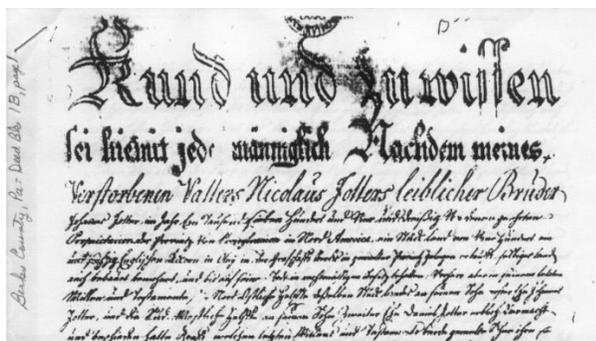




## Johannes Jotter of Mussbach, Nephew of Hans and Yost

In YNL5 (April 1985) and YNL58 (Oct 2011), Dr. Don Yoder wrote about an invaluable document on file at the Berks County Courthouse which helped connect his Oley Valley Yoder ancestors with their Swiss forebears. In both articles he indicated that he hoped to publish a full translation of this document, along with many historical comments. Don also hoped to even locate in some German archive the original Vollmacht or Power of Attorney made by Hans Joder Jr. (OH1) (son of Hans Sr.(OH)) and taken to the Palatinate by his cousin Jacob Joder (1735-1804) of Oley (OY4), Jost Joder's son who traveled to Europe as his agent. Unfortunately Don passed away before being able to give us another of his scholarly and detailed articles, but we'll attempt to provide something in its place.



Berks County, PA Deed Book 1B, Page 1

The English translation is as follows:

*Be it known to all men: After my father Nicolaus Jotter died, his natural brother (my uncle) Johannes Jotter acquired in 1731 from the honorable proprietors of the State of Pennsylvania in north Amerika, 461 English acres in Oley in Berks County. He built a homestead, made additions and until his death legally owned it.*

*However, in his last will and testament he left the northeasterly half of the land to his son Johannes Jotter from his first marriage, and determined the southwestern half of the land go to his son from the second marriage, Daniel Jotter. Each separate part on the strength of his last will and testament should belong to each part held separately.*

*And after the aforementioned Daniel Jotter should die without will and legal issue about 1747 but leave behind his own mother and a widow still living. These women should enjoy during their lifetime income and rights from this land. The half-brother, Johannes, could not acquire by English law these possessions and properties because he was disinherited. So the land rights fell to me, Johannes Jotter living in Mussbach in Upper Region Neustadt above Haardt in Pfalz (Palatinate). Oldest son of the aforementioned Nicolaus, who died 6 years earlier than Daniel Jotter died.*

*Cousin Johannes Jotter from Oley offered to me as my legal right as heir from our deceased half brother's estate and lands for a sum of 1000 "Reichs-Gulden". I accepted the offer. This is to witness that the sum of "1000 Reichs-Gulden" which was ordered in the name of Johannes Jotter of Oley was fully paid and certified that Johannes Jotter of Mussbach signed off sold,*

JOHANNES OF MUSSBACH-CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## David Yoder - The Piano Maker

Over the past many years we have presented a number of articles on the family of Samuel Yoder (OH13), of the Oley Yoder line (see the photo of Samuel's old cabin on page 8 of YNL74). A general overview of Samuel's descendants appeared in YNL51 (Apr 2008). Samuel married an Elizabeth Oyster and is said to have "Served in the French and Indian War, and was gone from home 10 years." Subsequent articles have reported on how Samuel's unique DNA profile has helped us figure out the imperfectly documented family of his son Abraham who married Hannah Leis.

Another of Samuel's sons was David Yoder (OH134), born in 1765. A DNA test by a descendant in David's line recently confirmed the match to Samuel profile (page 2 YNL71). Records of Schwartzwald Reformed Church show that "David Jotter married Catharina Hoch (High) of Oley 6/8/1805".

The History of that part of the Susquehanna and Juniata valleys, embraced in the counties of Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Union and Snyder, in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania (pub 1886) provides a biographical sketch of his son Moses which includes a report that:

*David was a carpenter and cabinet-maker, and had a large business in proper connection with which he was extensively known as a maker of pianos, one of these instruments being in use in the home of Dr. Piper, of Milton, Pa., many years. He married Catharine High, who bore him ten children, viz.: Joshua married Elizabeth Brown (both deceased; they had two boys and four girls); Samuel married Sarah Mackey (both deceased); they had two boys and girl); David; Moses, the subject of our sketch; Beniville; Isaac married Deborah Fowler, who bore him one daughter (he has deceased); Aaron; Eliza; Phoebe married Jeremiah Taylor and has borne two boys and two girls; Anna married Frederick Dersham and one boy and one girl (they are now deceased). David Beniville, Aaron and Eliza all died young.*

DAVID THE PIANO MAKER-CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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## Rachel Yoder Children's Books

Rachel Yoder — Always Trouble Somewhere



Wanda E. Brunstetter, "Amish Country's Most Beloved Storyteller", is an award-winning novelist in the Amish romance genre, with more than 11 million books sold. Her books have been on the New York Times Best Seller list. Brunstetter's husband, Richard, grew up in a Mennonite church, and was the catalyst for her interest in the Amish.

ALWAYS TROUBLE- CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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

Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; Kenneth W. Yoder, Circulation and Mail Manager, Goshen, IN; Paul Yoder, Asst Cir/Mail Mgr, Other Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC; and Ann Balderrama, Reading, PA. And our other Goshen area volunteer team members: Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, Richard Yoder and our new Webmaster team of: Leon Yoder and Chad Yoder of Black Anvil Media, Inc., and Dalonda Young!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past 37 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.

- 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 \$2 per issue. (or you can download them free - 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder Newsletter web page: [www.yodernewsletter.org](http://www.yodernewsletter.org) ).

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

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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.)

