



THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

NORMAN S. YODER (YR2611915)

&

ANNIE MAE (YODER) YODER (YR121736)

Norman S. Yoder was born January 24, 1875, to Solomon D. Yoder and his second wife, Catherine (Yutzy) (Maust) Yoder (YZ52). His birth took place in a house 3/4 mile north of Grantsville, MD, on the present day Dorsey Hotel Road. When Norman was born, his father, Solomon, was renting the farm from Joel Beachy, Bishop of the Amish Church. This farm was often referred to as the "Jake Miller Farm". This property is now owned by Dirk and Karin Yoder. Sometime in the late 1940's, the house that Norman was born in, was moved to a new location near the Maple Glen Conservative Mennonite Church. Amelia and Luella Yoder lived in this house for many years. August 2011, this house and the surrounding buildings were demolished. Presently, Good Will Mennonite Nursing Home, Grantsville, MD owns the property. The old hand-hewn beams that were used in the construction of the house, were put up for sale, some of them were purchased by Donald Opel, Grantsville, MD, and Jeremy Martin, from Oakland, MD.

When born, Norman would have had two half-brothers: William age seven and Lewis, six years old and a half-sister Anna, five years old. . He also had one full-brother, Harvey, born March 14, 1873. A full sister, Savilla, would be born July 15, 1877.



Norman S. Yoder
Born January 24, 1875
Died December 3, 1945



Annie May Yoder
Born April 24, 1882
Died October 9, 1963

Married March 16, 1899

Norman also had three step-brothers: Daniel Maust, age 17; Simon Maust, age 16; and Leonard Maust, age 10 years. One step-sister, Anna Maust, who died October 1865 at 2 1/2 years of age.

By the spring of 1878, when he was 3 years old, Norman, along with his parents and siblings would move approximately three miles south of Grantsville, MD on the "Dung Hill Farm", close to present day Maryland State Route 495. Norman's father, Solomon, rented this farm from Benedict Beachy from 1878-1881.

In the spring of 1882, when Norman was seven years old, his family moved approximately 2.3 miles west of Grantsville, MD, off of U.S. Route 40, to 794 Posey Row Road. The property is presently owned by David N. and Martha Yoder.

If Norman attended Shade Run #1 School between the ages of 6-9 years, his teachers would have been his step-brother Norman Maust. Norman taught at the Shad Run #1 School, located between Shade Hollow and Posey Row Road on MD State Route 40 from 1881-1883. Leonard Maust, another step-brother, taught from 1883-1884.

Looking through the account books of Norman's father, Solomon D. Yoder, the following is the only thing we could find on Normans teenage years:

"August 30, 1887 Norman thrashed for George Kalbflesch for .15 cents" (12 years old)

"September 2, 1887 Lewis, Harvey and Norman thrashed for Aaron Beachy for 2/3 day for \$1.56."

"July 1888 (thirteen years old) Norman thrashed 3/4 day for Aaron Beachy"

"October 1888 Norman and Harvey thrashed 1/2 day for .75 cents."

"May 16, 1889 (14 years old) Harvey and Norman planted corn 1/2 day for .75 cents."

"September 1890 Norman (15 years old) and Harvey thrashed 1/2 day for \$1.00"

"September 24, 1890 Norman (15 years old) and Harvey thrashed for Lafayette Miller 1/2 day for \$1.00"

"May 27, 1891 (16 years old) Norman worked on the road 1/2 day .62 1/2 cents."

"June 8, 1891 Norman worked one day \$1.25.

"June 11, 1891 Norman and Harvey worked one day \$2.50"

"June 12, 1891 Norman and Harvey worked 8 1/2 hours. \$2.12 1/2."

"July 1891 Norman (16 years old) hauled wheat 1/2 day for Lafayette Miller for .50 cents."

"February 24, 1892 Norman (17 years old) tapped sugar trees for Lafayette Miller for .75cents."

Lafayette Miller's farm adjoined Solomon D. Yoder's farm. This was the farm Normans half-brother Lewis bought and farmed when Lewis first got married. One days work must have been for 10 hours. When they worked 8 1/2 hours, they got paid \$2.12 1/2. This would work out that they were being paid .25 cents an hour for both or 12 1/2 cents an hour for each boy. During this time they were build-

ing a road and Norman would have been 16 years old.

"July 25, 1894 (19 years old) Norman and Will hauled wheat 1/2 day for Lewis." for .85 cents. (Will and Lewis are Normans half brothers.)

"May 4, 1895 (Norman 20 years old) Norman and team (of horses) 1 day \$2.00. Worked for Joseph Durst."

The money Norman and his brothers received while working away from home probably all went to his father Solomon. This was the custom at the time until the child reached the age of 21.

May 1895 is the last date that Norman's name appears in his father Solomon's account book. Norman would be 20 years old.

The next record we have of Norman is in his brother Harvey's diaries: (Harvey is approximately 2 years older than Norman.) on December 25, 1898, Harvey writes "Christmas -attended our church-went over to Eli Millers to see how Norman was getting along. Went to Christmas service at Chestnut Springs, (now Springs, PA). A lot of young folks came along home." We think that Norman was working for Elias M. Miller during this time. This would be about three months before Norman was married.

If Norman was living in Springs, PA at this time, he would have been about one mile from where his future wife, Annie lived.



The house we think Norman built in 1903. 1088 Posey Row Road, Grantsville, MD. Owned today by Jacob and Annie Yoder.

