



# YODER NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NUMBER 63

P.O. BOX 594, GOSHEN, IN 46527

APRIL 2014

## CHARLES THOMAS YODER FAMILY

Adapted from the compilation by Eley D. Brooks



Charles Thomas Yoder (1815-1851)

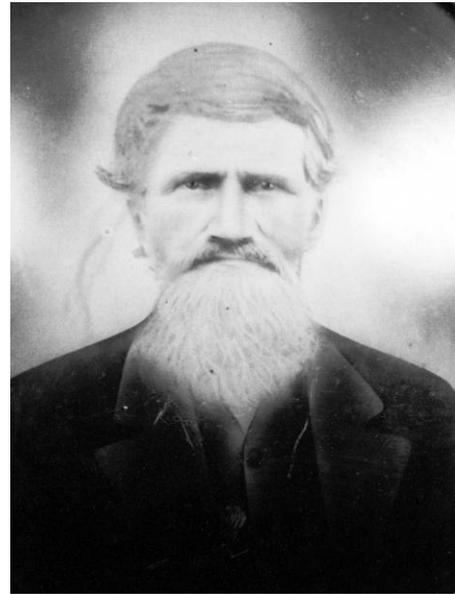
(Editor's Note: In YNL 18 we featured Major Charles T. Yoder, the highest ranking Yoder in the Civil War, and a collector of Yoder family history in the early 1890s. At that time, we did not know the details of his ancestry but now we do. Thanks to Eley Brooks, granddaughter of Major Yoder's brother Lorenzo, we present here the interesting story of the lineage of this family and of Lorenzo's varied business and philanthropic career. We still don't know what became of Major Yoder's Yoder files. Hope we will someday.)

Yost Yoder (OY), the immigrant, is remembered in Pennsylvania legend as a mighty hunter and trapper. He is said to have made hunting excursions in and beyond the Blue Mountains of the Alleghenies in what was then Indian country - and is now Schuylkill County. Friendly Indians still lived in the Oley Valley when the first families arrived. Several of the second-generation Yoders learned and could speak Delaware language. Yost Yoder made his will 29 May 1741 and, since he could not write, made his mark. The will is on record in the Philadelphia Archives. Yost Yoder and his descendants were of the Reformed persuasion. In generational order, they were: Yost Yoder, 1679-1741; Jacob Yoder, 1735-1803; Peter Yoder, 1769-1817; Daniel Yoder, 1789-1871; Charles Thomas Yoder, 1815-1851;

Charles Thomas Yoder (OY4241) was born in Schuylkill County, PA, the eldest of four brothers and three sisters. He was trained as a watchmaker and engraver and, with patience and persistence, he established a reputation for highly skilled work. About 1830, wishing to start his own business in a new location, he left Schuylkill County, crossing the Allegheny Mountains by wagon-the trip taking about a week - and settled in the growing city of Pittsburgh at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. Here he was married to Ann Elizabeth Kennedy in 1842 by the Reverend Mr. Brown in the Smithfield Street Methodist Church.

CHARLES T. YODER- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## DNA LINKS GEORGIA YEARTYS



William Yearty (c1805-1875)

William Yearty was born in Georgia 1805-7, and moved to Florida. He married Caroline Oglesby in 1836. In 1850 they lived in Hamilton Co, FL and by 1860 were in Levy Co, FL where he lived until his death Jan. 4, 1874. Both he and his wife are buried in the Shiloh Cemetery at Cedar Key. William's g-g-grandson William Samuel Yearty II of Gulf Hammock, FL joined the Yoder DNA test group and has recently received the result of his 25 marker Y chromosome DNA test.

The result is a close match to the descendants of Peter Yorty who was in PA by 1717, and Jacob Yotty, son of Christian Yotty (1808 Germany- 1880 Woodford Co, IL) and Catherine Stalter. At 25 markers, Samuel is one marker off from the Jacob Yotty line and two off from that of Peter Yorty.

Marker	DYS393	DYS390	DYS19*	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DYS389I	DYS392	DYS389II
Yearty of Georgia	14	23	15	10	15-15	11	13	11	13	12	31
Peter Yorty of 1717 PA	14	23	15	10	15-15	11	13	11	13	12	30
Christian Yotty-Jacob	14	23	15	10	15-15	11	13	11	13	12	30

Marker	DYS458	DYS459	DYS455	DYS454	DYS447	DYS437	DYS448	DYS449	DYS464
Yearty of Georgia	16	8-10	11	11	24	14	20	27	11-14-14-15
Peter Yorty of 1717 PA	17	8-10	11	11	24	14	20	27	11-14-14-15
Christian Yotty-Jacob	16	8-10	11	11	24	14	20	27	11-14-14-15

YEARTY CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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## Old Thessalonica Baptist Church

By Michael Billy Huffman

The Thessalonica Baptist Church (Newton, Catawba Co., NC) was organized in 1827, an "arm" of the Mt. Ruhama Baptist Church. There were a total of 10 members in 1830. Meetings were held in homes, under trees and in buildings until 1860. Then Mathew McCaslin and Henry Rhodes gave land to erect the church and David Yoder (grandson of Conrad) gave the timber from his plantation. All the members gave time and labor. The deed of 1860 mentions a sum of eight dollars, which was the cost of the deed and of nails. It was built entirely of wood, almost square with double front doors (making it easier for funerals) facing the lower road to Shelby. The congregation interested themselves in later years in obtaining ministers and maintaining services as long as there seemed hope for the church's existence. All that is left today are the large stones on which the structure sat, and the cemetery.

OLD THESSALONICA-CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by

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

**WELCOME ABOARD TO OUR  
NEW GOSHEN AREA VOLUNTEERS!!**

Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, Kenneth W. Yoder, and Richard Yoder.

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

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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.

