



OMHGS

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NEWSLETTER

OREGON MENNONITE HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A TRIP WEST

Introductory

As part of the OMHGS public program in September 1993 which featured the early Amish community in the Needy area east of Hubbard, Elizabeth (Miller) Kennedy gave "The Story of Isaac S. Miller" about her great-grandfather. The talk was published in the March 1994 issue of the OMHGS Newsletter.

As the Amish congregation around Needy slowly disbanded, most of the members relocated. Isaac Miller moved to the McMinnville area for a time before finally returning to Indiana where he and his wife lived out the remainder of their years. Not all of their children, however left Oregon. Their family was mostly daughters; only one son grew to maturity — Obed. Obed married Ella May Yoder in 1897. Ella was born November 4, 1878 in Garden City, Missouri, the youngest child of Abraham and Fannie (Kurtz) Yoder. At least two of her older siblings had moved to Oregon in the early 1890s and were charter members when the Zion A.M. congregation was organized in June 1893. They were her sister Delilah and husband, Amos Troyer, and brother Israel and wife, Josephine Kropf.

In the summer of 1893 Ella and her mother made a visit to Oregon. Ella was not quite 15 years old that summer. She kept a diary of the trip. I have not seen the diary, but have a copy of excerpts from it in a collection of writings by Omar Miller, son of Obed and Ella. The following record of this trip, with the exception of the first day, is taken from these excerpts. At some later date, Ella started to write the story of this trip but didn't get very much of it written. The following long paragraph is what she wrote at that time and is printed here just as family's copy is, including both grammar and spelling errors.

Visit to the Wooly West

On the morning of June 27, 1893, Mother and I started on our visit to the west. We rose at 1 o'clock, eat our breakfast, then started for Harrisonville about 2 o'clock. My brother Dave took us to the station. It was a beautiful morning, and the thoughts of having a trip to the west made me feel happy as a lark. We arrived at the station about half past 4 o'clock. Unloaded our baggage and as Dave intended to accompany us to Kansas City, he put the team to a livery stable. We had to wait a little over an hour, the time seemed long as I was anxious to get on the train. At 5 o'clock 45 min. we took the train, and away we went soon out of sight, passed through Pleasant Hill a small town. Then Greenwood and Lee Summit. I thought it was wonderful with the timber and rocks, but I found out different before I got through my journey. Little Blue and Independence small towns. Ten minutes after seven at the Mo. river there were acres [acres]

and acres of truck patches, along the river. About half past Seven at Kansas City about 50 miles from Harrisonville. Its hilly and some of the city is up on these hills way above the depot. Street cars run up on these hills. Here we had to change cars. We had to wait about four hours. Dave and I took a walk Mother stayed in the depot. I didn't know how to act when we got out on the streets, once they would holler at you to stop for breakfast, then they would want to black your shoes, and they had me so mixed up I didn't know what to do, but Dave he was used to this for he goes to Kansas City purty often, so he just walked on as if he didn't hear anyone of course I kept close to him. It was something wonderful for me as I wasn't but once before to such a city and I was to little to mind much of it. Seen lots of nice fruit. We walked till we were tired then we went to the depot. The depot was a very large and nice one. One man set at the door and watched the people no one would be allowed to stand in the door. And then the Police came in and seen that all was right, and then there was one come in and told what trains were ready to start, and lots of other that I don't know what their business was. Brother Dave got our tickets, and put us on the train, he was with us until the train was ready to start then he got off. He had to wait all day in Kansas City, till in the evening then he went back to Harrisonville, and took the team home. 15 min. till eleven the train started. I was rather discouraged with the car, it was a tourist sleeper, seats were all wood we got a double berth [berth] or a whole berth, there were two seats, the one you would ride back wards the other forwards, they were arranged so you could pull them down and make a bed. Then there is also one bed above this, is fastened with hinges right above the window at one end. The car goes slanting to the top and they are fixed with a hook so the one end is fastened up in day time and let

Kansas City Missouri 1880

Union station was completed in 1878 and demolished in 1915



Spring MEETING

October 19, 2008, 2:30 p.m.

Zion Mennonite Church

6124 S Whiskey Hill Rd, Hubbard, Oregon

Welcome

Announcements

Introduction of speaker

"The Mennonite DNA Project" Dr. Tim Jansen

Closing Song and Prayer

Welcome to one and all

down at night. This the porter of the car always does. The porters are always negroes. Started at 15 min. till 11, such a network of tracks there was before we got out of the city. 10 min. till 11 we crossed the Caw river a small river. There were lots of truck patches along the rail road, the rail road run along a small river a long ways and there was just lots of truck patches along here men and boys working in them. 5 min. after 12 we were at Larence [Lawrence], Kansas, is a city of considerable size. There was some corn and wheat fields along here, a good bit of truck too. Just before we got to Topeka we seen where a cyclone had passed through. Trees were twisted around, some broke off looked awful. 1 o'clock at Topeka, Kansas, Capital of Kansas beautiful town. Seen a park, very nice blue grass, and a fountain. Stucture [statue] of a woman holding her hands over her head and the water just come out as if you was pouring through a sprinkler looked very nise. 25 min. till 3 we crossed a river, and got to a town Manhatin, hills all around, I began to think it was a mistake that Kansas was such a bad place for it was nice country so far. The day began to seem awful long Mother ws sleeping and I felt like it too. We had been up from 1 o'clock and it was a long day. Half past 3 at Junction City quite a nice place. Half past 4 at Solomon a torable [tolerable?] big and nice town. 5 min. after 5 Salina, here they switched around for a while. About 6 we begin to dodge the hills and get on the Sage brush plains. I begin to change my notion as it was awful dusty and warm. I stood behind at the door, our car was the last one and I couldent see the track for dust. 20 min. after 6 at Elswood torable large town. About 8 we eat our supper, and we begin to get in a storm about bed time it was storming awful. Such thunder and lightning I never seen, couldent tell much about the thundring as the cars rattled so, but it lightnined awful, I begin to get afraid, but the porter soon made the bed and we went to bed tired and wore out.

