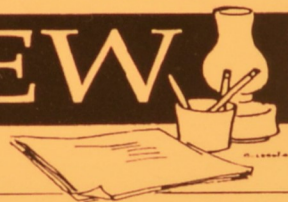


HERITAGE REVIEW



Volume 26

September 2018



The Ohio Amish Library

In keeping with its aim to encourage understanding and appreciation for our Anabaptist heritage the formational committee of the Library undertook the task of translating the songs of the *Ausbund* from German to English. This work developed into two books, *The Songs of the Ausbund*, Vol. I & II, which are still in print and available. In addition, the publishing arm of the Library worked with author and translator, James Lowry in the printing of three volumes of early Anabaptist literature. A complete listing of books published by the Library may be found inside the back cover of this edition.

In 2013, after being approached by representatives of the Amish & Mennonite Heritage Center (Behalt), the OAL board decided to accept an offer for the two organizations to pool their resources to advance the work of both organizations. A 2,400-square foot addition was built to house the Library. In addition to housing bookshelves and a common area, there is also classroom space, and a vault with display windows to house the more fragile and valuable items. The vault provides a temperature and humidity-controlled area to keep these items from further damage.

The library is staffed on a daily basis so that researchers, scholars, and the community can access these items that reflect our past. The Library is open to its members and the community, although appointments are preferred so that we can prepare any items for your use. In addition, the Center assists in the publication, writing, and public presentations in the Library.

We believe that this partnership furthers the cause of both organizations and allows the Library to be staffed and the work of the Library to continue forward.

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The Heritage Review is an annual publication of the Ohio Amish Library, 5798 CR 77 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. Membership to the OAL are \$25 annually. Single copies of *the Heritage Review* are also available by contacting the Library staff.

The Ledgers of Michael Troyer, Jacob F. Miller, and Manasses Miller

By Wayne R. Miller

Public estate auctions are always an interesting event to attend. While many end up not having items of interest to the library, a recent (2017) auction did contain a box of old ledgers which the library was fortunate enough to acquire. It turns out the ledgers contained quite a bit of information to help us understand the lives of our Shanesville (now Sugarcreek) and German Township, (now Clark) Holmes County, Ohio Amish ancestors.

The box contained a total of five ledgers, two preprinted promissory note books, and an old envelope full of promissory notes and other papers. Some of the most interesting paper items were stuffed in the pages of the ledgers.

The oldest ledger belonged to Michael Troyer¹ ²(TY281)³ (1831-1888). Michael was the great grandson of immigrant Michael Troyer (TY) and grandson of Holmes County pioneer Michael

Troyer (TY2). His father was Joseph Troyer (TY28). The ledger is a business ledger and is written in the German script. The first entry is 1855 and deals with farming related business. The Troyer family moved to Indiana where their second and third child was born in Marshall County, Indiana in 1855 and early 1856⁴.

By 1857 the entries indicate he was operating a saw mill and was doing custom sawing. He had moved back to German Township (Clark), Holmes County, Ohio. The 1860 census places him there and lists him as a farmer. The entries though are mainly sawmill entries and mostly during the winter months continuing into 1870. The back of the journal has a few pages of farming related entries for the same time period.

The Michael Troyer ledger was passed down to Michael's son Joas (1855-1924). From Joas it went to his oldest daughter Elizabeth Troyer, born 1879, who married Manasses J. Miller, (1875-1957), then to Manasses oldest daughter Laura Ellen who married Russell Machan and from the Machan's son's estate auction to the library.

Three journals in the box were owned by Jacob F. Miller (1846-1934) who was the father of Manasses J. Miller and married to Michael Troyer's granddaughter. Jacob was an Amish carpenter from 1871 to 1877 until he bought a farm on Seldenright Road, Auburn Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. He sold it to his daughter and son-in-law Menno and Salome Troyer in 1923. The farm/property is owned in 2017 by Freeman M Miller and Eldon Lee Troyer.

The fifth ledger belonged to Jacob's son, Manasses, who continued in his father footsteps as a carpenter in the East Holmes-West Tuscarawas county area.

The oldest of Jacob's ledgers was purchased when he began the carpenter trade. His record keeping seems very meticulous as the front of the ledger has an index listing the name and page number of each entry. The numerous names



The business ledgers of Michael Troyer, Jacob F. Miller, and Manasses J. Miller. They record three generations of history of a local Amish Family.

¹ The Ohio Amish Library has Michael Troyer's bible. The names of most of his children are recorded in the bible although it appears the names were recorded sometime after their births. The first child with his second wife may have the year wrong in the bible. It can be viewed at www.ohioamishlibrary.org.

² For more information on Michael Troyer, his family, and settling of the estate, see *Profile of Michael Troyer*, By Henry L. Erb, *Heritage Review*, January, 2009.

³ Gingerich-Kreider numbering system.

⁴ Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler, DJH5686.

listed is a “who’s who” of the prominent people, both Amish and non-Amish of the Sugarcreek/Shanesville and surrounding areas.

One of their businesses was boiling cane molasses. Farmers brought their crop of cane, and Jacob and his sons boiled it into molasses. The records for September, 1903, lists thirty customers for which he made 201 gallons of refined syrup.

Other entries indicate that in addition to farming, he, at one point, operated a sawmill, and made furniture. His cabinet/furniture shop was on the second floor of his building. In order to get his furniture to the ground floor, he built an elevator out of wood, pulleys and rope. He made the furniture for all his children upon their marriages. The elevator, in later years, also become the favorite plaything for his grandchildren at family gatherings.⁵ In addition to lending out small amounts of money, he frequently took a note for money owed to him and became a sort of bank to some of his customers.

Jacob was the fifth of nine children born in Holmes County, Ohio to Isaac D. and Veronica Miller. On October 10, 1872 he was married by Bishop Mose Beachy near Shanesville, Ohio to Lydia Yoder, the daughter of Joseph and Susanna Hochstetler Yoder. They had nine children:

1. Amanda was born July 10, 1873 and passed away August 15, 1873.
2. Manasses J Miller was born January 23, 1875. He married Elizabeth Ann Troyer, the daughter of Joas and Catherine Nelch Troyer, on May 23, 1899. They were married by Samuel Berger at Baltic, Ohio and may not have joined the Amish church until after their marriage. Manasses was a well-known carpenter. He died March 15, 1957.
3. Susan Miller was born October 11, 1876. On December 13th⁶, 1894 she was married by Bishop Christ Troyer to John Edward Yoder, son of Mose C and Barbara Yoder Yoder, Burton, Ohio. John died in 1917 and Susan was married a second time to

Samuel J Helmuth. In later years she lived with her son in law William A Miller in Bremen, Ohio. They were members of the East district Amish church, Plain City, Ohio. She died August 21, 1967⁷ and was buried in Plain City beside her first husband.

4. Salome Miller was born December 15, 1877. On December 3, 1896 she was married by Bishop Christian Troyer to Menno J Troyer, son of John F and Mary Mullet Troyer. In 1923 they bought her parents 68- acre farm in Tuscarawas County. She died March 2, 1969.
5. Joseph J Miller was born July 18, 1879. On January 27, 1903 he was married by Noah P Beachy to Martha D Stutzman, daughter of Daniel J and Mary Borntrager Stutzman. He was ordained to the ministry in 1934, at Plain City, Ohio. In 1958 he was married a second time to Mary Ann Miller and lived in Kalona, Iowa the last ten years of his life. Known by many as “Joe Doddy” in the Plain City area, he died May 2, 1968 and is buried in Plain City beside his first wife.
6. Romanus J Miller was born March 12, 1880. On December 20, 1906 he was married by Mose P Beachy to Mary M Coblentz, daughter of Moses R and Sarah J Gingerich Coblentz. He was a well-known Amish farmer in the Hicksville, Ohio area and known by Amish through-out the states as he spent the last 26 years of his life wintering in Sarasota, Florida. He died October 31, 1953.
7. Emma Miller was born April 3, 1883. On December 25, 1903 she was married to Daniel D Yoder. Emma passed away on March 17, 1904.
8. Lydia Ann Miller was born on March 14, 1885. On January 1, 1907 she was married by Bishop Mose A Coblentz to Jacob D Stutzman, son of Daniel J and Mary Borntrager Stutzman. Jacob was a brother

⁵ Conversation with 95-year-old Edwin J Miller (Happy Jake) in 2017.

⁶ Jacob lists her marriage as December 13 in her dowry page in his ledger while DJH lists December 20th.

⁷ Date is from the *Budget* newspaper, Plain City letter dated August 21 where the writer states that Susan Helmuth died this morning.

of Martha, married to Lydia Ann's brother Joseph. Lydia passed away September 7, 1970.

9. Jacob J Miller was born January 26, 1889. On March 1, 1910 he was married by Moses A Coblentz to Catherine Beachy, daughter of Noah P and Barbara Frey Beachy. Known by many as "Happy Jake", he passed away May 2, 1970 and is buried in the Yoder Family cemetery in Paint Township, Holmes County, Ohio near Winesburg.

The meticulous records of Jacob and the involvement of the children listed above allows me to concentrate on the lives of this normal Amish family as the nineteenth century fades into the twentieth century.

Farming in 1899

Have you ever wondered what life was like, financially speaking, on an Amish farm almost 120 years ago? Jacob kept very good records of all his farming and household income and expenses. It is possible to get a good picture of what kind of livelihood a family could expect from the farm.

Jacob and his wife had 9 children. In 1899 his youngest, Jacob Jr, (Happy Jake) was 10 years old. The oldest, Amanda, had died in childhood. The next three children, Manasses, Susan, and Soloma were married. The youngest five; Joseph, 20, Roman, 18, Emma, 16, Lydia, 14, and Jacob, 10, were still at home. Joseph, was hired out to Eli P. Beachy for the season since Eli's family of 7 children, with the oldest child only 12 years old, were too young for much of the farm work.⁸

Jacob's farm had 68 acres, much of it bottomland. He planted 8 acres of wheat, 7 acres of oats, 8 acres of corn, and 12 acres of hay. The entire family was involved in providing the

income. They had chickens to sell eggs. From the cows they sold milk, butter, and some of the calves. Any excess crops were sold. His furniture shop produced furniture, hay ladders, wagon tongues, and anything else a customer might need. In season they cooked molasses, maple syrup, made dried apples, and sold mulberries. They butchered beef, sold the hides, trapped fur, made and sold firewood. The women, in addition to helping out in many of the above tasks, also had a sewing business, making coats, dress suits, and other clothing items.

Jacob didn't separate his household from his farm expenses so it seems reasonable to assume that all expenses are included.⁹ The family was able to produce the bulk of their food from their cattle, gardens, fruit orchards, and syrup cooking operations. An income statement breakdown would look like this:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Butter | \$8.44 |
| Eggs | \$74.29 |
| Excess crops | \$4.78 |
| Furniture/ Carpentry | \$41.35 |
| Hides/Furs | \$7.61 |
| Joe hired out | \$155.00 |
| Loan Interest | \$11.50 |
| Milk | \$131.85 |
| Poultry/Cattle | \$171.17 |
| Sewing | \$4.49 |
| Syrup/Molasses/Etc. | \$24.15 |
| Total Income | \$634.63 |

Jacob also records the expenses of running the farm and the household (see next page). Against an income of \$634.63 for 1899, he shows expenses of \$485.99. That expense includes around \$80 for a new wagon shed and spouting for the barn. If I back out the \$80 as reinvested income back into the business, there is a \$228.64 profit on the \$634.63 of income; or a 36% bottom

⁸ For most Amish children, "the coming of age" was 21. Until then the children worked for the parents and received an allowance for "leisure" spending. If they stayed at home after 21, they were expected to help in some way with the household expenses. This appears to be 20-year old Joseph's case as the money he earned working outside the farm was included in the parent's income. An April 6, 1889, *Budget*,

letter from Plain City, Ohio states that Joseph J Miller will be working for Eli P. Beachy. Eli had moved to Plain City sometime before 1894. Eli's wife was young Joseph's aunt. Joseph, after marrying, would move to Plain City as well.

