

The Shoemaker's:

From Germany to Ohio

By

Kristopher Scott Shoemaker

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Dedication

With Loving Memory I dedicate this work to my father Billy (Bill) Randolph Shoemaker. He lived a life faithful and pleasing to the Master Yeshua the Messiah (Lord Jesus Christ) and the God of Israel. He lived as an example to be imitated, walking to the best of his ability in the Messiah's footsteps. He was loved by all and was laid to rest without an enemy in the world.

The Leaf

By Kristopher Scott Shoemaker

The Leaf was the color of maze, wilting and buffeted by the wind on the Tree. Canker worms had nibbled the edges and bore holes in the leaf here and there.

The Leaf was tired, its grasp weak and loose, like a fatigued climber hanging on the edge of a cliff with no one to rescue him.

The Leaf fell asleep and rides a spiral vortex to the ground below and what remained of the moist life begins to turn to dry brittle decay.

With a gasp of breath, like one breaking the surface of the water, or breaching the womb, the leaf awakens to find as if it were an all too real bad dream. It's color moist, green, radiant and vibrant, you can almost see the veins in its leaf pulse. It is whole. Even the strong wind that once buffeted feels as if it were a gentle caressing breeze. It's grip as a stalactite.

The Leaf awakens to see bright, almost glowing Leaves he hasn't seen since his dream which he only vaguely remembers; Leaves who fell asleep before he did and had been nearly forgotten in the mulch below.

The Tree he had occupied before was fading and sparse. But this Tree is lush, thick boughs and alive; though he cannot find the vibrant leaves that surrounded him before he slept.

The Leaf looks below to see if he can see the vibrant leaves he left upon sleeping and what should he spy, but a dim rippling pool, almost like tinted glass. He sees a pale, yet opposite portrait of the tree he now thrives from.

He sees as a soaring hawk who spies a grey mouse in the thicket of the field and sees those who surrounded him as he fell asleep now droop.

HE begins to see leaves from the faded Tree fall as if up, only to touch the surface of the dark mirror below and make ripples in the sheen of the glass only to disappear and instantly sprout near him, as if a butterfly spreading its wings as it emerges from the cocoon.

Then the Leaf notices that the wind passes through the collective foliage as if a flute. This Tree does not clap, clamor or rustle with complaint, but sings, vibrates like strings on a harp. The sheen of the collective Leaves is iridescent, shimmering a rainbow of color. Then the Leaf rubs its eyes only to wonder if he is not still dreaming. But he says to himself that he has never felt so "real" in all his life! He sees various different species of fruit hanging from the Tree in which he find himself. Even the Leaves are a collage of variety. This never occurred, that he noticed, in the Tree reflected below.

The Leaf then discovers an amazing thing. At will, he could close his eyes and open them to find himself at any point of the tree he desires. From afar it looks as if the Tree had countless dancing flames, for the Leaves traveled as he did at will from branch to branch.

The Leaf's eyes began to examine the branch from which it effortlessly held to, and he traced it all the way down the trunk and he was awed at what he saw; a pattern as if black fire on white fire, and intricate design of an ancient holy tongue that weaved itself up and down and around the Tree making the bark look like a royal tapestry. And lo and behold it appeared to breathe! As his eyes pierced the murky mirror below and as he continued to trace the Tree to its opposite image, the trunk appeared to be as chiseled, petrified stone, faded and peeling like the parchment of a birch.

Then he noticed the pulsing sensation surge pleasantly through him as if he could "feel" light! Warm serenity and indefinable love radiated through every fiber of his new being.

This he thought is the Tree of Life that Adam should have tasted first. This is the burning bush that was not consumed that Moses saw. This is the Tree that heals the nations in the book of Revelation in the World to Come.

Then my Dad realized he was finally home.

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Jeff Bush who found the Shoemaker family line and to Mike Hockenberry who loaded the information to a zip file for my Mother and sent it to me. Special thanks to Becky Hockenberry whose research at the May 2011 Shoemaker Family Reunion helped in this work, as well as all family members who answered questions and contributed information to this book.

Introduction

For years I have attempted to trace the Shoemaker Family Tree and each time I tried to climb and explore it I could never seem to get past the first few branches. It is as if I hit a set of iron clad doors and I fall out of the tree, cast down to the ground only to land hard on my back and having the wind knocked out of me. I lay on the ground, left to wonder why, wondering if there is some deep dark family secret hiding, protected behind these iron clad doors that refuse me entry.

