

# The House Of Yoder Newsletter Winter 2021



## TREES! TREES! TREES!!!

October 12, 2021

New trees arrive to be planted in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village



The House of Yoder with the damaged trees blown onto the roof after a possible tornado on April 8, 2020. Over 46 trees in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village were destroyed.



Warm, beautiful fall weather permitted the new trees to be planted. Below shows several new trees surrounding The House of Yoder



October 12, 2021 New trees waiting to be planted throughout the village. Photo courtesy: Tim Moyer,





Future plans for additional artisan cabins in Spruce Forest are not complete at this time.

A few more pictures of the new trees planted throughout the Spruce Forest Artisan Village and surround the House of Yoder.



### **Hosting Season a Success at House of Yoder**

The 2021 hosting season at The House of Yoder was a success, with **4,021** (that signed the guest book. Many visitors do not sign) visitors to The House. Our hosts for the 2021 season were: Val and Sandy Dzwonczyk, Baltimore, MD; David and Lou Ann Kanagy, Archbold, OH; Alton and Lois Longenecker, Elkhart, IN; John and MaDonna Yoder, Catonsville, MD; Robert Swartz, Waterford, MI; Larry and Maxine Miller, Macon, MS; Stephen Yoder, Elgin, IL; \*Theresa, Cal and Kelly Yoder, Crete, IL; Brad and Jeanne Yoder, Noblesville, IN; Tim and Mary Moyer, Bethlehem, PA; \*Beth (Yoder) Streich, Midland, MI; \*Sandy Schoener, Milford, OH; \*Curtis and Daisy (Yoder) Duff, Oakland, MD; Phyllis and Wayne Kornhaus, Orville, OH; Tom Yoder, Wichita Falls, TX

\*New

### **Day Hosts**

Mark Yoder, Jane Brocht, Keith and Esta Yoder, Verna and Lowell Bender, Harvey Yoder, Heidi Yoder, Benny C. Yoder

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR HOSTS!!**

### **WHERE OUR VISITORS CALL HOME:**

#### **United States:**

Visitors to The House of Yoder came from every state in the Union except: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Californian and Idaho,

#### **Visitors from other Countries:**

Mexico, Philippines, South America, Kuwait, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

## HOUSE OF YODER ANNUAL MEETING

The 24th House of Yoder Annual Meeting was held at The House on Saturday, November 6, 2021. Refreshments were served before the meeting. Lowell Bender, Board member served as President. Harvey Yoder, Board President was in Israel at the time of the meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were given by Mayla Yoder and Heidi Yoder, respectively. Both reports were approved. Mark H. Yoder was elected to serve another 5 year term.

Ellen Sheffield Wilds was our speaker for the program. Ms. Wilds is a writer, researcher, presenter, and designer. She lives in Frostburg, MD. Ms. Wilds presentation was about the drop spindle. Ms. Wilds became interested in spinning while she was involved in a group that participated in Medieval re-enactments. Needing "something to do" during those times, Ms. Wilds became interested in spinning. She featured the importance of the drop spindle. From socks that were worn, to the sails on the mighty sea-going vessels, drop spindles were used until the invention of the spinning wheel.



Ms. Ellen Sheffield Wilds, demonstrating the drop spindle at The House of Yoder Annual Meeting.

## In Memorandum



Pictured above, Dr. Ray and Agnes Yount

"Dr. Ray Allen Yount, PhD, age 87 of Hickory, NC passed on Saturday August 28, 2021. He was born May 6, 1934 in Catawba County, NC. After he and his wife Agnes (Bell) Yount were married, they moved to LaVale, MD where Ray spent his career with Hercules, Inc., as a chemist in a supervisory capacity. His passions were studying genealogy and traveling. Ray is remembered as a very quiet, extremely intelligent and mild mannered gracious man." Agnes, his wife also of Hickory, NC passed away Sept. 7, 2020. She was born Aug 24, 1937. She was a retired professor from Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD. She was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cumberland, MD, where she enjoyed playing the handbells for church. She was also a past member of the LaVale Civic Association and the LaVale League of Women Voters. Both Agnes and Ray were members of the House of Yoder, where Ray was our Librarian, acquiring Yoder obituaries from around the area, and cataloging the books in our library. Agnes was an accountant, auditing the financial books of The House of Yoder. Ray and Agnes planted and tended the beautiful flowers and shrubbery around The House of Yoder.

# CHRISTMAS IN



The massive fireplace mantle beautifully decorated for Christmas in The Village

Christmas In The Village was once more held Friday, December 3 and Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the Spruce Forest Artisan Village. The House of Yoder was dressed in beautiful greens, with white paper angels, snowflakes and trees placed throughout the house.



Wreaths were also available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds going to The House of Yoder. The wreaths were made by Chestnut Ridge Nursery.



# THE VILLAGE



Over 1,050 bags of pop corn were handed out, as has been done for the past several years. The popcorn is always a favorite with the visitors to the Spruce Artisan Village. With the aroma of freshly popped-pop corn drawing visitors into The House, our visitors enjoyed strolling through the House, looking at all of the wonderful sites.

Since the “tornado” of April 8, 2020, Spruce Forest Artisan Village Office had no where to call “home. They asked if a table in The House of Yoder could be used during the Christmas in the Village festival. Information was handed out detailing the plans for new construction in the Village and taking names of people that would give \$100.00 to have their names engraved on a paving brick for the walk ways in the village.



## MISFORTUNE FOLLOWS THIS YODER FAMILY

The following is a story that appeared in the Berlin (PA) Historical Society MEMOS Fall of 2021; Vol 33; #3 written by Leanne Calvert. Research done by Danielle (Weighley) Maust. Used by permission.