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**YNL CONSOLIDATED VOLUMES  
NOW AVAILABLE**

Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) and Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) are both available in soft cover volumes for order on-line through Amazon books...  
For YNL 1-25 - \$16.29 plus postage  
For YNL26-50 - \$16.99 plus postage

For YNL 51-75- (expected to be available by early summer-search amazon books for price and availability). It will be available in both a black and white and a color version through Amazon Books. Watch for the announcement on the YNL FACEBOOK page.

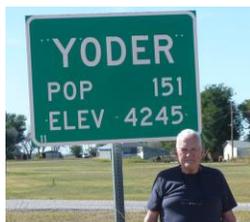
Descendants of Bishop Christian Yoder Sr. (YR233) may also be interested in (also available on Amazon Books):

The Reuben Yoder Family and Its Ancestry - \$15.99 plus postage

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From Ron Yoder

"Have you ever been to Yoder, WY? We're on a trip and happened across this. Stopped in but couldn't find any Yoders. In fact the few people I did meet, didn't know any Yoders or know how Yoder got its name."



See YNL2 for the story by David Luthy!

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

I noticed in the Yoder Newsletter which arrived today that under the "Yoder Passings" I only see the names of men. Surely there are women who are Yoders. My name now is Smith, but I am very much a Yoder. My grandparents were both Yoders before they were married. I have YR1 nine times in my background as well as YR2 three times yet it looks like I wouldn't make it onto "Yoder Passings." Is it too difficult to list women?

- Joann Yoder Smith, Goshen, IN

**EDITOR COMMENTS:** As I finish the last inches of the Yoder newsletter and start on the "passings" section, I google "Yoder Obituaries" and look for folks who died over the preceding 6 to 9 months. Most of the ladies listed are Yoder wives, rather than Yoder's themselves, so it has been easier to focus on the men.

I'll try to do better starting with the April issue. I generally make a FACEBOOK post as I'm working the newsletter asking people to report on reunions, Yoder passings, etc. and seldom see much of a reply, but I can perhaps make a specific point of asking for Yoder born women as well.- Chris Yoder.

**A Visit to  
Steffisburg**

Oct. 3, 2019 - David Yoder of the OH145262c line (center) pictured with Hans Jakob and Anna Joder, outside their home. in Steffisburg. David had stayed with them back in 1984, 35 years before, when Hans Jakob was living and working at Interlachen. David was able to meet with their son Andreas in 2017 during the National Yoder Reunion in Shippshewana, IN



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**PHIL YODER,  
EX-RODEO STAR,  
DIES IN DOUGLAS**

Phil Yoder, one time top rodeo hand, winner of 1918 steer roping contest and 1921 bronc riding contest at the Cheyenne Frontier Days show, died at the Fiddyment home in Douglas at about 3:30 p.m. last Friday. Yoder, a colorful rodeo performer in his hay-day, was seriously injured at the Wyoming State Fair here in 1929. He was in charge of the rodeo program that year. In roping a steer his horse was pulled over on him crushing his skull and inflicting a fracture from which he never fully recovered. He was rushed to the Douglas hospital where he lay unconscious for four



days, after which he was removed to a Cheyenne hospital and hovered between life and death, still unconscious, for another ten days. Two sisters came up from Cheyenne Saturday and accompanied the remains to the capital city for burial. Funeral services were held Sunday. Yoder was 43 years of age. ----Douglas Budget, Douglas, Wyoming, July 3, 1941

(See YNL24 and YNL35 for more information)

JOHANNES OF MUSSBACH- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and relinquished and transferred the southwestern half of the parcel (holdings) measuring 461 acres land, the property of my uncle, Johannes Jotter's last will and testament and had belonged to my deceased cousin, Daniel Jotter – to me the legitimate heir of Daniel, together with all the buildings, barns, fields, gardens, orchards, meadows, pasture, grasslands, woodlots, springs and run-offs belonging to them.

Here is repeated his legal right to 461 acres.

Any future debts are denied – not his responsibility if heirs of Johannes Jotter of Mussbach- no claims against the possessions of Daniel Jotter who died without a will.

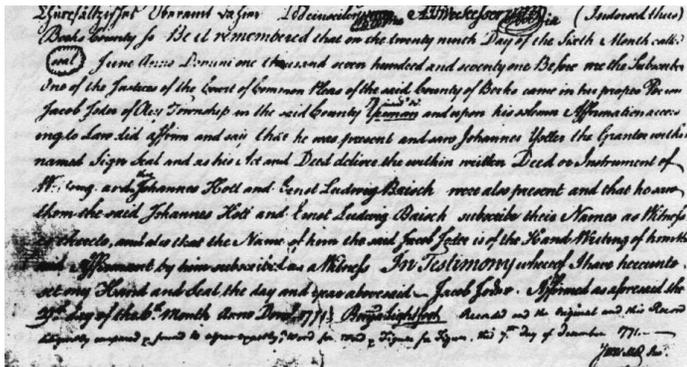
In my own hand and seal dated Mussbach Jan. 31, 1771 AD Johannes Jotter

Witness Johannes Holt and Ludwig Beisch, Jacob Jotter

Processed in Mussbach an der Haardt (a creek) in upper Neustadt in Pfaltz Jan 31, 1771 before officials and judge – Johannes Jotter presented himself and certified that he wrote this document himself in the presence of witnesses, attested to and seal the bill of sale and certified such to be the truth, - before the officers B. Maurer, Attorney Sebastian Zeitler, other board members.

Accepted, approved Feb. 5, 1771 at Neustadt Signatories Meinsweiler, A Weckisse.

By summer, Jacob Yoder had returned from Germany to Berks County and he presented this document before a Justice of the Berks County Court of Common Pleas on 29 June 1771 and swore that he was present and saw Johannes Jotter sign it in front of himself and two other witnesses.



