

Clay County (Kansas) Newspaper
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Younkin's Hold a Reunion

The first real reunion of Younkin families of Kansas was held in the Methodist church Sunday with about 150 present. Many attended regular church services that morning followed by a basket dinner at noon, a general good time of conversation and reminiscences that afternoon.

During the business session that afternoon committees were appointed to collect genealogical data of the Younkin "tribe;" to plan for the Kansas trek to the big reunion in Pennsylvania next August, and to plan other details, including another Kansas reunion next year.

The following officers for the Kansas "tribe" were chosen Sunday: Grover Younkin of Wichita, president; Mrs. Mamie Prather of Dodge City, general secretary; and John K. Younkin of Great Bend, recording secretary.

Although all ages were represented at Sunday's gathering, from the cradle up, Mrs. Nesley Younkin appeared to be the oldest, at 75; or at least she was willing to admit her age, though there were others near that mark.

The following article about the reunion and the Younkin family has very kindly been furnished us by Rev. E. H. Tannehill:

Many gathered in time for the morning church service and listened to the pastor of the church, Rev. Francis Tannehill, a great-grand son of Moses Younkin; preach the sermon. After a bountiful basket dinner all gathered in the auditorium of the church where the "Kansas division of the Younkin family Homecoming" was organized. Various committees were appointed and names secured of families that would plan to attend the "home coming" in Pennsylvania August 22. At least 12 families signified their intentions of going.

While this meeting was in progress the youngest descendant of Younkin blood was born at Hurdon, Kansas; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Claude E. Franke, and a grandson of Rev. and Mrs. E. H. Tannehill of Wakefield, a three times great grand child of Henry Younkin who was born in 1805.

The names of those present are too numerous to mention, but there were descendants of the Younkings from Wichita, Great Bend, Dodge City, Junction City, Clay Center, Manhattan, Ogden, Milford, Oak Hill, Riley, Broughton, St. Marys, Auburn, Topeka and Kansas City.

About the year 1735 a young man named Henry Younkin came to America and settled in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where it is recorded that he paid taxes. One of his sons was Fredrick, and one of Fredrick's sons was Henry; who was the father of Moses, Harrison, Alfred, William, Jerry, Silas, John, Ross; Mary, who became Mrs. Will Stewart; Cassie, who married Dan Myers; Hilah who married John Faidley; and Rachel, who married John Myers.

In 1851 this family began a westward movement, led by Moses Younkin who in that year married Lavila Mitchel and moved to Bloomington, Ill. Three years later they came to Kansas and settled in Pottawatomie county. In 1856 he discovered the land he had pre-empted was on the Indian reservation.

He then came to Clay county and built his home across the river from where Wakefield now stands. Not long after this some of the

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brothers came and a little later the father and mother moved to the same neighborhood. A large number of the citizens of Wakefield and surrounding country and towns are Younkin descendants.

Other families of Younkings came at various times and settled around Wichita, Great Bend, and Dodge City and other parts of Kansas. It is being discovered that the Younkings are quite numerous in the state as well as all over the United States. The history of all these settlers would make interesting reading.

A few years ago some of the families in Pennsylvania became family conscious and arranged a "Home Coming". Last year there were 1200 in the gathering at Charleroi, Pennsylvania. A national organization has been effected with Charles Younkin of Charleroi as secretary. He has been tireless in his efforts to secure a genealogy and encourage reunions of the families in other parts of the country. It was through his suggestion that the Kansas Younkings arranged a get together here Sunday.