

From Noah Yoder to his brother Jocelyn

Nashville, Tenn April 30, 1862

Mr. Yost Y. Yoder

Dear Brother,

You will find enclosed a "photograph" from me which keep to my remembrance.

[He signed his initials upside down] [Everything is written on lined paper with brown ink unless I note otherwise.]

N.W.Y.

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[Since Jocelyn is mentioned in this letter, I think Noah was writing to Sam.]

Berlin Holmes Co. Ohio
July 22nd, 1864

Brother,

I arrived home on the 20th in the evening. I will start back on Monday next. Catherine and Joslin will go long. I will not stay here now till you come back. I will come past the island but we could not employ ourselves now. Jacob is dead! Moses is dead! But let us be men and not show any outward grieve to the world. Let us bear our own grieve, and show our respect to them meaning in an other way. They are gone hence and we must soon follow them. They left a bright record on the page of their lives. Let us do like wise and never do any thing to stain their good and noble career. A movable column shall point heaven ward, a silent monitor of their noble lives, for future generations to a truce and un-state. You will address as before
Box 1326

Louisville, Ky

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[An embossed 3 domed building on the upper left hand corner of the letter.]

Berlin, Holmes Co. Ohio

May 24, 1869

J.Z. Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 15th came duely to hand to day and found us all well. I am sorry to find you out of money so soon. You must be more careful. You must count Franklin on it and you will find you will improve physically, mentally, morally and financially. You never made an offer yet to save anything. You must learn to save. I will send you \$5.00---if I can borrow it, for I have none myself, and money is so darn scarce that it will be a wonder if I can collect enough to pay any family expenses. That man Coffins is William Coffins {I think} a good friend of mine. You go to him and ask him if he knows Dr. Yoder of Berlin and tell him you are a brother of mine. He will do what is right I know and you must too. You must make yourself personally useful at all times and be prompt and punctual. You must keep out of bad company. You know enough about that to know if you value your life keep a way from rowdies. Ask Billy Coffins advise and so on. I wrote you one letter to solution but if you get this first it will not matter much.

Bill can tell you when the road will get to Spring field too. And he can also post you any thing else. But you must not bore him too much. If he is the man I will write to him too. You must not make a fool of yourself with tobacco and other nonsense for those old fellows will not trust anybody that is intemperate on anything or has bad habbits. It is not like in the Army.

If you do not get \$5.00 with this I will send it to you as I can. Do your best and be more of a man than you was here. Make your business your object. I will come out as soon as I can make it suit. Andy wants to come this fall and I will come sooner.

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

We have nothing new. Ask Coffins if he knows where Sam Sherlock is. And when he saw him last too. But do not say anything more than that you heard that he was in Missouri.

Write soon as you get this.

Yours Truely,
N. W. Yoder

[Their sister, Anna Yoder, married Andy Drushel around 1867]

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[3 domed building embossed in upper left hand corner.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio
June 15, 1869

J. Z. Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 6th is at hand and contents noted. I am glad to hear from you and to know that you are getting along so well. I am sorry Coffins left. It must be the same man for he is out there some where; he is in Kansas now but may soon come back. What do you hall with your mules? How long will it be till you get down of the mountains into green Ohio? I would like to hear from better places then where you are now. What kind of game have you where you are now? Is it mining water you speak of? Or do they pick wells? Andrew can hardly wait till you get into a good agricultural instinct where a man could make a living without working on the railroad.

Everything here is as dead as dead can be. Knopp works on his farm and little Fred keeps store. Sam was here a few days and left disgusted. They had a dance at Harts 6 couples in all. Voltz, Sam, Santhorn, Bill Hott, Joe Mitten and George Ashton. So you see whats the matter with hana!

Last night we had a concert with an audience of about 14 or 15 in all. I made up my mind not to stay any longer in this town then next spring. I send you a farmer, where in you can see for yourself about nominations too. Still--well took 11 townships, Hitchcock & Cowen =.

I helped Lizzy. She got unkeepable with Voltz.

Knopp's cow got a calf; thats all the news I know. Write soon and give me bussiness. The black Spanish are all right but them last are not full-blood anymore. But I have mine full-bloods and four Silver Spangled Hamburgs out of one dozen from New York. When we get a farm out there we will go into the blooded stock bussiness of all kinds. Fouls and four legged animals, horses too.

I must close now and go to work. Lou is gone home. Her Mother is sick. I have nothing to do in the profession any more since June.

Yours Truely,
N.W. Yoder, M.D.

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Millersburg, Holmes Co., Ohio
June 25, 1869

J.Z. Yoder

Dear Brother,

Your last letter came duely to hand and found all right. I don't know what to say about your staying or going on. You must know about that. If you have money enough to last you for a month or so it will be all right and I would rather see you go on, for I would like for you to see more country and find a location for us to buy a farm and commence farming. I will practice medicine. As I said before; I will give you half we can make it on the farm and practice on half we can make in any way, if you will work the farm and I will help all I can in tending stock too and make all I can in practice too. Now you can do as you please and all I ask is keep your eye on this and try and be ready for me and Andy about the middle of

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

September next. We will come then and hunt you up. If I could come out there and get in with those fellows as surgeon for the company I would come right off. I will come and find my own medicine at the same rate that you say they are paying now. I will come out and stay all summer. I do not know how to get at it, or I would come right off. Fish round a little and see; and let me know it soon. I will come and if I can not render satisfaction I will do it for nothing. I will do it for \$100. per month for the first, and will give the other \$50 to the man that will give me the position or help me in getting it. Now if you can find that man let me know. There is nothing here of interest. Everything is dead and dying. Do the best you can and never make up your mind to come back. Andy can hardly wait till you find a good country for us to locate in.

Yours Truly,
NWYoder

[He makes his question mark backwards.]

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Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio
Aug 5, 1869

J.Z.Yoder Esq.

Dear Brother,

Yours from Springfield is at hand. It came on the same day that your cast from Hombolt came. We are all well and hope these few lines may find you the same.

You are doing right well but you must not go so fast when you do go and you must talk more to farmers. Get in among dutch and Pennsylvania farmers and see how they live. You are still on the mountains. You must not stay long at big places. Go to some farms that have big girls and get a little and you will feel better. You must not turn up now till you see Lawrence Co., yet, and then McDonald, Newton, Jasper Co. etc. Be sure and see Mt. Pleasant on the R.R. in the southern part of Lawrence Co. After seeing that I will try and be with you and we will go over into the Indian Territory. I do not care for

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

anything. I want land where a man can raise hogs, cattle, mules and horses. I want some good farm land and plenty pasture for cows etc and good corn ground and not too far to R.R. for market. Good water and water power for mules. They will always tell you land is higher then it is. There is land all a long that line of R.R. that a man can buy for 10 cents per acre and from these to \$4 and \$8 to \$25 per acre. I did not get those papers yet.