Refer to [The House of Yoder Newsletter, August 2010 issue](#) which featured Norman's half-brother, Lewis Yoder, and a picture of their father Solomon D. Yoder farm.

ANNIE MAE YODER

YR121736

Born April 24, 1882 in Springs, PA

Died October 9, 1963 in Pinto, MD

Annie was the daughter of John S. Yoder (YR12173) and Susanna (Stevanus) (SX3e). Annie was born at present day 133 Upper Springs Road, Springs, PA on a 12 acre farm owned today by Clyde and Elaine Tressler.



Home place of Annie Mae Yoder, wife of Norman Yoder.

The 12 plus acres of land where Annie grew up was part of a larger tract of land owned by Annie's maternal grandparents John ("Sassafras John") Stevanus and his second wife, Elizabeth (Yoder) Stevanus. This tract of land, at Springs, PA is located between Otto Brick and Tile and the foot of Negro Mt. on Mt. Davis Road. The old Turkey Foot Indian trail ran through this property.

Annie's father John's initials are chiseled into one of the barn foundation stones. He probably built the house and barn.



Someone took black paint and wrote on the foundation stone: "J Yoder 1904". The Tressler's said the paint was on the stones when they bought

the property 50 years ago. If you look close on the right side of the painted lettering, you can see chiseled into the stone "J Y" approximately two inches high.

ANNIE'S FATHER

Annie's father, John S. Yoder (YR12173) was born June 13, 1841 at Yoder Station PA., between Meyersdale and Garrett, PA on alternate Route 219. He died October 20, 1921 in Springs, PA. John's father, Solomon was married to Elizabeth (Keim) Yoder (KM121). Solomon was a brother to the well known axe maker Joseph "Axie" Yoder and a grandson of "Casselman Jacob Yoder" (YR121). "Casselman Jacob's" wife was Veronica (Hochstetler) Yoder (HS13).

ANNIE'S MOTHER

Annie's mother was Susannah (Stevanus) Yoder (SX3e). Susannah was born January 30, 1855, the fifth child of the second wife of "Sassafras John" Stevanus and Elizabeth Yoder (YR12123). Susannah was known for her knowledge of herbs, teas and poultices to help treat the ills and ailments of the day. Elizabeth was the third child of Joseph (Axie) Yoder and Gertrude (Schrock) Yoder (SK113). Susannah had 18 full or half brothers and sisters.

Annie's father John and her mother Susannah were first cousins once removed.

MARRIED LIFE

Norman and Annie were married March 16, 1899 at the Mennonite Church in Springs, PA. (known as Chestnut Springs at that time.) The Meyersdale Commercial Newspaper, dated March 30, 1899, states; "Quiet a number of people gathered in the church here (Chestnut Springs) on Thursday evening, March 16th, to witness the ceremonies which solemnly declared Norman S. Yoder and Annie M. Yoder husband and wife. The sermon and ceremony was conducted by D. H. Bender. That happiness and prosperity may attend them through life are the wishes of their friends."

CREDITS

Gingerich and Kreider alpha-numerical identification
PA and MD land records

The April 11, 1899 Meyersdale, PA Commercial Newspaper states: "N.S. Yoder's have settled down into house keeping at E. M.(Elias M.) Millers for this summer at least."

There is also one sentence in the January 19, 1899 paper that states "Mr. Norman Yoder and Miss Annie Yoder took a flying trip to Pocahontas and to Garrett last week." What the purpose of the trip was is unknown. Norman's mother Catherine Yutzy came from Pocahontas, PA and Annie's father John came from the Garrett, PA area. This trip would have been made two months before they were married.

Estie (Miller) Yoder, a daughter of Elias M. Miller, wrote in the Casselman Chronicle; dated Number 1 and 2, 1968: "When the second house was built, near the village of Springs, PA, Norman and Annie (Stevanus) Yoder, newly weds, rented part of the farm."

Editor's note: Stevanus is incorrect, it should be Yoder. Annie's Mother was a Stevanus.

We don't know what sort of farming Norman did, but Elias was known as "Strawberry Eli" because of the large crops of strawberries he grew.

In the same Casselman Chronicle page 7, Alvina (Miller) Livengood, a grand daughter of Elias Miller, and who now lives in the second house that was built on the property, writes: "At this time he (Alvina's father Noah Miller) lives with his parents (Elias and Catherine (Miller) Miller), in the house his father had built, which is now occupied by Herman Bender. On February 25, 1901, they moved into their home, which my father (Noah Miller) helped his father (Elias) build. The house where I now live."

So, what house did Norman and Annie live in when they were first married? If Elias and Catherine didn't move to the new house until February 25, 1901, according to Alvina (Miller) Livengood, did Norman and Annie live with Elias' or was there another house they lived in?



Norman Yoder on a rather small pony. He is holding a double barrel shotgun. Man on right is unidentified.

In the 1900 census, Norman and Annie are living in Elk Lick Township with their first born daughter, Freda M., eight months old and Irvin Camp, 11 years old, listed as a boarder. The census lists Norman as a farmer and renting the farm. Irvin Camp was attending school.

Next on the census is a listing for Elias Miller. His occupation is listed as farm laborer and owner of the farm. Did Elias work for Norman when he rented the farm from Elias?

