





# *The Schürch Family Association*

## *of North America*

Dear cousins:

Being part of a family association means not only researching relatives from the past. Belonging to this group enables relationships and friendships in a vast network, even in other countries. What a pleasure it was this summer, at the end of my vacation, to join my Swiss counterpart from the SGNS, Kurt Schürch, and his wife Judy for a brief weekend in my ancestral home, the village of Sumiswald. We explored the countryside on foot and climbed the Trachselwald Castle tower. Our stay at the B&B SchlafSchloss located inside the 12<sup>th</sup> century Sumiswald castle was particularly memorable. This Sumiswald castle was still a seniors' residence when we stopped there on our 1995 and 2001 heritage tours. We treasure our friendships with Swiss cousins we have met over the years, and look forward to making more memories together in the future.

Our sixth Schürch symposium on September 23 explained three of our association resources for exploring your genealogy: Alan Leis presented the Y-DNA project, Vanessa Warner showed how to navigate the Flickr photo page, and Carolyn Strecher described the Schürch genealogy database. Thank you to all three presenters and the symposium team of Doug Sherk, Cary Adams, Ray Sherk, and Jane Sherk for their dedication and excellent work on this symposium and behind the scenes. Being part of the presentation for the first time made me keenly aware of the many hours in a cooperative effort required to create a successful event. If you missed the live presentation, watch for the recording that will soon be posted via our YouTube playlist.

By the time this newsletter comes to you, we expect the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reprint of Thomas A. Sherk's book, *The Sherk Family*, will be in our hands or in the mail to all who have placed orders. We are grateful to Tom for her generosity in granting the Schürch Family Association of North America the right to reprint a number of copies of his book. There are still books available for purchase.

Consider planning a summer vacation around our family's next gathering in Millersville, Pennsylvania, July 25-27, 2024. Also, start thinking what creative item you might produce or find to donate to the family auction. Program details and registration information will be printed in the May 2024 newsletter but watch for updates on our website and Facebook page.

Would you be willing to share your talent on the symposium committee, entering data into the database, or writing your family stories for the newsletter? We would love to hear from you. Please submit your own family's genealogical information if you have not yet done so. This is your family and your association!

Margaret Sherk, President

[margaretsherk1@outlook.com](mailto:margaretsherk1@outlook.com)



## Welcome to New or Renewing Subscribers

Doris Sherk, Encinitas, California

Mary Lapp, Kitchener, Ontario

Paul King, Pataskala, Ohio

The Schürch database may be viewed online here:

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=>

A mirror copy can be viewed by Ancestry.com subscribers here:

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/86535234/listofallpeople>

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## Shirk Ranch Virtual Tour Released

Many thanks to Tim Vogt of Las Vegas, Nevada who located a virtual tour of the Shirk Ranch located in Lake County, Oregon. The ranch was purchased by David Lawson Shirk, H0532, in 1883. David was later joined by younger brother William Henry Shirk, H0536. The Bureau of Land Management has produced an engaging virtual tour that discusses the location, history, operation and natural setting of the Shirk Ranch. It can be viewed at <https://cyark.org/tapestry/shr-en>



**2024**  
**Schurch Family of North America Reunion**

**Save the Date**

***JULY 25, 26, 27, 2024***

**Millersville University  
Millersville, PA 17551**

Yes, this was the location of the 2014 Reunion.

The campus has undergone many renovations and added new buildings and dorms. Every site that we will use was recently built.

The gathering spaces on the main floor of the Student Memorial Center will be within close proximity to each other. Dormitory housing will be an option, with each room having a private bathroom.

For those who prefer a motel, there will be choices within a five to ten mile radius of Millersville.

This comfortable setting will offer an opportunity to connect, to research, to learn, and to socialize in light, airy surroundings.

Please plan to join us in 2024!



# History of the Mader Farm

The 150 Farm property was rectangular in shape with the shorter west side bordered by the village, our lane entrance being between two homes on Woolwich Street (main) and the 1854 Grand Trunk, now VIA Railway on the longer North side. The East and South side were owned by other farmers some, like the Break family who had Sherk lineage.

