

JOSEPH J. YODER

Joseph J., oldest son of Jacob D. and Sarah Yoder Yoder, was born on November 24, 1868, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania. There are three other sons and two daughters. W. H. is a minister in the Church of the Brethren and Mary E. is the wife of Elder M. J. Mishler.

On March 22, 1879, the Yoder family arrived in Hutchinson, Kansas. A farm was secured in Hayes township in McPherson county, and here J. J. grew to manhood. His father had the foresight to buy considerable cheap land and thus in time became well to do. J. J. was trained on the farm but early showed an interest in education. He was one of the first year students at McPherson College, and was graduated from the Academy of that institution in 1894. He also taught eight years in the schools of McPherson county. Settling on the farm southwest of Conway, he devoted himself to the interests of the farm and the church until in 1908, when he re-entered McPherson College,

Continued on next page...

[Three sons – Dayton (my mother's father), Joe, and Harlan]

from which he took the A. B. degree in 1913. On May 30, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Sadie Strohm, of Harlan, Iowa. Three sons survive of the four born to this union.

While a student at the college, in 1889, J. J. was baptized into the Church of the Brethren by S. G. Lehmer. The Monitor church recognized his ability and inclinations by calling him to the ministry on June 11, 1892. On April 29, 1893, he was advanced in office, and on January 6, 1901, with Elders A. M. Dickey and S. J. Miller officiating, he was ordained to the eldership. For some time until 1912, he had the oversight of the Monitor congregation. He has also at various times been elder of the churches at Wichita, Peabody, and Morrill. In 1912, he became a member of the Executive Board of the Kansas State Sunday School Association. In 1908, he was appointed a member of the General Mission Board of the Church of the Brethren. Since 1898, he has been a member of the District Mission Board of Southwestern Kansas and Southeastern Colorado, of which since 1900, he has been president. He represented his district on the Standing Committee of Annual Conference in 1905, 1910, 1913, and 1917. At the Wichita Conference (1917) he served as Writing Clerk.

Soon after returning to McPherson College in 1908, he was employed to teach in the Bible department of the school. In the fall of 1911, he succeeded Professor S. B. Fahnestock as business manager of the college. For three school years succeeding 1909, he was pastor of the McPherson church. For several years he was Dean of the Bible department. Since 1911, he has been President of the Board of Trustees of the college, on which he has served many years.

Professor Yoder represents a remarkable combination of business acumen, scholarly tastes, and spiritual discernment. McPherson College has prospered under his skillful management. He has made a success of his own business and that of others. He is a forceful speaker and is in demand for any and all occasions.

In 1920-1921, with J. H. B. Williams, he constituted a committee of the General Mission Board delegated to visit the mission fields of the church, this duty entailing a tour of the world.