



# The House Of Yoder Newsletter Summer 2018

“Smokey Dan ” Daniel D. Yoder (YR261197) March 7, 1856-Jan. 21, 1922

Anna (Lantz) Yoder (LZ12311) Jan. 21, 1857-June 19, 1892

Mary (Lee) Yoder (LE4) Sept 23, 1851– Dec 3, 1929

“Smokey Dan” was born March 7, 1856 near what is today called Summit Mills, Somerset Co. PA. The seventh child of David Y. Yoder (YR26119) and Catherine (Hochstetler) Yoder (HS181). David and Catherine both were born and died in Somerset County, PA and are buried in the Yoder-Hershberger Cemetery, near Summit Mills, PA. “Smokey Dan’s” wife Anna (Lantz) Yoder was born January 21, 1857 in McClean Co., Illinois, the first child of Gideon Lantz (LZ 1231) and Catherine (Yoder) Lantz (YR12a3a). Anna’s father, Gideon Lantz, was born in Centre Co, Pa. Catherine’s parents are both buried at the Smyrna United Church of Christ Cemetery, located about 1 ½ miles north of Yoder, Oregon, and about 35 miles south of Portland, Oregon.



Smyrna United Church of Christ church building, Smyrna, Oregon. “Smokey Dan” Yoder mother-in-law, Catherine Lantz was the first person buried in the Church cemetery in 1891. His father-in-law, Gideon Lantz is also buried here.

After “Smokey Dan’s” birth, it was evident that help was needed to care for the baby and to do house-hold chores. So David went by horse back to the White Creek community, west of Negro Mountain, to see if he could hire Jacob Summy’s daughter Mary as a maid. She accepted. David and Mary returned to his home on horse-back. Before “Smokey Dan” was a month old, his mother, Catherine died on April 4, 1856. Mary 18 years old, was now taking care of infant Daniel, four boys, and two girls, all eleven years of age and younger.

Not having a rubber nipple to feed the infant, she took a white cloth and used it as a substitute to feed “Smokey Dan”. David must have liked her housekeeping skills for within six or seven months of bringing her to his home as a maid, he married Mary Summy on October 21, 1856. She was 18 and David was 36. From this union, nine more children were born.

David, “Smokey Dan’s” father, owned and farmed the old family homestead, purchased by his Great Grandfather, Yost Yoder (YR26) in 1775, from Michael Beuchley. We don’t know that Yost ever lived on the property. Yost sold the property to his son, Henry Yoder YR261.

While growing up on the old homestead, “Smokey Dan” and his brothers would get into some mischief. There was an old man named John Zimmerman who spoke High German and very little English. He spoke in a high pitched voice and this amused the boys. One day when “Smokey Dan” and his brother were going past Mr. Zimmerman’s house, there were some cows along the road and “Smokey Dan” decided to yell at them with a high pitched voice, imitating Mr. Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman heard Dan’s imitation of himself and was not at all pleased. He thought it showed a lack of respect. He came out and told Dan “just wait till I get hold of you” in the German dialect. “Smokey Dan” was somewhat frightened, but thought Mr. Zimmerman would forget about the incident. Sometime later, “Smokey Dan” again went past Mr. Zimmerman’s house and the old man was apparently on the watch for him. He came out of his house and took hold of the bridle of “Smokey Dan’s” horse, and said “Well now, why did you mock me?” “Smokey Dan” thought a moment and said “Oh, that was Dan that did that.” Mr. Zimmerman was surprised and said “I thought that was you.” Mr. Zimmerman let go of the bridle and “Smokey Dan” went on his way.

According to the 1870 census, when “Smokey Dan” was 14 years old, the household consisted of 15 people. His father and step mother, six sisters and five brothers, his grandfather Yost and “Smokey Dan”, ranging in age from Anna at nine months to his grandfather Yoder who was 68 years of age. Somewhere along the line, Daniel got the nickname of “Smokey Dan” because he smoked a large pipe. Another name was “Dicka Dan” because he was short and chubby!

It is not known when “Smokey Dan” decided to move west to Arthur, Illinois. His sister Elizabeth and her husband Jacob Miller were married near Arthur, Ill on Oct 28, 1873 and lived there. Both Elizabeth and Jacob were born in Somerset Co. PA. “Smokey Dan’s” sister Susanna, also moved to near Arthur, Ill and married Daniel Kauffman there on Jan 18, 1874. Daniel Kauffman was born in Holmes Co. Ohio.



