



THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER

March 2009

Volume 2 Issue 1

Christmas in The House of Yoder

Written and submitted by Jean R. Sweigart

October, 2004 shall always remain a fond memory for my husband Rich and me. That month, we journeyed to Germany, Switzerland, and France with a very special group of people who became treasured friends. The “brain-child” of Lois Ann Mast and her husband, Lemar, was designated “European Heritage Tour” and afforded many on this trip the opportunity to touch base with ancestry for too long unfamiliar. Far from least among our traveling band were Ken and Ruth Yoder, hailing from Grantsville, MD. Ken proved invaluable as he conversed with the “locals” in their native tongue making our experience that more meaningful. Ruth regaled us with her own stories of life in Germany, before and after War World II. Our hearts were overwhelmed as she recounted her odyssey to America, accompanied by a new husband. Ken proudly made us aware of a dream becoming reality in Grantsville: the construction and establishment of “The House of Yoder” which would make visitors to the site knowledgeable concerning the history of the Yoder family in both the old and new worlds. By the time we returned to Pennsylvania, the Yoder’s were dearly loved and respected by everyone who accompanied them to Europe.

Jean and Rich Sweigart, hosts at The House of Yoder for Christmas in the Village



After twenty-five years of teaching, I retired in 2002. I have also enjoyed writing, having published poetry and one children's book, *The Swing*, with another in the making. Rich retired the following year, after forty-two years in chemical coatings-trade sales management. The children were settled with employment, home and families of their own. So, 2004 proved to be an excellent time to begin our overseas jaunts!

After an enjoyable gathering of our first Heritage Tour reunion, a second was planned, to be held in Grantsville, MD., and to include a private tour of the newly completed and open-to-visitors Yoder House. A great weekend was had by those attending the October 2007 reunion! Ken Yoder's ensuing informative dialogue centered around the reasoning behind and for this establishment, and mentioned the availability of volunteer positions for resident host/guides for the house. Immediately my interest was perked, and Rich and I made application to do just exactly that! Fortunately for us, we met the criterion and received a call requesting our stay during the first week of December, 2008, when the House of Yoder would participate in Christmas in the Village festivities, a first in that we would be staying in the house for the week, preparing and decorating for the two-day event. We readily accepted this wonderful opportunity to serve.

We drove to Grantsville, on Sunday, after

Thanksgiving, 2008 to begin an opportunity of a lifetime. Warmly greeted by Paul H. Yoder at The House of Yoder, we established residency in the lovely basement apartment made available to us during our stay. On Monday morning, we hiked to Hill Top grocery to purchase cranberries which graced the Christmas tree, fireplace mantle as well as light fixtures. On one of our hikes, we retrieved a pine branch from along the side of



Crocheted items on the Christmas tree.

the road. While dragging the branch back to The House of Yoder, I became aware of milkweed, thistle, and other interesting weeds that I assumed would look lovely arranged as decoration. These too were

added to our collection. I am certain we got some wondering "looks" as we made our way back to our point of origin! Additionally, we gathered pine cones and spruce branches from the Ar-



Walk-in fireplace at The House of Yoder

tisan Village floor. From our home in Pennsylvania, we brought paper stars, made by a

dear friend, and crocheted angels, trees, stars, circles, and wreathes, made by Rich's mother. Final decoration was great fun, and with help from Ruth and Ken Yoder, the House of Yoder took on a mystically holy appearance in anticipation of the Christ Child's birth.

Friday and Saturday flew by as we eagerly greeted the many guests who visited this enchanted dwelling.

Rich kept the fire going in the walk-in-fire place, and I shared Christmas stories with the many young children (and parents) who enjoyed gathering with me in the Holy Corner. I will never forget the attentiveness and pleasure shown by them. Popcorn was also served by Cora Anna and Marvin Yoder, from Grantsville, MD., to those who wished to partake in a snack while they toured the House or listened to stories, or even just rested by the fireplace!



Jean Sweigart and some of her many listeners at the Holy Corner.



Marvin (YR26182 (1?)19) and Cora Anna Yoder, serving popcorn to our visitors.