Jacob Yoder Attests on Document in English

A 1724 census translated by Hermann and Gertrude Guth in *Palatine Mennonite Census Lists 1664-1793* reports at Mussbach “Johannes Joder, linen weaver, with a narrow home, and one-half Morgen vineyard. No wealth”. Some have related this fellow to the assumed Amishman Jost Joder at nearby Lachen 3.5 miles to the southeast, but we know from the estate settlement that he was not a member of the Amish line

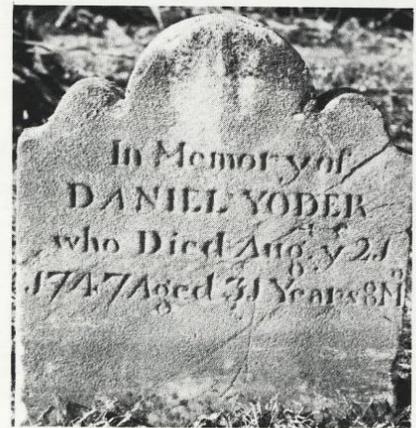


Scenes From Mussbach

Johannes “Jeder” is found in the Mussbach tax census in 1738 listed as a single male. In 1743 he is found as Johannes “Jotter”, with a household of one adult male, one adult female, one son and two daughters. In 1753 Johannes Jotter is shown with a wife and two children. A note says he had lived there since 1723, and that a recently married daughter was also living there with her new husband. In 1759 farmer and weaver Johannes Jotter, his wife, one son, and a daughter who had been married at Pfeddersheim (some 35 miles north). The 1768 record shows Andreas Jotter as head of a household at Mussbach, presumably the lone son of Johannes.

Johannes would have been the uncle of Melchior and the oldest brother of Conrad Yoder of North Carolina. Although Johannes is included in the Guth's Mennonite tax censuses, the records for his brother Conrad and nephew Melchior were found in Reformed church archives. In YNL58 Dr. Don Yoder speculated about the religious leaning of the family.

Daniel, Son of Hans Sr.



DANIEL- died 21 Aug 1747 31y-8m- ? (OH4 20-4)

Photo from the Pleasantville Cemetery by Richard H and David Yoder, 1993

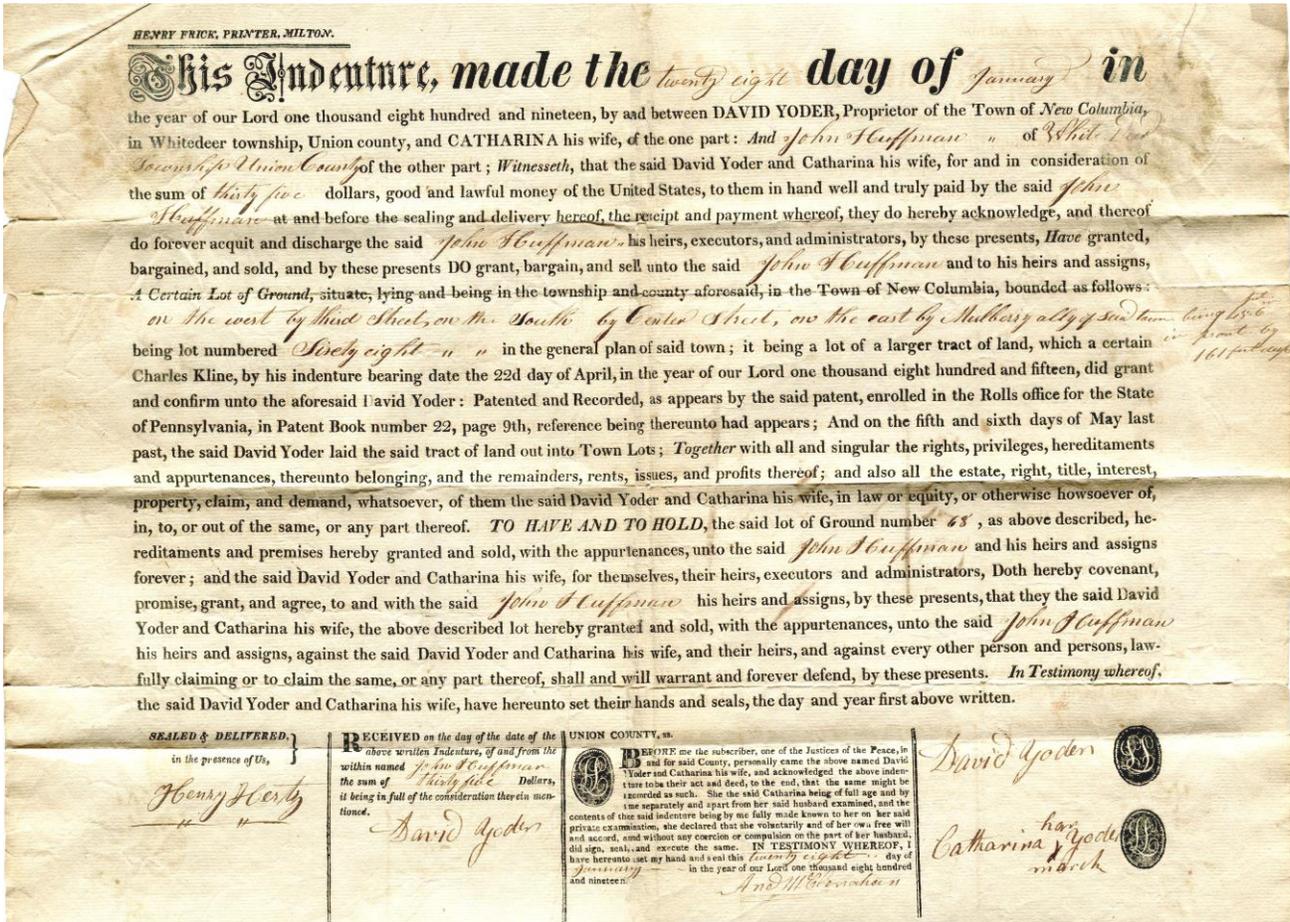
Daniel Yoder, who died without a will on Aug, 21, 1747, was 31 years and 8 months old at that time, placing his birth to Hans Joder Sr (OH) around Dec. of 1715. His gravestone is the OLDEST standing stone for a Yoder in the United States. Hans had married for his second wife Anna Rosina LeDee on 4/29/1711 at Whitemarsh Church with the ceremony performed by Paulus van Vlecq. As Daniel's widow and mother both had rights to live on the property and benefit from its proceeds during their lifetime, it can be assumed that both had passed on by the time of the land transfer in 1771.

