

# The Youker Family

By

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Last Revised

28 August 2018

## Table of Contents

The Youker Family.....	1
The Youker Context.....	1
1. Rudolph Youker 1730 – 1774 And Anna Windlorin 1725 – 1762.....	1
Palatine, Oppenheim [New York, USA] <a href="http://townofoppenheim.com/">http://townofoppenheim.com/</a> .....	3
Town of Saint Johnsville .....	3
2. Solomon Jonathon Youker 1760 – 1847 Elizabeth Haus 1769 .....	7
3. Hannah Anna Youker 1800 -1886 Orrin Perrin.....	7
Abbreviations.....	8
Sources For Younker and German Genealogical Research.....	8

## The Youker Context

Note: This file is under construction and filled with errors, for which I appologize. I would be pleased to receive notice of such errors so that I can make corrections ([jretson@shaw.ca](mailto:jretson@shaw.ca))

This file is the first in the line of my German-American heritage. In time I will add a story on Haus, Young (Jung), and possibly others. The Youker line I have to date follows three generations ending with the Marriage of Hannah Anna Youker to Orrin Perrin.

Rudolph Youker 1730 – 1774 And Anna Windlorin 1725 – 1762

Solomon Jonathon Youker 1760 – 1847 Elizabeth Haus 1769

Hannah Anna Youker 1800 -1886 Orrin Perrin 1806-1888

### 1. Rudolph Youker 1730 – 1774 And Anna Windlorin 1725 – 1762

Rudolph Youker our earliest German ancestor discovered to date was born in Germany in 1730. He died in St Johnsville, Montgomery County New York, USA in 1774. He married Anna Windlorin Abt. 1750 in Stone, Arabia, Montgomery, NY.

They had 7 children

i. Rudolph Youker b. 1752

ii. John Youker b. 1755 d. 14 Sep 1831

iii. Zusanna Jucker bp. 06 Jun 1756 Lutheran Trinity Church of Stone Arabia, Palatine, Montgomery, New York

- iv. Possible Child: Hannah Youker b. 1757 Palatine, (Oppenheim, Fulton, New York, United States) [Evidence for this individual is flimsy]
- v. Johannes George Youker 16 Feb 1757 Canajoharie, Montgomery, New York, United States, d. 22 Nov 1844 Herkimer, New York, United States < buried in Maynard Ontario
- vi. Jacob Youker b. 26 Oct 1757 in Palatine, Montgomery, New York Colony, British Colonial America
- 2 vii. Solomon Jonathon Youker, b. 16 Feb 1760 in Canajoharie, Montgomery, New York, USA, d. 10 Mar 1847 in Prescott, Grenville, Ontario, m. Elizabeth Haus 13 Jan 1784 in New York, USA.
- viii. James Jucker b. 1762 in Palatine, Montgomery Co., New York



Youker Memorial on Cumm Creek Rd, NY, USA



**Palatine, Oppenheim [New York, USA]<sup>1</sup> <http://townofoppenheim.com/>**

Oppenheim is a town in Fulton County, New York, United States. The town is in the southwestern corner of the county and is east of Utica. The town was first settled around 1791 by Palatine Germans from Oppenheim, Germany. The town of Oppenheim was established in 1808 from the town of Palatine in Montgomery County before the formation of Fulton County. In the 1810 U.S. Federal Census, the name of the town was spelled, "Upenheim." When Fulton County was formed in 1838, the south part of Oppenheim was used to form the town of St. Johnsville, which remained in Montgomery County. The northern part of the town is in the Adirondack Park. The west town line is the border of Herkimer County, and the south town line is the border of Montgomery County. East Canada Creek is a stream defining the west town line. The creek flows out of the Adirondacks to join the Mohawk River south of Oppenheim.

