

# **Don Yoder collection of wire recordings**

**AFC 1970/004**

**Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture**



**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
Revised February 2019**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010655343>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af013001>

Prepared by Marcia K. Segal

Finding aid encoded by Marcia K. Segal, February 2013  
Revised February 2019

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Don Yoder collection of wire recordings

**Inclusive dates:** 1950-1960

**Call No.:** AFC 1970/004

**Creator:** Yoder, Don

**Extent (manuscripts):** 2 slips of paper + 26 sound wire reel containers.

**Extent (sound recordings):** sound recordings: 33 sound wire reels : analog ; 3 in.

**Language:** Sound recordings predominantly in Pennsylvania German; some are in English.

**Location:** Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress,, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2010655343>

**Summary:** Collection of field recordings of hymns and spirituals of Pennsylvania Dutch Evangelical United Brethren, United Christian, and Mennonite singers; humorous songs, secular folk songs, jokes, religious beliefs, tales, and conversations in Pennsylvania German; hymns, ballads, folk songs, tales, and ghost stories in English. Several interviews are about holidays, camp meetings, and traditional healing, including Sophia Bailer's discussion of Pennsylvania Dutch blessings for healing -- "brauche" -- also known as powwowing. Musical accompaniment includes guitar and fiddle for some recordings. One wire spool includes a radio broadcast from station WEEU of a program on "Pennsylvania Dutch folklore" presented by John B. Brendel.

## Arrangement

Organized by format into the following series: 1. Manuscripts; 2. Sound Recordings.

## Indexes

Recording logs prepared by Keith Reigart.

## Acquisition

Don Yoder; loan for duplication, tape exchange; 1977.

William Woys Weaver; donation (12 wire reels); 2015.

## Accruals

An accrual of 12 wires was received in 2015.

## Processing History

Rachel I. Howard performed preliminary processing work in 2000-2001. Keith Reigart prepared the recording logs for the first accrual, circa 2000-2001. Marcia K. Segal completed the processing work for the first accrual in 2006, and processed the second accrual in 2018.

## Additional Formats

Preservation tape reels: Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress Recording Laboratory, circa 1970. 4 sound tape reels : analog, 7 1/2 ips, mono. ; 10 in. The sound recordings have been digitized from the preservation masters. Researchers can listen to the digital recordings in the Folklife Reading Room.

## Related Material

Don Yoder collection of tape recordings (AFC 2003/051).

## Copyright Status

Duplication of sound recordings may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

## Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

## Additional Formats

Library of Congress duplication project, circa 1970. During duplication, some of the 32 wire reels originally acquired were found to be blank; the blank reels were deaccessioned. The remaining original wire recordings were retained by the American Folklife Center, Archive of Folk Culture.

## Preferred Citation

Don Yoder collection of wire recordings (AFC 1970/004), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Publications

Boyer, Walter E., Albert F. Buffington, and Don Yoder. *Songs along the Mahantongo*. Lancaster: Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center, 1951.

Yoder, Don. *Pennsylvania Spirituals*. Lancaster, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Folklife Society, 1961.

## Biographical Notes

Born in 1921, in Altoona, Pennsylvania, Don Yoder grew up immersed in the traditions of Pennsylvania German culture. Educated at Franklin and Marshall College (A.B., 1942 and B.D., 1945), and at the University of Chicago (Ph.D., 1947). Yoder was chair of the Department of Folklore and Folklife at the University of Pennsylvania from 1966-1969, and retired from teaching after 40 years. He authored and co-authored hundreds of publications, traveled and lectured widely, and held varied posts, including director of the Pennsylvania Folklife Society (which he co-founded), editor of *Pennsylvania Folklife*, president of the American Folklore Society, and Professor Emeritus of Folklife Studies, University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and has been elected fellow to the American Antiquarian Society and the American Genealogical Society, among others. He introduced the European concept and practice of folklife studies in the United States. He died in 2015.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Bailer, Sophia

Brendel, John B., 1911-1971

Yoder, Don

### **Organizations**

Evangelical United Brethren Church.  
Mennonite Brethren in Christ.  
United Christian Church.  
United Zion Church.  
WEEU (Radio station : Reading, Pa.)

