



THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER

June 2014

CLEANING FOR THE 2014 HOSTING SEASON

On Saturday, April 12, 2014, several members of the House of Yoder Board of Directors, met to clean around the outside of The House, getting ready for our "photo shoot" with Lance C. Bell, owner, editor and photographer of "Mountain Discoveries". "Mountain Discoveries" is a free publication printed twice yearly-Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter. Mountain Discoveries is focused on the Western Maryland region including neighboring Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. The magazine features people, activities, places and articles of interest, and is written and produced by people in this area.

Mountain Discoveries web site (www.mountaindiscoveries.com) is a active part of this publication, and is used to communicate and showcase feature stories and our advertisers.



Pictured above: Dan Yoder, Sr., Jim Porter, Iolde Yoder, Porter and Mark Yoder.



Pictured above left to right: Mayla Yoder with two of her grandsons, Carter Dickey on the left and Robbie Dickey on the right.

The House of Yoder was one of the featured stories and pictures for the publication of Spring/Summer, 2014. The article can be found on pages 50-52.



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Lance C. Bell, owner, editor, photographer of Mountain Discoveries.

Christian Yoder, YR2611a

Tortured and robbed by the McClellandtown gang
on April 13, 1889



Christian Yoder and one of his loved girls

While doing research to accompany the dresser and blanket chest, of Christian Yoder's that is on display at the House of Yoder, it was discovered that the torture and robbery made national news. The condensed story appeared in *The Helena Independent* (Helena Montana Territory,) *The Rock Island Argus* (Rock Island, Illinois), *The Wheeling Intelligencer* (Wheeling WV), and others.

A small booklet was compiled of the different newspaper accounts of the robbery and trial of the McClellandtown Gang. Included are *The Somerset Herald*, (Somerset, PA) *The Pittsburgh Dispatch*, (Pittsburgh, PA) *The Meyersdale Republican* (Meyersdale, PA) and *The Casselman Chronicle*, (a historical publication; Springs, PA). Christian's Grandson, Claude Yoder printed a small booklet of *The Meyersdale Republican's* version of the story. This version is also on

www.yodernewsletter.org. Also included in this booklet is an account of Elias (Eli) Yoder, Christian's son, taking his father to court to have him declared incompetent to take care of his affairs.

We don't know if Christian was a member of the Amish Church in Somerset County, PA. When Christian died, Joel Gnagey, Minister of the German Baptist Church at Summit Mills, PA and Gideon Miller, Minister of the Springs, PA Mennonite Church conducted the funeral service.

The following paragraph is a Somerset Herald reporter, interviewing Christian Yoder, after his son Elias took him to court:

"The branch of the church to which the elder Yoder owe allegiance has no ministers or bishops in Western Pennsylvania, so that when his wife died he was compelled to send to Ohio for a Bishop to officiate at her funeral, and when he wishes to partake of "natchmahl" (communion), he has either to send for a Bishop or go to Ohio in order to partake of that solemn ordinance. Mr. Yoder says that all who profess his faith are opposed to building houses devoted to worship, and prefer paying reverence to the Almighty in their homes or barns or in God's first temples "the groves."

After reading the above paragraph, it is possible that Christian wasn't a member of the local Amish church. In 1881, the Somerset County, PA Amish built four church houses. Could it be that Christian did not approve of the building of the churches?



Christian Yoder's barn where he was tortured

Christian Yoder YR2611a born August 20, 1823. Died February 28, 1899. Age 75 years 6 months 7 days. The youngest and tenth child of Yost H. (YR2611) and Elizabeth (Yoder) Yoder (YR1255). Christian married on ? to Sarah Hostettler (HS1812) (DJH4766) the second child of thirteen born March 20, 1820 died Jan 10, 1891 age 70 years nine months and 15 days. Daughter of Jonathan Hostettler (HS181) and (DJH 4761) and Susanna (Gnagey) (KY118) Hostettler.