**“Stories abound of sites that are haunted by past residents who met with a tragic death. One of those is along Cinder Road in Brothersvalley Township (Somerset County, PA) . Neighbors who currently hunt in that area say they sometimes hear screams or a sound like children laughing, and they have the feeling that someone is nearby, but when they look there is no one there. It is an eerie feeling! Some will not go near the area because they truly believe it is haunted.**

**Records show that in 1880 Wolfgang Hoffman owned the land where the “Cinder House” was later built in 1921. Legend has it that Wolfgang killed his wife (his third one) in the basement of this houses. He was charge with killing his wife Elizabeth (Yoder) (YR23956)\* Hoffman on June 27, 1880, by striking her on the head with a hammer. The jury consisting of twelve men found him “not guilty” in a trial held in the August session of court in 1880. “At this trial the Hon. William J. Baer conducted a most brilliant defense, without which old man Hoffman would undoubtedly have been convicted.”**

Deed books in the Somerset County (PA) Court House show that in July 19, 1880, Wolfgang sold his property containing 135 acres to his son John A. Hoffman for the amount of \$1,500.00. It was recorded the 26th of August 1880.

Wolfgang arrived in the United States from Germany in 1841. He traveled with a 5 year old daughter and his first wife who died aboard ship having given birth to another daughter. Both daughters survived the trip. Wolfgang married his second wife, Barbara Shimmel, with whom he had six children. His third wife was Elizabeth Yoder whom was murdered.

Elizabeth Yoder Hoffman is buried in the Cober Cemetery in Brothersvalley Township (Berlin, Somerset County, PA). Wolfgang is buried beside his second wife, Barbara Shimmel Hoffman, **in the Lutheran Church Cemetery in Berlin, PA., although he has no stone.”**

Elizabeth Yoder Hoffman (YR23956)\* who was murdered on June 27, 1880, was a daughter of Samuel Yoder (YR2395)\* and Elizabeth (Lehman) Yoder (LM3423)\*. Elizabeth (Lehman) Yoder was clubbed to death by her son, Eli Yoder, a brother to the murdered Elizabeth. She was also a Great Granddaughters Sweitzer Christian Yoder, the first Yoder in the Glades, near Shanksville, PA. You may read more about this unfortunate incident in the House of Yoder Newsletter, featuring Francis (YR23972a)\* and Ella Mae (Yoder) Yoder (YR23958)\* that was featured in the Summer 2021 Summer issue.

*\*The alpha-numerical identification numbers are from Gingerich and Kreider Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies.*

## COINCIDENCE?!

By Stephen Yoder, Elgin, IL

“The House of Yoder is a beautiful gateway to friendship..and sometimes in the most extraordinary ways! During the terms of service (hosting) there I have met people from all over the world. It’s a huge privilege to be the face and voice of welcome to visitors-of all kinds.

This beautiful group of people came to the House of Yoder from Spain-Barcelona more specifically. As with most visitors, they were blown away by all that House of Yoder represents. And my the time they took their leave, we really bonded-as proved by the disproportionate amount of laughter and smiles! Having signed the guestbook and hit the road on their way to explore more of America, the assumption was that that was it! We’d have our brief moments to remember, but that was it. Nope!

Following hosting at The House of Yoder, I drove on to Washington D.C. where my son had flown from Chicago, as we started our own dad/son adventure week. As with most tourist to Washington D.C., a highlight was the Air and Space Museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution. Afterwards, we headed back to The Mall for a walk when we were stopped in our tracks by the shouts of, “Steve! Steve Yoder! Is that you, Steve?” Sam and I turned to see (guess who!!) our friends from Spain that had toured The House of Yoder!! Needless to say, we were laughing and shouting and disbelieving how this had unfolded! How could this be? We didn’t even know we were all headed to D.C.!

Having taken the obviously-needed picture of this extraordinary moment, we were back on our individual routes—Sam and I heading to Philadelphia (for more Yoder exploring in Oley, Pennsylvania— our direct line’s roots); the folks from Spain were on their way to New York City.

We enjoyed a heritage/American visit to Philadelphia. And as good tourists, we decided to have lunch at Reading Terminal Market. Having stuffed ourselves satisfactorily, we headed out towards our hotel to prepare for the next part of our adventure. But then...as we exited, Sam gently asked, “Dad, isn’t that your friends from Spain?!” And there they were AGAIN-right across the street!

But where did it begin? As with so many of my happiest memories, it began at the House of Yoder! After all, as all Yoder’s know, it takes a Yoder to experience the best, most wonderful, strangest, and wildest moments!! As ever, I am SO grateful that I’m a Yoder—through and through! And there’s no such things as strangers in Yoderland! Only friends in the making..thanks to The House of Yoder!

**Making friends: Steve Yoder, Elgin, IL, center and his son Sam, far right, with their NEW Italian friends in Philadelphia, PA. The Italian friends were visiting The House of Yoder when Steve was hosting .**

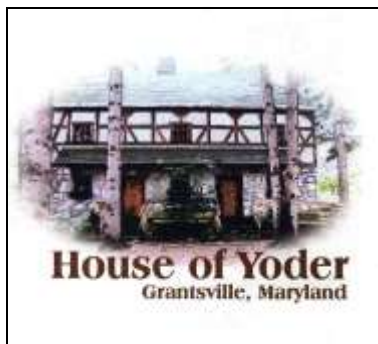


The House of Yoder Newsletter

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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