Daniel Kauffman, Ida Kauffman daughter, Susanna (Yoder) Kauffman

“Smokey Dan” Yoder must have been looking for adventure and he too moved to near Arthur, Ill. Evan Miller implies in the Casselman Chronicles that “Smokey Dan” and his sister Susanna went together to Illinois. If this is the case, “Smokey Dan” would have been 18 years old when Susanna got married in Illinois. This would break with Amish tradition that the boys stayed at home until the age of twenty –one. We know that “Smokey Dan” was in Illinois by March 25, 1877, when he married Anna Lantz. This would have been about two weeks after he turned twenty-one years of age.

While visiting “Smokey Dan”, his brother Solomon in writing a letter to his wife Oct. 24, 1877, states that “Daniel’s are going to move on the farm this fall yet. He has got a nice farm, two houses on it.” It is not known if Daniel’s owned or rented this farm. A copy of this letter can be found in The House of Yoder Newsletter, page 6 and 7 Winter 2017.

The “go west” fever must have struck the families in Illinois during this time. Oregon was admitted to the Union in 1859. Willamette Valley (where “Smokey Dan’s” moved) is a thirty mile wide valley, bounded on the east by the Cascade Mountain Range and on the west by the Coastal Mountain Range. To the north is Portland, Oregon and Eugene, Oregon on the southern end.

According to the book The Amish Settlement that Failed, by David Luthy; “Gideon Lantz ( “Smokey Dan’s father-in-law)( LZ1231) moved to Oregon in 1876. His wife Catherine (Yoder) Lantz (Smokey Dan’s Mother-in-law) and family joined him in the spring of 1877. This family was probably the first Amish-Mennonite family to do so.” Daniel and Susanna (Yoder)

Kauffman (Smokey Dan’s brother-in-law and sister) were also in Oregon by 1876, as their oldest daughter, Amanda, was born near Hubbard, Oregon on December 13, 1876



*Insert map shows Molalla. Oregon. “Smokey Dan” used this as his mailing address.*



When did “Smokey Dan’s” decide to move to Oregon? We know that their first child Mary was born in Illinois on August 14, 1878 and on February 18, 1879 “Smokey Dan” wrote his father David, using the address of Molalla, Clackamas County, Oregon. Their second child, Matilda, was born in Needy, Oregon on May 17, 1880. Sometime between August 1878 and February 1879, “Smokey Dan” moved to Oregon. “Smokey Dan’s” sister, Elizabeth, married to Jacob K. Miller, may have moved to Oregon the same time “Smokey Dan’s” did. Elizabeth’s second child, Daniel was born near Arthur, Illinois on May 25, 1878. Her third child, Savilla, was born in Needy, Oregon on June 24, 1879.

It would have been a tremendous undertaking to decide to move your family such a great distance in the 1870’s. Did they sell their household goods, farm equipment and cattle before they left? Or did they take all of their belongings with them? We assume they left and traveled by rail part of the way. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869, with the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads meeting in Promontory Summit, Utah. Railroad companies were formed trying to connect Portland Oregon with the main line, but many of them failed. There were some shorter track that connected the main line to the Columbia river. Some traveled this route and then took a steam boat to Portland. Others went to San Francisco, California and travel by boat to Portland, Oregon. There was a rail line completed in 1887 linking Portland with San Francisco. Or did they disembarked from the train and go by horse and wagon where there wasn't any rail service.

How they arrived in Oregon is still unknown. In a letter to his brother Solomon, “Smokey Dan” relates: “Now I haven't got place to write about our trip or Oregon, for my paper is full. I will only say so much. We would have had good times if the children would have been well. It is an awful site to see along the road now.” In February, “Smokey Dan” wrote that he had “a nice rolling acres, about five acres cleared and likes it fairly well and Dan Kauffman’s (married to “Smokey Dan’s” sister, Susanna,) also likes it pretty well, but Elizabeth, (“Smokey Dan’s” sister) and her husband Jacob Miller had the blues already.”

In a letter dated May, 11, 1885, written by Elizabeth, to their brother Solomon in Pennsylvania. Susanna asked Elizabeth to tell Solomon to write her husband, Daniel Kauffman how good the markets are in Pennsylvania and how easy it is to buy a farm. Susanna said “he is in the bee business here, but last summer they failed. He had to buy sugar to winter them through. “If we could sell, we would pay you a visit and if we would like it, we would settle there.”