Early Sunday morning, we took one last hike through the snow, loaded the car with our belongings, and headed for Pennsylvania, saddened to bid farewell to such an unbelievably heart-warming and enjoyable endeavor. Our personal Christmas season was made so much more meaningful because of our time spent at The House of Yoder. It is to our benefit to say; "We would be privileged to come back next year!" May God always look with favor on The House of Yoder and those who work so faithfully in His name to provide humankind with its meaning. Thank You!

Editor's Note: Many Thanks to Jean and Rich for their contribution to The House of Yoder for Christmas in the Village.

The House of Yoder had another delight in store for our visitors.. Amish Friendship Bread for purchase. Marian Diehl writes and submits her story of how the bread came to be:



"Creating creative Amish Friendship bread originated in the early 1990's when a friend handed me a zip-lock bag of Amish Friendship bread starter with the recipe along with several variations of flavors, etc. To be a nice girl, I accepted the gift, which in the beginning was more of a chore than an adventure. Giving it to me was a nice gesture, so why not accept and give it a try? The catch was when the starter was all baked up, I couldn't make it again, So after baking the

the last starter, it was a done deal. Sometime later, a friend again gave me the recipe and included the recipe for the starter. Now the ball was in my court. From time to time, I'd bake a little here and there, and eventually began baking it for the Springs Farmers Market (held every Saturday during the summer months in Springs, PA.), as I had a bake table there. It was a lot of work, but something different.

Eventually after Farmers Market ended in September, I had a hard time not having Amish Friendship Bread on hand, so I baked extra and froze it. The bread freezes really well. (Do not chill the starter, keep it at room temperature.)

By now, my husband Lee, loves it, especially the lemon and coconut. I made 8 small loaves from one batch. He enjoys being able to go to the freezer and helping himself!!

In 2007, I really got carried away, and after Springs Farmer's Market I baked dozens and dozens of loaves. But not in vain as in the fall I met up with 8 youth from Israel at the Country Club Mall, in LaVale, MD., and was able to bless them each with a plate of breads for Thanksgiving. Adding banana bread, there were five kinds of bread, and I was grateful I had gotten carried away with baking so I could bless them each with a plate of 5 loaves along with a Thanksgiving card. Forty loaves in all. But I had no fishes to give them. We became very good friends. They were so blessed, that one of them (the vender's)

gave me a beautiful black purse which so surprised me, as I wasn't expecting anything in return. They were so grateful to be accepted away from home.

So you may have guessed, in the fall of 2008, I again got carried away with baking and had some 150 plus loaves of Amish Friendship Bread in the freezer, waiting for some event to happen!

Hearing about the annual House of Yoder meeting and feeling a tug to attend, I went, expecting to quietly sit thru the meeting, simply enjoying being with Yoder's and enjoying the Yoder House. In the course of business, the subject of fund raising came up. Immediately I'm tuned in as I love doing fundraisers and after some time could no longer stay silent. I offered my Amish Friendship Bread. We could tie a little ribbon on each loaf to make it festive for the Christmas in the Village event and sell them. This offer was accepted. Lee, my husband, and I were blessed to be able to contribute small loaves of bread which added up to a nice Christmas donation gift to The House of Yoder.

Baking is one of my hobbies and the various kinds of flavors you can make Amish Friendship bread into is as vast as your imagination. Just use the ingredients to bring out the flavor you wish to have. It's all at your fingertips. Use pudding flavor of your choice.

If no flavor exists, use vanilla and add the flavorings, nuts, raisins, dried fruits, spice, coconut, fresh fruit, etc. Applesauce can replace oil if concerned about health issues, or even 1/2 oil and 1/2 applesauce. If using Splenda, use the powder in the large bag same as sugar. Add extra baking powder to help it raise better.

As an added food for thought..."

"WHAT FUND RAISER IS IN YOUR HANDS?"

Marian has graciously provided the recipe for Amish Friendship Bread, also known as "Hermie":

BEGINNING YOUR OWN HERMIE

1 Cup flour

1/2 Cup sugar

1 Cup warm water

1 Tablespoon yeast, dissolved in warm water.

Place into 1 gallon sized zip-lock bag. Follow directions for care and feeding.

CARE AND FEEDING OF HERMIE

Now that you have received your Hermie there are a few things to keep in mind...

- Never use metal spoons or bowls for mixing.
- If zip-lock bag fills with air, let it out.

* It is normal for Hermie to grow and get thicker.