**Town of Saint Johnsville <sup>2</sup>**

At the opening of the 18th Century, the Mohawk Valley was a wilderness. The Mohawks had refused to allow any white settlers to come into their valley. By 1700, the Mohawks were very weakened by their constant wars and from the French raids upon their villages. The four villages on the north side of the Mohawk River were abandoned and the Indians settled at three new sites at Fort Hunter, Fort Plain and Indian Castle on the south side of the river. This was a very important event, for it led to the development of the Mohawk Valley by the early settlers. The Palatine Germans were the earliest settlers and were of the same importance to New York State as the Pilgrims were to New England. The English governors were always glad and willing to use the Palatines as a buffer against the Indians and the wilderness.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oppenheim,\\_New\\_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oppenheim,_New_York), accessed August 29, 2018

<sup>2</sup> <http://threerivershms.com/Town.htm> , extracts

The first settlement of the town was probably before 1720 by Palatine Germans. Many of the town's present inhabitants have descended from these pioneer families. The Palatine Germans were very fortunate to have as their friend King Hendrick, a great Chief of the Mohawk tribe, who did so much to keep the peace between the pioneers and the Indians. The Palatines were Christians. It is assumed that there was a place in St. Johnsville where the early settlers gathered to worship not too many years after 1725. Certainly a church stood east of St. Johnsville in 1756. It was built through the efforts of Christian Klock, George Klock, Jr. and Colonel Jacob Klock.

Montgomery County was formed from Albany County March 12, 1772 under the name of "Tryon County," in honor of Governor William Tryon. Following the signing of the Revolutionary War Peace Treaty, the name was changed to Montgomery County on April 2, 1784 in honor of Major General Richard Montgomery, who was killed in the attack on Quebec in 1775. All the territory west of the Stanwix line was then added to Montgomery County and extended west to Lake Erie. This district was called Whitestown in honor of the pioneer Hugh White. Tryon County was the 11th county to be formed under the English Law. Montgomery and Washington Counties were the first to be named under the Laws of New York State. The other counties retained their original names.

The ten original counties were Albany, Dutchess, Kings, New York, Orange, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester and they were formed under the English Laws on November 1st, 1683.

Tryon County was divided into the Caughnawaga, Mohawk, Palatine, Canajoharie, German Flatts and Kingsland Districts. In 1775 another division or district was made, known as the Old English District.

There was a rapid development of New York State after the Revolutionary War and as the population of certain sections increased, it became necessary to erect a new county. This was done in order to have a supervising body brought nearer to its actual administration territory.

Travel in the early days was slow and expensive as well as toilsome and hazardous. It was often very difficult for people in the western and northern parts of the State to travel all the way to their county seat at Johnstown for legal and governmental business transactions.

Thirty-seven counties have been formed from the original Montgomery County and now Montgomery County is the smallest county in New York State. The town of St. Johnsville is situated in the northwest corner of Montgomery County.

The King's Highway, for the remainder of the 18th Century, was in constant use and the revolutionary history of the Mohawk Valley is connected with it.

As the century closed, there was a great demand for a better road. New York State granted charters to 88 turnpike companies and 21 bridge companies. In 1800 the Mohawk Turnpike and the bridge over East Canada Creek were one of the first to be completed.

To raise funds for the turnpike company, there were eight tollgates along the whole 80 mile length of the turnpike. In our area, there was a toll house at Palatine Church, another near Nellis Tavern and a third at the East Canada Creek bridge.

To accommodate this great traffic, houses were built along the way and those already built were utilized for toad houses, as they were called, for the accommodation of man and beast. These were equipped with a bar, a few beds and large sheds. The farmers in those days would drive their own teams and take along provisions for themselves and their horses, and by paying a sixpence for a bed and buying a quart of whiskey would find a place under the shed for their teams. There were many taverns (or wayside inns), probably one about every mile. Here the thirsty wayfarer could buy the best brandy, gin, rum, scotch, ale, flip, punch and many other concoctions. Each tavern prided itself on the good and abundant meals they provided their guests, and many of them were known for a special dish.

Watering troughs along the turnpike were a prime necessity for the oxen and horses that furnished the motive power for the carts, wagons and stages, and for the flocks and herds that many New England emigrants drove along the highway to the west. To any property holder who would provide a watering trough with a supply of well water, or better still, spring water deposited by gravity, there was a certain exemption in taxes.