I send you the little folks photographs some time ago did you get them? Stop at Manansville and get a quainted. Make yourself at home. But do not play cards or let any one know that you can. If we move there, we don't care for anybody, but will mind our own bussiness. We want to make money and that is all and a ruff country is the place.

What is the kind of game where you are now? There must be lots of streams in Lawrence Co. and lots of fish. How are wild grebes and bees and do you see fine cattle? Do you find any Spanish chickens? I like your report better than I expected. I will bring about \$1000---to invest there or in the Indian Territory. This place is played out, and I will go to a new country. Write soon and let me know all you can see, hear and feel.

I can not tell you anything new.

N.W. Yoder

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[A very faint embossed symbol.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio Sep 3. 69

J.Z. Yoder

Dear Brother,

Yours of 23rd last come duely to hand. We are all well and getting along as usual. Will Holt is as reported. Hugh Scare is back and loafing or working as ever when he gets a chance. Voltz is seeding and mining same as ever. That is all there is in town. Nothing going on since you left.

You tell Sam that from what you know about Bluffton you would rather be among the Cherokees in the territory than with him in Bluffton and as for going to Douglas County, Ill you did not care about dying with ague or yellow fever. They have both like hell from what Scare says. He was there and is back and sorry as hell for not having gone with you. He will go to where we will, he swears, in the spring. Sam is no judge of anything that he never saw. If we find a good place and start in right we will show him in 10 years what is what. 20 years ago I could have bought the town of Bluffton and the best farm within ten miles of it for \$2000. but now of course, a man must have more money then we have to do well. A man can not raise any stock in Allen Co. with out he has about 500 land. We do not want much land in Missouri to commence on and then we must wait till the R.R. comes round before we can make much money. But if we can live till the R.R. comes we have market and our fortune is made. We will not do it by working like negroes but by saving and hide. We can ship our own stock of hogs, cattle etc. and when we get capital we can buy our neighbors yet and make money. I am a royal arduousness and can go to St. Louis and make a contract with some one and be safe of what is right. But it will take time and patience. We must wait for R.R. and our stock to come up. We can raise fine chickens and fine hogs and sell them by express. Sell eggs etc for hatching, raise fancy ducks and take them to the fair and sell them for high prices. Keep some fine dogs and take a trip some times in the fall and have a hunt and a fish. A. J. will be able to buy more land but what good will it do him while there is so much uncultivated land. We need land no faster than we can improve it and that will not do us much good after we have a hundred and fifty acres or so. We want money and we want stock and we can get land anytime.

Do you meet with old settlers and good looking women? How is their society? Do they have good speeches, fun and f____? [This word is very clear but I won't type it.] The livelier they are in these joints the more money we can make. You would better stop at the point you think we will stay and wait for A.J. and myself. We will come about the 1st or 10th of next month. Let us hear fast now for the time is short.

Your Brother,
NW Yoder
Berlin, Ohio

[A.J. is Andrew/Andy Drushell]

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[There is an embossed circle in the upper left hand corner of the letter.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., O
September 14, 69

J. Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 31st is at hand and found us all right. We will be with you about the 1st of October. Sam is coming too. And I think you would better stay till we come. Work as long as you can and keep us posted, etc. Write to Andrew oftenier. Blow to Sam and do not get home sick. I have nothing "knew" for you.

Yours Truely,
N.W.Yoder

Lou is here and will stay till we get back.

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[This letter is written in purple ink.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio
Oct 4, 1869

J.Z.Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

Yours of 20th is at hand and contents noted. If Catherine will keep on improving as she has done we will be with you in 12 days or sooner. I can get J.A. Mast, M.D. to tend her while I am gone. Jacob

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

Hoover has started and will stop about 10 days in Iowa and then go to Scotland Co., Missouri and wait till I come and meet me in Springfield or Neosha. Keep in good heart and we will make it win yet. I am busy and can not write much for I would not know what to write except I would describe the country which would not interest you much.

Yours Truely,
N.W. Yoder, M.D.

P.S. On receipt of this write Jake Hoover right off and tell him to come down to see you and not wait for us. Urge him all you can and tell him how to find you etc.

Jacob Hoover
Memphis
Scotland Co., Missouri

Do this right off.

Yours,
N.W. Yoder

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[This letter is written in purple ink.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio
Dec 28, 1869

J.Z.Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

Why do you write more regular? I have send you money more than 6 weeks ago and no answer. What is the matter? I told you in my last to look for a farm for me of about 40 to 80 acres. Did you? I would like to have some good buildings on and improved, what I did buy. I do not want unimproved land now. Let me know soon. If you can find a small one of this kind at some public high way I am ready! I do not care whether I like it or not. I will try if you will stick to it and help me to keep

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

from starving. I will come out and stay till toward fall with out the rest and if we can raise enough to live I will move. Now let me know soon. Buy small farm where land is open yet. Waste land is no account. We do not want an inch more than we can farm or cultivate and when we get fixed for more we can buy. We must be saving for my capitol is small sure.

Yours, N.W. Yoder

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[This is the first letter in this series that is written horizontally and then in the same color of ink, it is finished up vertically. It has 4 domes and 2 flags embossed on it.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., O

Jany 4 1870

J.Z. Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

Your note came dully to hand and found us all well. I want you to find out how he wants them payments. How much down and how much a year without interest. What kind of soil is it? Limestone, black gravel or clay? Is it suitable ground and did he have good crops last year? Don't that ground dry out some times? I would like a place where I could raise all kinds of fousl--geese, ducks, swans etc. And should have running water, but if everything else will answer I care not for that for the present. Did they have peaches last year in that part of the country? What is flour per bushel? Corn? Potatoes? Apples? Coal? Oats? What is beef per pound? Sugar and rice? What is rye per gallon? Have they any beer breweries in Iowa and what is beer per keg (1/4 roll) Let me know all this and what eggs and butter lard and pork is?

Then go up to the record office and see if there is good deed for that land free from mortgage co. tax paid. And let me know by return mail. What is politics? Which side comes the county, and by how much? Whats the regions of the people? Many Germans, Irish, Yanks or Southerners? How many stores, saloons, etc. How may doctors and do people know anything about doctors? How many drug stores? What was the pretense they raised last

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

year and what thrived best? Potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, rye, bush wheat, barley, oats, clover, etc. Much stock. How many head of horses had that man that lives on the 80 now? Cows? Hogs? Other cattle? Sheep? What is their general prices per head? What can you buy tools old slings to farm with? You see, you do not tell me what I want to know and must know. Answer me all these questions and I will know as much about the place as you do. Let me know soon and do not miss anything. What is the game? Any good looking and fast women? What will do it for the fun if it is love?

Yours,
N W Yoder

Answer this soon and I will be there soon. Andy came pretty near yelling out last week. If he had he would have come out the next day.