Thus ended the first day of their trip and the end of Ella's writing at that time. Now we pick up the excerpts from her original diary of the trip.

Second Day

They got up about half past five to see nothing for miles. "All is prairy," she said. About a quarter to eight o'clock they began to see mountains and could see Pikes Peak. They saw lots of prairie dogs. At Denver more cars were added to the train.

She considered Denver a beautiful city. In Cheyenne she thought the capitol building "very nice." Around 9 p.m. the porter made up the bed so they had to go to bed. They had seen some "grand scenery" that day.

Third Day

They got up at Granger, Wyoming about 7:00. There were mountains with snow on them in sight which she thought looked very nice, and it was cool. A few minutes before 8:00 they went through a long snow shed. About 8:30 they went through Evans-ton, Wyoming where she saw two Chinamen and also some charcoal burners. They reached Ogden, Utah about 11:30 and the depot there had a clock on top of it. They passed the Great Salt Lake and she saw one boat on it. Just after 1:00 p.m. they stopped at a small town where they got off the train and bought a box of the nicest strawberries she had ever seen for ten cents. Following that stop, they went through a sand desert with "sand white as snow."

They were soon entering Idaho where there were rocks that "looked as if they could fall any minute." They arrived in Pocatello, Idaho, about 4:40. She called it a "large and nice town" and mentions seeing both Indians and Chinese folk. Between Pocatello and American Falls she reports "going through an awful dusty place, nothing but hills and sage brush. At 7:00 they saw and crossed American Falls which were beautiful and about three or four feet high. Once more that evening the train stopped at a little town where she got off and got two stones, one for herself and one for a friend!

Fourth Day

They stopped at Huntington in eastern Oregon just after 3:30 a.m. after having crossed "quite a river." [Must have been the Snake River.] She mentions Huntington as being a fairly large town. [Note: For many years Huntington was a turn-around on the railroad and was a thriving town. With the advent of the Interstate Highway System, the town is now by-passed and has deteriorated to practically nothing.]

Just after 6:00 a.m. they came to Pleasant Valley, "a small vil-lage but beautifully situated" with mountains on all sides. She could see snow on the mountains and also the first timber on the mountains since they had gotten into them. At Baker City there were lots of cars loaded with lumber. The depot was very nice, made out of stone. At North Powder she remarked about the "piles and piles of lumber." Going through the Blue Mountains past La-Grande she calls it the "loveliest scenery ever was, great mountains with trees on" and they saw Indians and their wigwams.

They arrived in Pendleton at noon and went out and got some coffee for her mother and saw more Chinese and Indians. At 1:00 p.m. they stopped at Echo, a small village; "going around turns and curves to beat all" made her feel half sick. Following the Columbia River impressed her. She mentions Castle Rock as being quite a town, saw horses on an island, was quite impressed with the high "sand drifts," and saw fishing boats and a steamboat. They had their first glimpse of Mt. Hood at 4:10 and at 5:00 came to Celilo with its Indians and salmon fishing boats. She was impressed with the Columbia River, the tunnels, the timber. At 7:40 they stopped half an hour for supper at Bon-

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neville where she and three friends got off and took a walk. They saw a bear cub about three months old. She mentions one after another of crossing rivers, mountains covered with trees or moss, water falls from the top of the mountains, beautiful little homes on the mountains, more trestles and water flumes and "things no pen can describe."

They arrived in Portland at 10:35 p.m. where they spent the night in a hotel, perhaps the Quinaby House. It would seem as if her father and brother Levi were in Oregon when they arrived because she mentions that "Pa was at the depot," and also about Levi getting on the train at Hubbard the next day. The next morning they did some sightseeing in Portland before taking the train to Woodburn where they were met on their arrival at 10:30 by Amos Troyer and his daughter Libbie (Elizabeth).

The Visit

After arriving in Woodburn and being met by Amos and daughter, they did a bit of shopping, then out to Troyers where they had a big dinner and visited. Later in the afternoon they went to Israel's place where they spent the night. The next day was Sunday, July 2, and they attended church and Sunday school. They spent the afternoon at Israel's and had several visitors, mostly former Missouri friends and neighbors.

Much of their visit was just spent with family, helping with routine house work and gardening. She mentions attending church most Sundays. They also took short trips, some just day trips; others, overnight or longer. On Friday, July 20, Ella went with her brother Levi, Libbie Troyer and Lydia Roth to Soda Springs [Wilhoit, then a popular resort area]; saw lots of hills and mountains and had a good trip.

The following Thursday, August 3, several of them got up at 4:00 a.m. and headed up to the mouth of the Clackamas River where they ate their lunch. They then headed up river to the Clackamas Camping Grounds where they spent the night. I'm not sure if they spent more than one night or not. Sometime after that Ella was ill for several days, requiring a doctor's services.