Christian's wife Sarah is a sister to Fannie Hostettler, the second wife of David H. Yoder, featured in The House of Yoder Newsletter May 2011.

Christian and Sarah had two children: Samuel born Jan 3, 1851. Died Jan/Feb? 1881. Age 30 years and some days. The 1880 census listed Samuel as age 29, sick and speechless. Elias age 25 married and a laborer. Dora age 18, daughter-in-law as a servant and Lydia Petersheim age 25 as a servant. On the Menno Bits web site there is a Samuel Yoder, son of Christian and Sarah Yoder died Jan 28, in Somerset county age 80 years and 24 days. It is possible the 80 years is a typographical error and should be 30 years.

Elias (Eli) born Oct. 10, 1854. Died September 19, 1922 age 67 years 11 months and nine days. Married Dora C. Hostettler (HS18671) daughter of Christian H. Hostettler (HS5394) and Nelly Wilttrout. Dora died September 8, 1962 age 101 years.

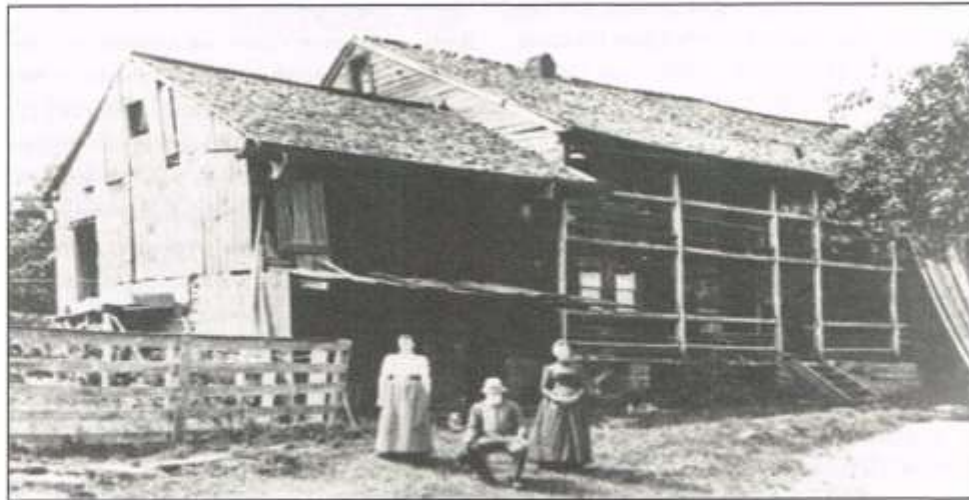
Christian, Sarah, Eli, Dora, and Samuel are all buried in the Hostettler/Yoder/Hershberger cemetery along St. Paul Road on the farm now owned by Wendell and Darlene Yoder.

Christian Yoder bought the farm containing 191 acres for \$3,000.00 on February 21, 1849 from his brother Jacob Y. Yoder. Jacob Y. Yoder purchased this farm from Samuel Lichty on Jan 28, 1848 for \$2,700.00.

Christian's son Elias (Eli) inherited the farm after Christian's death. The deed was transferred Feb 16, 1900. Elias C. Yoder estate then sold the farm to his son Claude Yoder March 1, 1924, for \$14,000.00. Claude E. Yoder sold the farm to Herman Schrock on Jan 21, 1966.

By the time of Christian Yoder's robbery, the residents of Somerset County were already on edge because of the recent robbery and murder of Herman Umberger on Wednesday night, February 27, 1889. Two men entered the house of Herman Umberger, present were his wife Nancy, a little girl, Nannie Horner and the hired girl, Ellen Stern. The two men said they were officers searching for some jewelry that was stolen and needed to search the house. As the two men were searching the dresser, two pocket books were exposed. Mr. Umberger then put them in his vest pocket. One of the men produced a pistol and said; "Your money or your life." Several shots were fired and Mr. Umberger fell dead on the kitchen floor. The pocket books contained over \$16,000.00. The two bandits left and on the following Monday, March 4, 1889, Joseph and David Nicely were arrested and brought to the Somerset County (PA) jail. The Nicely Brothers were convicted and died by hanging in the Somerset County Jail on April 2, 1891.