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

**A WYOMING YODER FAMILY**



Front Row: Amanda Yoder, Philip Jacob Yoder (YR234131)  
(1/3/1836 Tuscarawas Co., OH-2/28/1910 Phillips, WY), Cinderella  
Hattery Middle Row:Sadie Yoder, Ida Yoder, Nina (Mamie) Yoder,  
Clara Yoder Back Row: Benjamin Franklin Yoder, Jesse Yoder,  
Oscar Yoder. See YNL 2 article about the town of Yoder, Wyoming  
and this family. The Philip Yoder family settled in Goshen Co.,  
Wyoming in 1882 on a ranch along Bear Creek. Philip prospered in  
raising cattle and horses. (Photo complements of Ancestry.com )

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

I was born and grew up in the Cherokee Outlet of North Central  
Oklahoma. After 4 years teaching country school in 1940 I married  
Daniel J Yoder whose father, Samuel (YR25122c1), had followed a  
pretty red headed Irish girl Ethel Nelson to Okla. He was a  
carpenter builder like his Dad.



That summer we took his parents to  
N. Indiana to visit relatives he'd never  
known. We even went on to Clarence,  
NY where two of Samuel's brothers  
lived. It was like visiting another  
civilization, but I was a farmer's  
daughter and loved the people.

Years later I started pursuing Family  
History. In 1972 I went with a tour to  
Europe. Later part of the 1970 I became  
interested in Family History, mine and  
Dan's, later learning St. Yoder Chapel  
wasn't far from Engelberg, Switzerland

where we had spent several days. Chris Yoder, our editor, has a  
copy of history I wrote of Dan's Amish relatives and ancestors. I  
loved every Yoder I visited and those who visited us in Okla.

I have every Newsletter. It's a great family, I'm proud of them  
and my own ancestors dating to 1600 in England. It's Quite a life.  
I'm now 98- still with my "attitude of gratitude". Writing family  
histories has kept me young. - Celia B. Yoder, Olanthe, KS

I was born into a family home in the Amish community. I was  
a baptized member as was my wife. We decided to give it up in 1953.  
We joined the Mennonite Church and bought a car. Later we moved  
to a different location. We now live in California. We moved here in  
1970. I was tired of shoveling snow.

After my retirement we did 7 years of full time RVing, then  
settled near one of our daughters. Now about our family, the R S  
Yoder (1871-1991) family (YR1253ce), I knew two of his brothers  
David and Levi. They all lived within two miles from our home. So  
we had many 2<sup>nd</sup> cousins as well as 1<sup>st</sup> cousins. We were all within  
driving to their homes in horse and buggy, which was our  
transportation. A family history was prepared by Dan W. and  
Nancy J. Joder.

I have been receiving these YNLs from the beginning and enjoy  
them very much. Yours truly, John H. Yoder, Folsom, CA

**NC YODER REUNION NEWS**

The 2014 Conrad Yoder Family Reunion will be Oct. 11-12. The  
main meeting will occur on Sun., Oct. 12, at Grace Lutheran  
Church in Newton, NC, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, please  
contact: Nathan Howard Yoder, Pres.: [yoder234@hotmail.com](mailto:yoder234@hotmail.com) ,  
Neil Wilfong, Sec.: [Ndwilfongoptiker@aol.com](mailto:Ndwilfongoptiker@aol.com)

Comments on the 2013 NC Reunion from Past Pres. Rachel  
Kennedy Hahn – "Rev. Nathan Yoder (father of baby Luke Conrad  
Yoder) is our "heir-apparent" President, Vice-Presidents are Easton  
Yoder, Adam Coffey and Caron Coffey Weidner. Bill Yoder is  
Special Assistant to the President and Ted Yoder was added to the  
Board of Directors. During our 2013 reunion, we reminisced about  
the previous year's national reunion--the excitement of meeting new  
members of our family--how appreciative we are that they traveled  
here to be with us--and the events of the reunion, including our  
prestigious guest speakers (Chris Yoder, Dr. Don Yoder, Edwin  
Yoder, Dr. Gary Freeze, and Jack and Phyllis Yoder (sole 6th  
generation to Conrad)--the extraordinary meals--Vintage German  
Vespers led by Rev. Nathan Yoder and his father, Rev. Larry  
Yoder--and the day trip to Hart Square. What a heritage!! "

**THANKS TO ALL OUR READERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!**

**CHARLES T. YODER- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

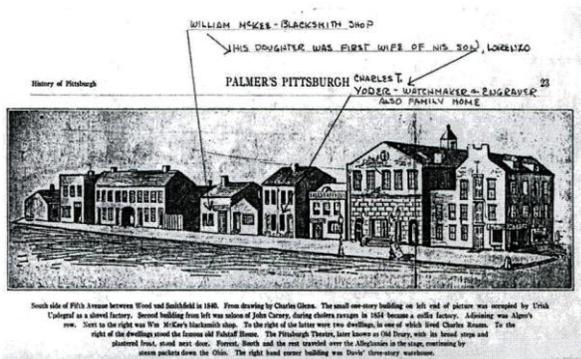
She was the daughter of Thomas Kennedy Sr. The Kennedy family was descended from an old and genteel line of landowners and noted warriors. The American progenitor was Thomas Kennedy Sr. who came to America from Scotland in 1804 and established a looking glass and mirror factory in Baltimore, Maryland. It was here that Ann Elizabeth was born. As a little girl, she traveled across the Allegheny Mountains on what was then called the National Pike (old Route 40 today) in a Conestoga wagon, drawn by two horses, and accompanied by her father and her older brother, Thomas Kennedy Jr. In the words of her son, Lorenzo, "they came by way of Brownsville where her father had some notion of locating, but looking over the town and location, he concluded to go on to Pittsburgh. Grandfather Kennedy had great regard and high esteem for his family and was very particular as to the company they should associate with, and he made some objections to Father when he commenced paying attention to Mother - thinking Father was not good enough for his daughter Ann, as he called her. But true love stops for no object in the way - as greater the difficulty, the more determined to marry - so they were married and all objection ceased." (Thomas Kennedy Sr died in 1865.)



