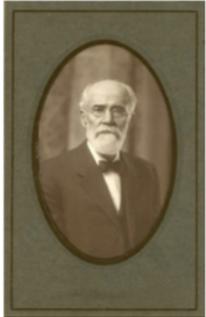


Yoke Family Barn

Indianapolis, Indiana



The Yoke family barn parcel has been in the family for 5 generations. John S. Yoke gave his son John W. Yoke (pictured left) a part of the land to build a farm. John W. was the one to build the barn on the property. The barn housed horses, and cows with a milking parlor on one side and a corn crib on the other. Hay storage was in the loft. The Yoke family raised pigeons for squab, a delicacy. The barn also housed the official county set of scales. Farmers across the county would come and weigh their livestock and grain. John W. married Isabell Moore in 1875; together they had seven children. John W. was very interested in bookkeeping penmanship. He taught neighborhood classes in penmanship. He would write and draw cards selling them at 75 cents per dozen. John W. Yoke lived from 1845-1933.



After his death, daughters Sarah (pictured left) and Rosa ran the farm till 1971 with the help of hired men. Sarah and Rosa's brother, John came to help them in 1964; unfortunately, he was killed when a tractor rolled on him in the barn. Sarah published articles on farm life and home efficiency in the local newspaper. Other talents she had were writing poetry and creating thousands of Easter egg dolls. Her sister Rosa was a milliner and a seamstress. The sister's lived in their ancestral home with their other brother Charles and his family. The farm was eventually passed to John H Yoke, son of Charles. John H. Yoke was a modified



stock car driver as well as a fan of Harley Davidson motorcycles. John H. passed the farm onto his daughter and then she passed it to her son, Chris Yoke. After finding boxes of his great grandfather's work, pens, nibs, inks and other penmanship supplies, Chris began to teach himself the art of penmanship. Chris still lives on the farm land which his family began homesteading in 1841. He learned to turn wood and currently runs the Yoke Pen Co. We would like to thank Chris Yoke for his in depth interview as well as use of his family pictures for this snapshot in history.



Barn Facts

- Built between 1866-1886
- Five bay - timber frame structure
- 50' x 70'
- 2 stories
- Hand hewn timbers

American Barn & Wood
Paso Robles, Ca
805-610- 7838

