



THE HOUSE OF YODER NEWSLETTER December 2014

Kathy and Tom Yoder make furniture donation to The House of Yoder



Tom Yoder, pictured above, unloading some of the furniture that he and his wife Kathy donated to The House of Yoder.

Tom Yoder of Wichita Falls, Texas, descends from John Yoder (YR125) and his wife, Magdalena (Stutzman ST1) Yoder, who bought 247 acres and 120 perches of land in Shanksville, PA in August 1875. John owned the farm approximately forty years when he then sold it to Jacob Will on March 28, 1815. At an old age, John and Magdalen moved to Tuscarawas County, OH, where they rejoined with

some other members of their family.

After Tom's retirement, he and his wife Kathy planned to "down size their home and needed to part with some of their furniture. Tom contacted The House of Yoder to see if The House would be interested in any of the furniture, some being Yoder pieces, some not. The agreement was made with Tom that he would bring the furniture to The House of Yoder, and the furniture was to be used however The House of Yoder wished. The following is a list of the donated furniture: A "Mammy's Bench" (mostly a Southern piece), Windsor Rocker, "Flop" sofa, pine bench, early treadle spinning wheel, quilt display rack, yard winder, old tools: (draw knife, paring adze nail claw, splitting froe, boring augers, broad axe) 1800 Jenny Lind walnut bed, Sheraton style walnut dresser, pine turned rope bed, pine wall cupboard, 1800s dough box, set of four crown back chairs, old chair. The following are Yoder pieces: A set of four matching walnut chairs, a round walnut table, a cherry drop leaf table, a cherry night stand.

Yoder pieces donated to The House of Yoder by Kathy and Tom Yoder of Wichita Falls, TX



Left: "This is an old family piece that has been in the Yoder family. It is a cherry night stand with drop leaves. The drawer fronts are walnut. It was made by either Jacob Beelman or Joe Yoder in their cabinet shop in the mid 1800 in Smithville OH, where my family is from."

Right: "A set of six matching walnuts chairs that were used in our family. These chairs were made between 1860 and 1870 by an Amishman in Wayne County, Ohio by the name of Jacob Beelman or his assistant Joseph Yoder. They were early settlers in Wayne County, and came with a large group of Amish-Mennonites in the 1840 from Churchtown, PA near Mechanicsburg. The chairs were in the home of my great grandfather, Noah Yoder and his wife, Elmira Bricker Yoder. After they died, their two old maid daughters kept them until they passed away in the 1930s



Left: "An old cherry drop leaf table that has been in our family for over 150 years. It was made in Smithville, Ohio (Wayne County) by Jacob Beelman and Joe Yoder, who owned a cabinet shop in that town. It was first in the possession of Noah and Elmira Yoder (my great-grandparents) from 1870 and then to their two daughters. It is solid cherry and measures 42" long by 29" tall and is 53"

across when opened up. These were popular in the 1800s as they could sit against the wall for day to day use and be pulled into the room and opened up for meals."



Left: "A walnut table that also came from Smithville, Wayne County, Ohio. This is believed to be made by Jacob Beelman and used by Noah Yoder and his wife Elmira Bricker Yoder. They were married in 1862, so we think it was made between 1860 and 1870. It was in their household until the 1930s. It measures 29" tall and by 27" across."

Right: "Eighteen old tools which were used to build houses in the 1800s. Included are boring augers, splitting froe, broad axe, small axe, draw knife, paring adze, nail claw and other early tools."



Left: "An early 1800s dough box from Wayne County Ohio. Dough boxes were used to raise dough and they were kept near the stove. Some dough boxes had legs and some did not. This one does not and is sitting on yellow saw horses. This one has the original red paint, square nails with wood handles on each end for carrying."



Thank you to Kathy and Tom for their gracious donation to The House of Yoder. It is greatly appreciated.

The House of Yoder
18th Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 25, 2014
Spruce Forest Village Grantsville, MD

The 18th Annual Members Meeting of The House of Yoder was held Saturday, October, 25, 2014. The business portion of the meeting was conducted by President, Doris Ours. Reports were given by Secretary, Mayla Yoder and the Treasurer, Isolde Porter. Both reports were accepted by the members. Ray Yount, also gave an update on the library acquisitions. We are estimating our expenses for the next year to be approximately \$8,000.00. The Board of Directors nominated Lowell Bender and Mayla Yoder, each for a five year term, ending in 2019. Both nominations were accepted by the members. Board Member Dan Yoder, Sr.'s grandson, Dustin Brenneman has accepted the position of webmaster for The House. Thank



You Dustin!

