YODER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 83 P.O. BOX 594, GOSHEN, IN 46527 APRIL 2024

A 1947 Yoder Reunion in Kansas

Attendees listen to Speakers on the D J Yoder North Porch

On June 7, 1947, not far from the town of Yoder, Kansas, around 800 Yoder family members gathered at the home of David J. ("D.J.") Yoder to celebrate a family reunion. Church of the Brethren, Amish and Mennonite groups were represented. D. J. (YR23374c3) was a dairy farmer whose father, Jeremiah D Yoder, had been born in 1852 in Somerset County, PA to David C. Yoder, eldest son of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr. Jeremiah came with his father to Elkhart Co. IN in 1869. He was married there in 1875 to Elizabeth Christner. David J. was born in Elkhart Co. in 1880, and the family remained there until taking a train from Middlebury to Hutchinson on May 1, 1882 with 10 other families. All settled around Yoder in Reno Co. Kan.

The Mennonite Weekly Review reported in its issue of June 14: ***Yoder, Kansas. The Yoder population of this south-central Kansas community increased considerably on Saturday, June 7, as members of the Yoder kinship from many states gathered at the D. J. Yoder farm near here for their first reunion in 17 years. Greeted by clear skies and a warm Kansas sun, an estimated 800 persons were present for the event. The majority were from the immediate vicinity of Yoder, but many other states were represented, including Ohio, Oklahoma, Indiana, California, Texas, Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, and the District of Columbia. The furtherest point represented was Lima, Peru, the home of Rev. and Mrs. Howard W. Yoder and daughter, Barbara.***

D. J. had been interested in his family history for some time. Thanks to his grandson Doug who now owns the family farm, we were able to review and copy many of D J's records and we can see that he had an active correspondence with various Yoders around the county as early as 1920. Dr. Ivan S Schrock, now a 95 year old retired veterinarian, was a 20 year old at the time, and was "in and out" of the different activities, not paying much attention to details, but he does remember that D J "had worked for several years to organize it, and he had quite a turn out".

In the YNL 78 article about the longstanding Pennsylvania Yoder Reunions we see that David traveled from his home to be one of the featured speakers at the 1941 reunion held at Kishacoquillas Park, before an assembly of 450 attendees. There he would have met re-elected group president Joseph Warren (JW) Yoder (YR267315) (author of Rosanna of the Amish) and seen of copies of his 1938 "Yoder Songbook". An article about the 1946 PA reunion says the person coming the furthest to that event was "J E Yoder and family of Haven, KS"- who would have been D.J.'s brother Jacob. D.J.'s correspondence shows that he also had intended to go, and JW promised him time on the program. But we don't know if in fact he was there with his brother or not. We do see that D.J. invited JW to come speak at his 1947 Kansas Reunion, but JW declined due to other commitments. D.J. did order and received 200 copies of the song book for use at his 1947 reunion.

Unlike the Pennsylvania reunions, which attracted members from several different Yoder immigrant lines, David assembled his audience mainly from the family of his grandfather David C. Yoder and his siblings. Local papers identified him as being the "President of the Yoder Reunion Association". Invitations were sent out to family members from coast to coast and the turnout attested to the success of this effort.

D J Yoder Front Porch - April 2023

A 1961 article in the Hutchinson News Record, which was one of an 11 part series on Yoder History by Melva S. DeFriece, reported on the preparations which had been made ***"On June 7, 1947 the last reunion of the Yoders and their relatives to meet at the home of one of the clan was held on a beautiful day in the yard under the trees of the home of David J. Yoder. It was a very carefully planned reunion and so well planned that the women had cleaned the east end of the barn and Mr. Yoder had built a stair with a sturdy rail to go up into the spring-time-near-empty-hay loft, in case of rain. But the day was beautiful, clear and every-thing went smoothly.***

"In the back of the house the women tended the table and spread a bountiful dinner from their carefully prepared baskets, to more than fill the 800 guests to crowd around the tables that day, after the adjournment at the noon hour."

A Reunion Report assembled and printed for distribution after the event went into some detail for the benefit of family members who were not able to attend. The booklet traced the generations starting with the 1742 Amish immigrant "Schweitzer (Swiss) Christian" Yoder (YR23), his son and grandson Bishops Christian Yoder Sr and Jr of the Glades in Somerset County, PA, and then gave detailed descendant counts for each of the 12 children of David C Yoder. (for the full report, including a listing of all attendees who signed the attendance registers see: http://www.yodernewsletter.org/famas/1947Reunion.PDF).