⁹ His expenses for 1899 are 8 - 8" x 12" ledger pages long and include small items like bananas for 5 cents.

line. Some of the excess cash was loaned out in interest bearing notes which paid Jacob \$11.50 in interest over the year.

Several of the expense items that Jacob records included paying out interest, most likely on the land, and the farm loan, taxes, and 7 hogs purchased for \$38.15.

How does this compare to farming and our life style today? This snapshot of one year is by no means exhaustive enough to paint a complete picture, but it appears that Jacob's family was doing very well. According to the United States Bureau of Labor, a general laborer in 1899 earned

\$.14 1/2 cents per hour. If we take a 40 -hour work week, he would earn \$303 per year. A skilled carpenter earned 28 cents per hour which equals \$590. However, wages in Holmes County were lagging 5 to 7 cents per hour behind the above, so a skilled carpenter was earning about \$450 per year. People worked longer hours than we do today, but were less productive because of the lack of modern tools to assist them, such as handsaw instead of power skill saw and hammer instead of power-nailer, etc.

Listed below is a sample of the 8 long pages of expenses as recorded by Jacob for 1899.

| Expenses for The Year 1899, | | | | Vol. 9 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|---------|
| Mar. 22 nd | to Henry Huprich | for Int on note | | \$ 7.00 |
| " 24" | to Homer Hochstetler | for rubbers & Patr | = | 30 |
| " = | to Manas, J. Miller | for labor | = | 15 |
| " 25" | to Menno J. Troyer | for Int. on note | = | 1.62 |
| " = | to George, R. Domer | for firewood | = | 3.28 |
| " 27" | to J. W. Baker | for Indisl " | = | 6.65 |
| " 30" | to Jacob Burky | for Drugs " | = | 12 |
| " " | to Pedler | for notions " | = | 85 |
| " " | to Elmer weaver | for Coffee " | = | 11 |
| " 31" | to M. J. Miller | Cash Loaned | = | 5.50 |
| Apr. 1" | to Menno, J. Troyer | for a Ticket | = | 25 |

Expenses for the Year 1899.

| | | Doll | Cts |
|------|---|------|-----|
| Aug | 17 th to C. Fulton for Cedar plank & E | 2 | 26 |
| " | " to Salmon Kuper Torgler for Wine Keg | 1 | 00 |
| " | 18 th to John E. Showalter for Medicine | | 55 |
| " | 23 rd to Jacob Clinger for 100 lbs Sugar at 4 1/2¢ | 4 | 50 |
| " | 24 th to J. W. Baker for Medicine | 2 | 03 |
| " | 25 th to Nicholas Bow for Medicine | 1 | 00 |
| " | " to Lomer Bros, for Sheetiron nails & E | 1 | 50 |
| " | 28 th to Daniel Collett for Iron & Bolt | 45 | 00 |
| " | 30 th to John Steineby for making Cider 95 gall. | | 95 |
| Sept | 1 st to C. Fulton for Building Blocks & Bricks | 6 | 40 |
| " | " to C. Fulton for Shingles | 1 | 35 |
| " | " to Fred. Winger for mason work | 12 | 34 |
| " | 4 th to J. W. Baker for Medicine | 2 | 09 |
| " | 7 th to P. Doerfer for nails oil & whip | 1 | 98 |
| " | " to Zahner Bros, for Blacksmithing | 1 | 00 |
| " | 8 th to C. Fulton for 3 11 ft Siding | 5 | 25 |
| " | 9 th Do " = = 58 = = | 1 | 16 |
| " | 11 th to J. W. Baker for Medicine | 2 | 34 |
| " | 14 th to Zahner Bros for Blacksmithing | | 50 |
| " | " to John Steineby for making Cider | | 50 |
| " | 18 th to P. Kereh for Blacksmithing | | 30 |
| " | " to Homer Hochstetter for Pair Shoes | 1 | 25 |
| " | 21 st to J. W. Baker for Medicine | 2 | 32 |
| " | 25 th to P. Kereh for Shoeing Horses | 1 | 20 |
| Oct. | 10 th to C. J. Hershberger for winter apples | 1 | 00 |
| " | 11 th to P. Doerfer for Hardware & E | 2 | 85 |
| " | " to David Zimmerman for Cods | 1 | 40 |
| " | " to the Sugar creek Coal Co for 16 00 # Coal | | 95 |
| " | 16 th to Jacob Burky for Medicine | | 75 |
| " | " to Noah Troyer for Jobbing & Bu of Cate | | 24 |
| " | 18 th to D. E. Chickles for 100 # Oyster shells | | 75 |
| " | 19 th to P. Doerfer for twine | 4 | 5 |
| " | " to Elmer Weaver for Postal Cards | | 05 |
| " | 20 th to C. Andreas for Medicine | | 58 |
| " | " to Dr. H. J. Miller for Pulling teeth | | 10 |
| " | " to M. J. T. Miller for " | | 15 |

Large ticket items for the farm such as wheel cultivators and disks sold for \$26 each. A two-horse corn drill for \$21, 16 spring tooth harrow for \$16, and a 5ft. mower for \$42. Top Buggies sold for \$42, and Surreys for \$70.

One expense item that is noteworthy is \$15.00 to Garver Brothers Store for merchandise. This is a large amount for a one-time trip. Garver Brothers, because of their size and being a “department store”, was able to undercut the Sugarcreek/ Shanesville merchants on prices. This 1899 ad in *The Budget* may help explain why Jacob would travel to Strasburg on a shopping trip. Large quantity buying with cash allowed them to sell retail merchandise at wholesale prices.

In summary, farming in the Holmes County area was a family affair. Families received their income from multiple farming enterprises, rather than specializing. Not only was it a family affair, but it was a neighborly affair, both Amish and English helping each other as most of the community were farmers.

Jacob F. Miller and the Houses and Farm Buildings He Built

Sometime in his later years, Jacob made a list of all the major building he constructed for various people in the community. Some of these structures are still in use today. Following are a few examples from the list.

In the summer of 1871, Jacob build a new house for Jacob A. Shrock (1829-1897). Jacob was the son of Andrew Shrock and Indian Sally (Sarah) Hochstetler. In 1850, Jacob Shrock at age 21 and two years before his marriage to Elizabeth Mast already owned the 110-acre farm.¹⁰ He had 5 horses, 3 cows, 2 other cattle, 30 sheep, 17 swine, 18-bushel wheat, 50 pounds rye, 105 bushels corn,

¹⁰ Andrew Schrock (1783-1861) married to “Indian Salli” Sarah Hochstetler (1795-1875) lived in Sugarcreek Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. The family did quite well financially. By 1875 their children owned 925 acres in

Our Grocery Department

We are pleased to announce to our customers that we have secured the services of Mr. John Feil, one of the best grocery men in the state, who now has charge of the Grocery Dept. Mr. Rudy Garver will continue as buyer for this department, and give his entire time to this important work. Here is a combination of experience in the grocery trade that is hard to beat. All goods are bought for Spot Cash in large quantities from the manufacturer, producer or importer. We retail groceries at wholesale prices. Yes, oftentimes our prices are below what the average jobber charges. We ship thousands of dollars worth of groceries all over the state. Our prices, our goods must be right or we could not do this.

100 Pounds Fine Granulated Sugar \$5.25

Yellow Bolted Corn Meal, 1b., 1c.
Buckwheat Flour 3c lb.
California Prunes 4c lb.
Muscatel Raisins 5c lb.
Brooms 10c each.
Washboards 8c each.
Rock Candy 10c lb.
Liquid Blueing, $\frac{1}{2}$ gal, 15c.
Ginger Snaps 5c pound.
Canned Peas 4c can.
Canned Tomatoes 7c can.
Rolled Oats 4c package.
Granulated Hominy 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c pound.
Levering's Roasted Coffee 10c lb.
Prepared Mustard 25c gallon.

Table Syrup 23c gallon.
Seedless Sultana Raisins 6c pound.
Oat Meal 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c pound.
Tapioca 5c pound.
Flake Hominy 2c pounds.
Corn Starch 5c.
Rudy's Choice Soap 2c cake.
Soda, per pound 4c.
Arm and Hammer Soda 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c
5 pound Sack Table Salt 3c
Yeast Foam 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
English Breakfast Tea 25c pound.
Pure Ground Pepper 14c pound.
Soap Powder 15c package.
Soda Crackers 5c pound.

GARVER BROS. & COMPANY,
Strasburg, Ohio.

A Garver Brothers Advertisement from 1899 in the Sugarcreek Budget newspaper explains why they could undercut local merchant's prices.

90 pounds wool, 300 pounds of butter, (Most local 1850 farms turned their milk into butter to sell), 2 ton hay, and 1-bushel clover seed.¹¹ There already was a house on the property, in 1871 Jacob added the second larger house. The farm is in Sugarcreek Township on what is now Stony Point Road, Sugarcreek. The main farm is still in possession of the Shrock family, namely Reuben. Both houses are still in use.

In 1872 he built a house for Tobias Kuhns, (1830-1887). The house is in Berlin Township. The 1875 Berlin Township map shows two houses on the property, so this was possibly a “daudy” house. The farm is on Township Road 372 and currently owned by Andrew M Yoder.

In 1872, Jacob also built a house for David Schlabach (1828-1895) on what is today Smoky Lane road near Sugarcreek. Two of the carpenters

Sugarcreek Township. Many of their descendants still live in the Sugarcreek area.

¹¹ 1850 Tuscarawas County Agricultural Census.

helping on this job were Jonas B. Mullet who was paid \$1.00 per day and Daniel J Miller, \$1.25 per day. Today it is owned by Robert Dean and Arlene Schlabach.

In 1872, he built a house for Emanuel Hershberger (1811-1884) and a sheep shed for his son Valentine. Valentine (1846-1910) owned 195 acres in 1875. The house was probably a “daudy”

1137

*Names of Buildings I Jacob F Miller
Put up while working on the Carpenter Trade*

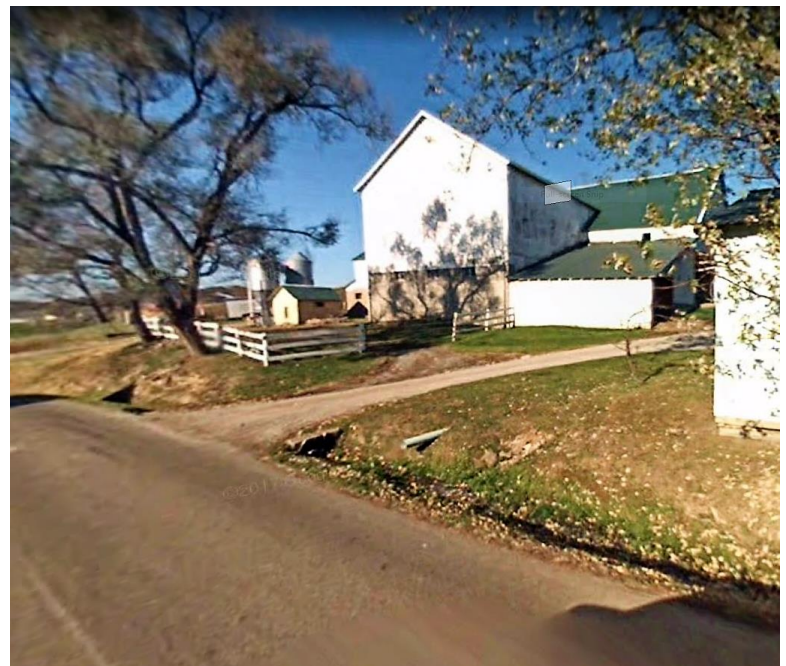
in 1871 - Wood shed for Lea Hershberger
 same - year House for Jacob Shrock
 same - year Springhouse for Moses Beachy
 in 1872 - House for Tobias Kunk
 same - year House for David Schlabach
 same year House for Emanuel Hershberger
 and sheep shed for Valentine
 in 1873 - House for Philip Heinbuch & Hogpen
 same year House for John Cash
 in 1874 - Corn Crib for Nathan Fair and some
 repairs on his Barn ;
 in 1875 - - Barn for Albe Kaufman -
 and Wagon shed for Jonas B Miller
 in 1874 - House for Peter Miller
 same year Sheep shed for Joseph Yoder
 and also Spring House for
 Isaac H Miller =
 in 1876 - House for Moses Alinger
 same year Addition to John F Miller's House
 in 1877 - Barn for Adam Miller and
 also School House in same district
 in 1878 - Barn for Isaac J Troyer
 in 1875 - Hog House for Levi J Yoder
 in 1877 - I Bought the farm which we are
 occupying and residing now

Sometime later in life, Jacob sat down and compiled this list of major structures he had built for people in his community.

house for Emanuel. The farm is split into two parcels today. The parcel with the original buildings is owned by Mary, Mose, and Owen Hershberger.