- If Hermie bubbles and grows, he is fermenting and is feeling especially happy.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Day One

You just received Hermie, and he is tired from his long journey, so just place him gently on the kitchen counter and let him rest.

Day Two-Five

Hermie gets lonely, pick him up every day and squeeze him a couple of times and he will know that you care.

Day Six

Hermie is very hungry!! Feed him: 1C flour, 1C sugar, and 1C milk. After you feed him, squeeze him several times.

Day Seven-Nine

Squeeze him a couple of times each day to help him grow and digest his food.

Day Ten

Adventure day!! Put Hermie in a large non-metal bowl. See how he has grown? Feed him to prepare him for his journey to a new home. 1C flour, 1C sugar and milk (same as day 6). Mix well with a non-metal spoon.

HERMIE QUADRUPLETS !

You will need 4-one gallon size zip-lock bags. Pour one cup (one Hermie baby) mixture into each of the 4 bags. You will keep the remainder to make your loaf of bread. Give the 4 bags away to family and friends, along with instructions so that they can grow their own Hermie. Make sure each baby has a good home.

AMISH FRIENDSHOP BREAD

To the remaining Hermie in the bowl add:

- 1 C vegetable oil
(could substitute applesauce)
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 C flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1C sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 C milk
- 1 large box instant pudding.

In separate bowl, combine 1 tsp. cinnamon with 3 tsp. sugar. Sprinkle into 2 well greased loaf pans. Pour in the batter, Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour or until done.

Variations: Different flavors of pudding may be used. Nuts, raisins etc, may be added. Use flavoring to match pudding flavor.

Many thanks to Marian for all of her hard work and contributions to The House of

Yoder at the Christmas in the Village. Her festively decorated bread sure added a special touch! And you can take my word for it...the bread is DELICIOUS!!!



Marian (Beitzel) Diehl born Aug 8, 1947, is the daughter of Elmer T. and Verda (Yoder) (YR2611914c) Beitzel. Marian and her husband, Lee, live in Bedford, PA

LIBRARY NEWS

A Library Committee consisting of Jenelle Yoder and Ray Yount have been appointed. We have met with Ellen Sheaffer, Librarian at Garrett College, to set up a computerized indexing system for our holdings. Call numbers have been assigned to holdings and placed into the computer program. Our next step will be to review the entries with Ellen. With her help. We will prepare directions for using the system. Our holdings include books, notebooks, file-folders, photographs, etc.



We have plenty of room for expansion and are seeking additional materials. We would like to receive books about all the various branches of the Yoder and allied families, books about areas where Yoder's lived (geographical and historical), books written by Yoder's, photographs, scrapbooks about Yoder and allied families, newspaper clippings about Yoder, obituaries, cemetery inscriptions, will and estate records, etc. If you have any items you would wish to donate or even loan to The House of Yoder, please contact me by email: mhyoder@msn.com. Please indicate "House of Yoder" in subject line. You can also write me at: Mayla Yoder. 2274 Salco Road. Berlin, PA. And by phone: 814-267-3383.

The Business Meeting was led by Board of Director President, Doris Ours.

Reports from:

Secretary, Paul H. Yoder

Treasure, Edgar R. Yoder

Publicity-Membership, Mayla Yoder

Building Supervisor, Ken Yoder

This year's keynote speaker was Sylvia Yoder. Sylvia is the daughter of Gerald Yoder, Woodbury, PA, a House of Yoder board member, who provided the genealogy lab and computing hardware which resides in The House of Yoder. Sylvia's presentation **"ENSURING THE LEGACY"** focused us on the future building of our extraordinary success-to make certain that our heritage is not just preserved in



Sylvia Yoder, Keynote speaker

The House of Yoder, but engages new generations and our communities to ensure that our efforts live and grow. An independent consultant, Sylvia resides in Paoli, PA, outside of Philadelphia, PA, and provides The House of Yoder website.

New business found us with the election of Executive Board Members. Phyllis Weaver Hearn and Doris Ours were both re-elected to another 5 year term. Their terms will end in 2013.

HOUSE OF YODER ANNUAL MEETING

The House of Yoder Annual Meeting was held November 1, 2008 in The House of Yoder, Grantsville, MD., beginning with registration at 9:30. Coffee and doughnuts were served by Verna Bender, along with a healthy serving of visiting by the Yoder clan that were gathered.