With so many attempts to storm the doors and discover what secrets lie among the branches above I begin to wonder and make theories as to why I can only climb so far before I come to a dead end.

Assuming we were from Germany I asked myself, were we a persecuted minority? Why did we leave Germany and come to America, when did we come to America and where did we first settle?

It wasn't until the advent of the internet until I was able to find the key that unlocked those iron clad doors nestled just a few branches up our family tree. It was Jeff Bush on my mother's side that brought me this key.

I hung the key around my neck, and with renewed zeal and determination as I grabbed the branch which had carved, "Billy Randolph Shoemaker" and pulled myself upon the branch that said, "Wilburn Shoemaker" only to stand at the iron clad doors that have kept me out for so many years. With a deep breath I grasped the key around my neck and inserted it into the door and turned the lock. I heard a satisfying click of that as if to say, Welcome Son!" With relish I flung open the heavy iron doors that had refused me entry for so long as if they were lace curtains.

This is in no way an exhausted study on our family, but what follows is what I have found thus far...

The Shoemaker Family Tree

Born = B:

Died = D:

Married = M:

Grandfather

Wilburn (Will) Shoemaker

B: May 22, 1888 in Mays OH

D: Jan. 10, 1937 in Olive Hill, Carter Co. KY

M: ?

Grandmother

Eva Beatrice Beckner

B: April 10, 1898 West Virginia

D: Feb. 12, 1981 Richland Co. Mansfield, OH.

Great Grandfather

Abraham Nelson Shoemaker

B: 1853 Gallia, OH

D: 1900 in Gallia, OH

M: Feb. 9, 1874 Gallia, OH

Great Grandmother

Eliza Jane Phelps

B: 1851 in Ohio

D: March 27, 1909 Knox Co. Holmes, OH

2nd Great Grandfather

Abraham Shoemaker

B: 1821 Ohio

D: Oct. 14, 1889 Gallia, OH.

M: Aug. 10, 1848 Gallia, OH

2nd Great Grandmother

Melinda Tucker-Boise

B: 1824 Ohio

D: 1870 Gallia, OH

3rd Great Grandfather

George Shoemaker

B: 1775 Lancaster, PA

D: May 10, 1863 Gallia, OH

M: Nov. 20, 1807 Fayette City, PA

3rd Great Grandmother

Rachel Haifhill

B: 1781 Lancaster, PA

D: Aug. 20, 1872 Gallia, OH

4th Great Grandfather

Jacob Shoemaker (III)

B: July 27, 1754 Skippack, PA

D: Nov 19, 1847 Kitchner, Ontario, Canada

M: 1774 in Pennsylvania

4th Great Grandmother

Mary Nash-Tyson

B: April 7, 1752 Skippack, PA

D: July 12, 1803 Limerick, PA

5th Great Grandfather

Jacob Shoemaker (II)

B: Mar. 31, 1708 Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

D: June 28, 1793 Philadelphia, PA

M: May 7, 1741

5th Great Grandmother

Susannah Ziegler (Schueler)

B: Feb. Philadelphia, PA

D: Nov. 20, 1789 Skippack, PA

6th Great Grandfather

Jacob Shoemaker (I)

B: 1676 Canton, Bern, Switzerland

D: 1751 Lower Salfdord, PA

M: 1700

6th Great Grandmother

Mary Kunder

B: 1680 Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

D: 1751 Pennsylvania

7th Great Grandfather

Peter Phillip Schumacher

B: Oct. 22, 1622 Kriesheim, Pflaz, Palatinate, Germany

D: April 1, 1707 Germantown, PA

M: 1640 Germany

7th Great Grandmother

Sarah Heinrich-Hendricks

B: 1626 Kriegsheim, Alzey-Worms, Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

D: 1685 Kriegsheim, Alzey-Worms, Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

8th Great Grandfather

Arret Arnold Schumacher

B: 1594 Kriegsheim, Alzey-Worms, Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

D: 1685 Kriegsheim, Alzey-Worms, Reihnland-Pflaz, Germany

M: ?

