less than two years, they were ready to begin building and a ground breaking ceremony was held October 21, 1995. A sizeable crowd from several states assembled for this event on a chilly October day. The opening ceremony was moderated by Lowell Bender, with remarks by Jack Dueck and Kenneth Yoder. Pastor Johnny Crist, a 12<sup>th</sup> generation Yoder, gave the ground breaking message. Singing was led by Doris Ours.



Ray Yount, Carl Yoders, Doris Ours share the shovel while Kenneth L. Yoder "supervises"

This was followed by the actual ground breaking, in which representative of three different Yoder families jointly performed the honors: Ray Yount from the Conrad Yoder line of NC: Carl Yoders of "the Yoders" family of SW PA (YNL24), and Doris Ours of the Amish line which settled in the Somerset County, PA-Grantsville, MD area (YR261 Line). They used a "rutted spade" made for the occasion by 10<sup>th</sup> generation Yoder descendent, Dwight Yoder, son of Ruth and Kenneth Yoder.

The First Annual Meeting of The House of Yoder (HOY) was held November 16, 1996 in the Great Room at Penn Alps Restaurant, Grantsville, MD. Twenty seven people attended the meeting. Various reports were given. A tour of the house site was given. The original executive committee consisted of the following: Lowell Bender, Doris Ours, Edgar Yoder, Harvey L. Yoder, Paul H. Yoder, Phyllis Weaver, Gerald Yoder and Kenneth Yoder. Election of officers resulted in: Doris Ours, President; Harvey L. Yoder, Vice President; Treasurer, Edgar Yoder; Secretary, Paul H. Yoder. Lowell Bender became Vice President when Harvey Yoder relocated to Missouri. Doris Ours held the position of President of the Board for 19 years (1996-2015), when she asked to be replaced due to health concerns.

### THE PROJECT GOES FORWARD

Over the next decade, the Yoder Newsletter routinely included reports from the annual meetings of the House of Yoder which tracked the progress of fund raising and the building completion.



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

Fund raising and detail work began in earnest. When the North Carolina Yoders hosted a National Yoder reunion in 1995, a delegation from the HOY was in attendance to tell of their efforts. Gerald Yoder, a retired U.S. Postal employee and cattle dealer announced a donation of \$1,000 to the Yoder House Project. Kenneth Yoder, Esther Yoder and Gerald A. Yoder

HOY25- CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## VOYAGES- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hardships as no one is able to describe adequately with their misery. The cause is because the Rhine boats from Heilbronn to Holland have to pass by 26 custom houses, at all of which the ships are examined, which is done when it suits the convenience of the customhouse officials. In the meantime the ships with the people are detained long, so that the passengers have to spend much money. The trip down the Rhine lasts therefore four, five and even six weeks. When the ships come to Holland, they are detained there likewise five to six weeks. Because things are very dear there, the poor people have to spend nearly all they have during that time."



ROTTERDAM IN THE 1700s

At the mouth of the river in Rotterdam, they would contract with a ship's captain to sail them to the New World.



Castle at Deal- Constructed about 1560 by Henry VIII

Our 1742 Yoder immigrant families sailed from Rotterdam, stopping in Deal, England before continuing their journey under Captain George North. Deal was an English customs and tax station between Dover and Ramsgate on the southeast corner of England. (Cowes on the Isle of Wight was a much more favored stopping place for boats from Rotterdam, one of several other options). This stop is described in [Pennsylvania German Pioneers](#) as follows:

"In England there was another delay of one to two weeks, when the ships were waiting either to be passed through the custom house or waiting for favorable winds. When the ships had for the last time weighed their anchors at Cowes or some other port in England, then, writes Mittelberger, "the real misery begins with the long voyage. For from there the ships, unless they have good wind, must often sail eight, nine, ten to twelve weeks before they reach Philadelphia. But even with the best wind the voyage lasts seven weeks."