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[This is the first letter with an envelope]. Return address: Return to Dr. A. A. Byron & Co. Shanesville, Ohio If not delivered within 10 days. The postal stamp is marked Shanesville with an unreadable date. The stamp is printed on the envelope and is 3 cents US postage. The envelope is addressed to: J. Z. Yoder Esq. Neosha, Newton Co., Missouri

[This letter is also written horizontally and vertically. Purple ink for letter and envelope. It has the embossed domes on the letter.]

Berlin, Holmes Co., Ohio
Jan. 27~ 1870

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother,

Yours of this month is at hand and contents noted. I will be on hand as soon as I can leave my wife. Andrew Drushell will not come to your country for you wrote a letter to a German of Iowa who is now here at Adam Hochstedler's and he showed that letter to Andy and he Squelished. He will go to Iowa now if he can sell but he has no

one to buy. I will not ask anyone to go with me but go on my own work. It is just as long as it is broad for if you have friends along you must help them move then they do a fellow good. Sam is going to Colorado Territory now and can go for all I care. I will not go if all go. I have no unanimous idea about the country, but about the soil I do not know much. You did not say where they get their coal from. If they have limestone, they should have coal. Let me know if the land you talk of buying will bring coal or not. If we could pick coal and lime we could make the soil good in one year. But I do not like the idea that we can not get running water on our farm. But if there is any in the country we can buy piece that has this on. You say people in the country are all poor or what do you mean? About how you must know more than I for I don't count here. But my opinion is you do not want to marry her, nor her you; nor one the other; or other one! But you know best and for that matter you can still write back and over. But you talked business I thought and therefore I answered as I did. Voltz was mining things for a while. But he is not here now. If you can marry a good rich girl out there, do not wait on hohumho. You want one that is healthy above all and of good stock and the more she has of earthly goods besides what she wears, the better for you. This thing of love is played out long ago and you do not want to margin yourself in love with any one further than good sense will teach you. I can talk from experience about being in love, for I think I have not been in love less than one hundred times, and with as many beauties who flit across my love mirror and disappeared in the great whirlpool of fickety and deception. As they passed, an other would appear, that would out shine, as far as the sun out shines the moon, those who had gone before them, so that were I to get lonely now, I would not fall in with the ordinary beauties of the present age. But a man can not talk sense and love at the same time, and I want to talk sense.

Can you not buy that farm if I send you the money without me coming. If you could do that safely we might soon make it win. I am satisfied of the country and will run the risk of the liking of it if we can only get good title for it for 1000 of acres are under tax titles and will be held so for life. It is the case in all half new countries. That's the reason I do not want much land. There must also be some school land and R.R. and other lands military. Now I will be with you as soon as I can and we must camp there this summer. We can certainly make our board and living.

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

You can soon get into the confidence of some good men, and do well. I will be republican when I come out there. What will we have to pay down on that farm? I have a d____n side of trouble to get my money all and I do not intend to move till I have this about a year and have a start.

Let me hear from you soon and give me good accounts. Let me know about the coal. Write more plain. I could hardly make your last intelligible.

Yours Truly, N.W. Yoder M.D.

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[This letter is written in purple ink.]

Berlin, Holmes Co. O. March 22-

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 20th is at hand. I have been very busy and did hardly know what to say. Andy has finally sold out and is bound to go west be fore an other year roles around. Now I am going to wait till I hear from your new explorations. Write me a account of the soil, coal, climate, water, etc. as soon as you get there. Now Joss! I tell you, I am a little timmit to go to a wiild country. You know I can not work? And how can I maintain my family in a new country. I can do most any thing but hard work. I might do well and I might fail. I care for nothing except I do not want to starve my family. I can live any where and on any kind of fore. But you, go on, and see, and let me know. I am settling up my books & getting ready to take a short rest. Nothing new here, except that we will have an exhibition here, friday night; and that Jake Heard, and Bevington the teacher, had a fight about it. Bevington came out a head. Elmer Lewis got married to some street runner of Litney, O. Voltz is in Cleveland now. And I will never have an other Stutsman. We have a little girl at our house, about 7 weeks old. She has not been here for a long time. Minnie will sing a song in the exhibition. "Little Jipsey Jane." Lonie has a drum. And asks every day when we are going to Uncle "Shoss." Minnie wants to know if you have any songs in Missouri. Now to close! If you find a country where we can live, till the place gets settled right to give me some practice or that we can sell drugs I will come. But you must not change round so much. I think if I go out there anyplace and make it right I can get some apointments from Uncle Sam, that will pay.

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

Yours Truly,
NWYoder

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[This letter is written in purple ink.]

Berlin, Holmes Co. O.
April 12~, 1870

J.Z. Yoder Esq.

Sir:

Yours of the 29th is at hand. I have just bought out Selden drugs and all in Shanesville. Sam Shop and I are in partnership in all. You see I have my hands full now and not money enough then. But I send your letter to Sam and told him to send you \$100 in postal orders to Neosha right off and charge it to me etc. I think he will do it. If you had told me sooner, I would have send it long ago. But I paid off debts, etc. which might have stood awhile. I am glad to hear you got along well with your school. It appears to me that you might do well where you are. We can soon buy land there. But do as you please now. Write soon again.

Yours, N.W. Yoder

If he is a minister of the gospel you must watch him? Mind that now and not when it is too late. He will take the upper hand of you just as soon as a calf will take to milk. You look out a little. You can trust him just as far as you can throw a Durham bull by the tail.

N.W.Y.

Go on, you will make a man yet!

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[Embossed 4 domed building.]

Shanesville, O.
July 11, 1870

J.Z. Yoder, Esq.

Dear Brother,

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

I will now give you all the home news that I know off. We had a celebration here on the 4th and there were plenty of people here. Berlin is as usual. Voltz returned from Cleveland and is here. Jacob Heart keeps tavern in Berlin. Sam Hoover store and Ben Grague grocery. They have no school and no church anymore nor anything else. Whoring etc. is the order of the day. I would not live there at all anymore. But do not care if I stay here long. But I must do the best I can and make all the money in my power. I was up in Berlin last Friday and did not see anybody but drunk men. I know of nothing new there or here. Pheba Knoff is married. If you want to know anything you must ask for I can not think of anything of hand. Fred Smith is in Mason City, Ill running a drugstore. I have not heard from him for a long time. He is looking out for himself and am I. If I only had \$3000 ahead I would not stop in this or no other town. But I must make it now in two years or Bust.