An Andreas Joder/Andrew Yoder Link?

In an article appearing in the April 2009 issue of the Yoder Newsletter (YNL53) we revealed the finding that the unlinked line of Andrew Yoder (b 2/1/1776) of Jackson Twp., Lycoming Co. PA (code “CG”) had been confirmed by DNA testing as matching to the non-Amish line of the Steffisburg Joder family.

The article goes on to propose as a possible earlier generation an Andrew Yatter who appeared in the 1769 Tax Records for Pasayank Twp, Philadelphia Co. Andrew is not a common name among the Yoder/Joder families, but it does appear as “Andreas” in 1768 at Mussbach, Germany as an apparent son of Johannes. This was the last time the Joder surname is shown in the Mussbach Mennonite reports, although we do know that Johannes (then in his 70s) was still apparently alive there in 1771 for him to have signed the property release. Could his son Andreas have recently joined uncle Conrad and cousins Melchior and siblings in America? Was Johannes then living with a married daughter in Mussbach? Very possible. Will we ever know?

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SALES DOCUMENT OF NEW COLUMBIA LOT 68 FROM DAVID AND CATHARINA YODER TO JOHN HUFFMAN, 28 JAN 1819

The 1810 census shows David, Catherine and their family in Oley Township, Berks County, PA, and the four oldest children listed appear, as well as a male born between 1774-84 and a female born between 1784-1790. As Catherine was 20 years younger than David, it is conceivable that these could have been unnamed children by a first wife, but they may also have been relatives or servants.

1810 census

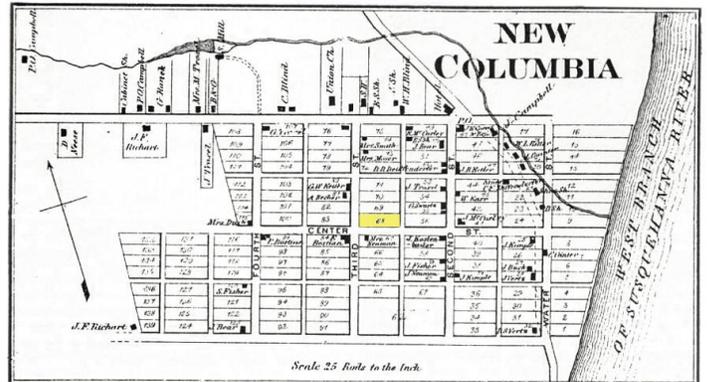
David-----Yoder-----Berks-----Oley-----828-----45+-(OH134)  
 -----male-----female  
 -----age-45+-----1  
 -----26/45-----1  
 -----16/26-----1  
 -----10/16-----1  
 -----Under-10-----4

The 1820 census shows the family after their move in 1815 to Union County, which had been created on Mar. 22, 1813, from part of Northumberland County. One of the two male children who died young (Benneville b. c. 1812, or Aaron b. c1816) seems to have passed on before that date and the other was living, as was daughter Eliza (b. c1818) who was also to die young.

1820 census

David--Yoder--Union-----WhtDr-----072-----26/45------(OH134)  
 -----male-----female  
 -----age-45+-----  
 -----26/45-----1  
 -----10/16-----3  
 -----Under-10-----3-----2

The family moved to Union County in 1815, and settled in White Deer Township in an area once known as "Dogtown" on the banks of the Susquehanna River. David and Catharine purchased some sixty acres of land; in 1818 laying out and incorporating the village of New Columbia or "Newky" as the locals call it. It was laid out May 5 1818 as a town for David Yoder proprietor recorded in Deed Book F page 306. There they were found "selling-off the lots at very reasonable figures to induce settlers to locate." (see one of the original sales documents above). The plot map below is for the town of New Columbia, with lot 68 (the parcel subject to the sale) highlighted in yellow.



Pomeroy's Atlas for Union and Snyder Counties 1868 shows the sawmill, cabinet and blacksmith shops, the hotel, and the Union Church, all in New Columbia.

Location of Lot 68, Sold in the document above

In the Union County, Pennsylvania: A Celebration of History, 1976, by Charles McCool Snyder, says:

*While the White Deer Valley's fortunes were fluctuating, New Columbia found a place on the map in 1818 when David Yoder, with the help of Henry Hertz, a surveyor, laid out a plan for a town on Dog Run. The 132 lots on the original plat were on the south side of Main Street; those on the north side were a later addition taken from the farm of John Fisher. Yoder and his son Moses were obviously hopeful that a town on this site would prosper, but there was no river bridge there, nor was there a power seat on the river or run.*

David, referred to as "a highly-respected and progressive citizen," died in Jan. 1826 and his wife Catherine (b. Jan.1, 1786) died Sep. 3, 1845. Catherine is buried at the Klopp-Clapp Cemetery, White Deer Twp and David is suspected as being there as well, both in unmarked graves.

A review of their seven children who lived to adulthood follows, beginning with eldest son Joshua.