August 31, Thursday, Ella, her folks and Alice Troyer (later married Ed Yoder) started a trip to Salem. They got as far as Howell Prairie where they spent the night with a Steiner family. Next day they continued on into Salem. They visited the state house and also took the street car out to the penitentiary where they must have had a tour of some kind. She reported that "there were 347 prisoners in at this time; some were out, some were at work and some were in cells. We walked to the Asylum, about 900 insane; they took us through the halls where the insane were in; showed us dining rooms and sleeping rooms; took us next where they cooked, then past the yards to the hospital, was just one person sick." They returned home by a different route, going through Gervais and Woodburn. She mentioned buying dishes at a store. They spent the night with the "Niswonders." [I wonder if this was the Neuschwander family who at one time lived just north of Brooks.]

As the visit continued, she mentions hop picking as well as helping with the routine household chores. On October 25, Monday, they got ready to go to the coast. They went by train to Portland, took a steamer to Astoria where they took a boat to the railroad and a train to Seaside. Seems they were at the beach for only a couple of days. The following Tuesday, October 2, they got ready to go home.

The Return Trip

They left Portland on October 3. There aren't as many details

as for the trip coming west. While still in Oregon they saw rain and snow and went through a snow storm. She writes of pack horses and comments on "LaGrande and the Grande Ronde Valley, Hot Lake where "the Lake [was] just a steaming" and the town of Union. They saw lots of horses, cattle and sheep in eastern Oregon.

As they entered Idaho they saw lots of alfalfa, a honey plant and big prune orchards. She thought Mountain Home "quite a nice town." [They would have passed through this area during the night on the trip west]

They laid over a day in Ogden, Utah where they walked in a park where they enjoyed the nice grass, paths all around and fountains. They started for the mountains but it was farther than it looked so they didn't get there! They must have left Ogden sometime that evening. The next day she mentions snow, sagebrush, wind and cold. When they reached central Kansas she commented that the "land begins to look better, nice field of corn." And later, "lots of corn fields, but not much good. People sowing wheat, some wheat up. Many stone posts for fences."

Between Topeka and Kansas City, the train stopped on a curve where they could see the entire train: 15 cars and two engines. When they arrived in Kansas City on Saturday night they stayed in a hotel. Evidently Alice Troyer had accompanied them back to Missouri. Sunday morning they went to the depot where it "didn't look like Sunday ... everything just like any other day." They were met in Garden City by several family members.

The family moved to Oregon in the summer of 1895 and spent their remaining years in the Zion community where both Abraham and Fannie died and are buried in the Zion Mennonite Cemetery.

Concluding Comments

The Zion congregation was organized the middle of June, just before the Yoders embarked on this trip west. It wasn't until the following year, 1894, that their first meetinghouse was built. I found it interesting to read the names of the various members in whose home they held their Sunday meetings: Joe Hostetlers, Levi Kings, Amos Troyers, John Elias (probably Lais). Ella didn't always mention where the services were held, just that they had attended. All of the folks she does name were charter members of Zion and all but the Lais family were formerly from Garden City and the Sycamore Grove congregation. Ella did mention attending the Amish meeting one Sunday.

NEW LIFE FOR AN OLD BARN

In 2007 the red barn which is a familiar landmark just before you round the corner to the Zion Mennonite Church going east from Hubbard took on a new life. The main floor of the barn was swept clean, a couple of tables were set up at one end and the space is now being used as an MCC Material Resource Center. It is being used as a place to receive and store, pack and ship material resources for MCC.

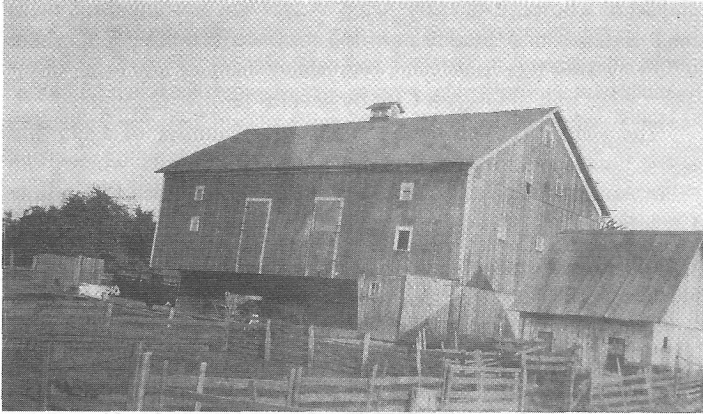
Congregations associated with MCC may bring or send their goods for MCC to the barn where it is kept, ready for packing. From time to time the Zion MYFers and others will spend time needed inventorying the materials on hand and packing them in large boxes, ready for pick-up to go to MCC headquarters in Akron, Pennsylvania. Long-distance truckers from the east who are out here for deliveries but do not have a full load for the return trip will stop by the Resource Center and take whatever is

available back to Akron.

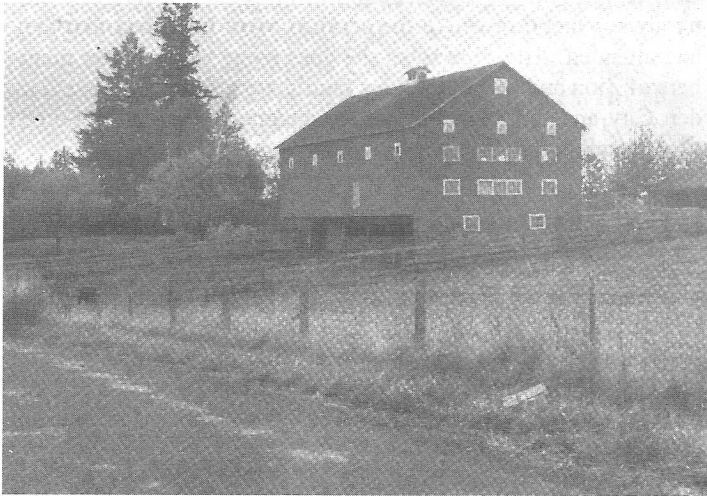
This barn is likely the only one of this type of architecture in Oregon. At least, that is the opinion expressed in Robert F. Ensminger's book, *The Pennsylvania Barn*, c1992, p. 179. The barn was erected in about 1889 by Abner D. Miller, who was part of the Amish community in the area during those years. He moved to Kansas a few years later but has descendants in the area today. The design is known by various names, Pennsylvania barn, Sweitzer (Swiss) barn, bank barn. The origins of the style likely originated in Switzerland and the design was brought to the New World by immigrants with Swiss roots.