We could not document when Norman and Annie moved back to Posey Row Road near Grantsville, MD. Their second child, Rhoda was born in Springs, PA on July 6, 1901. A third daughter, Eva Mae, who was born June 28, 1903, said she was born in the spring house at Norman's parents place. So, between Rhoda's birth on July 6, 1901 and Eva Mae's birth on June 28, 1903, Norman and his family moved back to Maryland.

In a diary written by Harvey, Norman's brother, entries of November 15, 1898 states that work was being done on the spring house. Lumber was hauled for the porches. On November 21, 1898, Harvey worked on the porch in the fore noon and in the afternoon, moved Annie.

Harvey married Annie (Miller) on October 13, 1898. (Annie had been staying with her parents.)

This building was located on their father's (Solomon) farm.

August 19, 1899 Harvey writes in his diary: "Went for Pap and helped dig out for the house."

August 21, 1899 Dug out at house.

August 22, 1899 Hauled a load of lime from Ringers for the house wall.

We think Norman's brother Harvey moved into the spring house soon after he and Annie were married in November 1898, and when Solomon built the retirement house, Harvey's moved into Solomon's old house. When Norman and Annie moved back from Springs, they moved into the spring house. The springhouse is where Norman's daughter Eva Mae said she was born June 28, 1903.

We don't know what arrangement Solomon, Harvey and Norman had when Norman and Annie moved back to Maryland. Norman's father Solomon had public auction and sold his cattle and machinery on February 2, 1899. When Norman's brother Harvey married in October 13, 1898, he states in his diary they "dissolved partnership". We assume this partnership was between Harvey and his father, Solomon. This was before Norman was married and we think living in Springs, PA, working for Elias M. Miller, according to his brother Harvey's diary. Did Norman and his brother Harvey form a partnership and farm together, or did



Norman and Annie

their father Solomon divide the farm and rent part of the farm to Harvey and the other part to Norman?

It was generally thought that Norman and Annie bought part of Solomon's farm and built the house and barn where Jacob Yoder's now live on 1088 Posey Row Road, Grantsville, MD.

According to the land transactions, Norman bought two acres from his father on October 4, 1904 for \$50.00. This would be a year after we think he built the barn and house. Going down the cellar steps at Jacob Yoder's house are the initial "NSY 1903".

Did he build the buildings and then buy the two acres? We don't know where the two acres are located. He may



have rented this portion of the farm, while his brother Harvey rented the other portion of the farm. Norman didn't purchase part of Solomon's farm until March 30, 1910. He bought 116 1/4 acres from his father for \$2,500.00. This is the Jacob Yoder's farm today at 1088 Posey Row Road Grantsville, MD. This would be approximately two years after Norman and Annie moved to the Washington Bottom Farm.

In 1912, he sold the farm to John H. Folk for \$3,500.00. Norman financed the \$3,500.00 and took a lien on the property. Solomon sold the portion of the farm he still owned in 1913 to Jacob J. Folk, father of John H. Folk, who bought Norman's farm. Harvey, Norman's brother, moved to his wife's home farm, the Joel J. Miller farm in November, 1912.

According to Norman's daughter, Eva, the reason Norman and Annie moved to Mineral County, WV onto the Washington Bottom Farm: Norman thought he was too deep in debt and thought he would work for someone else a couple of years and then move back to the farm at Grantsville, MD.

While working at the Washington Bottom Farm, Norman's employer was Hitchins and Edwards, who also had a store in Frostburg, MD. In his diaries, Harvey writes that he had a one-year contract to furnish butter to Hitchins.

It is said that when Norman and Harvey delivered to Hitchins, he was so impressed with the quality of the produce, that he wanted to hire Norman to run their Washington Bottom Farm.

On September 12, 1918, Norman was required to register with the draft for WWI. It gives his age as 43, height-medium, build-stout, eyes-brown, hair-brown, occupation-farmer, employer- Hitchins and Edwards, Frostburg, MD.

Different Amish-Mennonite families moved down to the Washington Bottom Farm and worked on the farm with Norman as their supervisor, these include: Jonas and Alice (Yoder) Ash, Alice and Norman's wife Annie were sisters, and Asa & Amanda (Bender) Schrock.

NORMAN AND ANNIE'S CHILDREN

1. **Freda M.** Born April 6, 1900 at Springs, PA, Married on October 18, 1922 to Myron Livengood, born January 6, 1898
2. **Rhoda C.** Born July 6, 1901 at Springs, PA, Married Robert Parker Dayton, born March 4, 1894.
3. **Eva Mae** Born June 28, 1903 near Grantsville, MD. Married Harry Barton, born December 13, 1898.
4. **Walter N.** Born November 16, 1904 near Grantsville, MD. Married 1. Pearl Porter, born January 30, 1903 2. Mary Ann Burns, born December 5, 1918
5. **Melda Marie** Born January 8, 1907 near Grantsville, MD. Married Carlton Helmick, born October 10, 1902.
6. **Paul N.** Born September 8, 1909, Mineral Co., WV, Married Dorothy Moreland, born January 22, 1914.
7. **Viola N.** Born November 16, 1911, Mineral Co. WV. Married John Robert Johnson, born May 1, 1909
8. **Sue Ann** Born July 24, 1916 Mineral Co., WV.. Married John Wesley Collins, born October 14, 1910.
9. **Norman S. Jr.** Born January 11, 1923, Pinto, MD. Married Virginia Gratz, born November 2, 1924



Front row l-r: Annie and Norman
Middle row l-r: Freda, Susanna, Eva, Rhoda, Viola, Melda
Back row l-r: Paul, Norman, Jr., Walter
Picture taken 1943-or 1945

Doris Ours, President of the Board of Directors, and Phyllis Weaver-Hearn, a member of the Board of Directors for The House of Yoder, are granddaughters of Annie and Norman Yoder. They are the daughters of Myron Livengood and Freda, Norman and Annie's oldest child.