10:00 Welcome and singing of "Great is Thy Faithfulness" led by Lowell Bender. Lowell and his wife Verna sang a duet. Prayer was led by Daniel Yoder, Sr.

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Once again, we are continuing our series of “Meet the Board of Directors” for the House of Yoder. This time we will be hearing from Lowell Bender. Lowell was born November 6, 1939 near Salisbury, PA., to Harvey C. and Elva (Yoder)(YR2611914b)Bender. Elva and Harvey were married 2-7-1931 near Grantsville, MD. Elva is the daughter of Harvey Yoder(YR2611914). Her grandfather was Solomon Yoder(YR261191)

“Involvement with The House of Yoder stem back to my role with the Spruce Forest Artisan Village (SFAV). As chairman of the SFAV, I was approached by several individuals associated with Penn Alps and Spruce Forest about possible interest in construction of a Yoder House on the village site.

The village already had several family houses and the addition of a Yoder House could contribute to the overall attraction of the village. It could also provide a connection for the Yoder bloodlines while establishing a tangible focus point. The formation of a committee evolved through ideas to the actual construction of The House of Yoder, including planning, fund raising and labor. The finished House with its amenities stand as a testament to resourceful Yoder’s.

My own mother, Elva Yoder, was a daughter of Harvey and Anna Yoder, with her 16 siblings, including 2 sets of triplets. It was always a lively and enjoyable time to gather

with my many cousins.

In 1970, Verna Stutzman from near Wooster, Ohio, and I were married. We have one daughter, Rachel, who is married to Sherwin Yoder. They currently reside in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Sherwin is a Middle School teacher in Harrisonburg and Rachel is an RN working part-time in Winchester, VA as well as in Morgantown, WV.



Verna and Lowell Bender

For the past 35 years, I have been employed by Garrett College as Director of Continuing Education and Workforce Development. Prior to working at the college, I spent five years as Director of Community Development with the local Community Action Organization. Verna received her RN degree in 1973 and has worked as a nurse in various capacities since. This past January 1, 2009, I retired and am continuing to volunteer time to various non-profit boards, including Rosedale Bible College, Mennonite Central Committee, Community Action Agency, Maryland Salem Children's Trust, and Spruce Forest Artisan Village

While the House of Yoder stands tall within the Artisan Village, the work is not yet finished. Questions about the future continue. For the House to truly serve its ultimate purpose, it needs to be much more than a monument to the past. Rather, the House should be a place where there is life and vitality.

Programs need to be developed. Volunteers need to be identified. Funds need to be raised to both maintain the House and to pay for its operation. Finally, the board needs the vitality and vision of new and younger members. While one can never guarantee the future, one can attempt to make decisions for today that will help to enable the future.

The House of Yoder represents involvement of many Yoder's to bring it to where it is today. As we look to the future, it surely will require involvement of many more Yoder's in years to come. To that end, this is a standing invitation to those nearby or far away”



Lowell Bender, Vice President of the Board of Directors, The House of Yoder

CHECK IT OUT!!!

The House of Yoder web site is up and running!! Sylvia Yoder is our web master. She has done a terrific job updating the site with new pictures and information. So, check it out, I know you will be pleased.

www.houseofyoder.org

CONGRATULAIONS!!

Ellen (Yoder) and Edgar Yoder of Grantsville, MD., celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the Maple Glen Mennonite Church, November 27, 2008. Those in attendance were invited to share refreshments, along with thoughts and remembrances of the past 50 years. Ellen (YR261191436) is the daughter of Alvin H. (YR26119143) and Martha (Maust) Yoder. Edgar (YR26182(1?)111) is the son of Roy R (YR26182(1?)11) and Fannie (Yoder) Yoder. Edgar currently serves as Treasure of The House of Yoder. Ellen and Edgar are members of Maple Glen Mennonite Church, Grantsville, MD. Ellen and Edgar live in Grantsville, MD.



Edgar and Ellen 1958



Ellen and Edgar 2008

MANY BLESSING
TO YOU BOTH!

JOHN YODER YR125 AND JOHN YODER YR25

Due to incorrect information published in the 2006 House of Yoder National Reunion Tour Book on page 5, map number 73 and page 76, the following will attempt to clarify any wrong information published there and in other publications.