Eldest child Joshua was born Oct.2, 1805. He married Elizabeth Brown, and died Jun. 16, 1871. Joshua rests in the Washington Presbyterian Church Cemetery, Spring Garden, PA. Children of the couple were: Catherine "Kate" Brown Yoder (1837-1914) married Hugh D. Hunter, bur Allenwood Cem, Allenwood, PA; Martha Brown Yoder (1839-1915) m. Cyrus B. McCormick, bur. Wash. Preby. Cem, Spring Garden, PA; David Benjamin (1842-1897) m. Amanda Brungart, bur. Emanuel Ref. Church, Greenburr, Clinton Co,

PA; William Brown Yoder (1844-1905) m. Mary Artman (see p7 YNL74); Mary Hannah Yoder ((1846-1938) m. Daniel Wetzell, bur. Oak Hill Cem, Grand Rapids, MI; Sarah J. Yoder (1849-1902) single bur. Oakhill Cem, Grand Rapids, MI; Henrietta Hill Yoder (1852-1927) single, bur. Oak Hill Cem, Grand Rapids, MI. Res. 1850- Washington, Lycoming Co, PA- farmer; 1860- Brady, Lycoming, PA- farmer; 1870- Greg, Union Co, PA-farmer.

Next child, Samuel, born Jul 3, 1807. m. Sarah MacKey, b c1806-8 and they reportedly had two boys and one girl... Samuel not shown in 1850 census. By 1860 his widow Sarah was living with daughter Rachel (1835 McEwensville, Northumberland Co. PA-1914 Williamsport, Lycoming Co, PA) who m. Peter Snyder b. c1835, a laborer in Turbot Twp, Northumberland Co, PA. By 1870, 64 yr old Sarah is still in the Snyder household, now in Williamsport, Lycoming Co, PA, with Peter shown as a "carpenter on the RR". Rachel and Peter are bur. in the Wildwood Cemetery, Williamsport, PA.

Next child David Yoder, born Oct. 14, 1842 m. Amanda Rebecca Brungard in 1870. In 1880 he is shown in Miles, Centre County, PA, as a farm laborer, with wife Amanda, age 29, and three children Elizabeth age 9, Catherine J. age 5, and Emma S. age 2 . David died Jul 8, 1897 and was bur. at Greenburr, Clinton Co., PA.

Next Child Moses is the child who is most completely documented due to the biographical sketch in the county history. His biographical sketch in History of That Part of the Susquehanna and Juniata Valleys reports:

*Mr. Yoder was born on April 1, 1810, in Oley township, Berks County, Pa., where his forefathers, who came from Germany nearly two hundred years ago, first settled and are still represented. His grandfather, Samuel Yoder, was the father of five: Maria born 1750, died 1812; George, born 1752; Peter, born 1763; David, born 1765, died January, 1826; Abraham, born 1768.....The primitive schools of that period were opened to Moses Yoder, and he received their full*

*benefit until the death of his father, which occurred when he was but fourteen years old.*

*Thus necessitated to strike out for himself, he worked upon a farm at six dollars a month for seven months. A few winters were spent in coopering, and, at eighteen years of age, he went to mason-work on the Pennsylvania Canal, then in course of construction. Becoming a master-mason, he carried on the business successfully over twenty years and laid the foundation for his noticeable success. Desirous of a less arduous life, he entered upon a mercantile career with John Datesman, and, after two years became partner with that gentleman in Watsontown. He then bought and ran the canal-boat "Datesman & Yoder" one season, after which he spent some time prospecting in the West; returning from whence unsatisfied, he settled in Black Hole, Lycoming County, PA., store-keeping, where he remained eight years. In 1864 he made a final change, purchasing the store building and business at White Deer Mills, and has since continued there, giving personal attention to all matters. In 1872 he was appointed postmaster by a Republican administration, although always a Democrat, without solicitation, and has since occupied such position. In 1875 he was nominated by his party for register and recorder of the county, but was defeated in the strong Republican county, receiving much more than his party strength, although making no personal effort.*

*He was married to Elizabeth Ranck in 1834. She died November 23, 1848, without issue, and on July 28, 1854, he married Mrs. Nancy Ann Van Wagner (once Fowler), the fruit of this union being Kate Datesman, born May 7, 1855. Mrs. Yoder was born February 21, 1818, her parents being James and Ann (Craft) Fowler. James Fowler was a builder and well-known engineer, having run the first engine on the present Philadelphia and Erie Railroad. He died in 1858.*

*On December 27, 1876, Kate Datesman Yoder was married to Cyrus Leinbach, and has borne him two children as follows: Merle Yoder, born January 6, 1878; Mabel Inez, born July 15, 1881.*

*Mr. Yoder joined the Lutheran Church in 1845. Now, at the age of seventy-five, he is fairly hale and hearty and carries on a large general store trade in his own buildings to keep himself active and show others what may be done when a life has been well spent. He enjoys the respect and esteem of all and is a worthy citizen and friend.*

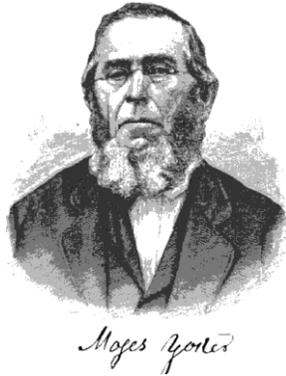
Census records show: 1850 – Moses is a 40 year old "laborer" working for merchant John Datesman and wife Catherine in Kelly Twp, Union Co, PA; in 1860 as a "merchant" in Clinton Twp, Lycoming Co, PA with wife, daughter Kate, and Nancy's daughter Anna (age 17) by first husband John Van Wagner; in 1870 as a "dry goods merchant" in White Deer Twp, Union Co, Pa; and in 1880 as a farmer, still in White Deer Twp.



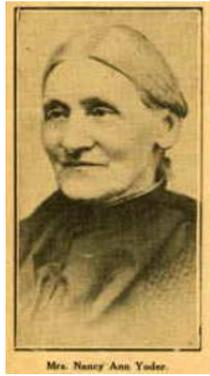
Gravestones of Moses and Nancy Fowler Yoder

Moses continued in the role of White Deer postmaster until his death on Apr. 2, 1888. The graves of Moses, his second wife Nancy, and those of their child Kate rest at the Watsontown Cemetery, Northumberland Co., PA. That of first wife Elizabeth is at the Kopp Cemetery in White Deer Township, Union Co.

