

1930 Reunion Text

Yoder family reunion tells family history of the Yoders in America-Mennonite Weekly Review, Newton-Jun18-1930

MANY MENNONITES DESCENDANTS OF YODER AT FAMILY REUNION

Inman,. Kan., June 18.—Several hundred descendants of Christian Yoder, who left the beautiful mountain country of Switzerland and came to America in 1744 gathered in the grove of Reuben Shrock on the river, south of Yoder, Friday. It was the first gathering of the sort in this middle west country and representatives from Kansas, California, Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa and Canada were present when the registration of relations were made.

During the morning the Yoder and their different branches of the families listened to a program which told why they had gathered together. W. T. Yoder of the neighborhood acted as master of ceremonies and told of the purpose of the meeting.

Gives Genealogy

Prof. J. J. Yoder, of the McPherson college, gave a most interesting re-view of the history of the Yoder family in America, compiled by Reuben Yoder. He traced the descendants of Christian Yoder and his ten children of twelve who reached maturity, showing the different well known names brought into family relationship through marriage. It was interesting to note that back a century and a half ago the average number of children was ten and that of the present generation, four.

While the first Yoder families in this country devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits almost all together, today the annals of the family show many ministers, doctors and scholars.

A letter written by the Christian Yoder, who lived in Pennsylvania on Sept. 18, 1845, to a son pioneering in Indiana and who later lived in McPherson county was read.

Rev. Clarence Bontrager of the Yoder church told of gathering material for his thesis at Bethel college this year on "History of the Amish People in Reno county," and how he had been started on the subject of finding old school books in the third story of the present Petersheim house bearing the inscription of D. F. Peachy. In tracing the owner he found him to be in a hospital in Ashland, Ore., but from him he received much valuable information.

Nama Town for Eli Yoder

The town of Yoder is named' or Eli Yoder who came to Reno county in 1874. Mr. Peachy came four months later and a young man named Nafsinger shortly afterward. The first church of the sect was organized in 1883. Today descendants of Christian Yoder in this

section of the country belong to the Amish, Mennonite and Church of the Brethren denominations.

Ed Yoder of Kansas City, Kan., was the last speaker of the afternoon. I. Yoder was song leader. Then came the spreading of a bountiful dinner, with plenty for all. After dinner came a period of visit-ing: The three oldest members of the Yoder families present were: Jake Yoder, 83, who came to McPherson county in 1876; Mrs. Katie Stutzman, 87, living at Conway, and Jerry Yoder, 78, who came in 1892 to Reno county and still lives there. Valentine Yoder, 89, the oldest member of this quartet of brothers and sisters, lives not far from where the picnic was held but was unable to be there on account of not being well.

Later in the afternoon the group gathered around the speaker's stand and heard S. J. Miller of La Verne, Calif., tell of the origin of the family name which in the Swiss language stands for "shepherd's song." Reminiscences of the days when members of the first families came to Kansas were given by Menno L. Troyer, Jr., Conway; Jacob D. Yoder, McPherson and L. O. King of route 2, Hutchinson. Plans were made to continue these reunion meetings, the next to be held in two or three years. Appreciation of the efforts of those in charge of the reunion Friday was made by others in the group. —Inman Review.

Hutchinson News

YODER FAMILY HOLDS REUNION

Descendants of Man Who Came to America Nearly 200 Years Ago, Meet.

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Oldest Member Not Present.

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To Continue Reunions.

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Among those who were in attendance at the reunion together with their families, in most cases were : Frank Stutzman, Thomas, Okla.; Lloyd Miller, Halstead; W. H. Yoder, Morrill; E. E. Yoder, Conway; L B. Yoder, Newton; A. J. Bontrager, Haven; F. E. Stutzman, Weatherford, Okla. ; A. D. Yoder, Winfield; Ed. Yoder, Kansas City.

Leroy Gingerich, Versailles, Mrs. Harry Murrey, Simon Hershberger, Harrisonville, Mo.; Fred D. Swartzendruber, Hydo, Okla.; I. O. Yoder, Harper; Wilber G. Yoder, Garden City; Floyd and Carl Yoder, Harper; John Roes, Milverton, Ont. Can.; Lloyd Miller, Halstead; Archie Yoder, Milford, Neb.; O. R. Parson, Windom; V. R. Miller, Kansas City; Mrs. Simon Hershberger, Jett, Okla. Mrs. Katie John, Hydo, Okla. ; Mrs. J. O. Saylor, Carlton, Neb.; Katherine Miller, Limon, Colo.; Samuel Je Troyer, Jett, Okla.

From Haven J. H. Kauffman, Mrs. Susie Yoder, John M. Bontrager, Daniel J. Headings, Mrs. M. B. Yoder, Amelia A. Bontrager, Anna Kauffman, E. D. Schrock, J. E. Yoder, A. F. Bontrager, Lizzie J. Yoder, Elta Miller, D. M. Yoder, Henry Yoder, David Kauffman, Harry D. Bontrager, Jacob T. Bontrager, David J. Yoder, Alpa Kauffman, Jerry D. Yoder, C. C. Schrock, Clarence Bontrager, Tobias Yoder.

Windom: Willard Brunk, Willis Yoder, Freda Brunk, Phoebe Yoder, Ornie R. Parlsons, Wilbur Eash, J. M. Eash, A. Jay Miller, J. M. Eash, Tillman and Leah Yoder, Claude Miller, Adena Miller.

Hesston; Ruby Zook, Elsie Zook, C. Hertzler, Aron Zook, Barbara Yoder.

Conway: Jacob D. D. Yoder, E. E. Yoder, Sheely D. and Ida Miller, Chester Murrey, Clyde Cline, Russell Yoder, Royal Yoder, J. B. Stutzman, Mrs. M. J. Troyer, Dayton Yoder, Katie Stutsban, Robert Yoder, Donald Mishler, Mrs. E. E. Yoder, Menno Yoder, C. W. Perkins, C Troyer, Dorothy and Ida Tx Bertha Troyer.

McPherson: J. J. Yoder, Harry Murrey.

Yoder: Mahlon Beachy, Clara Schrock, W. H. Schrock, Mrs. D. M. Beachy, Mrs. R. M. Bontrager, O. B. Showalter.

Hutchinson: W. T. Yoder, David Schrock, Mrs. S. J. Headings, Susan Schrock, Dorothy Bontrager, Jerry F. Schrock, L. O. King, Dan E Yoder, Mrs. Jacob Troyer, Mrs. P. J. Troyer, Mrs. Noah Miller, Jorn T. Schrock, William E. Bontrager, Lydia and Malinda Bontrager, Susie Troyer, J. M. Yutzy, Harry Diemer, Wilma Yoder, Oliver Yutzy.

Partridge, Dan D. Miller.

Parsons: Orpha Hostetler, Henry Hostetler.

Protection: B. D. Miller.

Enid, Okla.: Mrs. Jessie Eash.