The Red Barn as we refer to it hasn't been used as a barn for many years and has sat there rather desolate for sometime. As any vacant building, it showed signs of deterioration and disrepair from lack of use until a few years ago when the Kropf family members undertook a face lift. Broken windows were replaced; the surrounding grounds were cleaned up and the barn received a new coat (or several) of paint and probably other problems were taken care of as well. Following are two pictures of the barn, dates unknown. The first was taken while the barn was being used as a barn; the second is much more recent.

The other pictures are of a similar bank barn that were taken



Bank barn built by Amishman Abner Miller

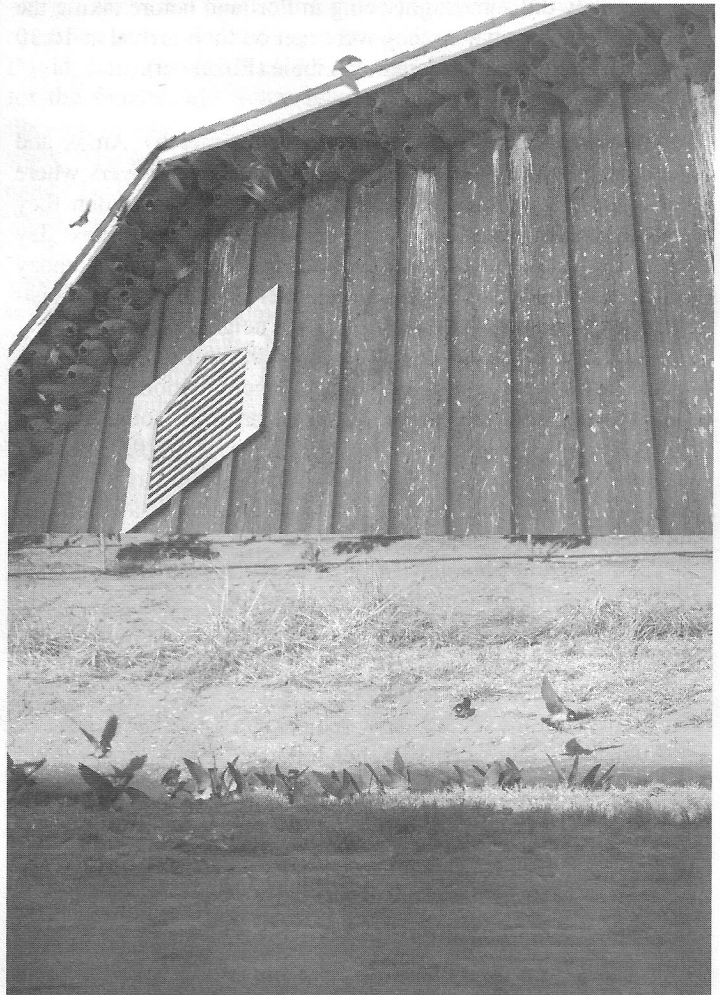


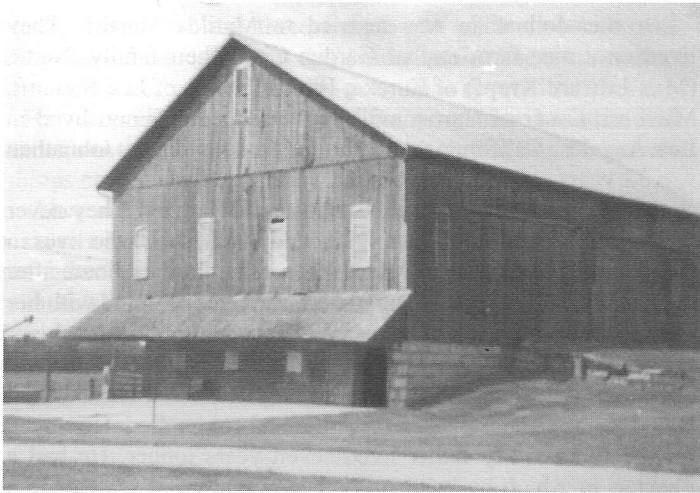
near Garden City, Missouri, the area where about half of Zion's charter members lived before moving to Oregon. This barn in Missouri was erected by Joseph Miller, an Amish Mennonite farmer, in 1885. It is 42' x 72' and was built of yellow pine at a cost of \$2000. (This information is taken from a small family history written by Levi J. Miller in 1952. He was a son of Joseph Miller and purchased the farm from his father.) I find it interest-

ing that both Joseph Miller and Abner D. Miller had both grown up in LaGrange County, Indiana before moving to Missouri.

A distinguishing characteristic of the bank barn is the split level with open feeding areas and stalls on the lower side while the second story is also on ground level so that wagons can be driven through wide double doors onto the floor to unload hay and grain.

Next time you are in the Zion area, take time to go out, and look at the barn. It is part of the church campus.





Above Left — “Grandpa Levi J. Miller’s bank barn near Garden City, Missouri.”