Eva Mae (Yoder) Barton, daughter of Norman and Annie

"REMEMBERING PINTO"

By Eva Yoder Barton

"Memories are made of life's experiences..."

Come along with me as I unlock some precious memoirs from my past and share them with you.

Imagine the citizens of Frostburg, (MD) looking out their windows to see strong teams of horses pulling two large farm wagons piled high with furniture tied securely with thick ropes. This was followed by a spring wagon filled with the Norman Yoder family moving from the Grantsville (MD) area to the Percy Farm, now known as the Washington Bottom Farm where the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory is now operating.

I remember well that day in 1907 when we said goodbye to family and friends and began the long 25-mile journey from Garrett County (MD) to the little village of Pinto (MD). Even though I was only four years old, I can still remember Father and Mother on the front seat of the three-seated spring wagon. Mother was holding the year-old baby on her lap and beside her rode our big black and white dog named Rover.

The second seat was occupied by my uncle and aunt and between them sat my brother, Walter N. Yoder, fondly remembered by some of you as "Glick", the founder of Walter N. Yoder & Sons Plumbing company of Pinto. In the back seat I rode sandwiched between by two older sisters, Freda and Rhoda.

Our family frequently traveled back to Garrett County for church conferences, funerals and family reunions. The unpaved National Highway, Route 40, was rough. As we traveled over the Big Savage Mountain, I remember our father pointing out the large gatepost marking the line that divided Garrett from Allegany County.

It was during those long trips that we stopped regularly at the Johnson Farm for the horses to be fed, watered and rested, as well as the children. While there, we always ate from the big lunch basket of food that Mother had prepared for the day's journey. We always felt so special when the lovely lady from that beautiful house invited our family to sit on the large wrap-around porch or on the yard to eat our picnic

lunch. The Johnson Farm was reputed to be the finest between Cumberland (MD) and Uniontown (PA) with the home showing gorgeous lace curtain hanging at every window. As a little girl, I was fascinated by the peculiar looking Mansard roof of the Johnson mansion. The house is still standing.

Mr. Milt Race, a livestock dealer living in Frostburg, MD, purchased the Johnson Farm. It was from him that my father purchased several teams of horses while he was general manager of the Percy Farm. Before the advent of farm tractors, my father at one time had eight teams of horses working the farm. Mr. Race was always available to buy, sell or trade livestock and also had a livery stable.

On our trips from Pinto to Grantsville, we left the National Pike at the Six Mile House where Gehaufts' Restaurant now is located. Returning home, we traveled Winchester Road straight through Cresaptown, over the hill down into Potomac Valley then crossed the Potomac River to the Washing Bottom Farm.

I remember the little thriving town of Cresaptown with its store, a blacksmith shop, a two-room schoolhouse, two churches, two cemeteries and about a dozen houses. Mr. J. B. Gunning owned much property in Cresaptown including the community hall, saloon, as well as the home and office of Dr. Cunningham who made house calls with his horse and buggy. We would often see Mr. Gunning when I accompanied my father to the blacksmith shop. He was one of the first neighbors to welcome us when we came to live on Washington Bottom Farm. He came often, always unannounced but always welcome.

What is now known as Cresap Park was once the Brady Farm with a large home built where there are now tennis courts. The Brady Station on the B&O Railroad was named for that farm.

As a child, the only swimming pool we knew was the Potomac River. Sometimes our father would put two of us on a farm horse that had worked all day in the hot sun. We would ride them into the river where they seemed to enjoy the swim as much as we did.

I remember cutting ice from the same swimming hole in the winter to fill our ice house with square blocks, then covering the ice with sawdust for future use. Homemade ice cream was a weekly summer dessert treat enjoyed by family, neighbors and friends.

Learning to milk a cow was a necessity in our family, a requirement before attending school. We children separated the milk to make labor easier. Our favorite pet sheep was trained to walk the tread mill that turned the separator. How we enjoyed sheep shearing time!! Our sheep were sheared regularly, the wool was stuffed into large bags and sold to the woolen mills in Cumberland (MD). I remember doing my part turning the clipper that sheared the sheep.

My father bought a Model T Ford from Mr. Jimmie Morton in Frostburg in February 1912. It had a leather folding top that we put back in warm weather. During the winter, we used woolen lap robes to keep warm and isinglass curtains were snapped on the sides to keep out the cold air. There were carbide lights on that Ford that were lighted with a match.

Horses pulling buggies on the roads were terrified of our Monster Machine. I remember my dad turning off the motor until the horses were coaxed past this new invention of Henry Ford.

In 1918 when Woodrow Wilson was president of the United States, I remember watching the B&O troop trains transporting thousands of soldiers. We waited and watched and waved. The boys waved bravely back to us with their arms and heads through the open windows as the steam engine blew cinders and soot into their eyes and ours. "Over There" became the most popular song as the war ended.

At the close of World War I, our father called our family together in the front yard one afternoon. As we looked skyward, an airship came into view. We Yoder children could not believe our eyes! The airship was following the Potomac River from Cumberland (MD) up through the valley over Pinto, Rawlings and on to Keyser, (WV). I knew not from whence it came or where it went but that was my first introduction to the airplane!