Standing: Charles & Hamilton; Seated Francis, Ann Elizabeth & Lorenzo

Four children were born to Charles and Ann Elizabeth: Charles Theodore Yoder 1843 - 1915; Hamilton Wright Yoder 1844-1876; Lorenzo Thomas Yoder 1847-1926; and Frances Ann 1850-1912. For about ten years Charles worked to establish his reputation. He had all the work he could do, not only from those who visited his shop, but from other jewelers who were obliged to bring their delicate work to him for his skilled abilities.

His first location was in a two-story log structure on Fifth Avenue, between Wood and Smithfield Streets. The building was veneered with weathered boards, providing a shop in which to work on the first level with adequate family living quarters on the floor above.



The site was considered, at the time, to be the central business district of the city. The family lived happily and comfortably

enough, although the business increased so much that Charles was compelled to work longer and longer hours with little or no exercise. His son, Lorenzo, writing a biography in later years, described his father as a "good provider who worked long hours". The only open air exercise his father had was "going to the old Market on Wood Street where he would procure a basketful of eatables, with quite a large fish strung on the outside of the basket".

In 1845 a catastrophic fire occurred in Pittsburgh, destroying nearly half the town including their home and engraving business. Survivors had no place to put their rescued belongings and furniture except a vacant square - the only place of safety. Here the citizens piled their belongings, waiting nearly a year before a proper separation was made. Charles and his family moved themselves and their business to the corner of Sixth Avenue and Smithfield Street - just a short distance away from their first home.

The holocaust began around noon on 10 April 1845 in the ice house of Colonel William Diehl. It was believed that it started after a washerwoman lit a fire for her laundry in a woodshed adjoining Colonel Diehl's residence. Soon the bells of the Third Presbyterian Church sounded the alarm, but by then the wind had already taken the flames eastward and building after wooden building were crackling and burning. "A pretty strong wind was blowing from the west," wrote Attorney Robert McKnight in his diary, "and some alarm existed as to the spread of the flames. I mounted an engine and labored with might and main but unfortunately the supply of water failed!" There was confusion everywhere, noted the diarist, "drays, carts, furniture, horses and men were running in all directions". The fire moved from block to block devastating all in its path. Businessmen inside the fire area worked in a frantic effort to move their stock of goods out of their stores and to places of safety. Those who were able carted their belongings to the bank of the Monongahela River, which "became piled up with an enormous and indescribable mass of matter". At last, when the flames burned themselves out, the area between Ferry Street, Diamond Alley and Water Street on the Monongahela side, as far as the present Tenth Street Bridge, was devastated. More than 50 acres had become prey of the flames. Some estimates of the loss ran as high as nine million dollars. The *Pittsburgh Gazette's* reporter wrote: "Nothing was spared - very little saved. The progress of the fire as it lanced and leaped with its forked tongue from house to house, from block to block, and from square to square was awfully magnificent".

Sadly, the long hours at his workbench and his sedentary habits, coupled with the stress of the fire, brought on the first of a series of incapacitating paralytic strokes in 1849. Charles was never able to work again and from that time until his death in 1851, the family suffered financially - depleting their savings completely. In the meantime, Ann Elizabeth found work as a seamstress, supporting her invalided husband and four children as best she could. At the death of Charles they were left in a penniless condition. No longer able to pay the rent on their home, she sought another less expensive place in which to live. After some days, she found a four room frame house on Troy Hill in Allegheny City, just across the river from Pittsburgh. Here the three boys attended school and Elizabeth took baby Frances Ann to work with her each day, walking back into Pittsburgh to her work as a seamstress. She returned in the evenings, climbing back up Troy Hill, to cook supper for the children - a tired and discouraged mother. She cared deeply for her children, counseling them and teaching them love of each other, of their fellow-man and of God. The boys adored their courageous, generous Mother. As Lorenzo wrote in his brief autobiography: "I am sure that no two persons could have enjoyed each other's society more than did Mother and I, from the first time we became acquainted. I will admit that there were smacks once in a while that disturbed our peace, but our love was the stronger after it was all over....." After several years, Ann

Elizabeth realized that being a seamstress was not providing adequately for her little family and decided to go into business for herself. She and her children moved once more - this time to Sandusky Street, between Lacock and Robinson Streets on the Allegheny River. The edifice was a two story frame building containing three rooms above, and a store front below. It was located across the street from the Eagle Cotton Mill. Charles Theodore about ten, Hamilton nine and Lorenzo six were placed in the Fourth Ward School on Sandusky Street. Ann Elizabeth's brother, Thomas Kennedy, had a profitable business selling notions at the corner of Wood Street and Third Avenue, and he agreed to supply his sister with merchandise for her little store. Stocked with a supply of notions, candy and other small wares, she sold the items to the girls working at the mill. The Eagle Cotton Mill employed about three hundred girls, called "Cotton Bumpers."