Above Right — “Bank barn, Levi J. Miller farm near Garden City, Missouri. Built in 1885 by Joseph Miller — 72’ by 42’ — Yellow Pine — Cost \$2000.00

Previous Page Right — Pictures of the bank barn at Zion Mennonite Church taken by the editor June 15, 2006. “New Life For An Old Barn” Some are nesting (top); some are gathering mud for rebuilding or building new (center); some are gathering food (bottom)



the Johnstown flood in May 31, 1889.

My mother, Christina Kauffman, went to Indiana when she was eighteen years old. Her brother David was a bishop in Indiana in later years. He did much traveling in Kansas, North Dakota, Pennsylvania and other states in the interest of the church. She also had a brother, Kore, who reared a family of sixteen children in Pa. His oldest son Jewry favored me so much that when I went to see Uncle Kore's the first time and saw Jewry sitting at the table I was shocked because I thought I saw myself. Jewry's brother Sam lives with his daughter at Temple City, a suburb of Los Angeles. A few weeks ago we visited them. When his daughter saw me she said at once, "He looks like Uncle Jewry." We had a nice visit with them. Sam is 82 years old, but he gets around like a man much younger. He goes to Pennsylvania every summer to visit his friends and relatives.

My parents were married in Indiana, June 28, 1860. To this union, nine children were born. The oldest child, Samuel, died when he was two weeks old, and the others all grew to manhood. My parents moved to Cass County, Missouri, in August, 1872, when I was five and a half years old. My youngest sister, Cassie, was born in Missouri.

When my father came to Missouri he bought an eighty acre farm at \$25 an acre. This became the Miller homestead where they lived the rest of their lives. This place was in the Miller name from 1872 to 1936. At the time they moved there, it had a two-room house 16x24 feet, but grandfather soon built an addition. The barn was a straw shed. Our only means of transportation was a wagon. We had Sunday School during the summer months only, which had been organized in 1870. Father and mother sat on the spring seat and we sat on the straw in the wagon box.

We were happy we could go to Sunday School and Church. We memorized passages of Scripture and recited them in Sunday School. My mother had a little black story book and father gave us each a prayer book. Mother taught us to say our prayers at night before we went to bed. I don't remember of ever hearing my father pray audibly. When I was seventeen my father bought us an English Bible and I read it through to Proverbs at that time.

Father had lightning rods put on his house because sister Mary seemed to be affected by electricity. She wasn't very strong and often had to get on feathers during a storm.

Father bought 80 acres adjoining his farm on the east side so that gave him 160 acres. He planted some sweet cherry trees that were sent out from Pennsylvania. They didn't bear for a long time but finally when they started bearing the whole family

A Brief History of Six Generations

By Levi J. Miller January 1951

By request of some, I will write a brief history of six generations to my children, grand children and great grand children.

My grandfather, Joseph Miller lived in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He was born November 15, 1808, died October 12, 1877. He was the son of John Miller, who was wounded by the Indians, September 1757, in Pennsylvania, when the Hochstetler family was taken into captivity and massacred. [This story may be read in *Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler* by Harvey Hostetler] He was married to Elizabeth Yoder, who lived from 1812-1881. To this union was born two boys and three girls. My father was the youngest boy.

In 1840 my grandfather, with a number of others walked to Indiana to see the country. The next year he moved his family out in a covered wagon. My father was two years old. That was 111 years ago.

My grandfather was an Amish preacher in Pennsylvania. After he moved to Indiana he was ordained bishop. A number of churches grew up in Indiana.

My father's brother Dan was a minister in the Amish Church in Indiana. He later moved to Michigan, then to Iowa where he died at the age of 72 years. Two of his sons and one daughter are still living at this date. They are: Joe, Harry and Sarah (Mrs. Sam Miller) all of Kalona, Iowa.

My grandfather on my mother's side was Sem Kauffman of Somerset County, Pennsylvania, who lived seven miles southwest of Johnstown, near Davidsville. Grandmother Kauffman was a sister to Abner Yoder of Jolmson County, Iowa, great grandfather of Gideon Yoder of Harper, Kansas. They had a family of fourteen children. When I was twenty one years old Sister Mary and I went to Pennsylvania to visit our relatives. We visited in Big Valley four weeks, Johnstown district three weeks. Holmes County, Ohio, a week, Wayne County, Ohio, one week, then Indiana three weeks. That was the winter before

came home to pick sweet cherries. There were five different varieties and were still bearing in 1936 when we left the place.

Father built a low barn to replace the old straw shed. We used it until 1885, he built the large bank barn seventy-two feet long and forty-two feet wide and it is still in use. Levi Zook, a brother to the one who later became my Wife, was foreman. Dave Yohn also had an important part in the work. The lumber used in the barn is yellow pine from southern Missouri. There are large timbers 12x14 set together with wooden pegs. They had an old fashioned barn raising one day, in which one hundred or more men took part. A number of women came to help cook for the men. The barn cost my father \$2000. My father farmed, worked, economized and was able to help his children get a start.

We attended the Clearfork School. The school house stood where Charley Greasers later built a home, west of Dave Schrocks. We didn't have grades but we kept attending school during the winter months until we were twenty years old. Ben Brous, a teacher I had when I was fourteen years old, had seventy-two pupils enrolled that winter. He had sixty-five regular pupils. Elmer King, Johnathan and I went every day. One morning the snow was fourteen inches deep and so father rode a horse to make a path for us to walk in. The teacher asked the children some unique questions such as "How many teeth does a cow have in the front upper jaw?" The children went home and looked in the cow's mouth to count the teeth. Another one was, "What is the difference in the way a plant grows and a tree grows?" We often had spelling schools at night at the school house. We chose sides to see which side could stay up longer. Cassie was able to spell down all the others sometimes. We often practiced spelling at home.