The McClellandtown Gang that robbed Christian Yoder, and the Nicely Brothers who robbed and killed Mr. Umberger, were incarcerated in the Somerset County jail at the same time. There was a debate as whose trial would be first: the McClellandtown Gang or the Nicely Brothers. The court decided to have the trial of the McClellandtown gang first. There was great concern throughout the community that the convicts would try to escape. The Nicely Brothers twice escaped from the jail, and were recaptured both times before their hanging. Somerset county experienced a traumatic three months : the Nicely robbery and murder of Herman Umberger, the McClellandtown Gang robbery and torture of Christian Yoder and the devastating Johnstown (PA) flood that killed 2,209 people.



Christian Yoder, seated, along with two hired girls, in front of his house. The barn and house were replaced with new buildings.

Meyersdale Republican

March 1, 1899

Christian Yoder Obituary

Monday morning, at 11 o'clock, passed to the great majority a most unique and striking character who for the greater portion of his life held the esteem of all who knew him. Christian Yoder's appearance was as striking as his peculiarities. But he was honest, genial, earnest, preserving as well, as economical the major portion of his life. When death came, it was after a very brief illness and it will be a pleasant memory to his friends that his sufferings were brief. His father was Jost Yoder and he was born on the farm now known as the A. E. Yoder farm in Summit Township about 77 years ago. Among his brothers are Steven, Isaac, Daniel, David, Jacob and Adam, some of whom preceded him to the future. There were several sisters also. He was married to a daughter of Jonathan Hostetler, of Elk Lick, and began farming on the farm he yet owns. It was in 1889 when the McClellandtown Gang visited his house, burned and gagged him and all members of his family, hung him and tortured him cruelly to make him confess where he had hidden his money. The gang was afterward captured under the lead of ex-Sheriff Kyle, jailed, tried and sent to the penitentiary. Some eight years ago his wife died and since then the life of

this poor old man was saddened. He leaves one son, Eli of West Virginia. It is comforting to know that kind friends cared for him recently, but the help came to late. We respect him for what he was when in his prime. His remains were laid to rest in the grave yard on the Flickinger Farm. Elders Joel Gnagey and Gideon Miller conducted the services.



The dresser above owned by Christian Yoder, now on display in The House of Yoder.



Present day home of Christian Yoder, now owned by Isaac Fisher on Mt. Davis Road, Meyersdale, PA

Somerset Herald

March 1, 1899

Christian Yoder Obituary

"Christly" Yoder, who was known throughout the county as the victim of a brutal outrage committed by the "McClellandtown Gang" died at his home in Elk Lick township at 11 o'clock Monday morning, age 77 years. He is survived by one son who several years ago made an unsuccessful effort to have the Somerset County Court declare his father incapable of managing his estates. On the night of April 13, 1889 a gang of robbers, headed by Charles Lewis, entered the Yoder home and after binding the old farmer and his hired man hand and foot proceeded to ransack the house in search of money, failing to find any, they carried the old man to the barn, where they tied a rope around his neck and suspended him from a timber above the threshing floor. After letting him hang until his life was almost extinct, they demanded on penalty of death that he reveal the hiding place of his supposed large amount of money. Mr. Yoder protested that there was no more money about the house, but the robbers refusing to believe him, applied burning pieces of paper to his bare feet. After torturing him for an hour or more they took their departure, stealing a pair of horses from the Yoder barn which they rode to their home near McClellandtown, Fayette County. Here they were shortly after-

wards arrested by posse headed by ex-sheriff Kyle from Somerset County. The entire gang, ten men and women were captured. Four of them, Charles Lewis, Decatur Tasker, Jackson Sullivan and Marshall Sullivan were convicted on May 30 and were sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years.