They had a great habit of rubbing snuff, which gave Ann Elizabeth quite a trade in this article. She purchased it by the bladder and sold it by the spoon. The Penn Cotton Mill was just a block away, employing about as many girls as the Eagle Mill, which added to the snuff demand. Using her skills as a seamstress, Ann Elizabeth stocked her shop with children's clothes as well as aprons for the girls and men working in the mill. She also made all kinds of taffy which attracted passersby and children on their way to school. One of Lorenzo's chores was shelling peanuts for the "pan taffy". In his words, "I would slip a kernel or two in my mouth on the sly and they would taste good. Mother would let us children scrape the taffy pot. This was a greatly enjoyed treat and was sweet to our taste". Somehow the family survived, despite unforeseen troubles which included another fire and the river which flooded frequently. Each boy did his part helping out in the shop when they were not in school, but their mother was adamant that an education came first. Thankfully, they were again somewhat financially safe and able to cope with daily surprises and disasters. Living so near the river which was prone to flood in the spring was a problem. As Lorenzo described it, "The Allegheny River rose until the waters surrounded our house and we carried all the material from the store and kitchen to the upper floor. We were penned in for some days until the water subsided, but it left the cellar full of water and there was mud and sand all over the first floor. In time, we scraped and cleaned and finally got back to our normal condition. By degrees, the cotton mills started to run - partially at first and then under a full head of steam."

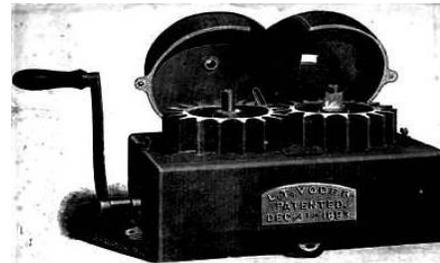


Lorenzo Thomas Yoder 1847 – 1926

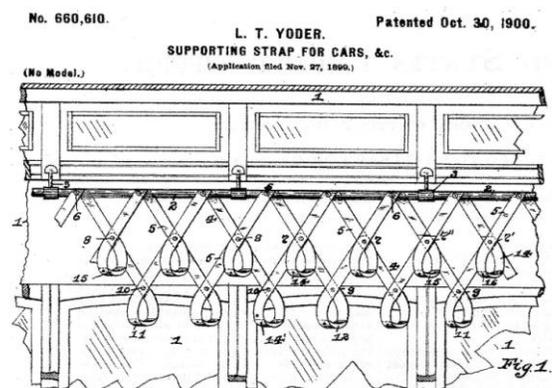
Lorenzo, a youngster armed with boundless energy and ambition, had a talent for inventiveness. In order to help his mother financially and with a necessarily limited education, (he dropped out of school in the Fifth Grade) Lorenzo did his best to

make a living outside of his chores at home. His first job outside of the shop in 1856 was that of errand boy for the Sheppard Baking Company on Liberty Street. His stipend was \$1.50 a week which was turned over promptly to his mother. At the age of 13, Lorenzo entered the employ of Reymer Brothers - a wholesale candy manufacturing company from Philadelphia, who had established a profitable retail business in Pittsburgh. He became a traveling salesman for the firm, selling and delivering orders from a horse and wagon and thus proceeded to learn the candy business from manufacturing to delivery. Seeing the need for a wholesale candy business in Pittsburgh, his ambition was to rise in the company and make and save enough money for the time when he could start a business for himself. He became, over time, Reymer's best salesman, saving enough money that enabled him to do so in 1873 at age 26

It consisted of a new improved and less expensive method of candy production since it required only one employee to operate. In his words: "I take the candy in its plastic state and spin' or form it into long, thin narrow strips, which are then bent sideways in alternate directions in planes at right angles to the length of the strip" He sold the machine all over the world, helping him to amass a considerable fortune. By 1891 his company was one of the strongest and largest concerns of its kind in Pittsburgh, with a range of territory which covered Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia - its products being candy and confectionery. In addition to his invention, he formulated his own candy recipes, improving on his mother's taffy recipe, including one for horehound drops which were extremely popular as a cough remedy. Best of all, his mother no longer had to worry about the future of her family. The little shop near the Eagle Cotton Mill was a thing of the past. It was with the greatest pride and pleasure that Ann Elizabeth was able to see and participate in her son's achievements.



**L. T. YODER.**  
45 SMITHFIELD ST., PITTSBURGH, PA.  
The annexed cut is of my Patent Candy Crimper. With this machine a man and boy can make same amount of Crimp, or Chip Mixed, per day as of Stick Candy.  
**L. T. Yoder Candy Crimper**



**L. T. Yoder's Street Car Straps**

Ann Elizabeth (Kennedy) Yoder died in 1894. She and her husband, Charles Thomas Yoder, are buried in Allegheny Cemetery, Section 23, Lot 95 in Pittsburgh.

With new horizons to reach and boundless ambition, Lorenzo ultimately sold his candy manufacturing interest to two of his

salesmen - Weaver and Costello - and devoted himself to real estate and financial matters. He organized and became president and chief owner of the Yoder Land Company which was capitalized at \$200,000. The company was occupied with the purchase of unimproved properties in various sections of a growing Pittsburgh, as well as the laying out of streets and the building and sale of houses. He was also principal owner of West Penn Gas Company, capitalized at \$275,000, which provided fuel to new and existing mills from Apollo to Tarentum in the Kiskiminitas and Allegheny River valleys. He served as president of the gas company Board of Directors for many years. It was during this time that he built as his permanent residence, a large home at 1232 Murray Hill Avenue where he raised his children. The edifice was of his own design, containing thirteen rooms, including two baths (one tiled), a conservatory, a library, a nursery, and hot water heat.