Tom Yoder, pictured, standing, from Wichita Falls, Texas presented a pictorial slide show of the furniture that he and his wife Kathy have donated to The House. Tom also hosted The House for a week in October this year. Tom was born in Ravenna Ohio, graduating from Kent State University. Tom worked for Fannie Mae, inspecting houses. A job change resulted in the family moving to Texas in 1981. Tom and his wife, Kathy, have two sons, Bart and Zach and two granddaughters, Ava, age 8 and Hadley, age 4. Since retiring, Tom volunteers at Christmas in Action, repairing houses, windows, water heaters, etc., to the low-income elderly and disabled in communities across North Texas. To find out more: visit christmasinaction.org

2014 House of Yoder Hosts

Emma and Vernie Fisher, Niverton, PA; Patricia and Bill Strunk, Alden, NY; Lois and Alton Longenecker, Elkhart, IN; LouAnn and David Kanagy, Archibald, OH; Iona and Marlin Swartzentruber, Bradenton, FL; Rita and Virgil Yoder, Irwin, PA; Marion Sumpter, Santa Rosa Beach, FL; Sandy and Val Dzwonczyk, Baltimore, MD; Phyllis and Wayne Kornhouse, Ann and Ralph Sebrell, Harrisonburg, VA; Jean and Richard Sweigart, Mohnnton, PA; Sterling Edwards, Frostburg, MD; Linda and Del Yoder, Morgantown, WV. Emma and Vernie Fisher along with Ray Yount filled in on several occasions as "day hosts". Thanks to all of our hosts! The House of Yoder could not operate without you!

Visitors to The House of Yoder

Approximately 2,284



Visitors to The House of Yoder come from:

India, Germany, Canada, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Ireland, Tasmania, Wales, Spain, Poland, Japan, Croatia, Jersey in the Channel Islands, England, China, Italy, Scotland, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Mississippi, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Arizona, Kentucky, Kansas, Oregon, Ohio, Wyoming, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Washington, Georgia, Colorado, Connecticut, California, Florida, Virginia, Louisiana, Arkansas, Illinois, Texas, Tennessee, Alabama, Delaware, Washington DC, South Carolina, Idaho and Iowa

The world map shown above indicates the town, state or country our visitors to The House are from. This idea came to us from Emma and Vernie Fisher, our Amish hosts. The girls were very creative in many displays throughout The House. Emma and Vernie moved to Smyrna, Maine, October, 21, 2014. We were sad to see them leave, but we wish them well with their new adventure! But in the little time that they have been in Maine, they have already met a girl that has visited The House of Yoder! Emma and Vernie are the daughters of Henry and Rebecca (Yoder YR2611912114) Fisher. Rebecca is the daughter of John C. and Lena (Swartzentruber) Yoder, of Oakland, MD.

THE HOUSE OF YODER CELEBRATES
CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014

Christmas in the Village was celebrated under dark, rainy skies. The wet weather did not dampen the festive mood that was throughout the village. The House of Yoder was no exception, with greens decorating the windows, lights and the fireplace mantle. We even had our own version of a "Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree", complete with strung popcorn and cranberries. Jean and Richard Sweigart, from Mohnton, PA were our hosts for the two day event.



Richard Sweigart, is shown decorating our Charlie Brown Christmas tree with popcorn.

Visitors to The House were greeted by a warm-inviting fire in the fireplace. And as usual, The House of Yoder handed out popcorn to our visitors. I believe that Hansel and Gretel would have been able to find their way to The House of Yoder, by the evidence of the popcorn scattered throughout the village!



Pictured above are Nicole and Dustin Brenneman, giving Yoder popcorn to our visitors.

Special guests of The House are pictured below, left to right: Christian Yoder, Elizabeth Yoder and Donnalee Yoder. Christian (YR234433496) is a grandson of Tobias V. Yoder, founder of Yoder Popcorn. Christian and Donnalee live in Athens, OH. Their daughter Elizabeth lives in California.



Pictured above, Christian Yoder, Elizabeth Yoder and Donnalee Yoder
Elizabeth called the editor of this newsletter, making arrangements

to meet and tour The House of Yoder and, weather permitting, travel to see the Yoder homesteads and the "Sweitzer" Christian Yoder Cemetery in the "Glades" area, (Shanksville, PA).

Christian, a professor in Florida retired and with his wife Donnalee, moved to Athens, OH and built what the family calls their "Heritage House," complete with Yoder icons. Elizabeth, who lives in California, found out about The House and Christmas in the Village through: www.houseofyoder.org



Pictured above: Donnalee, Christian, Elizabeth, Jim and Mark....all Yoder's, looking at genealogy charts.



