

Phyllis (Sayler) McCollum

Here's my story. My parents, Dale & Hilda Sayler of Mendon Mo gave my husband and I a piece of the family century farm in which to build a house. I knew my 2x great grandparents, Edward and Amanda Sayler, moved here from Somerset PA in the late 1800s, but nothing more. I asked my father and all he could add was that my 2x great grandmother was a Yoder/Yother and they came in 1870 with a family named Martin O. Stoner. I became intrigued and wished to know more: Why did they move to mid-Missouri, who were their parents and beyond, were there any remaining family in PA or farms, homesteads etc? Searching through family photographs and documents I found a picture of Edward and Amanda with their kids in Mo and some letters to my grandfather as well as my great grandfather dated 1931 & 1951 from a Dr EC Saylor in Somerset PA asking for family history. I had no idea what these meant.... yet.... Then through lots of internet searches I found Stewart Saylor's website and I told my dad I found the motherload!! We'd found where Stew had started where Dr. Saylor left off. We'd never heard of Saylor Hill or the "Descendants of Saylor Hill" book. I immediately ordered a book for dad's birthday and one for myself! What a treasure trove of information. This fall, my father had a heart attack. While he was still in the hospital he asked me if I'd take him to Somerset when he was well enough to go. I said that I'd be honored. So... this week this dream came true! We came to Somerset, met family, stayed with the Saylor Sisters, toured farms and family cemeteries with Billy Glessner and Clair Saylor. We even fulfilled our ultimate goal, we made it to the top of Saylor Hill and stood where it all started with our ancestors. How humbling and emotional that moment was! The icing on the cake was meeting Stew and Peggy Saylor, talking with them, sharing with them, taking pictures and getting his signature on our books. We feel very blessed to have met family and received such a warm welcome. We're proud of our Sayler heritage and it meant the world to me to see the joy on my father's face.