Lorenzo's business acumen was only part of his life's endeavors. He was a practicing humanitarian and genuine Christian, endowing all he did with the essence of true religion. As a staunch advocate of prohibition, in 1876 he aided in the fight which led to passage of the 18th Constitutional Amendment in 1917. It was both his desire to further this movement and a devastating depression which led him to purchase ground at 1112 Forbes Avenue in Pittsburgh and erect the four hundred room Yoder Hotel: "For men Only-No Liquors Sold on the Premises - Single Room \$1.50 Per Week". The building was fireproof and easily adapted for change into an office building. The prices of from twenty-five cents to one dollar and a half indicate the plan on which the hotel was run - good clean, wholesome living service, without the temptations of liquor - to provide, in a time of economic depression, out-of-work men who needed decent living conditions to put them on their feet and give them a fresh start. His last twenty years were devoted to this work. The hotel gained a reputation for welcoming all men and treating them humanely. Recalling his own impoverished beginnings, he would often come to the aid of his fellow man in unexpected ways. Lorenzo had the satisfaction in after-years of hearing from many a happy and prosperous man who said that both the physical and spiritual bolstering he received from Mr. Yoder, provided him the strength to make the hard fight to success.

And there were others - the ill-shod newsboys who delivered his daily paper and came to collect for a week's delivery, were just as likely to depart with the price of a new pair of shoes as well as the cost of the papers. He encouraged them to get a financial start in life by an offer to duplicate, at the end of each year, whatever amount the newsboy had saved in that year's time!

Personally, Lorenzo was a fiercely devout Methodist, rising from his seat during the service to shout "Amen, brother", when he felt strongly about the pastor's message - much to the embarrassment of his daughters. For many years, Lorenzo was a member of the Smithfield Methodist Episcopal Church where he taught Sunday School. Blue was his favorite color and he had a suit made of blue serge, but of a hue so bright that his wife made him return it, feeling it was not fit for a man of his position! He did not believe in card playing, nor would he permit a deck in his house, believing they were instruments of the devil. His daughters, as young women, were forced to invent "acceptable" social events when they were, in reality, going to a bridge tea. He did not believe women were ready for marriage until in their thirties, and was not pleased that his two eldest daughters married much before that age. He loved to sing and was possessed of a pleasant tenor voice.

On the other hand, he was not without his eccentricities. His one vice - if it could be called that - was billiards. He was obsessed by the game and, when he could afford it, he had a full-sized table installed - out of sight - in his attic, for he was not anxious that others should find out about this pastime! He had a favorite derby hat which he wore on nearly every occasion - and he had a passion for coconut meat. One very rainy day he was crossing a major

street in Pittsburgh, with his hat on his head, an umbrella in one hand and a paper sack which contained a coconut in the other. A gust of wind threatened his hat and, not wishing to drop the umbrella, he threw up the hand which held the coconut - and knocked himself out in the middle of the street! He always carried a few bills of Confederate money in his wallet. One day he boarded a trolley car and discovered he had no other money with which to pay his fare. Fortunately, the trolley conductor recognized him as a passenger from many other trips and let him ride anyway! Outside of his personal home life, he was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a charter member of the Oakland Lodge, No.530, Free and Accepted Masons where he participated in their good works. Another favorite project was the organization of the Home for Working Girls in Pittsburgh, which ultimately was absorbed by the Young Women's Christian Association. He was also a charter member and active aid in the management of the Industrial Home for Boys at Oakmont, Pennsylvania. In 1881 he participated, with four other like-minded men from Wheeling, West Virginia - all prominent Methodists - in the establishment of a Chautauqua-type resort in Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County, Maryland, to be conducted as a Methodist religious summer colony. The founders of Mountain Lake Park incorporated themselves in 1881 as the Mountain Lake Park Association and issued stock, initially fifteen shares at \$1,000. As investors in the Park they were firm in their resolve that their resort should have a high moral tone. The charter they drew up had restrictions against dancing, card-playing, drinking and gambling whether in public or private homes. These bans were written into the deeds for the sale of land in the Park and a violation of any of the bans could, in theory, lead to forfeiture of the property. Whatever the intent of the original developers, not all of the cottage owners maintained the desired level of sanctity. One cottage was reputedly a link in a moonshine distribution chain. Another was leased one winter by its unwitting owner to bootleggers who allowed the residue from their labors go down the drain and into the river. Their presence was discovered when some cows in a down-stream meadow were discovered upside down and drunk! Further, a madam from Baltimore brought her girls to the Park for several summers until their activities were uncovered and stopped. Finally, at Lorenzo's insistence, these bans were modified after a letter written to his fellow stockholders in which he said: "A great many good Christian people are averse to building and living in a community with such rigid laws.....if we expect to see the Park grow, we must have the laws so framed that they will meet the reasonable wishes of the people. I am not in favor of any radical change but no doubt some of the rules stand in the way of the growth of the Park"

The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad which served the area daily brought mail, freight and passengers. The Park was placed on the Chautauqua Lecture Circuit which drew many to the resort needing accommodations. In 1892, in recognition of the increase in summer population, Lorenzo purchased land and built the Mountain Lake Park Hotel. In addition he purchased several "cottages" (there were no "cabins") including one of his own. The cottage was built in 1885 and still stands on "I" Street immediately across from where the hotel once stood (The Hotel was sold in 1914 and ultimately torn down). Recognizing the need for a stage venue, the stockholders built an enclosed amphitheater which provided a place for summer residents and visitors to partake of the Chautauqua circuit speakers and performers in any kind of weather. With the ease of transportation by rail, many families purchased and/or built summer cottages in the immediate area to enjoy the mountain climate in an uplifting, educational and moral family atmosphere.

Cottage construction boomed and seeing a need for those who owned cottages, he established the Mountain Lake Water and Light Company which consisted of 122 mountain acres containing 5 springs, 3 reservoirs, a pumping station and pipe lines that piped

pure spring water from the surrounding mountains into the town. The first pipes from "The Springs", as he called the water source, were of wood held together with metal bands which carried the water from a small reservoir. Some of these wooden pipes were found as late as the 1960's. Lorenzo ran the water company from an office in his carriage house. He advocated macadamizing the streets and putting a fireplug at every important corner. True to his entrepreneurial spirit, Lorenzo, in partnership with Samuel W. Vandersaal, purchased a great deal of land on a small river called Deep Creek in Garrett County, Maryland near the Park. Their principal interest in the beginning was coal mining. But times were changing and Pennsylvania Electric Company decided to build a dam on the creek which would supply electricity to small towns below the dam. Thus, Deep Creek Lake was formed, making the former coal property into lake front property - a much more lucrative investment than coal and near enough to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. to be a resort and tourist destination. Through the years much of the land was sold for summer homes and to businesses that supported the tourist industry. A large piece of the "coal" land which was away from the lake shore, was donated to the state of Maryland and became, in part, Swallow Falls State Park.

