

THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER

December 2010

The 14th Annual Members Meeting

November 6, 2010



The 14th Annual Members Meeting of **The House of Yoder** was held November 6, 2010, beginning at 9:30 with refreshment being provided by Ruth Yoder and Verna Bender. The meeting began at 10:00 AM, with Doris Ours, President of the Board of Directors, welcoming everyone. Lowell Bender had the meditation. Lowell and Verna sang "The Lords Prayer" **Secretary report** given by Mayla Yoder. **Treasurer's report** given by Edgar Yoder, approved and accepted. **Publicity/Membership** report given by Mayla Yoder. The newsletter is being mailed to 66 members throughout the United States, Canada and Switzerland. **Building report** given by Kenneth Yoder. Plexiglass has been installed on all of the windows throughout the house.

Hopefully this will help with our heating bill. Kenneth also reported on the continuing search for a jamb stove

Computer Web-site report by Lonnie Yoder. Lonnie has volunteered to be in charge of our web site: thehouseofyoder.org. At the present time he is having difficulties with the Microsoft program. He is looking for anyone who would be interested in being the web master for our site.

Election Kenneth Yoder and Paul H. Yoder's terms end this year. They have both declined to be nominated for re-election. The Board nominated Daniel Yoder, Sr. of Accident, MD for the term ending 2015. Passed. Welcome Dan!



Members during the meeting.



Our speaker for the November 6, 2010 Annual Meeting was Harvey L. Yoder. In The House of Yoder Newsletter dated Oct. 2009 is a story of how Harvey was almost killed by a steer. Harvey, the son of David T. and Elsie (Kurtz) Yoder, was born June 30, 1945. Harvey and his wife Nancy live in Holliday, Missouri, after spending most of his life in "The Big Valley" area of Mifflin County, PA.

Harvey's topic was about Jacob Yoder(YR14), also known as "Strong Jacob"). And how he got interested in genealogy. Harvey is a direct descendent of "Strong Jacob" (YR14).

"When in school, I always enjoyed geography and history, but wasn't too fond of English. I wish now that I would have taken more interest in writing and grammar so I could do more writing. He said: "My number one weakness over the years was, I didn't take notes or have someone take notes for me. Now my memory is starting to fail and the many people I spoke to and associated with are not recorded and I regret it greatly." I was quite young when I became interested in genealogy. My parents, Grandparents, uncles and aunts and all my cousins lived in "The Big Valley" area of PA. No one moved away, so we lived there all together and had great time. But we didn't realize it at the time. We would visit my great Grandmother, Amelia (Yoder) Peachy. She would tell many stories that were not written down. She passed away in 1957 at 99 years old. We sat,

visited and listened to stories told by Grandparents, aunts and uncles and many were never written down. My Mother, Elsie (Kurtz) Yoder, bought me a Hertzler-Hartzler book when I was 14-15 years old.

When I got started in history/genealogy about 37 years ago, I needed to go to Lancaster County, PA. We were visiting cousins at the time. They asked what I was doing the next day. I said "I would be going to Lancaster County." They said there is an Amishman who needs a ride to Lancaster County, PA. Now you know when you take an Amishman and he says he has one place to go, but by the time you get there, it will be like a half dozen places to go. I was very limited in time and didn't know if I had enough time to take someone along. I was always taught by my parents if I can do something for someone—do it. So, I said I would take him along. Because he had no other way of going and he greatly appreciated it when I picked him up. He came out of the house carrying a bag. He hopped in and we hadn't gone two miles when I realized that he wasn't a "typical" Amishman. Usually they talk about cows, horses and farming, but his Amishman was quite unusual. He started talking about history and I tell you, that was the shortest trip to Lancaster County I ever had. This Amishman was Levi Stoltzfus. He told me he was meeting with Amos Fisher and Abner Beiler and going to the Berks County Court House to get the original land grants. They would take these grants and go out to Berks County, locate, identify and document the original farms where the first Amish settled. The first Amish movement settled in Berks County, PA. in the 1730, 40's and 50's. I asked if I could go along, this was around 1980. Amos Fisher said "We can't afford to pay Taxi rates, and historians are usually poor people.

They work in shabby clothes with their hat on crooked and they have a far-away look in their eyes. They are just different!