The Western Maryland trains contributed to our social structure. Leaving Cumberland, the first stop was the Seymour Station followed by Ankerman, Pinto, Rawlings, and Keyser. Mr. Moore, a jovial ticket agent, manned the ticket office at the Rawlings Station, thus eliminating the need to go to Cumberland to purchase a ticket. Mr. Moore enjoyed a reputation as the man helping make dreams come true as he aided passengers buying tickets to faraway places.

On Sunday afternoon, dozens of young people gathered at the Pinto station, the hub of the social scene. Getting on the same train were the local boys bound for Keyser to call on their friends. The 7 P.M. Evening Accommodation would return the boys from Keyser and pick up the boys for Cumberland. Thus ended the three hour courtship, with the same pattern followed weekly.

One day when I came home from school, I was surprised to see my uncle sitting in our home with heavy earphones over his head listening to a small black box. When he put the earphones on me, I could not believe that I was actually hearing a voice say "This is KDKA from Pittsburgh, PA". That was my first introduction to radio.

The Maryland Theater seemed to be the cultural center of Cumberland as I was growing up in Pinto. A noted soprano, Galli Kerchl, once appeared on stage there and my oldest sister was present for her recital. That stage also hosted the Al. G. Fields Minstrel Shows, and "The Birth of a Nation" movie attracted wide audiences.

My first exposure to tent revivals occurred when the Rev. Stevens pitched his big tent somewhere in Cumberland. I distinctly remember a female violinist in his orchestra who made a lasting impression on me. As a young child, I was fascinated by music. My mother sang all day long as she was working around our home. I was captivated by the sweet strains of gospel songs as she sang often "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." My favorite ballads "Two Little Orphans", "Put My Little Shoes Away" and "Baggage Coach Ahead," were requested frequently as Mother sat in the kitchen rocking chair after supper with a baby on each knee and my brother and I standing

at her side listening to her sweet tender voice. We often sang as a family. Dad taught us to sing and to read shaped notes in the hymnal. He played the accordion and my favorites were "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean," "Old Black Joe" and "My Darling Nellie Gray."

What a great storyteller he was! He would ask if we wanted to hear a true story or a make-believe one. True stories from his childhood were my favorites!

I remember my cousin, Emma, came from Springs, PA to visit us and brought with her the first sheet music I had ever seen. As she played the organ, I remember standing by her side, mesmerized as she sang "When You Come to the End of a Perfect Day" and "The Rosary."

Following my education in the one-room schoolhouse at Pinto, I had the opportunity to attend one year at Potomac Preparatory School in Keyser and a second year in Harrisonburg, VA at the Eastern Mennonite School. I took a state board examination at Keyser and was granted a teaching certificate.

I taught school for one year at the Seymour School located across the river from where the Celanese Plant now stands. I boarded with the Charles Seymour family in the large brick mansion that can be seen at the foothills of Knobley Mountain. I attended summer school for six weeks every year to renew my teaching certificate. One summer I attended school at Frostburg Normal. I drove with a horse and buggy to the Six Mile House, tied the horses, took a streetcar to Frostburg for half a day, then returned home the same way.

As a young teacher, I returned home to spend each weekend with my family. When I was teaching at the Seymour School, I walked across the meadow toward Brady Station and fearfully crossed the swinging bridge. Part of the big steel cable can still be seen at the river's edge near the B&O Station. During my teaching career at the Short Gap School, I met Harry J. Barton. I remembered him when I was in the fourth grade in the one-room schoolhouse at Pinto.

We were married in 1925 and went into the dairy business. We are the parents of three children: Colleen, John and Evamae. We were married more than 53 years when my husband died of a heart attack in 1978 on the throughway, Route 48. John and Colleen now manage Barton's Restaurant on U.S. Route 220 South, McMullen Highway. Evamae is married to Dale Crist and lives in York, PA.

Following H.J.'s death, I discovered that I had to play a new role on this stage called life. Part of me left with him, but much of him will always be with me.

You may have seen the sign across from Barton's Restaurant: "Caution—Grandmother Crossing." That's me!

Come grow old along with me,
The best is yet to come!"

***** STORIES OF NORMAN S. YODER

As told by his Grandson, Donald P. Yoder

"My Grandfather moved from Springs PA in 1907 to manage the Washington Bottom Farm which was located in Short Gap, WV. The farm was located where ATK is currently located and had about 17 employees working the farm.

The farm was owned by two business men from Cumberland, MD. Later in 1918 he purchased a farm across the Potomac River in Pinto, MD. In those days when you wanted to dig a ditch it was common to plant a of stick dynamite about every few feet and then set the first one on fire and let the domino effect "dig the ditch." One day my grandfather and his brother-in-law, E.K. Blauch, decided to dig about a 500 foot ditch. As they watched the dynamite start to explode, they noticed it seemed to moving fairly fast up the row. They took off running because they thought it was going to catch them. My grandfather was a large man, E.K. Blauch was a small, short and slightly built man. After a bit of running, E. K. yelled, "Get out of the way and let a man run that can run!"

