



# YODER NEWSLETTER

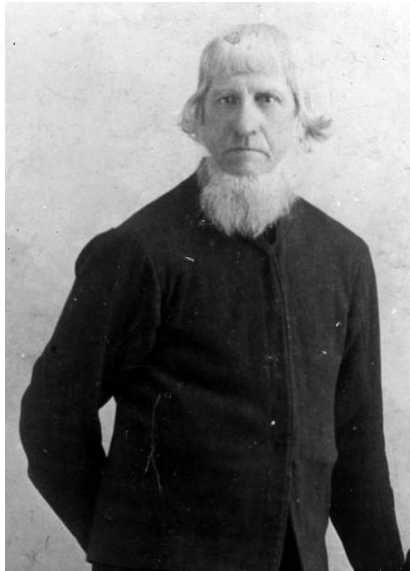


ISSUE NUMBER 64

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OCTOBER 2014

## CHRISTIAN YODER AND THE McCLELLANDTOWN GANG



Christian Yoder (YR2611a)

On Apr. 13, 1889, an "elderly" Somerset County, PA farmer named Christian Yoder was tortured and robbed by a band of miscreants from neighboring Fayette County (He was 65 years old at the time). The episode made both regional and national news, and was followed through the capture and punishment of the guilty parties. Christian's descendant Claude Yoder republished one of the newspaper reports in 1973, and his son Edwin gave the YNL permission to post it on our web site in 1999. Now, Mark and Mayla Yoder have expanded and updated a report on this event, and added this wonderful photograph of Christian, the original of which is owned by his great-granddaughter, Anna Dora Yoder of Delaware. Anna Dora is a daughter of Milton and Oma Yoder. Oma is a daughter of Elias Yoder (a son of Christian who was also to be robbed in later life.)

Christian (YR2611a) was born Aug. 20, 1823 in Somerset County to Yost H. Yoder, son of Henry, son of Yost, son of Christian (YR2). He married Sarah Hochstetler and lived in Ellick Township near Summit Mills. The following report is extracted from The Meversdale Republican,

### THE McCLELLANDTOWN GANG

*For some years Fayette County was overrun by an organized gang of marauders known as the "McClellandtown Gang." Fayette county was not, however, their exclusive field of operation. There is little doubt that the robberies committed in the northern part of Somerset County in 1877 and 1888 were the work of this gang. Other Pennsylvania counties and the border counties of Maryland and West Virginia were frequently visited by these desperate villains, and their many misdeeds, if fully chronicled, would fill a good sized volume. All attempts on the part of the authorities of Fayette county to arrest the gang proved unsuccessful, although the newspapers were frequently filled with accounts of the outrages they had committed on old women and old men whom they tortured to the point of giving up their savings of a lifetime. The Fayette authorities were intimidated with*

McCLELLANDTOWN GANG- CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## LOIS JOTTER – MAKES COLORADO RIVER HISTORY



Most students of American History are aware that in 1869 a one-armed Civil War veteran named John Wesley Powell made the first known passage through the Grand Canyon. Sixty-nine years later, a Yoder (Jotter) girl and a fellow female botanist from University of Michigan, were to become the first women to replicate Powell's feat. Here is the story of that woman.

Lois Jotter was a great-granddaughter of Petter Jotter, a wagon maker who immigrated to Butler Co, OH by 1840 and was naturalized in 1848. German historian Karl Joder reported his birth date as having been 10/24/1819 in Munsterhof, Dreissen, Germany. In 1938, Lois Jotter and Dr. Elzada Clover, both botanists from the University of Michigan, were members of an expedition which traversed the river route followed by Powell. The expedition was organized by Norman D. Nevills (1908-1949), who was to become a pioneer of commercial river-running in the American Southwest.

When Lois died last year at the age of 99, she was the last surviving member of the 1938 Nevills Expedition. We thank her daughter and son for sharing information and photographs to create this article. In addition, for the story of the voyage, we credit two works, The Wen, the Botany, and the Mexican Hat by William Cook (1987) and High, Wide, and Handsome: The River Journals of Norman D. Nevills by Roy Webb (2005).

### THE NEVILLS EXPEDITION

The Nevills family operated a resort at Mexican Hat, Utah. The son Norman felt that money could be made taking people on river runs, and had taken folks on river trips as far as Lees Ferry to the east of the National Park. In 1937, he convinced Dr. Elzada Clover, a guest studying plants on her summer vacation, to join in a venture the next year, beginning at Green River, Wyoming, and ending at the newly formed Lake Mead and Hoover Dam. No woman had ever completed this trip, but a honeymoon couple, Glen and Bessie Hyde, had attempted it in 1928, both disappearing on the journey at the lower end of the Canyon. Elzada was to find another woman and a man to join in the effort and share in the costs (estimated as \$400 for each of six members). The trip was sold to the University as a

JOTTER MAKES HISTORY-CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by

Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider  
Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; John W. Yoder, Circulation  
Manager, Middlebury, IN; Rachel Kreider, Senior Contributing  
Editor, Goshen, IN; Kenneth W. Yoder, Mail Manager, Goshen, IN;  
Esther E. Yoder, Mail Manager Emeritus, Goshen, IN; Donald  
Kauffman, YNL Webmaster, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Other  
Contributors: Richard H. Yoder, Bechtelsville, PA; Dr. Don Yoder,  
Devon, PA; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC.; and Ann Balderrama,  
Reading, PA . And our other Goshen area volunteer team: Titus  
King, Cheryl Parsons, and Richard Yoder.

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Over the past 32 years, subscriptions have allowed us to support  
advertising of national reunions, to provide funding for many of the  
DNA tests, and to pay for new research into Swiss records. All of  
our staff members are volunteers.