My Grandmother, Lillian, daughter of David Bricker who owned the sawmill and grist mill in the village of Breslau, married Aaron Mader who just prior to their marriage in 1893, had purchased their 150 acre farm for \$1000. One hundred years earlier it was once part of the Six Nations of the Grand River, then Richard Beasley's upper block, followed in 1805 by Lancaster County Pa. investors like the Sherk/Erbs in the German Company Tract (GCT). Lot 108 registered deeds show it belonging to John Yundt, then Martin Wideman and like many other investors, both never left Pennsylvania. In 1866 Jacob Yost Shantz, a community builder bought the parcel of land. When his daughter Lucinda married Ezra Schneider they bought and finally cleared 60 acres and built a house and barn. In the next 23 years, they lifted the roof making the one and a half story house into a two-story house with a walk up attic, added a 'Doddy' or grandparents house, built a kitchen and a summer kitchen addition. It stayed that way until in 1909 when the 'Doddy' house was separated and moved by horses and logs acting as rollers to a new foundation. A third building was renovated from a two story chicken hatchery into a home in 1948. At one point from 1954, until 1966 there were four generations living on the farm.

Due to expansion of a regional airport, a by pass around the village, and housing development,

## Sherk Connections

So when my Mother, Frances Dolores Shantz, code N169931, married my Father, Cecil Mader, code C30AA4 they lived in the Doddy house until they purchased the Farm in 1939 for \$3000. Then like many families, they switched places and took over the main home while the grandparents moved to the 'Doddy' house.

## Sherk Connections

β Joseph Scherch Code C  
Maria (Scherch) Erb ~ C3  
Annie (Erb) Bricker ~ C30  
David Bricker ~ C30A  
Lillian (Bricker) Mader ~ C30AA  
Cecil Mader ~ C30AA4  
Jane (Mader) Sherk ~ C30AA44

Uhllerich Schürch Code N  
Johannes Scherch ~ N1  
Joseph Sherk ~ N16  
Christena (Sherk) Foreman ~ N169  
Frances (Foreman) Hallman ~ N1699  
Tena (Hallman) Shantz ~ N16993  
Frances Dolores (Shantz) Mader ~ N169931  
Jane (Mader) Sherk ~ N1699314



*Aaron and Lillian Mader with children Vernetta, Gordon, Garfield, Cecil in the garden  
Circa 1955*

Graeme and Heather Ott:

# Two Sherks Celebrate Twice!

Graeme Ott, E14202315, and Heather (Sherk) Ott, E14222A22, celebrated their 62nd anniversary on October 14th. Not unique in the Schurch family tree, except that both are Sherk's married to each other for 62 years.

Inescapably Sherks, Graeme and Heather attended the first family reunion in 1982, then nearly each thereafter. In addition to reunions, Graeme and Heather took a memorable group trip to Switzerland in 2007.

On November 11, Graeme celebrate his 90th birthday. Attended by 16 family members, the celebration look place at a local restaurant on November 18. The couple live in Port Colborne, Ontario with the rest of the family close by.



*A quiet 62nd  
Anniversary dinner  
followed by - - - - -*

*- - - - - a big 90th  
Birthday party.*



*Alan Ott, E142023152 and E14222A222  
Jeffrey Ott, E142023153 and E14222A223  
Peter Ott, E142023151 and E14222A221  
With Heather and Graeme Ott*



# *Shirk Barns included in Pennsylvania Barn Tour*

*By Carolyn Strecker*

Carolyn (E526313713) and Ray Strecker from Jersey City, NJ, made a nice getaway weekend to Lancaster County, PA, to participate in the Lancaster County Barn Tour.

The Barn Tour, sponsored by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, is a self-guided tour of 52 Lancaster County barns of historical, cultural, architectural significance. The accompanying Tour Book contains an essay on prevalent Lancaster County barn types, a map with the locations of the barns, and photos and wonderful details about the history and construction of each of the 52 selected barns. These barns are not open for touring. They are all easily visible from the road, and they can be enjoyed in any order, at any pace, over any time span from now into the future.