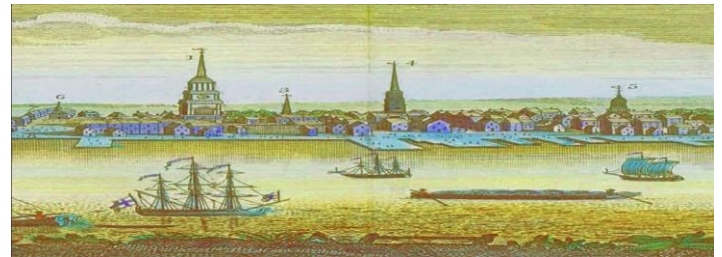
The long journey across the Atlantic was a tremendous challenge, and Mittelberger, who took that trip in 1750 as passenger aboard the Dutch vessel *Osgood*, is quoted (again from [PA German Pioneers](#)):

"The third stage of the journey, or the ocean voyage proper, was marked by much suffering and hardship. The passengers being packed densely, like herrings, as Mittelberger describes it, without proper food and water, were soon subject to all sorts of diseases, such as dysentery,

scurvy, typhoid and smallpox. Children were the first to be attacked and died in large numbers. Mittelberger reports the deaths of thirty-two children on his ship. Of the heartless cruelty practiced he gives the following example: "One day, just as we had a heavy gale, a woman in our ship, who was to give birth and could not under the circumstances of the storm, was pushed through the porthole and dropped into the sea, because she was far in the rear of the ship and could not be brought forward."

"The terrors of disease, brought about to a large extent by poor food and lack of good drinking water, were much aggravated by frequent storms through which ships and passengers had to pass." The misery reaches the climax when a gale rages for two or three nights and days, so that everyone believes that the ship will go to the bottom with all human beings on board. In such a visitation the people cry and pray most piteously. When in such a gale the sea rages and surges, so that the waves rise often like mountains one above the other, and often tumble over the ship, so that one fears to go down with the ship; when the ship is constantly tossed from side to side by the storm and waves, so that no one can either walk, or sit, or lie, and the closely packed people in the berths are thereby tumbled over each other, both the sick and the well—it will be readily understood that many of these people, none of whom had been prepared for hardships, suffer so terribly from them that they do not survive."

The two Yoder families arriving in Philadelphia in 1742 were those of the "Widow Barbara" ("whose husband died at sea" (YR1) and Christian Yotter (YR2). You may be as surprised as I am to learn that in 1740 the city reportedly had a population of 10,117, only slightly more than present day Sedona, AZ.

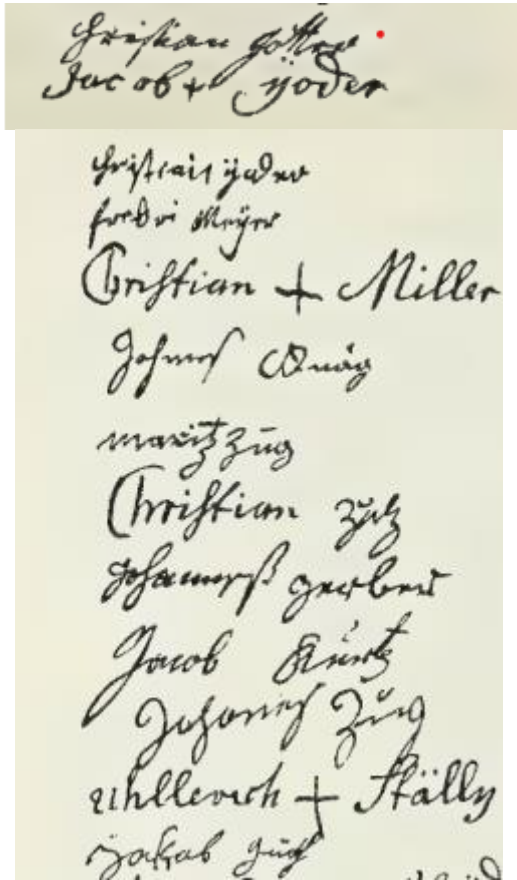


Philadelphia

When they reached Philadelphia, another delay might occur. A health officer visited the ship and, if any persons with infectious diseases were discovered, it was ordered to remove one mile from the city, until the passengers were cleared to debark.

