



The House Of Yoder Newsletter Summer 2021

Father of 19 says Kiddies Are An Asset

New York Newspaper Sends Reporter to Somerset Pa to Interview
Francis Yoder (YR23972a) and Ella Mae (Yoder) Yoder (YR23958a)

By Fay Stevenson in N.Y. World.

"The man who says he cannot afford to have children is an idiot. Children are an asset and the best investment of married life."

This is not a second Theodore Roosevelt talking, but just a good American father of nineteen children, who speaks from "experience" and practices what he preaches. He is Francis Yoder, a coal miner, who lives at Somerset, Pa., a smoky little four hours' ride from Pittsburgh and five miles from nowhere.

When the nineteenth child was born to the Yoder's a few days ago The Evening World sent me to interview such an illustrious family in this modern childless age of ours. Hence my journey to the Smoky City and Somerset.

Just over the blue, dusky-hills of Somerset in a dark brown, two-story cottage I found the happy home of the Yoder's. A knock at the cottage door brought the patter of feet, jostling and pushing merry laughs a squeal, a

faint "stop pinching me", a wee baby's voice from an inner room and then the door opened and I was greeted by a host of kiddies of all sizes and ages. At first I was so amazed that all I could think of was the old woman who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do, but a second glance at these healthy, rollicking kiddies made me realize that Yoder did know what to do, and the motto which ought to hang over their door is "Welcome to our city; the more the merrier!"

A neat looking, sensible woman walked into the room with the tiny babe clutched tightly in her arms. It was Mother Yoder, with the nineteenth arrival. Her eyes were bright, her cheeks even rosy, and at first I could scarcely believe she was the mother of all these kiddies, including the oldest boy, who is twenty three and a young lady who looks more like a

daughter than her eldest girl child. I had expected to see a faded, worn-out woman, but instead I found myself face to face with a woman forty years of age, in perfect health, needing no vanity bag to bring roses to her cheeks, no theaters or tangoes to keep the dimples and curves about her mouth.

Someone had been hammering in the room upstairs repairing a leaky roof. Suddenly the noise ceased and Mr. Yoder, who, fortunately, was not in the mines that day came down to meet me.

"I can't shake hands with you lady," he laughed; "my hands are always black, but my heart is clean, and I couldn't keep lily white hands and make enough bread for my family. It isn't every man of forty three who can boast of nineteen children, fourteen of them living. It's true the old fashioned men sometimes had twelve or thirteen children, but they usually had two wives, while my gal over there and I have been married ever since she was sixteen and I nineteen. "We've had a big family, but we're proud of it, and we count our sweetest blessings and biggest asset. How about it mamma."

Mrs. Yoder smiled happily and said those twenty-four years of married life had been busy but happy ones for her.

"I have never had the doctor but for a short period when the stork came and perhaps the first five years of my life were the hardest, but after my children began to get older things became easier because they helped me. Now that many of them are working the returns are coming in. Our investment was good. Four-

teen of my children are living, but five died when infants. Two belonged to different sets of twins and the other two died soon after birth.

"And all of your children live at home?" I asked. "All live at home and each one, with the exception of No. 18, has his work to do about the house," laughed Mrs. Yoder. "Some work in the house, others have a truck garden, where many of our vegetables are raised; the oldest boys work as coal miners with their father and the older girls, in fact even three in their teens, do housework for the neighbors. My husband earns on an average of \$80 a week, and the older boys \$45 a week and the girls bring in their share."

So you see the man who says he cannot afford to have children is an idiot," declared Father Yoder. "I am sorry for the couple who take this point of views and deny themselves the pleasure of parenthood."

"How about sparing the rod and spoiling the child?" I asked.

A good switching or a sound spanking is necessary in the life of every kid," replied Mr. Yoder with a wink of his eye. "Put them to bed early, feed them plain food, dress them warm, make them work and keep a hand on one side of the cradle to rock it when they are good and a slipper in the other for moods and tantrums."