In 1875, he built a barn for Abraham Kaufman (1830-1899). The farm is on Township Road 157, Sugarcreek and is currently owned by Daniel G. Schlabach.

In 1877, he built a barn for Adam B Miller (1842-1912). Adam's farm was adjacent to Abraham Kaufman's farm where he built a barn in 1875. The barn (photo below) has a newer straw shed added to it and is currently owned by Esther Shetler.¹² The original barn had burned to the ground. Some in the neighborhood blamed the fire on the pipe smoking tramp, Johnny Wise, nicknamed “Osterhaus” (Easter Rabbit). He is believed to have spent the night in the barn and accidentally caused the fire with his pipe smoking. He was seen leaving the area as the barn went up in flames.¹³ It is not entirely clear whether the barn Jacob built replaced the barn that burned down or if the new barn of 1877 burned down and was later replaced again.



The Adam B. Miller Barn that Jacob built in 1877. The straw shed and lean to are later additions.

¹² Google Earth Photos, Street View, 2008.

¹³ Miller, Vernon, *Historical Album of Charm Ohio*, 1995, Pg. 200.

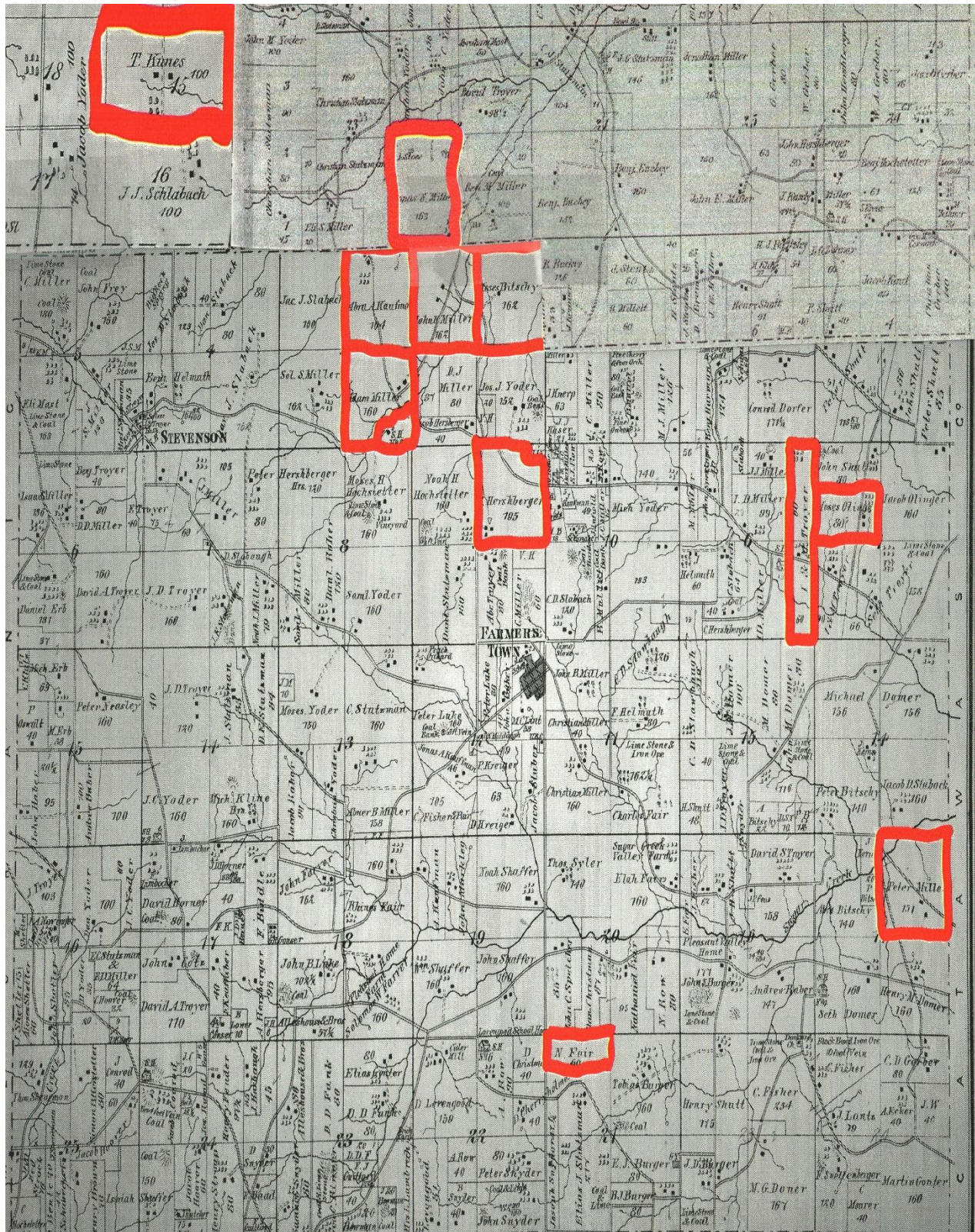


Jacob Shrock farm. Owned by Emanuel (Mony) Shrock in this 1977 photo. Currently owned by Reuben Shrock. Second house from right build by Jacob F Miller, Photo by Wayne R Miller

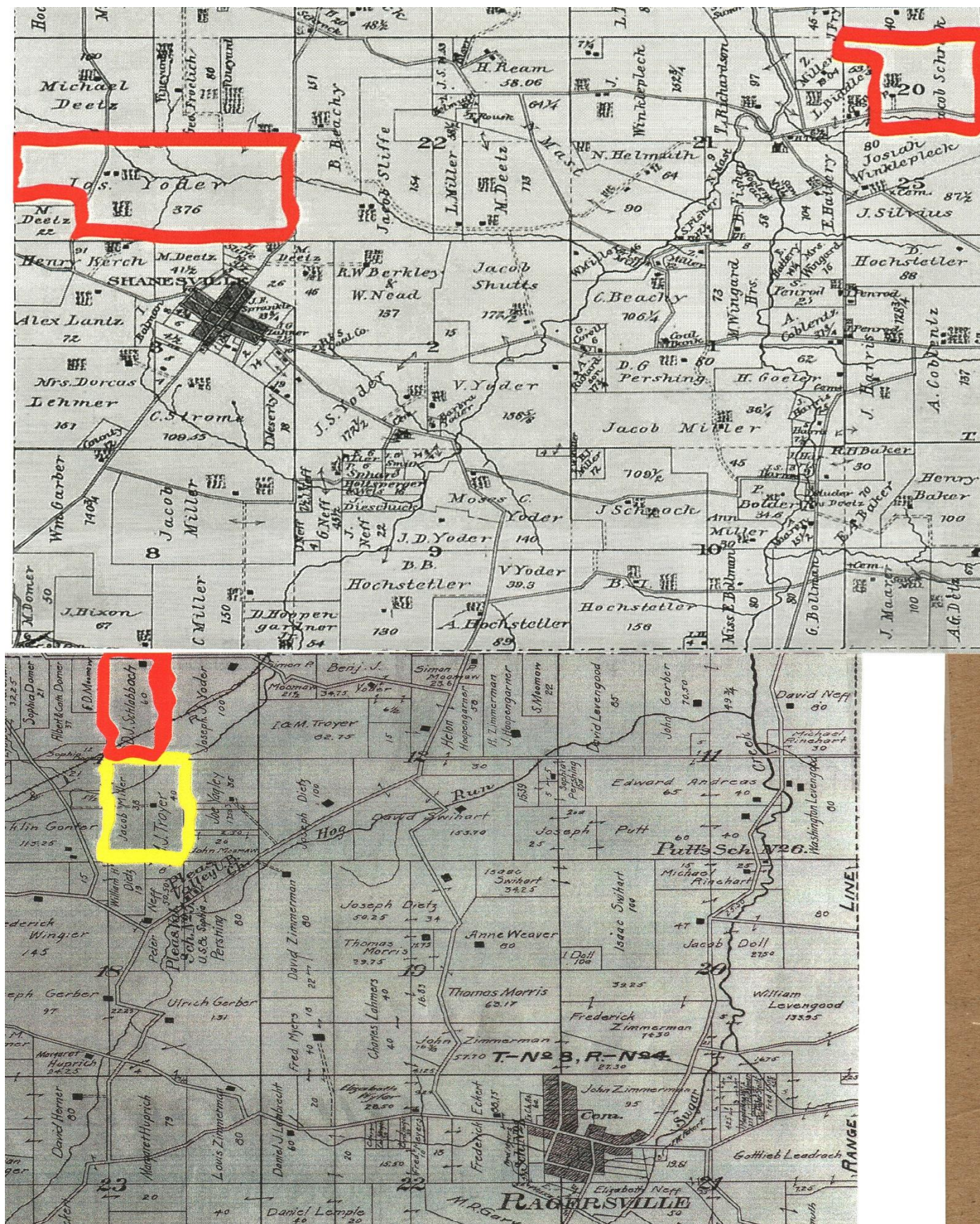
On the next two pages are the plat maps of the area where Jacob did his building. Page 10 is portions of German (now Clark), Berlin, and Walnut Creek townships in eastern Holmes County. Page 11 is Auburn and Sugar Creek Townships in Tuscarawas County.

The areas outlined in red are the farms where Jacob did his work. The yellow area is the farm where Jacob lived. While the list is not complete it does give some perspective to the area

where Jacob did his work. Like many such carpenter crews, Jacob may have stayed the nights at the places that were more distantly removed from his home rather than spending hours on the road with a team, or even walking. In fact, the locations that Jacob recorded are all well within a radius of 7-8 miles of Jacob's home. Yet those few miles would have taken much more time to travel than we can imagine in the modern world.



Eastern Holmes County in 1875. This is the area where Jacob Miller worked. The red-outlined properties are some of the farms where Jacob built houses, barns, or outbuildings.



Western Tuscarawas County in 1875. The properties outlined in red are locations where Jacob built structures. The yellow-lined location is where Jacob lived.