Yours Truly
NWYoder

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[This letter has been partially burned. It has the 4 domed building embossed]

Shanesville Jan 19~ 1871

J.Z.Yoder

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 1st 1870 **[I think he meant 1871]** is at hand and contents noted. I was up home Monday and Andies were there and showed him your letter. He is going to move the last the last of next month. Minnie, Millie and Lonnie all got came around and wanted to hear what you had written. Lonnie says, when he get a little miffed at his mother, "I will take my horse, and go right out to Uncle "Joss" and wont tum back anymore." He has a very nice rocking horse that I brought from Cleveland. Minnie took your letter and put it in her pocket and took it out every little bit and looked all over it. I had the Neosha journal and she asked me where it came from. I told her from where you was. She asked to look at **[burned spot]** in looking over it, she saw **[burned spot]** house in an advertisement and **[burned spot]** me if that was your house or where you

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

[burned] . Berlin is dead, now [burned] you dont believe how dead the town looks and is. They had a dance at the tavern, Monday after new years, and all the country boys, John Hoover, Dannie Hise, Tuck Johnston, etc. went home before supper because the bill was \$1.00. Bill Deeds owns the tavern now. I was at the dance a while. Lou was here `or up home I mean, for the last 8 weeks and went home this week to get married to some insurance agent.

I have not heard from Sam for 3 months. His wife went out to him some time in October. What I told you the other time about that bussiness was postponed. I could not carry it without he (my partner) would get into the [burned] therefore I will wait yet till I [burned] monopolize it. If Andie was not [burned] a d__n cold [burned] far from R.R. I would [burned]. Let me know by return mail as soon as you can get a farm near Neosho [burned] much a year or on what conditions. But I think I would better stay on another year here. I can then raise about \$2000 and now I have some things on foot that I would loos.

You go on and do the best you can. Make money and keep in good standing. I will either come to Neosho or go to Oregon in a short time. I will be entitled to a quarter of land before long, and I think the government will buy Indian Territory before long and then I would want to go. I am not well now and have not been for more than a month. I am cock of the walk in this town and make the other doctors hunt their holes every time they [burned] job on hands. But I [burned] close.

Yours,
N.W.Yoder

[Minnie, Millie and Lonnie--their children.]

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Shanesville, O.
March 13, 1871

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Sir,

Keep cool and learn book keeping and
business.

You will hear from me before long.

Your Brother
NWYoder

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[Black ink with embossed domes.]

Shanesville, O.
April 1, 1871

J.Z.Yoder Esq

Dear Sir,

Your last came duely hand and found us all well and doing well. I am doing a good bussiness here and can do more yet by and by. I had a call to Christian A. Stutman's where you boarded one winter last night to his oldest daughter.

I have send those things to Cleveland for printing and will commence operations soon. I can soon tell you how it will pay and then we will shape our ends accordingly.

This is a dead old town and a person gets tired here but I must stand it yet. I think I can make it win. Let me have the address of A.J. when you write again. I did not hear from him for a long time. I am waiting for something to turn up here. I will go before the county convention for the nomination of Auditor of the county. If I do

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

not succeed I will not loos much for I need not spent time and money as I did in Holmes Co. If I succeed I am elected for four years. I made money last year and expect to clear some this.

I do not hear anything from Sam. Some months ago he said he was coming in about May. Fred was here and went back again. He is getting rich. I bed he is worth \$6000 now.

He has a good start now and can make money easy.

But I must close and go to dinner. Honor your business and keep your eyes skined.

Your Brother
N.W.Yoder

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[Envelope. Written on back my Jocelyn-Ans.]

Return to Yoder

Dealers in Drugs, Medicines, Family Groceries,
Soaps, Brushes, Perfumery, Fancy and Toilet Articles,
SHANESVILLE, Ohio

if not delivered within 10 days.

Postal mark Shanesville, O April 8. An embossed 3 cents stamp.

J.Z. Yoder Esq-
Neosho

Newton Co
Missouri

[Letter]

Shanesville O.
April 7~ 1871

J.Z.Yoder M.D. **[Noah had a forgetful moment.]**

Dear Brother,

Your last is at hand. We live in Shanesville now. I do not anything new or strange. I am going to move into my new office Monday and then commence business for right. Be close to business and honor your calling.

If I commence that other thing, you will hear from me. I will lend you a thousand circulators to begin on. If you make it win, we will stop all else.

Yours Truely
N.W.Yoder

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[Embossed letter paper.]

Shanesville Ohio May 28, 1871

J.Z. Yoder

Dear Brother,

Yours of 18th out come duely to hand and found us all well. I am getting along fine. I have a good business and expect to have more. Sam has been here for about two weeks. He says I have a better practice here than he has out in Bluffton.

In regard to that rupture you would better get one made to order. For your billowiness you must avoid coffee and tea, or anything of a stimulating nature and late hours. Use plain diet; and the **[2 1/2 inches of the paper has been cut off.]** Take those pills as will be regussed. If two will move your bowels more than once take less. But take some 3 times a day before meals. If one half is enough, or one half pill is enough all night.

Then take the following mixture after each meal; and you will get shed of your ague and billowiness at once.

Yellowness comes from the effects of ague in your liver and interferes with the flow of bile.

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

Take about 10 grains of quinine every time 8 days after a chill. **[this part of the 2 1/2 inches of the paper that is cut off effects the rest of this part of the letter.]**

I can not write much today. I am busy. I will write again during the week.

My printing and co. will be ready till about the middle of June.

You will see a sample enclosed.

Your Brother

NWYoder

++++
[Written in purple ink.]

Shanesville, Ohio

June 23 1871

J.Z.Yoder

Dear Sir,

Your last came duely to hand and found us all well. I am doing well and am getting along fine. I run over \$300 in May.

I have not made time now and not much to write. I do not go any place but in business, and do not know much about the outside world.

You will find enclosed one of my bills and a list, blank, for names. Fill it with names of some married men that have children and some single. And return to me. I have about a thousand names.

Your Brother

N.W.Yoder

++++
[yellow mustard colored envelope]

[on the left hand across the end instead of in the left hand corner across the top]

If not delivered within Ten days, return to

N. W. YODER, M.D.

SHANESVILLE, OHIO

US postal mark: Shanesville O Aug 24

A licked postage stamp-3 cents

J.Z. Yoder Esq~.

Neosho

Newton Co

Missouri

[written on the back of the envelope]

Read Aug 30th 1871

[This letter has a letterhead on it. Also Shanesville, O and 187 are printed on it.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, O August 24 1871

Joss,

Yours of late came duely to hand and found us all well. I am busy and doing well. That other thing I think will be a failure. I have not tested it yet but will give it a full trial as soon as I get more time. Do your best and stick to business and you must succeed.

I find a man is alone where ever he is if he wants to tend to business. I have not had as much as a social talk of half an hour for 3 months.

I am nothing but business. I will make it go or break now. Let me hear from you soon. I must go now.

Yours,
N.W.Y.

+++++

[This letter has been chewed on. It has the embossed mark on the paper and it is written in purple ink.]

Shanesville, O
Nov. 6~ 1871

J.Z.Yoder Esq

Dear Bro.

Your last found me very busy, but am not so now. Nothing new. I had one letter from A.J. but did not hear from Sam for 3 months. Had a letter from Fred and one from Nelson of Ky.

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

I have more oposition again. An old doctor came here this week. I must look out now. Had bad luck. Lost 3 married men of large families in one week.