The manipulation must not have worked. Daniel and Susanna Kauffman stayed in Oregon, and are buried at the Zion Mennonite Cemetery, Clackamas County, Oregon

Elizabeth, married to Jacob K. Miller moved from Oregon to Geauga County, OH in February 1902. Two years later, they returned to Oregon. In 1913 they moved to California and

back to Oregon the third time about 1919 or 1920, and moved to Dover Delaware in 1921. Elizabeth died on July 2, 1930 and is buried in the Amish Cemetery, Kent County Dover, Delaware. Jacob was given the nickname "Oregon Jake" because of all his moves back to Oregon.

In the mid 1890's, some of the Clackamas County settlement were moving to Yamhill County, which lies west of Clackamas County, using the post office address of McMinnville,

"Smokey Dan" became homesick for Pennsylvania and families back home. Following is what family tradition states: in the David Yoder book by Eli Brenneman, he wrote "Daniel became so homesick he felt physically sick sometimes for a week or more. Finally David and the boys went together and built a house for them on the home farm and Dan's should have part of the home farm. They sent money for the train fare so that Dan's could move back. "Smokey Dan's" sister Susanna said she too was home sick, but no one sent her any money to come east. So she was just not coming back. She only came to visit.

## LETTERS HOME

"Molalla, Clackamas County, Oregon

June the 29<sup>th</sup> AD 1879

Dear Brother

I now seat myself to drop a few lines to you to let you know that I received your kind and welcome letter some time ago, and was too neglective to answer any sooner. And another thing I have to write to so many . I can't answer them all well. Hoping and wishing that these few lines may find you in the same state of good health. First about the weather. We have pretty fair weather, but the rain hasn't stopped. But they say they haven't seen it yet before to rain as much as it did this year. And they say everythings late this spring and they say we had a colder winter then they had for many years. And I thought it wasn't a bit cold. I could work in my shirt sleeves. All the time it was warm. The snow wouldn't lay. Sometimes it snowed but it melted right away. Now you wrote that I should give a big history on Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ I have seen. I will try and write you as near as I can. It is true, it isn't fixed up like it is in the east, but it wasn't fixed up there in the start too, but for a newly settled country, I think it is the nicest place that I have seen yet. For in the winter, it isn't so cold and in the summer so nice and cool . The sun will shine pretty warm through the day. As soon as you will come in the shade, it is nice and cool. We had to have fire every morning in the room this summer yet. Where it was so warm last summer at this time that I thought I would smother. But Oregon has its faults as well as any other states. But I don't believe that it has as many. One fault is that I don't like too much rain in the winter and I am afraid not enough in the summer. \_\_\_\_\_ set it in the cupboard but what the maggots will get at it in the summer. They will get at it just as soon as it is cold that is only the most fault that I can see at Oregon. And

for a poor man, I think it is far better out here than it is there. He can get a home of his own very cheap and the market is good. **I didn't keep myself even in bills and got in debt there and here I paid that in shingles.** And now I have to make twelve thousand more for one by the name of Willhort for three thousand feet of lumber to build my house. It is enough lumber to build a house one and a half story high and 16ft. wide and \_\_\_\_\_ long. I get 2 dollars a thousand. **I can make one thousand easy in a day. I can be there till 2 o'clock then I have my two dollars.** I have made fifteen hundred already in a day. I tell you it is nice work. Now I haven't got place to write about our trip to Oregon, for my paper is getting full. **I will only say so much.** We would have had a good time if the children would have been well. It is an awful site to see along the road now. **Write soon and don't delay as I did, for you haven't got so many places to write to that I have. So much from me. D.D. Yoder to you S.D. Yoder, Good bye."**

.....