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#### SEND YNL CORRESPONDENCE:

-FOR CIRCULATION ISSUES ONLY, such as new or renewed  
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Newsletter, P.O. Box 594, Goshen, IN 46527-0594.

- ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE - dealing with ancestral  
queries or contributions for future YNLs or archives (such as  
reunion notices, Letters to the Editor, copies of Bible records or  
other historical information) to: Chris Yoder, 551 S. Maple St.,  
Saugatuck, MI 49453 or email at [cyoder@tds.net](mailto:cyoder@tds.net) .

#### - YNL PRICE INFORMATION

-Annual YNL subscription (published Apr. and Oct.) for \$5.

-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are \$2 per issue. (or you can  
download them free 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder  
Newsletter web page: [www.yodernewsletter.org](http://www.yodernewsletter.org) ).

Visit: <http://www.yodernewsletter.org/subscribe.html> for the mail-in  
subscription form.

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YODER DATA ON DISK- Includes back issues of YNL text, census  
and county records, family group data and pictures and scanned  
images. The price for our "Yoder Data on Disk" is \$10 (postage  
included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Most of this info is also  
available free at the YNL Homepage and changes VERY slowly.)

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



David Yoder and Emily Yoder Reed post their greetings from  
Steffisburg, Switzerland on the YNL FACEBOOK page.

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## THANKS YNL VOLUNTEERS!



Esther Yoder came aboard as YNL Mail  
Manager in April of 1997. She and her  
husband Henry had been active in building  
the House of Yoder, at Penn Alps, and when  
they retired to the Greencroft community in  
Goshen, IN, she quickly was drafted for  
newsletter service. Esther has been an  
invaluable part of the team since that time.  
Now an octogenarian, she was ready to slow  
down a bit. We are so pleased that a new  
generation of volunteers has stepped forward  
with Kenneth W. Yoder taking over the  
primary work as Mail Manager and with  
Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, and Richard

Yoder joining the Goshen volunteer team. We'd like to thank each  
one of them for doing so as this has allowed Esther to step back into  
an "Emeritus" status.



Kenneth is a member of the "Hans of  
Great Swamp" Mennonite Yoder line  
(YB13781223). He attended the North  
Carolina National Reunion in 2012 with two  
brothers, and much to his surprise not only  
found the presentations very interesting, but  
became "hooked" on his Yoder heritage. A  
Goshen resident, he has stepped forward to  
take on the various tasks for Esther of mail  
pick-up and processing.

As we were looking at the "oldsters",  
Editor Chris Yoder (1983), Circulation  
Manager John W. Yoder (1992), and Webmaster Donald Kaufman  
(1997), we were surprised to learn that not only are all three 4<sup>th</sup>  
cousins of each other (each descended from Bishop Christian Yoder  
Jr (YR2337), but also that the Esther's late husband Henry was a  
descendant of him on his mother's side. Top this off with the fact  
that two of Rachel Kreider's great-Grandmother's were daughters  
of Bishop Yoder, and you can see that poor Kenneth is a bit out-  
numbered by one family of Amish Yoders! A total of five of the  
children of Bishop Christian Jr. involved (David, Magdalena,  
Catherine, Elizabeth, and Reuben) !

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## RACHEL CELEBRATES HER 105<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



(Photo with permission of J.  
Tyler Klassen / The Elkhart  
Truth)

YNL Co-founder and  
Senior Contributing Editor,  
Rachel Kreider of Goshen, IN  
celebrated her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday  
on May 28, 2014 . Along with Dr. Hugh Gingerich, Rachel co-  
authored of the landmark work "Amish and Amish Mennonite  
Genealogies" first published in 1986. For the past 32 years, she has  
been an advisor and friend, often enlisted in "envelop stuffing" the  
Yoder Newsletters as they were prepared for mailing.

Her "eagle eye" has long been engaged in proofing drafts of  
each issue (including the one you now read). This edition was only  
about 80 % complete when she did her review, so any errors you  
may see in typing, grammar, punctuation or syntax are the fault of  
the Editor.

A wonderful birthday interview was produced by The Elkhart,  
Truth, and it may be found on the internet by "Googling" "Rachel  
Kreider" and "105".



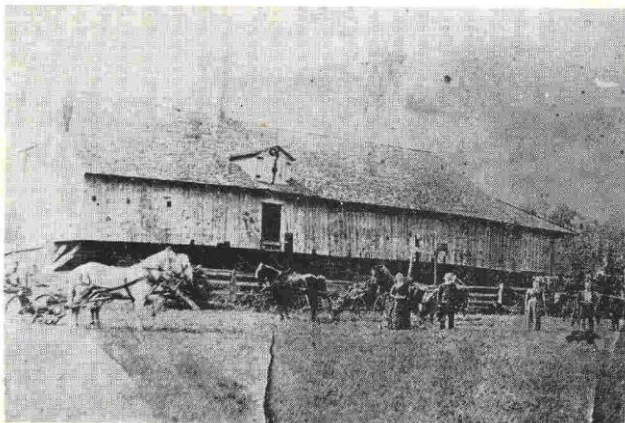
## McCLELLANDTOWN GANG- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

threatenings from the gang, and they feared the vengeance of the desperadoes, so that finally all hopes of putting down the gang were abandoned.

The capture of this notorious gang on Sunday, April 28, 1889, by an armed body of brave men led by ex-Sheriff Kyle, of Meyersdale, was one of the most brilliant feats on record - an act that deserves to be embalmed forever in local history.