In 1803 there were 52 taverns or inns in the Town of Palatine. At that time, the present Towns of St. Johnsville, Ephratah, Oppenheim and Stratford were part of the Town of Palatine. While this seems to be a large number of inns, it must be remembered that in 1803 the roads were poor, travel was slow and the roads were full of teams of oxen and horses. Many stopping places were necessary to accommodate the travelers. Also, many people from New England and foreign countries were moving westward with their families, herds of cattle and flocks of geese and chickens and they needed shelter on their long journey. Numerous inns were close together because travel was slow and there were many travelers. Back then it took local farmers a full week to take their grain to Albany and return with their purchases. It often took three hours to go only six miles. A problem was also caused when the winter snows made the roads impassable.

The Town of Oppenheim was set off from the Town of Palatine on March 8, 1808. The German settlers of the area naturally gave the new township a name from their ancestral Rhine valley. From the establishment of the Town of Oppenheim in 1808 until April 18 of 1838, St. Johnsville was a part of that township and the local history of that time will be found in the records of the Town of Oppenheim. The northern Town of Oppenheim was practically a virgin wilderness. With the exception of the communities of Crum Creek, Oppenheim Center and Youker's Bush, most of the inhabitants lived in the southern part of the town along the river in the area that is now St. Johnsville.

On April 8, 1808, the first Oppenheim, town meeting was held at the house of Jacob Zimmerman in this village, then known as Zimmerman's Mill. Jacob Zimmerman was the proprietor of a local tavern or inn. Years ago, town meetings were held in a "public house" or tavern. Tradition is that this tavern was on the site of the present Methodist Church parsonage.

About 1800, the number of English speaking people in the area had increased. For many years, only German had been spoken in the schools and churches. After this influx of people, both German and English were used in the pulpits on alternate Sundays.

After much debate extending over a period of years, the State Legislature, on April 15, 1817, authorized the building of the Erie Canal. Excavation was started at Rome on the 4th day of July, that year. In the spring of 1823, the canal was in operation between Sprakers on the east and the western part of the state, and in 1825, it was completed and in successful operation. The canal improved travel and the transportation of freight. This, in turn, gave a great boost to the economy of New York State. The canal was to mean much to St. Johnsville in an industrial way for in 1825 James Averell & Sons located here. They built a distillery and tannery on Zimmerman Creek and took advantage of the Erie Canal's shipping facilities.

In 1826, the Legislature granted a charter to the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad to build a 17 mile line between Albany and Schenectady. The work was completed in 1830 and on August 9 of that year the famous locomotive the "DeWitt Clinton" drew the first train over the new railroad. The prospect of this revolutionary method of transportation fired the nation of other adventurous spirits. In 1831, the Legislature was petitioned for a charter by the Utica and Schenectady Railroad to build 77 miles of track. This line passing through St. Johnsville was opened on August 1, 1836. Because the State had spent so much on building the Erie Canal and they wanted to protect their investment, the new railroad charter limited the company to carry only passengers and their baggage. The Legislature knew that the Canal wouldn't be used in winter, so in 1844 they granted the railroad permission to also carry freight, but only in the winter. After three more years, they were able to carry freight year-round but the railroad had to pay the State the same rate of toll per ton, per mile for the freight carried. In 1853, ten railroad companies merged into the New York Central Railroad, business increased and another line of track was laid.

When the Mohawk Valley Turnpike was chartered in 1800, its owners were required to widen the existing road to a width of 60 feet and to raise the center 18 inches above the sides to provide drainage. The center was raised with broken stone and capped with gravel. Four stages operated an schedule, daily, in either direction, and there were also private conveyances to swell the revenues of the company.

The building of the railroads cut into the traffic on the Canal and into the Mohawk Turnpike Company's revenues. The Legislature, with a fine regard for the interests of the turnpike company, decreed that the Utica and Schenectady Railroad, before it could begin operations, must buy all of the stock of the turnpike corporation at \$22.50 per share. This was to save the stockholders from loss. On taking over the rights of the road corporation, the railroad assumed the responsibility of keeping the turnpike in repair, as had been required of the original owners, and was permitted to collect tolls. This was done for many years but became unprofitable and the turnpike was finally abandoned by the New York Central Company in 1890. The upkeep of the roads then went to the towns through which they passed.