In his amazingly researched, detailed and documented book, [Unser Liet- The Story of the Amish](#), now 94 year old Amish historian Leroy Beachy, cites a 1742 letter written by Mennonite Bishop Hans Burghalter to the Dutch Relief Committee (formed to support Swiss Anabaptists), in which he reported that he had received word from an Amish minister that a number of their congregation were preparing to leave for "Pencelfania". Beachy writes: "Hans had enquired whether they had the money and they said they had, and besides 'they had letters from Holland which told them to come and they would see that they landed safely'". This almost certainly referred to the group on the *Francis and Elizabeth*. Whether they all were a part of the same congregation is not known, but they were certainly "prepared" and organized as a group, and that is supported by not only the fact that they signed their names in sequence on the landing list at Philadelphia, but also that many settled in the same area in Berks County, Pa., about 75 miles to the northwest of the city. They established the Northkill Amish congregation, the first known in America. There they joined Melchior Detweiler and Hans Seiber who had settled in the area in 1736 after the "The Northkill Creek watershed" was first opened for settlement.

October 25, 1934, written by Clive S. Bean, sixth generation of Canadian Beans (Waterloo Township, Ontario, Canada):



Signatures of Amish passengers -the Oath of Abjuration

All in sequence at the Philadelphia courthouse  
by male passengers 16 years of age or older.

(Christian Jotter, Jacob (x) Yoder, Christian Yoder, Fredri (K) Meyer, Christian (+) Miller, Johannes Gnäegi, Moritz Zug, Christian Zug, Johannes Gerber, Jacob Kurtz, Johannes Zug, Uhlerich Stähli, Jacob Guth)

At the August 2023 Hochstetler reunion, held in in Arthur, IL, keynote speaker John Sharp, of Hesston College, spoke about the challenges (and sometime horrors) of an Atlantic crossing for the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century immigrants from the Palatinate.

He cited a Mennonite Family History article of Jan. 2019 by Ervin Beck which gathered together reports of Atlantic crossings by a number of Amish Mennonite families. Sharp tied one of these, a reputed 1742 crossing by Mennonite John Biehn (John Bean) to the *Francis and Elizabeth's* September arrival. The article says of it:

“On John Bean’s passage in 1742, “suspicion grew that the issuing of short rations was not because of low supplies, but just a diabolical method of undermining the vitality of those peace-loving emigrants in order to secure their possessions when they ultimately succumbed to starvation and disease—that the captain could land them in short time if he so desired, but was deliberately keeping the vessel at sea. On the 82nd day, the passengers captured the crew and captain, to find plenty of provisions. They told the captain to land the ship in 48 hours or die. He landed 24 hours later, and the passengers were so happy they forgave the captain.”

This information was taken from the book by Donald M. Biehn titled Bean Family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and Ontario, Canada, 1700-1986, 1987. In looking at the source reference it becomes much less certain that the depiction is of the same journey shared by our Amish Yoders. Pages 32-33 of the Bean Book quote an article published in *The Waterloo Chronical*,

“The curtain rises on the Bean history in the year 1700, when in a canton in Switzerland between Zurich and Berne, the first John Bean, of whom we have record, was born. As is the way of the world he grew up, married, and begot children and in the year 1742 when his son John was five years old, decided to seek his fortune and freedom in America.

“Accompanied by friends and relatives, he engaged passage on a vessel that sailed from a French port. This voyage to the new world was so eventful that the adventures encountered therein might well have been taken from the stirring tales of Robert Louis Stevenson. A voyage with a climax so dramatic and savoring so strongly of barbarity and piracy on the high seas that it could well be classed with the truth that is stranger than fiction. This adventure was given little publicity in the early days for the simple reason that the tenets of the religious beliefs of the earlier Beans frowned on the use of force even in a Just cause.