On the evening of April 13, 1889, the house of Christian Yoder, a wealthy old resident of Elk Lick township, was entered by four masked men, who bound and gagged the hired man, Samuel Stevanus, and all the members of the household except Mrs. Yoder, who was in feeble health. The leader of the gang told Mr. Yoder that they had come for his money; and that they would take his life if they failed to get it. Mr. Yoder directed them to a bureau drawer in an adjoining room, where he said, they would find all the money there was in the house. Here they found \$400, which they counted and told Mr. Yoder they wanted all the money he had. He assured them that that was all the money he had at home, but they did not believe him, and started to make a thorough search of the house. In a trunk was found fifty dollars belonging to Mrs. Yoder and eighty-six dollars belonging to Miss Ellen Baker, the hired girl.

In spite of Mr. Yoder's repeated assurances that they had got all his money the cowardly scoundrels did not believe him and dragged the feeble old man out of the house, across the yard into the barn, where they started a fire on the threshing floor and told Mr. Yoder they would burn down his barn if he still refused to tell them where the rest of his money was concealed. Mr. Yoder again protested that he had no more money, when one of the gang produced a rope and fastened it around the neck of the defenseless old man, remarking as he drew up the noose, "The old man has lived long enough anyhow - hang him up, boys." The other end of the rope was thrown across an over-head beam and, pulled by the strong arms of two of the gang, the old man's form was dangling in the air, six feet from the floor. When in a few minutes his breathing became labored they lowered their half dead victim to the floor and again demanded that he tell them where his money was hidden, but he again denied that he had any more money about his home. At the command of the leader of the gang, Mr. Yoder was a second time drawn up, and, not content with the atrocities they had inflicted on their aged victim, these devils of torture, who had all the while kept a close watch over the fire they had kindled with diabolical design, collected the burning hay and straw and placed it under the feet of the old man, now almost lifeless. He was held suspended over the fire in the midst of a suffocating smoke, while the cruel flames blistered his hands and scorched his garments. The old man was again lowered and the flames were extinguished, but they found the victim of their barbarous cruelties to be unconscious and unable to longer plead for his life and protest that he had no more money to give them.



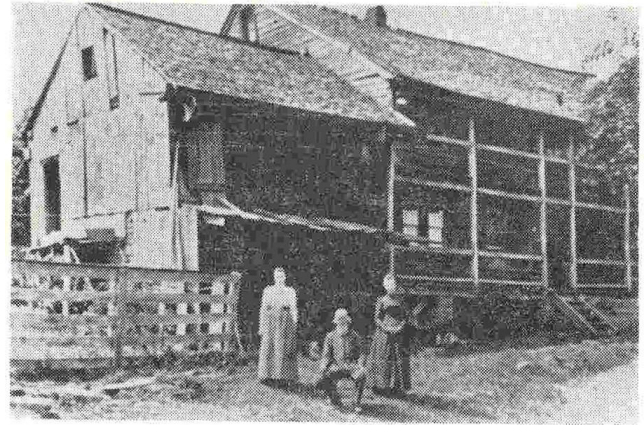
The old barn in which Mr. Yoder was tortured by hanging and by burning him.

When Mr. Yoder regained consciousness he was lying on the kitchen floor. Standing over him were two of the gang - one with a

revolver pressed against his forehead, and the other brandishing a long dirk-knife over him as if in the act of cutting the old man's throat. "Tell us where your money is or we will kill you for sure this time," said the man with the dirk-knife. Mr. Yoder could only repeat his oft reiterated protests that he had no more money to give them.

While the man with the revolver and the man with the dirk-knife were inflicting the last round of fiendish torture upon the old man the other two members of the gang ransacked the house from cellar to garret in search for anything of value they might be able to find. They found small quantities of whiskey and wine, some hams, some sugar and some articles of clothing which they appropriated. "Bring up the grub, boys," shouted the ringleader. Bread, pies, meat and all the delicacies to be found in the cellar and kitchen were spread upon the family table and what they could not eat they destroyed; then, binding the old man, hand-and-foot, they prepared to leave. The ringleader, who afterward proved to be Charles Lewis of McClellandtown fame, gave Mr. Stevanus a chew of tobacco and wound his watch for him. From the house they went to Mr. Yoder's barn and took a span of fine gray horses which Mr. Yoder prized very highly and rode away at break-neck speed.

There is no telling how long the members of the Yoder household would have been left in their pitiable plight had it not been for the anxiety of a faithful wife. Mr. Stevanus usually took his supper at Yoder's house, but nearly always reached his home at 9 o'clock. Mrs. Stevanus waited patiently that evening for her husband's return, but when the clock struck eleven she sent her two sons to Yoder's house to inquire for their father. They found the members of the Yoder household in the same condition as they were left by the robbers.



The house and home of Christian Yoder when the McClellandtown Gang tortured and robbed him. A new modern house now replaces it, built by his son, Eli C. Yoder.

The work of releasing the helpless victims was speedily done. Word was sent to Summit Mills, a village within a mile of the Yoder residence, and to the neighbors living on surrounding farms. A large posse of armed men on horseback started from Summit Mills before day-break in pursuit of the gang; but the robbers, who left at least four hours before on the backs of Mr. Yoder's well fed horses, had too long a start. Near Pinkerton, on the western slope of Negro Mountain, the jaded animals were recovered, but not the thieves.

Subsequent newspaper reports detail the formation of a posse and the capture of the perpetrators:

The neighborhood surrounding the village of Summit Mills is one of the wealthiest farming communities in Somerset county. The people of the neighborhood are mostly members of the German Baptist or Brethren church, with a considerable sprinkling of the yet more conservative Amish persuasion. Their religious teachings are opposed to the taking up of arms, even in defense of life itself. But the brutal torture and robbery of old Mr. Yoder produced a sensation throughout the southern section of the county that was well calculated to make men forget their religious scruples against the maintenance of law and



order at any cost. Never since the dusky savage had taken his last farewell from the fertile valley of the Elk Lick had such a bold atrocity been committed in that quiet, law-abiding community.