MORNING PROGRAM

- No. 5 in the Yoder Song Book was sung; "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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NEXT ISSUE- THE FRANCIS AND ELIZABETH
THE SHIP WHICH BROUGHT THE 1ST AMISH YODERS

The Yoder Newsletter- Founded 1983 by Ben F Yoder (1913-1992), Chris Yoder & Rachel Kreider (1909-2015)

Chris Yoder, Editor, Saugatuck, MI; Kenneth W. Yoder, Circulation and Mail Manager, Goshen, IN; Paul Yoder, Asst Cir/Mail Mgr. Other Contributors: Emily Coffman Richardson, Denton, Texas; Neal D. Wilfong, Cleveland, NC; and Ann Balderrama, Reading, PA. And our other Goshen area volunteer team members: Titus King, Cheryl Parsons, and our Webmaster team of: Leon Yoder and Chad Yoder of Black Anvil Creative, Shipshewana, IN.

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Over the past 41 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 subscriptions, changes of address, orders for back issues to: Yoder 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

YNL PRICE INFORMATION

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

-BACK ISSUES of the YNL are $3 per issue. (or you can download them free - 1 to 2 years after publication from the Yoder newsletter web site: www.yodernewsletter.org

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YODER DATA (now on a 16GB USB stick) - Slowly keeping up with technology! Includes back issues of YNL text, census and county records, family group data and pictures and scanned images. "Yoder Data on USB" only $15 (postage included). Send to YNL address in Goshen. (Much of this info is also available free at the YNL Homepage and changes hardly at all.)

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YNL Consolidated Volumes

We have recently published the 3rd consolidated volume of Yoder Newsletters 51 to 75 (with an every name index) and it is available thru Amazon Books in BOTH a Color and a Black and White version. Also available are Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) and Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) in soft cover volumes (B&W only). To order any of these, go to Amazon books and search for "Yoder Newsletter".

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YR23371- David Yoder (1817 SP-1877 EI) Stutsman Cemetery, Elkhart Co, IN, ancestor of a majority of those attending the 1947 Reunion featured in this issue.

UPDATED FIND-A-GRAVE COUNTS

Visit the Find A Grave site at: www.findagrave.com . As of Feb. 15, 2024 the counts for interments were: 23,068 records (an increase of 305 from 6 Aug 2023) for –Yoder; 558 (+8) – Yother; 377 (+5) – Yothers; 313 (+6) – Yotter; 74 (+0) – Yoter; 320 (+9) – Yoders; 85 (+0) – Ioder; 120 (-3) – Joder; 60 (+0) - Jotter; 1 (+0) – Joders; 11 (+2) - Youder; 3 (+0) - Youders; 23 (+4) - Youther; 8 (+0) - Youthers; 7 (+0) – Younder.

ANDREW YODER JR HOMSTEAD, LYCOMING CO, PA

From Lycoming County comes this 1950s vintage picture of the House on the Andrew Yoder Jr. property (see YNLs 53 and 75 for more details). (For family info see YNL web site in "Unlinked" under code "AC").

Andrew Yoder Jr. (2/1/1776-c1831) came with son Henry to Jackson Twp, Lycoming County in 1831. "Andrew Jr, wife and children settled in warrant 1661 on 65 acres of land. Their children were: Henry 30, John B. 22, and Daniel 11. Andrew died before the squatters rights ended, so Henry got the deed" (Ref-"Genealogical Helps"). He was allotted the original 65 acres for service in the war of 1812.

In 1955 the property was purchased by Ten Point Hunting Lodge Inc. from Mrs. Ida Yoder Antes. She was a great grand daughter of Andrew's son Henry. They added 40 acres to the farm, when her grandfather Samuel married Christiana Weaver, who was a daughter of the neighboring farmer.

Andrew originally built a log cabin, which nobody knows where it stood, but there are several stone foundations. In 1860, a fine farm house was built, which still stands, and is the hunting lodge. Ida Yoder had inherited the farm during the depression, but her husband had a fine farm elsewhere, so it stood empty for 30 years. In 1955, when the organization purchased it, the entire house was a time capsule, with everything still inside, circa 1880s.

Lodge member Joe Lozak recalls "Regrettably, all the home contents were given away or burnt- all furniture, piano, pictures off the walls, everything. In those days the stuff was considered trash."

> ***"Ida was a feisty woman. She initially said she would sell our gang the house and barn and one acre, and lease hunting rights to us. We verbally agreed. It was summer, and the house needed major repairs, so about 10 men were there working, although the closing wasn't scheduled until October. Ida pulled in the lane, rolled down the car window and said..."Boys I changed my mind" .... Everyone froze, some standing there with hammers and saws...and she said "I won't lease you the land, but I'll sell the entire farm to you." What a serious Aha moment ..lol."***

Joe Lozak is planning to write the history of the farm this year and would welcome any input from the Yoder family. He would especially like photos of Samuel and Chrisiana (Weaver) Yoder, and their children, if anyone has any. He believes Andrew may be buried on the farm, but does not know where. Contact him at: Joe Lozak, joelogger81@gmail.com

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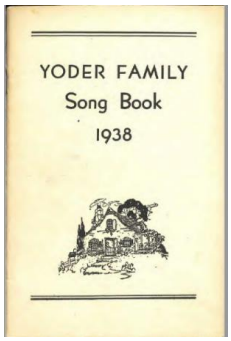
YNL FACEBOOK PASSES 2,000 "FOLLOWERS"

