

# HERITAGE



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The Heritage Review is an annual publication of the Ohio Amish Library, 4292 SR 39 Millersburg, Ohio 44654. It is intended to provide information, past and present, about the Amish and Mennonites, especially in Ohio. We invite articles and information. Memberships to the Ohio Amish Library are \$20 annually. Single copies of The Heritage Review are available.

## MORTALITY

*Komm sterblicher, betrachte mich,  
Du lebst, ich lebe auf Erden,  
Was du jetzt bist, das war ich auch,  
Was ich bin, wirst du werden;  
Du muszt hernach, ich bin vorhin;  
Ach! denke nicht in deinem sinn,  
Das du nicht dürfest sterben.*

Come mortal, consider me,  
You live, I also lived upon the earth,  
What you now are, such was I too,  
What I now am, you also will become;  
You must come hereafter, I go before;  
O! think not in your heart,  
That you might not die.

This short poem reminding the reader about the mortality of life was found in an old Bible, which has the name *Samuel Bär* written on top of the flyleaf and *Heidelberg Taunschip, York County, Pa.* on the bottom of the flyleaf.



## A LETTER BY DANIEL P. GINGERICH

*by Roy Weaver*

Daniel P. Gingerich (1813-1889) (GG4B+) was three years old when his father, Peter Gingerich who was a farmer in Waldeck, Germany, died. About four years later his mother Barbara (nee) Oesch, married Jacob Swartzentruber (SZ13). Jacob was a miller at the Galgenmühle in Mengerlinghausen, Waldeck. He was ordained a minister soon after they were married. Jacob and Barbara had seven children together, born from 1821 to 1830. Daniel P. and his brother Jacob P. (1811-1888) grew up with these children, their half-brothers and sisters.

Peter Guengerich had married three times. It is not known that he had any children with his first marriage. To his second marriage with Catherine Algeyer were born 9 children. The oldest, Michael, was born in 1787. Only one of the sons, John, of this marriage came to America. John P. Gingerich was ordained minister before Jacob Swartzentruber was, and signed his church letter when they immigrated. John ended up settling in Iowa, where his half brother Daniel P. and Jacob Swartzentruber also lived. After the death of his second wife, Peter married Barbara Oesch, in around 1810. Barbara was much younger than Peter, and was about the age of his oldest son. When he died in 1816, he left three children from this marriage, Daniel, Jacob, and Susanna, who died young.

When Jacob Swartzentruber married Barbara Oesch/Guengerich he was only 20 years old and she was around 33. Their seven children were all born in Mengerlinghausen, Step-son Daniel was eight years older than Jacob's oldest son Joseph, but they later pioneered together in Iowa. Jacob Swartzentruber built and operated the water driven mill at the Galgenmühle, now called the Luisenmühle. He both sawed logs and ground grain. Later, in Somerset Co., Pa. and also in Iowa, Jacob built water wheels and mills. The mill no longer exists but a small hotel is built on the site, and traces of the water race remain. This site is often visited by American Anabaptists who are following their roots.

In 1833 the Swartzentruber family decided to emigrate to America. A number of Amish left this area in this decade, so it may be that compulsory military

training was an issue. Daniel P. was 20 and Jacob P. 22 years old when they left. The family sold their belongings for \$1600 and the government kept \$500 in case they would come back destitute. When they left on May 9, they wanted to leave their home early in the morning, but were detained by well-wishers and friends who came to say good by. When their wagon finally passed through nearby Mengerlinghausen, people looked from windows and stood in the street making goodbys and wishing them a safe journey. It was two o'clock in the afternoon when they finally were on their way. It is obvious they they were well liked by all the people they had done business and interacted with.

They traveled by wagon to the Weser River and then by river boat to Bremen, Germany. Here, on May 28, they boarded a sail ship for America. After a stormy voyage of 72 days, they arrived in Baltimore, Maryland on August, 13, 1833. Daniel P. kept a detailed diary of the trip, found in the Jacob Guengerich and Barbara Miller Family History, 1811-1985 by Eli E. Gingerich.

From Baltimore, they took the railroad to Fredericktown, Maryland. There they hired a team and coach to take them to Somerset Co. Pa. This cost them \$90, which in that time was very expensive. But they took all their luggage and the family. At Somerset they came to the home of Daniel Miller, a minister, who gave them work thrashing grain- with a flail, of course. Their payment was 1/10 of the grain they threshed. In October Daniel got a carpenter job, working with Joel B. Miller.

On November 29, 1835, Daniel married Joel's sister Susanna, the daughter of Bishop Benedict Miller. A number of Benedict Miller's family, his father and brothers, had moved to Ohio, so in 1837 Daniel and Susanna moved to Tuscarawas Co., Ohio. The next year the west beckoned and they moved to Fairfield Co., Ohio, where they bought a small farm. They lived there eight years, in which time the following letter was written. The west was opening up, and Daniel set his sights going to Iowa. In the mean time, Jacob Swartzentruber had moved to Allegany Co. Maryland from the Glades/ Somerset area. Jacob was minister in Somerset and was not satisfied with the moral and spiritual condition of the church there. So he decided



to move out.

In 1845 Daniel's half-brother Joseph J. Swartzentruber walked from the home of his parents in Allegany Co. to Daniels in Fairfield Co. in Ohio. From there Daniel and Joseph walked to Iowa, to see about pioneering there. They found a suitable location along the Deer Creek, in what is now Johnson Co., located south of Iowa City. There they carved their names on some basswood trees to mark their claims before walking home again.

Plans were made to move to Iowa the next spring. On February 26, 1846 Daniel wrote a letter to the Swartzentrubers in Allegany Co. in which he writes about their plans to move. This letter is printed below, translated from the original German script.

In the spring of 1846, the Daniel P. Gingerich and the William Wertz<sup>1</sup> families traveled to Zanesville by wagon. There they met Joseph J. Swartzentruber, who was 25 years old then, and came from his parent's home in Allegany Co. At Zanesville they boarded a steamboat which took them down the Muskingum River to Marietta and the Ohio River. There they got the second boat and followed the Ohio River to Cincinnati, where they got on the third steamboat which took them to the Mississippi River and St. Louis. From there they traveled up the Mississippi to Bloomington, (now Muscatine), Iowa.

At Bloomington they hired teams and wagons and loaded their possessions for the last leg of their journey. The road was nothing but a trail that went around swamps and through the forests. They crossed the Cedar River, continuing northwest to Iowa City, the territorial capitol. Iowa was in the process of becoming a state then, declaring statehood in December of 1846.

The little group rented a small house in Iowa City, where the women stayed while three men went to Deer Creek to see about living quarters. When they arrived there, they met a bachelor, John Lambert, who was living in a small cabin of hewed logs. William Wertz accepted his invitation to live with him, and made arrangements to for his family to live there. Within a

mile there stood another log cabin that was deserted, which became the home of the Gingerich family and Joseph Swartzentruber.

After getting their families settled in, William Wertz and Joseph Swartzentruber followed the marked trail to the land office at Dubuque, Iowa to enter their claims on the land. This was a distance of around 80 miles one way. Upon their return, Daniel Gingerich and John Lambert made the same trip to enter their claims.

In August the Gingerich family and Joseph Swartzentruber became sick with fever and ague (chills). Malaria was prevalent in the area, which had a lot of wetlands. The Gingerich's baby daughter Christina died August 11. Jacob Swartzentruber, the child's step-grandfather, had come from Maryland to visit them and to look the land over. So he was there in their time of sorrow and as a minister, probably preached a short sermon at the child's burial service.

Joseph Swartzentruber became discouraged by his sickness, and moved back to Maryland in the fall. Also in the fall of 1846, the Peter B. Miller family moved there from Knox Co. Ohio. Peter was the son of Benedict Miller of Somerset Co., and a brother to Daniel's wife Susanna. They brought a family with teenagers, making the situation look brighter. The Miller's home was located six miles southeast of the Gingerich cabin.

The next February Daniel bought land in Washington Co., which was closer to the Peter Miller family. As the Gingerich family thought of building a larger cabin, the fact that the Millers were closely related and had older children would have been reason to move close to them. The Millers could help in building the cabin and in sharing the other work. Daniel's son Jacob wrote in later years, "I do not remember that there was a single iron nail in the whole building."