The Tour Book can be ordered online from <https://www.cocalicovalleys.org/barn-tour-book-order-form>

Elaine Bowman, a Trustee of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, is scheduled to make a presentation about the Barn Tour at the 2024 SFANA Reunion in Millersville.

The Streckers visit included the three Shirk–family-associated barns that are on the tour. The following descriptions of these three barns are extracted and greatly shortened from the Lancaster County Barn Tour Book, ©Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, with Schurch codes, some relationships, and additional Information from Tom Shirk (E43550121) added. Photos by Carolyn.

**Five East Queen Street in Stevens** was built by Peter Shirk (1799-1878, E41A). The Barn was constructed of bricks made at Rudolph Shirk's (E4355) brick making factory. It passed to Peter's son Moses (E41A1) and Moses' wife Leah (E4350), to Leah's nephew John R. Shirk (E43550), John's son Alger (E435501), and Alger's daughter (E4355011) Merla. Merla died in 2006, so the barn ownership was a total of 154 years in the Shirk family.



**145 Schoeneck Road in Stevens.** This 71-acre farm was transferred to Rudolph Shirk (E4355) in 1856 by Jacob Shirk (E435). Rudolph sold most of the acreage that same year. Rudolph had a brick manufacturing facility at this location. The property has a tobacco shed that stands north of the barn. In recent years, the barn has been used for storage.

*continued on page 7*



**333 Shirktown Road in Narvon.** Joseph Shirk (E16, 1753-1826) bought this property in 1792. Upon Joseph's death in 1826, his various land holdings went to his sons Peter (E161), Christian (E165), Joseph (E164), David (E167), and John (E168). Christian received the tannery tract, on which he constructed the barn in 1828. Following Christian's death in 1870, the property was auctioned and was deeded to a second Christian (E1657) in 1872. In 1910, he and his wife Saloma deeded the property and several other tracts to Christian's son Peter Shirk (E16575), and Peter and Lizzie Shirk sold them to their son David M. (E165754) and his wife Bertha in 1946. In 1978 the property passed to Robert W. (E1657544) and Paula Shirk. Shirk descendants have owned and occupied this plot since 1792.





# SFANA Coding Changes

By Stephen Shirk, Historical Chair

Our Association family coding system was created initially by Tom Sherk when he published his book 'The Sherk Family' in 1982. He based his family codes for each branch of the family tree on the arrival of the ships that transported our ancestors to the new world from Europe. Since that time, we have discovered many changes in the sequence of codes as dates of birth and the addition of siblings were discovered and added.

Our Historical Committee and Association Executive Committee has continued to honour the coding system created by Tom Sherk. We recognize that the codes could have been changed based on the new information, however we felt best to keep the recorded sequence of coding as other family authors created their books using the established coding system.

Now when we add codes, if it is identified that someone should be sibling number 2 (two) instead of sibling number 5 (five), we agree that we would not make the coding sequence changes as long as the accurate dates are recorded. Any new siblings would be added to carry on the next code, e.g., if there were eight children recorded and a young sibling identified, they would be given code 9 (nine) at the end of the code string. This adoption of how we record family names and assign codes helps to protect information already recorded in published material.

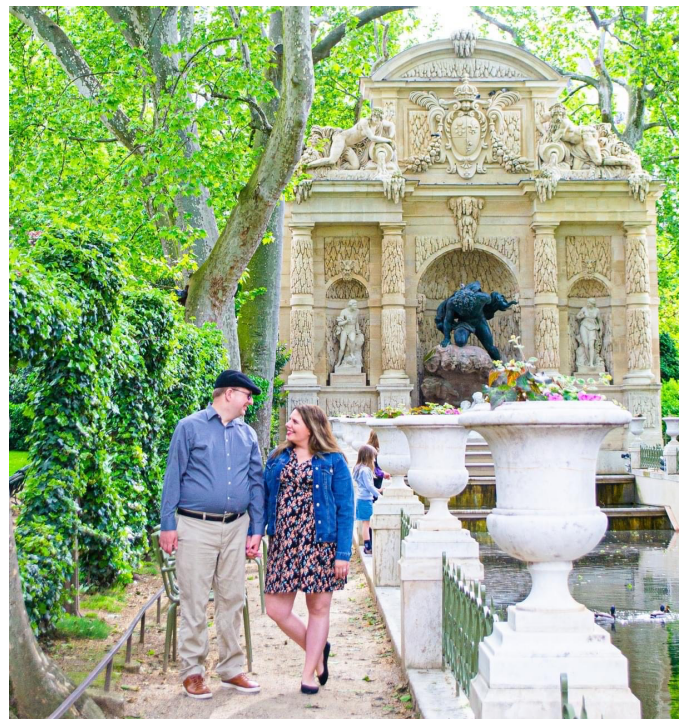
We appreciate the complexity of a coding system and hopefully the readers understand the need to protect published material and ensure that names are added to the family database, even though coding sequences may not be accurate, as long as names, dates, places, etc. are accurately recorded.