DAVID THE -PIANO MAKER CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Moses Yoder



Mrs. Nancy Ann Yoder

Next child Isaac Augustus Yoder was born Aug. 28, 1814. He married Deborah Fowler (a sister of the wife of Isaac's brother Moses). The 1850 census shows him as a merchant in Clinton Twp, Lycoming Co, PA with wife Deborah and child "Amanda J. McCarthy" age 4; in 1860 the family is in Montgomery, PA with daughter Anna E. age 8 and "Jane McCarty age 14"; 1870 in Montgomery Station, Clinton Twp, Lycoming Co, PA shows Isaac with Deborah and daughter Anna E. age 17 (bc1853) with his occupation to be that of farmer, also in the house is 21 year old Amanda J. McCarthy listed as "domestic servant". Isaac died May 27, 1872 and is bur. in the Saint John's Lutheran-Brick Church Cemetery, Montgomery, PA. The 1880 census show Deborah alone in the Village of Montgomery Station, running a boarding house with daughters Jane and "Emma" in the household with grandson Roy Yoder, age 3 (as son of Amanda Jane and unknown husband, Roy later went by the name "John Roy Yoder Durkin." Amanda's death certificate in 1927 shows Amanda Jane was a "widow" (husband's name not known) born Oct. 7, 1846 in Montgomery, Lycoming County, PA not far from Williamsport and lists her parents as Deborah Fowler and Isaac Yoder (sic). Anna Emma Yoder married electrician Samuel Bartlett in 1885, lived in Shrewsbury, NJ and seems to have had no children

Next child Phoebe Yoder, b c 1819, married Jeremiah Taylor about 1840. The 1850 census for Washington, Lycoming Co, PA shows Jeremiah (age 29) a laborer, Phoebe (age 28), and children Catherine (age 6), Isaac (age 4), and Margaret (age 1). The biography for brother Moses reports they had 2 boys and 2 girls, and the second boy seems certain to be William, born Jun. 3, 1842, but we have no explanation why he was not in the family group for the 1850 census. William married Mary M. Schriver, had a large family, died Nov. 19, 1931, and rests in the Wildwood Cemetery in Williamsport. Isaac married Katherine Shank.



Last child Anna Yoder was born Feb. 23, 1825 and married Lewis Benjamin Dersham (pictured at left). They had a son William born 1845 and a daughter Emma Rebecca born 1848. Anna died Mar. 31, 1850 and is bur. In the Klopp Cemetery, White Deer, Union Co, PA. Benjamin married again and moved to Ashland, OH and then on to West Union, IA where he died in 1906.

Son William was born Jun 19, 1845, married Martha Quackenbush, had a boy and a girl, and died Dec. 7, 1910 in Waterloo, IA. Daughter Emma Rebecca married Sep 17, 1870 in Labette, KS to Jacob R. Ebert and they had a daughter Lulu. Her grave marker in the West Union, IA cemetery lists her as Emma Rebecca Needershan Ebert, so there may have been a first husband.

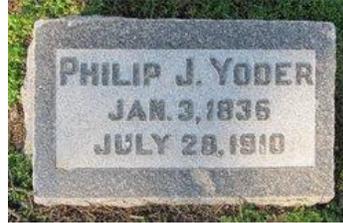
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## UPDATED FIND-A-GRAVE COUNTS

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of Feb. 9, 2020 the counts for interments were: 30285 records (an increase of +224 from Aug. 11, 2019) -Yoder; 517 (+3) - Yother; 336 (+2) - Yothers; 291 (+5) - Yotter; 72 (+0) - Yoter; 300 (+1) - Yoders; 78 (+1) - Ioder; 93 (+0) - Joder; 50 (+4) - Jotter; 1 (+0) - Joders; 10 (+0) - Youder; 3- (+0) - Youders; 18 -(+0) - Youther; 8 (+0) - Youthers; 3 (+0) - Younder; 3 (+0) - Youders.

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YR234131- Phillip J Yoder (1/3/1836 OH-2/28/1910 Phillips,WY) m Cinderella Hattery (10/7/1841 OH- 2/15/1905) bur. Lakeview Cemetery, Cheyenne, WY (grandparents of Cowboy star Philip Yoder on page 2)

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## Third Consolidated YNL Volume Coming Soon

After our first 25 issues (YNL1 thru 25) we published a consolidated YNL volume with an "every name index" prepared by Ben Yoder's nephew, the late Ken Heeter. After the next 25 (26-50) we did another (also indexed by Ken). With this issue, we have reached another milestone and a consolidated volume (51-75) will soon be prepared.

Each volume covers 12 ½ years of YNL history, and reflects the impressive evolution of our knowledge about the Yoder family over the past 37 ½ years!

Highlights of the first 25 issues include: introduction of Melchior Yoder, and selected Alsatian and German Yoder immigrants; "discovery" of Conrad Yoder's grandson Adolph of whom it had been written "all traces of him were lost"; passing of YNL co-founder Ben Yoder; articles by scholar Dr. Don Yoder on the Oley Yoder line, their Steffisburg links and the Yoder Heritage Tour he led to Europe; the Jotters of Eppstein; Rachel Kreider speculation on the Steffisburg tie of the 1742 Amish Yoder immigrants; and much more.

Issues 26-50 included: House of Yoder ground-breaking; reports from the YNL co-sponsored Yoder National reunions in North Carolina, Berks County, and at House of Yoder; Tracing of Conrad and Melchior Yoder descendants in the mid-west; discovery of Martin Yoder (OH112), George Yoder (YR1271), Jacob Yoder (OH146) families; initial DNA results and what they mean.