An organization was formed in which Mr. U. M. Miller' and Mr. Lewis A. Kretchman were the leading spirits. It was a secret organization; but the wealthy farmers of the neighborhood contributed liberally into its treasury. From the moment that organization began its existence the fate of the McClellandtown organization in Fayette county was determined. The work of organizing a posse of men to invade the stronghold of the desperadoes in Fayette county was given into the hands of ex-sheriff Kyle of Meyersdale....

A total of ten men and women were captured and returned to the Somerset jail where they were held for trial:

The prisoners now numbered ten and it became necessary for Captain Kyle to press several teams into service to convey them to Confluence. The rain had been pouring down all day and the country roads were in an almost impassable condition. It was five o'clock when the party left Markleysburg and it was long after night when they reached Confluence, where they took the B&O express for Meyersdale, arriving there at 2:24 Monday morning.

A hearing was given the prisoners at Meyersdale. Charles Lewis and Jackson Sullivan waived a hearing. Justice W. B. Cook committed the entire band to the county jail, where they were taken the following day.

The news of the capture had spread over the county in an almost incredibly short time, and large crowds of people gathered at every station along the railroad from Meyersdale to Somerset. The arrival of the prisoners at the County Seat and their march to the county jail was one of the most exciting scenes ever witnessed in Somerset. As the last prisoner entered the jail corridor a mighty cheer went up from the immense crowd on the outside.



Old Somerset County Courthouse

The entire McClellandtown party was given a hearing before Judge Baer on May 10, 1889. After the hearing Judge Baer said: "There are such circumstances surrounding this case that we will remand all the men and discharge all the women. Their trial came up at the regular May term of court. Although Messrs. Holbert and Uhl made a very able defense for the prisoners, Charles J. Lewis, Decatur Tasker, Jackson Sullivan and Marshall Sullivan were convicted on May 30th. Mr. Holbert made a motion for a new trial, but the Court overruled the motion and sentenced the prisoners to ten years separate and solitary confinement in the Western Penitentiary.

The McClellandtown Gang



Charles J. Lewis



Marshall Sullivan



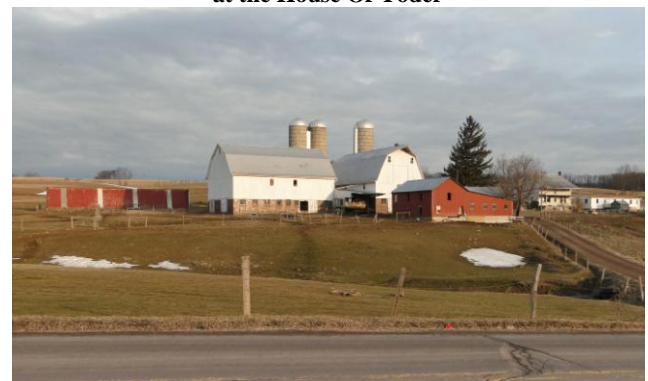
Decatur Tasker



Jackson P. Sullivan



The Christian Yoder blanket chest is on display at the House Of Yoder



Christian Yoder Farm Today- Now owned by Isaac Fisher, Mt. Davis Road, Meyersdale, PA (Photo by Mark Yoder)

The full Christian Yoder booklet goes on to present multiple newspaper accounts and details, including a report of the robbery of Christian's son Eli, 33 years later on the same farm (He died of fright following his attack). The booklet can be ordered by check for \$12 (P&H included) to Mark and Mayla Yoder, 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA 15530. It can also be purchased at The House of Yoder. The House of Yoder is open to the public during the summer months (May through October), or by appointment. Located 1/4 mile east of Grantsville, MD on alternate Route 40, the House is adjacent to the Penn Alps Restaurant and the Spruce Forest Artisan Village (<http://www.houseofyoder.org/>).

## JOTTER MAKES HISTORY-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

scientific one, cataloging flora along the river, and Elzada was able to receive a research grant from the Board of Regents.

Lois Jotter, then twenty-four, was a graduate assistant in the botany department. She had been born in Weaverville, CA, where her father Ernest Jotter worked in the U. S. Forestry Service. They later moved to Madison, WI, and by the time she was ten her father was assigned to the Forestry Department at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She was to attend the university and to receive her Masters Degree in botany and biology in 1936. In the summer of 1937, she had taken part in an eight-week National Park Service training program for naturalists which included extensive outdoor experiences, including rowing. As a former roommate and friend of Elzada, she was a natural candidate for the trip.

Nevills felt much of the initial cost would be paid back by radio contracts and publicity resulting from the effort. He and Don Harris, a US Geological Survey employee, proceeded to construct three river boats, specially made of a new marine plywood. These were named Botany (in honor of the scientific venture at the heart of the trip), the Mexican Hat (honoring Nevills' home town), and the WEN (in honor of Nevills' father's initials William E. Nevills). Each was to carry two of the adventurers and a load of needed supplies and equipment. Rounding out the crew were Eugene Atkinson, a U of M graduate student in zoology, and Bill Gibson, a photographer and graphic artist from San Francisco.

Lois very much wanted to go. There was much discussion and investigation by her parents. Over Easter, her father took her to Geological Survey headquarters in Washington, DC, where they talked with Col. Claude Birdseye, who had led a 1923 Canyon trip featured in National Geographic magazine. Col. Birdseye told them about his earlier trip and gave her a set of river maps which were later to be relied upon during the journey. Her parents finally gave her permission, and her father "loaned" her the money for her share.