I (Harvey) offered to pick up Levi Stoltzfus, Amos Fisher and Abner Beiler and take them where they wanted to go and they all agreed. These three professional Amishmen took me under their wing, taking me into the Berks County Court house, then going out to the original homesteads. That was my beginning of becoming involved in genealogy and history. Levi Stoltzfus told me while driving from the Big Valley, PA., to Lancaster County that you can choose any vocation in your life and you can lay it aside, but when you start with genealogy and history, you can never lay it down. Hugh Gingerich and Rachel (Yoder) Kreider put together the huge genealogy book "Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies." The above Amos Fisher did all of the proof reading of this tremendous book.

There is not a lot known about "Strong Jacob Yoder" YR14. If you would like to know how complicated the Yoder genealogies are, read the Yoder justification: The data in the Gingerich and Kreider Book: Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies. All the trouble they had in deciphering all of the Yoder's with so many Christian Yoder's it becomes very confusing.

There is no documentation that "Strong Jacob" YR14 descends from YR1. The husband they think died at sea and his wife is "Widow Barbara". The reason that "Strong Jacob" YR14 is in the YR1 line is because his age "fit" this family, but there was always a question mark. What C.Z. Mast had and what we find in the Annals of Conestoga is that he was a member of the Amish society, lived on a farm owned and occupied by Bishop Samuel Stoltzfus. There lived during colonial periods this Amish farmer, with broad acreage, almost equivalent to a western section in our prairie states. He was known as "Strong Jacob Yoder", a native of Switzerland, who arrived in Philadelphia

on September 21, 1742 on the ship "Francis and Elizabeth". When the passengers were taken to the court house to sign their allegiance to the King of England, Jacob's name was the only name signed in English by the clerk. Some people speculate Jacob might have been sick and couldn't sign the registration.

About the only thing that is documented is the farm he lived on in Lancaster County, Pa. "Strong Jacob's" farm was quite unique. The buildings were in a turn in the road and down over a bank, not a big ravine. I was surprised that a person like him lived there. But it was an ideal farm for an Amishman, (probably like Switzerland), and near Bishop Jacob Hertzler's farm. The reason they weren't able to do more research: the day they went to look at the place, they were met by a very unfriendly owner. The owner told them he "didn't want to see or hear anything from you damn Amish". So that was that. They didn't have any access to the property for years, until the property was sold in the 1990's and the amusing thing is the farm is now a golf course. We now have access to it and we can go look at the buildings. "Strong Jacob" left Berks County, PA and bought land in Lancaster County, PA. "Strong Jacob" is buried on this farm. The cemetery is marked and has a nice white fence around it. You can see it from Route 23, and it's not far from the Morgantown (PA) Church. Some people thought he moved to Mifflin County, PA. He never did. His son Christian did, whom I (Harvey) descend from. Christian's nick name was "der Dick Christel" (literally thick-through

According to Gingerich and Kreider Genealogy Book Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies, "Strong Jacob" may have been married to Anna Belier (BY2??) but there is no documentation on this. He had nine children: Veronica, Jacob, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Christian ("der Dick Christel"), Barbara, Sarah, Esther.

STRONG JACOB" YODER STORIES

We are indebted to the late C.A. Mast of Elverson, PA for a collection of interesting tales about "Strong Jacob" Yoder. Mast, in turn credited C.Z. Yoder of Wayne Co., OH., and the oral tradition handed down in the communities where descendants of this prolific family have settled.

'Jacob Yoder, who arrived Sept, 21, 1742 on the Francis and Elizabeth must have had a powerful physique to have soon acquired the nickname of "Stark"(Strong) Jacob. We also find that his son Christian was known as "der Dick Christel"- (literally "thick-through") and his grandson was "Big Dan" Yoder. Jacob lived at first among his close relatives in northern Berks County, PA., but before 1750, he had bought land in Lancaster County, PA., in the Morgantown area. His farmstead can be seen from the Conestoga Pike, the "Kings Highway" now known as Route 23. He had been "entrusted with funds from the British Crown" to help maintain this highway, and he was a prominent citizen in this community, the locale of the "stories".