Pictured above is Jean Sweigart, from Mohnton, PA. She and her husband, Richard were our hosts for the weekend. The children love the crafts and antique toys that Jean brings along to demonstrate.

Pictured below: One of the small visitors to The House (her name is Allison) was able to play with some of the antique toys on the second floor.



SUNDAY MORNING MALADY

Written by Claude H. Yoder

" My brother Alvin and I, two little Amish boys full of life and energy, and reading of the early settlers and their ox teams, considered that Joe, the Guernsey bull would come in handy for odd jobs, though we new that Dad had six horses on the farm. But the big problem was that Dad would not hear to it, and

Mother said there was too much danger involved. So, unbeknown to Dad we two boy started out making a harness from one which we found in the wagon shed.

The harness was completed, included bridle and crupper: but what would we do for a cart? The old wooden wheelbarrow down in the sugar camp, with side boards and wooden wheel would serve. And shafts we found up in the wagon shed. Now for the tryout! We knew we had to do it when Dad was not there, and we knew Mother would not consent because of the danger so we got everything ready on Saturday, unbeknown to Dad, and laid our plans.

Sunday morning when Mother would call us boys to come and do the chores at the barn before it is time to get ready to go to church I was to come down and say, "Alvin looks mighty pale this morning." I was willing to do his part of the barn work, of course. Everything turned out as we had planned. Mother put her arm around me and said, "Claudie, would you mind staying home to take care of Alvin? And if he gets worse, come running down to the Church. I'll be watching toward the door and come home if you need me." Of course, the church was jut down over the hill within walking distance from our home.

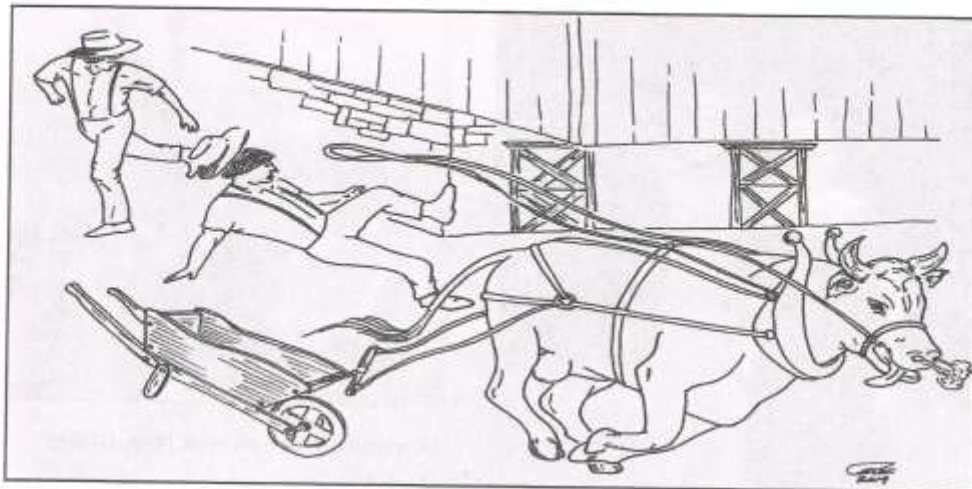
When Mother asked me to stay I tried to

look as if I would much rather go to church but was willing to stay, because after all, "you are your brother's keeper." She thought I was a good little sport. So they all got ready for church and after everyone had left I went upstairs and said "Alvin, get up. They're all gone."

So the big project started. We put the harness on the young bull before we let him loose from the manger. When we put the bridle in his mouth he acted as though we would like to throw up. When we put the crupper under his tail he let us know that that was not up his line. Now the wheelbarrow was under the fore-shoot, so we brought Joe out and backed him into the shafts which had a singletree form line and we hitched him firmly. We put a seat on the big sideboards of the wheelbarrows and Brother Alvin, being very considerate, said, "Claude, since you are the youngest I will let you take the first ride."

Therapy for The Patient

We closed all the gates around the big barnyard. Alvin said he would lead Joe just a little until he gets started. At about five feet that bull went wild. He threw Alvin down and I was on the wheelbarrow holding to the lines while Alvin yelled, "Stick to it Claude!" while up around the barn the bull was running for dear life and my see-sawing on the lines did not help one bit. Poor Claudie landed on the ground but Joe kept on running till the wheelbarrow was all broken. We knew things were not working out right so we got the bull back into the barn and carried the wheelbarrow piece by piece way down over the hill to the sugar camp.



Drawing by Robert E. Dickey, III, oldest son of the Editor

When Mother and Dad came home from church, she asked, "How is Alvin?" I said "He looks much better."