We had singing every Sunday evening. We also had singing classes during the winter one night a week, where we were taught the rudiments of music. Simon Hartzler was our teacher. The young people sometimes gathered together for an oyster supper. They chose partners and gathered around the table in the old fashioned way to eat.

My second oldest brother, David, was never married. He lived alone quite a number of years. His nieces and nephews enjoyed visiting him. We often gathered at his home for a meal. The women had to do the cooking when they were there. He always had something of interest to show the children. His huge twine ball, made of wrappings, since he started house keeping, showed his thrift and economy. He invented a gate that could be opened without getting out of the buggy. He had it patented and sold the patent for \$2000. He also worked in perpetual motion but never got any farther than the rest that work on it. He was interested in keeping a record of the graves in the Clearfork Cemetery. At the time of his death, he left a neat record of all the graves with information concerning the relatives of those who were buried here. Many of the graves would otherwise have been lost. [Thank you, David Miller. That record has been a great help in researching my ancestry. The Editor]

My oldest sister, Lizzie, was married to Aaron King. A diphtheria epidemic came into her home and took her three little girls within two weeks. This left: Joe, who now live in Illinois; Nora Stauffer of Tofield, Alberta; Jake of Woodburn, Oregon; and Christina, (Mrs. Mahlon Bender) of Hubbard, Oregon. Lizzie and her family lived near us in Missouri until their children were nearly grown. In 1918 they moved to Alberta, Canada, and built a nice home across the road from the church where Nora now lives. Lizzie and Aaron both passed away some years ago.

Brother Johnathan was married to Matilda Martii1. They lived on a nice farm east of Garden City. Their family: Nettie (Mrs: Edward Kropf) of Eureka, Illinois; Alvin of Lee Summit, Missouri; Oscar of Harrisonville, Missouri; and Simon lived in Los Angeles, California, until the time of his death. Johnathan was 72 years old when he passed away.

My sister Mary was married to Isaac G. Hartzler. They never had any children of their own. They adopted Mabel, who lives in Oklahoma. They kept Emery and Phebe King in their home after the death of their mother. Mary and Isaac lived at home with her parents when the parents were no longer able to care for themselves. The house was built for two families. My mother had an operation at the age of 65 and lived only one week Her brother, David, came from Indiana to visit her before she died. He stayed for the funeral. My father lived seven years longer. He had a Phaeton in which he went to visit his children at least once a week. The grandchildren remembered him because of the stick candy he always had when they went to visit him. He was 72 years old when he passed away.

After his death Mary, Isaac and Mabel made an extended visit to the Pacific coast. When they came back they lived 14 mile west of the old home place. After this they adopted Lorene. They later moved near East Lynne, Missouri, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Lorene was married to Earl Roth and lived with her parents. She and Earl patiently cared for Mary during her long illness of 14 months. She died in January at the age of 76 years. Isaac died in December of the same year.

My sister, Anna, is still living in Missouri. She was married to Joe Yoder who died in 1912 leaving Anna responsible for a family of seven children. Joe was nearly blind for some time before his death. Elby, Anna's oldest son, was grown at the time of his father's death. He lives in Missouri on their home place which is only one-fourth mile from the old Miller homestead. Matilda, Mrs. Milton Zimmerman, lives near Crystal Springs, Kansas. Milton has been blind for a number of years but he chores and works almost like one who can see. Oliver, lives near Eureka, Illinois. Milo lives west of Garden City, Missouri. Alpha lives near Goshen, Indiana. Chris lives north of Garden City. Ella (Mrs. Fred Bickel) lives in Pueblo, Colorado.

My youngest sister, Cassie, was married in Missouri to Abe Hostetler. They lived on the place Dave Schrocks now live. To this union was born four children. They moved to Middlebury, Indiana, and had a nice country home. They lived there until Abe passed away in 1949. Then Cassie sold the place and moved to Middlebury where she now lives. Elmer, the oldest, lives at Peru, Indiana. Sadie, (Mrs. Edwin Miller) met with death in a car accident in Pennsylvania as they were on their way to Sunday School. Nellie, (Mrs. Ottis Hostetler) lives in Middlebury, Indiana, near her mother. Willie lives west of Goshen.

We have many pleasant memories of the family get togethers. We all lived in Missouri at one time. Sometimes we met on the old homestead for Thanksgiving or Christmas and many times we met in one of the brothers or sisters homes on a week day evening during the summer months for ice cream. The ice cream was homemade and we didn't always have a freezer. We often had two flavors: lemon and vanilla. The children played "hide and seek" or "beckon" in the big bank barn at grandpa's place. Sometimes they played tricks like: "Seeing stars through a coat sleeve."

One other family that should be mentioned here and was often with us was the Sem K. Yoder family. Sem was the only

child of my mother's sister Fanny. He had three sons: Amos, Levi and Homer and a daughter Elda.

I was married to Martha Zook, daughter of John Zook, March 7, 1839. She, with her parents moved to Garden City in 1885 from Champaign County, Ohio, near West Liberty, east of Mt. Tabor. They lived in the first house north of Garden City. Her parents were born in Pennsylvania. Her mother died at the age of 56 years. Her father made his home with us the last five years of his life. He was 86 years old when he passed away. Her oldest brother, Joe, stayed in Ohio. He was married to Lizzie Allgyer. They had two daughters, Amy and Cora, and a son, Alpha. Cora passed away a few years ago. Lizzie is living with Amy and Amy's son and wife. She is 93 years old. They have had a great deal of sickness. Joe was sick so long before he passed away and Amy's husband suffered intensely before his death. These people, living together, seem to live for one another's interests and get along very well. Alpha lives in Indiana.