In 1919, after purchasing the farm in Pinto, my grandfather and my dad, (Paul) who was about 10 years of age at the time, where out in the field cutting oats. The binder was not working. The neighboring farmer, who was not a Christian, stopped by and said "Hey boss, what's the problem?" Grandfather told him the binder was not tying. He asked my grandfather how long it had been since the binder had had a good cussing. My grandfather of course said that is not how he handled things. Well, the neighboring farmer said he'd fix it and started into a tyrant of cussing like neither my grandfather nor dad had ever heard. My grandfather kept saying over and over "Bill, now Bill, stop that." However, Bill continued. When he was finished, they started up the binder and the binder never missed a beat the rest of the afternoon. Needless to say, this was not a "lesson" my grandfather had wished my dad to witness."



Making hay on the Washington Bottom Farm. The man on the left is thought to be Norman S. Yoder. The buggy with white horses on the right is the owners team of horses.

1912 THE YODER FAMILY CAR From family conversations, 1982, 1997 Walter Yoder

"When I was a kid, Dad (Norman S. Yoder, Sr.) bought a 1912 Model T. Ford car. It was the seventh one in Allegany County (MD). Of course, all of the Amish people had horses and buggies. This Ford car was a touring car. It had a high

top that folded back. Convertibles are nothing new. They go back all those years. There were doors for the back seat, but none for the front seat. It had a four cylinder gasoline engine. The car used Dayton airless tires, made of hard rubber with about an inch of space in the center. Top speed was 30 miles an hour. The first time we drove it to church, there was a lot of interest in that machine, but not many people wanted a ride in it. I think church started late that morning.

I remember going in the car up over the mountains. When we would meet a horse and buggy, the horse would be afraid of the car, the women and children would jump out of the buggy and run into the woods, and the man would have to get out and hold the horse. Often we had to pull the car over, and sometimes, even shut the motor off so that the horse would go by. Turning the motor off meant that you had to get out and crank it to start it again. You couldn't just step on a starter.

I remember going up Savage Mountain one time. A horse and buggy with a man, a woman, and four or five kids in it. They saw our car and the kids took for the woods and peeked out from behind the trees. The woman had on a long dress. She pulled up her skirt and jumped over a rail fence. The man couldn't get his horse to lead past. Dad pulled the car clear over to the side and turned the engine off and had to get out and help that man.

One time Eva and I were washing that Ford car. We were going to go some place that Sunday. We had one of those acetylene apparatuses on the running board to generate gas for the lights. The big lantern-type carbide lights were made out of brass. Water dripped into the carbide to produce the gas to operate the lights. Eva washed the lights and put polish on them. Then, she put a big towel or something around one of them to shine it. She see-sawed back and forth with the towel and generated a spark and that thing blew up, blew the whole top off of the light, just missed her head. We hunted for the top of that light for a week and never did find it.

When it got dark, you would have to get out and light your lights. The lights would burn for about an hour. Then, you'd have to replace the carbide and water, if you hit a bump too hard, they would go out.

It took about half a day to go to Springs. It was all rough dirt roads. You'd hit rocks and cross breakers, ditches across the road. Cars had fabric tires that would bruise easy. You couldn't go to Springs without changing flat tires. One time we changed seven (tires). You'd have to get out every so often and clean your plugs".

MY GRANDPA...NORMAN S. YODER By Evamae (Barton) Crist Daughter of Eva Mae (Yoder) Barton

"Totally unaware of what was happening, I was in the process of discovering what love, comfort and safety really meant. As a very young child, I remember spending much time sitting on Grandpa's lap. Really it was more like sitting on his legs, for he was heavy and there was not much lap room for an adoring little granddaughter.

But it was there that I felt love, comfort, and safety and belonging.

It seemed like Grandpa Yoder was always there, whether it be in church, in his home, at his farm, or best of all, at our house. It always turned out to be a special occasion when Grandpa and Grandma Yoder came to our home to join us for a delicious meal and good visit. Usually it was the other way...we would go to his home. But those special times occurred frequently as I recall my father (Harry J. Barton) "talking business" with Grandpa Yoder.

What a family man he was! Devoting his time and energy to organizing family events was a passion for him. The Stevanus Reunion, held at Springs, PA every year was a highlight for me because I got to ride up and back with Grandpa and Grandma in their car. It was at one of those reunions that Grandpa lifted me up on top of a picnic table in front of what appeared to be an enormous crowd. He announced to the audience that I was going to sing. And sing I did!! As my nervousness disappeared, I gained confidence and the applause encouraged me. What a priceless lesson to learn at such a young age. I am so grateful for Grandpa's encouragement.

I hold precious and endearing memories of him. How I praise the Lord for my Godly heritage as I remember Grandpa, Norman Solomon Yoder

YODER FAMILY VISITS OLD HOMESTEAD—ABL

Written by Mrs. Eva Y. Barton

June 13, 1980

ABL recently welcomed some distinguished visitors who have a unique relationship with this R&D facility: they once lived here. The surviving members of the Norman S. Yoder, Sr., family returned to visit the one-time farmland, now ABL, where 73 years ago they took up residence. The family spent 11 years—from December 1907 to 1918—on what was known as the Washington Bottom Farm before moving on to another farm.

During their visit to ABL, the Yoder's, escorted by QA Manager John T. Burych, a friend of the family, stopped by the old farmhouse, now used as a storage area for plant records, and the barn, which now houses tooling on standby status. These buildings evoked poignant memories for the family. They proudly recalled that their father installed the first electricity and the first in-door plumbing in the area. They pointed out the unusually large dimensions of the farm.

Some of the history of the Yoder family as it intertwined with that of ABL is recalled in more detail in the account given below.