Next morning Dad saw a man by the name of Lija Durst of Grantville (MD) who said he had heard a peculiar noise on Sunday, he thought a dog must have been after our cattle, so he was asking Dad about it. Dad said he didn't know.

Next spring when Dad went to the sugar camp he saw that the wheelbarrow was smashed and said, "Someone drove over my wheelbarrow." And we thought too that was what must have happened. But he didn't know this story until after we were married. One Christmas we told the story and Dad said, "Old as you are, you still deserve a thrashing."

Maybe we should have tried it another day, not Sunday morning—maybe things would have turned out better."

This article was written by Claude Yoder for the Casselman Chronicle Vol. XVII 1977 Number 1 page 18

Pictured to the right:
Claude Yoder
YR26119147 born Sep-
tember 18, 1904 died
December 4, 1991



Pictured to the left:
Alvin H. YR26119143
born February 25,
1902 Died Novem-
ber 27, 1993

See next page for
brief description
and mature picture
of the two charac-
ters.

This picture was taken around 1914.



Pictured above is Hazel "Sis" (Beachy) and Claude Yoder

Claude is the son of Harvey S. and Anna "Miller" Yoder. Growing up in Grantsville, MD 1/4 mile north of the Casselman Restaurant on the Dorsey Hotel Road. Claude and "Sis" lived in Potomac Park, MD, working for the Celanese Corp. in Cumberland, MD. Claude was a self-taught folk artist. He loved to whittle and carve with anything he could get his hands on. He was excellent story teller and loved to play jokes. Some of his wood carvings are on display at The House of Yoder, The Springs Museum, Springs, PA and The Division of Performing Arts of the Smithsonian. Claude carved a 6 foot Moses and a Wooden Eagle now in Springs Museum. Four children were born to this union: Olin, Coleen, Mary Francis and Gary.

Photos from: Alvin H. Yoder Alvin's photos may be seen at: alvinhyoderphotos@weebly.com Curtsey of James L. Yoder



Pictured above : Martha (Maust) and Alvin H. Yoder

Alvin was the third child of seventeen children born to Harvey S. and Anna (Miller) Yoder. Alvin grew up in the Grantsville, MD area. Alvin married Martha Maust, December 24, 1923. They bought the family farm from Alvin's parents in 1928. Alvin was a dairy farmer, also raising hogs and chickens. Alvin was on the original Board of Directors that took the Conservative Mennonite Church Children's Home and changed it to Good Will Mennonite Nursing Home. Alvin and Martha had ten children: Ruth, Clark, Cora Anna, Kenneth, Roman, Ellen, Ezra, Mary, Mark, James.

Alvin's son Kenneth was the building supervisor to The House of Yoder. Another son, Mark is also on the Board of Directors, and did a lot of the stone work at The House of Yoder and is married to the editor of this newsletter. And yet another son, Jim, does the genealogical research of many families, plus gives personal tours of various Yoder homesteads and cemeteries throughout the area.

THE HOUSE OF YODER HOSTING!



Would you like a week or two in the beautiful hills of Garrett County MD??? Volunteer hosts are needed June through October. Volunteer for one week or more. Open The House of Yoder for visitors from 10:00 AM till 5:00 PM. One free day to devote to your own pleasure. Penn Alps Restaurant offers 25% discount for hosts of The House of Yoder. Your hosting services provide you free living in a cozy apartment, with shopping near by. The House of Yoder represents a Swiss house of the 1700's, the homeland of the Yoder's and portrays some of their early life in America. An informative notebook for our hosts is available to help you learn about The House. The House is located in Spruce Forest Artisan Village, beside the Casselman River and next door to Penn Alps Restaurant and Gift Shop. Application forms and hosting information may be obtained by contacting Mayla H. Yoder. 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA 15530 814-267-3383. www.houseofyoder.org

The House of Yoder operates entirely on donations. Any contribution is tax deductible. We are a 5013C tax exempt corporation. We also have a trust fund that you may donate for future operations and maintenance of The House.

Do you have a Yoder story that you would like to have in the newsletter??? If you do, please contact the editor, address is on the back.

Thank you for any donations you may give. The House of Yoder Library would appreciate any genealogy books that you would like to donate.



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: Doris Ours. Vice President: Lowell Bender. Treasurer: Isolde Porter. Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder. Board Members: Dan Yoder, Sr., Mark H. Yoder, Harvey L. Yoder, Esta Yoder, Keith Yoder. Associate Member: Benny C. Yoder, Nate Yoder. Honorary Member, Gerald A. Yoder. Editor: Mayla H. Yoder.

The House of Yoder Newsletter

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