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS

A caravan of three vehicles left Mexican Hat on June 19, each pulling one of the water crafts. They arrived that night at Green River, WY, with a number of friends and family present to cheer them on, and Press representatives to document them. An Associate Press representative asked what they thought of a statement by river veteran "Buzz" Holmstrom, that "the river is no place for a woman"? Holmstrom had been the first person to float all the way from Green River, Wyoming to Boulder Dam solo in 1937. Lois replied "Just because the only other woman who ever attempted this trip drowned is no reason women have anything more to fear than men."



Day 1 – Jun 20 - The next morning they shoved off at 9am from Mile 120, counting down from there to 0 at the juncture with the

Colorado. Lois rode in the Mexican Hat with Don Harris, swapping on for turns at the oars. She lost her hat in the wind, but it was recovered. In late afternoon they stopped at Mile 84, Labyrinth Canyon. Col. Birdseye's maps were to be very useful.

Day 2 – Jun 21 – Arising at 5am, Lois fixed the bed rolls and then collected plants. They shoved off at 7:35 with hands blistered from the previous day efforts. At Mile 75 they stopped to paint their expedition name on a rock facing joining that of the Hydes and others who had preceded them. At mile 70, Lois and two others climbed up a 500 foot hill and down the other side to take photos and meet the boats since the river looped back seven miles downstream. They floated on from there to Hell Roaring Canyon, Mile 56, for the night's camp.

Day 3 – Jun 22 – The women made hotcakes and they all shoved off at 7:30am. Lois and Elzada did most of the morning rowing as the men worked on the boats preparing them for the first rapids to be faced the next day. They camped below Mile 23 at Stillwater Canyon, and Nevills lectured on the challenges to be faced and techniques necessary in the rapids.

Day 4 – Jun 23 – After a calm but anxious trip down the remnant of the Green River, they met the confluence with the Colorado. River mile numbers restart there at 216 counting down to 0 at Lees Ferry. Rapids begin early and in a 13 mile stretch of river there are 27 rapids to deal with. They pulled in to scout the initial rapids ahead, when suddenly tragedy struck. The Mexican Hat had broken loose and was floating down through the rapids unmanned! Don and Lois quickly got aboard the WEN and took off in pursuit through the rapids. With Don rowing and Lois frantically bailing, they ran seven rapids before coming upon the Mexican Hat in an eddy. Lois spent the night camped by herself, while Don worked his way back to join the other members of the party.

Day 5 – Jun 24 – The next morning, all were reunited, and after breakfast spent the rest of the day carefully working their way through rapids. They camped at Mile 205, and Lois collected and preserved a variety of native plants until 10pm. Don called Lois "his river pal" and told her how impressed he was that she did not lose her nerve on the wild ride they'd taken the day before.

Day 6 to 9 – Jun 25 to Jun 28 – Mile Long Rapids and Big Drop Rapids. Working their way through this section was the most difficult of the trip and even required a portage of the boats. Over these 4 days, they made only 4 miles river distance, camping near Mile 201 on the Jun 28.



Lunch break for  
(left to right)  
Gene Atkinson,  
Elzada Clover,  
Lois Jotter

Day 10 – Jun 29 - At Gypsum Canyon Rapids, the Botany flipped, tossing Bill and Gene in to the water. The crew of the WEN quickly pulled them out, and they latched on to a rope from the Botany. The WEN ran the next eight rapids towing a flipped boat, before they were able to pull into an eddy 5 miles further along below



Clearwater Canyon. The other boat caught up with them there and they righted the Botany.

Day 11 – Jun 30 – A dispirited group spent the day drying out equipment.

Day 12 – Jul 1 – After working through more rapids and filming the process, they camped above Dark Canyon. Lois had high points in hearts and was elected to do dishes the next morning.

Day 13 – Jul 2 – Twice they painted the expedition name on walls beside those of others who preceded them. “Lined” the boats through several rapids (easing them through with a rope attached to the shore). They camped at a spot below Dirty Devil River where Powell once camped.

Day 14 – Jul 3 – Smooth sailing. In the morning they saw a prospector at riverside, who directed them to visit the Chaffin Ranch. The party finagled a dinner invitation and enjoyed a home-cooked meal before returning to the river. They had entered Glen Canyon and had 149 miles of smooth water before they would reach Lees Ferry. They made 28 miles that day before pulling ashore at 6pm.

Day 15 – Jul 4 – Shoved off at 5:40 with the river running along at about 6 mph. At mid morning they met some Japanese miners the Chaffins had told them about. Later in the day they stopped at Lake Canyon, where Lois and two others hiked two miles up to inspect an Indian ruin. They camped at Mile 100, The Rincon.

Day 16 – Jul 5 – In the world at large, since the party had been expected by this time to have reached Lees Ferry, newspapers had started to raise the alarm. They camped below Mile 68.

Day 17 – Jul 6 – The group hiked 6 miles up canyons to visit Rainbow Bridge and sign their names in a visitors book. On the outside there was talk of sending out search planes.

Day 18 – Jul 7 – A Coast Guard plane spots them and drops notes, telling them to move in certain ways to communicate. Lois later wrote her mother that they “had piles of fun” “jumping up and down, spread eagling and such” until the plane dipped wings and departed. They camped that night at Mile 15 on a sand bar.



Day 19 – Jul 8- Arrival at Lees Ferry! Reporters and Pathe cameraman were there and the news flashes across the nation!