"It was a big adventure for Norman S. Yoder of Grantsville, MD, to take his wife Annie and family of five small children and step into the land of the unknown. At least, that is what it seemed like to him. Norman, reared in the Amish faith, was a very strong, courageous, confident, hard-working man. His beautiful young wife, Annie Mae, was the perfect helpmate to him; with their strong faith in God, together they made the decision to come to the Washington Bottom Farm at Pinto, MD.

The year was late December, 1907; his work schedule was to begin January 1, 1908. Mr. Yoder was named manager

of two more farms, the entire estate consisting of 2,400 acres. The mode of travel was three large spring wagons, loaded with house furnishing, children, close friends and the family dog. The wagons were drawn by beautiful well-fed Percheron horses. I presume the wagon train was rather unusual and worthy of notice, having a dramatic effect upon the citizens as the family drove through the small town of Frostburg, MD.

It was a full days journey and upon arriving at the big farm house, they were received with a warm welcome from the Henry Knieriem family who then occupied the house. Mr. and Mrs. Yoder were readily accepted in the community, and soon neighbors and friends were innumerable.

Eleven years of hard work, long hours of labor, plus many hours of love were experienced by the Yoder family. All farm labor was done with horses. Norman raised his own hay, wheat, corn, and oats. Plus a large vegetable garden and truck patch. He managed a dairy; raised his own calves, many hogs, sheep and colts. Butchering time in the fall of the year, when neighbors came in to help, was a day long to be remembered.

Mr. and Mrs. Yoder, having a strong Christian faith, soon found a place to worship. Every Sunday morning found the Yoder family and the hired hands filling up the big spring wagon, heading toward Short Gap Methodist Church.

Being of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, the family had a language barrier. Only the two eldest children who were of school age, could speak the English language. Mr. and Mrs. Yoder understood English, but Pennsylvania Dutch was the language exclusively spoken in the home. The years sped quickly by and during that time, three more children were added to the family, making a total of eight-six girls and two boys.

The Yoder family was a normal American Christian family. Where the mother taught her daughters to be keepers of the home. "Her children arise and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praise her". (Proverbs 31:28) The doors of the Yoder home were always open to wayfaring travelers; many were fed and slept, then sent on their way. Eleven happy years fill with joy, love, happiness, hard work, heartache, sickness, sadness and cares of life, were a part of the Yoder family and just as real to them as they are to you today.

Mr. Yoder and family left the Washington Bottom Farm at the end of 1918. He moved across the Potomac River and bought the Herbert Rawlings Farm, which is still owned by some members of the Yoder family. Here another child was added to the family, Norman S. Yoder, Jr.

Mr. Norman Yoder, Sr. gave the land for both the Pinto Mennonite Church and the Cemetery, where he was buried December 5, 1945. His wife Annie lies by his side, death coming to her on October 9, 1963.

The Yoder children are as follows: Freda Yoder Livengood, Rhoda Yoder Dayton, Eva Yoder Barton, Walter N. Yoder, Melda Yoder Helmick (deceased), Paul N. Yoder (deceased), Viola Yoder Johnson, Suzanna Yoder Collins and Norman S. Yoder, Jr."

" The first settlers of the Mennonite Faith moved to Pinto MD December 26, 1907, from Grantsville, Garrett Co., MD and from Springs, Somerset Co., PA. Their move was not from any religious (urge), but simply to better financial circumstances, with the expectations of moving to the homeland again in the future. Many times had they been ridiculed for moving away, since they could not attend their own church services regularly, as none of the folks had automobiles as yet.

Not having any convenient place of worship, these folks worked with the Southern Methodist at Shot Gap (WV) in Sunday school, and Young People's Meetings and attending their church services. The natives being very friendly and sociable, invited these folks to have their ministers of their own faith, to hold services, or to preach for them anytime the church house was not in use. Later, Brother D. H. Bender of Heston, Kansas (formerly of Springs, PA), being acquainted with the folk from Springs, PA and Grantsville, MD, in his traveling, paid them a visit and preached for them there, being the first Mennonite preacher to preach in that community. The sermon seemed to find a ready response in the hearts of the people, and later Brother Ed Miller and Noah E. Miller from Springs preached a number of times, this continuing for several years. The Allegany Co. MD school board was petitioned for the use of the schoolhouse at Pinto (a distance of about 2 miles from Short Gap, WV, and where some of the folks were living) for religious purposes, but were refused.

In the mean time, a number of the families returned to their homeland, leaving Brother N.S. Yoder and family. The Yoder's had come from the Conservative Amish Congregation near Grantsville, MD." From 1918 until 1926 attempts were made to establish a Mennonite Church. On April 20, 1926 a local committee (N.S. Yoder, E.K. Blauch, Earle R. Blauch) was appointed to consider the building of a church. A 20x48 concrete block building was erected on ground donated by Norman S. and Annie Yoder. The church house was dedicated on August 22, 1926. Norman also donated the land for the Cemetery. Both Norman and Annie are buried there.



The house at Washington Bottom Farm where Norman, Annie and their family lived while Norman was the manager.



The huge barn at Washington Bottom Farm



The house that Norman and Annie lived in when they bought the farm in Pinto Md.



*Front row: Eva, Viola, Suzanna
Second row: Rhoda, Freda, Melda
Third row: Norman and Annie
Back row: Norman Jr., Paul, Walter*

Although Norman and Annie were married in the Springs Mennonite Church, which Annie was a member of, we think Norman remained a member and attended the Amish Church at Grantsville, MD until the family moved to Pinto, MD. According to File #25 Casselman River Historian Jonas B. Miller Records indicate that Norman S. Yoder was elected assistant Sunday School superintendent on March 31, 1907. He was also elected Sunday School teacher of the women's class.