The oldest of Daniel and Susanna's children was Samuel, known as S.D. Gingerich. Besides farming, he taught school, was editor of the "Herald der Wahrheit," and took the initiative in compiling the "Gingerich Liedersammlung," which is used in some Amish services instead of the Ausbund. S.D. Gingerich was an avid historian and writer and is well-known for his contributions to the church.

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1. William Wertz was married to Magdalena, the daughter of John P. Gingerich. John was an older half-brother of Joseph P. Gingerich, from his father's first marriage. Thus, he was "in the family." John and his family also lived in Iowa later.



Several observations can be made about the letter which Daniel P. Gingerich wrote. The envelope is addressed to "Jacob Schwartzenruber, Allegany Co., Little Crossings P.O., Maryland." But the greeting is "Dear Brother," and from the contents of the letter clear that it was written to Jacob's son Joseph, Daniel's half-brother. Joseph was single at the time and lived at home.

Daniel quotes from a letter from Joh[annes] Schwartzenruber who wrote about life in Iowa. The only settlement in Iowa at that time was in Lee Co. In 1845, a 73 year-old Christian Swartzenruber moved there. He had a son John, who would have been 43 years old at the time. This seems to be who the letter was from. Another son, Peter, is also mentioned.

The Mormons were being driven from Iowa and Illinois in 1846, because of negative public opinion. They moved to Salt Lake City and settled there.

The visit of Heinrich Pflüger from Mengerlinghausen and his mention of the rebuilding of the mill at the Galgenmühle must have been of great interest to Jacob Swartzenruber. This was the very mill he and his sons had made their living from, when they lived in Germany.

## THE LETTER

Fairfield Co. West Rushville P.O. Ohio  
February 26, 1846

Dear Brother,

Your letter of January 29, 1846 was received by me about 2 weeks ago, and therein I see you have intentions to be here by March. But concerning Father you have mentioned nothing that he wants to come along, which surprises us very much. Christian Brenneman and Joseph Miller also want to go out to [Iowa] by Spring, but they cannot be ready before perhaps the second week in April.

I also would have wrote an answer sooner, but waited on an answer from John Swartzenruber of Iowa. Last Friday I received a letter the same John Swartzenruber, written January 25, 1846. The contents tell us this:

"We like it fairly well here, but have not made much progress yet. The Mormons must all move by April. They trade their chat

tel for wagons and oxen for payment. There are other good opportunities here. I believe if you and other good friends come and buy land here, it would probably be a source of stability for us. You should also let the Glades Swartzentrubers know about this.

I want to advise each one who plans on coming to come soon. Grain prices are: wheat from 60 to 64 cents, and oats 15 to 20 cents [per bushel]. Our young horse died and so did Peter's two horses. They say that horses from elsewhere don't do well here, but who ever has young colts, bring them along. Spanish money has lost some of its value. It is, I believe, worth 80 cents to the dollar. "

Now I don't know what I should do with my horses. I believe if they bring a good price in the sale, I will let them go.

Wertz plans to board a canal boat at Circleville, and I believe that would be best for us.<sup>2</sup> I hoped you would come here before we have sale. Then we could counsel on what to keep. We definitely have in mind to move by the last week in March and probably have sale the 10th of March. Several other families are moving from Wüstert (?) to Lee County [Iowa]. One is the elderly Schantz's son. We are to let them know when we expect to arrive in Cincinnati.

Recently I received a letter from Jacob.<sup>3</sup> He wrote, among other things, that if I write to the Glades, I shall mention that he has in mind to move to Iowa, if all of you do. He hasn't been able to go to the Glades very well, but if possible he wants to go by Spring.

From the 14th until now it has been cold winter weather, with a deep frozen snow of 10 inches. Grain prices are: wheat: 75 cents, corn: 25 cents, and hay: 5 dollars.

About a month ago Heinrich Pflüger from Mengerlinghausen came here. There is one living at the Galgenmühle, who came from Prussia. He has nicely rebuilt the wheel. The mill works well. Ernst Hartman is the grocery keeper, and Anton Phillipp has started a

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2. Instead they went to Zanesville and by boat to Marietta. It was closer for Joseph Swartzenruber to come here than to Circleville.

3. Probably his brother Jacob, who had earlier lived in the Glades.



bakery and will \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ (?) Behind the Fishhouse towards Schmillingsen<sup>4</sup> they will fence in a wildlife enclosure made of strong wire. Out side of this enclosure all wildlife can be shot. The famine is not as great as the the newspapers say.  
[But] the potatoes did not do very well.

Mrs. [Daniel] Shetler is sickly, and her daughter Maria was very sick several weeks ago, but is much better now. Old Henry Beiler has been in bed several months. He had a hard stroke and has wasted away. It is doubtful that he will recover. Thank God, as for us, we are healthy, and also the rest of the relatives and acquaintances. May all of you be heartily greeted and in God's protection. Also remember us in your prayers, that the Lord would grant grace and blessing to our plans, and lead and keep us to a blessed end.

In a way, I am in a great predicament because of John Kemp. David Zook, Benedict Miller, and I<sup>5</sup> went bail for him and I am to pay my share this Spring. The note is due April 1st. The whole sum is \$578.48, and this must be paid in three payments. By the request of Kemp, and B. Miller, I am to write Joel. Maybe Joel Miller could send Kemp's share from the one third of the old place? Then you could bring it along when you come in the Spring. I think it would be another reason for you to come to us. If Joel can and will pay out, you could bring it along for me. They say we already have more than the other heirs. But I paid Benedict \$10, for which he gave a receipt to me. I also gave Kemp \$10, for which he gave a note to me. I believe I must write a few lines to Joel. You may show this letter to him.

Dear brother-in-law Joel B. Miller, please do not feel offended that I have burdened you with this writing. You will see by what is written above, what we desire.

Benedict was here with us last Sunday, and he encouraged me that I should write a little to you about Kemp and our circumstances. If it is possible for you to send us some money, then we want to send a receipt to you. If it isn't possible for you to send money, let me know as soon as you can. If I do not have any more inheritance coming, I kindly ask you to tally the figures and send them soon. According to my memory, you said I have thirty-some dollars more some of the others. But I have now already paid out 20 dollars as mentioned above. I don't have in mind to write more about these circumstances. You will understand well enough. I hope to have a prompt answer.

Furthermore, a friendly greeting to all of you and may you be in God's protection. Remember us in your prayers when you kneel, which we are also minded to do, with the Lord's help, in our great weakness. I also send many greetings to Mother, and to Susanna, as well as to D. Yoders.

If there are any mistakes in this writing, seek to better it. I have written this with heartfelt good intentions. Also greet the Benders, as well as the other relatives and friends. We wish to see all of you before we move. I must quit and close my writing.

Daniel P. Gingerich

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4. Now called Schmillingshausen, located 15 miles north of Mengeringshausen.

5. John Kemp, Benedict Miller [Jr.], and Joel B. Miller were Daniel P. Gingerich's brothers-in-law. Joel lived on the old home place in the Glades, and apparently paid the farm to his siblings as inheritance money. The practice of co-signing a note was common and often brought difficulties in times when money was tight. It is not know how this turned out, but John Kemp later also moved to Iowa.



# HISTORICAL PROFILE

of Moses Swartzentruber

by Henry L. Erb

Moses Swartzentruber is #SZB 119 in Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies, Gingerich & Kreider; #16 in Descendants of Barbara Hochstetler and # 3635 in Peter Hershberger Genealogy. Moses was born March 20, 1836 in Somerset Co. Pa. to immigrant Daniel Swartzentruber and Barbara Hochstetler. Barbara was a daughter of John, the son of 1838 immigrant Jacob Hochstetler. Daniel Swartzentruber and Barbara Hochstetler were married in 1821 or 1822 in Somerset Co. Pa. For a number of years they lived on a farm in Garret Co. approximately two miles south of Grantsville, Md. Around 1830 they moved to an unknown location in Somerset Co. Pa.