December 14 or 16, 1879

**"Dear Brother**

I now seat myself to answer your kind and welcome letter, which I received about a week ago and was glad to hear from you and more but sorry to hear that you don't expect to see us any more here on earth, if we don't come in there. **For I thought maybe if father sells his coal yous would come out here and pay us a visit and see if yous can't suit yourself out here. I thought father and Mose had a kind of an Oregon fever when we left Ill. (Illinois) I tell you I wish they would take fathers coal this time and yous would come out here and settle out here, then I would be well at home here.** I am well at home so as far as the land and climate is concerned. But am so lonesome that is what **I don't like. Now I must come to my affairs. I almost forgot that we are all tolerable well at present.** Mary was sick last week for a few days. But she is about well again. Now about the weather, we have had a lot of rain so far yet, but it looks like it is going to clear off now and get nice for a while now. About the market price. Wheat from 90 to one dollar per bu. Oats from 38 to 40 cts. per bu. Hogs dress from 5 to 6 cts per lb. Beef from 4 to 5 cts per lb. Eggs from 35 to 40 cts. per dozen. Butter from 25 to 30 cent per pound. Chickens from 3 to 4 dollars per dozen. **Milk cows from 10 to 20 dollars a head. Horses some you couldn't give away hardly and some as high as 2 and 3 hundred dollars a head.**

Now let me know how long time them fellars has got at that coal land of fathers and if it is all ash or not.

Yesterday we had a raising here. We put up a stable farm. It is 28 ft. long and 16 ft. wide. We made a horse stable at one end and a cow stable at the other, and a feeding room in the middle. I am going to weather board it with slat cedar lumber. Now I must come to a close for this time now. Answer as soon as this comes to hand, if not sooner. So much from me.

**Daniel D. Yoder to you Solomon D. Yoder and wife good bye."**

Molalla, Clackamas County, Oregon

“Smokey Dan” was so homesick that one morning while walking to work, he walked past the place where he was to turn off. When writing his relations back east, they noticed on the writing paper where tear drops had fallen. He wrote they would come east again but didn’t have the money to do so. The relations donated him money to make the trip. For some unknown reason, they took a boat to come east. The Panama Canal was not yet built, so they sailed around South America. During the voyage, the sea was so rough that their boat tilted sideways and water splashed down the smoke stack so that the fire went out. One of their children, a baby, was so sick that they were told if it dies, they would bury the baby at sea. “Smokey Dan” and his wife planned that if the baby died, they would not tell anyone and try to get it along to the coast. They didn’t like the idea of burying the baby at sea. The child survived. This would probably be their son Elmer, the last child of “Smokey Dan” born in Molalla, Oregon on April 16, 1882. Elmer later married Annie J. Tice

### **BACK TO THE EAST COAST**

How long “Smokey Dan’s” stayed in the house that David built for them is not for certain. We know that their child Amanda was born in Pennsylvania on March 10, 1884 and their next child Ira was born in Maryland Feb 9, 1886. We know he lived and rented a farm approximately two miles north of Grantsville, MD at 1930 Dorsey Hotel road. How long he lived here before moving to Gortner, Maryland, we don’t know. “Smokey Dan’s” son Iddo was born in Grantsville, MD October 14, 1889. The Daniel Beachy Family of Aurora, West Virginia, written by Marie and Paul H. Yoder states that “Smokey Dan’s” lived at Gortner Maryland. Other places it states they lived at Aurora, West Virginia. Gortner and Aurora are approximately 10-12 miles apart.

From The Daniel Beachy Family of Aurora, West Virginia book:

### **The Daniel Yoder Family and Daniel’s Ordination**

“The church felt a need for more ministerial help in the congregation and had reached a decision to ordain a brother to the ministry. The date of the ordination service had now come. The congregation experienced a blessed communion service and following this was to be the ordination. Present were “the Oheim” (Uncle) Manassas Beachy, Peter Miller. Moses Yoder, and presumable, Daniel Beachy and perhaps others.

Quoting from Lena’s journal:

“June 5, 1892 The great day has come. After the services were over the ministers retired to the boys room there to receive one by one the votes of the members for a minister, a death like silence reigned in the room for a few minutes after they were gone, then Mr. Gortner went out followed by the others one by one. After (1) getting a breath of fresh air on the back porch we gathered in the room once more. Soon the ministers came down and announced the results.