Sarah Yoder

In searching for Sarah's obituary, the only reference found concerning her death was in *The Meyersdale Commercial* January 15, 1891:

"News has reached town of the death of Mrs. Christian Yoder, of near Summit Mills— a most estimable lady, wife and mother."



Blanket chest once owned by Christian Yoder, purchased at the Amish Benefit Auction by a private individual. Kenneth L. Yoder purchased the blanket chest, which was then purchased by The House of Yoder at the Kenneth and Ruth Yoder auction, April 26, 2014. Blanket chest on display at The House of Yoder

Somerset Herald

December 1, 1897

HE'S ALL RIGHT

Eli Yoder's Effort to Have His Father

(Christian Yoder YR2611a)

Declared Insane Fails.

UNUSUAL PROCEEDINGS

BETWEEN MENNONITE BRETHREN

The novel proceeding of a son appearing against his father in a court of lunacy, where it is sought to make it appear that the father is mentally disqualified from taking care of his estate, was witnessed here last week. The proceedings, owing to the fact that the parties are both members of one of the branches of the Mennonite church, whose peculiar belief forbids their taking a prescribed oath, and requires them to wear hooks and eyes instead of the familiar button, and in other ways to clothe themselves with severe plainness, attracted more than the usual amount of attention given to cases of similar character. The proceeding was instituted by Eli Yoder, the only child and natural heir of Christian Yoder, a venerable Elk Lick Township farmer. He testified that he had worked on his father's farm until he arrived at man's estate, and for three of four years thereafter, when he removed to West Virginia, where he still resides. He declared that the run down appearance of his father's farm and the secretive manner in which he conducted his business, as well as the fact that he was alleged to have three or four women in his employ, indicated to his mind that he was squandering his substance, and that the court should appoint someone whose business it would be to see that his affairs were properly and economically managed. He admitted that his father had treated him with more or less liberality before and since the death of his mother, some five or six years ago, and only a short time ago divided with him the proceeds of a lumber sale, but recently he declared the old gentleman had not been as confidential with him as heretofore, even going as far as refusing to tell him how he expended his money. A number of witnesses were called who swore in their opinion Mr. Yoder was mentally incapacitated from managing his estate, most of them basing their opinion on the fact that for several years he has permitted his farm to run down and has not garnered the same proportion of crops as did his neighbors.

On the other side fifteen or more witnesses testified that they had known old man Yoder for many years and that there was nothing in his conduct to indicate that he was mentally deficient, while several declared that he showed marked good judgment in refusing to employ farm hands to raise wheat at 50 cents a bushel, when he himself was in capacitated by old age from doing farm work unassisted. Three or four physi-

cians testified that they had examined the defendant with a view to ascertaining his mental condition and were quite positive that his mental faculties were not impaired, but are as strong as are usually found in a man of 74 years of age. Old man Yoder did not testify in his own behalf, although he was an interested spectator throughout the proceedings and frequently consulted with his attorneys in regard to the examination of witnesses. He exhibited no outward resentment at the conduct of his son and had gone to his home before the verdict of the jury was announced.

The proceeding was held before lawyer H. L. Baer, who was appointed commissioner by the court, and a jury of six men were charged with hearing the evidence and rendering a verdict in accordance with the facts. Portions of Wednesday and Thursday were occupied in taking testimony and hearing arguments of counsel. The jury found Mr. Yoder sane, having arrived at that conclusion by a unanimous vote on the first ballot.

The scene presented during the trial was a novel one, as instances are rare where the machinery of the law has been invoked in this county to settle disputes between members of the Mennonite church.