Issues 51-75 included: Introduction of Andrew and Michael Yoder; redefinition of Caspar Joder/Verena Stauffer identity; possible identity of "Hans of Great Swamp" among Steffisburg Joders; analysis of Benjamin Yoder origins (former unlinked code AR); Amish and Jakob Ammann relationship to the Steffisburg Joders; Dr. Don Yoder article on discovery of ancestral links for Conrad and Melchior Yoder; Rachel Kreider 100<sup>th</sup> birthday remembrances; discovery of Yost Yoder indenture (OY); Yetter, Yearty, and Yoder links; Yotter immigrants; origins of Trachsel wives?; passing of Dr. Don Yoder, and of YNL crew members Rachel Kreider, John W. Yoder and Esther Yoder; YNL sponsored national Yoder reunion with Andreas Joder of Steffisburg as featured speaker; Yotter immigrants to Iowa; and an introduction to the current day Joder families of Steffisburg.

See page 2 for details of how to purchase the consolidated YNL volumes- your choice for the new one will be either color or black & white, with a different price for each.

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# GENERAL LAND OFFICE RECORDS

Thanks to Steve Yoder for pointing out the searchable general General Land Office Records of the US Bureau of Land Management. Not a lot, but a number of interesting Yoder items there. We gave one example in YNL74, here is another:

*James Monroe 389*  
*President of the United States of America,*

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING: 952

Know ye, That, in pursuance of the Acts of Congress appropriating and granting Land to the late Army of the United States, passed on and since the sixth day of May, 1812, *Adolph Yoder*

having deposited in the General Land-office a Warrant in *his* favor, numbered *22659* there is granted unto *The said Adolph Yoder* late a *private in Hickmans Riflemen* a certain Tract of Land, containing *One hundred & Sixty Acres* being the *South West quarter* of Section *Twenty three* of Township *Fourteen, North,* in Range *Four, West* in the Tract appropriated (by the Acts aforesaid) for Military Bounties, in the Territory of *Arkansas*: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said *quarter* Section of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Adolph Yoder* and to *his*

heirs and assigns for ever.

This example is War of 1812 veteran Adolph Yoder (Con32), son of David Yoder and Elizabeth Reep, grandson of immigrant Conrad Yoder. The land is located on Independence County between the towns of Charlotte and Cord. 160 acres of land (a quarter section) both warranted and patented to Adolph. Many years ago Nancy Griffith, Lyon College Library, Batesville, AR. wrote "(Arkansas Land records: ADOLPH YODER Independence County Warrant 1820/11/27- 23 14N 4W 160acres- "I also found a mention of Adolph's purchase of land in November 1820. Strangely enough, he is not listed in census records for 1820, '30 or '40, nor in tax lists for the state of Arkansas 1819-1829". Adolph, who is recorded as having served in 7<sup>th</sup> Reg't (Pearsons) NC Mil. Capt. Blunt's Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Rifle Reg't, was mentioned in YNLs 4 and 38.

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## Steffisburg Honors Hans Jakob Joder



Son Andreas writes "Last night (Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019) my parents, Hans Jakob and Anna Joder received the Honorary Citizenship of Steffisburg. He received this title because of his big work in transcribing and digitizing all the historical books in the archive of Steffisburg and his ancestry research. Such titles are very rare and it happens only about every 20 years."

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## ALWAYS TROUBLE-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

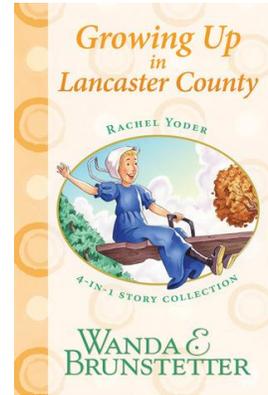
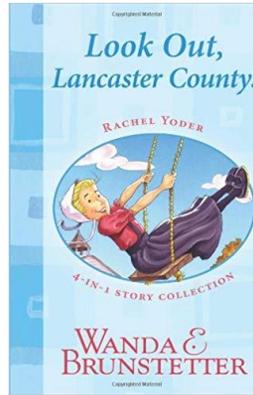
Between 2007 and 2009, she created an eight book series for children, featuring 9 year old Rachel Yoder, a young Amish girl for whom there is "Always Trouble Somewhere". Wanda reports:



"Whether Amish or "English," all children are alike in many ways. They're curious, humorous, adventurous, energetic, and sometimes full of trouble. Stories from my own childhood, and those of others, took my imagination on a ride into Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where an energetic Amish girl named Rachel Yoder lives. When Rachel isn't

bringing frogs to church or taking wild buggy rides, she's setting fireflies free and trying out new skateboards in all the wrong places. Just like every other child, Rachel must learn many life lessons along the way."

Why did she name her charming young character as she did? Wanda tells the YNL: "The name Rachel Yoder came to me because we have Mennonite and Amish friends with the last name Yoder. I chose Rachel as the character's first name because some Amish and Mennonite people I know have that name."



Volumes 1-4 in the series have been published in a collection as Look Out, Lancaster County and volumes 5-8 in a single volume as Growing Up in Lancaster County. Kindle editions are available for both.

The Rachel Yoder eBooks are available on Amazon and other major eBook retailers. Readers can find links to all of the Kindle editions on [www.amishfictionforkids.com](http://www.amishfictionforkids.com). The print version of the books are out of print but some can still be found on amazon, can often be found on eBay, or some may be available directly from Mrs. Brunstetter ([wanda.brunstetter@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.brunstetter@gmail.com))

More information about Wanda and her works can be found at her web site; [www.wandabrunstetter.com](http://www.wandabrunstetter.com) or her FACEBOOK page: <https://www.facebook.com/WandaBrunstetterFans/>

(Images used with permission of Mrs. Brunstetter)

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Are you following the Yoder Newsletter on FACEBOOK?

1,761 others are!