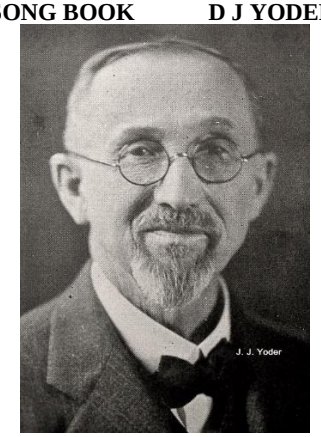
During the 2012 National Yoder Reunion in NC, we broke the 500 mark in number of people "liking" the YNL FACEBOOK Page. On Aug 28, 2014 we broke 1,000 'likes". We now have over 2,000 folowers and over 1,800 likes!

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- D. J. Yoder gave a talk on how the town of Yoder was started in 1886. (see YNL 3 for article by David Luthy).
- J. J. Yoder told when his parents came to McPherson County, Kansas. In 1879, Valentine D. Yoder's (YR233743) came to Reno County, Kansas, in August, 1884.
- Song No. 14 was sung; "We Praise Thee, O God."
- J. J. Yoder returned thanks for the meal, and everybody went to eat lunch.



YODER SONG BOOK D J YODER AND WIFE



Joseph J. YODER

Joseph J. ("J.J.") Yoder (YR2337481) was the son of Jacob D. Yoder and grandson of David C Yoder. He was born in Somerset Co, Pa in 1868 and at the age of 9, moved to Hayes Twp, McPherson Co, Kansas, He received a BA from McPherson College in 1913 and did graduate work at the University of Chicago. His career included staff positions at McPherson College and national leadership roles with the Church of the Brethren, into which he had been baptized in 1889, and joined the ministry in 1892. He had been a speaker at an earlier 1930 Yoder Reunion, giving the Yoder History based on the 1891 and 1909 writings of his great uncle Reuben Yoder (YR2337a) (see: https://yodernewsletter.org/famas/1930-Reunion-Text.pdf for news article on the earlier event).

Attendees gather at a garage building --perhaps for pot luck

Following the pot-luck dinner, a number of speakers told about various aspects of Yoder family history.

AFTER LUNCH PROGRAM
- No.7 was sung; "We're Marching to Zion".
- John E. Weaver gave a talk on different branches of Yoders.
- D. J. Yoder gave a short report of the descendants of David C. Yoder---number 2,017, deceased 151--total 2,170.
- J. J. Yoder gave a talk on the Yoders in general.
- Dan R. Yoder of Goshen, Indiana, gave a talk on the Yoders and about a trip he made to Europe in 1900.
- Royal Yoder gave the story of the Yoders coming from Switzerland.
- Joe Bontrager of Oklahoma explained how the Bontragers are related to the Yoders. (Barbara Yoder (1811-1888), oldest child of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr, married Joseph Bontrager in 1832, and they were one of the first Amish families in northern Indiana).
- Mr. Bishop of Haven, Kansas, talked about the time he came to Kansas in 1870. He now lacks 11 months of being 100 years old and walks without a cane.
- John K. Yoder of Belleville, Pa., gave a short talk.

John E. Weaver Daniel R Yoder

John E. Weaver came from Goshen, Indiana and attended the reunion along with his niece Mrs. Leonard (Rachel) Kreider then living in N. Newton, Kansas. Rachel, in 1983, was to become a founder of the Yoder Newsletter. Building upon the records of his Great Uncle Reuben Yoder, at the time of the 1947 reunion he had assembled an extensive Yoder genealogy, including over 7,000 names. John was a high school teacher in Goshen for 25 years, a former business manager of Goshen College and a bookkeeper at Bluffton College. YNL 54 and 67 articles tell how these records would later be handed off to Rachel who continued to expand on them almost to the time of her death at the age of over 106 years.