In the spring or early summer of 1836 they moved to Holmes Co. Ohio, and moved to a farm northeast of Berlin, Ohio along what is now US 62. The Daniel Swartzentruber family had five children born in Maryland, four in Pa., and four in Ohio. Moses was the ninth child. As a baby, in the summer of 1836, Moses very nearly met a fatal end, when he was carried off into the woods by a bear. The account goes as follows:

Daniel and Barbara were out in the fields working on the hay. Barbara had laid baby Moses along a fence row, wrapped in a blanket. Checking frequently, she was horrified to see a female bear loping towards the woods with the baby and blanket in its mouth. Barbara ran and called her husband Daniel who quickly came. After explaining what happened, Daniel said, "You pray, and I will follow the bear." The female bear was in a weakened condition and occasionally stopped to rest. At one point she covered the baby with leaves and left. Daniel crept up and got the baby and returned it to her very thankful mother.

Daniel went back to the area and watched from a tree. At once the bear returned with two cubs for a meal. After pawing around in the leaves a while, the mother bear became aware that the meal was no longer there. She became very upset, and finally stood on her hind legs and screamed.

Later the Swartzentruber family moved further

west to a farm they bought in 1839, where the Rolling Ridge Ranch is located today. Here is where Moses grew to adulthood. Daniel died here in 1849 and Barbara in 1886. It is believed they are buried in nearby cemetery L-4 in unmarked graves. ( Leroy Beachy, *Cemetery Directory of the Amish Community...*,1975).

In 1857 or 1858 Moses married Anna P. Hershberger, who was born in 1835. They were farmers and lived all their lives in Walnut Creek Twp., on the east half of the N.W. quarter section of Section 3. This farm is located along U.S. 62, where Paul A.M. Miller now lives. Later, in 1881, they also bought part of Section 1 in Paint Twp., which lies just across the township line, and across U.S. 62 from the home farm.

On this farm they raised a family of ten children. The youngest child, Lizzie, died at ten days old. On September 9, 1892 Moses Swartzentruber died. His wife lived until September 12, 1912. They are buried side by side in Cemetery G-2 (Cemetery Directory).

It was not until the spring of 1895 that efforts were made to settle up the estate. It appears they were waiting until the youngest son Peter got married and was ready to take over the home farm. Peter married on February 7, 1895. Efforts were then made to settle up the estate. Details of the estate settlement follow later in this article.

The children of Moses and Anna Swartzentruber were as follows: Mary, Dinah, Sarah, John, Jonas, Lydia, Daniel, Susan, Peter, and Katie. Following is a short profile of each of the children.

**Mary-** Mary was born September 25, 1859 and married Noah P. Miller on March 10, 1879. He was the son of Peter and Veronica Miller, who lived northeast of Baltic, Ohio. Noah and Mary had six children and lived south of Berlin in a valley called Possom Valley. Mary died Oct. 18, 1898 and is buried in Cemetery K-23 (*Cemetery Directory*).

Around 1899 Noah, with his family, moved to the new settlement in Geauga Co., Ohio. He remarried, to Fannie Miller. They had four children together, and Fannie had a 3-year-old daughter from her previous marriage.



On February 18, 1918, a horse kicked Noah in his back. Pneumonia set in and he died February 22, 1918. He is buried in Geauga County, where he has many descendants. A family genealogy of the family, Noah P. Miller and Mary Swartzentruber, 1856-1987, was compiled by Jacob M. Miller.

**Dinah-** Dinah Swartzentruber was born December 25, 1860. She apparently was never married and died on July 1, 1943. She is buried in Cemetery C-3 (Cemetery Directory) southeast of Maysville, Ohio.

**Sarah-** Sarah was born September 7, 1862 and married Benjamin J. Troyer on March 15, 1883. He was the son of Jephtha and Elizabeth Troyer. Sarah and Benjamin had an infant daughter who died young, and one son, Mose B. Troyer. They have descendants in Ohio, Delaware, and Kentucky.

**Benjamin-** as a widower, and his married son Mose were among the group of Amish who moved to Paradise Valley, Mexico in December of 1923. This move was triggered when public school authorities in Holmes and Wayne Co. arrested parents and placed some school children into children's homes for not attending school until they were sixteen and not taking all the classes. Mose and his wife had two children born there who died in infancy and are buried in Mexico. The settlement failed after only six years.<sup>1</sup> In 1928 Benjamin and Mose, with his family moved to Moyock, North Carolina. After this they lived in Delaware for number of years.

**John-** John M. Swartzentruber was born on Jan. 15, 1864. He married Fannie Troyer, the daughter of Jephtha and Elizabeth Troyer. They lived on Paint Twp. Lot 31, the second farm north of the home farm. John was ordained a minister in the Amish Church in 1913. Later he was one of the first leaders in the Amish Conservative church movement in Holmes Co. which established the Pleasant View Conservative Church.

This church was known among the Amish as the PeeVee Church, after P.V. Yoder, one of the early ministers. John donated two acres from his farm, which he bought at a sheriff's sale, on which the new church house was built. When he died on May 15, 1934, he was first person to be buried in the church cemetery. He was also the administrator to settle his father's es-

tate in 1895. They had six children, with many descendants in Holmes County.

One of his granddaughters, Alma Swartzentruber was married to Emanuel Mullet, the well-known strip mine operator and businessman in Holmes Co. Lloyd and Mary Gingerich compiled this family's history, *Descendants of John Swartzentruber and Fanny Troyer* (July 1996)

**Jonas-** Jonas M. Swartzentruber was born March 23, 1866. On November 10, 1887 he married Carolina Yoder, daughter of Samuel J. and Elizabeth Yoder. They had eight children. They lived on Paint Twp Lot 30 which was the next farm north of the home place. The Walnut Creek and Paint Twp. line is between the two farms. Jonas bought this farm at a sheriff's sale.

Jonas was ordained minister in the Amish Church in 1903. A few years later he joined with Sam Yoder to start what is known as the Swartzentruber churches, the most conservative of the Amish in Ohio. He was known to be a strict disciplinarian in church matters.

**Carolina-** died January 13, 1914 and is buried just west of their farm in Cemetery C-2 (Cemetery Directory). Jonas remarried, to Delilah Troyer, the daughter of John Troyer. She died at age 96 in 1971. Jonas died April 6, 1936. Both Delilah and Jonas are buried in the Petersheim Cemetery southeast of Maysville, Ohio. Two sons, Samuel and Levi were bishops in the Swartzentruber Church. Many of the descendants are with the Swartzentruber church today.

**Lydia-** Lydia M. Swartzentruber was born on Feb. 28, 1868. She did not marry. She died May 7, 1926 and is buried in the Petersheim Cemetery near Maysville.

**Daniel-** Daniel M. Swartzentruber was born on Nov. 27, 1869. He married Christina Geib, the daughter of Lewis and Carolina Geib. Daniels moved to Geauga Co soon after 1900 where Christina died Sept. 23, 1907.

As a widower with four small children, Daniel moved to Mission, Texas on December 12, 1907. In 1910 or 1911 he moved to Ordway, Colorado. In September, 1912 he married Lydia Yoder Eash, the widow of Henry Eash, in Limon, Colorado. She was the mother of three children. They then moved to Wild Horse, Colorado where they lived in a sod house. Sometime

1. David Luthy, *The Amish in America: Settlements That Failed*, (Pathway Publishers, 1986) pp. 513-521



later they moved to Thomas, Oklahoma. In November of 1915 they moved to Bay Minette, Alabama, where Daniel was killed in March, 1916 while blasting tree stumps with dynamite.<sup>2</sup> Lydia died on September 3, 1972. Daniel's descendants are found in Geauga Co. and Holmes Co., Ohio and LaGrange, Indiana.

**Susan-** Susan Swartzentruber was born December 24, 1871 and was married to Daniel C. Yoder. He was born December 26, 1866, the son of Christian and Elizabeth (Raber) Yoder. They had seven children. Susan died April 9, 1961, and Daniel died February 20, 1932. Both are buried on the Petersheim Cemetery southwest of Maysville, Cemetery C-3 (*Cemetery Directory*). Their descendants are mostly with the Swartzentruber Church.

**Peter-** Peter M. Swartzentruber was born April 1, 1874. On February 7, 1895 he married Carolina Troyer, the daughter of Abraham D. and Mary Troyer. Eleven children were born to this union, with nine reaching adulthood and two dying in infancy. Peter married several years after his father had died, and lived on the home farm.