The branch of the church to which the elder Yoder owes allegiance has no ministers or bishops in Western Pennsylvania, so that when his wife died he was compelled to send to Ohio for a Bishop to officiate at her funeral, and when he wishes to partake of natchmahl or communion, he has either to send for a Bishop or go to Ohio in order to partake of that solemn ordinance. Mr. Yoder says that all who profess his faith are opposed to building houses devoted to worship, and prefer paying reverence to the Almighty in their homes or barns or in "God's first temple" - the groves.

The old farmer, as he sat in the court charged with passing upon his mental responsibilities, looked as though he might have served as an artist engaged in painting the portrait of one of the early church fathers. A man of giant frame, with keen grey eyes and prominent Grecian nose: a wealth of long grey hair carefully combed reaching to the close fitting collar of his button less coat: the upper lip and cheeks cleanly shaven and a snow white beard completed a strong picture. The facial resemblance between father and son is quite marked, the only difference being in the color of their locks, those of the son being raven black. The son affects dark and the father gray clothes.

In 1889 Mr. Yoder was a victim of a brutal assault at the hands of a band of robbers known as the "McClellandtown Gang", who tortured him with fire brands held to his feet and strung him up by the neck in his barn until he was in the throws of death, in a vain attempt to make him disclose the hiding place of the gold and bank notes he was alleged to have concealed about his house. The robbers were afterwards taken at their rendezvous in Fayette County and brought to Somerset for trial. Their aged victim flatly refused to appear against them as a witness but was compelled to do so by the District Attorney. The members of the gang were convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary, where they are still confined.

Meyersdale Republican

September 21, 1922

Thieving Rogues Caused Death of Aged Citizen
Nervous Shock from Being Terrorized Proved Fatal to

Eli C. Yoder

Inoffensive Old Man Stoned by Evil Gang
Maltreated Because He Protested Against Looting of
His Home—Two Alleged Vandals Arrested and Two
Others Sought by Officers—
Prisoners Give Very Dubious Account of Their Suspicious Actions.

Eli C. Yoder, a highly esteemed farmer of Elk Lick Township, living about midway between Summit Mill and the Wilhelm Church, died at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening of nervous shock due to being terrorized by a gang of thieves who visited his home last Sunday for the purpose of robbery.

The Yoder family are members of the Amish Mennonite Church, and, as in their custom, all except Mr. Yoder, attended the regular church services at the Summit Mills meetinghouse last Sunday. Mr. Yoder, who was a semi-invalid, remained at home to look after the house and premises.

While all alone in the farm home two young men appeared at the kitchen door and asked for something to eat. Mr. Yoder was not the kind of man to turn any hungry person away from his door, whether a worthy guest or not. While he had his suspicions about these two visitors being in need of food, he nevertheless set about getting them something to eat, and while thus engaged his attention was attracted by some noise at the front of the house, and on looking out, he saw two more young men carrying a crock of butter and other things out of his cellar.

He went out to remonstrate with the bold miscreants, who were joined by the two beggars, and the gang began to throw stones at him and threatened to

kill him. He retreated into the house and they made away with one crock of butter.

Mr. Yoder, who was 67 years of age, had been paralyzed in his right arm for some years and, although able to do some light work and drive the market wagon to town, had been physically frail for some years past. He was not hit by any of the missiles hurled at him, but the fright and excitement caused by the adventure with the ruffians, and the memory, no doubt, called up by their action of the tortures inflicted on his aged father the late Christian Yoder, by a gang of robbers about 25 or 30 years ago, so reacted on his nerves that he suffered a physical collapse after the vandals were gone.

Bearer of Olive Branch.

Resort to law to bring punishment upon evildoers being contrary to the religion of Mr. Yoder and family, no steps were taken by them to bring the rascals who terrorized him, and stole from him, to justice. The culprits, however, must have feared that the matter would be reported to the officers of the law and they would be apprehended, for on Monday evening three young men from the Center Church neighborhood—Lawrence Fiddler, James Schrock and Augustus Frickey—appeared at the Yoder home, Fiddler and Frickey going inside and Schrock remaining outside, with the avowed purpose of effecting a settlement with Mr. Yoder for the butter that had been stolen and any other claim he might have against his Sunday visitors.