8th Great Grandmother

Agnes Niegen-Roesen

B: Sep. 18, 1603 Hammerstein, Germany

D: 1655 Dollendorf, Euskirchen, Germany

Immediate Observations and Contemplations

Right off the bat, before I started digging deep into the roots of the Shoemaker Family Tree, the things that jumped out at me immediately is that there were so many Shoemakers that carried Biblical names such as Abraham, Jacob and Peter. Also, I noticed that many were named after their fathers. There were three Jacob Shoemakers and two Abraham Shoemakers. Abraham and Jacob are names of the Biblical Patriarchs that are the fathers of the Jewish and Christian Faith. This trait of being named after ones father is a well-established Jewish trait. We see this in the lineage of Yeshua (Jesus) where many males in the lineage carried their father or grandfathers name (Matthew 1). If Yeshua wasn't already named by the command of the angel, he would have had his grandfather's name. The grandfather's name we see fell to Yeshua's brother Jacob (James) according to Matthew 1:16. When John the Baptist was born we see again that it was traditional to be named after the father or grandfather, but tradition was set aside by the will of the Divine when John's father confirmed that his name was to be John despite it not being a family name (Luke 1:57-62 key v. 61). All this got me thinking, could the Shoemakers have once been Jewish?

Secondly, I noticed that Pennsylvania came up quite a bit which caused me to wonder, "Could the Shoemaker's at one time have been Amish? Did we leave Germany for the purpose of achieving religious freedom?" It wasn't long before the answers to such questions were revealed to me.

Let's Start from the Beginning

Why don't I just go ahead and drop the bombshell and start from the beginning... the very beginning and work our way to the present. I hope you are sitting down because I discovered that the Shoemaker Family were originally MENNONITES! Yes, Mennonites! My initial hunch that we may have been Amish was not far off. For the Amish and Mennonites are similar in lifestyle, faith and practice.

According to www.mennoniteisrael.org Mennonites were originally descendants of the Teutonic tribes in what is now the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and what was at one time known as Prussia. The Teutonic/Mennonite families settled in Molotschna North of the Black Sea. Catherine the Great invited out Teutonic/Mennonite ancestors to farm newly acquired land and eventually made their way to Germany.

The Goths, German and Saxons were at times lumped together under the umbrella of the label of the Teutonic Peoples. Archbishop Johannes de Gabonifontibus (1404 A.D.) reported that the Goths and the That's people originally lived along the Black Sea and the That's were considered a branch of the original Teutonic Peoples, but most had migrated north into Germany and Denmark. It was also reported by Yair Davidiy in his book, "The Tribes" (p. 184) that, "A section of the That's by the Black Sea shores of Southern Russia (*Prussia*) practices Judaism and ... were identified with the Lost Tribes of Israel (*italic mine*)."

It is believed by British Israelism Scholars (www.britam.org) that years and millennia following the Assyrian Captivity of the Ten Northern Israeli Tribes that evidence points to the dispersion of portions of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh eventually ended up and settled in Russia, Germany and Scandinavia. The Mennonites who settled in Prussia and Germany are thought to be from the lost tribe of Gad. So my other hunch is that we could be Jewish or Hebrew was confirmed as well.

For the past several years I have been working with the Igbo tribe of Nigeria who can trace their lineage back to three of Gad's sons; Eri, Areli and Arodi

(Gen. 46:16) which I have documented in my book: "Finding Gad: The Quest for the Lost Tribe of Gad" which can be purchased at:

<http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/raybash>

Gad had seven sons, three of which have been proven to have ended up in Nigeria Africa and which comprise the Igbo people today. This still leaves four sons unaccounted for.

If we believe the Shoemakers, being Mennonites and coming from the lost tribe of Gad, can we determine which one of Gad's sons is our father? Possibly.

Ezbon, also called Onzi (Num. 26:16) can be found in the name of a West German area called "Onsabruch" which translated into Hebrew is, "Onzi Baruch," meaning, "Blessed be Onzi."

It is believed by British Israelitism that Gads son Haggi was known by the Franks as Hugo or the Huguenots and settled in Sweden and parts of Ireland. Gad's son Shuni is believed to also have gone to Sweden and Ziphon to areas of France.

The Mennonites are named after its Swiss founder Menno Simons. The Mennonites didn't agree with Catholicism nor compromises Martin Luther made in setting up a Protestant State Church System and so the Mennonites (also called Anabaptists) broke away. History records that the persecution of the Anabaptists rivaled that of the early Christians in Rome.

Thus we have established the movement of our people from the Teutonic tribes to the Mennonites, from Prussia to Germany.