The Yoder's have lived in the cottage at Somerset nearly all their married life. Mr. Yoder was born in the cottage next door and now they are taking the mortgage off their

home. There was a second one on it a few years ago, but many hands make light work and things are beginning to run very smoothly in the Yoder home. Children are an asset in the Yoder family and most likely they will be consulting automobile catalogues by the time No. 19 reaches his majority.

In the meantime there are sixteen people to be fed, clothed and housed and they are all under the same roof. Just suppose you had fourteen kiddies' plates to fill and fourteen pairs of boots to buy.

How would you like to be Papa and Mamma Yoder, with all these children?

1. Edward, twenty-three working in coal mine.
2. Gladys, twenty-one housekeeper
3. Henry, eighteen, working in mines.
4. Oran, sixteen, works on farm
5. Isabel, fifteen, housekeeper.
6. George Harold, thirteen, works on farm.
7. Julia, eleven, goes to school.
8. Richard, nine, goes to school.
9. Magdalene, eight, goes to school.
- *10. Lily, seven, goes to school.
11. Thelma, five goes to school.
12. Irving, four
13. Elwood, two
14. Baby Freeman, three weeks old.

* Wilbur is missing from this list. He would be 7 years old.

* See note on page 8

Twenty Children Born to Somerset
Couple; 15 Still Surround the Family Table

Father, Frank Yoder is 45

Wife is Five Years his Junior

HOME IS MODEL ONE

Connellsville housewives who feel the cares of the home fall heavily on them—some with two or three children, some with one or less—may learn a lesson from Mrs. Frank Yoder of Plank Road, Somerset County whose husband is employed on the construction of the now Methodist Episcopal church in South Pittsburgh Street. Just one task on Mrs. Yoder's list is baking 30 loaves of bread every other day.

Mrs. Yoder does not keep a boarding house—at least not in the accepted use of the term. Her own family consumes the loaves, her husband putting away his share when he is at home weekends. The young Yoder's are not over-heavy eaters. It is the number of them that causes the huge piles of the staff of life to melt away. Usually there are 15 of them at the table besides the father and mother.

Including those removed by death there were 20 children in the family. Four have passed to the great beyond, another is married and has a home of her own.

Baking is only one of Mrs. Yoder's tasks. All the clothing the girls wear is her handiwork. Part of the boys wear is made at home also. She also is the family cobbler. Never a shoe goes to the repairman's, "She can take your Sunday shoes and sole them as neatly as any cobbler in your town," said the husband to the reporter for The Courier.

The Yoder's own a tract of seven acres with a commodious house, all free of debt. On this Mrs. Yoder and the children raised quantities of the vegetable and fruits which are put away for winter and which during the growing season help cut down the high cost of living. Much of the time Mr. Yoder is employed elsewhere and the care of the crops naturally falls on those left at home.

With the aid of the children Mrs. Yoder is now feeding 14 hogs, 12 of which will be butchered next fall. The others have been promised to a neighbor. Two cows supply milk and butter. The family does not keep a horse, it being cheaper to hire for what work is necessary

The Some idea of a cost of a meal may be gained from the fact that for dinner Sunday Mr. Yoder purchased over 10 pounds of pork chops. They cost him \$3.91.

"How did you keep the wolf from the door during the peak of the high cost period?" Mr. Yoder was asked he laughed in reply.

"I made as high \$600 a month in the mines".
"Once I drew \$284 for 10 days work digging coal". He added that his oldest sons, Edward and Henry, during the height of the demand for coal at war prices drew \$150 each every 2 weeks.

"Well, how does it go now?" he was asked. Again he laughed. "We have plenty to eat all the time. If you think we haven't just drop in for a meal".

Only Mr. Yoder and the oldest son, Edward are now employed. Edward is engaged in contract work at Somerset and in that vicinity. Henry was employed also until the strike tied up coal mining in that region.

There is nothing shiftless about any member of the family. Each does his or her part. And they are a happy lot.