Mast relates that Jacob delighted in the "participation of athletic sports on his farm. They generally took place among the hired men after being hurried from the fields to the barn for shelter from an approaching shower—"on one occasion, Strong Jacob was challenged by a husky Irishman, who had never been defeated. Yoder, however, in a spirit of good humor, took up the course of action and it was decided to have one or the other thrust into a three bushel grain bag. The task was quite difficult for either party, but after some considerable muscular exertion was expended...the Irishman and his temper were bogged at the hands of Yoder."

Another oft-repeated incident occurred when Strong Jacob and two of his sons had hauled a load of wheat to a merchant mill. In those days the grain had to be carried up several flights of stairs. Jacob would set up the full three-bushel

sacks of grain at the rear of the wagon bed and the boys were to carry them up to the third floor of the mill. At the head of the first flight of stairs a stout young fellow reached out from a hiding place and pulled their beards as they were carrying their loads. They complained to their father, who said he would carry the next sack. As he came to the head of the stairs, the hand came out again and pulled his beard. Strong Jacob quickly caught the mischief-maker around his waist and carried him up the remaining stairs along with the three bushels of wheat. The more the young man kicked and struggled, the tighter Jacob held him. Arriving at the top, Jacob dropped him to the floor, where he lay limp and docile for a time. The sons carried the rest of the load unmolested.

On another occasion Strong Jacob was hauling a load of wheat to market in Philadelphia. On the way, he came to a stream where the bridge had been recently washed away. There was only a good foot-log across the river. Unhitching his four horses, he made them swim through the water. Then took the wagon apart and took the pieces across the foot-log, last of all dragging the wagon bed to the other side. When all this was done, he put the wagon together again. Loaded the wheat, hitched up his team, and drove off as though nothing unusual had happened.

My father loved to tell stories about "Strong Jacob Yoder", wrote C.Z. Yoder in about 1930. Once upon a time a certain man boasted that he was the strongest man in his own community and he had come to whip this rival. He was told that Yoder, always a peaceful man "had better be left alone", but the Virginian went on, arriving at the Yoder homestead after dark. When Yoder opened the door, the stranger seized him, expecting to take advantage of the situation, but Jacob held him down to the floor and called for a rope. He tied the man securely, dragged him to the fireplace, and let him lie there till morning, when he was released and sent home.

How true are these stories?—Probably quite

credible in broad outline, and it is hardly necessary to “prove” the details in these entertainment-stories in our Pennsylvania-Dutch

Harvey brought a collection of old books with him. One book was the Goeb Bible. Frederick Goeb printed the first German Bible west of the Allegheny Mountains (at Somerset, PA.) in 1813. They think between 550 and 650 Bibles were printed. He had to set each letter and probably with wooden type. It would have required Goeb to set about 5 million type and spaces. Harvey also brought a 1748 Martyrs Mirror printed by the Kenneth L. Yoder YR261191434 Ephrata Cloister, Ephrata, PA. There were about 1,200 copies of this book printed. Revolutionary soldiers took approximately 500 unsold copies and used them for the wadding in their muskets. Harvey also had a reprinted copy of the 1742 Ausbund, printed in America by Christopher Saur’s Germantown press. Mennonite Bishop Henry Funck was the publisher of this hymnal.



Pictured above: Left, Paul H. Yoder YR261191233, right, Kenneth L. Yoder YR261191434. Both of these men are retiring from the Board of Directors of The House of Yoder. Paul has served as the Board’s Secretary and Hosting Coordinator. Kenneth has served as Building Supervisor. They have both contributed countless hours to The House of Yoder since its beginning.

MEET THE HOUSE OF YODER BOARD MEMBERS

Our continuing series of meeting the Board of Directors on The House of Yoder. Here is Kenneth’s story:



Kenneth L. Yoder YR261191434

“Since the purpose of this article is to get acquainted with me, it would be unfair to all those people and situations, not to mention those who have contributed so much to my life. Any success in my life, I attribute to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is the source of super wisdom and strength. He has given me a life that was rich and full and much better than anything I could have planned for myself.

At a farm house near Grantsville, MD., on April 23, 1934, in the home of Alvin and Martha Yoder and their three children, Ruth, Clark and Cora Anna, a new baby arrived. They named him Kenneth Leo. Later six more children came-four boys and two girls: Roman, Ellen Ezra, Mary, Mark and James. This family grew up on the “Cornucopia Dairy Farm” from 1928-1968 until they were of age and left the farm.