My wife's brother, Levi, lived in New Mexico for sometime then moved to LaJunta, Colorado., where he and his wife passed away. They had two sons, Clifford and Connie. Connie is a telegraph operator in Nebraska. A daughter, Minerva, lives in Artesia, New Mexico.

John Zook, married to Cotma Kauffman, lived near Garden City. He passed to his reward in 1913. They have three daughters: Trusie, who teaches in a parochial school in Nampa, Idaho; Nellie (Mrs. Sam King) missionary to India; and Louise (Mrs. Harold Yoder) living near Garden City. One son died in infancy. A son, Burney Victor, died at four years of age.

Menno, married to Salome Zook, had one daughter, Iva (Mrs. John Kiser) LaJunta, Colorado. Menno lived to the ripe old age of 89 years. He suffered much with neuritis but always kept busy as long as he could. He lived longer than any of the others in his family. We always enjoyed visiting him.

Johnathan, married to Carrie King, had two adopted children: Gladys (Mrs. Bert Snyder), LaJunta, Colorado., and a son Galen. Johnathan passed away very suddenly several years ago.

My wife's only sister Salina was married to John Fultz. They lived in Nebraska a number of years then moved to Missouri and later to Neodesha, Kansas. They had two daughters: Zura (Mrs. Andrew Cochran), Caney, Kansas, and Beulah, deceased, and a son, Guy, of Osawatomie, Kansas. Salina passed away a number of years ago.

My wife was 20 years old and I was 21 when we were married. My father partly gave me 80 acres of timber land. I had to pay him \$500. I cleared the place for our buildings. Father built us a two-room house. We had no telephone. The nearest neighbors, C. S. Yoders, were one-fourth mile north of us. The house was near a thick woods. Many times my wife was alone until late in the evening. She had to be a brave little woman. Bums often stopped for something to eat.

One day while I was gone lightning struck the chimney of the house, knocked off some bricks took off a swath of shingles and went down the spouting on the corner of the house. She was sitting in the living room holding her oldest child, Carrie. She was quite excited when I came home. She had many strenuous experiences in those early days.

We worked hard on that place, clearing the land, gradually improving it more and more until we had a fairly nice home for those days. We lived there until my father died in 1911. We then bought his place and moved on it in the spring of 1912. We were blest with ten children all born on the first place we lived. They

are: Carrie, (Mrs. Amos Kropf) because of her health lives in Phoenix, Ariz., in winter and in Oregon during the summer. She has a family of ten children 36 grandchildren.

Ada, (Mrs. Milton Shetler) lives in Phoenix because of her youngest daughter's health. She has eleven children, 21 grandchildren.

John, married to Lucy Yoder, lives near Filer Idaho: He is a retired farmer and has a family of eight children, four grandchildren. His son, Leo, is a minister and missionary at Wichita, Kansas.

Ora, married to Beulah Oesch, lives near Kalispell Montana. He is in the Christmas tree and telephone pole business. He has a family of eight children, 10 grandchildren. His daughter, Mrs. Orris Doty, is the wife of a minister in the Christian Church of Molalla, Oregon.

Allie, (Mrs. Jacob J. Kauffman) farmer's wife near Twin Falls, Idaho, has two children.

Emery, married to Frances E. Yoder, an Osteopath doctor in Twin Falls, has four children.

Sam, married to Cora Reeser, has eight children, seven grandchildren. He farms near Filer.

Edna, (Mrs. Allan D. Wideman) farmer's wife near Unionville, Ontario, has three children.

Floyd, married to Freda Brunk, has eight children. He is on the college farm at Hesston.

Joe, married to Beulah Slatter, has three boys. He farms near Filer.

With the responsibilities of a large family comes many joyful times too. The children spent many evenings after a days work playing games outside until bed time. Christmas time was a happy time for everyone.

Other pleasant memories are the family reunions we had after the children were married. The first one was on New Year's day, 1934, when the whole family was together on the old home place in Missouri. We all sat around the table according to our ages and ate our dinner in the old fashioned way. It was the first time we had all been together for 18 years and was also the last perfect reunion we ever had.

Another happy reunion was on our Golden Wedding Anniversary, 1939. All were present except Carrie. We had our dinner and program at Emery's. We spent several days together in the Yellowstone Park.

On Christmas, 1947, we had another reunion at my daughter Allie's place in Kansas. We had our Christmas dinner and program during the day and spent the evening in singing. The next day we went through the Hutchinson Salt Mines.

The last reunion was in the Filer park. My wife was missing at this reunion.

I was ordained to the ministry April 29, 1894, by the vote of the Church. I remember my mother and father came to visit me the following week. Mother said they thought maybe we would be discouraged because of the added responsibility. I quoted a little German poem with this meaning: Whoso trusteth in God has well built in Heaven and on earth; and he that leans on Christ shall inherit heaven.

I helped serve the church at Sycamore Grove near Garden City for forty-three years. Besides, I was away quite a lot, holding Bible Conferences and doing evangelistic work while my family was growing up. My faithful little wife always did her best to look after the welfare of the children and see that the work about the home and farm were taken care of. She often

worked harder than she should have because of the burdens that were upon her. No sacrifice seemed too great for her. Many times I felt I couldn't go off and leave her with it all yet I felt I should serve the Lord. One time especially I remember I had been away and they had been having trouble with the stock getting out. She said "I think your place is at home." I said I think so too. Soon after I received a letter from Iowa asking me to come for Bible Conference. I decided I couldn't go. While I was out plowing the verse came to me: "He that is not willing to forsake houses and homes, lands and wives and children is not fit for the kingdom." I decided to see whether I could get a good hired man to look after my work. If I could hire one then I would be willing to go.