Long hours are nothing to Mrs. Yoder and their oldest daughter, Gladys. With the task of getting the youngest members of the flock off to bed it is never earlier than 11 or 12 o'clock, Mr. Yoder said.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Yoder consider themselves young. He will be 45 next April 5 his wife is 40. When she became Mrs. Frank Yoder, her name remained the same, Ella Yoder, she was the daughter of the late Joshua Yoder of the Somerset Community. Mr. Yoder is the son of Tobias Yoder.

In age the Yoder children range from 25 years to 4 months. Frances is the babe, born March 28 last. Edward, the oldest was 25 on June 13. Between them were born Gladys, Leroy, Henry, Carrie and

Luella, twins, Julie and Magdalene, twins, *Catherine, Thelma and Richard, twins, Wilbur, Oran, Freeman, Isabell, *Grant, Harold and *Tobias and a babe, which died unnamed. Others dead are Carrie, Luella and Leroy. Isabell is the married daughter, her name being Pritts."

From The Weekly Courier

Connellsville, PA July 22, 1922

*Catherine, Grant and Tobias are names that are not listed in other documents. Ellwood and Irvin are not listed in the above article.

FRANCES YODER STORY CONTINUED

Copied verbatim from
"Somerset Herald"
July 22, 1925

Tragic Death of Father of Twenty

Francis Yoder Mistaken for Groundhog
Was shot Through head by John Shaffer
LAD FIRST DENIED HE DID THE SHOOTING

Frances Yoder, aged 50 celebrated as the father of Somerset County's largest family, was shot in mistake for a groundhog by John Shaffer, age 17, about 4 p.m. Friday afternoon, on the Harry Dickson farm, three miles west of Somerset. The bullet entered a little above the left ear and came out on the opposite side of Mr. Yoder's head. The wounded man was rushed to Community hospital where he expired at 5:30 o'clock.

Realizing the horrible mistake he had made young Shaffer cried loudly for help, but receiving no response he ran to the automobile in which the hunting party had driven from their homes on Coal Hill to the Dickson farm, and drove rapidly to the farm home of Austin Barron, where he told of Mr. Yoder's having been shot. A telephone message was sent to Sible's undertaking establishment and in a few minutes the Sible ambulance was on its way to the scene of the shooting.

Meanwhile news of the tragedy was telephoned to the Dickson family, and Mr. Dickson's father-in-law, Herman Lohr hastened to the point on the hillside, where Yoder was found unconscious and

doubled up over his gun. Austin Barron, John Shaffer, William Shaffer and George Harold -in-law, Herman Lohr hastened to the point on the hillside, where Yoder was found unconscious and doubled up over his gun. Austin Barron, John Shaffer, William Shaffer and George Harold Yoder, the three last named members of the hunting party, had already arrived at the scene of the shooting. When the ambulance arrived Mr. Yoder was placed in it and removed to the hospital. An examination of the wound disclosed that the bullet had passed through the brain.

A short time after Mr. Yoder's death his son George Harold called at the residence of District Attorney P.G. Cober and informed him of the calamity which had befallen fifteen of the surviving family of twenty Yoder children.

He told the District Attorney that accompanied by his father and the two Shaffer boys, he had driven from his home on Coal Hill to the Dickson farm about 11 O'clock Friday morning to hunt groundhogs. They were all armed, three with shotguns and Edward Shaffer with rifle. After parking their car by the roadside the party separated, Francis Yoder and Edward Shaffer entering the Dickson farm and William Shaffer and George Harold Yoder entering the Barron farm on the opposite side of the road. About 4 o'clock the boys on the Barron farm decided that it was time to return home and they crossed to the Dickson farm, entering a recently mowed meadow, they soon arrived at the place where George Harold's father lay wounded. John Shaffer, accompanied by Austin Barron, Herman Lohr and other soon appeared. No one present seemed to know who had fired the fatal shot.

District Attorney Cober directed George Harold to bring the two Shaffer boys to his office in the court House and after dusk the three arrived. One by one they were interrogated by District Attorney Cober and later by County Detective C.I. Knepper, Deputy Sheriff Herbert Jones and B&O Detective B.F. Ludwig. The boys all denied any knowledge of the shooting.

