

2019

## An Old Order (Tobe) Account of the Schisms of Sam Yoder, Abe Troyer-Jake Stutzman, Tobe Hostetler, Joe L. Schwartz, and Seymour, Missouri: An English Translation of *Eine Untersuchung in die Alt Amische Gemein von 1922 Bis zu 1974* [An Examination in the Old Amish Brotherhood from 1922 to 1974]

Gregory Sheets

Cory Anderson

Cory Anderson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ideaexchange.uakron.edu/amishstudies>



Part of the [German Language and Literature Commons](#)

Please take a moment to share how this work helps you [through this survey](#). Your feedback will be important as we plan further development of our repository.

---

### Recommended Citation

Sheets, Gregory, and Cory Anderson [transl.]. 2019. "An Old Order (Tobe) Account of the Schisms of Sam Yoder, Abe Troyer-Jake Stutzman, Tobe Hostetler, Joe L. Schwartz, and Seymour, Missouri: An English Translation of *Eine Untersuchung in die Alt Amische Gemein von 1922 Bis zu 1974* [An Examination in the Old Amish Brotherhood from 1922 to 1974]." *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 7(2):125-62.

This Plain Anabaptist Researcher (editor reviewed publication) is brought to you for free and open access by IdeaExchange@Uakron, the institutional repository of The University of Akron in Akron, Ohio, USA. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies by an authorized administrator of IdeaExchange@Uakron. For more information, please contact [mjon@uakron.edu](mailto:mjon@uakron.edu), [uapress@uakron.edu](mailto:uapress@uakron.edu).

# **An Old Order (Tobe) Account of the Schisms of Sam Yoder, Abe Troyer-Jake Stutzman, Tobe Hostetler, Joe L. Schwartz, and Seymour, Missouri: An English Translation of *Eine Untersuchung in die Alt Amische Gemein von 1922 Bis zu 1974* [An Examination in the Old Amish Brotherhood from 1922 to 1974]**

**GREGORY SHEETS**  
*German Program*  
*Truman State University*  
*Kirksville, MO*

**CORY ANDERSON**  
*Sociology*  
*University of Akron-Wayne College*  
*Orrville, OH*

**Abstract:** This is a German-to-English translation of a report describing several Amish schisms where the main dispute concerned the Bann (excommunication), Meidung (shunning), and the full council of the brotherhood prior to these actions. The author was a committee member who investigated church unrest in the Seymour, MO, Amish settlement in 1974. The author argues from the New Testament and Menno Simons' writings that leaders should not use the Bann to control people or get someone out of the way, as the Pharisees of the New Testament did, but should use it to help the sinner and keep the brotherhood clear from sin. The historical account begins with Sam Yoder placing the *Bann* on anyone who leaves the church for another Amish church. It then discusses difficulties in the Stutzman-Troyer churches, as they had disagreements about holding the *Bann* and leaders not taking council with the church. This resulted in the Tobe Hostetler schism. The Tobe group agreed to fellowship with anyone who takes full council from the brotherhood, so they fellowshipped with the South Churches. The story continues with a member from the Stutzman-Troyer church who was excommunicated but received into the Adams County, IN, Amish church. Later, a new Adams County bishop, Joe L. Schwartz, decided to uphold the Stutzman-Troyer *Bann*, causing a schism in the Adams County churches in 1952. By 1968, some people had moved from Adams County to Seymour, MO, but a schism occurred once more over how to observe the shunnings of the Joe L. churches. [Abstract by editor]

**Keywords:** Excommunication and shunning; Swartzentruber Amish; Troyer Amish; Tobe Amish; Swiss Amish; Adams County, IN

**Acknowledgments:** The authors would like to acknowledge the editorial assistance of Dan Raber and Ed Kline of the Ohio Amish Library board and Jennifer Anderson. Translation support was provided by the Truman State University scholarship service program.

---

**Address correspondence to:** Cory Anderson; 7010 State Route 241, Millersburg, OH 44654; editor@amishstudies.org

**Recommended citation:** Sheets, Gregory, and Cory Anderson [transl.]. 2019. "An Old Order (Tobe) Account of the Schisms of Sam Yoder, Abe Troyer-Jake Stutzman, Tobe Hostetler, Joe L. Schwartz, and Seymour, Missouri: An English Translation of *Eine Untersuchung in die Alt Amische Gemein von 1922 Bis zu 1974* [An Examination in the Old Amish Brotherhood from 1922 to 1974]." *Journal of Amish and Plain Anabaptist Studies* 7(2):125-62.

**Publication type:** Translation of original source document, copyrighted (may not be copied or redistributed). *JAPAS* is published by the Amish & Plain Anabaptist Studies Association (www.amishstudies.org) and the University of Akron.