



# The House Of Yoder Newsletter Winter 2018

## A New Genealogy Research Library for The House of Yoder

While hosting at The House of Yoder, John H. Yoder (YR2344321125) of Catonsville, MD, began investigating the computer and its contents. He found that the computer was out of date and seldom utilized and that all of the contents are readily available on the internet. He volunteered to head up a committee and suggested we get rid of the old computer, since most folks have laptops and wifi available. The committee included John Yoder, James L. Yoder, Mark H. Yoder, Isolde Yoder Porter and Ray Yount. James L. Yoder (YR26119143a) offered to loan his substantial (over 250) library of genealogy books to The House of Yoder. John also offered to index and catalog the newly donated books, plus the books already indexed by Ray Yount, into a new searchable format. John thought that the room would be better utilized as a genealogy research library. The new book shelves and table were built and lighting updated by Mark Yoder.



Left: James L. Yoder, Grantsville, MD and John H. Yoder, right, Catonsville, MD shelving the donated genealogy books.

## Oley Valley Yoder Items Donated to The House of Yoder

David Yoder, of Palm Springs, CA, donated a platform rocker, a caned bottom chair and the marriage certificate of his Grandparents, Isaac C. (OH145262) and Hannah (Tee) Yoder. David's 7th great grandfather, Hans Yoder was the first Yoder to arrive in America. He was born in Steffisburg, Switzerland, in 1672. In 1709 Hans left the German Palatinate for "the island of Pennsylvania". In 1714, Hans settled on his property in Oley Valley, Berks County, Pennsylvania, today, the town of Pleasantville. Hans and his brother Yost were the founders of the reformed Yoder's in America. Isaac and Hannah are buried in the Union Cemetery of the Herford Mennonite Church Cemetery, Bally, Berks County, PA . Thank you David for your generous donation!



David Yoder, Palm Springs, CA, and the donated cane bottom chair and platform rocker.



Marriage certificate of Isaac C. and Hannah (Tee) Yoder.



### MICHEL YODER BARN

This wood slab is from a barn built by Michel Yoder(YRC8) in 1845 and renovated in 2008, at which time two of the original logs were replaced. This "slice" of log is from one of these original logs that were replaced. Michel migrated from Germany in 1825 and spent 20 years in Somerset County, near Davidsville, PA before moving to Holmes County, OH, where this barn was constructed. Michel Yoder was the forefather of most of the Holmes County, OH Yoders, especially those with Amish heritage. The restoration began in the spring of 2008 and was headed up by builder, Andy C. Yoder, who is a descendant of Michel's. The lumber for the project will be partially donated by Dennis Raber of Raber Lumber. Restoration of this barn

will represent the first preserved Amish structure in the area, which has the largest Amish settlement in the world. Thanks to Chris Yoder of the Yoder newsletter for sending the "slice" to The House of Yoder, where it is on display.

IN REMEMBRANCE  
OF  
DANIEL JAMES YODER, SR.  
October 13, 1939~June 6, 2018



Dan Yoder, Sr., a familiar face at the House of Yoder, passed away June 6, 2018 after a hardfought battle with mesothelioma. Dan began his work at The House of Yoder as an Associate Member, September 2007. November 6, 2010, Dan was nominated to the Board of Directors, and in April 2015, Dan became President of the Board of Directors.

Dan is a descendent of John Yoder (YR125) and Magdalena Stutzman (ST1), who bought 247 acres in Somerset County, PA in 1775. Thirty five to forty years later, John sold the farm and moved to Tuscarawas County, OH.

Dan enjoyed chatting with our hosts and many visitors to The House. He could always find a cousin along the way!!! Dan was always glad to share his faith with everyone. His faith was very important to him. Dan was the “fixerupper” guy at The House.

Thank you Dan for sharing your faith and friendship with us. Until we meet again.

“Daniel James Yoder, Sr. of Accident MD passed June 6, 2018 at his residence. Born October 13, 1939 in Wellman, IA, he was the son of the late Henry and Sadie (Beachy) Yoder. He was also preceded in death by one brother, Mark Yoder. Mr. Yoder was a carpenter for Rigidply Rafters and a member of the Glade Mennonite Church. He was past president of House of Yoder and volunteered with the Mennonite Disaster Service.

He is survived by his wife, Anna Elizabeth (Beitzel) Yoder; one son, Daniel (Becky) Yoder, Jr., two daughters, Rose (Jeff) Opel; Brenda (Mike) Brenneman. Four brothers, Nelson, Paul, Curtis, John. Five sisters Orpha Mast, Ella Landis, Anna Yoder, Rhoda Chavarria and Martha Vargas. Seven grandchildren. Andrea, Tina, Anita (Allen) Alyona, Nick, Megan (Steve) and Dustin (Nicole). Two great grandchildren. Emma and Kyle .