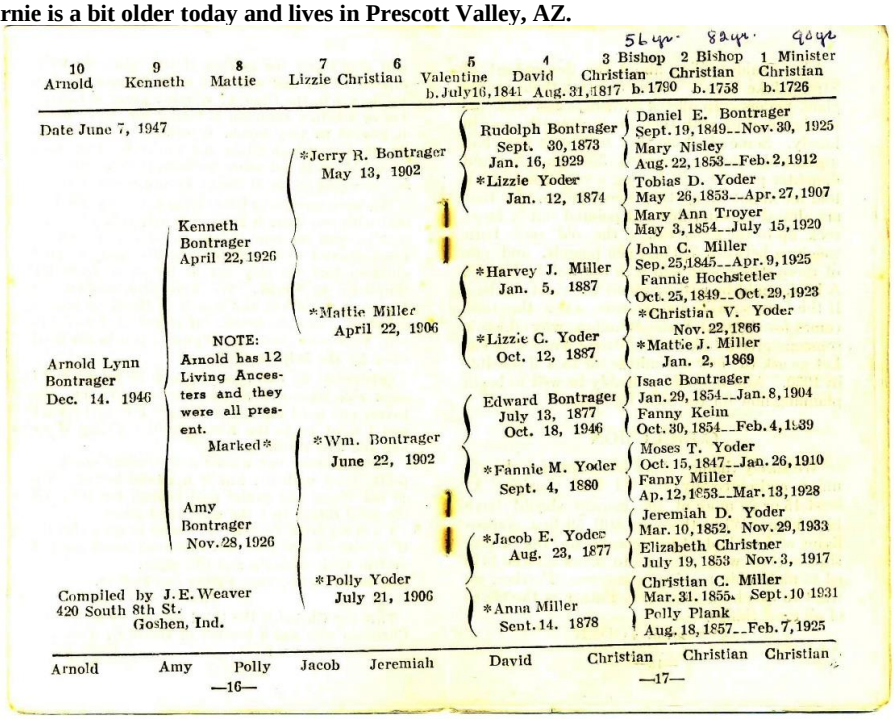
Daniel R Yoder, a son of David C's brother Reuben came from northern Indiana with brothers Menno, 84, and Levi, 70, with 89 year old Dan R. doing most of the driving. They were 3 of the 12 living grandchildren of Bishop Christian Yoder Jr. as of 1947, with ages totaling 987 years for the 12. Their cousin John Weaver rode with them, meeting his niece Rachel at the event.

Royal Yoder, of Conway, Kans. had been a member of the "Family Council" which had planned the reunion. Other speakers included Roy Yoder of McPherson, KS.

-A NEW COMMITTEE WAS ANNOUNCED: A new committee on arrangements for the next Reunion are: Royal Yoder, Conway, Kansas; Henry D. Yoder, Haven, Kansas (son of D.J.); Lawrence J. Yoder, McPherson, Kansas; William D. Yoder, Haven, Kansas; Eli S. Schrock, Haven, Kansas.

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

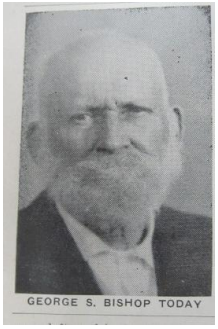
Young Arnold Lynn Yoder and the fact that he and 12 of his living ancestors would all be at the Reunion was publicized in advance and they did in fact attend for this photograph - Left to Right: Jake Yoder, his wife Anna Miller Yoder, Polly Yoder Bontrager, Fannie Yoder Bontrager, William E Bontrager, Arnold Lynn ("Arnie") Bontrager, Amy (Bontrager) Bontrager, the partial face-Mattie Miller Bontrager, Kenneth Bontrager, Jerry R Bontrager, Lizzie C. Yoder Miller, Harvey Miller. Arnie is a bit older today and lives in Prescott Valley, AZ.



10 Arnold	9 Kenneth	8 Mattie	7 Lizzie	6 Christian	5 Valentine b. July 16, 1841	4 David Aug. 31, 1817	3 Bishop Christian b. 1790	2 Bishop Christian b. 1758	1 Minister Christian b. 1726
Date June 7, 1947						Rudolph Bontrager Sept. 30, 1873		Daniel E. Bontrager Sept. 19, 1849--Nov. 30, 1925	
			*Jerry R. Bontrager May 13, 1902					Mary Nisley Aug. 22, 1853--Feb. 2, 1912	
						*Lizzie Yoder Jan. 12, 1874		Tobias D. Yoder May 26, 1853--Apr. 27, 1907	
								Mary Ann Troyer May 3, 1854--July 15, 1920	
	Kenneth Bontrager April 22, 1926							John C. Miller Sep. 25, 1845--Apr. 9, 1925	
						*Harvey J. Miller Jan. 5, 1887		Fannie Hochstetler Oct. 25, 1849--Oct. 29, 1923	
			*Mattie Miller April 22, 1906					*Christian V. Yoder Nov. 22, 1866	
						*Lizzie C. Yoder Oct. 12, 1887		*Mattie J. Miller Jan. 2, 1869	
Arnold Lynn Bontrager Dec. 14. 1946		NOTE: Arnold has 12 Living Ancesters and they were all present. Marked*							
						Edward Bontrager July 13, 1877 Oct. 18, 1946		Isaac Bontrager Jan. 29, 1854--Jan. 8, 1904	
								Fanny Keim Oct. 30, 1854--Feb. 4, 1939	
			*Wm. Bontrager June 22, 1902			*Fannie M. Yoder Sept. 4, 1880		Moses T. Yoder Oct. 15, 1847--Jan. 26, 1910	
								Fanny Miller Ap. 12, 1853--Mar. 13, 1928	
	Amy Bontrager Nov. 28, 1926							Jeremiah D. Yoder Mar. 10, 1852. Nov. 29, 1933	
						*Jacob E. Yoder Aug. 23, 1877		Elizabeth Christner July 19, 1853 Nov. 3, 1917	
Compiled by J. E. Weaver 420 South 8th St. Goshen, Ind.			*Polly Yoder July 21, 1906					Christian C. Miller Mar. 31. 1855. Sept. 10 1931	
						*Anna Miller Sept. 14. 1878		Polly Plank Aug. 18, 1857--Feb. 7, 1925	
Arnold	Amy	Polly	Jacob	Jeremiah		David	Christian	Christian	Christian

—16— —17—

Arnie Bontrager Ancestral Chart Compiled for the Reunion by John E. Weaver



Local pioneer George Bishop, spoke about the local history, although he shared no family connection.