John Shaffer said that he had 14 loaded shells with him when he left home in the morning. He shot two at groundhogs and the third shell he said he had exploded on the way to the Dickson farm. The other lads denied that John had exploded a shell while they were riding in the car. On being searched John produced seven rifle shells but he was unable to account for the disappearance of five shells which he claimed to have had when he left home in the morning.

The three boys were taken from the District Attorney's office to the county jail, where John Shaffer was invited into a separate room for further quizzing by the officers. He held stoutly to his original story until Deputy Herbert Johns related an instance in which he came within an ace of shooting a hunting companion in mistake for a wild animal. When Jones completed his imaginary narrative, young Shaffer turned to Detective Ludwig and said "It was just as he said. I might as well tell the truth. I shot Mr. Yoder, believing that I was shooting a groundhog."

The overwrought boy burst into tears and for a time sobbed convulsively. District Attorney Cober telephone for a stenographer and as soon as Shaffer was able to regain his composure he made a full statement of the events which culminated in the shooting and death of Yoder

The boy said that he and Mr. Yoder became separated while hunting and that when he saw something moving in a clump of weeds, grass and small bushes, about 250 feet from where he was standing, he raised his rifle and fired at an object which he firmly believed at the time was a ground hog. When he discovered that he had shot one of his hunting companions he screamed loud and long for help before going to the Barron home for aid. The husky tones of the boy's voice bore convincing proof of the statement that he had called for help.

Continuing the boy stated that he became terrified immediately following the shooting that he feared to tell the whole truth. All who heard young Shaffer make his statement were entirely satisfied that he spoke sincerely and kept nothing back.

After Shaffer's statement had been typed the boy signed it. Meanwhile the lad's father, Albert Shaffer and his attorney, Norman T. Boose and Justice of the Peace, Charles J. Harrison, Jr., arrived at the Sheriff's office, and it was arranged to release the prisoner on \$500 bond which was furnished by his father.

The scene of the shooting, a gully from which limestone was removed many years ago, is distant about 700 yards from the Dickson home. The gully is filled with undergrowth and surrounded by tall grass, weeds and small elders. There is a ground hog hole in the west bank of the gully. Everything about the gully indicated that Francis Yoder had made his way quietly to the East bank of the deep hole and concealed himself in the rank vegetable growth at a point commanding a good view of the groundhog nest. Mr. Yoder who wore a dark brown cap, squatted in the center of a clump of grass and weeds with his shotgun across his knees, and must have been patiently awaiting the arrival of a groundhog. Being a habitual tobacco chewer it is probable that Mr. Yoder was obliged to expectorate frequently and in so doing unconsciously exposed his cap and caused the grass and weeds to sway.

When the body of Mr. Yoder was found he was lying face down on his gun. He was breathing heavily but unable to speak. The body was turned over and brains were seen oozing from the wounds in his head.

Within an hour after he expired Mr. Yoder's body was removed from the hospital to the Sibel undertaking establishment where it was prepared for burial before being taken to the stricken home.

Funeral services conducted by Rev. Servey, of Grace Evangelical Church, were held at the Yoder home at 2:00 o'clock Monday afternoon, followed by interment in the Husband Cemetery.

SHAFFER ENTERS PLEA OF GUILTY

Edward Shaffer, aged 17, who on Saturday afternoon, July 18, shot and instantly killed Francis Yoder, father of Somerset county's largest family, in mistake for a ground hog, on a farm three miles west of Somerset, entered a pleas of guilty to a

charge of shooting a human being in mistake for a wild creature, when he appeared before Judge J.A. Berkey at the courthouse Saturday afternoon.

Before imposing sentence Judge Berkey heard the testimony of several witnesses who told every incident connected with the deplorable tragedy. His honor had before him the written confession of the defendant in which nothing was concealed.

The court directed Shaffer to pay the costs and \$5 monthly to the widow of Francis Yoder until further order. Shaffer is also forbidden the use of a gun for 10 years. The court order requires that he shall report monthly to Probation Officer W. Scott Matthews.