### **Subjects**

Ballads, English--Pennsylvania.  
Camp meetings--Pennsylvania.  
Field recordings--Pennsylvania.  
Folk songs, English--Pennsylvania.  
Folk songs, Pennsylvania German--Pennsylvania.  
Ghost stories--Pennsylvania.  
Healing--Pennsylvania--Religious aspects.  
Humorous songs--Pennsylvania.  
Hymns, English--Pennsylvania.  
Hymns, German--Pennsylvania.  
Hymns, Pennsylvania German--Pennsylvania.  
Mennonites--Pennsylvania--Hymns.  
Pennsylvania Dutch--Pennsylvania--Folklore.  
Pennsylvania Dutch--Pennsylvania--Music.  
Pennsylvania Dutch--Pennsylvania--Religion.  
Pennsylvania Dutch--Pennsylvania--Social life and customs.  
Powwows (healers)  
Revival hymns--Pennsylvania.  
Tales--Pennsylvania.

### **Form/Genre**

Field recordings.  
Interviews.  
Jokes.  
Prayers.  
Radio programs.

## **Scope and Content**

Collection of field recordings of hymns and spirituals of Pennsylvania Dutch Evangelical United Brethren, United Christian, and Mennonite singers; humorous songs, secular folk songs, jokes, hymns, religious beliefs, tales, and conversations in Pennsylvania German; hymns, ballads, folk songs, tales, and ghost stories in English. Several interviews are about holidays, camp meetings, and traditional healing, including Sophia Bailer's discussion of Pennsylvania Dutch blessings for healing -- "brauche" -- also known as powwowing. Musical accompaniment includes guitar and fiddle for some recordings. One wire spool includes a radio broadcast from station WEEU of a program on "Pennsylvania Dutch folklore" presented by John B. Brendel.

Recorded by Don Yoder and others at various locations in the Pennsylvania Dutch area of eastern Pennsylvania in 1950-1951, 1960, and possibly on other dates. Locations include Lancaster County, Lebanon County, Schuylkill County, Lehigh County, and Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Various performers and interviewees including Emma L. Yoder, Harry Lewis, Beulah Mae Lewis, Oliver Franklin Follweiler, Harvey Brunner Musselman, Miriam Hollenbach, Aggie Osman, Valeria Gable, Florence Gable, Florence Deibler, Martin Sweigert, Sophia Bailer, William (Willie) Brown, Christian R. Longenecker, Charles Fassnacht, Ella Fassnacht, Wesley Pfautz Martin, Mrs. Wesley P. Martin, and others.

## Description of Series

Container

Series

[Series 1: Manuscripts](#)

[Series 2: Sound Recordings](#)

[Appendix A: Logs and Notes for Sound Recordings](#)

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>Series 1: Manuscripts</b>	
BOX 1	Documentation for sound recordings (original) 28 items: 26 containers and two slips of paper. 26 original containers for wire reels and two pieces of paper. One paper accompanied AFC 1970/004: SR041 and one paper indicates the wires belong to Yoder. Further textual information on the containers and reels remains to be transcribed.
<b>Series 2: Sound Recordings</b>	
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR11	1 sound wire reel (30 min., 44 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 17 selections: folk songs and spoken word segments in Pennsylvania German and in English. The songs are sometimes sung a cappella, and sometimes accompanied by instruments. Several of the songs were published in the book <i>Songs Along The Mahantongo</i> . Recorded at the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center (later the Pennsylvania Folklife Society).
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR12	1 sound wire reel (15 min., 45 sec.) : analog  Recorded July 13, 1960. 16 selections: spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English. The songs are sung a cappella. Sporadic, brief talk can be heard between songs. Many of the songs are included with text and notation in <i>Pennsylvania Spirituals</i> .
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR13	1 sound wire reel (part 1: 17 min., 11 sec.; part 2: 13 min., 47 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 43 selections: hymns and songs in Pennsylvania German.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR14	1 sound wire reel (31 min., 16 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 36 selections: songs in Pennsylvania German and in English. Nine hymns in Pennsylvania German are repeated from SR12.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR15	1 sound wire reel (19 min., 55 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 24 selections: religious songs in Pennsylvania German, as well as spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English. The first thirteen songs are repeated from SR14. The latter group of songs appear, with text and musical notation, in <i>Pennsylvania Spirituals</i> .
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR16	1 sound wire reel (11 min., 20 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 28 selections: fragments of spirituals sung in English by the same unidentified male singer, with no instrumental accompaniment.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR17	1 sound wire reel (22 min., 2 sec.) : analog  Recorded July 13, 1960. 29 selections: spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English. Only one selection is in English.