“In the year 1742 the Beans, with a number of compatriots, set sail for America. They secured passage on a vessel that was leaving from a port in the Bay of Biscay. Who owned the vessel, of what nationality were the captain and crew, the compiler of this narrative could not ascertain. In the light of what happened on the voyage one cannot conceivably imagine that they were British. When they were at sea two months (a crack liner now makes the trip in less than a week) things began to go wrong. The passengers were informed by the captain that the food supply was running low and it was imperative that they be put on short rations. Shortly after this, disease broke out and many passengers sickened and died. Still, there was nothing unusual in this but just the fortune of the sea and what one might expect. But there were certain other things that were out of the ordinary. No sooner were the unfortunate victims of disease consigned to the ocean than any possessions they had aboard were confiscated by the ship’s officials. Suspicion grew among the passengers that they were the victims of a nefarious plot - that the issuing of short rations was not because of low supplies but just a diabolical method of undermining the vitality of these peace-loving emigrants in order to secure their possessions when they ultimately succumbed to starvation and disease - that the captain could land them in a short time if he so desired, but was deliberately keeping the vessel at sea. Then, on the eighty-second day at sea, the drama opened in earnest. By one bold stroke the passengers seized the captain and crew and took possession of the ship. They made an investigation and their worst suspicions were confirmed - there was plenty of food on board ship. An ultimatum was then issued to the captain - forty-eight hours to land the passengers or pay the penalty of death. The captain, while a scoundrel, was no fool. He read in the faces of the aroused people an inexorable purpose. Their lives and the lives of their children jeopardized by his villainy, they had reached a point where they would do exactly as they had stated. Had this captain been hundreds of miles at sea, he certainly would have been in a tough "spot". But fortunately for himself, he was not. Under his direction the helm was turned and in one-half the time stipulated the passengers were landed on a point on the eastern coast of America. Overjoyed at their deliverance, they knelt and offered up a prayer of thanksgiving, and reverting to their former habit of thought, forgave the captain and crew, permitting them to sail away without inflicting well-deserved punishment.”

VOYAGES-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

VOYAGES- CONYINUED FROM PAGE 5

A stirring story, but it does not name the ship, and while the Bean book DOES say in two places that John Biehn arrived in 1742, it also conflictingly says that he arrived in 1739. There ARE two Bohne's on the Sept 21, 1742 *Francis & Elizabeth* (apparently a Boone family that settled in Maryland), but there is no Biehn or Bean in the ship list of adult males. Also, our ship sailed from Rotterdam, not the "Bay of Biscay" "A French Port."

Looking at ships in 1739, however, there IS a John Biehn on the arrival list for the ship *Robert and Alice*, Sept. 3, 1739, also sailing (as most Palatinate ships did) from Rotterdam.

So perhaps the specific story in the Mennonite Family History article does NOT relate to our *Francis and Elizabeth* after all, but it does make us wonder about that ship and the reputation it may have earned.

The as yet unpublished 1743 Diary of David Schultze (whose later diaries were so revealing about several Yoder lines (see YNL16) contains an entry about the arrival of the *Francis and Elizabeth* again in Philadelphia almost one year after our 1742 journey:

Schultz 1743 diary "August 25- Captain Noarth {North} arrived with 400 Swiss, of them 150 died and daily many are still dying, and after that a ship with Irish, and one with Palatines. After that Captain Cowie {Cowe} arrived with 300 Germans in good health of which few had died."

The same Captain and the same boat a year later than ours, and certainly this one WAS a trip from hell!