Marriage Gifts to the Children

Jacob and Lydia gave each of the children a gift of cash and household items to start their new households when they were married. He carefully recorded the items and the money spend for each child.

| 13 | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <p><i>Susanna Miller</i> <i>was married Dec. 13th 1894</i> <i>was Eighteen years old when married</i> <i>was at home until Mar. 7th 1895</i> <i>Articles and Hinness we gave to Susanna</i></p> | |
| One Cow = \$30.00 | Two Bedstead & springs \$9.00 |
| = Heifer = 12.00 | Three quilts |
| one Pig = 2.00 | one Blanket |
| Ten Chickens & one rooster | one woolen shirt |
| one Cupboard = 15.00 | four Muslin spreads |
| = Sink = 6.00 | two Pillow Slips |
| = Water bucket = 5.00 | Six Pillows |
| = Bowing = 3.50 | Two Comforts |
| one Bureau = 18.00 | = Bed Sacks |
| = Stand = 3.50 | five Table Cloths |
| one Set Chair = 5.00 | two Towels |
| one Cook stove = 16.00 | one Wash Tub 50 |
| Cooking Quiltstove | one W. Board 30 |
| two Iron Pots = 1.00 | one W. Basin 15 |
| one Galvanised Pot = 40 | four set Dinner Plates 1.25 |
| = Tea Kettle = 1.00 | = Cups & Saucers 1.25 |
| two Skillets = 70 | one sugar bowl 25 |
| one Wash Boiler 90 | = Covered Dish 40 |
| = Set Knives & forks = 1.25 | = Tea Pot 30 |
| two Irons = 60 | = Pitcher 30 |
| four Bread Pans = 50 | = Do = 25 |
| one Set Cook Larder 87 | seven Dishes 80 |
| = Dish Pan = 40 | Six Meat Plates & 70 |
| two Tin Buckets = 50 | Six Butter Plates & 48 |
| one Water pail 1.00 | one Bowl 12 |
| = Set Tin Cups = 20 | two Tumbler 50 |
| Six Pie Plates = 25 | Six Glass Dishes 20 |
| two Tin Dishes 05 | two Large glass Dishes 32 |
| one Paper Water bucket 40 | one glass Pitcher 10 |
| = Coffee Pot 30 | = glass Bread Plate 10 |
| = small 10 | one Do, Crocks at 28 26 |
| = Coffee Mill 35 | one five gallon crock = 40 |
| three little cream dippers & 28 | five gallon Lard 10 |
| one little Dish Pan & 10 | |
| one Potato masher | |

A listing of the gifts that Jacob gave to his daughter, Susanna. Each child received an equal amount

The first one recorded is daughter Susanna.¹⁴ Susan at 18 years old married on December 13th, 1894 to John E. Yoder¹⁵. They lived at home until March 7, 1895. The items and cash listed totaled \$1,138. Measured in today's dollars, the value would be \$33,500.

From 1894 to 1909 he gave all eight children an equal amount as they were married. This represents \$268,000 over that 15-year time period in today's dollars. Obviously, the family was doing well financially.

The boys received about \$800 of the \$1,150 in cash while the girls tended to receive mostly household items. All the children received a cow and it was always valued at \$30 over the 15 years. Also, all received either a pig or a heifer.

The girls received various furniture items such as a bureau, stand, chairs, and cupboards. Jacob's ledgers show he made these kinds of items for other people, so it is safe to assume he made these items for the girls and they may still be in their descendant's hands today.

In 1909 when the youngest child, Jacob Jr. was married, he received a new buggy valued at \$45.00.

| 14 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Two Hams | |
| one Shoulder & Bacon | |
| one Gall Underline Fried | |
| = Beef | |
| two Gall Sausage | |
| One Oil Lamp | 25 |
| two doz. Apples with puits | |
| Dec 24 th 1909 by cash | \$50.00 |
| Mar 1 st 1910 by cash for | |
| wages for Jacob Jr. | 28.00 |
| May 15 th in cash money | 200.00 |
| Feb 21 st 1913 by cash | 22.00 |
| July 7 th 1922 in money | 350.00 |
| Nov 6 th 1922 in money | 350.00 |
| July 21 st 1928 in money | 10.00 |
| | \$1938.30 |

The tally for the gifts that Jacob's Susanna received from home when she married and started her own home.

¹⁴ Their oldest child was a daughter named Amanda, born 1873, who died young.

¹⁵ John died April 17, 1917 in Plain City, Ohio. She married a second time to Sam Helmuth.

Lost Wedding Practices?

It is interesting to note that Jacob makes an entry of the exact age each of his daughters were married and how long they continued to live at home until they moved out. Some may be slightly puzzled by this bygone practice in Holmes County, Ohio.

This area around 1900 was almost entirely agricultural, thus the Amish had a "wedding season" when their young people were married. Normally this was November and December. It was considered normal for the newly married couple to live apart for several months while they set up their new household. There were a number of reasons for this. Many times, it was economical, the new husband may be acquiring machinery to farm, trying to rent a farm¹⁶, or finish working out a partnership with his father.

Many newly married husbands were working for another farmer for the season so there was no room for a couple where he stayed at and the distance was too great to travel back and forth each day.

The new bride was also working with her family to acquire the household items needed. The couple stayed together on weekends and as often as time and distance permitted until their new household was ready to move in towards spring.

I have attended quite a few Holmes County Mennonite weddings where the groom would give some kind of a short thank you speech during the reception. Many times, partially as a joke, he might say, "We will be living in _____. We invite all of you to come and visit us. Just don't all come together at once." While this always draws some laughter, it may be pointing to an earlier Holmes County tradition since lost here, but still practiced in some other Amish communities.

13

Susanna Miller
was married Dec. 13th A. D. 1894
was eighteen years old when married
was at home until Mar. 7th 1895

15

Salome Miller
was married Dec. the 3rd A. D. 1896
and was nineteen years old when married
and was at home until April 1st A. D. 1897

20

Emma Miller
was married Dec. 25th 1902 was 19 yrs. 8 mo. 22 da. old when married
(and was at home until Feb. 16th 1903)

¹⁶ This area, Sugarcreek-Baltic-Farmerstown, still had many English farming neighbors. However, among the English, the desire for higher education was drawing many young people to the larger cities and new opportunities. This gave

newly married Amish couples the opportunity to rent and eventually own these English farms. Today most of these farms are entirely Amish owned.

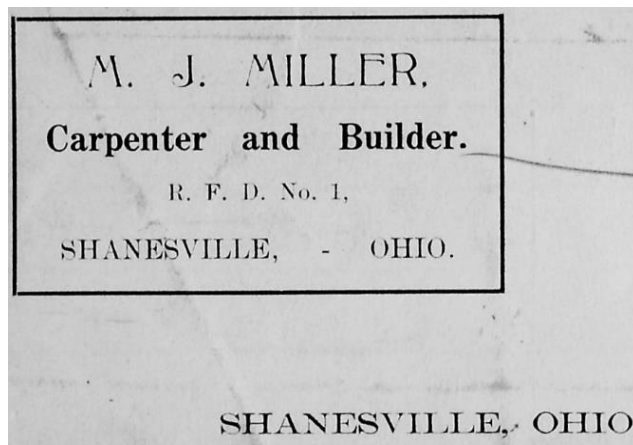
In some Amish communities one reason newly-married couples began married life apart was so they would have time to visit all their relatives on both sides of the families in their homes. The couple did this together, mainly on the weekends, sometimes with other newly married couples. The ministers were first on the list, then close relatives on both sides, and finally friends.

If the visit was a long weekend ride of several hours, all would be visited in the area on successive nights. The visits were purely a social call for a meal, chit chat, games after the meal and they would stay the night with their hosts and eat breakfast there. The hosts would give the departing couple a gift. Sometimes it was on to the next relative for a repeat of the previous night. Because families were large, it could be very exhausting for the couples to get in all the visits, thus where possible couples teamed up with other couples.

It was equally exhaustive for the hosts to receive, cook, and host overnight the many couples after “wedding season.” However, as exhausting and time consuming as all this visiting was on all parties, one had to be careful not to miss any friends or relatives, less feelings would be hurt.

Manasses J Miller Carpenter, Farmer, Vorsinger

Manasses, the son of Jacob, was also a well-known builder in the area. His ledger has entries as early as 1901 when he was 26 years old. While the ledger only covers those early years, we know he build the Charm School house in 1938

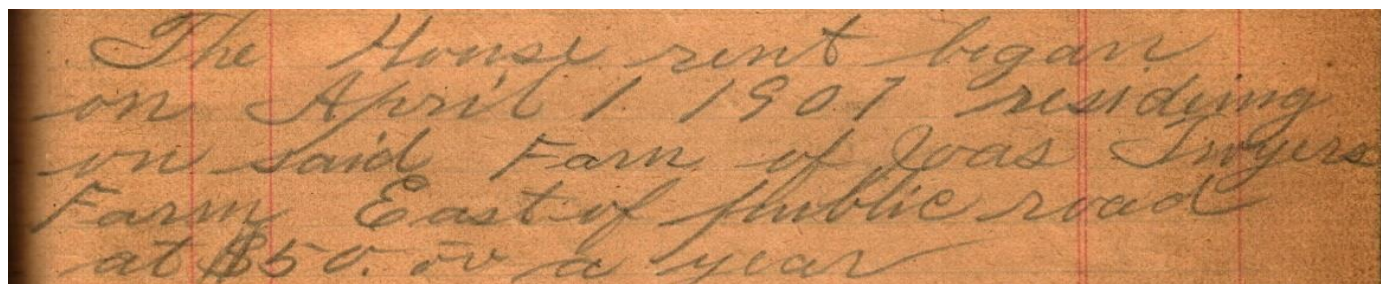


when he was 63 years old.¹⁷

Many of the early entries (1901-1906) include well –known Sugarcreek-Shanesville people, including many businessmen, like Moomaw, Middaugh, Finzer, Domer, Gonter, Richardson, Zahner, Shepfer, Hartman, Burkey, and others. There is no shortage of Amish names either including relatives he built things for.

One notable entry is, “Sugarcreek Schoolhouse”, though he fails to add the district No. making it harder to identify. Other entries are new houses for Joas Troyer, 1901, his father-in-law, and Emra Hostetler, 1902, a well-known farmer, now a part of the east end of Sugarcreek. Other large projects included N.E. Miller, 1901, straw shed

In 1905 his employees included his brother, Roman, Noah Miller, William Hahn, William Fulton, and Joseph Sundheimer. His main crew was being paid \$.21 to \$.225 cents per hour. Manasses paid himself \$.225, the same as his foreman. Some of the inexperienced help was paid much less. One young man was being paid 10 cents per hour. In 1906 he was paying another



Manasses built Joas Troyer a new house in 1901. Was this the rent for the old house?

¹⁷ *The Budget*, letter to the editor, 11-22-2017 by Nephew Edward J Miller.

young employee, Irma Miller \$1.50 per week with 10-hour days being the norm.¹⁸ Some of the help

was contracted for the season, usually a 6-8 months period.