Song No. 3, Yoder Song Book: "Yoder Reunion" was sung.

YODER REUNION SONG
(Tune: Auld Lang Syne, F.)
We've gathered, friends, from near and far,
For fellowship and praise;
May this Reunion be a star
To brighten all our ways.

Chorus Then let us sing the Yoder name,
Let's lift its virtues high;
Defend it e'er from wrong and shame,
When sore temptation's nigh.

We till the fields with rugged hand,
And make the landscape smile;
We shun no task in this fair land,
If effort is worth-while.

For peace and law we firmly stand,
For temp'rance and for right;
So rally all the Yoder band,
In God we've power and might.
So let us lay all fears aside,
Let's sing and talk for joy;
May friendships made here long abide
That years cannot destroy.

The congregation was dismissed.
-Recorded by William D. Yoder, Secretary. (YR23374352)

To see the full 1938 Yoder Song Book, see: http://www.yodernewsletter.org/famas/songbook38.PDF

An interesting part of the reunion was the display of the Yoder family Bible, in German, published in 1580 and brought to this country by Barbara Yoder in 1742. The Bible was driven over from Mohrsville, Berks County, Pa., by Ed. Yoder (YR17a541) and his son Ben. During their trip to Kansas they stopped to visit the grave of Ed's late uncle Aaron Yoder in nearby Partridge, KS. Ben died Sept. 15, 2019, age 94, and had we started researching for this article a bit earlier should have been a wonderful source of first hand memories.

Ed and Ben Yoder

Ed Yoder at Uncle's Grave

D. J. Yoder, Lawrence Schrock and the Widow Barbara Bible. Among the notes by D. J. is one that says "This boy was appointed to guard the Old Bible all day". Lawrence was the brother of Dr. Ivan R. Schrock.

Some of the young ladies at the reunion:

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Memories collected from living attendees include:

Royal Yoder Family 1943 - Royal & Arlene and daughter Karen

Karen Yoder Okeson d/o Royal Yoder (Karen-Royal-Elmer Ellsworth (YR2337483) -J D- David C). She was a child at the time. Here are her comments:

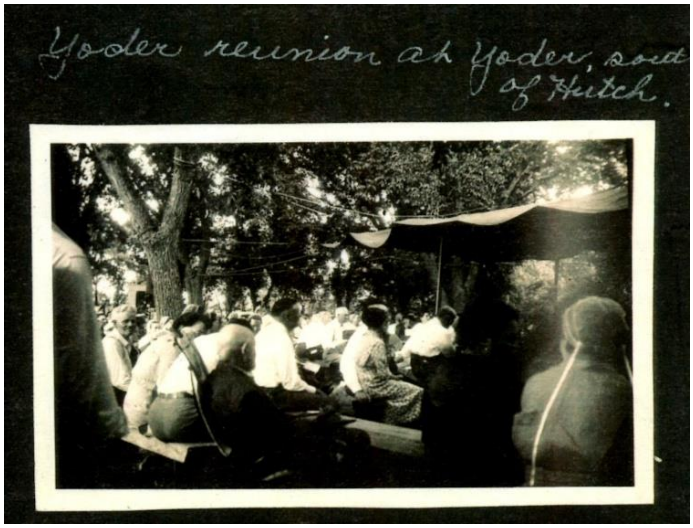
"I don't remember very much about the reunion, because I was seven years old. However, if you want to pass on the following (from a kid's perspective), that's fine with me. What I do remember were the Amish buggies; and in place of buttons the Amish women used small safety pins on their dresses. Unfortunately, we children --both "English" and Amish-- were too shy to approach one another, so we just stood and looked at one another. I wish now I had not been so bashful!"

LaVena Murrey Stump (d/o Chester Murrey and Pearl Crumpacker). Chester was the son of Harry Murrey and Laura Jane Yoder (YR2337485), a daughter of Jacob D. ("J. D.") & Sarah Yoder. LeVena wrote:

"I remember attending the reunion at Yoder, Kansas and would have been 8 years old in 1947. I remember the men having these big black hats, the ladies dressed very plain and also the young girls, the many buggies parked pulled by the horses."