Another reference from six years later in Amish Mennonites in Tazewell County, by Joseph Peter Staker (part 5 of 5, page 177 note 159) (available at the <https://tcghs.org/> web site) cites the conditions on the Francis and Elizabeth being responsible for a new public health regulation for arriving ships of immigrants:

"The *Francis and Elizabeth* was well known for overcrowding. A few years later one incident made it infamous. The minutes of a council meeting at Philadelphia Sept. 11, 1749: "The Governor having order'd Doctor Groeme and Doctor Thomas Bond to visit the Ship Francis and Elizabeth, arriv'd in the Cove below the City with Palatines on board from Rotterdam, and they having reported that she was an unhealthy Vessel, several of the Passengers labouring under an eruptive fever which they were of opinion was infectious." Another ship, the Rachel, arrived at the same time with more diseased passengers. This was more than the 'pest house' could accommodate. "It appear'd on examination that the Place was in great Disorder, and that for want of room, Household Furniture, and suitable Apartments, the Sick cou'd be but indifferently taken care of...where-upon the Captain of the Ship Francis and Elizabeth was serv'd with an order from the Governor to remove his Vessel to the Mouth of Schuykill, as near to the Pest House as he could conveniently lye, to send there all the sick and keep the well on board, and not to suffer any Persons to go near them except the Doctor, Necessary Nurses, and Servants." On Jan. 27, 1750 an act was passed that set space and provisions requirements on passenger vessels docking at the port."

It is widely written of these Atlantic crossings that children were the first to die on such journeys. We know that "Widow Barbara" became a widow on the crossing by the loss of her husband (whose name many speculate, but for whom we have no evidence)...and yet in the two Yoder families, we have many children known to have arrived safely, with a birth interval seeming to match that normal to a nursing mother. Only the Father died? Luck, or not as bad as the 1743 crossing?



Burial at Sea- With Permission Leroy Beachy, Unser Leit

Family groups from Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies

- YR1- \_\_\_\_\_ Yoder d. 1742 "at sea" m. Barbara \_\_\_\_\_.
- YR11- Catherine b c1720 Europe m Isaac Kauffman d <1790
- +YR12- Christian b c1722 Europe
- YR13- Magdalena b c1724 Europe (m?1 Christian Fisher m2 (John?).... Miller)
- +YR14- Jacob....b c1726 Europe
- YR15- Anna.... b c1728 Europe..m Samuel King
- +YR16- Michael.. b c1730 Europe
- +YR17- John.... b c1732 Europe
- YR18- Barbara.. b c1734 Europe w2 of John Shirk no issue .... d 1793 Lancaster Co, PA
- YR19- Veronica..b c1736 Europe..m John Hertzler.....d 1806 Mifflin Co., PA
- YR2- Christian Yoder m. \_\_\_\_\_d Nov 1775 Berks County, PA
- YR21- Barbara b 1725 Europe (m ?? Stephen Kauffman)
- YR22- Magdalena b 1726 Europe (m ? John Gnaegi)
- +YR23- Christian b Oct. 1728 Europe
- YR24- Elizabeth b 1729 Europe (m ? Christian Beiler d. 9/1/1771 Lancaster Co, PA)
- +YR25- John b 1732 Europe
- +YR26- Yost b 1734 Europe
- YR27- Veronica b 1738 Europe
- YR28- Jacob b 1740 Europe

While we do not know HOW BAD the 1742 crossing was, other than that we lost one of two Yoder family patriarchs, we do know that the *Francis and Elizabeth* and its Captain earned a poor reputation, and that an 18<sup>th</sup> century Atlantic crossing was no picnic!

Although this article has focused in on the 1742 voyage of Amish forebears "Widow Barbara" (wYR1) and Christian Yoder (YR2), the same basic route, process and challenges would have applied to the Oley Yoders in 1709, to "Hans of Great Swamp" in 1717, and to the post 1742 journeys of Conrad, Melchior, and Andrew Yoder as well.

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accepted the contribution on behalf of the Yoder House.