Lorenzo T. Yoder was married twice. His first wife was Elizabeth McKee whom he married on 13 May 1870. She was the daughter of William McKee who had a blacksmith shop just two doors from the watch shop of Lorenzo's father on Fifth Avenue. The couple had five children between 1870 and 1878. Elizabeth developed a virulent form of diabetes, suffering all the effects of that disease in a day when there was no known help for it. Her sight began to fail and she ultimately became completely blind and physically incapacitated. Needing a companion and helper for his wife, Lorenzo employed a young woman from New Brighton, PA to live with his family and to fill this capacity. Elyc Myers Winans was about 26 years of age at the time. She was born in New Brighton, Beaver County, PA - the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Cannon) Winans. Her father was employed by the federal government revenue service. Ultimately, the diabetes took its toll and Elizabeth Yoder died about 1898. About 1901, Elyc M. Winans became Lorenzo's second wife. They had three children.

Lorenzo Thomas Yoder died 20 February 1926, allowed by an all-wise providence a total of seventy nine years to perform for humanity all the good he aspired to. Having amply provided for his wife and her welfare, he passed away as he had entered life - penniless and without personal assets. Generosity, wisdom and inventiveness were in his nature, resulting in novel and effective methods of helping his fellow-man. Early in life he learned for himself the good and the true in life and his fellow man, and his whole career was devoted to furthering such universal truths as the Christian religion and brotherly love.

Charles Theodore Yoder, Lorenzo's eldest brother, was born in 1843. At age 16 he was hired to teach in a rural school in Crab Tree, Westmoreland County, PA. He lived at the Torrence farm in Crab Tree and helped out with farm chores in lieu of room and board - not unusual for a rural school teacher. Elizabeth Torrence was a widow with five daughters who depended on her brother and a hired hand to help run her farm. Charles taught in Crab Tree for about three years, leaving in the Fall of 1861 to join the Union Army. He enlisted as a private in Company C. of the 4th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry on 26 August 1861 at Latrobe, Westmoreland County, PA. He was mustered into the Union Army in September of the same year. When he later applied for a pension, he described himself, at the time, as being: "Height 5 ft. 6 in.; Complexion, fair; Color of eyes, hazel; Color of hair, brown". He took part in 77 battles and skirmishes from June 1862 through October 1864, achieving the rank of Major from Abraham Lincoln, 11 March 1864. He later became Brigadier General and had the distinction of being the highest ranking Yoder in the

Army. Charles made Washington, D. C. his permanent residence where he was a successful lawyer. He was twice married - first to Annie E. Warder who died in 1876; and second to Emma L. Berry. His children were Edith May, 1878, William B., 1880 and Frank W., 1883. Charles died at his home on 30 September 1915 at the age of 72. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Hamilton Wright Yoder, Lorenzo's elder brother, was born in 1844. He married Mary Lewis in 1866. He died an untimely and painful death in 1876 at the age of 32 of a strangulated hernia. At the time of his death, Hamilton and his wife, Mary, lived on Gum Street in Allegheny City, PA. They had two children: William Hamilton born in 1867 and Frances Ann born in 1870. She was named for her father's youngest sister, Frances Ann.

Frances Ann Yoder, Lorenzo's little sister, was born in 1850 and died in Pittsburgh about 1912. (Little further information has been found.)

(The complete family history by Elyc Brooks can be found at: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/nonamish/LTDYoder.pdf>)

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YEARTY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is an extensive record of the claim by William's estate with the U.S. Southern Claims Commission, seeking recompense for loses during the Civil War of cattle and other products to the Confederate Forces. The records attest to his strong devotion to the Union Cause, and indicate that one of his wife's family was a soldier in the northern Army.

The parents of William have not been identified, but we do have some information about early Yeartys in Georgia. Before 1772 one Jacob Jorde moved to Burke Co., NC, and is recorded as owning land in Burke and Lincoln Cos., NC. About 1790 this Jacob moved to GA, probably in the "Dutch" settlement at the fork of the Saluda River. Researchers claim this Jacob Yorta may be the same person (or a son) of Jacob Jorde, b. abt. 1735, who was a reputed son of Peter and Magdalena (?Stauffer) Jorde (aka Peter Yorty of 1717), Mennonites of Lampeter Twp, Lancaster Co, PA. Peter's will was dated April 30, 1765, and proved July 29, 1765.

In Georgia, a Jacob Yorta is listed on the 1794 tax digest in Warren County. He is listed in a neighboring county, Jefferson, by 1799 as Jacob Yerty. (Jefferson was created from parts of Warren and Burke County, and others in 1796). Jacob is on the tax lists of Jefferson up until 1810 when Caty Yearty filed the tax and she filed again in 1811. The 1811 entry was the last record for Jacob Yearty, Sr. and Caty Yearty. Earlier in 1805 both Henry Yearty and a new Jacob Yearty file a poll tax (they own no land). Also earlier in 1799, Abraham Yearty owns several hundred acres of land and is shown on the Jefferson tax lists each year after this date. All of the Yearty's are gone from the Jefferson tax list by 1813. After 1808 all of the Yearty's showed they paid tax on land in Wilkinson County, GA. By 1830 there were Yeartys in Pulaski Co., GA as well as Jefferson Co., FL.