LaVena also provided three pictures from the reunion as follows:

"The 3 pictures I have of the reunion are 2 girls talking behind a church fan, people sitting at a table listening to a speaker and the many buggies lined up. My mother (Pearl Murrey) wrote by the pictures "Yoder reunion at Yoder, south of Hutch."



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Giggling Girls

Buggies Lined Up

Howard Willis Yoder (YR23374752) and family were singled out as having "come the farthest" to attend the reunion. "Yoder, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. and Daughter Barbara...Lima, Peru, also 1432 K Third St. Winfield, Kans." They were listed with both their foreign and a stateside address. Dr. Yoder spent more than 30 years in Latin America as a missionary for the Methodist Church, followed by nine years at the National Council of Churches offices in New York. He died in 2003, age 102. Daughter Barbara had just graduated from Central Methodist College in Fayette, MO with a double major in art and music and married Ralph Loomis eight days after the reunion at the Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, Ks. She passed away May 28, 2022 at the age of 95.

Howard & Helen Yoder Barbara Yoder-Ralph Loomis Wedding

…D. J. hosted this reunion despite having just suffered a great personal tragedy. His wife Mary had died just a bit more than two months before the event. His concluding remarks about the reunion in the published Report are as follows:

…"We surely thank you all who came for the reunion, and especially the 33 first cousins. At least 15 or 20 more of the cousins should have been here. While there are still 50 first cousins living and we had 94 first cousins on the Yoder side to start with, we wish to thank all who helped to make this reunion a success. Further, we want to thank our Heavenly Father as the Giver of all good things."

D. J. YODER

- As an added treat for REUNION attendees, Mr. Howard J. Carey Sr. arranged for a tour of his 610 foot deep Carey Salt Mine on Jun, 9, 1947.

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

1947 YODER REUNION-CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

D. J. Yoder's records indicate that a 1956 reunion was held on Aug. 22, 1956 at the State Fair Ground by Mr. Dan Yoder of Route #2 Haven Kansas. D J writes: "Since there was no full account of this reunion kept we can only state that it was a clear day with some 400 Yoders present and it was considered a most successful reunion and every one enjoyed the wonderful dinner the Dan Yoder's served." A Hutchinson newspaper clipping at the time says it was held in the 4H building and that 53 pies were baked by Mrs. J. T. Schrock, RFD 2 (Dr. Ivan's mother), Mrs. D. Y. Bontrager, RFD 2, and Mrs. D. C. Yoder (YR23374325), Haven, Kansas.

Marcia (Yoder) Kauffman attended with her parents (R. Gordon & Glee Yoder) (s/o Wm Henry (YR2337486)-J. D. - David C.) She sent these memories of what must have been the 1956 event. Her husband, Robert Kauffman, is a dairy farmer in Lancaster County, PA. Marcia wrote:

"I thought it was at a fair building in Hutchinson, remember some people coming in school buses and the odd dress of many of them (as Karen mentioned also)!!! I remember being half scared, but that would have been me at that age nevertheless. Never would I have thought I would 67+ years later be living in the middle of "Amish Country".

Among D.J.'s scores of pieces of Yoder correspondence, are ones back from Rev. Paul D. Yoder of Codorus, PA (OY433811) and Joseph Warren Yoder, which contain statements about plans by DJ to go east for PA reunions in 1946, and 1950. Rev. Paul promised DJ that when he "returned in the spring" of 1945 he would take him to visit the old Oley Yoder homestead in Berks County. Another letter from Rev. Paul in May of 1947, regrets he cannot make the reunion in Kansas, and goes on to report that "we have been very well since you were here". So it seems DJ did return at least one more time. After the 1947 reunion JW said he had been surprised at the large turn-out reported, and indicated that if the Kansas folk would pay his travel expenses he could come west to speak at a 1950 event (none was scheduled -but one appears hinted at).

…Correspondence with former Goshen College President and Mennonite Church leader Sanford Calvin Yoder (YR2341861) in early 1947 indicates that D.J. wanted to schedule him to be a speaker at the reunion, but Sanford had conflicting commitments. He did, apparently on D.J.s behalf, speak to John E. Weaver several times about getting some of his material ready and published for the reunion, but Mr. Weaver replied he would not have time to organize it and get it ready for publication.

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Doug and Jolene Yoder in front of D. J. Yoder 's 1913 cement barn

Many thanks to Doug Yoder, grandson of D. J and current owner of the farm, for sharing the records which had been kept safe over the decades since this wonderful family gathering! And thanks to all the Yoder cousins who contributed to the creation of this article.

Doug's grandfather "D. J." was a prominent local dairy farmer, as was his son Henry D, and grandson Doug (who at one time milked over 100 cows). Dr. Ivan Schrock specialized in cows and worked with all three generations. The D. J. Yoder farm and home are quite innovative and brought him several nicknames. One was "concrete Dave", because of his love for working (and building) with concrete (just like his father's first cousin Menno Yoder in Shipshewana, IN, who is renowned for his 12 sided cement barn built in 1908 (see YNL53). David J.'s barn of cement still stands today, and other than a new metal roof has held up very well.