## YODER PASSINGS



- Willie "Bill" Alfred Yoder of Hickory, NC, age 75, passed away Oct. 3, 2019 following a long illness. Bill (pictured to the left with the Conrad Yoder family Bible) was the son of Harry Lee Yoder (Con11366) and Edna Aldaree Hoover Yoder. He was an active leader in the NC Yoder Family Association and served as their President in the early 2000's. For many years he maintained the Conrad Yoder family cemetery dating back to the 1700's. Bill was instrumental in the republication and updates of **THE HISTORY OF THE YODER FAMILY IN NORTH**

**CAROLINA**, authored by former historian Dr. Fred Roy Yoder. He also was responsible for videotaping the annual reunion each year, and was actively involved in arranging the several National Yoder Reunions which were hosted by the NC Yoder group. His love of the Yoder family heritage and his 30 plus year friendship to the Yoder Newsletter will be greatly missed.

- Lawrence W. Yoder, 90, Died Feb.10, 2019 at Newton, KS, Son of Eli T. (YRB178d) & Ida Plank Yoder. 2nd cousin of Rachel Kreider.
- Arlene Marie Yoder Holdread (YR2337a517), 98, died Goshen, IN, Oct. 1, 2019, last living child of Olen and Barbara (Mishler) Yoder.
- Menno Edward Yoder, 78, of Salisbury, Pa., died Oct. 8, 2019, in Grantsville, MD. He was the son of the late Lloyd E. (YR26119249) and Lydia (Yoder) Yoder (dau. of YR2611963).
- Wilfred E. Yoder, 84, West Liberty, OH died Sept. 8, 2019. He was son of Elbert and Dorothy (Esch) Yoder and grandson of Albert Foster Yoder (YR1461156).
- Tobias M. Yoder, age 82, Nappanee, IN died Apr. 3, 2019. He was born to Mose W. (YR2344377) and Barbara (Bender) Yoder.
- Pete A. Yoder, 90, of Middlebury, IN, died Nov. 7, 2019 at Goshen. He was the son of Ira (YR2337a65) and Ola (Mishler) Yoder.
- Melvin Allen Yoder died Nov. 3, 2019, age of 95. He born to Alpheus (YR2532332) and Elnora Yoder in Minot, North Dakota.
- Mattie J. Yoder, 97, of Belleville, Mifflin Co., PA died July 28, 2019. She was married to David R. Yoder (s/o YR2536226). She was the daughter of the late John J. Yoder (YR23443262) and Sarah J. (Swarey) Yoder.
- Nelson Dee Yoder (YR261133478), age 77, died Dec. 16, 2019, Sarasota FL. He was the son of Aden S. and Nettie Yoder.
- Glenna Marian (Yoder) Kindy, 100, died Jan. 3, 2020 in Goshen, IN. She was the daughter of Oscar (YR2337a62) & Millie (Eash) Yoder.
- Harold David Yotter, 92, died Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne. He was the son of Fred and Ruth (Swanson) Yotter of the "AN4" line.
- Bertha Geneva (Yother) Rieder-Wineberg, 92, of Paris, Ark died Oct. 15, 2019. She was the daughter of Adam David and Geneva (Messick) Yother (grandson of Con825).
- Delmer Ray Yoder, 83, of Accident, MD died Jan. 10, 2020, in Morgantown, W.Va. He was the son of the late Roy J. (s/o YR2618211) and Fannie H. (Yoder) Yoder (d/o YR26119126)..
- Randall Lee Yoder, 62, Burr Oak, MI died Dec. 28, 2019. He was the son of William H. (s/o YR2357223) and Freida (Casner) Yoder

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A HOUSE OF YODER DOCENT?



Audrey Metz and Ken Seitz at House of Yoder 2019

Audrey has a history of volunteerism, including a stretch in India working with Mother Teresa. Ken and Audrey attended elementary school together and reconnected many years later, marrying on New Years Day 2012. Together they volunteered as docents in the House of Yoder and look forward to that repeat-assignment in August 2020.

Ken Seitz writes, September 10, 2019:

*"Welcome to the House of Yoder, a replica of a 1750s home. Prepare to step back in time some 250 years to visit a home in early America. No one has ever lived in this house; it was not moved here from elsewhere. It is a model built by Yoder clan initiative (and there are many Yoders living right here in this community) built over a 5-year timeframe and opened to the public in 2000.*

*"Visitors sign their names and where they're from: D.C., Pittsburgh, Morgantown, Baltimore, New York City, to name a few. Others are local and say they watched the place go up, but never stopped in. Sometimes we hear, "We've been by here often and never found it open. Finally we get to see in." Others, "Oh yes, we know (of) Yoders. I went to school with Yoders. I have a cousin married to a Yoder. Nope, never heard of them?"*

Docent volunteers help staff the House of Yoder at Penn Alps each summer, welcoming visitors and showing them through the house. Docents are provided with a fully equipped apartment, located on the ground floor (at no charge). You may bring your own food, or eat at the local restaurants. The Penn Alps restaurant, offers a 25% discount on your meals. A handicapped ramp into the house is available. There are several stories in the house, so there are steps. No alcohol is permitted. Pets have to be approved. The hosting season begins Memorial Day Weekend and closes the second week of October. The House is open from 11-6. You may close the house on Wednesday, if you so desire, and use this time to sight see/visit the area or family, etc. Many hosts do not close. A reference is done on all new hosts. Dress is casual, but appropriate. You do not have to be a Yoder, married to a Yoder, or even know a Yoder to host at The House of Yoder, all we ask of our hosts that you are friendly and welcoming and have a hospitable personality, interest and desire in the hosting program. There are several hosting books/references available to help the host. Help is always available from a Board of Director. You are not just left on your own!! For more information contact Mayla H. Yoder [mhvyoder@msn.com](mailto:mhvyoder@msn.com), phone 814-279-2787, or write her at 2274 Salco Road Berlin, PA 15530

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