All trains of all classes stopped at St. Johnsville for fuel and water and to give the passengers an opportunity to secure meals at the restaurant. Trains stopped every 20 minutes. This was the practice for many years and the "Eating House," furnished an outlet for the produce of the local

farmers which was a considerable asset to the town. Charles Sutherland said that the Lincoln funeral train stopped at the station and that all of the employees of the restaurant, each wearing a mourning badge, were permitted to enter the train and look at the dead President. Upon the establishment of a station restaurant at Utica, not so many trains stopped here, and the business fell off, and when the building burned in the late sixties, it was not rebuilt. The story is that a spark from the 4 p.m. train set the roof on fire.

## **2. Solomon Jonathon Youker 1760 – 1847 Elizabeth Haus 1769**

Solomon Jonathon Youker, son of Rudolph Youker and Anna Windlorin, was born 16 Feb 1760 in Canajoharie, Montgomery, New York, USA. He died 10 Mar 1847 in Prescott, Grenville, Ontario, Canada. He married Elizabeth Haus 13 Jan 1784 in New York, United States.

- ix. Bettsy Youker b. 1790 in Palatine, Montgomery, New York, USA
- x. Rudolf Youker b. 03 May 1791 St. Johnsville, Montgomery, New York
- xi. Margretha Youker b. Oppenheim, Fulton, New York, United States
- xii. George Youker b. 1795 Oppenheim, Fulton, New York, United States
- xiii. Fannie Youker b. 1797 Oppenheim, Fulton, New York, USA
- 3 xiv. Hannah Anna Youker b. 1800 in Palatine, NY, USA d. 13 Mar 1886 in Augusta Twp, Grenville Co., Ont. Canada, m. Orrin Gould Perrin Abt. 1831 Augusta, Grenville, Ontario
- xv. Jacob Youker b. 1801 Oppenheim, Fulton, New York, United States
- xvi. John Jonathan Youker b. 02 Nov 1804 in Town of Palatine (Oppenheim), Fulton Co., N.Y
- xvii. Adolphus Philip Youker b. Dec 1806
- xviii. Baby Youker b. 1811
- xix. Phillip Youker Sr b. 18 Jun 1812
- xx. Walter Youker b. 13 May 1814 Maynard, Ontario, Canada, d. 13 Jul 1902 in Maynard, Ontario, Canada
- xxi. Baby2 Youker

## **3. Hannah Anna Youker 1800 -1886 Orrin Perrin**

Hannah Anna Youker, daughter of Solomon Jonathon Youker and Elizabeth Haus, was born 1800 in Palatine, NY, USA. She died 13 Mar 1886 in Augusta Twp, Grenville Co., Ont. Canada. She married Orrin Gould Perrin Abt. 1831 Augusta, Grenville, Ontario.

They had the following children

- i. Rhoda Adelaide Perrin b. 21 Nov 1830 Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada d. 11 Jul 1907 in Muscotah, Kansas, m. Byron Richard Cleveland 25 Dec 1856 Lockport, Will, IL
- ii. Abigail Perrin b. 19 Apr 1832 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, 20 Mar 1833 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, unmarried

iii. Amos Gould Perrin b. 24 Jan 1833 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, d. 30 Dec 1902 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, m. Jessie Sabrina Ball in 31 Mar 1859 Will, Illinois, United States  
iv. William Porter Perrin b. 1835 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, d. 04 Jan 1881 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada m. Eliza Ann Birks in 04 Oct 1864 in Leeds and Grenville, Ontario, Canada  
v. Hattie Jerusha Perrin b. 05 Jan 1836 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada, d. 29 Oct 1893 in Maynard, Augusta Township, Grenville County, Ontario, Canada m. Luther Henry (Elijah) Cleveland

## **Abbreviations**

abt about

b. born

bp. Baptized

m. married

d. died

## **Sources For Younker and German Genealogical Research**

Cobb, Sanford H. The Story of the Palatines, An Episode in Colonial History, Kindle Version, Amazon

History of Fulton County, Embracing Early Discoveries, the Advance of Civilization, the Labors and Triumphs of Sir William Johnson, the Inception and Development of the Glove Industry, with Town and Local Records, Also Military Achievements of Fulton County Patriots