Interment in the Glade Mennonite Church Cemetery, Accident, MD



## 2019 HOUSE OF YODER HOSTS



Jane Brocht, Berlin, PA



Phyllis and Wayne Kornhouse  
Orville, OH



Chrisann Mishler,  
Front Royal, VA



Val and Sandy Dzwonczyk,  
Baltimore, MD



Mary Louise and Wilmer Lehman,  
Harrisonburg, VA



Catherine and Paul Mishler,  
Rileyville, VA



Lou Ann and David Kanagy,  
Archbold, OH



Lois and Alton Longenecker,  
Elkhart, IN

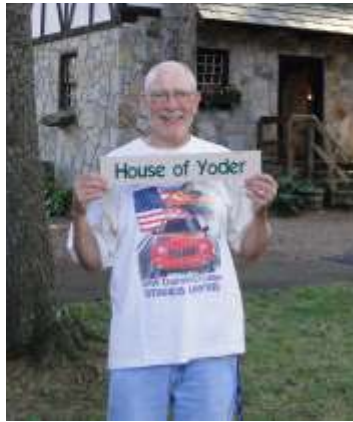


Ann and Ralph Sebrell,  
Harrisonburg, VA

## 2019 HOUSE OF YODER HOSTS



Audrey Metz and Ken Seitz,  
Harrisonburg, VA



Bob Swartz,  
Waterford, MI



Paul and Patricia Yoder,  
Markesan, WI



Pat and Bill Strunk,  
Alden, NY



Sue Thompson,  
Front Royal, VA



Stephen Yoder,  
Elgin, IL



Marian Sumpter,  
Farmington, NY



John and MaDonna  
Yoder,  
Catonsville, MD

Susan Yoder, Washington, DC  
Sorry, no picture available



## 2019 HOUSE OF YODER DAY HOSTS



Verna and Lowell Bender,  
Accident, MD



Ray Yount,  
LaVale, MD



Marvin and Cora Anna Yoder,  
Springs, PA

# Thank Y ou

To our very loyal and dedicated hosts. With out you, The House  
of Y oder would not be opening our doors. Y our hosting is so very  
important!!

THE HOUSE OF YODER  
22nd ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING  
Saturday, November 3, 2018  
Grantsville, MD

The twenty second Annual Members Meeting of The House of Yoder was held Saturday, November 3, 2018. Refreshments were served, with the meeting starting at 10:00 AM. Harvey L. Yoder, President opened the meeting. Esta and Keith Yoder had the meditation, with the group singing Trust and Obey. A Remembrance for Daniel J. Yoder, Sr., past president of the House of Yoder, who passed away in June, was led by Lowell Bender. The following reports were accepted as read: Secretary, Treasurer and Library. A business meeting followed with the discussion about the new Genealogy Research Library, Brochures and Hosting. The board re-nominated the following for a 5 year term: Doris Ours, Isolde Yoder Porter, Esta Yoder and Keith Yoder. The motion was made to accept the nominations. Kenneth Yoder, Grantsville, MD was the featured speaker.



The House of Yoder Members listening to Kenneth Yoder, Grantsville, MD during his presentation of : "The House of Yoder History."

## HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF YODER

“Beginnings, What do these stones mean?”

It was the summer of 1992 while traveling along US Route 40 several miles west of Grantsville, MD, Jack Dueck's attention was suddenly caught by the sight of an old barn that was being remolded. Jack, having a special interest in history and the many stories carried with it, began to think; what if some of these old logs could be salvaged and used for a historical purpose. Needless to say, curiosity overtook him and Jack paid a visit to the farm. There he discovered it was owned by David N. Yoder, an Amish family. As they visited, Jack noticed the old stone foundation in the field nearby. Again his inquisitive nature won, and when asked, he explained it was the foundation of an old Yoder homestead. Immediately the conversation turned from discussing wood to stone. Jack remarked that in the Old Testament, Joshua has asked the question: What do these stones mean? This comment prompted more discussion. What might become with these stones? Could these stones be made to talk and if so, what story could they tell? When returning to Penn Alps, Jack mentioned his findings to Alta Schrock. Alta, founder of Penn Alps and Spruce Forest Artisan Village (SFAV) and numerous other organizations had already helped salvage other historical building, such as the Compton School, the Miller House and the Glotfelty House which were all relocated to the SFAV site. Alta was likewise interested in those

stones. Together, Jack and Alta paid another visit to the Yoder homestead. David was willing to allow these stones to be put to good use. Various possibilities for their use were explored. Would the Yoder's in the area be interested in building a Yoder House? If so, should it be constructed within SFAV? Would it blend with the other historic houses? What would be the next step?

The first Yoder's immigrated from Switzerland to America in 1709 or 1710 and settled near Pleasantville, PA. The Amish Yoder's arrived in 1742, and settled in Berks Co., PA. and later some moved to Somerset Co., PA and Garrett Co. MD., where, in 1881, Solomon Yoder, a descendent of Christian Yoder (YR2) chose the site on the east slope of Negro Mountain, approximately 2 miles west of Grantsville, MD on the Posey Row Road. Their homestead faced south, overlooking the beautiful Casselman Valley. Here Solomon built both a house and barn. It was here that the Yoder's raised their family. Though life was difficult, in times it also provided humor for it was here as the story is told that Solomon, wanting to mount a horse, used a watering trough as a step to climb up onto the horse. On one occasion, the horse side stepped and Solomon landed in the trough.