My Grandmother Yoder (Annie Miller) lived in the “gross-dauddy” (grandparents) side of the house with three of their seventeen children: Edna, Glenola and Viola. Grandpa Harvey Yoder had passed away in 1936. Grandma’s large family with their outgoing personalities were all great

conversationalists and story tellers. Their frequent visits with their children made for a very happy life. Their long visits and story telling are remembered by all. Uncle Claude Yoder and his son Gary, perfected the art of story telling to championship status, with many others not far behind.

My mother (Martha Maust) came from a family of six, each with their own large families. Their frequent visits also made for a lot of fun. There was never a dull moment. All these cousins, along with the joys of farm life, like finding a nest of baby kittens and the dog having puppies, or watching a cow giving birth to a calf, and later owning our own dog, rabbits and pony all seemed like a perfect life.

Yoder School, also affectionately known as "Dutch College", was located about a mile north of "Cornucopia Farm". We always walked to this one room school for grades 1-7. For a time, Grandfather Harvey Yoder taught there. Even though he was a member of the Maple Glen Conservative Amish Mennonite Church, he went to the "normal school" and got a teacher's certificate. School was not that difficult, but I saw myself as an out-of-doors type that would someday have my own farm, and I was always glad when I could stay at home and help on the farm. Hunting and trapping were much more exciting than school.

My older brother Clark got married when I was 14. Dad had a rather serious nervous breakdown, so much of the farm work fell on me and the rest of the family. It was a challenging time as well as a time of doing some rapid growing up.

Church was always very important for our family. Dad was often the Sunday School superintendent and teacher. We attended Maple Glen Church, where my grandparents attended. Maple Glen Church was a member of the Amish Mennonite Conservative Conference. There was a large youth group of about 60. Our activities were singings, a singing school in the fall and occasionally a corn husking. I joined this church in my early

teens and was teaching a Sunday School class and serving on the Youth Committee in my later teens.

The war ended in 1945 when I was eleven years old. We heard a lot of reports of the extreme suffering of the refugees. Mother was Chairperson of the church Sewing Circle. She led the group in sending a lot of relief to Germany through MCC (Mennonite Central Committee). All of this was background that God was calling me to volunteer for a two year term of service in the PAX program.

When I realized in 1954 that I was going to Germany, I took the GED tests and went to Eastern Mennonite College and studied German under G. Ernest Gehman, which was very helpful in my time in Germany. In April 1955, I celebrated my 21st birthday on the "SS Grote-beer" on the Atlantic Ocean, on my way to Espelkamp, Germany, to help in the resettling of refugees. At the request of the Conservative Mennonite Conference, I was loaned to them from the PAX unit to help in their mission program. Mostly I helped in their teaching program of children and youth, but also helping in the evangelical churches relief and resettlement program.

Espelkamp, a former Nazi arsenal, was converted to a place to resettle refugees. At present. It has a population of over 25,000, all resettled refugees and their families.

The PAX program had already remodeled a lot of barracks into living quarters and built 7 new houses for 28 Mennonite refugee families. The PAX unit then moved on to six other locations.

When my two years were up, I said goodbye to my many new friends in Espelkamp, and moved about 60 miles to a PAX unit of about 20 men at Bechterdisson, where I joined the building unit. While there, I would pedal my bicycle back to Espelkamp to help with the teaching program. Sunday evening, I would pedal back to Bechterdisson. These were some long trips.

My intention was to stay here until August,

attend Mennonite World Conference, then come home. My plans were changed when the Conservative Conference decided to build a dwelling house and chapel at Espelkamp and asked me to head up the building program. It was my job to get the building permits (17 of them) and oversee the building. Several other PAX boys extended their time to help. This building experience was like a free education in construction. The architect, Mr. Welke, whose daughter had been in one of my classes, took a personal interest in us. We were under his regular supervision where he taught us the various building techniques. This took over one year. During this time, Ruth and I started to date.

Even though I was around construction at home, like building the Maple Glen church and remodeling the dairy barn etc., this developed an interest in construction. After three and one half years in Germany, I decided it was time for me to go home.