Currently the Historical Committee Chair/Historians assign codes when sending them to our Data Entry Committee for our working site called Ancestral Quest. We are investigating the possibility that the codes would also appear on the other genealogical websites called Ancestry.com and Geneanet.com, however at this time they do not.

Please contact Stephen at [steve.shirk@yahoo.ca](mailto:steve.shirk@yahoo.ca) if you have any questions regarding our family coding system

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*Justin Houser (H431238011) and Lindsey Wilson are pleased to announce their engagement! Lindsey is from Altoona, PA and is a Talent Development Program Coordinator for Sheetz. Justin is from Bellefonte, PA and is a partner in the law firm of Coploff, Ryan & Houser in Lock Haven. Among other things, they share an interest in genealogy. The happy couple is anticipating their wedding date of July 13, 2024.*



# Toronto Blue Jays Meet the Sherks

*"Take me out to the ball game,  
Take me out with the Sherk crowd;  
Find me some Sherks and Cracker Jack,  
I don't care if I never get back."*



On June 1st siblings Betty Sherk, Bob Sherk went to a Blue Jays game with friends and family. The usher for their aisle was Sherk cousin Liam Fitzsimons. All recognized each other and are members of the Schürch Family Association.



*Liam Fitzsimons, E148451221, flanked by Bob Sherk, H46113364, and Betty Sherk, H4113363 at Rogers Centre, home of the Toronto Blue Jays*

## Tombstone Humor



*On September 24, Cary Adams, E14206342, became the first inductee into the California State University, Northridge Hockey Hall of Fame. He founded the program 52 years ago.*



## Lecture and Seminar Online:

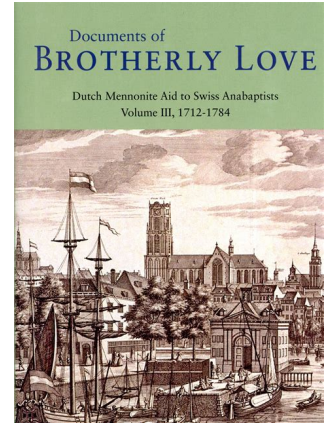
# “Documents of Brotherly Love”

The Kreider seminar and Kreider lecture held on March 28, 2023 at The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College, pertaining to the “Documents of Brotherly Love” project, have been posted on YouTube. These videos also contain transcripts.

Here is the link to the Young Center page that describes the lecture and seminar: <https://www.etown.edu/centers/young-center/events-videos.aspx>. Clicking on each title will take you to the corresponding YouTube video.

The afternoon seminar presenters are John L. Ruth, Edsel Burdge Jr., and Lydia Penner. The evening lecture is given by Lydia Penner, who did research for our association last spring concerning our “Lost Years Project.”

These presentations represented the end of a tremendous 25-year translation project from which we benefit. Enjoy the presentations!