The Schumacher's of Germany

The Schumacher's ended up settling in Kriegshiem also known as Rheinland-Pflaz Germany and was later called Palatinate Germany. Kriegshiem is a village near Worms in Rheinland Germany. Later, after 1815 it belonged to the Alzey district of the Palatine. It is in Kriegshiem in the 1600's is where we find our Schumacher (Shoemaker) family. Obviously by the name, which is of Germanic and Ashkenazic Jewish origins were cobblers (shoemakers), but we were also farmers as well.

Arnold Schumacher

Arret “Arnold” Schumacher and his wife Agnes Roesen (which by the way is a name unique to families of Jewish descent) were Mennonites. This indicates that it must have been known by the Jewish community at that time that the Mennonites had Israeli/Hebraic/Gadite origins for them to allow a Jewish woman like Agnes to marry them. We see that Agnes was never disowned by her family and inherited her mother’s estate the Roesens and the Schumacher Mennonites must have had common genetic and religious ties. Because back in the 1600’s Gentiles married Gentiles and Jews married Jews and never the twain shall meet. Further indicating that the Schumacher’s and the Mennonite faith was closer to Judaism back then than we may have first thought.

Due to religious persecution Arnold Schumacher’s wife Agnes, a widow by this time, and here children and family were forced to sell her mother’s estate (likely due to religious persecution) which was around Sienebenbirge in 1655 after Arnold’s death. The family due to religious persecution fled to Mains by boat with all their worldly goods and settled in Kriegsheim. Agnes passed away shortly after they settled in the village of Kriegshiem. It was around this era that the Quaker’s, a protestant religious movement founded by George Fox began evangelizing and proselytizing in Mennonite villages.

Arnold and Agnes had Arnold Jr., Bernhard, Peter Phillip, Jorg (George) all of which are listed on the 1685 Kriegsheim Cenus and it specifically mentions that Arnold Jr. remained a Mennonite and that Peter and Jorg (George) are listed as becoming Quaker’s.

It is recorded that there was a persecution of the Quakers of Kreigsheim and in 1663-1666 Jorge (George) and Peter were listed as being targets and sufferers of this persecution. Jorg (George) was born in 1635 in Dollendorf Germany and died in 1684. Peter the following year on May 8, 1685 applied at Hochheim for permission to take his family and leave Palatinate Germany.

Like the Jews of Europe, the Mennonites were ever moving about on account of religious and ethnic persecution by the Catholic neighbors. Their neighbors were also jealous of their prosperity and wealth they obtained through

industrious skill as farmers, weavers, bleachers, dyers and of course shoemaking.

In the book by John L. Ruth, "Maintaining the Right Fellowship" (p. 38) Ruth mentions the mistreatment and expulsion of Mennonites and Quakers from their towns.

"Holding out stoutly against the taxes, the Kriegsheim Quakers finally saw seven of their men jailed, with heavy confiscations made on their property. Eight cows were taken. George and Peter Schumacher, having arrived only five years earlier, each lost a bedstead, possibly the main furniture they had brought up the Rhine when expelled from their ancestral home."

This happened in the spring of 1664.

By the above account we have learned that occupationally we were not only shoemakers but farmers as well.

Peter “The Great”

Peter Phillip Schumacher married a Sarah Heinrich-Hendricks but was recorded as being a widower at the age of 60 in 1685. Gaining permission to leave Palatinate he left taking with him his son Peter Jr., his daughters Mary (Maria), Frances and Gertrude (also known as Catherine) as well as his niece Sarah, Georges eldest daughter, to London where on August 15, 1685 they set sail on the “Frances and Dorthy” under the command of Richard Bridgeman to Philadelphia Pennsylvania where they arrived Oct. 22, 1685.

Upon arrival, Peter received 200 acres of land from a Herman Op den Graeff. There he built his homestead and settled what was to be called “Germantown.”

It is believed that the straw that broke the camel’s back and precipitated Peters move to America was because he was persecuted for distributing a pamphlet written by a Quaker martyr, James Parnell, entitled, “Warning to All Men” which urges all mankind to repent of their sins.

A year later Susanna Schumacher, another daughter of George and Sarah was born in Palatinate Germany in 1673 and immigrated to Pennsylvania with her widowed mother and siblings in March 20, 1686 on the ship called “the Jeffries” a year after Peter and his family settled in Germantown.

Peter, although converted to Quakerism was considered a Mennonite minister by occupation. He was naturalized on March 7, 1697 in Germantown Pennsylvania.