My first year at home I helped to remodel the Goodwill Nursing Home and other building projects. During this time, Ruth and I corresponded weekly by letter in German. In December of 1959, I was on my way back to Germany to see Ruth.

As a 7-year old, living in West Prussia on a farm with her parents and four siblings, Ruth had to leave home because of the ravages of World War II, never to go back again because the Communists took over that area. She lived in Denmark in a refugee camp for three and one half years, then in North Germany for another three and one half years. These seven years were lived at a barely subsistence level. In 1952 the family moved to Espelkamp, Germany and into one of the houses built by the PAX boys, where things slowly improved.

Ruth and I had known each other all the time I was in Germany, but didn't date until the summer of 1958. We were married in Germany on March 5, 1960, and almost immediately moved to the United States, and started housekeeping.



Ruth (Reimer) and Kenneth Yoder

I was again involved in construction. Dad remodeled the dairy barn, and added an extension of 40'x60'. This made this part of the barn 40'x110'. The outside walls were Otto tile and the inside glazed block, the windows were glass blocks. I did all of the masonry work by myself. I did construction in 1960 and 1961.

1962 brought major changes to us. In April we started farming at McHenry, MD., our second daughter was born in May, I was ordained to the Christian ministry in August and began a heavy schedule of preaching. This created a schedule that was almost overwhelming. A lot of the proverbial midnight oil was burned.

My asthma and my allergies were getting worse, so in 1968, we moved back to the home farm where Dad wanted to retire. This farm was large enough to afford hiring help. This was a wise move in that I didn't need to spend as much time in the barn, helping my asthma, and giving me more time for church work.

Soon after this I was elected to a 7-year term on our Conference Mission Board. During this time, I served on two different deputation trips

to Germany and one to Central and South America. This was also when we sent the first missionaries to a Muslim country. In Conference, I also served on the following committees: the Peace Witness Committee, the Church Welfare Committee, the ministers Fellowships Committee, and the Historical Committee. This experience was very enriching and broadening of my life.

Possible because of our Dad, I as well as three of my brothers: Roman, Mark and James, were interested in history. I was elected to the board of the Casselman River Area Amish and Mennonite Historians. For our 1992 Annual Meeting, I was asked to arrange a program for the Yoder's. This was the 250th Anniversary of the Amish Yoder's coming to America. We asked Virgil Yoder to develop a slide lecture of Yoder places in Switzerland and Germany. This was later developed into a DVD, and called "A Pilgrimage of Faith". Some form of this was shown at every National Yoder reunion. For this meeting we had invited the different branches of the Yoder family; the Mennonite Yoder's, the Oley Yoder's, the North Carolina Yoder's. This was the forerunner of the National Yoder reunion. Also at this meeting, Lowell Bender and Alta Schrock asked for time to present the case for a Yoder House in the Spruce Forest.

From this meeting, a new organization was born, later called "The House of Yoder". First, a design committee was appointed, then a building committee. I was asked to be chairman of all three. Later, I was asked to be the building supervisor.

It was challenging to design a building that was Yoder as well as unique. A key to the success of the design committee was an early decision that it should be pre-1750 in all aspects. The challenge of building like this was to find suitable materials, then getting them into usable condition. Other challenges were the root cellar, the inside walls of the first floor, the doors and windows. For us green horns, it took hours of research and dogged patience, and determination to get it right. The one remaining challenge is the jamb stove. We need a pattern maker and forge to make a replica.



November 22, 1997

Kenneth Yoder, YR261191434, The House of Yoder building Supervisor, working on the root cellar. The weather in western MD. can get quiet cold in November. Notice the black plastic held up by re-bar. Space heaters were used to heat the area.

Other organizations that I was a member of and frequently served on their committees were; the Lancaster Historical society, The Berks County Historical Society, the Herr House, The National, State, and County Holstein Clubs, the Farm Credit, Farm Home administration, The MD and VA Milk Producers Association, the Mountain Counties Milk Hauling Association.