Kenneth L. Yoder (YR261191434) was the supervisor over the actual construction, being personally involved in much of the work. Construction was a long process, including wood and stones harvested from a number of Yoder structures. Some photos showing the construction of the House of Yoder have been placed as an album on the Yoder Newsletter FACEBOOK page.



Building Supervisor Kenneth L. Yoder Measures the Footer

The house was opened for visitors with its first "official" tour on July 10, 1999 followed on the 19<sup>th</sup> when over 400 people went through during the Jul 19, 1999 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer Festival and Quilt Show of Grantsville, MD. At their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Nov. 8, 2003 they announced a web site of its own: [www.houseofyoder.org](http://www.houseofyoder.org) AND plans to host a National Yoder Reunion in 2006!

**A NATIONAL YODER REUNION IS HELD**

The National Reunion held Oct. 19-22, 2006 served to formally dedicate the House of Yoder. Melchior Yoder line coordinator Donald Honeywell reported on the varied activities that took place during the 4 day event in YNL 49 (Apr 2007). About 200 attended coming from New York City to California, London, Ontario, Canada to Florida, and most parts in between. Friday morning (Oct. 20) was cold and wet. The morning program was held in a large tent near the Yoder House. Lowell Bender and Kenneth Yoder conducted the dedication service:

*"Today, we, the generations that follow, give thanks to you, O God, for your sustaining grace and providence, in ways beyond our understanding. In this moment of dedication, The Yoder House declares your faithfulness, and your goodness through generations past, and to generations yet to come. Now we stand together, with thanksgiving, as we dedicate The Yoder House to you, Oh God, to your service, and your Glory, Amen."*

The program ended with the singing of the Lord's Prayer.

**THE HOY HOSTS WELCOME GUESTS**

Since 1999, the House of Yoder has been open for visitors each year from Memorial Day to mid-October, with a holiday celebration at Christmas time. Over 43,000 have signed the guest book since 2013 when they began keeping track of their visitors. Guests have been welcomed by resident hosts (staying in the basement apartment designed for their convenience). A total of 97 people have served as hosts over the years (30 couples=60; 29 single hosts; 3 families) (staying an average of a week at a time).



Mayla Yoder (pictured at left), HOY Secretary and long-time HOY newsletter editor, is also their Membership Coordinator. She has provided much of the information and pictures for this 25 year history of the HOY!

**HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT HOY!** The HOY is a nonprofit (5013c) organization. They operate strictly on donations. When the HOY runs short of funds, some board members will contribute in order to keep "the lights on". Expenses have been about \$7,000.00 a year (insurance, maintenance, etc) as long as they don't have any major repairs. Board members do a lot of the cleaning and maintenance in order to cut down on expenses. Donations may be sent to: The House of Yoder, Heidi Yoder, Treasurer, c/o 202 East Alder Street, Oakland, MD, 21550. The HOY also has a trust fund that donations can be made to. The principle can't be used, but the interest can be used for operating expenses.

Hosting: Mayla writes "Our hosts come from many different places in the US. This year, all weeks, except one, have been filled. Board members fill in as day hosts. The HOY invites anyone to volunteer (you don't have to be a Yoder, or know a Yoder) that enjoys meeting new people. Hosts are given an orientation before hosting." To learn more about becoming a host for The House of Yoder, contact Mayla H. Yoder, host coordinator House of Yoder, 814-267-3383 or 1210 Main Street Apt. 1 Berlin, PA 15530.