In the years following until the early 1900’s many more Shoemaker’s and other Mennonites emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania, all thanks to the great, brave and persistent Peter Schumacher. Peter passed away on April 1st 1707 in the town which he helped secure and solidify.

Gertrude (Catherine) Schumacher was born in Germany in 1670 married a Peter Cleaver May 27, 1695 and died in Germantown in 1727.

Jacob, Jacob and Jacob

There were three Jacob Shoemakers. **Jacob Shoemaker the I** we have to thank for the English spelling and pronunciation of our name that we use today. He was born in Canton, Bern Switzerland in 1676 and at the age of twelve he and his parents moved to Pflaz Germany with others because they were promised religious freedom, however, after twenty years of living in Pflaz he and his family realized they were eventually subject to the same persecution they received in Switzerland.

He married Mary Kunder in 1700, eventually made it to America in pursuit of religious freedom and died in Lower Salford Pennsylvania in 1751

Jacob Shoemaker II was born March 31st 1708 in Rheinland-Pflaz Germany. He married Susannah Ziegler; also known as Schueler which by the way is also a German-Jewish name of those who cared for or where ministers in a Shul which is what a Jewish synagogue was called in Germany. Ziegler was a German-Jewish name meaning “roof tile.” They were married May 7th 1741 in Skippack Pennsylvania, a well-established Mennonite community and died June 28, 1793 in Philadelphia, PA.

Jacob II is recorded as being a Mennonite Minister:

“As Pennsylvania Mennonites waited, their community was growing by rapid enlargement of families. Two ministers were added at Skippack: Michael Ziegler’s son Andrew, and son in-law Jacob Shoemaker.” – “Maintaining the Right Fellowship” By John L. Ruth

Jacob II had with Susannah:

- Michael Shoemaker born March 27, 1747. He married an Anna Hackman and died July 3, 1828
- Catherine Shoemaker born May 11, 1746 or 47. She married a Conrad Eshbach and died Nov. 13, 1801

- Elizabeth Shoemaker who was born Sep. 12, 1751, married Daniel Springer and died Sep. 26, 1823.

We come to the third and final Jacob, **Jacob Shoemaker III** in this lineage who was born July 27, 1754 in Skippack Pennsylvania and married a Mary Nash-Tyson in 1774.

For reasons totally unclear, but likely due to the fact that he was a loyalist to the King of England and it was the start of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812; to escape the fighting (because Mennonites were pacifist and refused to swear oaths) and possibly due to the fact that the a Mennonite community was forming in Canada and was in desperate need of ministers of which Jacob the III could have been one if following in his father's footsteps, Jacob III went to the Mennonite community in Kitchener, Ontario Canada and died there Nov. 19, 1847.

It is recorded that Jacob III as mentioned earlier, married a Mary Nash-Tyson who dies in 1803 and he remarried a woman named Magdalene Longnecker.

Jacob III and Mary had the following sons:

- Johannes (John) Shoemaker who was born May 12, 1775 in Montgomery Co. PA., and died Jan. 30, 1828 in Pennsylvania and married a Mary Shantz who was born March 13, 1775 and died April 6, 1866.
- George Shoemaker born on Fe. 6, 1778 in Montgomery Co. PA and married Mary Detweiler on March 19, 1799 and passed away Nov. 24, 1864. His wife Mary was born May 10, 1775 and expired Sep. 22, 1850.
- Jacob Jr. Born 1780

Daughters born to Jacob III and Mary were:

- Elizabeth Tyson Shoemaker on May 18, 1789 in New Hanover PA. She died Nov. 23, 1878 in Waterloo Ontario Canada. She married a Jacob Heinrich Grody Mar. 3, 1808 in the New Hanover Lutheran Church, Montgomery Co. PA.

- Mary (Maria) Shoemaker who was born Jan. 21, 1793 in Fredrick Township, Montgomery Co. PA. She died Feb. 6, 1817. Mary's husband George was Bechtel was born May 24, 1777 and died Nov. 15, 1851.

George Shoemaker

George Shoemaker was born in Lancaster Pennsylvania in 1775. He married a Rachel Haifhill on Nov. 20, 1807 in Fayette City PA. He passed away in Cheshire, Gallia Ohio May 10, 1863.