## Some Useful Family Links

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://www.schurchfamilyassociation.net/">https://www.schurchfamilyassociation.net/</a> Contacts: Betty Sherk <a href="mailto:esherk18@gmail.com">esherk18@gmail.com</a>
<b>Facebook:</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Schurch.Family.Association">https://www.facebook.com/Schurch.Family.Association</a> Contacts: Joe Sherk <a href="mailto:jzsherk@verizon.net">jzsherk@verizon.net</a>
<b>Geneanet:</b>	<a href="https://gw.geneanet.org/schurch2023?lang=en&amp;lp=0">https://gw.geneanet.org/schurch2023?lang=en&amp;lp=0</a> Contacts: Carolyn Strecker <a href="mailto:Carolyn.strecker@gmail.com">Carolyn.strecker@gmail.com</a> Justin Houser <a href="mailto:Jkhouser84@gmail.com">Jkhouser84@gmail.com</a>
<b>Photo Gallery:</b>	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/113857348@N06">http://www.flickr.com/photos/113857348@N06</a> Contacts: Vanessa Warner <a href="mailto:vanessa.warner@rogers.com">vanessa.warner@rogers.com</a>
<b>Schurch DNA:</b>	<a href="http://www.familytreedna.com/groups/schurch">www.familytreedna.com/groups/schurch</a> Contacts: Alan Leis <a href="mailto:alanleis1@gmail.com">alanleis1@gmail.com</a> Justin Houser <a href="mailto:Jkhouser84@gmail.com">Jkhouser84@gmail.com</a>
<b>Symposium:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiS3CNfUIAeITjo09Y0aJ2DeNtlLgCCbG">https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLiS3CNfUIAeITjo09Y0aJ2DeNtlLgCCbG</a> Contacts <a href="mailto:SchurchSymposium@gmail.com">SchurchSymposium@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ancestry:</b>	<a href="https://www.ancestry.com/profile/02734d85-0006-0000-0000-000000000000?compareToTestId=A2767B07-72B6-4BF4-AB1B-FBA83DEC63">https://www.ancestry.com/profile/02734d85-0006-0000-0000-000000000000?compareToTestId=A2767B07-72B6-4BF4-AB1B-FBA83DEC63</a> Contacts: Carolyn Strecker <a href="mailto:Carolyn.strecker@gmail.com">Carolyn.strecker@gmail.com</a>



# Different Flags



## SGNS summer meeting on August 26, 2023 on the Sonnenberg English Version

The Sonnenberg (sun mountain) was, unfortunately, in a grey foggy area, so the view to the surrounding mountains was gloomy and later was made even worse by the rain that set in. The ride with the nostalgic train, from the valley station to the top, was therefore not as spectacular as expected. Nevertheless, 24 attendees were in good humor. During the miniature golf contest for “trophies”, we heard cheers of encouragement after a successful stroke and words of comfort when the little ball did not land where it was supposed to. Conclusion: everybody had fun!

The following drink offered by the SGNS was now greatly appreciated. At the official welcome, the presence of Ruth and Cristian from Chile was mentioned with pleasure and acknowledged with applause. Also, the family book which Morgan showed about her descendants from Weggis who moved to Helvetic in Illinois USA, and for which she won an award was highly admired.

With some delay, a tasty lunch was served. Heiner was still busy with the evaluation of the “Golf Tournament”. Susanne was then the bearer of the prizes, among them a painting from Marlenes father as first prize.

A successful event came to an end. The “Chilean” cordially took their leave & Ruth mentioned that visits from SGNS members would be warmly welcomed. Unfortunately, Temuco is not located around the corner.



## SGNS-Sommertreffen vom 26. Aug. 2023 auf dem Sonnenberg Schweizer Version

Der Sonnenberg zeigte sich leider eher im Nebel verhangen, die Aussicht auf die umliegenden Berge getrübt und später auch nicht vom Regen verschont und die Fahrt mit der nostalgischen Bahn von der Talstation nach oben war nicht so spektakulär wie erhofft. Trotzdem blieben die 24 Anwesenden gut gelaunt. Beim Kampf um Trophäen auf der Minigolf Anlage gab es muntere Zusprüche bei einem gelungenen Schuss und auch tröstende Worte, wenn der kleine Ball nicht dort landete, wo

er sollte. Fazit: Alle hatten ihren Spass!

Der folgende Apero, gestiftet von der SGNS kam nun natürlich gelegen. Bei der offiziellen Begrüssung wurde die Anwesenheit von Ruth und Cristian von Chile mit Freude erwähnt und mit Applaus quittiert. Auch das Ahnenbuch, das Morgan zeigte über ihre Vorfahren von Weggis bis nach Helvetia und mit dem sie in Illinois, USA, einen Preis gewonnen hatte, wurde bestaunt.