(Some of the family think the shooting was not an accident.)

Taken from The Republic

Meyersdale, PA

Thursday, March 10, 1904

ANOTHER DEPTY WOUNDED

Francis Yoder, a Deputy Sheriff at Boswell, Wounded in the Leg.

"On last Saturday night Francis Yoder, a deputy sheriff from Somerset, who is guarding the property of the Merchants Coal Company at Boswell, was fired upon under cover of darkness and shot through the calf of his left leg.

While patrolling the property at 9 o'clock and as he neared the tippie two men jumped from a box car close at hand and fired three shots at him, on taking effect as told above and another going thought the front of his coat. He answered their volley with three shots, and one of the men was heard to yell "I am shot," and then he disappeared in the darkness. The deputy was hit on the head with a coupling pin, which it is thought, was in the hands of one of the men. Although he is not certain. The coal company has offered a reward of \$500 for the conviction of the party who did the shooting. This shows what a dangerous lot of men are gathered in that part of the county, and coming right upon the heels of the conviction of the ten men who were arrested for doing the shooting a few weeks back. It also shows they have not much fear of either the court or the law."

Taken from The Daily American

Somerset, PA

Thursday, Dec 29, 1904

INJURED AT MINE SHAFT

"One man was pretty severely injured and two others badly shaken up by an accident at the Walker mine, just north east of Somerset a few days ago. The coal is taken from the mine by means of a shaft, the depth of which is seventy two feet. Francis Yoder, Ira Friedline and Jack Honse were going down the shaft in an empty car, and when about half way down the party operating the shaft machinery lost control of it and the car dropped to the bottom. Honse and Friedline were badly shaken up and slightly bruised, and Yoder had one of his heels badly crushed. He has since had to get about with the aid of crutches and his injury will probably disable him during the winter. "

Francis and Ella make national news

Taken from The Woodland Daily Democrat

Woodland, CA

March 4, 1922

"Mrs. Frances Yoder, of Somerset PA, has been married for twenty-five years and has just presented her husband with his twentieth rebate to the income tax."

FRANCIS AND ELLA MAE YODER

Francis T. (Frank) Yoder YR239721 was born April 5, 1876/75. (more information later about his birth). He died October 25, 1925. His parents were Mary Catherine Whipkey and Civil War Veteran Tobias Yoder, who was left on the battle field on June 30, 1862 near Richmond, VA to die after being hit with seven mini balls that penetrated his body. After the war, Tobias met with mishaps that would have killed an ordinary man. He was run over by a hand car on the railroad and broke four

or five ribs. On another occasion, a coal mine caved in killing a dog by his side and requiring great effort to remove the slate and dirt on top of him. Tobias's story can be found on the yodernewsletter.org Click on stories.



Ella (Yoder) Yoder, wife of Francis Yoder. Photo taken Dec. 24, 1978. Ella turned 98 years old on Dec 18, 1978

Francis's wife was Ella Mae Yoder, is the daughter of Joshua Yoder (YR23972) and his wife Anna Marie (Zerfoss) Yoder. Ella's grandmother, Elizabeth (Lehman) Yoder (LM3423), wife of Samuel Yoder (YR2395) was clubbed to death by their mentally disabled son, Eli

In a letter written by Judith Yoder dated September 21, 1862 states: "I will let you know that Eli Yoder beat his Mother to death. The girls heard her scream twice and ran. When they got there he was still beating her even though she was already dead. He struck her with a club on the side of the head. He was furiously mad. Gertrude got there first and he started beating her on the head too. Then Julia came and he knocked her down. He

also took Joshua (Ella's father) and bit him on the thumb. While he was still struggling with Joshua, the girls dragged their mother out of the house. As soon as Sam (the father) came in the house, Eli gave up. The same day they took Eli to the Somerset jail. Eli is as fat as a market hog."

Joshua Yoder died when Ella was 9 years old. Her mother Anna Marie died when Ella was 15.