Also in June 1906 and May 1907, Norman was the speaker at the annual Sunday School conference at Maple Glen. The Maple Glen Amish Church, also known as the "Miller Church" during this time, divided from the Niverton Amish Church, also known as the "Yoder Church" in 1895. The "Miller Church", the more progressive church, began having Sunday School. The "Yoder Church", the more conservative church did not have Sunday School and does not today. The "Yoder Church" today is known as the Niverton Old Order Amish Church.

The Maple Glen Church, in 1911, affiliated with the Conservative Amish Mennonite Conference.

OBITUARY OF NORMAN S. YODER

"Norman S. Yoder, 70, of Pinto, MD, son of the late Saul D. Yoder and Katie (Yutzy) Yoder, died Monday evening in Allegheny Hospital, Cumberland, ***following a heart attack.**

He had been in ill health for two years, but it was not until Tuesday afternoon that his condition became critical and he was admitted to the hospital. ***Born in Somerset County, PA.,** Mr. Yoder married Miss Anna Yoder, of Springs, PA, on March 25, 1899, and moved to Pinto in 1908 when he took over the management of the Washington Bottom Farm for the Hitchins & Edwards Co. of Frostburg, MD. Twelve years later he bought the H. S. Rawlings farm at Pinto and operated a dairy farm until his retirement several years ago.

Mr. Yoder was a member, and one of the founders of the Pinto Mennonite Church. Besides his wife, he is survived by nine children: Mrs. Myron Livengood, Mrs. Harry J. Barton, Walter N. Yoder, Mrs. Carlton Helmick, Paul N. Yoder, Mrs. Robert Johnson, Mrs. Wesley Collins, Norman S. Yoder, Jr., Pinto, and Mrs. Robert Dayton, Ridgeley, WV.

Also surviving are 30 grandchildren, three great grandchildren, one sister, Mrs. Noah Hersberger, Grantsville and a half-brother, Lewis Yoder, Springs, PA.

Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. at Pinto. Meversdale Republican Newspaper, December 6, 1945.

***The Gospel Herald Obituary states that he died due to a stroke.**

***He was born near Grantsville, MD**

OBITUARY OF ANNIE MAE (YODER) YODER

"Daughter of John and Susan (Stevanus) Yoder, was born at Springs, PA April 24, 1882; died at Pinto, MD, October 9, 1963; age 81 y., 5m., 15d. On March 16, 1899 she was married to Norman S. Yoder. Who died in Dec. 1945. Surviving are 6 daughters and 3 sons. She was a member of the Pinto Church where funeral services were held October 12, in charge of Mahlon Miller and A. J. Metzler. Gospel Herald, Vol. LVI, No. 44, Nov. 5, 1963, pp 997-998



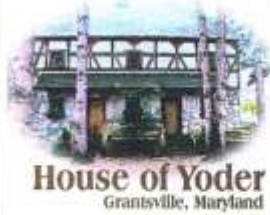
The door that was in the Norman Yoder home on 1088 Posey Row Road, Grantsville, MD was purchased at the Amish Benefit Auction, June of 2011, by Evamae (Barton) Crist, and donated to The House of Yoder. Plans are being made to build a display for the door. Thank you Evamae for such a wonderful gift! Evamae is a Granddaughter of Norman and Annie Yoder.

HOUSE OF YODER ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Members Meeting of The House of Yoder will be held Saturday, November 5, 2011 at The House of Yoder, located on Maryland Alternate State Route 40 in Grantsville, MD. Registration and refreshments from 9:30 A.M. until 10:00. The members meeting will begin at 10:00. The speaker for this year will be James L. Yoder, of Grantsville, MD. His topic is "Christ Without Borders." The public is invited to attend.

Christmas in The Village will be held Friday, December 2 from 4-8 P.M. and Saturday, December 3, from 12:00 until 8:00P.M. Stop in to see The House of Yoder festively decorated, and have some popcorn while you are visiting The House of Yoder. Our hosts for the festival will be Jean and Richard Sweigart. The public is Welcome!

As always, we invite our readers to send us ideas or suggestions for our newsletters. A heart felt THANK YOU! to those that shared stories, photos and information for this newsletter. We appreciate your contributions so that we can share with others.



The House of Yoder Newsletter is published by The House of Yoder, Inc. Grantsville, MD. 21536, located 1/2 mile east of Grantsville, MD., on Route 40 East, at Penn Alps Restaurant and Spruce Forest Artisan Village. President: Doris Ours. Vice President: Lowell Bender. Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder, Treasurer: Edgar R. Yoder. Board Members: Lonnie D. Yoder, Harvey Yoder, Phyllis Weaver Hearn, Mark H. Yoder, Daniel Yoder, Sr., Associate Member, Marian Diehl and Benny C. Yoder. Honorary Member; Gerald Yoder. Editor: Mayla H. Yoder.

The House of Yoder Membership: Make check payable to ***"The House of Yoder"*** and mail to Mayla H. Yoder Membership Coordinator
2274 Salco Road Berlin, PA
15530

	1 Year	5 Years	Lifetime
Individual	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Couple	\$35.00	\$150.00	\$1,500.00

The House of Yoder Newsletter
%Mayla H. Yoder
2274 Salco Road
Berlin., PA. 15530