Cement was also used prolifically in other areas of house and property, such as the unique cement entryway and edging around the north side yard.

Grandson Doug says "*I've heard "the stories" through the years about D.J. and the "nicknames" he 'earned' along the way: one was "Temple Dave", I was always told that was because of how he designed/built our house (1909), the neighboring Amish thought it to be a bit too lavish for the community (because of the 'two' "peaks" of the roof design, causing it to 'mimic' the appearance of a temple).*"

Cement Gate and Edging

An inquiry to the Amish paper The Budget brought a phone call from Amishman Enos Miller, of Haven, KS whose family lived about a half mile west of D J Yoder. As a little boy, about 7 years old he attended the reunion. His entire family of 10 or 11 went to the reunion. They did not sign in on one of the attendance booklets so are among the likely many who were present but don't appear in the after Reunion Report. His father was William A. Miller, who later went back to northern Indiana and died there. His mother Mary was a daughter of Eli Schrock who married Sarah Yoder, a daughter of "Felty" (Valentine D) Yoder (YR233743), a son of David C. A great grandmother on the Schrock side was Rebecca Yoder (YR2337b), sister to David C. Like his "English" cousins he remembers lots of "playing and playing" and nothing specific about the program the adults were involved in. Regarding David J Yoder's building with cement, he recalls his father talking about how David had the cement shipped in by train and then took a box wagon down the road to scoop up sand which was mixed in with the cement for the construction.

Glen D. Fry Sr., now of Topeka, IN, a great grandson of the Felty Yoder above, did not attend himself, but did identify his father, and uncle and cousins in the lists of those who did attend.

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HOUSE OF YODER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

2024 marks the 25th year that the House of Yoder (HOY) in Grantsville. MD has been open to visitors! How about volunteering as a host? Check out the HOY website: http://houseofyoder.org/ It is open for visitors from May through October. The house is open daily May through October and there is a host apartment in the basement that provides kitchen, bedroom and bath and sitting/dining area complete with television. If you would be interested in becoming a resident host, contact Mayla H. Yoder at The House of Yoder, Inc., P. O. Box 813, Grantsville, MD 21536. Email: mhyoder@msn.com

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YODER PASSINGS:

-Thomas Allen Yoder, 83, Indianapolis, IN, died Apr. 27, 2023. He was the son of Gerald L. (YR2337a512) Yoder and Janet (Cripe) Kiefer.

-Robbie Gene Yoder, 70, Ft. Worth, Tx, 70, died Oct.30, 2023. He was the son of Harry Gillstrap Yoder (Con29623) and Dorothy Marie Ward. He was a long time volunteer with the Texas Genweb.

-Robert Ray Yoder, 81, died Nov 1, 2023. He was the son of Claude (YR12a33111) and Betty Yoder. His grandfather was Louis B Yoder, one of the original Yoders to settle in Yoder, Oregon. When Louis's father, Jonathan S Yoder, came with his family & others on the train in 1889, the livestock traveled on another train that came through San Francisco. Louis, 20, was consigned to manage the livestock.

-Marvin (Pete) Yoder, 78, Ravenna, OH died Oct. 11, 2023. He was the son of Fred (s/o YR23443216) and Sarah (Yoder)(YR2611927) Yoder.

-Dr. Leo J. Yoder, 89, Baton Rouge, La. died Oct. 12, 2023. He was the son of Tobe (s/o YR23443211) and Saloma Yoder.

-Anna F. Yoder, 84, Of Roxbury, MA, died Sep. 6, 2023. She was the daughter of Paul (YR1285244) and B. Grace (Moist) Yoder.

-Elmer C. (Jack) Yoder, 98, Everett, Washington died Jun. 26, 2023. He was the son of Elmer (YR2341864) and Floy (Filer)Yoder.

-Simon Yoder, 87, Goshen, IN, died Nov. 21, 2023. He was the son of Amos (YA28758) and Emma (Graber) Yoder.

-Sally J. Yoder, 73, Peru, IN, passed away Nov. 11, 2023. She was the daughter of Leroy (gs of YB1342352- Mable Yoder) and Virginia Yoder.

-Kenneth Leroy Yoder, 80, Sarasota, FL, died Nov. 2, 2023. He was the son of Mahlon (s/o YR2611666) and Mary (Yoder) (d/o YR125359a) Yoder.

-Ronald Yoder, 89, Wichita, KS, died Oct. 22, 2023. He was the son of Daniel Yoder (YR2612611) and Eva (Zimmerman) Yoder.

-Larry Ray Yoder, 84, Colorado Springs, CO, died Oct. 22, 2023. He was the son of Glenn (s/oYR26126113) and Frankie Yoder.

- Roger Lee Yoder, 81, of Goshen, IN, died Jun. 26, 2023. He was the son of C. Maynard (son of YB137813) and Esther Yoder.