We see a migration of Shoemakers from Germantown and Skippack PA to Gallia Ohio which is in the south bordering West Virginia. It is unknown why the move Gallia Ohio. But back then it was mainly due to one seeking employment and not as in the beginning because of ethnic or religious persecution.

It is interesting to note that Gallia is Latin for France and that we Shoemakers originally came from the part of Germany that bordered France and so it is possible our ancestors know both German, French and very likely Dutch. Perhaps there was a German community in Gallia Ohio which caused some of our relatives to move there.

Abraham, Oh Abraham

Abraham Shoemaker was born somewhere in Ohio in 1821 and married a Melinda Tucker-Boise (French last name) in Gallia Ohio on Aug. 10, 1848. Abraham died there in October of 1889.

Abraham Nelson Shoemaker was born in Gallia Ohio as well, but in 1853. He married an Eliza Jane Phelps on Feb. 9, 1874 in Gallia Ohio. Abraham Nelson passed away in the year 1900 in Gallia Ohio.

Wilburn (Will) Shoemaker

Wilburn Shoemaker was born May 24, 1888 in Mays Ohio. Seeing as Eva Beckner was from West Virginia and Wilburn was a coal miner by trade, Wilburn likely moved to West Virginia to work in the coal mines. I was told by Sarah (Sister) Shoemaker his daughter that Wilburn contracted what was known as black lung and moved he and his family to Olive Hill Kentucky and died as a farmer Jan. 10, 1937. It is currently unknown when and where he married Eva Beatrice Becker but they had many children together:

- **Lonnie Otis Shoemaker** was born Saint Albans West Virginia Aug. 26, 1915 and passed away Feb. 16, 1992. He married Florence “Tynce” Lillie Horsley who was born in Olive Hill Kentucky Sep. 12, 1919 and together they had Donald, Gary, Boyd and Songja Shoemaker together. Sept. 12, 1919 Tynce passed away July 30, 2005
- **Robert (Red) Vernon Shoemaker** who was born Oct. 3, 1919 and passed away Aug. 4, 1985. He had a physical condition that kept the army from taking him in, but this did not stop “Red” from continuing to apply. Because of his persistence the Army finally allowed “Red” to join the army and served in World War II. Red never married and has no known children. He received a letter of appreciation from the late President Ronald Regan who thanked him for his military service.
- **Eugene Wilburn Shoemaker** born in Beckley West Virginia on Sept. 8, 1922. Eugene was a prisoner of war in World War II. Eugene married an Esther Carroll who died of cancer Sept. 18, 1983. They had Connie, Larry, Jerry and Susan Lynn together. Later in life Eugene eventually remarried Cora Owens.
- **James Erwin Shoemaker** who was born June 12, 1924 and married a Garnett McDowell who perished in a house fire and remarried a Rose Higler. James and Garnett had Randall and Malinia Shoemaker together and he and Rose had Charles (Chuck) Wendell Shoemaker. James also served in World War II and was also a prisoner of war.
- **Archie Shoemaker** who crawled out into the road and was tragically trampled by a team of horses as a toddler.

- **Russell (Peg) Shoemaker** born July 21, 1928 and passed away March 19, 2004. Peg received his nickname, short for peg leg, because as a child he had injured his leg in an accident and infection set in and eventually had to have it amputated. Peg could skate, ski and drive a dump truck with but one leg. He was also known as somewhat of a bootlegger, buying beer and alcohol in Ohio and bringing it to Kentucky to sell on during the era when the “Blue Laws” were enforced. He and his wife Dorothy (Dot) had Janie Lynn, Russell Lee, Donna Lou and Thomas Boyd together.
- **Elza Emanuel Shoemaker** born to Wilburn and Eva on August 17, 1930 and passed away on Nov. 30, 1999. He and his wife Bonnie had Theresa, Christopher Allen and Brenda Shoemaker.
- **Sarah (Sister, Sis) Elizabeth Shoemaker** born May 13, 1933 who married Burt Logan and had William Danny, James Roger, Bert Eugene and Jeffery Dwayne together.
- **Billy Randolph Shoemaker** born to Wilburn and Eva Shoemaker on July 11, 1937 in Woodville West Virginia and passed from this world due to an extended illness on September 5th, 2008. Bill received his middle name after the doctor who delivered him. Bill attended school with country singer Tom T. Hall, and was in the Army and served during peace time in Germany with Elvis Presley. He married Sue Lynn Sturgill and had Patrick Randolph, Sherrie Sue and Rebecca Kathaleen Shoemaker. Bill and Sue divorced in 1972 and Bill remarried Thelma Ruth Tinchler on March 29th 1973. Together Bill and Ruth has Kristopher Scott Shoemaker on Aug. 6, 1973. Bill was a Step-Father to Ruth’s two daughters from her previous marriage; Kimberly Dawn and Karyn Ruth Spurlock.