In later years Solomon's son Lewis bought the adjoining farm, where the old stone foundation was located. Today, both farms are combined. Following their visit to the old homestead, Jack and Alta decided to see Eva (Yoder) Barton, one of Solomon's granddaughters. After hearing about the idea of the Yoder House, Eva became very excited.



From there, the plan was shared with several other Yoder's who like wise were very enthusiastic.

It was decided that the idea should be tested among a larger group of Yoder's. The perfect time and place was at the annual gathering of the Casselman Valley Historians which would be held at the Maple Glen Church, September 4 and 5, 1992.

Coincidentally, the historian focus for the weekend was on the history of the Yoders. Following the first session on that Friday night, an announcement was made for all interested persons to meet the next morning prior to the opening of the regular session to discuss this new idea. The next morning, 25 individuals showed up for a time of discussion and brain storming. Interest in the building was strong. Therefore the group decided to meet the next spring on April 27, 1993. The steering committee met with Doris Ours, Phyllis Weaver, Charles (Bud) Yoder, Henry Yoder, Esther Yoder and Lowell Bender in attendance. The group began to grapple in earnest with numerous questions: What might these stones mean, how can these stones be made to speak to generations to come and what are the stories of the past, how do they speak to the future. Discussion continued, the idea of a Yoder House took shape. But many questions were left to be answered. If a house were to be constructed, what would it look like? What country and time would it represent? In later meeting answers to these questions slowly began to immerge. It was decided that the Yoder House should represent a particular

period in time, reflecting Swiss architecture. It should contain both oral and written history, as well as artifacts preserved and gathered over the years. Although it would represent one particular point in time and place, it should symbolize all the generations of Yoder's. It would be a house that captures the essence of a German poem known as "Haus Spruch Langendorf".

This house is mine, yet not mine;  
The same is true of him who follows me,  
And a third will let it go to another,  
And the fourth will not live forever,  
The fifth also will leave this house  
Now tell me, my friend, to who  
Belong this house?

The Yoder House in essence belongs to and is dedicated to the entire Yoder freundschaft. It collects not only artifacts and history, but the many stories and the people who tell it. It represents an island in time and place for Yoder's past, Yoder's present and Yoder's to come in the future.

The first floor beams became available after a tornado destroyed the barn on the Wendell Yoder farm is Summit Mills, PA.

The wide floor planks came from an old barn close to Berlin, PA, on Slate Hill Road.

The beams on the second floor and the joists in the basement came from the former Summit Mills (PA) Church of the Brethren. The pole rafters in the attic came from a barn located one mile north of Grantsville, MD on Rt. 669 owned by Olen Schrock. This farm was previously owned by Samuel J. Yoder (YR26174) and Elizabeth (Beachy) Yoder who sold it to Emanuel Hershberger in 1871 and moved to Ohio.

New hemlock boards used for wainscoting on the 2nd floor, came from the Bill and Sylvia (Yoder) Mast farm after tornados damaged 2 barns and standing timber.

# CHRISTMAS IN



The dining area of The House decorated for Christmas in The Village

The first full weekend in December, found The House of Yoder once again decorated for Christmas in The Village. The House looked so pretty as it was decorated with poinsettias, evergreens, holly and wreaths. So many comments were made about how beautiful The House was decorated. And as usual, The House of Yoder handed out popcorn to our MANY visitors that came through the doors for the two day event. A chorus sang Christmas songs and hymns in the

German language. Dana and Crystal Bender made wreaths, which were available to purchase, along with the poinsettias. The Benders purchased the wreath making business from Benny and Arie Yoder.

The House of Yoder Board of Directors also made and handed out popcorn, **total count...over 1,200 bags of popcorn!!! That's a lot!** The weather during the event was very typical. Just a little bit of snow to help the Village look so nice with hundreds of the luminaries lighting the paths. If you have never attended this event, please try to do so. It will be something that you will



The House of Yoder, ready for Christmas in The Village

enjoy.

# THE VILLAGE



Popcorn anyone? The House of Yoder Board Members getting a lot of popcorn ready to hand out to our visitors. From left to right: Keith Yoder, Lowell and Verna Bender.



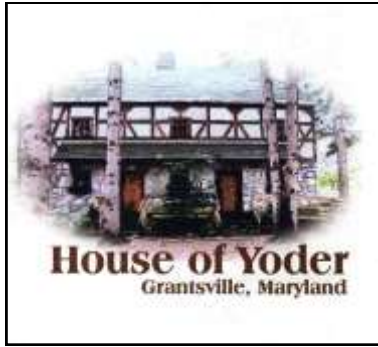
Dana Bender, pictured above and his wife Crystal have purchased the wreath making business from Benny and Arie Yoder.



The mantel adorned with evergreens and holly



Our visitors are decorated for Christmas!



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

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