During this time, seven children were born into our family: Sylvia, married to Bill Mast. They have three children and one grandchild. They have their own dairy farm and a sizeable sugar-maple business. The family lives in Salisbury, PA. Isolde, married to Jim Porter. She has two children. They both work at Beitzel Corporation and live at Grantsville, MD. Karen, married to Marvin Tice. They live in Harrisonburg, VA. Marvin is in charge of maintenance of eight McDonalds and she is a teacher's assistant, teaching handicapped children. They have one son. Dirk is married to Karin, they have one son. They own their own construction business named DayStar Builders. This family also lives in Grantsville, MD. Heidi is an accountant. She lives and works in Cumberland, MD. Dwight is married to Jenelle, they have three children. Dwight is foreman at the Simon Pearce

Glass Blowing Co. This family lives in Swanton, MD. Annetta is married to Charles Enlow. They have two children. They have a dairy farm and maple sugar business,. They live in Friendsville, MD.

If you would like to know any thing else about me, stop in and we will continue this discussion over a cup of coffee."

Chris Yoder of the Yoder Newsletter sent us several boxes of older Yoder Newsletters. They are available at ***The House of Yoder***.

The House of Yoder is looking for someone to help us out with our web site. We currently have a web site: www.houseofyoder.org. Our current web master, Sylvia Yoder is stepping down. We are looking for someone who has web design abilities to take over the upkeep of the web site. If you are the person we are searching for, please contact Lonnie Yoder. Home phone: 540-432-6467 or email: yoderld@emu.edu. You can contact the editor at 814-267-3383 or mhyoder@msn.com.

From ***The House of Yoder*** August 2010 Newsletter about Lewis S. Yoder YR2611912: Lewis's youngest daughter's name Sara was misspelled. I received a letter from Mrs. Harriet Stoltzfus, wife of Jay A. Stoltzfus, oldest son of Sara (Yoder) Stoltzfus and Grandson of Lewis S. Yoder. Harriet related that Timothy Tice was responsible for sending them the newsletter. Harriet said they enjoyed reading that copy with Sara. We are so glad to hear that the family enjoyed the newsletter! I apologize for misspelling her name.

Editors Note: PAX: A Mennonite and Brethren program which ran from 1951-1975. 1,200 young volunteers who did relief and development work in 40 countries around the world. The PAX Program was a Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) run effort to help rebuild and settle refugees.

THE HOUSE OF YODER HOSTING PROGRAM

The House of Yoder opened for visitors May 23, 2010. We were fortunate to have a number of hosts available to show our visitors through The House. Our hosts for the year 2010 were:

Paul and Mary Lou Bowers, Iowa City, IA.; Ralph and Ann Sebrell, Harrisonburg, VA.; Richard and Jean Sweigart, Mohnton, PA.; Val and Sandy Dzwonczyk, Baltimore, MD.; Del and Linda Yoder, Morgantown, WV.; John and Betty Mullet, Elkhart, IN.; Merrill and Martha Yoder, Telford, PA.; Sterling and Jackie Edwards, Frostburg, MD.; Wayne and Phyllis Kornhouse, Orville, OH.; Fred Tillery, Rita and Virgil Yoder, Irwin, PA.; Paul H. and Kenneth Yoder, both from Grantsville, MD.; and Ray Yount, Cumberland, MD.

A most sincere **THANK YOU** to our hosts!!

Marian (Beitzel) Diehl has agreed to be our new hosting coordinator. Marian is the daughter of Verda (Yoder) and Elmer Beitzel. Marian and her husband Lee, live in Bedford, PA. If you would be interested in becoming a host, please contact Marian at: Marian L. Diehl, 1218 Dark Hollow Road, Bedford, PA 15522. Phone: Home 814-356-3732. Email: marandiehl@yahoo.com



Marian L. Diehl, Hosting Program Coordinator.

Christmas in The Village



Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4, 2010, **The House of Yoder** was festively decorated to celebrate Spruce Forest Artisan Village "Christmas in the Village". Pictured above is **House of Yoder** Board Member, Dan Yoder, Sr., and **House of Yoder** Associate Member and Hosting Coordinator, Marian Diehl, along with Marvin J. and Cora Anna (Yoder) Yoder, serving pop corn to our visitors. The pop corn is a favorite with visitors. Many comments are made when visitors come into The House and smell the wonderful aroma of freshly popped pop corn.



Pictured above is Ann Sebrell, showing our visitors how to make a 5 pointed star. Our visitors were able to make a star with Ann's guidance. This was a popular spot!! Ann and her husband, Ralph, are from Harrisonburg, VA. and were our hosts for the

2 days of festivities. They have also served as hosts for **The House** during the summer.