#### A MID POINT REST

Day 20 to 24<sup>th</sup> – Jul 9 to 13 – The party stops to rest and reorient. Two men, Harris and Atkinson, left the expedition as they were due at jobs. They were replaced there by local adventurers Lorin Bell and Del Reed. Lois wrote an account of the first leg of the trip which was released under her byline by Associated Press. During the pause, Elzada and Norm drove over to the South Rim and meet with the Park Superintendant and Emery Kolb (who with his brother successfully ran the rivers and filmed it in 1911).

Day 25 – Jul 14 – Off once more. River numbering begins at 0 and goes over 330 miles to Hoover Dam. A Pathe camera man accompanied at the start. They navigated Soap Creek Rapid.

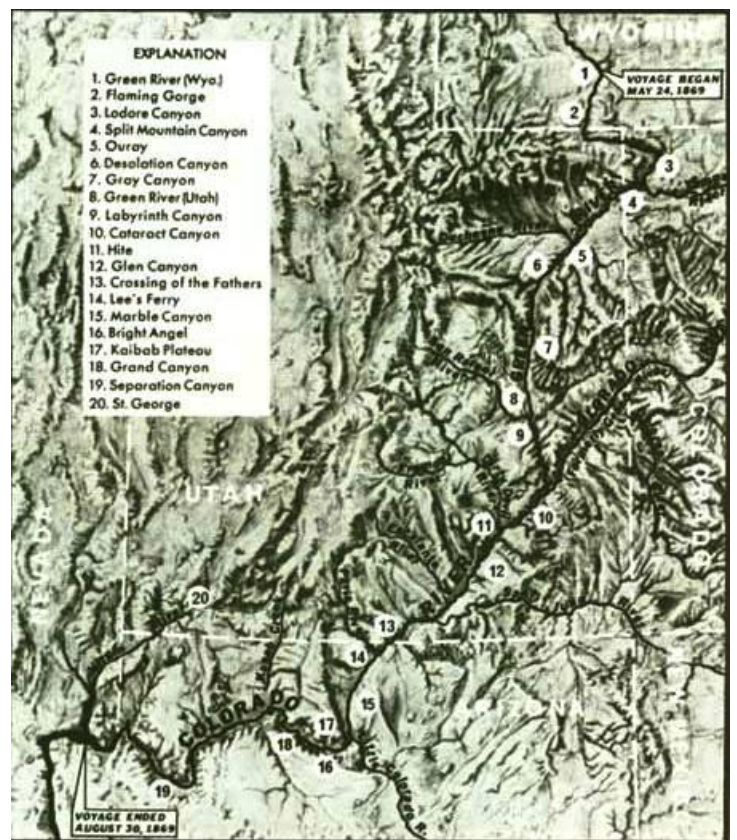
Day 26 – Jul 15 - Lois collected more specimens. They camped above Mile 27 Rapids.

Day 27 – Jul 16 – Lois “collects furiously” at “Vasey’s Paradise”, above Mile 32. They ran President Harding Rapids and camped at Mile 43.

Day 28 – Jul 17 – They passed under Desert View watchtower at the east end of the National Park and camped at the foot of Tanner Trail.

Day 29 – Jul 18 – They conquered more rapids as they proceeded 19 miles to Bright Angel Campground, below Mile 87 arriving at around 5pm. Three newsmen were waiting to welcome them on the Kaibab suspension bridge as they floated in.

Day 30 to 32 – Jul 19 to 21 – Walked up 9 ½ miles on Bright Angel Trail to Grand Canyon Village. They were met with ice water and a dinner invitation at the Kolb Studio. Mrs. Kolb offered the ladies hot baths. The next day they posted cards and letters The Kolb daughter took them out to Hermit’s Rest for lunch at the west end of the park. At 3:15 they had a 15 minute nationwide radio broadcast from the El Tovar Hotel. The evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> found them back at the river, sleeping at Phantom Ranch.



MAP OF POWELL EXPEDITION – FROM USGS

Day 33 – Jul 22 – Back onto the river! Emery Kolb had been invited to join them for the trip down to that dam and did so. Big rapids to run and a tired party camped at the mouth of Hermit’s Creek.

Day 34 – Jul 23 - More rapids. A disappointed Lois discovered that she’d lost her chance to row through a rapids because “Norm wanted to show Emery how cautious he was as a leader”. Camped below Mile 107.

Day 35 – Jul 24 – Good progress, rideable rapids. Lots of barrel cactus. Lois prepared dinner while Elzada checked out the flora at a camp below Fossil Rapids, Mile 125.5.

Day 36 – Jul 25 – Several more rapids. Camped at Mile 140 across from Kanab Creek, where Powell ended his second expedition. Lois fell in the water and got in a mud fight.

Day 37 – Jul 26 – Upset Rapids in the morning. They stopped at Havasu Creek and walked up to the first waterfall and beautiful turquoise pool. They camped around 164 Mile Canyon.

Day 38 – Jul 27 – Lava Falls Rapids, with a 37 foot drop, the largest on the river. They emptied the boats and then lined them, portaging around the gear.

Day 39 – Jul 28 – A peaceful day. They camped at Mile 205.

Day 40 – Jul 29 – It had been the coldest night of the trip. A small plane circled above after day break. After a big breakfast it was time for the “River Rat” initiation. Emery, as senior, first initiated Norm, who then did the honors for the others. Each initiate on hands and knees recited “I know I’m weak, I know I’m blind, I know that I extend behind” at which point they received a resounding swat with a life preserver “to seal the vows”. Onward they sailed to an evening camp at Mile 225.

Day 41 – Jul 30 – Diamond Creek Rapids with a 25-ft drop extending over half a mile. Then 232 Mile Rapids, where it is believed the Hydies may have met their fate. Seven more rapids in the next 8 miles. Below Mile 239 they came to Separation Point, where two men left the first Powell Expedition, never to be seen again. They camped for the night around Mile 243, about 80 miles above Hoover Dam.