After Wilburn passed away Eva had two more children who took the name Shoemaker. **Theodore (Teddy) Shoemaker** born April 8, 1938 in Olive Hill Kentucky. He and his wife Beulah had Carla and Charles (Chuck) Shoemaker. He and Beulah divorced and Teddy remarried. He and Nancy raised two sons together. Micheal Leroy and Russell Warren Stevens.

Faye Ola Shoemaker was born July 8, 1941 in Olive Hill Kentucky. She married Paul Perry March 28, 1964 and had son Larry together.

Final Observations

I, as many of us Shoemakers were raised in Baptist Churches and it may seem odd that our ancestors were Mennonites and Quakers, descendants of Gad and his son Ezbon (Onzi). But in actuality it is not that big of a leap. We know our ancestors moved to America for religious freedom and later, likely moved about in search for employment. Coming from a Mennonite (Anabaptist) background, while looking for work, our ancestors found themselves in communities with no Mennonite presence and hence it is quite logical that they would gravitate to and seek a church closely resembling the Mennonite Church, which would be the Baptist denomination. For both Mennonites and Baptists theology is similar in many ways.

Quakers on the other hand, which was what Peter and George Shoemaker were had a more charismatic element to their faith. Everyone has heard of the children's game called, "Quaker's Meeting" in which children see who can be silent the longest. Quakers would meet together in each other's homes or community halls in silence, opening themselves up to the move of the Holy Spirit. When one feels that they have received a message from the Holy Spirit they would stand, give their message and sit back down. Silence would once again come over the congregation until the next person would stand and deliver a message they received from the Holy Spirit.

Quakers received their namesake due to two reasons; 1. Founder George Fox once told a magistrate to tremble (quake) at the Name of the LORD and hence the name "Quaker" stuck. 2. At times, congregants in a Quakers Meeting would quake when the Holy Spirit fell upon them.

Old fashioned Baptist churches believed also in the move of the Holy Spirit among the congregants and would share when prompted by the Holy Spirit when the service would open for people to "testify." So once again, it is easy to see how much of our family have gravitated to the Baptist denomination of Christianity.

Conclusion

Shoemakers, we certainly have a heritage and a namesake to be proud of and uphold the integrity thereof. We also have great men of faith in our family, past and present to look up to and emulate. Let us live in such a way so as to be pleasing to the GOD our ancestors served and do nothing to tarnish the heritage and name of Shoemaker.

So how did the Shoemakers get from Olive Hill Kentucky to Mansfield Ohio? During the 1950's to the 1970's the Shoemakers left Olive Hill Kentucky to look for work which was plentiful in Mansfield Ohio with businesses and factories such as the Steel Mill, Dominion, Tappan, General Motors, etc., and so many Shoemakers moved to Mansfield, settled and raised their families there.

Mansfield's senior populations is mainly from Olive Hill Kentucky and parts of West Virginia and this is reflected in the upbringing of their children as well as the churches they attended which held fast to southern ways and moral values. Many of us raised in the Yankee north, because of our family nonetheless had a southern style upbringing.

Resources

Sites

- www.mennoniteisrael.org
- www.britam.org
- www.ancestry.com
- www.mennoniteusa.org
- www.quaker.org
- www.quakerinfo.org

Books

- Shoemaker Pioneers – Benjamin Shoemaker
- Maintaining the Right Fellowship – John L. Ruth
- History of the Mennonites – Daniel Kolb Cassel
- The Tribes – Yair Davidiy
- Israel Today – Steven Collins

I pray you have been encouraged, blessed and inspired by this work to live up to the honorable name, SHOEMAKER.


Rabbi Yehudah ben Shomeyr


Kris Shoemaker

About the Author



Kristopher Scott Shoemaker is the son of Bill and Ruth Shoemaker. He is married to his wife Pam and together they have a daughter, Arianna. Kris and his family currently reside in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick Canada. Kris is a writer, International Speaker, Messianic Rabbi and has a website:

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