In news articles, Francis states he was 19 years old and Ella was 16 years old when they married. According to her birth date of December 18, 1880 and her marriage date of October 25, 1896, she would have been 16 years old and not 17 as stated on the marriage certificate. Also, the marriage certificate states Francis's age as 21 years. According to his draft registration and social security records, he was born April 4, 1876 and the marriage date of Oct 25, 1896 would make him 20 years old and not 21 when they married. On Francis's death certificate, Ella stated he was born April 4, 1875. All of the obituaries that I have read state his birth year as 1875. Just speculation on the editors part....but did he add a year to his age on the marriage certificate so that he would not need someone to give consent to the marriage? This editor seems to think that the draft registration and social security date of 1876 would be more accurate. Consider this...at the time of Francis's death, Ella would have been under a tremendous amount of stress and certainly in shock. Her husband had just been shot and killed and she now had 15 children to take care of and raise as a single parent. I imagine she could have easily gotten Francis's birth date mixed up.

While doing interviews with various newspapers, Francis always stated they had 20 children. Fifteen living and five that had died. A grandchild, Earl Yoder says "he always thought there were 19 children, including two sets of twins." The Meyers-

dale, PA The Republic dated Feb 23, 1922 states Francis as saying: "Even when the three sets of twins arrived, we managed to get along splendidly."

Each newspaper interview gave a different number of children born to Francis and Ella. This is the only listing that we can find of Lily in our research. Did she die at a young age? The name of Wilbur, who was seven years old at the time of the interview was omitted from the list. Did the reporter get Lily and Wilbur mixed up?

Francis stated to The Republic from Meyersdale, PA that there were 3 sets of twins. We can only document 2 sets and their names, but not the third set. To add up to 20 children, you have to add one more child. Lots of unanswered question!!

Following is a list of children of Francis and Ella their birth and death date, along with their marriage partner gathered from public records:

1. Edward: born 6-13-1897. Died 2-26-1980 Never married .
2. Gladys: 7-13-1899 Died 11-8-1999 Never married
3. Leroy: 5-28-1901 Died 1-20-1902
4. Henry: 10-23-1902 Died 12-19-1969 Married Dorothy Nair
5. Oran 3-11-1904 Died 4-17-1985 Never married
6. Isabelle 8-21-1905 Died 1-8-1989 Married Edward Pritts
7. George Harold (used middle name) 6-10-1907 Died 4-13-2001 Married Mable Horner
8. Julia twin 3-17-1909 died 4-6-1981 Married Alton Miller

8. Carrie twin 3-17-1909 Died 3-27-1909
9. Luella twin 5-25-1911 Died 11-3-1911 from pneumonia/whooping cough
9. Richard twin 5-25-1911- Died 6-17-1989 Married Naomi Brant
10. Magdalene 5-9-1912 Died 9-11-1993 Married Clarence Coddington
11. Wilbur 11-29-1914 Died 8-29-1998 Married Lula Nicklow Draft registration and social security have his birth year as 1913
12. Thelma 10-11-1915 Died 7-13-2005 Married Thomas Griffith
13. Irvin 2-1-1917 Died 5-22-1962 Married Mae Manges
14. Ellwood 4-3-1919 Died 6-16-2011 Married Rosie Humbert
15. Freeman 8-24-1920 Died 11-1-1923
16. Frances 1-27-1922 Died 7-29-2009 Married Merle Brunner
- Unnamed child ?

A newspaper stated there was an unnamed child that was still born. Why wasn't that child named? Even counting the still born baby, there are only 19 children. There is no further documentation, that we could find, on the 20th child.

A New York newspaper article listed a child named Lily, but they did not list the child Wilbur who we know existed. On July 22, 1922 The Weekly Courier of Connellsville, PA stated there was a child named Tobias.

One of Isabelle's children sent the family information to the Yoder Newsletter, stating that Freeman died in a fire. According to his death certificate, Freeman died from pneumonia. Citing The Republic (Meyersdale, PA) dated Jan 23, 1902, "that a 6 month old child of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Yoder of Somerset Township was burned last Saturday and died Monday. This would be been Leroy who was born May 28, 1901 and died Jan 20, 1902.