Day 42 – Jul 31 – A slow current required lots of rowing, blistering their hands. They camped just below Mile 260.

Day 43 – Aug 1 – A plane circled the camp around 6am. Four hours of rowing only took them six miles. As they are stopped for lunch, they heard the sound of a boat motor. A 20-ft power boat had come to tow them onward! Hurrah! Food and reporters were on board. They arrived at their destination at Boulder City at 8:30 pm. The journey was over. A news report relayed “ ‘I’m going to take a bath’ was Miss Jotter’s comment as the boats docked at the Boulder City pier after a day of 139-degree heat.”

The story of their 43-day, 666-mile trip generated a lot of publicity at the time and has become a part of our western history. The members who completed this full journey brought to 64 the number who had done so (her “official” place is number 61). . Two years later, in 1940, Nevills took Barry Goldwater, a young man from the family which owned Arizona's largest chain of grocery stores, as a paying customer down the Grand Canyon. Goldwater’s subsequent slide shows and talks around the state about the trip set the stage for his career in politics.

Lois returned to Michigan and in 1942 married Victor Cutter, Jr. She earned her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Michigan in 1943. After receiving her Doctorate, she turned her attention to raising a family, giving birth to Ann in 1943 and Victor III in 1950. After the death of her husband in 1962, Lois returned to her academic career, working as a professor of botany at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro from 1963 until her retirement in 1984.

In 1994, she was invited to participate as a botanist in a Legends/Old Timer’s Trip”- one which included many pre-Glen Canyon Dam river runners. This was the first time she had been back to the Grand Canyon since the 1938 expedition fifty-six years before. She was arguably the most famous of the group, but at 80, only the second oldest. An interview with her at that time appeared in the *Boatman’s Quarterly Review: Journal of the Grand Canyon River Guides*, Vol. 10, No.4 and can be seen on the internet at:

<http://www.gcrg.org/bqr/10-4/10-4bqr.htm>

In her interview she tells of a memorable meeting on July 9, 1938 with "Buzz" Holmstrom, who had made the comment about the canyon being “no place for a woman”. He came to welcome the group as they paused after arrival at Lees Ferry. He was at that time working at Boulder Dam, and was later aboard the boat which met them and towed them the rest of the way to the dam on Aug. 9. Lois refers to this in her interview and says “*At the end of the trip, when he met us— with many other people at Boulder, he said, he wrote on my sun helmet, “To the girl who proved me badly, wrong.”. Referring*

*to the fact, that [he'd said] the canyon was no place for a woman. I don't know what he'd think now (after the 1994 trip), about me stumbling over the rocks, and falling down at Deer Creek and whatnot. But I wasn't..., well, maybe it's a question of not bright enough, being bright enough to be really afraid. I certainly wasn't terrorized anytime on the trip. After I saw the one (boat) go through the rapids all by itself... I may have even thought “who needs a boatman?”.*



Lois’s hat- with inscriptions by Holmstrom and others  
Photo thanks to Ann Cutter

About the 1994 trip Lois said

*“I didn't tell my bridge club people about this trip. I have no idea what, when I get home, I will tell those people... I said, “Okay, I won't be here, two weeks from today.” This is a group, that, you know, if you're a bridge player, you know how sinful it is to louse up, tables of bridge. And we play two tables, so there've got to be eight people. And so, “Oh, ok, you're going on another trip?” Because I'd just been out to California. And I said, “Yeah, I'm going to Arizona.” And they said, “Where in Arizona?”. And I wasn't going to say Grand Canyon.” So, I said, “Flagstaff.” And they looked at me straight, “Well, what are you going to do?”. “I'm going to go on a camping trip, with some friends of mine.” And only one of those people, probably the sharpest one of them said, “Are you going to your old haunts out there?” And I said, “Oh, no not really.” Because it isn't my old haunts. [laughs] I was there one summer, and that was it. And besides, I'm afraid this is where the business about the mischievousness comes in. I thought well, I could fall and break a leg, I could have a heart attack and none of this would take place. And then I would really feel pretty foolish. And besides it was kind of a fun. [laughs]*

*So, they're probably playing bridge right now and they don't even know you're down here.*

*And when I go home, eventually, they'll ask me why my lip is all scraped up? And I'll say, “Oh I did that on my vacation.” And I'll be honest about it.*

In a tribute “Farewell” written upon her death by the doctor who accompanied the 1994 trip, Tom Myers wrote: “*Lois’s cherry disposition, ready wit, and keen intelligence made her my favorite Old Timer.*”

The Lois Jotter Cutter Collection is maintained at the Cline Library, Special Collections and Archives Department, Northern Arizona University. It consists primarily of correspondence related to this expedition, but also includes her personal journal from the 1938 trip, biographical information, and publications relating to the expedition.

Lois’s adventurousness on untraveled American waterways emulated the behavior of another Yoder some 156 years before. Capt. Jacob Yoder (OH113) (1758-1832) a veteran of the Revolutionary War, emigrated West in 1780 and in May, 1782, beginning at Ft. Redstone, on the Monongahela River, took the first flatboat down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, with a cargo of produce. (see YNL 2 1nd 12).

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## YODER PASSINGS

-James F. Yoder, died Nov 3, 2013 age 96, Stockton, CA son of Harley (YR2385841) and May Yoder, Holsopple, PA.

-Jesse S. Yoder, Beleville, PA died Feb. 27, 2014 son of Levi S. (YR2514384) and Lydia Peachey Yoder.

-M. Marie Yoder, 88, of Grantsville, MD, died November 21, 2013, Marie's husband, Paul, has been a frequent docent for House of Yoder tours, and was formerly on the Board of Directors.