Mit etwas Verspätung folgte das gute Mittagessen. Heiner war noch beschäftigt mit der Auswertung des „Golf-Tournament.“ Susanne durfte dann die Preise verteilen unter anderem einem Bild gemalt vom Vater von Marlene für die Gewinnerin.

Ein gelungener Anlass neigte sich dem Ende entgegen. Die „Chilenen“ wurden herzlich verabschiedet, wobei sie erwähnten, dass ein Besuch von SGNS-Mitgliedern bei ihnen gerne willkommen geheissen würden. Temuco liegt leider nicht gerade um die Ecke!



# Schürch Writers in the News

Candace Sherk Savage Codes E142B1211, E153A321

Lisa Schirch Code Alsace-m.3a1.

Sylvia E. Shirk Code E1672E62

Candace Sherk Savage Codes E142B1211, E153A321

**C**elebrated Saskatchewan non-fiction writer, Candace Savage of Saskatoon, who described her family roots for the November 2022 issue of our newsletter, has recently received two more awards for her writing.

Candace was granted the 2022 Matt Cohen Award that recognizes a lifetime of distinguished work by a Canadian writer. This is the selection committee citation:

“Born in the Peace River Country of northern Alberta, Candace Savage is the author of more than 20 books that define and extol the Prairie experience. Her seminal works of nonfiction include *A Harvest to Reap: A History of Prairie Women* (1976), *Prairie, A Natural History* (2011), and *Strangers in the House: A Prairie Story of Bigotry and Belonging* (2019). Her subjects range from individual studies of crows, ravens, grizzly bear, and bees to the disconnecting impact of cultural migration. Savage has been lauded for her works of nonfiction and for her children’s writing, and she was described by The Globe and Mail as ‘an essential Canadian voice.’”

Candace also received the 2022 Saskatchewan Writer’s Guild and Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award of Literary Excellence. This award honours a Saskatchewan writer who has written a substantial body of acclaimed literary work and has had a significant impact on writing in Saskatchewan. It carries a prize of \$10,000 and a framed limited edition print of a painting by well-known Saskatchewan artist Dorothy Knowles. The jury for this award said this:

“Candace Savage, one of Canada’s foremost non-fiction writers, is a richly deserving recipient of the Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence. Over more than four decades, she has published, and continues to publish, a wide and eclectic range of books for adults and children. Candace has an uncanny ability of distilling complicated ideas and issues into clear and engaging prose, alternating delighting and challenging her reading audiences. Nor has she shied away from tough topics, but has deftly probed the underbelly of Saskatchewan...Candace has also mentored aspiring writers, helping them learn the craft of writing--with an emphasis on creativity and engagement with the subject matter. Above all, her voice is consistently powerful, forcefully backed by her words and books.”

Candace’s *A Geography of Blood* won the Hilary Weston Writers’ Trust Prize for Nonfiction in 2012 and *Prairie: A Natural History* won the Saskatchewan Book of the Year Award. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and in 1994 was inducted into the Honor Roll of the Rachel Carson Institute, Chatham College, in Pittsburgh. As well as editing an online anthology called “This Singing land knikamot askiy,” she is also a fiddler, chorister, and chair of the Saskatoon NatureCity Festival.

Candace has been vocal in the media about her environmental concerns. The David Suzuki Foundation featured Candace in its fifth episode of “The Butterflyway Diaries” where she talks about bringing the prairie back to Saskatchewan. See <https://www.davidsuzuki.org/butterflyway>. She was also interviewed on the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corp) radio program *What on Earth with Laura Lynch* on March 12, 2023 in a feature entitled “Prairie Grass and Pedal Power” in which she describes the necessity of protecting and restoring the natural prairie grassland of the Northeast Swale of Saskatchewan to absorb and store carbon among other benefits.

Kudos to Candace on her writing awards and on her work as a nature activist in Saskatchewan.

Read more about Candace Sherk Savage on her website [www.candacesavage.ca](http://www.candacesavage.ca).