Fiddler and Frickey informed Mr. Yoder that they, themselves had nothing to do with the matter, but had been sent by the guilty parties to arrange a settlement. Asked who the guilty parties were, they said they did not know as they were strangers to them.

Mr. Yoder and family said they would not agree to any settlement unless the guilty parties themselves came to make amends. Finally the emissaries said

they would bring the culprits around on the following evening to fix things up.

Mr. Yoder Expires.

On Tuesday, Mr. Yoder's condition became so much worse; that the family sent for Dr. J. W. Wenzel to give him medical treatment. The doctor found the old gentleman suffering severely from nervousness and his vitality very low. He gave such restoratives as he could, but to no avail, as Mr. Yoder passed away at 7:30 Tuesday evening.

In the opinion of the physician, Mr. Yoder's collapse was due to the terrorizing he was subjected to by the gang that raided his cellar on Sunday afternoon. None of the gang showed up for the settlement Tuesday evening as per appointment.

Although the bereaved family were reluctant to invoke the law against the ruffians who brought such sorrow into their home, Dr. Wenzel reported the matter to the authorities and County Detective M. R. Leckemby and Constable D. R. Cramer started out Tuesday night to round the gang up.

Three Suspects Arrested

Lawrence Fiddler, James Schrock and Augustus Frickey were arrested at their homes and held before Squire D. A. Floto on Wednesday morning. They admitted they were the men who visited the Yoder place on Monday evening to arrange a settlement, but denied that they were members of the gang who raided the Yoder home on Sunday and gave Mr. Yoder such a serious shock. Although urged to give the names of the guilty culprits in order to clear themselves of the wrongdoing, they refused to do so. They persisted in telling the officers that highly improbable story that they were sitting by the wayside at Center Church on Monday evening when three strangers drove up in a car, stopped and confessed to them they had stolen a crock of butter and committed some other misde-

meanors at the Eli Yoder place, and asked them the favor of going to the Yoder home to arrange a settlement for them. They could not even describe the appearance of the three strangers, as it was after dark that they were commissioned to bear the olive branch to Mr. Yoder.

Dubious Story.

The prisoners could give no plausible reason why they were willing to travel dozen miles at night to make restitution for confessed thieves whom they had never seen before and whose names and places of residence they did not even know, but yet they seemed to expect the minions of the law to be gullible enough to believe that there are disinterested trouble fixers in the world.

Fiddler and Schrock exonerated Frickey from being in anyway connected with the alleged negotiation with the gang who wished to effect a settlement with Mr. Yoder. They said they had merely met Frickey on the way and asked him to accompany them. The officers, after much questioning came to the conclusion that Frickey was merely an accidental member of the delegation that visited the Yoder home on Monday evening, so they released him. Justice Floto held Fiddler and Frickey to answer to the grand jury, and they were taken to Somerset, where the court fixed their bail at \$2000. Fiddler promptly furnished bond and Schrock was hopeful that his relatives would also soon have him out of jail putting up the required collateral.

The explanations given by Fiddler and Schrock have not impressed the minions of the law as being of much account to establish their innocence. It is rumored that the other two culprits the officers are looking for are named Patton and Burkholder, and it is anticipated that they will soon be taken into custody on the charge of being parties contributory to the causes resulting in the death of Mr. Yoder.

The funeral of Mr. Yoder will take place at the Amish meeting house at 10 o'clock Friday morning. He is survived by his wife and eleven children, namely

Nancy, wife of Lewis Beachy; Henry, married to Amanda Swartzendruber; Minnie, wife of Menno Hershberger; Sarah, wife of Peter Kinsinger; Cora, wife of Eli Beachy; Effie, wife of Iddo Yoder; Daisy, wife of Silas Swartzendruber (Daisy was married to Simon D. Swartzendruber); Addie, wife of Clarence Bender, Lelia, wife of Daniel Brenneman; Claude, married to Olive Tice; Oma, single, at home. One, the oldest of the family of 12 children precede the father to the grave.