I told my wife how I felt and she said it would be all right. Much as I hated to ask a hired man to work; I asked Chauncey Hartzler and he said he would come. I went to Iowa, had very good meetings and felt more greatly blessed than ever before.

Later one time I was asked to hold meetings at the Hutchinson Mission. I didn't have the means to go. I decided if the Lord wanted me to go He would provide the means. One of the boys and I were working at the back of the place. We found a nest of young wolves, captured them and from the bounty I received enough to take me to Hutchinson.

In all, I held meetings in twenty-two states and three provinces in Canada.

In 1937 we moved to Twin Falls, Idaho. We had lived on the home place twenty-five years. During the next six years we lived in Idaho, I sold McNess products.

My wife's health began to fail and we went to Hutchinson, Kansas, to live with our daughter, Allie, wife of J. J. Kauffman. Five months later, September 14, 1944, mother passed away at the age of 75 years, 11 months and 10 days. We lived together 55 years and I miss her so much.

I lived in Kansas four years. Allie and family moved to Twin Falls, March, 1948, and I have made my home there since. I have my own little home adjoining her house. I sold McNess until the fall of 1950.

Last summer I made an extended visit to Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Illinois and Indiana, visited relatives and friends and finally spent five weeks with my daughter Edna in Ontario, Canada. I attended the General Conference on my way home. I was gone from the middle of May until the middle of September.

The Lord has been very good to me. All my ten children are living. I have 65 grandchildren living, 2 grandchildren died in infancy. I have 73 great grandchildren all living. The Lord has blessed me with health for which I praise Him. If I live until my next birthday, April 4, I will be 85 years old, an age I never expected to attain. The Lord only knows.

May the Lord grant you much grace to live for Him that an abundant entrance may be ministered into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. II Pet. 1:11. In Christian Love, Levi J. Miller.

THE MILLER FAMILY IN OREGON

INTRODUCTION

This account of the Obed and Ella Miller family is written to put on record some of the items of interest surrounding the childhood of the five Miller boys, Omer, Paul, Nathan, Ralph, and Harold. All were born in the house that their father and Ella's father, Abe Yoder built in the year 1896.

OBED AND ELLA BEFORE MARRIAGE

Obed came to Oregon with his parents in 1880. He was about 11 years old. He was born near Arthur, Illinois, not far from Lovington.

FROM LETTER WRITTEN BY OBED, May 8, 1957

"I had it that my folks moved to Oregon in 1880 and in September, John Lais, Solomon Miller and wife, Jonas Kauffman and family came with us on the same coach. We started Tuesday, 11 a.m. at Arcola, Illinois. Went by St. Louis, Omaha, Ogden and San Francisco on a mixed train, stopped a lot, even a few times out in the desert, a way out where you could not see any houses of any kind. When we got to San Francisco we had to wait a couple days on a boat to sail to Portland. When we got to the mouth of the Columbia River we had to wait on the tide. We stayed in Portland one night and went to Hubbard the next morning. Took the Roseburg train and got to Hubbard at 11 a.m. just two weeks after we left Arcola, Ill.

"From Hubbard to Whiskey Hill were only a few old houses and only a couple little fields cleared next to the road.

"Oh yes, I had sea sickness and scarlet fever on the ocean."

Ella and her mother came for a visit in Oregon in 1893 and a year later her folks moved to Oregon. Ella kept a detailed diary on the trip for the visit. Ella was born near Garden City, Cass County, Missouri. The visit and the move were by train. Ella was sixteen on November 4, 1894, the year they moved to Oregon in August.

No exact information is available as to when and where Obed and Ella met. However an entry in Ella's diary when her mother and her were on the visit in 1893 states that on July 9, "Levi, Lib [*Lissie Hostetter*] and I went to Amish Church." Whether they met at this time is not known.

Also, Ella in her late years told of a time, after she and her parents moved to Oregon, when the young folks gathered on a Sunday afternoon at a place just east of where Butte Creek crosses what is now Highway 211 — There are no buildings now in the open field on the north side of this road.

When Ella and whoever she was with drove up to the gate, a young man opened the gate for them to drive through. This young man was Obed. Ella said she "fell in love with those blue eyes."

Obed and Ella were married June 6, 1897 by Bishop A. P. Troyer [A. P. Troyer, 'Uncle Amos', was the husband of Delilah, Ella's oldest sister, 'Aunt Lile']. Since most marriages at that time were performed in the homes, it may be assumed that they were married in the home of Ella's father, "Abe Yoder. The Yoder home was at the corner just one quarter mile west of the house which Obed and Abe built for the newly wed couple. This new home was about one mile west of the sawmill and tile factory at that time owned and operated by Obed's Father, Isaac Miller.

It may be assumed that Ella was baptized in Missouri. Obed had not been received into the Amish Church. He was baptized in a small creek about a mile east of the place where that young peoples gathering had been when Obed opened the gate. Not far from a small church which had been built in this area.

This church had been built in 1894. In this same year Isaac Miller, Obed's father sold lumber and brick for a meeting house to the amount of \$90.59. From the Pacific Coast Mennonite Conference History: "In 1894, a small church, 24' by 36', costing about \$180.00 was built by the Congregation (Zion), five miles east of Woodburn. Most of the work in connection with the building was donated In 1895, a small anteroom was built to it."

[to be continued in another issue]