Then in January, 1899, Peter purchased the home farm from the rest of the heirs for \$3450. He also purchased part of Lot 1 in Paint Twp. from his single sisters, Dena and Lydia that spring. Later in the year of 1899 he sold the home farm to his brother-in-law Daniel C. Yoder and the land in Lot 1 to his brother Jonas. Apparently he then moved to Geauga Co.

Peter's oldest son Abraham was often sick with bronchitis, so in the winter of 1914 Peter took him to the Norfolk, Virginia area with the hope that the salt air would help him. While in Norfolk, Peter met with Jacob K. Miller, later known as "Oregon Jake."<sup>3</sup> Peter and Jacob traveled to Dover, Delaware to look at the area. A few weeks later Jacob returned and bought a farm. Peter did not buy, however. He returned to Norfolk, left his son Abraham there with friends and returned to Geauga Co. In May of 1915, Peter returned to Delaware with his wife, to show her the country. Their son Abraham came from Norfolk and joined them. However, they returned to Geauga Co. without

buying a farm. In December of 1915, Peter came to Delaware for the third time that year. This time he bought a farm a mile from Dover. In January of 1916, they loaded their possessions, along with one cow and three horses into a rail car and moved to Delaware.

Two years later the Peter Swartzentruber family lost nearly all their earthly possessions in a house fire. In August of 1919 the widower and minister Joseph F. Zook came there from Lancaster, Pa. Later he married Peter's oldest daughter, in the first marriage in the Dover settlement. They returned to Lancaster Co. but moved to Delaware in March 1921. As a minister, Peter was known to be conservative, and a strict disciplinarian as a leader in the Delaware settlement.

On February 10, 1927 Peter Swartzentruber had public sale and served a free lunch to ca. 500 people. This would have been a large sale for that time. By the summer of 1927, a Budget letter mentions that P. Swartzentruber and his son-in-law Joseph F. Zook had moved to Ohio and joined the conservative Swartzentruber Church.<sup>4</sup>

During the 1920s Peter traveled to the Amish settlement in Mexico. Peter's brother-in-law Benjamin J. Troyer was living there at that time. This was the only visit by a minister from the States to that community, and the only Amish preaching service ever conducted in the Mexico settlement. Peter was apparently ordained to the ministry in Geauga Co.

Peter and his family moved to near Maysville, Ohio when they moved from Dover, Delaware. Peter died on August 6, 1933 and Carolina on March 4, 1954. Both are buried in the Petersheim Cemetery.

**Katie-** Katie Swartzentruber was born October 22, 1876. Sometime in 1920 she married widower Simon J. Troyer, the brother of Benjamin, her brother-in-law as his third wife. In 1923 the Simon Troyers along with other families left Ohio and moved to Mexico. Simon moved there with his brother Benjamin. He build more extensive buildings than the others, and was the last one to leave, after seven years. Like most of the rest, Simon tried to sell his land but could not find any buyers. He stayed in Mexico longer than the others in hopes to find a buyer, but it was in vain. He

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2. Luthy, Ibid.

3. Luthy, Ibid, p. 390, says "Oregon Jake" was the "Movingest Amishman" ever. He moved at least 11 times in his lifetime, and moved a distance of roughly 16,000 miles.

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4. Allan B. Clark, *History of the Amish of Delaware*, 1915-1988.

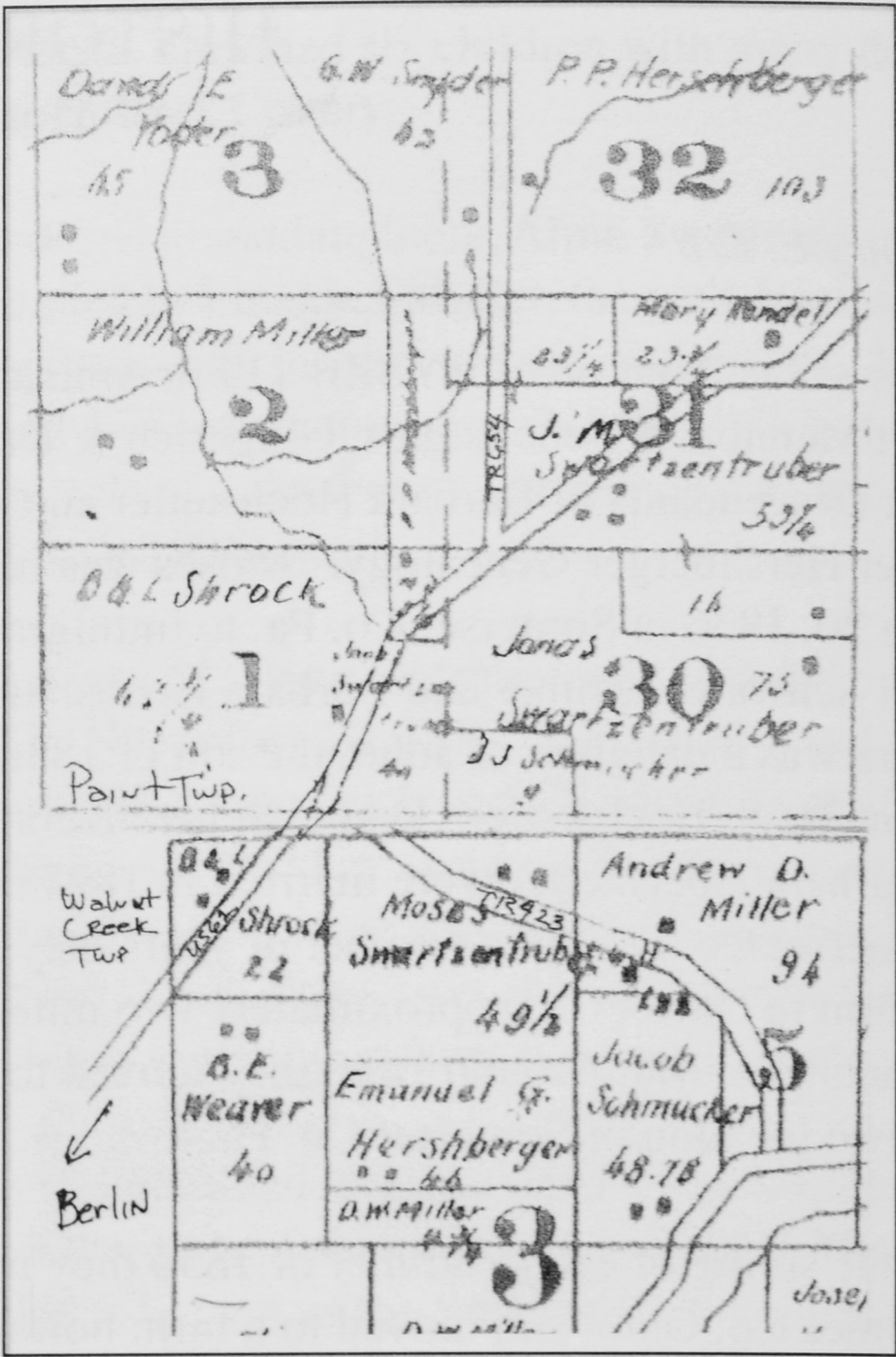


continued paying taxes for a number of years, but when the depression years came along, he quit paying the taxes and the land went back to the government.

In 1929, Simon and Katie moved to Moyock, North Carolina. Sometime later they moved to Dover, Delaware, where they both died and are buried.

Simon and Katie had no children, although Simon did have children with his first wife. They have descendants today in the Dover, Delaware area.

The section of an early 1900s plat map shown on the right shows the farms of Moses Swartzentruber and some of his children referred to above. Moses' farm was located 1½ miles north of Bunker Hill, Ohio along State Route 62. Pleasant Hill Menno-nite Church is on part of Lot 31 in Paint Twp.



# ESTATE SETTLEMENT OF MOSES SWARTZENTRUBER

## Administrator

Walnut Creek, OH  
March 8, 1895

We, the undersigned heirs to the estate of Moses Swartzentruber, deceased, so hereby nominate and appoint John Swartzentruber, also an heir of the said estate and oldest son of said Moses Swartzentruber, as administrator of the estate of Moses Swartzentruber.