You can also support by becoming an annual member and get their semi-annual newsletter!

|            | 1 Year  | 5 Years  | Lifetime   |
|------------|---------|----------|------------|
| Individual | \$25.00 | \$100.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Couple     | \$35.00 | \$150.00 | \$1,500.00 |

The House of Yoder Member ship: Make check payable to "The House of Yoder" and mail to Mayla H. Yoder 1210 Main Street. Apt. 1 Berlin, PA 15530

Everyone is welcome to visit The House of Yoder. They are located on 10411 National Pike, Grantsville, MD. Visit them also on the web at: [www.houseofyoder.org](http://www.houseofyoder.org)

**THE YODER NEWSLETTER AND THE HOUSE OF YODER**

In March of 1992, Kenneth L. Yoder, then Secretary Treasurer of the Casselman River Amish and Mennonite Historians, sent a letter to YNL Co-founder Ben Yoder in Goshen, spelling out their plans to make the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Amish Yoders arriving in America the focus of their September annual meeting and asking for help in publicizing the event. Ben passed away on May 15 of that year, but the Newsletter did help spread the word. Speakers at the Casselman's September Meeting included YNL Co-founder Rachel Kreider and Circulation Manager John W. Yoder. An eight person delegation came from the North Carolina Yoders with Ted Yoder and Hubert Yoder both speaking.



Courtesy of the Oakland Republican

YNL's Rachel Kreider Speaks at Casselmans Event  
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HOY25-CONTUNUED FROM PAGE 7

The next spring, as the House of Yoder was getting ready to launch its fund raising efforts, the YNL provided a full set of subscriber mailing addresses for HOY use in its initial promotions.



Esther E. Yoder, who was then the General Manager of Spruce Forest Artisan Village, became our point of contact on the project and provided on-going status reports. Over the next decade, the YNL featured regular reports from the House of Yoder Annual meetings. We also made several donations of cash and loaned memorabilia for display to include a life-sized portrait of Cong S.S. Yoder (1841-1921) (YR233317) (see YNL8) and a fiddle once owned by Joseph Joder (YR12a4) (1797-1887) (see YNL46).

By April of 1997, Esther and her husband Henry had moved to the Greencroft retirement community in Goshen, IN and she quickly signed on as the "Mail Manager" for the Yoder Newsletter- what a great gift from the HOY to the YNL! She held this position for the next 17 years, until retiring and passing the role on to Kenneth W. Yoder. YNL Mailings helped publicize and generate the turnout for the 2006 National Reunion and other posts have encouraged folks to take turns as docents, welcoming HOY visitors.

YODER PASSINGS:



-Edwin Milton Yoder Jr., 89, died Nov 30, 2023 in Chapel Hill, NC after a brief illness. He was the son of Edwin Moses (Con14158) and Myrtice (Logue) Yoder. A Pulitzer prize winning author and columnist, Mr. Yoder was a featured speaker at the 2012 National Yoder Reunion and his article about "Growing Up A Yoder" appeared in YNL61. <https://vodernewsletter.org/vnlpdf/YNL61.pdf>

-Kenneth Leo Yoder, 89, of Grantsville, MD, died Apr 15, 2024, a few days short of his 90th birthday. He was the son of the late Alvin H. (YR26119143) and Martha N. (Maust) Yoder. A leader in the creation and building of the House of Yoder in Penn Alps Artisan Village.



-Charles H. Yoder, 94, of Telford, PA, passed away on Feb. 3, 2024 at Seville, PA. He was the son of Paul F. Yoder (YB24511a) and Katie (Hunsicker) Yoder.

-Dan D. Yoder, Jr. "Dave Danny" 85, Fredericksburg, OH died Jan. 19, 2024. He was the son of Dan D. (s/o YR2512232) and Susan (Wengerd) Yoder.

-Donald L. "Sonny" Yoder, age 93, of Mt. Olivet, WV, passed away Sunday, January 28, 2024, at home. He was born on April 22, 1930 in Wheeling, WV to Charles (s/o M2651) and Edith Norman Yoder.

-Gilbert Russel Yoder, 91, died Jan. 27, 2024. He was born in Coal Township, PA Oct. 10, 1932, a son of the late Russell (s/o BS61) and Anna (Tarcheski) Yoder. Gil was a lifelong resident of Coal Township.

-Virginia Sue "Jen" (Yoder) Riley, 75, Goodland, died, Jan. 31, 2024, in West Lafayette, IN. She was the daughter of Albert (s/o YR1253545) and Lillian (Kissinger) Yoder.