A Mananasses J. Miller house. Most of the crew is on the roof. Ca. 1910



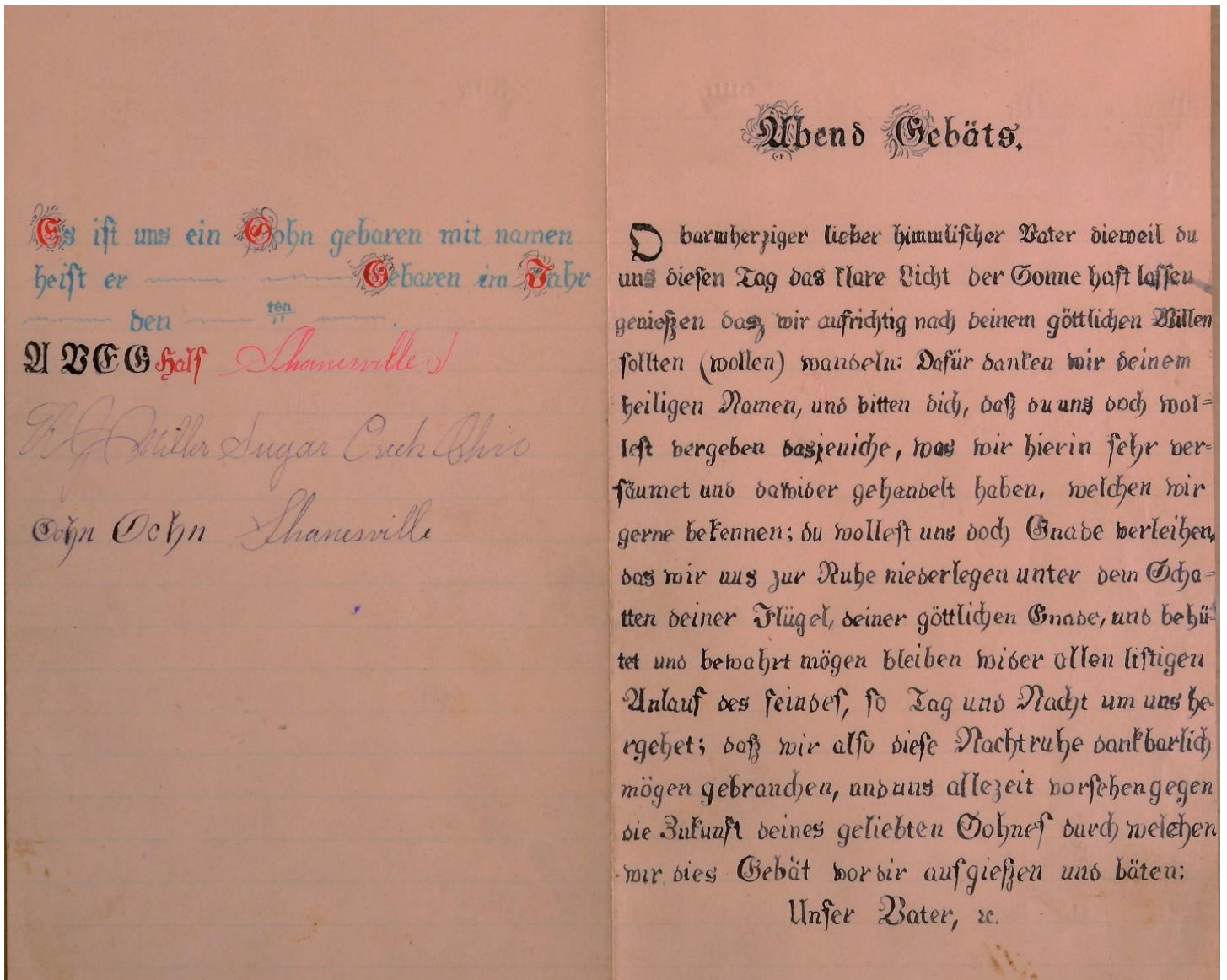
Manasses J Miller crew. Manasses is 2nd from the right holding saw. The two on far left are also Amish. It appears to be Shanesville, Ohio. ca. 1910

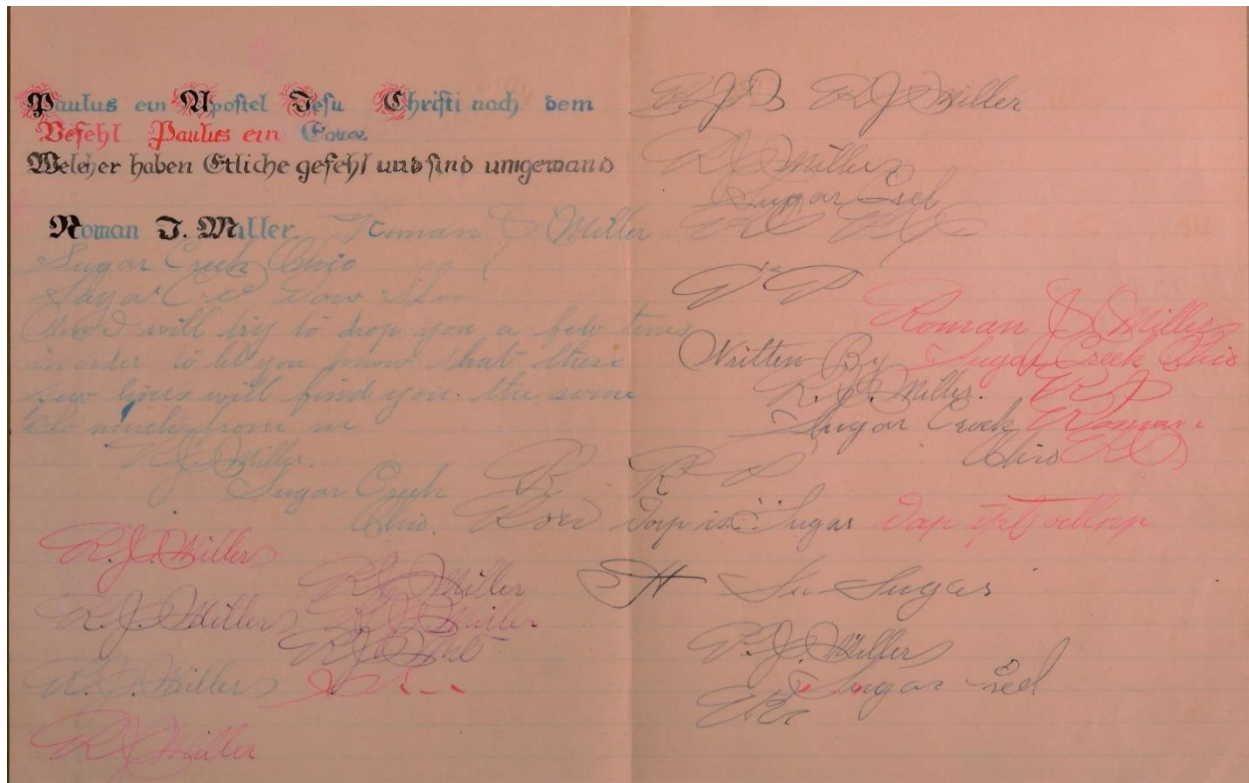
¹⁸ Probably Irma A Miller, (1882-1960), son of Aaron Tobias and Mary Catherine Schott Miller.

The Fraktur of Roman J Miller

Jacob's son, Roman, had some artistic skills as evidenced by the two examples below. Fraktur artists in earlier colonial periods included many colorful designs of flowers, birds and etc. With the passing of time and the death of these artists, the work evolved into mainly the use of Fraktur fonts.

This work, entitled "Abend Gebats" or "Evening Prayer", around 1900, shows the thinking of this young Amish man and the use of color in artistically writing the Fraktur script. The second example shows the transition from the German fraktur to an artistic English signature style that still allows the artist to express his flair.





Levi Biddle: Gun Maker, Sugarcreek Township, Ohio

The business ledger collection contained three hand drawn certificates by Levi Biddle (1831-1894). Biddle is well known among antique gun collectors, and his rare guns are sought after in today's market.¹⁹ His artistic talents extended beyond the craftsmanship of his rifles to other items, including these certificates done in the German fraktur tradition. They were awarded to a 15-year old Amish Girl, Lydia Yoder, a daughter of Joseph Yoder, who would marry Jacob F Miller. The Yoder farm of 1866 is the Miller Gun shop farm today.

Levi's father, George, came to the Shanesville (now Sugarcreek) area in 1815. George was also a gunsmith and taught young Levi the trade. Over time Levi became known for his use of curly maple wood, dark stained gun stocks. Many times, these stocks also had fine engraved silver inlays.

¹⁹ In addition to Levi Biddle in Shanesville/Sugarcreek Township, the area had two other German gun makers in the same era who were crafting fine rifles. Both were in

Levi owned a 53 ½ acre farm in Sugarcreek Township. The residence and gun shop are plainly marked on the 1875 Sugarcreek Township map. The original house and gun shop are no longer standing. Today, there is a newer barn and double wide house on the site. This is located at 7991 Stony Point Rd. NW. Sugarcreek just west of Stony Point Supply Co.

Many collectors are not aware that Levi also taught school, possibly until close to his father's death in 1871. In 1866 he taught at Oak Grove No. 1 School about 2 ½ west of his residence. Today, Oak Grove School is a private residence at 10231 Gerber Valley Rd. Sugarcreek²⁰.

The certificates have beautiful color hand drawn leaves and flower designs in the German Fraktur tradition of that era. Two of the certificates are written in the German script and one in English. Levi signed the German written one with the German spelling of his name, "Biddel," and in English as "Biddle."

Winesburg, Ohio, Adam Stilgenbauer and Amishman Reuben Yutzy.

²⁰ The 1866 school building has probably been replaced with the current newer brick building.



This is to verify that Lydia Yoder is second in the German spelling class on
the last day of my school. April the 20th 1866.

Levi Biddel/Teacher



This is to verify that Lydia Yoder has received third place in the spelling bee
in the German spelling class, April 20th A.D. 1866.

Levi Biddel/Teacher



Reuben Yutzy: Farmer, Gunsmith, and Amishman

Marcus Yoder

The difficulties in relation to family and local histories is that they are often built on oral traditions, legends, and stories. The difficulty is how to determine whether it is true, or even larger, which part of them are true. One of the ways that historians go about doing this is to reconstruct everything we know about a family and look at the artifacts and other material that the family may have produced. In this article we want to do that with the Reuben Yutzy family. He is best known in the Holmes County Amish community for his gun making skills; in fact, some of his rifles are still in existence today and are valued because of local connection.

Most of the Yutzy families who live in the Holmes County area today, or those who can trace their origins back this community, owe their existence to this Reuben Yutzy who was born in 1820 or 1821 and died five days before the 1900s on December 26, 1899. However, to understand

Reuben, and the families who followed him, we need to reach back into Europe and understand what and where he originated from. We will lay out the basic shape of Reuben's life, look at his work as a farmer and gunsmith, and then how his family spread in the Anabaptist community. It is also important to understand a bit about the Amish world that Reuben lived in and operated in during his lifetime.

The Yutzy name is an anglicized version of Jutzi, which is how it was most often spelled in Europe. They originated in Switzerland as a farm family in the Bernese highlands. For over four hundred years there are records of this family in the eastern and southeastern parts of Canton Bern. The family then moved north into the Palatinate area of Germany in the migrations that occurred after the 30 Years War (1618-1648). From here they immigrated to the American Colonies. No one is certain who the first Yutzy was who joined the Anabaptist church, but this most likely occurred before their move to America.

As noted above the name would have been spelled Jutzi in Europe. In the German-Swiss dialects that these people spoke the letter J has the

same sound as our English Y. It is thought that the name originated as a matronymic name. Matronymic names are derived from the first name of the mother or a maternal figure. In medieval times men were more often exposed to early death, because of war and exposure to diseases, etc. If a child was born after the death of their father they were often named after the mother. An example of this would be the surname Ketterer, which comes from Katherine or Greter from Margarete—sons would have taken the familiar name of the mother. A son born to a widow may have been named Michael son of Greter, etc. As surnames became more common he would have become known as Michael Greter. It is thought that the Jutzi surname is from the matronymic Judith – a common female name in that era in



The yellow line is the route that the Jutzy Family would have followed in their migration from the Bernese area of Switzerland to the Palatinate in modern day Germany

Switzerland.¹ The familiar name for Judith was often written as Jutzcina or shortened further to Jutzci or Jutzi.