Executed in the presence of :

M.K. Troyer

Noah P. Miller

her

Anne X Swartzentruber

mark

Maria Miller

her

Sarah X Troyer

mark

Jonas Swartzentruber

Dan Swartzentruber

Susan Swartzentruber

Catharine Swartzentruber

Benjamin Troyer, agent for

Dena & Lydia Swartzentruber

Peter Swartzentruber

## Administrator's Bond

Be it known that we the undersigned, John M. Swartzentruber, Jonas Swartzentruber, & John J. Yoder have posted \$6000 bond for John M. Swartzentruber, Administrator for estate of Moses Swartzentruber, deceased.

March 9, 1895

## Appraisal, Schedule A

In compliance with state law, the following items were set off from the estate of Moses Swartzentruber, deceased, for the widow Anna Swartzentruber

- 1 Sewing Machine
- 1 Spinning Wheel
- 2 Weaving Looms
- 1 Stove
- 1 Chest



1 Bureau  
Books, selected by Anna Swartzentruber, not to exceed \$100 in value.  
All cooking utensils and tableware, clothing, etc.  
3 Beds  
1 Clock  
1 Hog  
1 Cow  
1 Heifer  
1 Horse  
1 Buggy Harness  
1Buggy  
1/2 share of feed cutter  
1/3 share of butcher tools  
1 Kopper Kettle  
1 Iron Kettle  
1 Hogshead  
2 Tubs and wash boards  
1 barrel cider  
1 Hogshead  
1 keg wine  
1 10 gallon crock.  
March 22, 1895, by Appraisers  
M.K. Troyer, John H. Schrock, M.D. Troyer

Appraisal, Schedule B

The following items have been set aside from the estate of Moses Swartzentruber, deceased, for the use of his widow, Anna Swartzentruber.

20 bushels of wheat	\$9.00
200 lbs. of pork	\$15.00
8 bushels potatoes	\$3.00
canned fruits	\$4.00
5 gallons sausage	\$2.50
Money in the sum of	\$175.00

March 22, 1895, by Appraisers  
M.K. Troyer, John H. Schrock, M.D. Troyer

Total Value of Appraisals and Money Owed to Estate

U.S. Treasury notes at bank	\$75.00
Appraisal of Chattels	\$1075.00
John M. Swartzentruber, note, June 1, 1893	
amount due	\$165.00
John M. Swartzentruber, note, Dec. 4, 1893	
amount due	\$648.00

John M. Swartzentruber, note, Aug. 15, 1893	
amount due	\$38.70
Jonas M. Swartzentruber, note, Feb. 15, 1893	
amount due	\$78.00
Noah P. Miller, note, Mar. 29, 1893, amt. due	\$460.00
Noah P. Miller, note, June 23, 1894 amt. due	\$105.00
Noah P. Miller, note, Apr. 1, 1892 amt. due	\$354.00
Noah P. Miller, note, Jan. 1895	amt. due \$24.00
Value of Estate	\$3023.00

Public Sale Announcement

The undersigned will offer for sale at the residence of Moses Swartzentruber, dec, in Walnut Creek Twp. Holmes Co. Ohio on the 26th day of March, 1895.  
Consisting in part of:

2 work horses, 2 heifers, 1 steer, 5 yearlings, 4 cows, 3 brood sows, 6 shoats, 2-4 horse wagons , 1-2 horse wagon, 1 spring wagon, 2 grain drills, 1 mower, 1 hay tedder, 1 double corn cultivator, 1 bob sled, 1 spring tooth harrow, harrow plows & cultivators, 1 field roller, corn sheller, 1 harpoon, ropes and pulleys, hay in mow, wheat, oats, corn and clover seed by the bushel. 27 acres growing wheat, 3 1/2 acres grow- ing rye, 2 double sets of draft harness, bridles, a lot of carpenter tools, 1 work bench, 1 cubbard, 1 secretary, 1 heating stove, 3 bedsteads & bedding, 2 iron kettles, and numerous other articles.

Sale to commence at 10:00 A.M.  
TERMS: Three dollars or less to be paid in cash.  
Notes taken with 9 months time plus two or more sureties.  
Notice given on March 12, 1895.

John M. Swartzentruber, Administrator  
for estate of Moses Swartzentruber, deceased.

Auction Record

Item	Price	Buyer
1. 2 gages	.05	C. Wenger
2. 1 gage	.15	Jacob Schlabach
3. 1 screwdriver & pincher	.05	E. Howenstein
4. 1 Monkey wrench	.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber
5. 1 Jack plane	.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber
6. 1 Box staples	.05	Daniel Swartzentruber
7. 1 Box staples	.01	Daniel Swartzentruber
8. 1 Box & whetstones	.15	Peter W. Swartzentruber
9. 1 Box & contents	.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber
10. 1 Box hitches & screws	.10	Peter W. Swartzentruber



Item	Price	Buyer	Item	Price	Buyer
11. 1 Box rivets	.05	Joseph Miller	65. 1 skillet & nuts	.05	E. Howenstein
12. 1 Box with keys, etc	.10	Peter W. Swartzentruber	66. 1 Lot poplar boards	.35	Peter W. Swartzentruber
13. 1 paint brush	.10	Joseph Miller	67. 1 Hogshead	.80	John J. Yoder
14. 1 small hammer	.20	Jonas Swartzentruber	68. 1 Box	.10	Sim Swartzentruber
15. 1 Box & Steeples	.00	lost	69. 1 grind stone	1.40	Peter W. Swartzentruber
16. 1 lot files	.10	J.A. Slabach	70. 1 lot lath	.15	same
17. 1 wire tong	.30	M. Gingerich	71. 2 Bee hives	.05	J.H. Shrock
18. 1 chissel, rasp, & file	.18	Daniel Swartzentruber	72. 1 Cider Barrel	.50	Sam Yoder
19. 1 chissel & file	.30	Amos J. Miller	73. 1 Lot jars & jug	.10	Sim Swartzentruber
20. 3 Auger bits	.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber	74. 2 cans with oil	.10	taken by widow
21. 2 Auger bits	.25	Daniel Swartzentruber	75. 1 Box bucket with walnuts		
22. 4 Auger bits	.35	Moses I. Weaver		.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber
23. 3 Auger bits	.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber	76. 4 slop buckets	.05	Sam E. Miller
24. 3 Auger bits & punch	.20	Joe Weaver	77. 1 Large crock	.10	taken by widow
25. 1 Auger bit & punch	.25	Abner D. Slabach	78. 3 Cocks	.05	taken by widow
26. 1 Bevel square	.35	Dan I. Miller	79. 1 Crock & tub	.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber
27. 1 Brace	.25	Moses I. Weaver	80. 1 lard can	.10	taken by widow
28. 1 hand saw	.35	Joe Weaver	81. 1 Milk Can	.10	C. Wenger
29. 1 small saw	.20	taken by widower	82. 1 water Stitz (?)	.35	Sam Yoder
30. 1 square	.25	Jacob A. Slabach	83. 1 1½ bushel measure	.12	Peter W. Swartzentruber
31. 1 pruning saw	.15	Jo Troyer	84. 1 Milk can	.10	C. Wenger
32. 1 tenon saw	.35	Crist Yoder	85. 2 wooden dishes & can	.15	taken by widow
33. 1 draw knife	.30	Peter W. Swartzentruber	86. 4 ½ gallon cans	.10	taken by widow
34. 1 box & contents	.10	Moses Yutzy	87. 1 tub soft soap	.10	taken by widow
35. 1 bick saw	.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber	88. 1 tub soft soap	.20	Sim Swartzentruber
36. 2 augers	.05	Jerry M. Miller	89. 1 can Lard	4.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
37. 1 auger	.20	Jonas Swartzentruber	90. 1 Keg	.80	same
38. 1 Trowel	.20	John J. Yoder	91. 1 Keg grape wine	2.90	Ben J. Troyer
39. 1 hatchet & saw set	.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber	92. 1 Keg grape wine	.50	taken by widow
40. 1 frow	.65	Dan I. Miller	93. 1 Keg Elderberry wine	.30	Fred Gering
41. 1 Keg white paint	.60	Moses I. Weaver	94. 1 barrel grape cider	4.60	Peter W. Swartzentruber
42. 1 Keg white paine	.60	John J. Yoder	95. 1 Keg grape cider	.20	Dan Swartzentruber
43. 1 roll zink	.35	John J. Yoder	96. 1 barrel potatoes	.65	D. D. Troyer
44. 2 blast augers	.55	Jo Weaver	97. 1 Keg potatoes	.30	Peter W. Swartzentruber
45. 1 Crosscut saw	.10	Jacob A. Slabach	98. 1 tub potatoes	.75	same
46. 1 Lever saw	2.50	Peter W. Swartzentruber	99. 1 barrel potatoes	1.85	J. M. Hershberger
47. 1 shaving horse	.20	Eli Swartzentruber	100. 1 Box Stove	.05	Jacob Smucker
48. 1 Sadler horse	.40	Peter W. Swartzentruber	101. 1 hand cart	.50	taken by widow
49. 2 sives & wire fence	.20	Isaac Viend (?)	102. 1 grubben hoe	.15	Daniel M. Miller
50. 1 Box & contents	.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber	103. 1 grubben hoe	.45	Eli Miller
51. 1 Box & contents	.05	Abner D. Schlabach	104. 1 Ax & hoe	.10	Fred Gering
52. 1 Box & contents	.15	C.P. Shrock	105. 3 hoes	.20	Peter W. Swartzentruber
53. 1 Box & contents	.15	Peter W. Swartzentruber	106. 1 Rake & hoe	.15	Dan Swartzentruber
54. 1 Box & contents	.05	same	107. 1 rake & hoe	.35	Jacob Smucker
55. 1 Box & contents	.05	Dave Swartzentruber	108. 2 rake & hoe	.05	Fred Gering
56. 1 Stone Drill	.06	Daniel E. Miller	109. 1 ditch cleaner	.30	Jo Weaver
57. Stove & Pipe	.15	Peter W. Swartzentruber	110. cro bar	.45	Daniel E. Miller
58. 1 Butcher block	.15	same	111. 1 post hold dicker	.80	Peter W. Swartzentruber
59. 1 work bench	1.00	John Zong (?)	112. 1 seyth & snath	.30	Eli D. Miller
60. Lot pine plank	.05	Dan Swartzentruber	113. 1 brush seyth	.35	Peter W. Swartzentruber
61. 1 Iron kettle	1.60	Jacob Farmwald	114. 1 pile of scantling	1.00	Dan Swartzentruber
62. 1 Iron kettle	1.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber	115. 1 pile of boards	1.20	same
63. 1 wash machine	.65	John Zong (?)	116. 1 set boat runners	.20	Peter W. Swartzentruber
64. 1 wash ringer	.50	taken by widower	117. 1 corn sheller	2.10	same