Eli C. Yoder was the son of the late Christian Yoder, who was cruelly tortured by a desperate gang of robbers about 35 years ago, on the same farm, in an attempt to make him disclose where he was supposed to have money hidden. The memory of that dastardly crime is still fresh in the minds of the older people of the community.

Mr. Yoder was a very friendly, peaceable and upright man who will be missed from the community. His estimable family have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.

Somerset Herald

Wednesday, September 27, 1922

Believe Eli Yoder Feared Dire Threats of Torture By Notorious Gang

Lawrence Fiddler and James Schrock, who reside in Summit township, near Garrett, were arrested Wednesday by County Detective M. R. Leckemby and Constable D. R. Cramer, charged with robbing the home of Eli Yoder, who resided near Summit Mills, on Monday night and were also held for the death of the aged man, he having expired early Wednesday (should be Tuesday) morning, his death, the doctors say, being due to fright. At a hearing before Justice of

the Peace D. A. Floto Wednesday night Fiddler and Schrock were held without bail and were brought here to jail.

It is said that the two who are charged with the crime visited the home of Mr. Yoder and demanded of him to reveal the hiding place of his money, making all kinds of dire threats.

Before leaving they took some butter and other articles, and stated that they would return later with a larger number, when they would serve him as a robber gang, known as the "McClellandtown Gang" who tortured and threatened his father the late Christian Yoder, about 35 years prior. This even was no doubt still fresh in the memory of the son, who became so frightened that he died within 24 hours. Officers Leckemby and Cramer were present when he died.

Mr. Yoder, was aged about 67 or 68 years, was a member of the Amish faith, and was considered one of the best citizens of summit township.

Eli Yoder Bit By Squirrel

Eli Yoder (DBH #2836) bit by a squirrel-notes from a letter from Kate to Milton (Hershberger), her husband, on February 26, 1899. (Kate spent a few weeks at her home in Aurora.)

"Jake has gone to Yoder to stay up with Eli who is a very great sufferer just now. Last Thursday while felling a tree he caught a gray squirrel. Some way the little creature squirmed around, and bit him through his leather glove into the thumb right at the first joint. He kept on with his work thinking nothing of it. But about midnight that night it became very painful, and the next morning they sent for the doctor, who said it was developing into blood poison, but he would do his best to check it. It is a very grave case. The doctor goes there three times a day and today he took another doctor with him. Eli's suffering is just terrible. He has had no rest since Thurs. before midnight.

From a letter by Jacob, to Katie Hershberger on April 2, 1899:

"Eli Yoder intends to build a barn this summer. So he got Henry Mosser to move his saw mill on his place to do his sawing." He then gives the account of Eli being bitten by the squirrel. "They had to be up with him day and night. I was awfully afraid it would cost his life. But God in His great mercy has yet spared his life, as he is now recovering again.

"I had been staying with him every other night for three weeks. Mrs. Yoder would take care of him one night and I the next. Only Heimses took her place 2 or 3 nights during the 3 weeks- I said it seemed to me if she could take care of him through the day, we certainly ought to do so through the night. Could hardly see how she could stand it, as they had the saw mill hands and log cutters and haulers to board. And she to look after most everything. It was an awful pull on them. But I have yet to hear the first word of complaint from them. Yes, and then to top out the climax when he was about at his worst, they got a phone message that his father was dead.