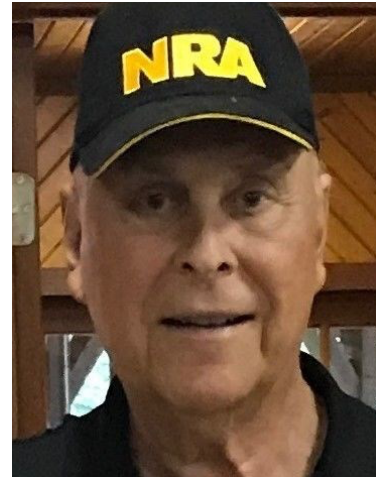
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**Clayton Sharick Obituary  
1943-2022**

Clayton Melvin Sharick, 79, of Avilla, formerly of the Shishewana and Middlebury communities for more than 45 years, died in his home on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. He was born on Sept. 9, 1943, in Metamora, Illinois, the son of George E. and Mabel (Morningstar) Sharick. He was a member of Grace Christian Church in Kendallville and former member of New Life Christian Center Church in Middlebury. He served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967 as a Specialist 4 receiving an honorable discharge during the Vietnam era serving in Ordinance Company in Camp Hovey, Korea



Clayton attended elementary through high school at Shishewana Scott High School in Shishewana, graduating in 1962. He became a certified Commercial Deep Sea Diver through the Coastal School of Diving in Oakland, California, in 1964.

Clayton worked in the fiberglass industry working for Gas-Tech Inc., Fabwel Composites and Noble Composites and many other companies for more than 35 years before retiring in 2004. He enjoyed fishing, family vacations, traveling and playing card games with family and friends. He enjoyed getting together with his buddies for coffee at Starbucks and going out to an early morning breakfast at North Main Street Café.

He was married on July 17, 1971, in Los Angeles, California, to Patrice S. (Takahashi) Sharick. Survivors in addition to his wife of more than 51 years are a son, Sean Sharick of Auburn, and a daughter, Maile (Eugene) Miller of Goshen; seven grandchildren, Adrianna (Connor) Neeley, Blake Miller, Ethan Miller, Mabelle Sharick, Marcus Miller, Mirriam Sharick, and Malia Miller; two step grandchildren, Connor Baker and Addison Baker; and one great-grandchild, Oakleigh Neeley. Also surviving are a sister, Valetta Bender of Sturgis, Michigan; and two brothers, Leroy Sharick of Moreno Valley, California, and Allen Sharick of Shishewana. Clayton was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, LaVern Bender; and two sisters-in-law, Jeanette Sharick and Barbara Sharick.

The family hosted visitation at River of Life Fellowship Church, on Friday, December 2. The funeral service was held on Saturday, December 3, at the church. Services were conducted by Pastors Brent Sharick and Gary Rifenburg. Graveside services were performed immediately after the funeral at Grace Lawn Cemetery, Middlebury, Indiana.

Published by The Elkhart Truth on Nov. 30, 2022.  
Miller-Stewart Funeral Home, Middlebury, assisted the family with arrangements.

**Jeanette Ott Davis Antkowiak  
1926-2023  
E14202312**



March 12, 1926 - September 21, 2023. Beloved wife for 40 years to the late J. Robert Davis and 11 years to the late Edward Antkowiak; loving mother of John Dean (Ginger) and Beth Davis; cherished grandmother of Colleen (Ken) Dowse, Robert Steely, Lindsay Davis, Richard Steely, Leslie Davis, Dean Davis, Jr. and Thalia (Pat Laffey) Steely; devoted great-grandmother of 7; daughter of the late Ernest and Doris Ottl dear sister of Graeme (Heather) Ott and the late Edna (late Don) Workman; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

The family is grateful for the wonderful care given by Lisa and Brandi. The family received friends Saturday, September 30th at BEACH-TUYN FUNERAL HOME, Williamsville. Friends were invited to attend a Funeral Service Sunday morning, October 1st at 10 o'clock in St. Paul's Lutheran Amherst Campus, Williamsville. Flowers gratefully declined. Mrs. Davis Antkowiak was a devoted member of Amherst Lutheran Church for over 60 years. Online condolences at [www.beachtuynfh.com](http://www.beachtuynfh.com).