## Series 2: Sound Recordings

### Container

### Contents

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- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (30 min., 56 sec.) : analog  
SR18  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 28 selections: folks songs, spirituals, a counting rhyme, and a lullabye in Pennsylvania German. A prayer, possibly in Pennsylvania German, is sung. Also included are songs and ballads in English, and Pennsylvania German stories told in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (12 min., 45 sec.) : analog  
SR19  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 11 selections: folk songs and spoken word passages in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (31 min., 24 sec.) : analog  
SR20  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 12 selections: ballads and songs in English, and spoken word passages with some Pennsylvania German dialect mixed in. Sophia Bailer talks about powwowing.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (17 min., 48 sec.) : analog  
SR21  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 23 selections: spirituals in Pennsylvania German and a brief statement in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (14 min., 32 sec.) : analog  
SR22  
Recorded January 20, 1951. 20 selections: spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (15 min., 59 sec.) : analog  
SR23  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 27 selections: spirituals in Pennsylvania German.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (14 min., 57 sec.) : analog  
SR24  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 8 selections: includes spirituals in Pennsylvania German.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (19 min.) : analog  
SR25  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 61 selections: includes folk songs in German and Pennsylvania German, songs in Pennsylvania German, a story in Pennsylvania German and English, songs in English, and jokes in Pennsylvania German (with some English).
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (21 min., 5 sec.) : analog  
SR26  
Recorded circa 1950. 37 selections: includes spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (26 min., 13 sec.) : analog  
SR27  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 32 selections: includes spirituals in Pennsylvania German and in English, and a Pennsylvania German-style German hymn.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (15 min., 14 sec.) : analog  
SR28  
Recorded July 13, 1960. 25 selections: includes folk songs, a lullabye, a joke, and a parody of a spiritual in Pennsylvania German; a humorous Pennsylvania German song in English; and a humorous song, folk songs, and a local prison ballad in English.
- reel ID:** AFC 1970/004: 1 sound wire reel (4 min., 9 sec.) : analog  
SR29  
Recorded circa 1951-1960. 3 selections: includes two Pennsylvania German folk songs, and a conversation in English and Pennsylvania German between a male interviewer and a young girl.

## Series 2: Sound Recordings

Container	Contents
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR30	1 sound wire reel (23 min., 59 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1951-1960. 28 selections: includes stories and folk songs in Pennsylvania German and other spoke-word segments, also in Pennsylvania German; also stories and an evangelical song (with a bawdy parody of the same song), and spoken-word segments in English.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR32	1 sound wire reel (14 min., 45 sec.) : analog  Recorded circa 1952. 4 selections: includes three recordings of radio broadcasts, and a spoken word segment, all in Pennsylvania German. John Brendel was the host for at least two of the broadcasts.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR33	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container: New Years wish – Jerome Fenstermaker
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR34	1 sound wire reel : analog  Mr. MacG...le .
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR35	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container: Reinholds / Sup. with roanler [?] / Happy Hen .
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR36	1 sound wire reel : analog  Recorded June 27, 1955. Transcribed from reel container: Miss Susan Balsbaugh.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR37	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container: Peter Kershner / Transcribed by BBill Frey / DY [Don Yoder]: type words!!! .
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR38	1 sound wire reel : analog  Recorded May 23, 1951. Transcribed from reel container and spool: Pete Kershner II / May 23, 1951 (Wednesday) / Transcribed July 25, 1955 / Nos. 10-30 / Orig.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR39	1 sound wire reel : analog  Recorded 1951. Transcribed from reel container and spool: Mrs. Jacob Sherk / [1951] [sic] / Bellgrove [sic] / Transcribed July 25, 1955 / Nos. 1-9 / Orig.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR40	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container and spool: Geschimats [?] / Shoemakersville PA.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR41	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container and spool: Rev. Mentzer / In the New Jerusalem / [other words, in Pennsylvania German].
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR42	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container and spool: Copy / 1) Emma Sherk 2) Pete Kershner / I.
reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR43	1 sound wire reel : analog  Transcribed from reel container and spool: Copy: 1) Pete Kershner 2) Susan Balsbaugh 3) Geo [George] Shaveley [?] / II.



## Series 2: Sound Recordings

Container	Contents
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reel ID: AFC 1970/004: SR44	1 sound wire reel : analog
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No available information.

Appendix A: [Logs and Notes for Sound Recordings](#)