I am moved now and have a nice office of 2 rooms. One for my seting room, the other for library and examinations, etc. Have 3 horses and had work for them all for a while [chewed] is healthy now again. I will not do anything but make money now for the future on a luse bases. Speculation is played out with me. I have no friends any more. I look on every body as a d__n raskel, till he proves himself other wise. It is the only thing a man can go on, as it is the rule the world over.

Is there any R.R. land close to Neosho? If there is and you want a piece, I will help you to get a 1/4th section.

Indian Territory will soon open I think, and then I am going to claim mine from the government. I can buy you a soldier's claim which will entitle you to land not yet altered R.R. or other wise.

Let me hear from you soon.

I am Your Brother

N [chewed] r

+++++

[This is a letter to Mrs. C Z Yoder from Jocelyn. She was Noah's {NW} wife. Her name was Catherine Zincon Yoder. The letter has an embossed mark in the upper left hand corner which says NATIONAL MILLS and consists of 4 domed buildings and two flying flags. This letter has also been chewed.]

Neosho Mo Jan 4th 1872

Mrs. C Z Yoder

My Dear Sister,

Your most welcome letter has been here for some time and I must beg your pardon for not sooner answering it. You can not imagine how glad I was to hear from you. I wish you could write oftener. Such letters do more to make life a pleasure than a great many things that have more attention paid to them. You say that time is scarce. I once did not know what that meant but when I left home and found myself among strangers I learned the value of time. Since Christmas I worked almost night and day. Bookkeeping takes a great deal of time on the first of

the year. I have just closed my last account. I made out fifty statements since the 1st. Some take a whole sheet of bill Cap and some not so much. I have them all stacked before me now ready for tomorrows mail. I have not been away from the store a hundred yards during business hours since Christmas and never quit work in the evening till **[chewed]** oclock. It is now just ten and I feel like **[chewed]** not finish this letter this evening. I almost forgot to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new years. But you know I did not **[chewed]** on such occasions. I can wish you nothing better then as happy a new year as my Christmas was. I never was happier in my life. I spent the day at Mr. Tallmans, the place I have always called my home since I am in Newton County. Miss Nellie Tallman is the one I spoke of before you know the one I am behooved to or something of that kind it is. Your letter contained good advice for which I sincerely thank you. I do not know that I can say my affianced is in very good health nor is she sickly. I can not tell you any more than by referring to some one you know. I should judge she is constituted very near like Minerva. **[Catherine and Noah's daughter.]** I think she is heartier than she is (Minerva). I know one thing. She is better looking and for this you cant blame me for I would suppose she is the only young lady in this country that is worth marrying. She says she knows she would like you and sends her photo willingly provided we get yours in return. Now I have none of yours and I would like to have one so you must send me one in your next and don't fail. I will close for this evening and go to sleep and dream of California and Texas. I mean to visit one **[chewed]** of those places some time and perhaps **[chewed]** but I will never see them on my expense **[chewed]** I am now employed in is very strong and **[chewed]** I can get good wages if I stick to them. **[chewed]** very hard sometimes to "knuckle under" as **[chewed]** is but I will stick to it as long as I can.

I suppose you would like to know my plans for the future. So would I but I can not say for these reasons. first My time expires on the first of March and I have made no further arrangements with my employers only. Only this He asked me to travel for him through Arkansas and the Nation to sell groceries and liquors. I replied that I would under no consideration sell liquors. It would be a dangerous life. I would often have to have large amounts of money on my person and there are murders committed almost daily on those routes and the roads are very bad so that I would have to have a large salary. Well he thinks now to leave out the liquor trade and

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

take in the fur trade in place of it. In that case, I will go. Now if we get another R.R. here he will do this and in that case I would make Neosho my home. If these things do not happen I do not know what I will do. I would like to go further west and find a home for me and mine. If I travel I will do it for no less than than \$100 per month for I am sure I can get it if I wish to go out for any [chewed] town. I would rather not travel and get less for [chewed] could spend my evenings to suit myself. [chewed] Well I will finish this letter the first [chewed] for till then I have to wait for our [chewed] was no artist in town for some time [chewed] that amounted to any thing. [The signature is chewed off but he speaks of Nellie-his future wife.]

+++++

[Another of the same letterhead paper from Noah.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

J. Z. Yoder

Shanesville, O February 14th 1872

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 10th is at hand and found us all well. We have a big excitement here about the other Doctor in town here. He killed a young girl in his office by trying to produce abortion and had her buried and we went and exhumed her and examined her and did not put her back, and it was found out and the grave opened and found empty and now they are going for me, but can not prove it. I am doing a good business and can make money. I am keeping straight but do not belong to church and never will. I believe in but one God! and know to much to ever join any church. I am looking for a Christian in practice and then I will follow him but I've not found one yet. But I must close and go tend to my patients. Let me hear from you again.

N.W.Y.

+++++

[A letter from Catherine Yoder to Jocelyn written in purple ink. There is an envelope & on the back he has written] answered.

Return to Dr. A.A. Byron & Co.
SHANESVILLE, Ohio,

if not delivered within 10 days.

US postal mark Shanesville O May 12 An embossed 3 cent stamp.

Joslin Z. Yoder

Noesho.

Newton Co.

Mis.

Shanesville, Ohio

May 12 1872

Dear Brother,

I received your kind note with your and Nelly's photographs some time ago and think they are splendid. But I would much rather have seen you both personally, O! I wish you could come and see us this spring. I think you might as well start off on a wedding tour and come and see us. We would be so glad. I suppose you have set the day by this time for that new step in life. Let me know all about it in your next. I don't know much news to tell you this time. I was up at Moses' and your mothers last week. They are all well and asked me how you was getting along. Doc is not very busy just now. He will have to tend court next week. You remember that Tuttle scrap I told you about, that was put in court. I will tell you how it turned out the next time I write. Spring is again here. The trees are laying on their summer robes, and everything will soon be green and beautiful. The flowers will soon bud and put forth their rich and beautiful colors and sweet perfumes to drive away the gloomy hours of winter and again make glad the hearts of those who love nature's grand and sublime changes. No season of the year is to me so grand, so beautiful as spring. How sweet the song of the robbin, the bluebird, the mockingbird, and the shrill and the chanting notes of the whippoorwill. And then there are thousand other pleasures which we dont have in winter. How far has spring advanced in Missouri? People are planting corn here now. And the first trees are in full bloom.

I must close for this time. I am so nervous this morning that I can hardly control my hand. **[It doesn't show it in her hand**

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

writing.] We are all well excepting the baby is not much better. The children look at your picture often and wonder if that is Uncle Joslin's wife. Give my love to Nelly and write soon. Yours Truly C Z Yoder.

[In 1872 the baby would be Virgilia. She was born 5/23/1871.]