-Carolyn Frances Yoder, 84 of Goshen, IN (YB13781213), died February 26, 2024. She was the daughter of Dale and Gladys (Buzzard) Yoder and widow of Glenn Yoder (s/o (YR2341242).



-Charles Christian Yoder, 76, Baltimore, OH died Mar 17, 2022. YNL Subscriber number 48, and thereafter a loyal newsletter supporter for more than 40 years, "Chris" served in Army intelligence in Vietnam and was the top policy advisor to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi during the George W. Bush administration.



-Kirby Douglas Yoder (YR2337a2412), 87, Charleston, SC, died May 18, 2024. Son of Otho B Yoder and Millicent Bitters Yoder. Beloved brother of YNL Editor Chris Yoder. Kirby pictured at the 2017 National Reunion wearing a golf shirt from an earlier North Carolina National Reunion.

-Julius "Jules" Yoder, 94, Ankeny, IA, died Apr 19, 2024. Son of Julius H. (Con14124) and Barbara (Rudisill) Yoder.

-John L. Yoder, 98, Johnson Co, Mo died Mr. 31, 2024. Son of Clarence Edwin (YRB6b43) and Eva (Parrott) Yoder.

-Edward Enoch Yoder, 85, Hickory, NC, died July 3, 2024. He was the son of Ralph Enoch (s/o Con1319) and Ethel Elizabeth Barger Yoder.

-John Allen Hahn, 71, Lancaster, SC, died Mar. 15, 2024, son of Rev. Clement and Harriett (Yoder- Con14161) Hahn. Brother of Yoder family of NC President Rachael Kennedy Hahn.

-Jerry N. Yoder, 90, Kalona, IA, died Jun. 21, 2024. He was the son of Noah A. (s/o YR2611653) and Fannie (Otto) Yoder.

-Kenneth Joseph Yoder, 94, Plain City, OH, died Aug. 3, 2024. He was the son of Milo (YR1462575) and Amy (Roth) Yoder.

-Orlis W. Yoder, 72 of Mendon, MI, died Aug. 6, 2024. Orlis was the son of Virgil (s/oYR2611666) and Magdalena (Hochstetler) Yoder.

-P. Sanford Yoder 62, of Benton, OH, died July 13, 2024. He was the son of Kore E. (s/o YR257182) and Emma Ruth (Speicher) Yoder.

-Ammon J. Yoder, 86, Dover, DE, died July 23, 2024. He was the son of Jonas (s/o YR2611975) and Mattie (King) Yoder.

-Verton Yoder, 78, Mishawaka, IN, died June 4, 2024. Verton was the son of Katy and Ray Yoder in Kalona, Iowa.

-Albert Ray Yoder, age 93 of Bourbon, IN, died July 8, 2024. He was born in Sugar Creek, OH to William (YR1253ce2) and Susan (Pfister) Yoder.



-John Murray, 91, Hesston, KS, died Aug 16, 2024 (on St. Joder's Day). He was the 12th of 14 children born to Elmer F. and Lydia (Hooley) Murray. Murray was a retired Mennonite pastor and overseer and public high school teacher. His interest in genealogy began in 1969 when asked by the Hooley Reunion to write a history of his Grandfather

Joseph Y. Hooley. He has written articles for the Gospel Herald, the Mennonite and genealogical publications, including one which appeared in YNL71 entitled YOST YODER (YRB), THE MYSTERY MAN. A few of his articles, sermons, and book reviews are available on his website: <<http://johnmurraymusings>.  
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CAPT JACOB YODER HOUSE GETS PUBLIC WATER ACCESS!

From a spring, to a cistern, to a well, and now public water! Utilities upgrade at Spencer Co, KY Homestead of Rev War Vet Capt Jacob Yoder (See YNL 72).

<https://vodernewsletter.org/vnlpdf/YNL72.pdf>