*"There will be no lose," Oheim said, the votes were all cast for one man except two and that man is Daniel Yoder. " He burst right out crying and quite lost control of himself for a while, but when uncle ask him to come forth for ordination, he did not try to excuse himself but "presented his body a living sacrifice" -it was one of the most solemn scenes I ever witnessed there was scarcely a dry eye in the room as he stood there to receive the great commission and his wife so poorly at home she could not be present... May the Lord strengthen and comfort him and help him to "be of good courage." It was just 4 o'clock when he stood up to be ordained all went away yet but uncle and Lewis and cousin Sols."*

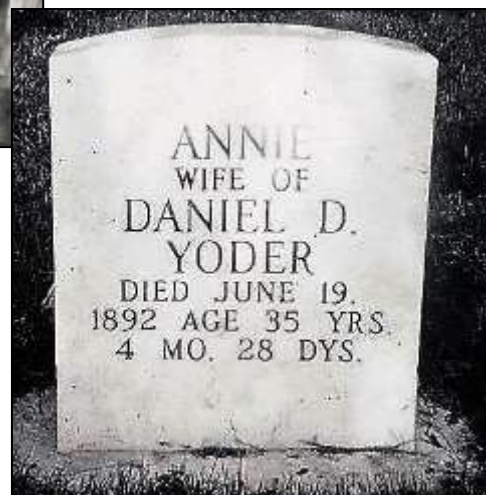
Gortner is located less than 10 miles south of Oakland, MD on Route 219. Aurora, WV is located a small distance west of the Maryland/WV state line on route 50. Church services were held one Sunday at Gortner, the next Sunday, at the Aurora area. The two locations worked as one congregation.

"Smokey Dan" and Anna's son Ray, was born on May 10, 1892 and died 19 days later. He was ordained on June 5, 1892. Anna, his wife, died two weeks later on June 19, 1892. In a two week span, his son was born, died, he was ordained minister and his wife died. *"On Sunday eve Fred Gortner came here and brought the sad news of the death of Mrs. Dan Yoder. — although we were rather expecting the sad news, it quite shocked us. She died about 2*

*o'clock on Sunday and was buried today at ten. I counted 17 carriages, she was buried over at Chris Slabach's. Poor little Iddo, he looks so pitiful to see him run around without his mother."* Written 6-21-1892 by Lizzie Beachy



*Above: Home of "Smokey Dan" and his wife Anna (Lantz) Yoder, Gortner, MD.*



Right: Grave stone of Annie Yoder, wife of Daniel D. Yoder



*Farm of "Smokey Dan" and Anna (Lantz) Yoder, Gortner, MD*

Within fifteen months, after being ordained, "Smokey Dan" decided to move back to the Grantsville, MD area. On September 21, 1893, he married Mary Lee (LE4), daughter of Thomas Lee and Elizabeth Brenneman (BR67). "Smokey Dan" was 37 years old, and Mary 41 years old. When "Smokey Dan" married Mary Lee, he must have married into some wealth. The Meyersdale Newspaper (PA) states that **"He was a very prominent, influential and wealthy member of the Amish church. Mr. Lee was born of Irish parents., but was reared by a Pennsylvania Dutch family, of whom he learned the Pennsylvania dialect and also acquired the thrift and rugged honesty so characteristic of these people. Being naturally bright and industrious, he amassed quite a fortune, although he began life in poverty and obscurity. He was probably the richest man among the Amish in Elk Lick Township."** Thomas Lee's wife died in 1890 and Thomas died in 1900. With in five months after "Smokey Dan" married Mary, he bought a 188 acre 125 perches farm from Daniel D. Hershberger for \$10,000.00 cash. This farm is located between Springs, PA and West Salisbury, PA on route 669, 1122 Springs Road. Today, the farm is owned by Daniel Brenneman Trust. It is said that Mary's father Thomas lived with them until his death in 1900.



*Original homestead owned by "Smokey Dan" and Mary (Lee) Yoder, now owned by a great-grandson, Daniel Brenneman.*