**Helen Grace Dinger Shirk**  
**1920-2023**  
**E4355012m**



Helen was born on a winter day on January 13th, 1920, to Evan and Sallie Dinger on a farm in Cocalico Township. She lived 103 years until her death on a beautiful fall day on October 18th, 2023.

Her life was comprised of many historical experiences. Her birth year was the year women got the right to vote. She was able to survive the Great Depression as a result of farm living. She also experienced the hardships of World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Civil Rights Movement, the Kennedy Assassination, and the Beatles Invasion. She also experienced many things of wonder - the Moon Landing, the destruction of the Berlin Wall (in person), the great Internet revolution and Alexa.

Helen had two brothers, Robert Lee (deceased) and John, married to Alice Ann.

In 1940, Helen married P. Rudolph Shirk of Schoeneck, PA and had four children: Brian Thomas, E43550121 (married to Mary Alice), Paula, E43550122, Ann Bettina, E43550123, and Sally Jo, E43550124 (married to Bill Brasington). She is survived by eight grandchildren: Jennifer, Margery, Aimee, Eileen, Katherine, Alexandra, Eli and Rudi, and thirteen great grandchildren.

Education was of prime importance to Helen as she overcame obstacles to get to school and walked two miles to reach the bus. She often stated in her later years that she would like to have pursued more educational opportunities.

Her grandchildren were a source of pride and love and she took her role as grandmother to heart.



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**L**isa Schirch and Sylvia E. Shirk (co-authoring with Congolese minister and theologian SWANA FALAGA Sidonie) have contributed chapters to the book *Resistance: Confronting Violence, Power, and Abuse within Peace Churches*, edited by Cameron Altaras and Carol Penner, published by Institute of Mennonite Studies at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN in 2022. This book is available through Amazon.

Lisa Schirch, Code Alsace-m.3a1, is currently Starmann Chair in Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN. She also directs the social media, technology, and peacebuilding program for the Toda Peace Institute. She is a former Fulbright Fellow in East and West Africa, the author of eleven books, and a frequent public speaker at high-level policy events around the world.

As an aside, Lisa participated in the SFANA's "Notable Schürchs" symposium series. In this August 21, 2022 talk, she explained how social media platforms can influence opinions about and even change the direction of critical world situations. You can find a recording of this symposium presentation on our website: [www.schuchfamilyassociation.net](http://www.schuchfamilyassociation.net)

**S**ylvia E. Shirk, Code E1672E62, lives in Portland, Oregon, where she works as a district pastor and is an interpreter of French and Haitian Creole. Throughout her career as a minister, she has shared in the journey of persons who suffered the consequences of sexual abuse. She finds that cross-cultural partnerships enrich her understandings and transform her ministry.

Congratulations on these contributions to an important collection of voices speaking out against abuses of power.

\*Biographical notes taken from the book *Resistance*.



## *Speedy Cheesecake with Graham cracker Crust*



### *Filling*

- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese*
- 1/2 cup sugar*
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice*
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract*
- dash of salt*
- 2 eggs*



### *Topping*

- 1 cup sour cream*
- 2 tablespoons sugar*
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla*



*Merry Christmas!*

### *Directions*

*Preheat oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit. Soften cream cheese and beat until fluffy. Gradually blend in sugar, lemon juice, vanilla and salt. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each. Pour filling into crust. Bake at 325 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes, or until set.*

*Combine sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Spoon over pie and bake 10 minutes longer. Chill several hours.*

*Karen Sherck Christensen  
Arvada, Colorado*

# *The Sherk Family*

by

Thomas A. Sherk

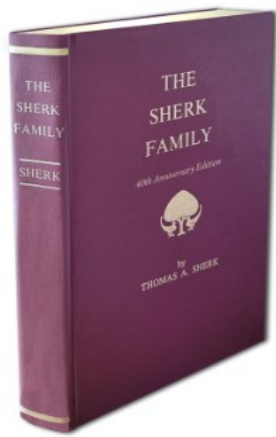
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