JOHN YODER YR125

The Yoder Newsletter, dated April, 2002, Issue 39, identifies John Yoder (YR125) as living in Quemahoning Township, PA, in 1789, and NOT in Meyersdale, PA., as was stated in the tour book. When the Christian Yoder (YR12) estate was settled, (this is John YR125 father), all children and their addresses' were listed in the indenture papers. It lists John Yoder (YR125) as living in Quemahoning Twp., PA in 1789. (In 1792, Stoneycreek Township was formed out of parts of Quemahoning Twp, PA.), This is near Shanksville, PA., today. The following is a list of owners that owned the 247 1/2 acres or parts thereof. When Gabriel Rhoads sold the land to John Yoder, in the indenture, it states that 200 acres were transferred. It gives John's address as Bain Township, in the County of Berk, and Province of Pennsylvania. He bought the land for one hundred fifty pounds. John would have owned this land for 40 years.

Dec 13, 1773	247 1/2 acres	Gabriel Rhoads
Aug. 18, 1775	200 acres	John Yoder
Mar. 28, 1815	247 a 120 p	Jacob Will
Mar. 5, 1838	247 a 120 p	Jacob Shank
Aug. 3, 1841	237 a 74 p	Jacob Reiman
Mar 20, 1880	230acres	Jeremiah Reiman
Jan 27, 1915	230 acres	Clarence Reiman
Feb. 5, 1959	230acres	Clair Reiman
Feb 1, 1990	230acres	Dennis Reiman
July 16,1990	223.5 acres	Robert and Nancy Bukett
a=acres p=perches		

It is also stated in the House of Yoder Tour Book and other places that John Yoder YR125 moved to Tuscarawas County, Ohio in 1812. The 1812 date is in question. John had purchased land in Ohio and when he sold the one parcel to his son Stephen in 1813, it gives John's address as Somerset County, PA. From the "***History of Tuscarawas County, Ohio: Sugar Creek Twp.***" page 949 under Joseph Yoder, (John's grandson), it states " Daniel and Barbara Yoder, (John's son), came from Somerset County, PA in 1814, bringing with them their (Joseph's) old grand parents John and Magdalena Yoder. They settled in the wilderness and

lived under a tree two weeks, until their cabin was built.



Pictured above are the current buildings on the property once owned by John Yoder YR125 and his wife Magdalena Yoder of Stony Creek Twp, Somerset County, PA



Original foundation stone in the east end of the barn foundation of the property owned by John Yoder YR125. Picture taken by Daniel Yoder Sr., Swanton, MD. Dan is a direct descendant of YR125

JOHN YODER YR25?

Who was the John Yoder that owned the property just north of Meyersdale, PA., along the Casselman River? Willeane C. Schrock and Robert T. Hyde both of Medina, OH., suggest there is a possibility that John Yoder YR25 was the John that owned the property at Meyersdale, PA.

A John Yoder of Armaugh Twp. of Mifflin County, PA., sold 205 1/2 acres warrant dated

Feb 4, 1785. Patented May 8, 1793 and sold to Thomas Vickroy on Dec. 11, 1793 in the Township of Bedford, in the County of Bedford (now Somerset County, PA.) in the State of PA., called "Greenfield" on the north east side of the Little Yough River (now Casselman River), near Meyersdale, PA. When this property was sold to Thomas Vickroy Dec. 11, 1793, John Yoder YR25 would have been approximately 61 years old. John Yoder YR25 would have been living in Armaugh Township, Mifflin County PA at this time. He died there July 21, 1813

Many Thanks to the following people for providing information:

Willeane C. Schrock, Medina, OH.

Robert T. Hyde, Medina, OH

James L. Yoder, Grantsville, MD

Bennie C. Yoder, Springs, PA

Daniel J. Yoder, Sr., Swanton, MD

If anyone has more information or corrections, please contact Mayla Yoder % The House of Yoder Newsletter at 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA 15530 or email at mhyoder@msn.com. Please indicate House of Yoder in subject line.



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The House of Yoder Membership:

Make check payable to “The House of Yoder” and mail to
Mayla H. Yoder
Membership Coordinator
2274 Salco Road
Berlin, PA 15530

	1 Year	5 Years	Lifetime
Individual	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Couple	\$35.00	\$150.00	\$1,500.00

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%Mayla H. Yoder
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Berlin, PA. 15530