"I had been staying with him the night before. But when we heard the news, the girls said they thought I ought to go over awhile that eve. They thought Dora would not know what in the world to do. But when I got there I was just surprised, she just greeted me with her usual pleasant smile. She said she new it was just out of the question for any of them to go down and to worry over it. It would not better matters any. Yes, the doctor cut Mr. Yoder's hand open in a good many places. And it is still running a little. But he is able to be up and walk around some." Note on April 6, 1995: He soon recovered. The family later moved to Summit Mills, Pennsylvania. Eli's wife Dora lived to be 101 years old. She died on April 28, 1962. Claude is the only child still living. He would be ninety-six in June 1995.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2014-2015

On Saturday, March 22, 2014 The House of Yoder Board Members met for their biannual meeting. Election of officers was held. The officers for the 2014-2015 year are:

President: Doris Ours
Vice President: Lowell Bender
Treasurer: Isolde Porter
Secretary: Mayla Yoder



Pictured above from left to right, clockwise: Keith Yoder, Esta Yoder, Isolde Porter (behind Esta), Dan Yoder, Sr., Lowell Bender, Doris Ours, Mayla Yoder, Mark Yoder

The House of Yoder Operating Expenses

EXPENSES:

Dues and Services	\$583.00
Maintenance and Repair	\$1,267.09
Miscellaneous	\$910.33
Utilities	\$1,577.20
Insurance	\$1,328.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,665.62

The House of Yoder, a 5013c non profit organization, operates on donations and memberships. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. You may send a check, payable to The House of Yoder:

Isolde Porter
195 Peavine Road
Grantsville, MD 21536

Friday, May 16, 2014



The students and parents of Friends Cove Mennonite School in Bedford, PA visited The House of Yoder. The group had toured a newspaper office and also Simon Pierce glass blowing company. Mervin Showalter was in charge of the group.

Those touring The House were: Mervin and Veronica Showalter, Naaman and Savila Petre, Linford and Abigale Miller, Justyn Miller, Jordyn Miller, Lucas

Petre, Lester Petre, Clement Petre, Kelsey Lehman, Vanessa Lehman, Virginia Showalter, Ellen Petre, Kayla Miller, Arlene Petre, Lorraine Martin, Brandyn Lehman, Eileen Marti, Markel Martin, Olan Eby, Kenny Lehman, Lorie Lehman, Kendal and Bradley Lehman, Denise Miller, Lyndora Petre, Lynn Petre, Lisa Martin, Brent Eby, Alta Eby, Douglas Eby, Milton Martin, Roy Martin, Audrey Petre, Eunice Petre, Lois Petre.



Pictures were taken in the root cellar in The House of Yoder

The House of Yoder is open from the last of May through the last of October, Monday through Saturday, 10am-5pm. Tours of The House and Yoder home sites can also be arranged by contacting Mayla Yoder at 814.267.3383. mhyoder@msn.com Please put "House of Yoder" in subject line.

Yoder National Reunion September 2014

300 years in the Oley Valley Pa

Thursday, September 11, 2014 through Sunday, September 14, 2014 are the dates for the celebration to honor our ancestors and the anniversary of their arrival in the beautiful Oley Valley of southeastern Pennsylvania. The party starts on Thursday, a light buffet supper at Homewood Suites. Friday morning on going research will be shared on several branches of the Oley Yoders. Friday afternoon is free to explore the sights of Berks County. The banquet to honor the 300th anniversary will be held Friday evening. Saturday morning, more historical/genealogical information will be available. Saturday afternoon will be spent traveling to different cemeteries and Yoder homesteads. Also on the tour will be Belleman's Old Church, where a service will be conducted. The final organized event of the weekend is a tour of the Daniel Boone Homestead (www.danielboonehomestead.org). Guided tours, the only way to see the inside of the house, will be available in the afternoon. Dinner that evening will be held in the church hall. If you are interested in attending this event, registration deadline is **August 1, 2014**. You may contact Ann L. Balderrama 150 Elm Street. Reading, PA 19601 and by email at: alb1989@hotmail.com. Please put "Yoder" in the subject line.



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