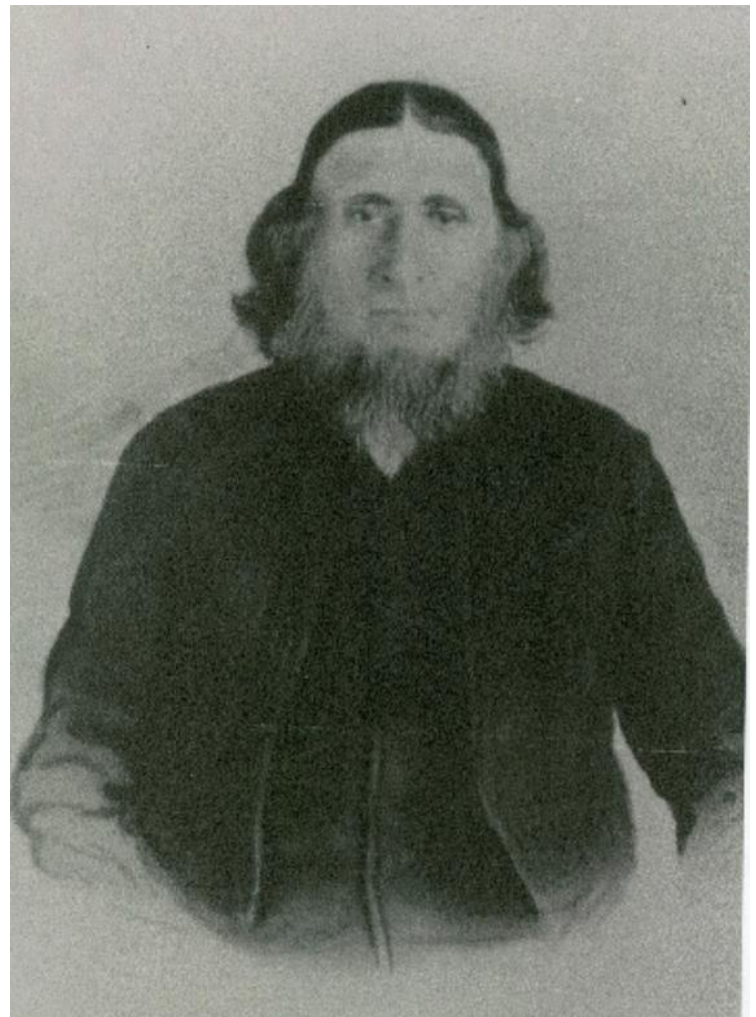
Most genealogists and family historians trace the Yutzy family back to a Michael and Maria Barbara Jutzi who lived on the estate Giflitz in Waldeck, Germany for approximately fourteen years from 1759-1773. The second to youngest of their ten children was Christian or “Christel” Yutzy, the grandfather of our Reuben Yutzy. Michael was likely the lease-manager for this estate which is north of modern day Frankfurt, Germany. Christel’s oldest brother later recorded very carefully a family history with birth and death records of his parents and siblings. He records his brother Christel as born in February of 1769.² Christian married in Europe and he and his five sons, immigrated to Pennsylvania, although at different times. Reuben Yutzy was the son of immigrant Peter Yutzy and the grandson of Christian.

Christian’s son Peter, along with his four brothers, immigrated sometime before 1820. Most likely they were all single young men who were looking for a place to settle on their own. Peter’s brother George moved to Ontario, Canada. That branch of the family kept the J in their name and even today those descendants are known as Jutzys or Jutzis. Christian immigrated later and settled in Somerset County with his sons. It is thought that Christian, his sons Peter (Reuben’s father), Daniel, and Jacob lived and died in the Somerset Community.³ Two other sons of Christian, George and Joseph, moved to Waterloo County, Ontario. It is interesting to note that some of this branch of the family continue to spell their name as Jutzi.⁴

Peter married after he had moved to Pennsylvania. His first wife was Elizabeth Glass who most likely was not Amish by birth. Reuben was born in 1820 or 1821 when his father was around thirty years old, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. Peter and Elizabeth only had two children; Reuben and his sister Anna before

Elizabeth died sometime between 1825 and 1830. By 1830 Peter had remarried Lydia Beachy who was nineteen years younger than Peter. She died in 1844 after the birth of her third child. Peter then married Mary Hershberger who was 23 years younger than he was, and only six years older than Reuben. They had two daughters. In all Reuben had one blood sister, one stepbrother, and four stepsisters.

Sometime around 1839 Reuben moved to Holmes County, Ohio. While we do not know his motive for the move, this is part of a much larger



A picture of Daniel Yutzy. Daniel is a son of Christian and an uncle to Reuben Yutzy.

¹ Klaus Jutzi, “The Jutzi Surname” *Mennonite Family History* (Vol. IX no.1 January 1990) 21.

² Neal Ann Stuckey Levine, “Records Penned by George Jutzi (1753-1827) in 1782. *Mennonite Family History* (Vol. XVI, Number 4 October 1997) 146-152.

³ Gingerich-Kreider, 185.

⁴ For more see Lorraine Roth, “The Jutzi/Iutzi/Yutzi Family in Canada,” *Mennonite Family History* Vol. VIII, Number 1, (January 1989) 23.

migration of Amish westward. Here was less expensive land, though undeveloped. He settled in Paint Township where land had been opened for purchase in the 1830s. Reuben was the first Amishman to own the farm where he settled. Later he bought an additional 100 acres to the south of the original farm. This location is about two miles west of the village of Winesburg and at the west bottom of what is commonly known as the “seven-lick” hill.

Reuben married Susanna Weaver, the daughter of Samuel Weaver, in August, 1844. Susanna's family was one of the earlier settlers in this community, having come here in 1813 (the only Amish who came that year because of the Indian scare). Susanna was born on December 27, 1824; and was twenty years old when she married Reuben. We do not know if Reuben and Susanna knew each other before he moved to this area, or whether their romance blossomed here. Reuben, like his father before him, moved away from his family home at about age 19 or 20 and made his

way to another world and place where he could live.

Reuben's only blood sibling, Anna, also moved to Holmes County, Ohio where she married Jonas Hochstetler (1820-1884). Jonas was a great-grandson of John Hochstetler whose family had been attacked by a group of Native Americans in 1757. Anna died in 1857 at 32 years of age. Reuben's father, Peter died five years later in 1862, leaving Reuben with no parents or blood siblings alive.

The Family of Reuben Yutzy

Reuben and Susanna had eight boys and two girls. Two of their sons, Solomon and Benjamin died as babies. Their oldest son was born in 1847 and their youngest, Nicholas, was born in 1870 when Reuben was about fifty years old and Susanna was 45 or 46 years old. By the time Nicholas was born, their oldest son Isaac had already married. In all, Reuben and Susanna had 68 grandchildren, eleven of whom died young.



The 1875 plat location of Reuben and Susanna Yutzy's farm. By now he had turned ownership of the south 100 acres to his son Isaac. Note the I. Yutzy plat south of Reuben's farm. (from the *1875 Holmes County Atlas*.)

Eighteen of the 68 were born after Reuben and Susanna had died.⁵ The following is basic information on the Yutzy's children:

1. Isaac 1847-1915. Married in 1869 to Mary Kendle daughter of John Elizabeth (Troyer) Kendle. Isaac and Mary lived just south of Reubens. They had four children. They joined the Dunkard Brethren Church.

2. Jonas 1850-1920. Married in 1872 to Mary Miller daughter of Solomon and Mary (Brenneman) Miller. Jonas and Mary moved to the Amish community in Partridge, KS. Jonas and Mary had ten children

3. Moses 1852-1919. Married in 1875 to Elizabeth Miller daughter of Eli and Barbara (Hershberger) Miller. Elizabeth died in 1896 and Moses married Erminda Beechy, daughter of Solomon Beechy. Erminda was 37 years younger than Moses. Moses had two children with

Erminda the last child when he was 63 years old. Moses had six children with Elizabeth and two with Erminda.

4. Solomon b. 1854. Solomon died young, most likely within the first year of his life.

5. Daniel 1857-1940. Married in 1881 to Nancy Harmon, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Fetters) Harmon. Daniel and Nancy had eleven children. Three died young. It appears that Daniel and Nancy joined the Lutheran Church.

6. Benjamin b.1859. Benjamin died young, most likely shortly after birth. It is recorded that he died of the croup.

7. Anna 1861-1944. Married in 1885 to Benjamin Kuhns son of Tobias and Fronica (Weaver) Kuhns. Benjamin died in 1920 and Anna married Benjamin S. Miller. Anna and her family lived in Holmes County and were with the Amish

| Dwelling-house numbered in order of visitation. | Families numbered in the order of visitation. | The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family. | Age. | Sex. | Color, (White, black, or mulatto.) | Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age. | Value of Real Estate owned. | Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country. | Married within year. | Attended School within the year. | Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict. | |
|---|---|---|------|------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1 | | Catharine Minger | 2 | F | | | | Ohio | | | | |
| 2 | | Moses " | 12 | M | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | Christian Hershberger | 72 | M | | Farmer | | Pa | | | | |
| 4 | 1066/1089 | Reuben Yutzy | 30 | M | | Farmer | 1500 | " | | | | |
| 5 | | Susana " | 25 | F | | | | " | | | | |
| 6 | | Isaac " | 3 | M | | | | Ohio | | | | |
| 7 | 1067/1090 | Christian Boyle | 49 | M | | Farmer | 1200 | German | | | | |
| 8 | | Barbara " | 50 | F | | | | " | | | | |
| 9 | | Elizabeth " | 32 | F | | | | " | | | | |
| 10 | | Christian " | 21 | M | | | | " | | | 1 | |
| 11 | | Frederick " | 19 | M | | | | " | | | 1 | |
| 12 | | Anna B " | 16 | F | | | | " | | | 1 | |

This is the first official record we have of Reuben Yutzy. It is a copy of the 1850 Census. It records that Reuben was born in Pennsylvania, was a farmer, and had a wife and son. His land and improvements were valued at \$1500.00

⁵ The basic genealogical information is derived from Gingerich & Kreider and M.J. Troyer, and *The Yutzy*

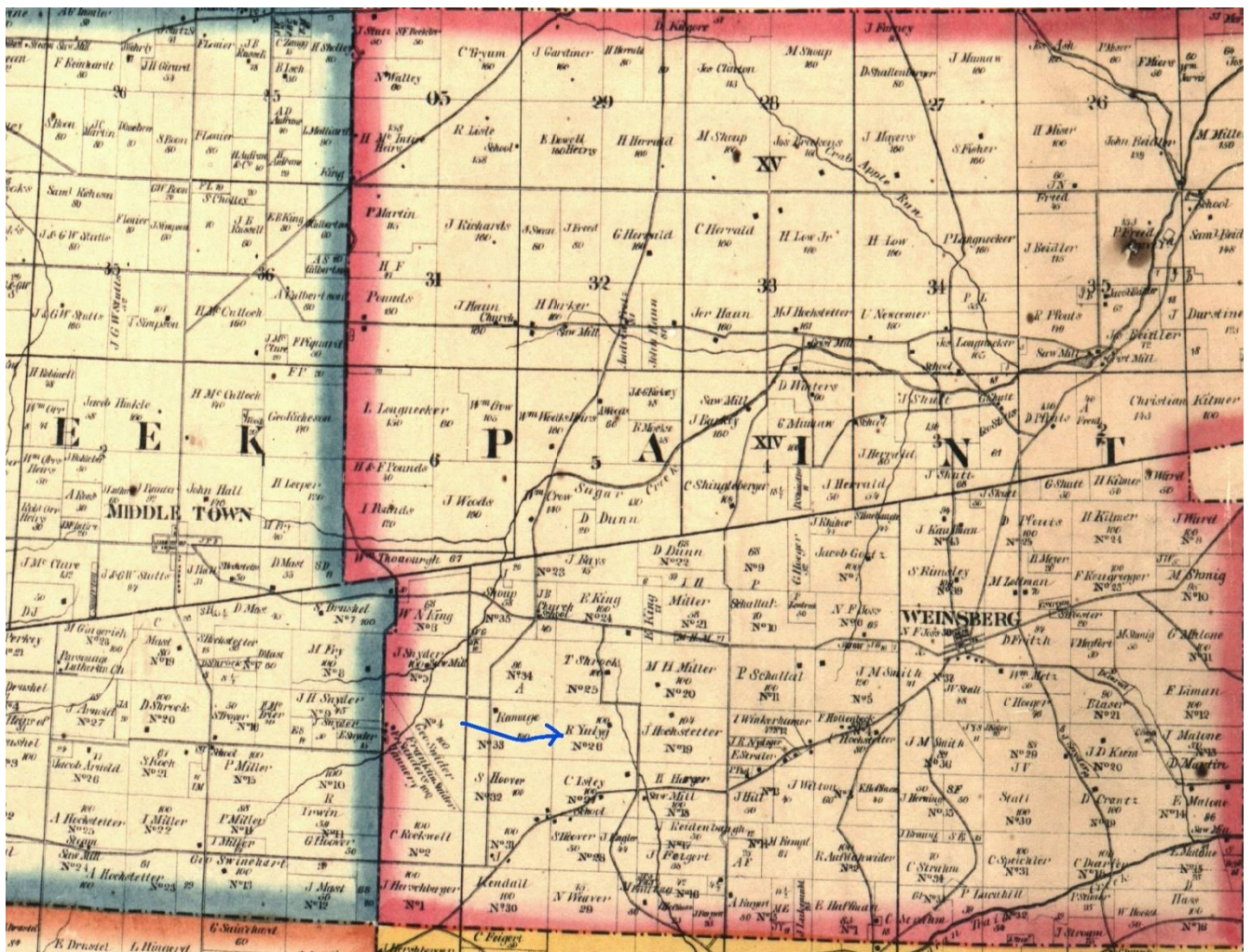
Family: Christian, Peter-Elizabeth, Reuben-Susanna and their Descendants (Self-Published by author, 1995).

church. She had nine children. The oldest lived for about six months, her son Reuben died at sixteen of Brights Disease; and a daughter Anna died at age thirteen.