+++++

[Envelope]

Return to Dr. A.A. Byron & Co., Shanesville, Ohio, if not delivered within ten days. US Postmark Shanesville O. Jul **[unreadable year]** embossed 3 cent stamp. **[addressed to]** J. Z. Yoder Esq. Neosho Newton Co Missouri **[on the back Jocelyn wrote]** answered affectly 8/6/72

[The same letterhead paper.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, O.July 25 1872

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 16th is at hand. You can never do better then what you now talk of. Get ready and I will get you two claims so that you can enter half of a section, either in one piece or in two. I will get a copy of the law as passed last and post myself. I read it, but only as it concerned me. Portland is most too far north, but you go and see. Go there in the fall and put in the winter and you will know. I'll find the claims, if you will act as my agent for half. I will make all the money I can till spring and if you like it I will come to Portland inside of a year and set up my practice for a living. I am making money here. I amputated 2 legs on the 4th and was chief marshall of one of the largest celebrations ever in Shanesville. Dr. Mast helpt me. You will hear from me again in a few. Then I'll tell you the plan. We are all well.

Yours Etc.

NWYoder

+++++

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

[envelope] Return to Dr. A. A. Byron & Co., Shanesville, Ohio, if not delivered within ten days. US postal mark Shanesville O **[unreadable date]** embossed 3 cents stamp. **[addressed to]** J. Z. Yoder Esq Neosho Newton Co Missouri **[on the back]** Answered 7/20/72 **[the month should be 8]**

[the same letterhead paper. Written in purple ink.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, O August 16th 1872

Joss,

Yours of the 6th is at hand. You will do better by homesteading then anything else. If you will keep single. If I was single again I would leave a practice here of \$2000 a year and go along. If I can sell out I may go anyhow with you or come soon after. You will never make any money any other way nor will I. If I was out there with my books etc I would not want anything else. You get ready and I will fix it so that we can enter a section of good land. But I must close.

Yours
NWYoder

+++++

[envelope-purple in on letter and envelope.]

Return to Dr. A. A. Byron & Co., Shanesville, Ohio, if not delivered within ten days. US Postmark Shanesville O **[date is unreadable]** **[someone tore off the stamp]** **[addressed to]** Joslin Z. Yoder Neosho Newton Co. Missouri

[an embossed crown on the upper left hand corner of this letter.]

Shanesville, Ohio
Sep 29, 1872

Joslin & Wife:

I received your most welcomed letter the 15th at 12 o'clock, I suppose about the time you were joined in happy wedlock. So I will first in order wish you much joy, long life, and may success crown your efforts. I greatly wish I could have been with you on the occation. I know I would have

enjoyed myself well. Or else you could have come out here. O, How much I should like to see you, and talk with you.

I hope you will come and see us soon. We are all well, hoping you and your wife are the same. I have had no girl for over two weeks so I hope you will excuse me for not responding to your letter sooner. Minnie says she wants Uncle Joss and his wife to come and see us. She would like to see her new aunt. She says "I shall tell you we have a piano and she will learn to play and sing for you till you come." Doc. is pretty busy now. Typhoid fever is coming to town and if it will break out right, he will have more to do then he can tend to. Winter is coming on, and his practice will become more burdensome again. I do not think we will stay in Shanesville very long any more but where we will land nent. I cannot yet tell, Doc and Sam think some of going to Illinois.

I have not heard from Holmes Co., lately, but I expect to go up on a visit before long. Then I will write again to you and tell you all the news. Do you intend to settle down in the city of Neosho? Or what do you intend to do. Tell me all about your weding affair, etc. I must close now, and hope you will write soon again.

My love to Nellie. Take good care of your selves and make things win is my advise.

Yours Truely,
C.Z.Yoder

+++++

[Same letterhead-purple ink.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, O. Oct. 21~ 1872

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother. I have not heard from you for some time; hope you are well. We are all well and I am busy. Have not heard from your friend Drushel for long time but wrote him a letter to day. We are having fine autumn weather and plenty of chestnuts etc. I am not going to remain here any longer then till I can sell out. I think I can do that till spring and then for Oregon. I am going to move my family out into the country and for a year or so alone. It wont do for me here. I able to fill any part of my

OLD FAMILY LETTERS-YODER

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

profession but I can not do it here and get rich. I have too many friends all the time. I have not much of any interest this time and must close. Have been out of fix for two weeks. Yours Truly

N.W.Yoder

+++++

[envelope- red ink & on letter.]

Return to Dr. A. A. Byron & Co., Shanesville, Ohio, If not delivered within 10 days.

US Postmark Shanesville O Feb 20 Embossed 3 cents postage stamp

J. Z. Yoder Esq Neosho Newton Co Missouri

[letterhead]

Office of N.W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, O. Feb 19th 1873

J.Z.Yoder

Dear Brother

Yours of late came to hand and found us all well. In regard to what you spoke of, I must say it seems an impossibility. Money is in a panic here as people are about money. It brings 12 percent seal estate security. When I want a \$100.----- I must go to the bank. I will see further. Everything is down and no market and families have gone in debt on the old price. I know men that could see their pork last fall. And the Amish are helping each other and no one else. I am very busy but do not take in money enough to pay expenses. I run \$200 to 300 per month. Bill Johnson and his oldest sister will be burried today. They died of typhoid fever. Providence helpt them along.

But I must close and go to business. I have been like surrounded by a wall since December, hearing on leaving but my business.

Your Bro
N.W.Yoder

+++++

[much thicker paper]

Shanesville Ohio

March 6 ~ 1874

J.Z. Yoder Esq

Dear Brother

It is a long time since I heard from you last. We are all well, but I had a good deal of trouble in the last two years, but I think I will over come them all and live a new era. I hope you are doing well. You could do well, if you are not too confiding, which is a family failing and brings nothing but trouble and disappointment. A man is prone to judge others by himself, which is, (if he is not D__d rascal) an awful bad mistake. There is a certain amount of selfishness nessessary, and where it is not sinborn it must be acquired. There is not one person in every ten thousand that has ever been or ever will be quietly of one disinterested act. This is, as, Mark Twain says "sad indeed!" But 20 years of a hard life has taught it me, and it is true then the Laws of Moses. In twenty years, I formed the acquaintance of thousands of men and women and made it a business to study them carefully without prejudise; and find that in place of following my natural way of counting every one honest and true till I found them out to be liars and thieves, that it is ever nessessary to think every one of them, d__d scoundrels, thieves and liars, till I find them otherwise. I have paid for this lesson, but it will be worth more then the cost for I have now nerved myself up to it, and educated myself to the practice of it and you will find that success must follow, and will follow.-----

We are commencing to have nice weather here. I saw Eli Yoder from the N. West of Missouri where Martin Shoves and those fellows are from. He likes it well. I am corresponding with a man from Nebraska City and it might be that I will go out there, if I do, I will deviate from the line and see you. I am doing well enough here. Have it all to myself and go to Dover and the neighboring town in council with other doctors. I perform big operations almost every week, can perform every operation in the catalogue except on eyes and I will learn that with Prof. Metz this spring. And then I am equal to any doctor on this or the other continent and learned it all myself and paid for it myself, without the aid of a friend or foe, which does me good to think off. I feel supremely happy when

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

I look back over a dark and treacherous road and know that I came over it alone, and that my heart never failed me once. How different I would feel if I had to look down on some of those that are now far beneath me and think that I ever was indebted to them even for a cup of water or a crust of bread. Yet I must say that I can look back and remember many a bright star of friendship that cast its bright rays over my path, and I shall never forget! I have not heard from Sam or Andy for a long time. I must close with my best wishes to your wife and family.