Item	Price	Buyer	Item	Price	Buyer
118. 1 scoop shovel	.35	Dan Swartzentruber	171. 1 rake & fork	.15	V. H. Parker
119. 1 long sled	.60	Peter W. Swartzentruber	172. 2 pitch forks	.10	Jacob Smucker
120. 1 stretcher & single tree	.60	same	173. 1 pitch fork	.20	N. P. Miller
121. 1 pair bob sleds	3.80	same	174. 1 Hay knife	.25	Jacob Smucker
122. 1 wheel barrow	1.55	same	175. 2 hooks & wrench	.10	Isaac Wenger
123. 1 shovel & jock stick	.15	J. Flinner	176. 2 forks & wrench	.10	Isaac Wenger
124. 2 Monkey Renches	.15	Zehnder	177. 2 cans & straps	.10	Fred Gering
125. Lot horse shoes	.10	Peter W. Swartzentruber	178. 1 wind mill	4.00	Noah J. Miller
126. 2 single trees	.10	Jacob Smucker	179. 2 Barrels with scranings	.20	taken by widow
127. 1 4-horse wagon	15.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber	180. 1 lot hay	10.00	Ben Sommers
128. 1 2-horse wagon	9.25	William Miller	181. 1 lot hay	17.00	Isaac Wenger
129. 1 Log chain	.85	Peter W. Swartzentruber	182. 1 lot hay	17.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber
130. 1 Tong chain	.10	Nele Wenger	183. 1 lot hay	12.00	taken by widow
131. 1 Tong chain	.10	V.H. Parker	184. 1 lot hay	4.50	Fred Snyder
132. 1 small ladder	.65	Sam Miller	185. 1 lot hay	9.25	Tob Petersheim
133. 1 large ladder	.15	Ben E. Weaver	186. 1 lot hay	8.50	George Kundes
134. 1 3-horse tree	.35	Peter W. Swartzentruber	187. 1 lot hay	8.00	Noah W. Hershberger
135. 1 Oats cradle	1.20	M. D. Troyer	188. 1 lot hay	8.00	Howard Flinner
136. 1 Corn planter	1.85	Peter W. Swartzentruber	189. 25 bushel wheat	12.75	Andy Troyer
137. 1 Grain drill	8.00	Levi Reber	190. 25 bushel wheat	13.00	Jonas Swartzentruber
138. 1 Grain drill	29.00	Jonas Swartzentruber	191. 25 bushel wheat	13.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
139. 1 Plow	3.55	Peter W. Swartzentruber	192. 25 bushel wheat	13.00	Jonas Swartzentruber
140. 1 Harrow	1.00	V. H. Parker	193. 25 bushel wheat	13.00	J. M. Hershberger
141. 1 spring tooth harrow	7.95	Abraham Bontrager	194. 25 bushel wheat	13.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
142. 1 rope	.05	Sam Miller	195. 25 bushel wheat	13.12	John Flinner
143. 1 Harrow	1.00	Eli Miller	196. 1 Sack timothy seed	2.65	Peter W. Swartzentruber
144. 1 Harrow	1.15	A. E. Miller	197. 1 Sack timothy seed	1.30	J. J. Yoder
145. 1 Cultivator	.10	V.H. Parker	198. 1 Bay horse	41.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
146. 1 double tree	.05	Peter W. Swartzentruber	199. 1 Roan horse	43.00	Frank Keister
147. 1 Stretcher	.10	Ben E. Weaver	200. 1 Roan cow	34.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
148. 1 small plow	1.25	John Krow	201. 1 White head cow	33.50	M. E. Troyer
149. 1 flax brake	.10	Andy Troyer	202. 1 Red cow	33.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
150. 1 Log sled	.10	Peter W. Swartzentruber	203. 1 Old cow	25.00	Joseph Kendle
151. 1 Iron Cultivator	.45	C. Wenger	204. 1 muly cow	26.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
152. 1 Hay rake	.55	Peter W. Swartzentruber	205. 1 Red muly heifer	19.75	A. E. Miller
153. 1 Cultivator	.10	J. Wenger	206. 1 Red Steer	23.50	Ben Weaver
154. 1 plow	.10	N. P. Miller	207. 1 Black heifer	12.25	Peter W. Swartzentruber
155. 1 Mut boat	.65	John Swartzentruber	208. 1 Red steer	15.00	Ben J. Yoder
156. 1 Plow	3.90	V. H. Parker	209. 1 White head steer	10.25	A. E. Miller
157. 1 Slay	.75	Sam E. Miller	210. 1 Spotted calf	10.25	Ben Miller
158. 1 Log chain	.20	E. A. Troyer	211. 1 Black calf	4.50	Ben Miller
159. 1 4-horse wagon	16.00	Ben J. Troyer	212. 1 White sow	12.75	Peter W. Swartzentruber
160. 1 Spring wagon	27.00	J. Swartzentruber	213. 1 Black sow	15.10	Peter E. Miller
161. 1 ground roller	1.55	Sam E. Yoder	214. 1 Black sow	12.00	Isaac J. Miller
162. 1 corn worker	7.80	Peter W. Swartzentruber	215. 2 Shoats	6.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
163. 1 Hay tetter	7.70	same	216. 3 Shoats	6.50	same
164. 1 mowing machine	14.95	Frank Keister	217. 25 corn in ear	6.50	John Flinner
165. 1 sickle	.10	N. P. Miller	218. 25 corn in ear	7.00	John Keister
166. 1 Log chain	.20	C. Wenger	219. 25 corn in ear	7.00	John Smucker
167. 1 sack truck	.65	J. Smucker	220. 25 corn in ear	7.00	E. Miller
168. 1 rope	.10	V. H. Parker	221. 25 corn in ear	7.00	Ben J. Troyer
169. 1 harpoon & pulleys	.85	V. H. Parker	222. 25 corn in ear	7.00	E. Miller
170. 1 Heisten jack	.15	Sam E. Yoder	223. 25 corn in ear	7.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber
			224. 25 bushels Oats	7.00	taken by widow