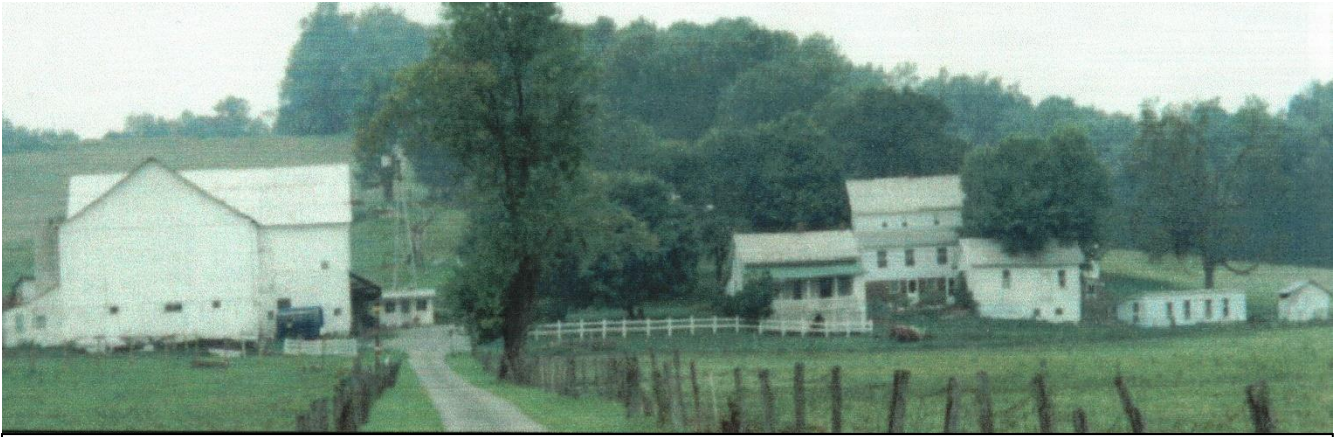
8. Fannie 1862-1899. Married in 1888 to Levi J. Stutzman son of Jonas and Mary (Troyer) Stutzman. Fannie and her family lived in Holmes County and were with the Amish Church. She and Levi had six children. Her son Jonas died as an infant. On January 2, 1899 Fannie had a son Levi. Apparently, there were complications and Fannie died on January 30 of infection. She was a few days shy of her 37th birthday when she died.

9. Eli 1864-1947 Married in 1889 to Mary Miller daughter of Jacob and Tena (Mast) Miller. Eli and his family lived in Plain City, Ohio and were with the Amish Church. Eli died of a heart attack at the Union Train Depot in Chicago, IL in 1947. Eli and Mary had eight children. Their oldest son died the same day he was born.

10. Nicholas 1870-1952. Married in 1894 to Christina Hochstetler daughter of John and Katie (Weaver) Hochstetler. Nicholas and his family lived in Holmes County and were with the Amish Church. They had twelve children. Their oldest two died within two weeks of birth; in addition, they had three others who died under one year of age.



The neighborhood and world of Reuben and Susanna Yutz. This from the 1861 Farm Line Map, an original is on display at the Ohio Amish Library.



The Yutzy farm. The shop and small house are in front of the newer house.

Reuben and Susanna were part of the Amish Church in Ohio. Like most Amish of this time, they were most likely baptized shortly before marriage and then would have raised their young family in the Amish Church. Life would have been very focused on the small neighborhood circle that made up both their social circle and their church family. Since there were many fewer Amish, the districts were much larger in area than they are today. Reuben would have worked hard to clear fields, develop his farm, and raise his family.

In the earliest map that exists of this area, the 1861 Farm-line Map, Reuben and Susanna live in a long lane off the road. To the east is a Hochstetler Family. The next farm north is a Schrock family, and Moses H. Miller owns the farm to the northeast of Reuben and Susanna. This cluster of Amish families is the easternmost edge of the Amish community. Weinsburg (Winesburg) is about two miles farther east, and Middle Town (Mt. Hope), is about two and a half miles northwest. This is the shape of Reuben's world in the 1850s and 1860s. Much of their interactions would have been in this small area as they farmed and raised their family

By 1860 Reuben and Susanna were married for sixteen years, had five children (two of which had died), and build up their farm into a working farm. Sometime between 1860 and 1865 Reuben, who also dealt in horses, made a horse trade with one of his fellow Amish. Somehow the deal soured and the business dealings related to the trade were taken to the church to be resolved. Reuben felt slighted when the church leaders sided with the other person. At the same time the Amish Church faced the first major division where Walnut Creek and Martins Creek Amish-Mennonite churches were begun.⁶ In 1865 a congregation was formed in the Martins Creek area with Samuel Mast as their Bishop. This side was the more progressive group that had left the mainline Amish of the community. Reuben and Susanna are listed as founding members of this group.⁷

However, by 1890 when we have the next available listing of church members, Reuben and Susanna are no longer a part of the group.⁸ When, or why, Reuben and Susanna returned to the Amish church is not known. They most likely spent between 5-10 years as a part of that group before returning to worship with their local

⁶ For more about this division see, Paton Yoder and Steven Estes, *Proceedings of the Amish Ministers' Meetings: 1862-1878*. (Goshen, IN: Mennonite Historical Society, 1991). The seminal event in Amish and Mennonite life in this century is what Yoder terms the "great schism." This division, which was finalized in 1865, resulted in the formation of the Amish-Mennonite Church, led by the more progressive or change-minded branch of the Amish. The more traditional minded group was soon seen as the "old order" and today most notably identified as the Old Order

Amish. In the Holmes County Community one of the major issues was the building of church houses, which Walnut Creek and Martins Creek moved towards almost immediately after formation.

⁷ *Martins Creek Mennonite Church, Centennial Book 1865-1965*. 11.

⁸ *Ibid*, 12. Moses H. died in 1880. In the 1875 Holmes County Atlas. His son Isaac is the titleholder to the land.

neighborhood Amish church. The Amish church in Reuben's area would have been the Middleton District.⁹ This district was led by Bishop Moses J. Miller. This is "glay Mose" (little Mose), who was ordained in 1847 when this Middleton district was formed from the original Walnut Creek District. The ministers with Mose were Christian D. Yoder, Moses H. Miller, and Salomon Miller.¹⁰ Minister, Moses H. Miller was a neighbor to Reuben living just to the north-east.

We do not know why Reuben and Susanna decided to join the more progressive group, or what brought them back to the main group of Amish. Perhaps the dispute was settled or the parties were gone. Or perhaps, peace was made and both parties could worship together again. Or could it simply be that the distance to Martins Creek was too far and Reuben's decided to worship with their neighbors again.

The Work of Reuben Yutzy

As noted above, Reuben was primarily a farmer and secondarily traded horses and built muzzle loading rifles. While we often focus on the guns that Reuben made, his primary source of income was most likely the farm, and farm related activities. Like others of the era he filled in his time with his gunsmithing trade. Since these rifles are something that could be preserved it is what we have today. Reuben Yutzy's rifles are clearly not offensive or defensive weapons, rather they are small caliber farm guns that were intended for varmints, etc. They are produced in the era where guns are changing rapidly. In fact, repeating and cartridge rifles are making inroads into the muzzle loading rifle markets. Anyone interested in guns for military use would have seen these guns as old-fashioned, and becoming antiquated. But they worked well for the local farmer who needed something to deal with varmints, etc.

The guns Reuben produced are mostly in the .28-34 caliber range. These are very small caliber rifles, even for this era. Most have 36-39-inch-long barrels that Reuben bought from a barrel maker. He bought the actions for the guns and

then did the woodworking and inscriptions that mark his guns today. The guns all had a double trigger which acted as a safety. The hammer needed to be cocked, the set trigger pulled before the gun could be fired using the other trigger.

What is unique about Reuben's guns is the variances in the woodworking. He often created



fairly unique cheekpieces on the stocks that were typical of more fancy guns of the era. Reuben was enough of an artist that these vary quite a bit. He also numbered and signed each gun. The lowest number known that exists today is 58 and the highest are in the 500's. It is also the case that more exist with a higher number since those produced earlier would have been "used up" before much attention to preservation of them would have happened. Reuben signed most of his guns on the top or side flat of the barrel. On a few guns he also stamped his signature on the wood stock. He signed the guns in a variety of ways (See photo of signature). Reuben also owned a metal stamp that he may have used to imprint his guns. This, like all such engraving stamps, was in reverse, mirrored image form.

Reuben worked with another local gun maker, Adam Stillgenbarger, who lived in Winesburg. There is some record that Reuben and Adam traveled to Beach City, Ohio and the train station

⁹ Middleton is today Mt. Hope.

¹⁰ The original document is in held by the Ohio Amish Library



The ways in which Reuben signed his guns:

R. Yutzy

R. Yutzy Hco No. 350

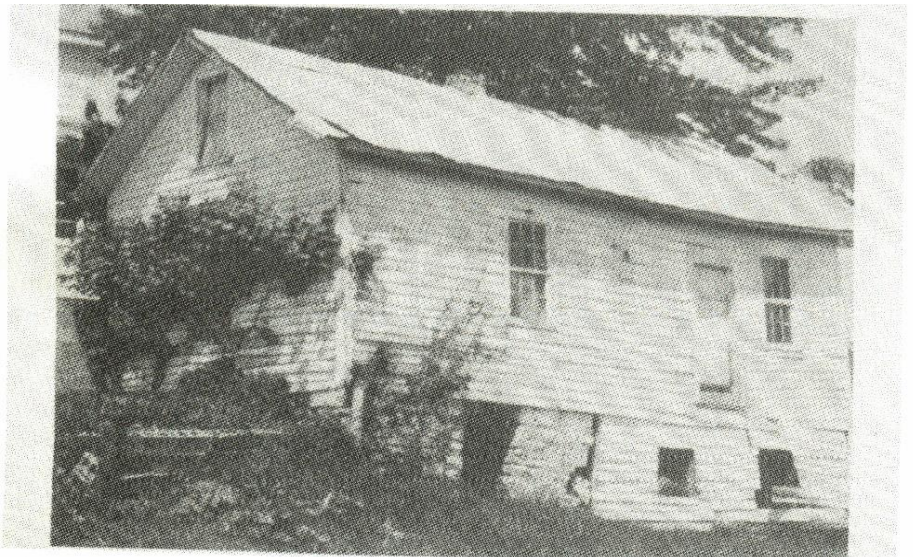
R. Yutzy No. 350

R. Yutzy Holmes C.O. 350

to get barrels. Both would have used, and built the same kinds of guns. Most likely he would have needed to rifle the barrel using a hand cranked rifling guide that would have cut the metal out of the barrel to create the rifling that caused the spin. Then he would have cut and shaped the wood, often maple or walnut, and seated the barrel and action into the wood. These were produced for orders that he would have received, and not for general stock or sale. After the gun was completed Reuben would have shot it, to make sure that the parts and pieces all worked.