Yours NWYoder

+++++

[a little different letterhead paper]

Office of N.W. Yoder, M.D.
Shanesville, Ohio Nov. 27~ 1874

Mr. J.Z. Yoder

Dear Bro.

Yours of the 18th came duely to hand and found us all well. I am sitting in my own private room, in the north west corner, up stairs, of the brick house, that I suppose you remember in the old town of Shanesville, and as the cold November wind howls round its corners and the drizzling rain beats against the windows, I reflect back just ten years, ten short years, and what a change! Moses was then a veteran of the 51st, Sam a private in the 88th, Jacob a school boy in Berlin, you a small lad going to school with me, at the old country school house, and I a returned soldier, covered with wounds, that will bring on premature decrepancy and old age. To night we are all in different parts of the world. Moses is sleeping his long sleep on Chattanooga Hights, with a crude pine board for a monument, on which are inscribed the omenous "M. F. Y. Co G 51st O.V.I." June 29, 1864. Jacob is lying under the turbid waves of the "Father of Waters" where an allwise providence saw fit to make his eternal resting place; and you are in the far west, and so on, from one to the other. Yet dark as this picture of ten years seems, I think it is as bright, as the average pictures of life. There is change, decay and death on all sides. But the darkest part of the worlds shadows are man's inhumanity to man. I am sorry that I ever went into the profession that I did, and there by learned the insincerity, cruelty, and animosity of the world, that has changed my intense nature, faith and religion. But I must not enter into this now. Some future time you will hear and see more.-----

Anna is still not very stout. They sent for me last night again and I'll go up tomorrow id nothing happens. Uncle Manuel Hochstedler was here last week from Indiana. He reports much sickness in his neighborhood. I did not hear from Sam for 3 or 4 weeks or more. He claims to be very busy. I am not crowded now but have some cases on hand all the time. The little folks are going to school. Minnie and Millie have 4th reader and Lonie 3rd.

I think you will do better by moving on a farm and raising stock of all kind. Anna told me you wanted to rent her farm. I think you might do well with it. But you must look out among them Iowa yankeys or you will not make much. They are all after money and will make it in any way they can so the law can not hunt them. I will move on a farm if I can ever sell out here. I am the only doctor here and I think I would better sell out now. I could practice in the country and the same time live cheaper and better. I think it is my duty on account of my children to move to the country. I can not see how I can bring up my children in a town like this. A child must have a place to play; and here there is no place but the street. I do not expect ever to be ritch but I would like to be independent. I make money here, or earn it I mean, but never get it. I am at awful expenses. Three horses and two buckies, hired man and hired girl, and the house full of strangers, all the time. Some times I just feel as though I would not do an other thing for any of them without the money, and again I go on and work for them whole nights and use up medicines that cost me the cash, and never get a cent in return. But I must close. My best wishes to your family.

NWYoder

+++++

[envelope]

Return to Dr. A.A. Byron & Co. Shanesville, Ohio if not delivered within 10 days.

US Postmark-Shanesville O Mar **[no number]** 3 cent embossed stamp

Addressed to J. Z. Yoder, Esq Neosho Newton Co., Missouri **[written in pencil]**

[letterhead] [The letter is from their oldest daughter, Minnie & written in pencil. Minnie is 9 1/2 yrs old.]

Office of N. W. Yoder, M. D.

Shanesville, Ohio March 19, 1875

Dear Uncle Joslin,

With great sorrow I inform you that my dear little brother Lonnie died with diphtheria February 28 was sick only four nights and three days. He was a good and kind little brother and a great help to Papa. And Oh! I can not tell you how much we miss him and dream about him nearly every night, dream that he is with us in our many little duties and plays but alas! on awakening I awaken only to realize the sad truth that he has been taken away from us by the cold hand of death never again to return but may God grand that we may all meet him in Heaven where sickness and death are not known and where the sad sad word farewell is never spoken. Yes it appears to me that I can see him above the Golden stair stretching out his little hand beckoning to you and me to all his friends saying "Oh! repent and turn unto God! I will tarry here untill I can welcome you home where there is no more parting farewell and ever!"

Now I must soon close. I was also very sick with the same disease but am able to be up again. Millie had it too but not so hard. The rest have escaped so far. We have another little Brother a little over three months old, but he does not fill the place of Lonnie. The disease is still raging. Children have been swept away right out of town. It has not spread any farther yet. Lonnie might have lived but the disease went to his wind pipe. School was broken up by it and O! I can not tell you how lonesome it is here.

Tell us what you name your little baby. I will now close hoping that you will write soon. Our love to you all. Minnie Yoder

+++++

[This letter was enclosed with the letter from Minnie. It is from Jocelyn but not signed so I'm thinking it was a rough draft--a very sweet and tender letter. It also gives us the date of when he left Ohio & Bessie's birth.]

Erie McDonald Co Mo

Mar 31, 1875

My Dear Nieces Minnie & Milli

Your letter surprised me very much and it was not only a surprise but aside from the meloncholy news it contained in which we all share-it gave me much pleasure. Six years ago this coming 14th of May I left you. I can see you in the kitchen with Millie. I remember I kissed you and then the baby in his mother's arms. I have always had that last look of little Lony before me, can see him reaching his little hands for me to take him. I can also imagine him grown to be a little man in trousers. Dear little boy, again he is beckoning us to come. May that Infinite Power that saw fit to deprive us of our darling Son, Brother & Nephew also give us strength to bear this sad bereavement to bear up manfully under all afflictions, to live holy and righteous lives, that when this worlds cares, joys, sorrows and afflictions shall recede from view and our eyes closed in death. That we may meet little Lony's outstretched arms in the presence of our Savior and our God.

And now dear girls on this memorable 14th of May as being the day set apart in my memory upon which I parted from all those that held ties on me more than mere friendship and not having seen any one since that time that my eyes ever blurred before I left, (Except F.N.Smith). It was also the 14th of May 5 years after the first one that God in his Wisdom saw fit to give into our care a Darling little babe so small so very small only 4 1/2 lbs. Now nearly one year old Bessie weighs 15 lbs. She can kiss papa and mamma, can wipe her nose and then will wipe mine and her mammas, can stand by a chair and mimic. She looks very much like you did when you was small.