Item	Price	Buyer	Item	Price	Buyer
225. 25 bushels Oats	7.00	taken by widow	279. 4 cow chains	.00	not found
226. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	Joseph Keister	280. 4 cow chains	.35	Eli Swartzentruber
227. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	V. H. Parker	281. 1 dung fork	.10	taken by widow
228. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	D. D. Troyer	282. 1 bushel glover seed	6.10	John Yoder
229. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	Peter W. Swartzentruber	283. 1 bushel glover seed	6.05	John Harman
230. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	same	284. 1 bushel glover seed	6.10	John Rifenaught
231. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	Emanuel Miller	285. 1 bushel glover seed	6.05	John Harman
232. 25 bushels Oats	8.12	Peter W. Swartzentruber	286. 1 bushel glover seed	6.10	P. W. Swartzentruber
233. 25 bushels Oats	8.25	same	287. 1 bushel glover seed	6.00	Jo Kendel
234. 25 bushels Oats	8.25	same	288. 1 bushel glover seed	6.10	P. W. Swartzentruber
235. 25 bushels Oats	8.00	Jo Weaver	289. 1 bushel glover seed	5.75	J. H. Schrock
236. 1 Saddle	1.30	J. J. Yoder	290. 1 bushel glover seed	5.75	Henry Hochstetler
237. 1 ½bushel measure	.15	N. J. Hirshber	291. 1 bushel glover seed	5.70	P. W. Swartzentruber
238. 1 dung fork	.00	not found	292. 26 lb. glover seed	2.50	David Farmwald
239. 1 rake & hook	.10	Peter E. Miller	293. 1 bushel glover seed	5.00	Jerry Miller
240. 1 set brick bands	1.00	D. M. Miller	294. 1 bushel glover seed	4.50	P. W. Swartzentruber
241. 1 Harness	2.50	P. W. Swartzentruber	295. 1 bushel glover seed	5.25	Dan J. Miller
242. 1 Harness	2.50	same	296. 1 bushel glover seed	5.25	Dan J. Miller
243. 1 set Jack lines	1.10	Abner D. Schlabach	297. 1 bushel glover seed	5.30	John Hochstetler
244. 1 set Jack lines	1.00	Andy Troyer	298. 1 bushel glover seed	5.50	P. W. Swartzentruber
245. 1 Buggy lines	.65	Ben Sommers	299. 26 lbs. glover seed	2.65	John Hochstetler
246. 1 Bridle & halter	.35	Ben Yoder	300. 1 Seed Sower	.80	P. W. Swartzentruber
247. 1 Bridle	.65	P. W. Swartzentruber	301. 1 pair stiltards (?)	.50	Sim Swartzentruber
248. 1 Bridle	.75	Andy Troyer	302. 1 shovel & fork	.50	taken by widow
249. 1 Bridle	1.00	P. W. Swartzentruber	303. 1 Chest	1.40	E. D. Miller
250. 1 Bridle	.40	same	304. 1 Chest	1.90	P. W. Swartzentruber
251. 1 single line	.35	same	305. 1 Sack dried apples	.55	Joseph Miller
252. 1 line & straps	.35	Eli Swartzentruber	306. 1 Sack dried peaches	.20	P. W. Swartzentruber
253. 1 Collar	.70	P. W. Swartzentruber	307. 2 Sack dried cherys	.10	same
254. 1 Collar	.70	same	308. 1 Sack dried cherys	.20	N. P. Miller
255. 1 Halter & Breast strap	.15	Andy Troyer	309. 1 Sack dried apples	.50	David Farmwald
256. 1 Halter & choke straps	.15	David Farmwald	310. Lot Hard Soap	.20	P. W. Swartzentruber
257. 1 Lot Straps	.05	P. W. Swartzentruber	311. Lot Hard Soap	.20	B. E. Weaver
258. 1 fly net	1.05	same	312. Sewing Machine	.50	E. B. Weaver
259. 1 fly net	1.80	same	313. 1 Sack Feed corn	.65	P. W. Swartzentruber
260. 1 fly net	.40	Alex Miller	314. 1 Chest	.70	Ann Swartzentruber
261. 1 Harness	1.05	Eli Swartzentruber	315. 1 Small Bureau	.36	Christ Slabach
262. 1 Harness	1.05	Eli Swartzentruber	316. 1 Trunk	.70	Ann Swartzentruber
263. 1 Harness	1.20	P. W. Swartzentruber	317. 1 Bureau	2.00	taken by widow
264. 1 Bridle, etc.	.65	Eli Swartzentruber	318. 1 Stand	.50	taken by widow
265. 1 Collar	.50	P. W. Swartzentruber	319. 1 Spinning Wheel	.05	S. Horresberger
266. 1 Collar	.50	Eli Swartzentruber	320. 1 Spinning Wheel	.05	S. Horresberger
267. 1 Bridle	.35	N. P. Miller	321. 1 Reel (fishing?)	.05	N. P. Miller
268. 1 Buggy Harness	2.55	D. Swartzentruber	322. 2 Baskets	.30	Ann Swartzentruber
269. 1 Halter	.30	David Miller	323. 1 Sack Buckwheat	.20	S. Horresberger
270. 1 Collar	.05	D. Swartzentruber	324. 1 Salt box	.05	taken by widow
271. 1 Collar	.10	N. P. Miller	325. 1 Blew box	.60	E. B. Weaver
272. 1 Lot Straps	.20	Sam E. Miller	326. 3 sacks	.20	Eli Swartzentruber
273. 2 fly nets	.65	P. W. Swartzentruber	327. 3 sacks	.35	P. W. Swartzentruber
274. 2 breast chains	.10	Eli Swartzentruber	328. 3 sacks	.15	same
275. 1 Bridlle	.30	David Miller	329. 3 chairs	1.20	taken by widow
276. 3 cow chains	.12	Manas Hershberger	330. 2 black chairs	.30	P. W. Swartzentruber
277. 3 cow chains	.20	Ben E. Weaver	331. 2 chairs	.20	Jonas Swartzentruber
278. 3 cow chains	.25	P. W. Swartzentruber	332. 3 chairs	.30	John Yoder







Miller & Co. - Glover Seed	20.55	M. K. Troyer, for surveying & etc.	13.00
Noah P. Miller - Note	748.16	N. S. Revinn	5.00
J. M. Swartzentruber - Note	939.00	B. J. Troyer, agent for Lydia Swartzentruber - heir	220.00
Peter Swartzentruber - Note	1905.55	Katie Swartzentruber, heir	100.00
Jonas Swartzentruber - Note	13.75	Anna Swartzentruber	712.13
Katie Swartzentruber	5.55	Peter Swartzentruber, heir	422.23
Noah P. Miller - Note	486.67	Anna Swartzentruber	319.89
<b>Final Account of Estate, Total</b>	<b>\$5866.27</b>	Katie Swartzentruber, heir	221.23
<b>DEBTS OWED BY THE ESTATE, PAID BY ADM. JOHN SWARTZENTRUBER</b>			
Mose K. Troyer- for surveying, making Deed, arranging accounts	9.00	Benj. J. Troyer, agent for Lydia Swartzentruber, heir	231.73
C. E. Howenstine- Auctioneering on sale day	9.85	Susan Yoder, heir	291.73
Mose D. Troyer- for appraising and clerking on sale day	2.00	Peter Swartzentruber, heir	407.97
D. G. Newton, Publisher of Farmer- Sale bill ads	3.20	Dan C. Yoder, heir	407.97
Dinah Swartzentruber- for labor performed for said estate	25.00	Katie Swartzentruber, heir	407.97
Peter Swartzentruber, for W. J. Hershberger- [one] year's support and labor	93.16	Dan Swartzentruber, heir	89.24
Dan Knisley- due account for hardware	5.92	J. M. Swartzentruber, guardian for Lydia Swartzentruber, heir	407.97
A. D. Hershberger- for carpenter work	1.90	John M. Swartzentruber, heir	.61
Anna Swartzentruber- money for a year's support	175.00	Jonas Swartzentruber, heir	.73
Peter Swartzentruber- for clover and timothy seed	10.21	Anna Swartzentruber	100.00
Eli Yoder- for fertilizer	15.13	Katie Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
M. D. Troyer- for fertilizer	9.15	Daniel C. Yoder, heir	40.74
Samuel J. Mast- for grinding grains	3.10	Peter Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
Peter P. Hershberger- for settlement	.75	Benjamin J. Troyer, heir	40.74
R. W. Taney, Probate Judge fees	15.00	Jonas Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
Calvin Fry- for thrashing	39.00	Dan Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
C. F. Luthy- taxes	1.50	John M. Swartzentruber, guardian for Lydia Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
Findley Adniers Company- for lumber	3.75	John M. Swartzentruber, guardian for Dinah Swartzentruber	40.74
Peter Swartzentruber- labor performed for estate	3.50	John M. Swartzentruber, heir	40.74
Susan Swartzentruber- labor performed for estate	4.50	Probate Court fees	6.00
M. K. Troyer- Appraising, clerking on sale day, making reports	9.00	Compensation to Administrator	122.60
John H. Shrock, Appraising, clerking on sale day	2.00	<b>Total paid out*</b>	<b>\$5866.27</b>
Peter Swartzentruber- support & labor	93.16	*(Author's note- if you add this list, the actual amount is \$5560.17, which is \$306.10 less than shown)	
Holmes County taxes	145.73		
Dinah Swartzentruber- labor	25.00		