Pictured above, the widow at the shustein (pouring stone), decorated with holiday greenery and one of the 5 pointed stars made by Ann Sebrell. Pictured below is Ralph Sebrell on the right, chatting with some of our visitors.



A VISIT FROM THOMAS S. YODER

On October 2, 2010, Thomas S. Yoder from Argyle, TX. Met with James, Bennie and Mark Yoder at Grantsville, MD. Tom is a direct descendent of John Yoder YR125 and Magdalena (Stutzman) Yoder (ST1). Tom wanted to visit old Yoder homesteads and the farm where his ancestor John lived at the Glades, Somerset County, PA., near Shanksville, PA.

John bought 247 1/2 acres from Gabriel Rhoads on August 18, 1775, and lived there until 1812-1814, when he sold the property to Jacob Will on March 28, 1815 and moved to Tuscarawas County, OH.

When we contacted the present owners of John's farm, Robert and Nancy Burkett, to see if we could visit, they insisted that no Yoder's ever lived there. That the original owners were all Reiman's and that the original Reiman bought the land from the Penns. This is the same problem Daniel Yoder, Sr., a direct descendent of John Yoder YR125 had when he wanted to identify the farm about 5 years ago. Robert and Nancy Burkett said that's what the Reimans had told them. After four phone calls and a trip to Helen (Engle) Reiman, (a sister to Claire Reiman who had owned the farm at one time) and some convincing, Bob and Nancy agreed to let us see the farm. We told them we would bring data that shows that John Yoder owned the property and the Reiman didn't own it until 1841. When we talked to Helen (Reiman) Engle, she showed us the book: History of the Reiman Clan. It had a picture of the farm and it stated it was the original Reiman farm and this is where they got their information. It states that Gottlieb Reiman moved to the Glades, Bedford County (now Somerset County, PA) in 1773 and acquired 800 acres. In the land records of Somerset County, PA., it never shows Gottlieb Reiman ever owning the John Yoder farm. This is probably where this misinformation came from. We then contacted Mary Jane Reiman, wife of Clare Reiman, former owners of the farm,

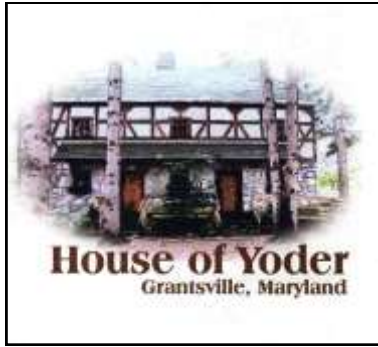
. She said she thinks there were Yoder's that lived there at one time.



Pictured above is Thomas S. Yoder, of Argyle, TX at the John Yoder(YR125) farm, looking at the date of "1797" on the barn foundation. In the March 2009 issue of The House of Yoder Newsletter, we ran a 2 page correction on John Yoder (YR125) and John Yoder (YR25). It listed all of the land transactions from Gabriel Rhoads to Robert and Nancy Burkett. When you read the deed, it says 200 acres transferred to John Yoder. It left out the 47 acres and 120 perches. This may have been a mistake by the clerk. According to the PA. land patent index, it states that Gabriel Rhoads sold to John Yoder 247 acres and 120 perches called "Little Glades".



Left to right: James L. Yoder, Bennie C. and Thomas S. Yoder, at the "Sweitzer Christian Yoder" YR23 Cemetery at Stoneycreek Twp., Somerset County, PA.



The House of Yoder Newsletter is published by The House of Yoder, Inc. Grantsville, MD. 21536, located 1/2 mile east of Grantsville, MD., on Route 40 East. at Penn Alps Restaurant and Spruce Forest Artisan Village President: Harvey L. Yoder; Vice President: Doris Ours. Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder, Treasurer: Isolde Yoder Porter. Board Members: Mark H. Yoder. Esta Yoder, Keith Yoder, Lowell Bender, Associate Member: Benny C. Yoder, Editor: Mayla H. Yoder.

The House of Yoder Membership:

Make check payable to "The House of Yoder" and mail to
Mayla H. Yoder
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

The House of Yoder Newsletter
%Mayla H. Yoder
2274 Salco Road
Berlin, PA 15530