Your letter Minnie awakened thoughts in my mind that might have slept there forever. I saw that I was not forgotten by you although you was small when I left home. Yes I still call that home for many many times before I found those that now help to make my humble home a paradise for me I could see others meet loved ones while I seemed to stand alone. They were kind to me and I knew that I had found a place in their breast yet I was a stranger. We have been married 3 years on my next birthday Sept 15. Since that time I have been very happy yes have found in the relationship I formed all I anticipated and more one Alliance. Providence has see fit to cast my lines in pleasant places. But I can never forget the home that your Poppa and Mamma gave me when I was a wild unthankful boy. But God will repay them for their kindness to me. I can not the debt is too great.

+++++

[a very small envelope]

N. W. Yoder
Deseased

[the enclosed letter]

Shanesville, O. March 13/1877

Bro. Jostlen

Dear Brother

Yesterday at 2 oclock we followed our Brother to the grave but it was a very sade thing left behind him widow and five children. I was away to colleglge. Arrived here on Sunday at 1 oclock. His death was a hard one, he was on his way to see a patient and the water being high he at temped to cross a place where the road was over floated and the road being also graded he drove to much to one side and upset and throwed him in the strong currant of water an took him down the Stream powerless and helpless and had to drown. And the never found the body until the next day at 10 oclock. The seen him under the ice. About two weeks ago he said that his days were numbered and it came true.

We all have to go the road that he went in the end one this way and an other way.

For death is live and life uncertain.

from your brother
Aaron

[My records show that Aaron T. Miller was Jocelyn's half brother.]

+++++

Shanesville, Tus. Co O.
Feb 6" 1882

Mr. J.Z.Yoder,

Dear Uncle & Aunt Nellie,

We received your kind and most welcomed letter, and was very glad to hear from you. Since you have last heard from us two of our family have gone home. It sures hard to lose both father and

mother in so short a time, and all of our brothers gone too. I just think it must be a dream sometimes it seems too terrible to believe, and yet I think it must be all for the best or it would not have happened. I know they have gone to a better place than ours is. I suppose you have read all the particulars in the reporter. We were all on the floor that broke down excepting Millie and she had just got to the door ready to go in when she seen every thing go down. The little girls and I did not get a scratch, but Oh to think that Mamma and Miltie had to be burned to death. It is horrible! If you had a "Harper's Weekly" printed Jan. 21st, you will find a photograph of the store. It is the one right across the road from our house. You remember it, may be. If you would only would have seen the blackened people as they came out of that burning house. Some of them were entirely naked. Some of them bleeding and others burnt. There are nine that have died now, others that are near death's door. I am sorry we did not write sooner but we have been so upset that we don't think of anything. We don't know what we will do yet. Uncle Sam wants us to come out there, but I do not know whether we will or not. We thank you and appreciate your kind offer of a home for one of us. But I think we will all stay in Shanesville. It is most too far away. Although I know it would be a pleasant home, as good as any one could wish for. I still hoped that you might may be move to Shanesville. It would be so nice to have you all here. We are each staying at a different place. I am at a splendid place. It is more like a home then I ever expected to have since our own home was so suddenly and unexpectedly broken up. We would like to hear from Bessie and Bertha too. And Aunt Nellie, we want you to write too just as often as you can. I hope you are all well and enjoying life. We feel very lonesome now and want to hear from you all soon. This is all I can write this time, but we expect to hear from you soon.

Yours Affectionatily,

from your Niece Minnie , **[underneath her name she drew a fish symbol with quotation marks in each oval]**

P.S. We send our love to you all.

M.Y.

[Millie was 16 when she wrote this letter. Miltie was 7 years old when he died.]

+++++

[This letter is written in purple ink and from Millie.]

O.S. and S.O Home

Feb. 4, 1883

Dear Uncle,

We have heard from Uncle Sam about your trouble and sickness.

The last news was that you were all able to be up. I wish you could know how glad I was to hear it.

I never knew how dear you all were to me until I received news of your sickness.

I know that it must be hard for you to be taken down with this sickness just now when you were getting along so well and I also know that you and Aunt Nellie are beautiful Christians and will know where to go for support and comfort.

And when I think of your Christianity I feel weak and insignificant. You shall never want for sympathy from me, but I would like to do something to help you.

I hope you will soon be able to write to us and tell us for yourself how you are getting along.

There is not much sickness in the Home at present.

I will have lots of things to tell you just as quick as I know that you are well enough to be interested which I trust will not be long. I hope you will ever believe me to be your

Loving niece Millie

+++++

[This letter is written on unlined paper with a pencil.]

Galena, Kansas May 31 '88

Dear Uncle,

I have been wanting to write you a long time but have just got at it. We are all well. How I wish you could see the Baby. We have named him "Lloyd Ellsworth" and of course he is the sweetest baby in the world. As you can't see him now, I will do the next best thing and that is send you his picture. We had it taken last week, and I will forward one as soon as I get them. The Girls are soon coming to Galena are they not? I suppose they have grown a great deal. The baby looks like Miltie and Paul. You know I

OLD FAMILY LETTERS-YODER

typed as written [in bold print & parenthesis will be my input]

always thought Paul looked like Miltie. I have not much time to write but I hope you will answer soon. Best regards to Aunt Nellie & the Children. Baby sends Love to all.

Your Loving Niece
Minnie

[Ellsworth was the name of Noah & Catherine's first child.]

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[This is the end of this batch of letters from Noah & Catherine Yoder and family.]

These letters have been copied by: Barb Kissell, great-granddaughter of Jocelyn Z. Yoder & Phebe Ellen Tallman. March, 2012.

Jocelyn & Phebe had 6 children. The third one-Marion Elinor Yoder was my grandmother. She married Frederick James Brunner. Her oldest daughter, Elizabeth Harrison Brunner was my mother. She married James Allen Schroeder, Jr. I am the third daughter from this union. I am Barbara Ann Schroeder married to Harry William Kissell.

[This letter is from Moses & Elizabeth or Lizzie Yoder Miller. I have copied it as it is written. I am Barbara Ann Schroeder Kissell great granddaughter of Jocelyn Z. & Phebe Ellen Tallman Yoder. Jocelyn and Lizzie were siblings. copied 2/18/2013.]

1881

Berlin Holmes County Ohio Feb 12

Dear Brotherin Law J. Z. Yoder and and family I received a letter from you som time a go and I Didn't anser it yet I received it just before I started West I was out in the West part of Ohio I com home this weak so I thought I would write you a few lines this evening and let you know that we ar all well at present as Long as the good Lord is willing Your mother is better this winter than she has been for several winters Now you wrote a bout som money Now I got non of my own and I dont know anney Boty that would Sent it so far a way from home We got a very Cold Winter and good staying for a bout two months but this Weak we hat two days rain and our snow was pretty near all going but this evening it is snowing a gin I hat in tented to com to Missiouri this winter but it got to cold so I wont com till next spring when the wether gets Warm I will com to a close by senting our Love and Best Respects to you all from M T Miller and your sister Lizzie Miller.