# LOGGING CREW DROWNINGS, 1974

by Daniel M. Weaver

*Abstract- The following is an account of the drowning of two men, Milan Yoder and Jacob Hershberger, while working for Coblentz Lumber of near Kidron, Ohio. The drownings took place in the western part of Holmes Co., where the Mohican River runs close to the border of Knox and Holmes Co. Milan was the son of Joas and Elizabeth Yoder and married Ruth M. Miller, the daughter of Mart and Martha Miller. They lived along SR 250, west of Kidron, Ohio. Milan was 41 years old when this took place, and he left 7 children, aged 20 years to 4 years old. The account focuses on the search for and eventual finding of one body.*

It was the evening of Jan. 28, 1974 that we received the shocking news that my brother-in-law Milan Yoder had possibly drowned while crossing the swollen Mohican River. He was part of a four-man logging crew working for Coblentz Lumber. They were logging some steep wooded hills on the Stitzline farm, located near the junction of the Holmes, Ashland, and Knox Co. lines. They were using a small field between the river and the hills as a logging yard. They parked their truck along Wally Road, on the west side of the river, just south of Loudonville, Ohio.

During the summer the river could be crossed with logging skidders, but now with the melting snow, the river was high and the current very swift. They had to cross the river to the logging site. To cross the river the men strung a cable across the river, fastening it to trees on both sides of the river. Then they attached the front of a small boat to the cable. The front man would pull the boat along the cable, with the the boat heading into the current. This they did each morning, noon, and evening.

After doing this for some time, they discovered that they could cross much quicker if both the man in the front and in the back of the boat pulled themselves along the cable. The problem was that this kept the boat sideways against the current. To balance the boat, the two men in the center leaned toward the down-river side, since the men in the front and back leaned the other way. The men knew this was dangerous, but since everyone could swim, they felt this was acceptable. At noon of this day, an extra strong current, or perhaps an object in the river, capsized the boat. All four men were dumped into the cold river, which was numbingly cold, in the low 30s. The two men working the cable hung on and were barely able to pull themselves onto the bank. Milan and Jacob never had a chance, even though they could swim. The frigid water took them under in minutes.

When we got the news, we still had hopes the two men would be found alive along the river banks, down-river, but this is now how it turned out. The next morning, my brother-in-law ( and brother to Milan's wife Ruth), "Mart Andy" Miller and I went to the site of the drowning. My other brothers-in-law, Alvin Gingerich, Dan Miller, and Raymond Miller, and his son Firman arrived soon afterwards, with their neighbor Robert Hochstetler as driver. Other Coblentz Lumber logging crews, plus 50 fire and rescue personnel had been searching all night on both sides of the river from the Greer bridge up to the site, near the Knox-Holmes Co. line. The Knox Co. Sheriff was discouraging people who came just to look. He allowed us to be there because we were relatives. As a family we had taken canoes down the river in previous summers, so I was well acquainted with the river.

I suggested we drive down-river to the next bridge below Greer, then come up the river on both sides. We followed Wally Road to Greer, then took Holmes Co. Twp Rd. 16 (Knox Co. 77) to where it crossed the river to the west side again. Raymond, his son Firman, and I walked along the west bank, and Alvin, Dan and Andy drove along the east bank with the van. Alvin and Dan took turns walking the east bank. All of them were older or had health problems and since the road generally followed the river, they did not have to walk far. On the west side we followed the river almost due west. Steep hills sloped right up to the river at places, and after about going 1½ miles, we came to a sizeable creek which we couldn't cross. We had to follow it for at least a ¼ mile until we crossed it on a downed tree.

While walking, we discussed what the chances were of sighting a body floating down the river. Small logs, branches, and lots of debris was floating down the river. It seemed impossible to see a body, although floodlights were set up on the Greer and Brinkhaven bridged, and the river was watched all night by rescue personnel. After crossing the creek, Raymond and Firman followed the creek back to the river, which had now curved to the north again. For some reason I decided to take a shortcut through a field. I approached the river opposite an island about 300 feet long. At the lower end of the island, the river swirled back into the main channel. Here the river had cut into the field for a distance of over 100 feet, where some small trees prevented further erosion. When I came within a few hundred feet of this spot, I got an eerie feeling- a premonition- that someone was in the river



near this place. I walked to the lower end of the cut-out, and immediately something caught my eye.

What I saw appeared to be the color of skin at one end and a few feet of an object the color of canvas. This was all I could see. The object appeared to be a little below the surface of the water. The water rushed over a fallen tree wedged against some saplings. There was probably at least twelve inches of water running over the object. I walked along the west side of the cut but the view was not as good. When Raymond and Firman came, I pointed the object out to them and they agreed it should be checked out.

The main channel of the river was probably 150 feet wide here, but we finally conveyed the message across that we needed a boat to check this out. By now it was 11:00 and we stayed at the site until 2:00 p.m. when two Deputies arrived. After checking it out with binoculars, they decided it was a canvas bag with trash, and a pine board with a knot. In the end, we found that the board and knot were really a hand with skinned knuckles. The Deputies prepared to leave and asked us to leave also. But we were not convinced and told them we would stay and watch until someone came with a boat to check the object out. They finally agreed to send the fire department with a rope and hooks. It was around 3:00 p.m. when four Danville Fire Dep't personnel arrived. By this time, Alvin, Andy, Dan and Robert Hochstetler had walked down to the site from Greer. The firemen used a rope with a triple hook to try hooking onto the object. After trying for over an hour, they were ready to give up. Since most of the men were in their 50s, they were unable to throw far enough. The few times they threw far enough, they were off target.

I asked Robert Hochstetler if he would be willing to try his hand. On his third try Robert threw right over the object and hooked onto it. Three or four men then pulled, but were unable to dislodge the object. Then they went up-river 100 feet or so to the end of the rope and pulled in that direction. This time they were successful. Immediately the arm laying over the log appeared out of the water. As soon as the head appeared out of the water, I could see Milan's curly hair, and knew it was his body. The hand laying on top of the log was what we had seen. The water rushing over it had magnified it so that it appeared much larger. Up to this point, the firemen had been light-hearted because they did not expect it to be a body. Now everyone was serious.

I had known Milan as a school friend going to Foun-

tain Nook School. Later we married sisters. He was always a friendly, helpful person. He was chosen by lot to be a minister, and later a bishop. But God took him away when he was 41 years old. Although he is sadly missed by his family and friends, we also rejoice, for "we sorrow not as others that have no hope." (Eph. 12:2)

Jacob Hershberger was a second cousin to me. A few friends, myself, and some Coblentz Lumber workers took three boats and searched the river to the Walhonding River and the Mohawk Dam for several days, without success. His body was never found.