-Billy Harold Yoder, died Feb. 10, 2014, age 86, son of Robert Clayton Yoder (Con37831) and Annie Mae Elmore.

-Arnold A. Yoder "Arnie", 94, of Kalona, IA died Sunday, March 2, 2014 son of Artemus A. (YR239b57) and Ella Mae (Eash) Yoder.

-John Francis Yoder, 76, of Longmont, CO died January 10, 2014, born was born in Farmington, New Mexico to Ralph and Aly (Hardgrave) Yoder. (s/o Roy Farmer Yoder, s/o George W Yoder and Mary Jane Sheller, s/o Aaron Yoder b. 1817, s/o OH135- see chart on pg 6, YNL56)

-Hobert D. Yoder, 81 of Iowa City died Sunday, April 27, 2014, son of Ray A. (YR26175211) and Kathryn P. (Miller) Yoder. (see ref to him in YNL7)

-Floyd Melvin Yoder, 93 of Fairview, Michigan, died March 23, 2014. He was the son of Daniel B. (YR2354659) and Mable (Bleile) Yoder.

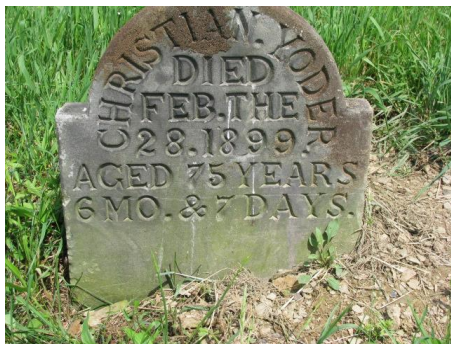
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## "Find-A-Grave" - Document Your Own Yoder Line on the Internet

The "Find-A-Grave" web site allows you: to post the name and dates of your ancestor in the cemetery where he or she rests; to add his or her photo (s); to add a photo of the gravestone; and to post a biographical summary or obituary.

Visit the site at: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com). As of Aug. 23, 2014 the counts for interments were: 15,332 records (an increase of +978 from Feb. 2014) -Yoder; 398 (+18) - Yother; 244 (+15) - Yothers; 220 (+40) - Yotter; 54 (+3) - Yoter; 181 (+20) - Yoders; 50 (+1) - Ioder; 80 (-1) - Joder; 38 (+2) - Jotter family members; 1 (+0) - Joders. You can either add your ancestor to a cemetery, or post data on an existing record. For assistance write: Chris Yoder at: [cyoder@tds.net](mailto:cyoder@tds.net).

A sample gravestone is shown here.



Christian Yoder  
Birth: Aug. 21, 1823  
Death: Feb. 28, 1899  
(see cover article)

Old Joel Hershberger Farm Cemetery, Elk Lick Township, Somerset County, PA  
Photo by Mary Lou Cook

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## FACEBOOK PASSES 1,000 "LIKES"



During the 2012 National Yoder Reunion in NC, we broke the 500 mark in number of people "liking" the YNL FACEBOOK Page. On Aug 28, 2014 we just broke 1,000!

Congrats to Bill Yoder of Arlington, VA, our 1000<sup>th</sup> "friend".

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## CONG. SAMUEL YODER HONORED AT BERWYN HEIGHTS DAY



### GREAT GRANDSON ROBERT SHEA TAKES PART

On May 3, the Berwyn Heights Historical Committee dedicated a historic marker on the streetcar line that Congressman Samuel Yoder built (See YNL 8). Great grandson Robert Shea was able to attend the ceremony, participate in Berwyn Heights Day, and talk with the audience about his family.

The Washington Spa Spring & Gretta Railroad (WSSGRR) was a streetcar that served Berwyn Heights, 1912 - 1921. Incorporated in Maryland in 1905, WSSGRR started running from 15th and H Street, NE to Bladensburg in 1910. An extension to Riverdale and Berwyn Heights opened in 1912, using novel Edison-Beach storage battery cars.

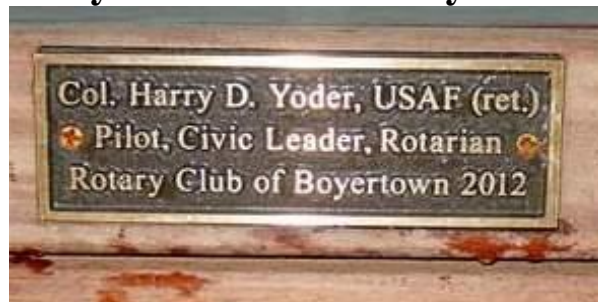
Congressman Samuel S. Yoder invested in and lost a fortune building the streetcar line, which was intended to spur development in Berwyn Heights, where Yoder had started buying land in late 1905. The battery-powered cars had trouble climbing "The Heights" to the terminus at 58th Avenue and Berwyn Road.

For information about the line see:

<http://berwynheightshistory.wordpress.com/washington-spa-spring-gretta-railroad/>

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## Rotary Honors Col. Harry D Yoder



The late World War II and Berlin airlift veteran Col. Harry D. Yoder, USAF, was honored by his Rotary Club of Boyertown, PA when they presented a public bench to the local Borough for public use. Mary-Lou Haddad, a good friend of Harry's and a fellow Rotarian, wrote: *Harry was a longtime member of our Rotary Club including being the "sponsor" for a number of people who became Rotarians because of him (including me!). He was President of our club in the mid-90's and went on to become the District Gov. of 7430 in 1995-1996. Harry was a modest, yet, friendly man who was very active in the community! But I think one of his proudest activities was his involvement in the Berlin Airlift!*

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