It appears from the early tax records that Jacob Yearty was the early ancestor whose wife was Catherine "Caty", maiden name unknown. Since Jacob died 10 years earlier than Abraham, he is most likely his father. Caty may have died after 1811 while still in Jefferson County (no marked grave found). Since Henry and Jacob, Jr. didn't appear on the tax list until 1805. As they usually were polled the year after turning 21, they were probably born around 1783-84 and possible brothers of Abraham and all sons of Jacob Yorta/Yearty, Sr.

Gary Yordy, in his YNL49 analysis of the meaning of the Yotty/Yordy/Jordy DNA results, discussed the similarity to that of the Steffisburg Joder family. He speculated that a common ancestor for the Joders and Jordys seemed likely back in the early days of surname use in Switzerland (circa 1100 A.D.) This test result from the Georgia/Florida Yearty line certainly gives support for some of the assumptions previously made about the origins of that surname in the south land and its connection to the Yorty/Yotty/Jorde line.

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HAVE YOU WRITTEN DOWN YOUR OWN FAMILY STORIES AND IDENTIFIED/COPIED TREASURED PHOTOS?

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

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

Who was John Yoder/Yoter (Unidentified Code "AX") (born GY-Feb 1850, Wayne Co, OH) m. Mary (c1800GY- ). Father of "AX3"- Joseph A. Yoder m. 12/3/1863 Wayne Co., OH Mary Aschbacher (5/ /1838-9/3/1903) d. 4/10/1904 , both died Clay Co., MO buried Paradise Cem. Please Reply to: Chris Yoder, 551 S. Maple St., Saugatuck, MI 49453

OLD THESSALONICA-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Grave of Conrad Yoder's Daughter

I, Michael B. Huffman, started going out with my great aunt Martha Hoover Whisnant to help with the mowing of the cemetery that I had heard so much about. The church had been disbanded in 1939 after trying to keep services there. At the end it was only used for funerals and revivals. The church building was later taken apart and the lumber used for other buildings in the community. Aunt Martha's son, David Hoover, had taken me out there way before his death in 1988. The cemetery had grown up and was in disrepair. After a couple times of mowing it, it was cleaned up and the people resting there so proud.

My mother, Nellie Poovey Settlemyre can remember when she was growing up, her grandmother Ada Propst Hoover, would take wild roses and cans of water to place on the graves- either by walking or on the back of the wagon. All my great grandfather Perry A. Hoover asked was to never let this cemetery grow up. After a few years aunt Martha's health started getting bad and she wasn't able to mow, so in 1988 my parents Mallie and Nellie Poovey Settlemyre started helping me in cleaning and mowing the cemetery. In 1990 I bought gold markers and placed them at the Yoder resting places which cousin David had identified to me (Like a good historian, you always carry pen and paper to document history).

At first, Dad wasn't thrilled about going out there, but as the years passed he worried about getting it mowed and we have been the caretakers to this day. Mom always brought flowers to place on every grave to keep it beautiful for those who have lived and died. As Dad's health got worse, it was up to me and mother to do all the mowing. Dad knew his time was coming so he worried about the upkeep of the cemetery. He passed away on Jan. 22, 2009, age 70, and was buried in the cemetery. My brother William Settlemyre went out with his equipment, cleaning and cutting trees down on the upper wooded part of the cemetery. Four weeks later, on Feb. 20, 2009, he went out to cut trees and was killed instantly when hit by one. He was buried beside Dad in the cemetery.

In July 2009, mother and I started a project to cement around the markers to preserve them and to fix the broken ones. It took us 2 1/2 months to complete. Plans are to fix the slave cemetery in the future and to continue what my brother had started, cleaning out undergrowth and small trees. It will always be mowed and flowers kept on the graves year round. A flag waves daily out there,

to let us know not to forget the past. I feel that my great-grandfather is smiling down on us.



In 2012, mother and I started cleaning the slave part, the underbrush and moving limbs and dead logs out. You can now at least walk out to that part of the cemetery. We are getting ready to place white crosses donated by Mr. & Mrs. Bud McNeely to help mark each of their graves. Altogether, there are over 100 graves in this cemetery. Now my mother is 79 years old and I have to do most of the mowing, but this cemetery will always be taken care of and flowers placed. These people lived and we can't forget about them. Without a past, there is no future.

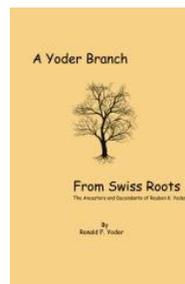


Thessalonica Cemetery Caretakers- Nellie Poovey Settlemyre and Michael Huffman

(Editor's Note: If you would like to help with the upkeep, donations are welcome and should be sent to: Michael Huffman, P.O. Box 131, Hildebran, NC 28637

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## Reuben K. Yoder ( YR2511144)



Thanks to Ron Yoder for a very nicely done new release entitled "A Yoder Branch From Swiss Roots- The Ancestors and Descendants of Reuben K. Yoder". This 200 page paperback lovingly presents the family of YR2511144- Reuben K. Yoder (10/1/1880-6/11/1958 Belleville, Mifflin Co, PA) who married Mary M Zook. Copies may be ordered on-line at either

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.createspace.com](http://www.createspace.com)

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## YNL FACEBOOK NEARS 800 MARK!

During the 2012 National Yoder Reunion in NC, we announced that the YNL Facebook page had reached 500 "likes". We are now almost to 800! Who will put us over the top?

## YODER PASSINGS

-Maybelle J. (Yoder) Wintrode, died Nov. 4, 2013, North Manchester, IN, age 108. She was the daughter of John and Celia (Swoverland) Yoder (YR146277) (see item at right).