- Don Yoder, 87, of Seminole, FL, passed away on Dec. 16, 2023. He was the son of Howard Ross (son of YR1424221) and Marguerite (Redden) Yoder.

-Rev. James A. Yoder, 90, Lewistown PA died Jan. 9, 2024. He was the son of Luther J. Yoder and Ruth M. (Yoder) Yoder. (Luther believed son of YR12793- Joshua Yoder).

- Kore Peight Yoder (YR1461521c) 81, Meyersdale, PA, passed away Jan. 6, 2024. He was the son of John N. and Barbara (Peight) Yoder.

-Lee (Bud) Cornelius Yoder, 90, Salisbury, PA, died Jan. 8, 2024. He was the son of Ervin J. (YR26119232) and Mabel M. Yoder.

-Floyd E. Yoder, 92, Montezuma, GA, died Jan. 9, 2024, He was the son of Enos Yoder (YR26119116) and Mary (Miller) Yoder.

-Rosanna "Rose" Yoder, 75, Shipshewana, IN passed away Jan. 7, 2024. She was the daughter of William D. (YR125328e) and Mary (Miller) Yoder of Nappanee and wife of the late C. Duane Yoder (son of Clarence A. Yoder (s/o YR234473c).

- Wilbur Eugene Yoder, 86, Goshen, IN, died Dec 27, 2023. He was the son of Ervin (YR1211726) and Barbara (Eash) Yoder.

- Richard Eugene Yothers Sr., 85, Ligonier, PA, passed away on Dec. 31, 2023. He was the son of Chester (YB21434c9) and Dortha Yothers.

- Duane "Enaud" Alden Yothers, 89, of Delaware, OH passed away May 15, 2023. Duane was the son of Wilfred Arden (F131c) and Hellen Louise (Pifat) Yothers.

- George Yoder, Dover, OH, 84 passed away Jan. 14, 2024. He was the son of Howard Edward (s/o OH1338151) and Ruby Garnet (Newcombe) Yoder.

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Eli Yoder Family Reunion – YA245

Held Sept 10, 2023 at The Cedars Senior Living Center in Leo, Indiana. The group decided to meet again next year on Sept. 8, 2024. (YA245- Eli Yoder (6/8/1857- 9/3/1955 Leo, IN). For info contact - "Alan Yoder" <biodzal@yahoo.com>

<u>Front Row</u> L – R: Alan Yoder, Jewell Yoder (Tom), Barb Raub Dawson (Dan), Beth Stebing Lamb, Linda Yoder Bly (Phill), Karen Yoder Bartlett (Art), Jailen Beverly (Kylie), Roberta Miller Yoder (Larry), Shirley Short (Walter), John Raub; <u>Second Row</u> L – R: Tom Yoder, Becky Raub Freck (Thomas), Stan Bozarth, Judy Yoder Bozarth, Barb Yoder Ober, Pam Yoder, Larry Yoder, Walter Short (Shirley); <u>Third Row</u> L – R: Thomas Freck (Becky), Kathy Richards (Thomas), Kylie Hixson Beverly, Pat Yoder Hixson, Shirley Yoder Meighen (Michael), Beth Weber (Roger); <u>Fourth Row</u> L – R: Dan Dawson (Barb), Art Bartlett (Karen), Thomas Richards (Kathy), Holly Hixson Creager, Phill Bly (Linda), Michael Meighen (Shirley), Roger Weber (Beth).

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CONRAD YODER 300th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN NC OCT. 23-26, 2025

Come celebrate with us the 300th anniversary of our own Conrad Yoder's birthdate and learn how Dr. Don Yoder discovered the link to all of our Yoder lines from Melchior to Conrad and their move during the 1600 and 1700s from Steffisburg, Switzerland to America. At the old Courthouse Museum, hear Chris Yoder and other noted genealogists and historians describe the fascinating accounts of how Yoders fought wars, lived and survived with other Europeans and the Catawba and Cherokee Natives. Spend the day on Saturday at Hart Square Village, the nation's largest collection of historic log cabins (see www.hartsquare.com). Worship together at our Pennsylvania Dutch vintage candlelight vespers. Enjoy our Southern hospitality, cooking, bluegrass music, other historic sites, beautiful countryside and weather. To be added to the reunion mailing list contact President Rachael Kennedy, 704-467-2272, or email: rachaelkennedy466@gmail.com .

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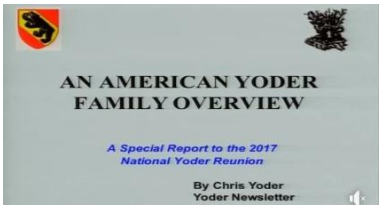
HOLD YOUR OWN YODER REUNION



Use one of the Videos from our 2017 National Reunion as a feature. See the Yoder Newsletter FACEBOOK page for the videos. Can also get copies on the "Yoder Data on Disk" (now USB sticks).

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