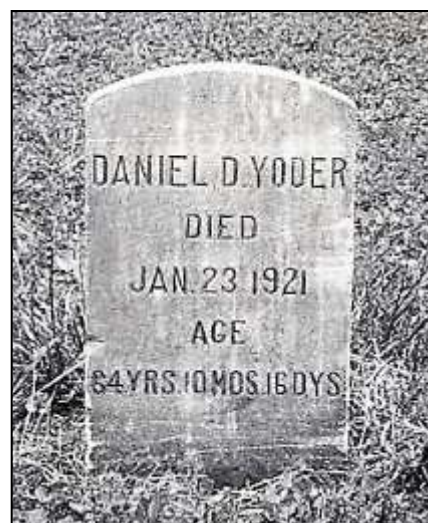
"Smokey Dan" farmed this farm for 19 years. It was the longest time he stayed in one location. "Smokey Dan" was also a minister in the local Amish church. In 1906, he bought 90 acres from Elias Handwerk, which he then sold to his son Ira D. Yoder On April 2, 1907. "Smokey Dan" started dividing and selling the original 188 acres to his children. December 22, 1904, he sold 50 acres for \$3,000.00 to Noah J. Lee, who married Daniel's daughter Matilda. April 1, 1905, he sold 78 acres 90 perches to his son Elmer for \$4,713.75. June 14, 1912, he sold to Gid Brenneman, who was married to his daughter, Olive, 59 acres, 40 perches and a second piece of five or six acres. This farm now contains 120 acres and is owned by Daniel Brenneman, a great-grandson to "Smokey Dan."

After "Smokey Dan" sold the farm, he decided to move to the Amish settlement near Norfolk, VA known as Kempsville, VA. "Smokey Dan" moved in October 1912. We don't know how "Smokey Dan" and Mary moved to Norfolk, but some of the other families moving from Somerset County, PA to Norfolk, VA took a train to the Baltimore, MD /Washington, DC area and then took a steamship to Norfolk. If they had cattle, some one would ride with them.

In the spring of 1914, "Smokey Dan" was ordained Bishop of the Kempsville Congregation. In the Meyersdale, PA newspaper, The Republic, states that" Bishop Moses D. Yoder of Grantsville, MD, Ira D. Yoder and Gid Bender of Springs, PA returned from a trip to Norfolk. Perhaps for "Smokey Dan's" ordination to Bishop. Moses was a brother to "Smokey Dan". Ira, a son of "Smokey Dan" and Gid, a son-in-law of "Smokey Dan's". It states Daniel D. Yoder has a fine home and 38 1/2 acres of nice level farming land and likes his new location very well. " "Smokey Dan" would have been 56 years old when he moved to Norfolk, VA.

On January 21, 1921, Daniel D. Yoder died from gangrene which had started in his foot and spread thru his entire body. "Smokey Dan" is buried in Kempsville Amish Church Cemetery. His second wife Mary died December 3, 1929 and is buried in the Amish Cemetery Dover, Kent County, Delaware.

*Grave stone for "Smokey Dan"*  
Daniel D. Yoder, buried in the  
Kempsville Amish Church Cemetery,  
Kempsville, VA.



CHILDREN OF "SMOKEY DAN" and ANNIE (LANTZ) YODER

Mary D. Yoder married Gideon W. Bender	Ira D. Yoder married Susie Brenneman
Matilda D. Yoder married Noah J. Lee	Olive D. Yoder married Gideon J. Brenneman
Elmer D. Yoder married Annie J. Tice	Iddo D. Yoder married Effie Yoder
Amanda D. Yoder not married	Ray D. Yoder died as an infant

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The "Cleaning Crew" , getting The House of Yoder cleaned and ready for opening day...May 9, 2018. Pictured above; left-right: Esta Yoder, Miranda Martin, Keith Yoder, Doris Ours, Isolde Porter, Mark Yoder, Verna Bender, Lowell Bender. Missing from photo, Mayla Yoder



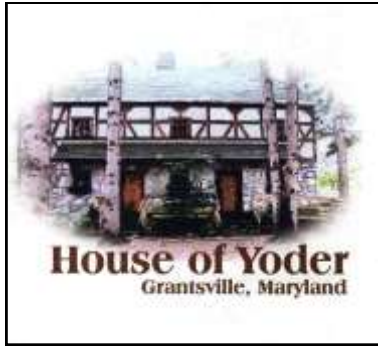
Election of Officers for the Board of Directors of The House of Yoder was held on April 14, 2018. The officers:

Harvey L. Yoder: President

Secretary: Mayla Yoder

Doris Ours: Vice President

Treasurer: Isolde Porter



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 I. Yoder; Vice President: Doris Ours. Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder, Treasurer: Isolde Yoder Porter. Board Members: Dan Yoder, Mark H. Yoder. Esta Yoder, Keith Yoder, Lowell Bender, Associate Member: Benny C. Yoder, Editor: Mayla H. Yoder.

The House of Yoder Membership:

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Mayla H. Yoder  
2274 Salco Road  
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	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

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