- Otis P. Yoder, 94, Minot, formerly of Wolford, died on Saturday, June 1, 2013, in a Minot nursing home. Otis was born on Jan. 25, 1919, on the family farm near Wolford to Peter and Nancy (Yoder) Yoder (YR2344346- Subject of the book "Poppy's Dozen" by their daughter Sylvia Yoder Martin).

-Viola Yoder, 90, of Grantsville, MD, died Sunday, September 8, 2013, at her residence. Born January 31, 1923, in Grantsville, MD, she was the daughter of the late Harvey (YR2611914) and Anna (Miller) Yoder.

-C. Troy Yoder, recently of Traverse City, and longtime resident of Roscommon, passed away June 21, 2013. He was born Dec. 12, 1919, to Dennis (YR2365252) and Frances Yoder of Elkhart, Ind.

-Fred M. Yoder red M. Yoder, formerly a long-time resident of Sellersville, PA passed away Friday, Aug, 2, 2013 in the Lutheran Community at Telford, age 96. Born in Silverdale, he was the son of the late Levi (YB139422) and Theresa (Myers) Yoder.

-Lee Ivan Yoder, 86, of Leo, Indiana, died Jan. 3, 2013 at Ft. Wayne, IN. He was the son of the late Levi (YR2514384) and Lydia (Peachey) Yoder of Belleville, PA.

-V. Pauline (Yoder)(Yoder) Kauffman, 91, d. Feb 25, 2014, Goshen, IN. Dau. of Rufus T. Yoder (YR23443345), founder of Yoder Popcorn, and Modella (Mishler) Yoder.

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

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

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of Feb. 11, 2014 the counts for interments were: 14,354 records (an increase of +776 from Aug. 2013) -Yoder; 380 (+31) - Yother; 229 (+15) - Yothers; 180 (+22) - Yotter; 51 (+1) - Yoter; 161 (+3) - Yoders; 49 (+2) - Ioder; 81 (+5) - Joder; 36 (+8) - Jotter family members; 1 (+0) - Joders. You can either add your ancestor to a cemetery, or post data on an existing record. For assistance write: Chris Yoder at: [cyoder@tds.net](mailto:cyoder@tds.net).

A sample gravestone is shown here.



Moses B. Yoder  
Birth: Dec. 1, 1808  
Pennsylvania, USA  
Death: Sep. 18, 1842  
Mifflin Co, PA

Locust Grove Cemetery  
Belleville

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## CASSELMAN HISTORIANS LAUNCH WEB SITE

The Casselman River Area Amish & Mennonite Historians unveiled a new website. The organization explores the history of the Casselman River valley in Somerset County, PA, and Garrett County, MD, and publishes a quarterly bulletin, The Historian, since 1989. The new website address is:

[www.amishmennonitehistorians.com](http://www.amishmennonitehistorians.com)

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## NEW LONGEVITY RECORD?



Maybelle J. (Yoder) Wintrode, 108, North Manchester, IN died at 10:20 p.m. Monday, November 4, 2013 in Timbercrest Healthcare Center. She was born May 25, 1905 in Miami County, IN to John (YR146277) & Celia (Swoverland) Yoder of Huntington, In. On April 28, 1928 she married Robert J. Wintrode. He died in March 1975. Maybelle was a homemaker and a member of First Brethren Church, North Manchester, IN, Country Woman's Club and

Manchester Garden Club. She was buried in the Fairview Cemetery, Servia, IN.

At 108 years old, she was older by more than 1 year and 5 months than the previously known Yoder record which was held by Elva Yoder of Topeka, IN (see the article on him in the April 2005 newsletter-YNL45).

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## THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWS

The House of Yoder at Penn Alps has just published its December 2013 Newsletter with coverage of their 17th Annual Meeting held in November. A dedicated staff of volunteers have built and maintained this wonderful Swiss-style house, and hosted the many visitors who have stopped to see it (The newsletter estimates approximately 5,000 visitors from around the US and the world). You can help their efforts by becoming an annual member. See: <http://www.houseofyoder.org/>

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## 2014 NATIONAL YODER REUNION – SEPT-11-14!

You're invited to our party! Come help us celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Yoders in the Oley Valley!

Starting on Thursday evening, September 11, join us at Homewood Suites, 2801 Paper Mill Rd, Reading, PA for registration (see the YNL Facebook page events for registration information, or wait for the registration form to arrive in the mail) and a light supper. Friday morning we will share the results of our research on several branches of the Oley Yoders. After lunch, you can explore our little corner of the world on your own before we meet at the Pike Township Sportsmen's Association for dinner with delicious German style cakes for dessert. We haven't ordered the cakes yet, so check them out at [www.marliscious.com](http://www.marliscious.com). If something tickles your fancy, let us know and we'll try to get it for you.

In October 2012, when the North Carolina Yoders had their national reunion, we drove back home into Hurricane Sandy. She took down two trees in the Pleasantville Cemetery, so on Saturday we will replace those trees with a ceremony, followed by lunch at the Hans Homestead (celebrating 300 years in 2014!). After lunch we will travel to Belleman's old church, built in 1816, for a lesson on the building's history and a service/hymn-sing. Ann's ancestor Frederick (unlinked B) was a member of this church and is buried in the cemetery, as are some members of the YR17 line.

Time to eat again, at the Belleman's Church hall and grove. We will have a chicken barbeque followed by family entertainment. If anyone out there sings, dances, plays an instrument, or whatever, feel free to take the stage. Sunday after church, we will eat again and say our goodbyes.

Three hundred years is a long time, and we hope you can all be here to help us celebrate. Looking forward to seeing you!

Ann and Shirl - Contact us at [alb1989@hotmail.com](mailto:alb1989@hotmail.com). Please put "Yoder Reunion" in the subject line.