Reuben did his work in a shop that is still standing on the farm. On the east side of the shop, below a window was a hole that old-timers said that Reuben used as a way to shoot the guns without having to go outside. It is in this building that Reuben would have worked and where the guns were built. By the time the 1875 Holmes County Atlas was

produced, Reuben was an acknowledged gunsmith. In a short advertisement that is normal for this Atlas it states that, "R. Tutzy (a misspelling), Farmer and Manufacturer of Rifles



Reuben's gun shop. The hole to shoot the guns was under the window on the left. He would have shot the gun to the south towards a tree where the driveway came to the house.

R. Tutzy, Farmer and Manufacturer of Rifles and Shot Guns.
Repairing promptly done. Lot 26. Settled 1839. Na-
tive of Pennsylvania. P. O. Weinsberg.

and Shotguns.” And also, that he repaired guns, apparently even those made by others. By now Reuben’s sons were old enough to work the farm and Reuben could concentrate on his gunsmithing.

About 1890 Reuben and Susana took a life lease on the farm and transferred ownership of the farm to his son Eli Yutzy. A few years later, in 1893, Eli transferred the life lease to his brother Moses. This is unusual in that the life lease was transferred from one sibling to another. But Eli, like his brother Jonas who had moved to Kansas, was looking to move out of the community. In March 1897, Eli and his family moved to the new Amish settlement in Madison County, Ohio. In many ways, Reuben’s sons were only doing what generations before them had done, move on to better and cheaper land to raise their families.

The lease is quite detailed, including the fact that, “the said Reuben Yutzy of the first part reserves in the above described real estate for

himself and his wife Susanna in and during their natural lives the smaller dwellinghouse he now occupies and also the little house north of said dwelling reserved as a shop for his own use....”¹¹

It is in this dwelling and shop that Reuben was to spend the majority of his last few years. In addition, the lease specifies that if the older couple would need assistance when they “become sick or in feeble health” Moses and his family would care for them, and “see to accommodate friends and visitors or comers and goers in a respectful manner.” It also specified that upon the death of Reuben or Susanna that they would make sure that, “their burial and Funeral Seremonniel (Ceremony)” would be held in a “Proper and Respectful manner” for which Moses would be paid “a reasonable amount out of the Estate.” In this manner Reuben and Susanna would be provided for and taken care of in their old age.

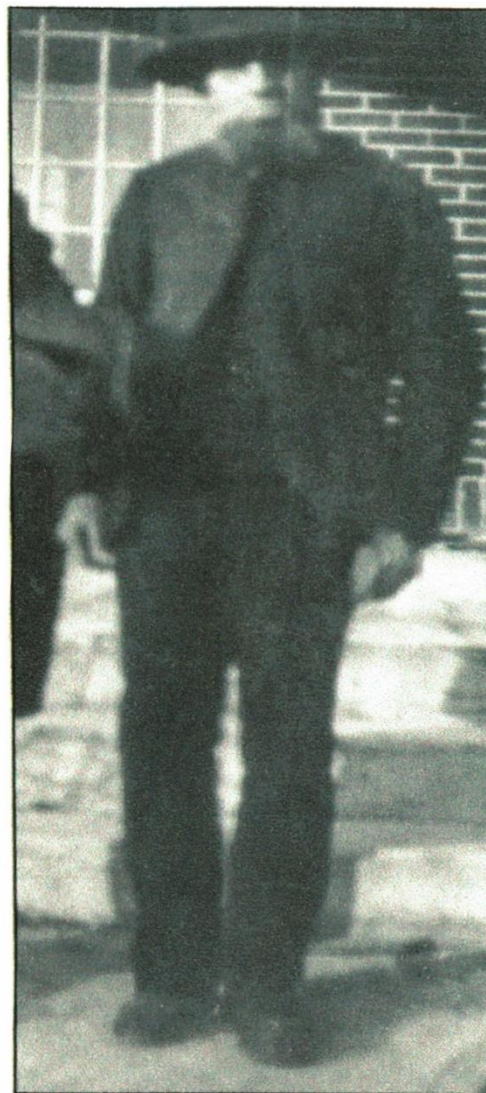


A picture of Moses Yutzy ca. 1900, Reuben and Susanna’s son. This picture is taken with the original barn that stood in Reuben’s farm.

¹¹ A copy of the original on file at the Ohio Amish Library.

In early January 1899, Reuben's daughter Veronica (Franny or Fannie) gave birth to a son. They named the son Levi after Veronica's husband, Levi J. Stutzman.¹² Apparently, she developed an infection and seventeen days after giving birth she died. The Stutzmans lived only about one and one-half miles west of Reuben's near Middle Town. A little over a month later, on March 1, 1899, Susanna Yutzy died. We do not know whether she was ill, or whether she died suddenly. What we do know is that it would have been difficult for Reuben since his daughter, and now his wife of nearly sixty years died in such a short time.

Surely as the end of the 1800s loomed, and the world and the community looked forward to the turn of the century, Reuben would have thought about these loses. However, he would not be alive to see that change. On the day after Christmas Reuben himself died. Like Susanna, we do not know whether he was ill, or died suddenly. A small notice in the *Sugar Creek Budget* in the January 11, 1900 edition notes that "Reuben Yutzy, of near Winesburg, was buried last Thursday; aged 79 years, 10 months and 15 days."¹³



A picture of Eli Yutzy who moved to Plain City, Ohio in 1897.

¹² This son, Levi died in 1989. His father upon the death of his wife needed someone to care for the baby. Bishop Andy Masts, who had no children of their own, raised Levi. He was ordained a deacon and lived all his life near Mt Hope. For more see, Katie Weaver, *History and*

Descendants of Levi J. and Fannie (Yutzy) and Sarah (Miller) Stutzman (Katie Weaver, 2010).

¹³ *Sugar Creek Budget*, January 11, 1900. Available at the Ohio Amish Library.

A Mystery Solved

Adam Hershberger

One of a genealogist's greatest joys is the moment they are able to uncover a centuries-old mystery. In July 2018, the Bible of Henry Stutzman (ST517) was brought into the Ohio Amish Library by Mary Burlingame.¹ She graciously showed us the records written inside. Henry was the son of Paul & Mary (Troyer) Stutzman, and was born on January 1, 1826 in Holmes County, Ohio.² He was a nephew of well-known Holmes County, Ohio Amish settler, "Der Weiss" Jonas Stutzman. Henry died in Fairfield County, Ohio on November 25, 1881.

The Bible contains the birth and death records of Henry's children. In addition, it contains a notation written in artistic German fraktur script: "Barbara Zug gebohren 22 Jenner 1815" (Barbara Zook born January 22, 1815). What is the connection between Henry Stutzman, whose familial records are inside the Bible, and Barbara Zook?

Henry Stutzman was married three times. First, to Mary Gingerich (GG446), then Barbara Miller (MLF41), and then to Nancy Beery.³ We had first concluded that Henry's second wife Barbara was not Barbara Miller that Gingerich-Kreider claimed; rather, her maiden name was Zook, as is stated in the Bible.

But after extensive research, no Barbara Zook could be found that matched this description. However, one lead was found on www.findagrave.com. It stated that Henry Stutzman's wife was Barbara Zook Stutzman, and that she was born on January 24, 1815, and died on December 8, 1871 in Fairfield County, Ohio.⁴ This confirmed Barbara Zook as the wife of Henry Stutzman, but Barbara's parents and her birthplace were still unknown.

While researching, it was discovered that a Barbara Miller born ca1816, was married to Christian Zook (ZK2242). No other information was known about this Barbara Miller. But Christian Zook (1805-1855) was buried in Fairfield County, Ohio. This is where Henry and Barbara Stutzman were living in the 1860 census. This would match perfectly; Barbara Miller (MLF41) married first to Christian Zook. After Christian passed away in 1855, Barbara married a second time to Henry Stutzman, sometime before the 1860 census.

Further research warranted this claim. Barbara Miller's (MLF41) parents, Jacob & Mary (Bechler) Miller, emigrated to America in early 1818. They settled in Wayne County, Ohio.⁵ Christian Zook's father David Zook, who was an Amish Bishop, also moved his family from Mifflin County, Pennsylvania to Wayne County, Ohio in 1818.⁶ So, the Miller and Zook families lived in the Amish community of Wayne County during the same time period.

"I do hereby Certify that I as a Minister of the Gospel of the Society of Omish Christians, of Wayne County have joined in marriage agreeably to the rules and regulations of our said church..."

The following was written in the Wayne County marriage records in 1834 by Bishop David Zook: "I do hereby Certify that I as a Minister of the Gospel of the Society of Omish Christians, of Wayne County have joined in marriage agreeably to the rules and regulations of our said church..." He then listed seven couples that he married from 1832-1834. One of the couples he married was Christian Zook and Barbara Miller. They had

¹ Gingerich-Kreider numbering system.

² Hugh F. Gingerich and Rachel W. Kreider, *Amish & Amish Mennonite Genealogies* (Gordonville, PA: Pequea Bruderschaft Library, 2007), p. 496.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Their birthdate for Barbara is incorrect. Findagrave.com states Barbara died December 8, 1871, and she was aged 56y 10m 16d. After doing the math, it becomes evident that she

was born on January 22, 1815, which also agrees with the Bible records.

⁵ Leroy Beachy, *Unser Leit...The Story of the Amish* (Millersburg, Ohio: Goodly Heritage Books, 2011), Vol. 2, p. 17.

⁶ S. Duane Kauffman, "Eight 19th Century Mifflin County David Zooks", *Mennonite Family History*, July 1991: p. 89.

married on March 13, 1834. This would also match perfectly. Christian Zook would have been 28 years old, and Barbara Miller would have been 19.

Bishop David Zook, the father of Christian Zook, then moved to Fairfield County, Ohio in 1834.⁷ That is probably why David wrote the marriage records when he did, since he was leaving the area. Christian, along with his newlywed wife, Barbara Miller, went with his father to Fairfield County, or soon after the elder Zook moved.

While we do not have any records or documentation that completely solidifies Barbara Miller (MLF41) as the wife of Christian Zook, the evidence makes it very probable. Their families are both known to have lived in Wayne County, Ohio during the same time period. Christian Zook married in Wayne County to a Barbara Miller in 1834. He died in Fairfield County, Ohio in 1855, and Henry Stutzman, along with his wife Barbara, were living in Fairfield County in the 1860 census.

The following is the timeline of events in Barbara Miller's life with the records and information available. Barbara Miller (MLF41) was born on January 22, 1815 in Alsace, France, to Jacob & Mary (Bechler) Miller. She emigrated with her family to Wayne County, Ohio in early 1818. Barbara married Christian Zook (ZK2242) on March 13, 1834, in Wayne County, Ohio. They lived in Fairfield County, Ohio during the 1850 census.⁸ Christian died November 8, 1855 in Fairfield County. Barbara married widower Henry Stutzman (ST517) sometime before the 1860 census. In 1870, they were still living in Fairfield County, along with Lydia Stutzman, Henry's daughter from his previous marriage. Barbara died on December 8, 1871. In spite of being married twice, she did not bear any children. Barbara was buried in the Amish Mennonite Cemetery, where her first husband Christian Zook, and later Henry Stutzman in 1881, was also buried.

Help us out....

This section details families, individuals, or events that are of interest to the research efforts in the Library. If you have documents, pictures, or items that will help solve some of these mysteries, please contact the Library. We will work with you in copying, or digitizing, and preserving the documents that you bring. This will allow you to keep the items and will aid in preserving them, allowing the future generations access to this knowledge.

1. We are looking for information on the family of Mary or Maria Mohler (1855-1928). She married Michael J. Gingerich (1855-1925). She was most likely raised by John J. Hershbergers, a local Amish family.

2. We are looking for any information on the "pioneers" of the community from 1800-1830.

⁷ Beachy, *Unser Leit*, p. 331.

⁸ All census records from <https://www.familysearch.org/search/hr/search> (accessed August 8, 2018).

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