Taken from
The Republic
 Meyersdale, PA
 Jan 23, 1902

The six-months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Yoder, of Somerset township was burned so badly on last Saturday evening that it died on Monday morning. The mother had gone to the stable to milk a cow and left the babe to sleep in its crib. It would seem that during her absence another child about three years old managed to get hold of a match and it set fire to the blanket in which the babe was wrapped. The mother was called to the house by the agonizing screams of the little one, but it was so badly burned that it died on Monday.



An unknown person was kind enough to place flowers on an unmarked tombstone at the Sweitzer Christian Yoder cemetery.

Interview with Earl Yoder, Grandson to Francis and Ella Yoder

After church service on a Sunday (at Somerset Church of the Brethren) this editor's husband, Mark Yoder casually asked Earl Yoder if he had ever heard of the Yoder family in Somerset that had twenty children. Imagine our very pleasant surprise when Earl said that the Yoder's in question were his Grandparents!!

After a delicious meal at Penn Alps Restaurant and a tour of The House of Yoder, Earl and his wife Debbie (Baker) graciously recalled many stories about his Grandparents during his younger years.

When Earl was four years old, he went to gather eggs with his Grandmother Ella. There just happened to be an ornery rooster that liked to flop people...and on this particular day, the old rooster did just that, flopping and digging his talons into Earls shoulder. Grandmother Yoder sure took an issue with the rooster, grabbed the rooster and tore his head right off of him, saying "He'll never do that to you again!"

Earl said his Grandmother was a "feisty", "tough lady" but never said a bad word. She smoked a pipe, but never in front of anyone.

And of course, as youngsters do, while throwing the ball, after being told repeatedly not to throw the ball towards the house, they broke a window in the back of the house. Earl's Mother, Rose (Humbert) Yoder was not very pleased with her son. Earl knows he got scolded and possibly a whipping too. Grandmother Yoder never fixed the broken window, nor ever allowed any one else to fix it. She said every time she looked at the broken window, it reminded her of the children play-

ing in the yard.

Grandmother Yoder also butchered her own chickens, cooking them on the cook stove.

One of Francis and Ella's daughters, Gladys never married and lived at the home place with her widowed Mother. Gladys bought gifts for all of the children.

What Earl calls his "hippie" visit with his Grandmother, he had long hair down over his shoulders. His aunt pulled him aside and told him not to come back until he cleaned up and cut his long hair. Grandmother Yoder wanted to know what her daughter had told Earl, but he was very reluctant to tell, but he finally did. His Grandmother told Earl that it was her house and don't you ever stop coming to see me. Earl was never sure if the aunt agreed with Grandmother's reply!

A job that fell to Earl and his uncle Edward was the cleaning out of the out house, which was still in use in 1978-79. Earls' daughter Tracy said "Pappy was cleaning out the poopey hole."

Ella suffered a stroke in her later years, causing her to have a staggered gait. After her death, you could hear her walking upstairs going from room to room, perhaps checking on children.

Earl's parents are Elwood and Rosie (Humbert) Yoder. Earl's siblings are Dwayne and Bonnie.



Earl and Debbie (Baker) Yoder standing beside the original smoke house with the Yoder homestead in the back ground. The house has been remolded by the current owners. The smoke house is used for storage.



The Francis and Ella Yoder homestead on 482 Plank Road, (Old 219) Somerset, PA



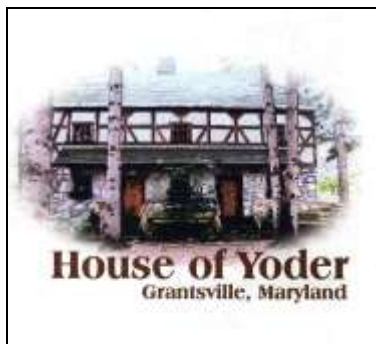
Earl and Debbie (Baker) in front of the smoke house.

The House of Yoder Newsletter

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