



The House Of Yoder Newsletter Summer 2023

“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 remodeled. 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 Glatfelter 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. It was here that Solomon built both house and barn. 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, Grantsville, MD September 4 and 5, 1992.

Coincidentally, the historian focus for the weekend was on the history of the Yoder's. 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.

Yoder House Groundbreaking Draws a Crowd



House of Yoder Ground Breaking November 16, 1996 Grantsville, MD

The Ground Breaking Ceremony for The House of Yoder was held Saturday, October 21, 1995 at the Spruce Artisan Village/Penn Alps, Grantsville, MD. A goodly crowd from several states assembled for this event. The opening ceremony was moderated by Lowell Bender, and remarks were made by Jack Dueck and Kenneth Yoder. Pastor Jonny Crist—a 12th generation (descendent) Yoder from Atlanta, GA, gave the Ground Breaking message. Singing was led by Doris Ours.

This was followed by the actual ground breaking, in which representatives of three different Yoder families jointly performed the honors: Ray Yount from the Conrad Yoder line of NC; Carl Yoders of “the Yoders” family of SW Pa(YNL24), and Doris Ours of the Amish line which settled in the Somerset County, PA-Grantsville, MD area (YR261 Line) They used a “Rutter Spade” made for the occasion by 10th generation Yoder descendent, Dwight Yoder, son of Ruth and Kenneth Yoder.

The First annual Meeting of The Yoder House was held November 16, 1996 in the Great Room at Penn Alps Restaurant, Grantsville, MD. Twenty seven people attended the meeting. The original executive committee consisted of the following people: Lowell Bender, Doris Ours, Edgar Yoder, Harvey L. Yoder, Paul H. Yoder Phyllis Weaver, Gerald Weaver and Kenneth Yoder. Election of officers resulted in: Doris Ours, President; Harvey L. Yoder, Vice President; Treasurer, Edgar Yoder and Secretary, Paul H. Yoder. Lowell Bender became Vice President in 1999, when Harvey Yoder relocated to Missouri. Doris Ours held the position of President of the Board for 19 years, when Doris requested to be replaced as President because of health concerns. Daniel J. Yoder then became President of the Board of Directors, with Doris acting as Vice President. After Dan Yoder’s death in June 2018, Harvey Yoder was elected as President, with Doris as Vice President.

Because of declining health, Doris requested that she be replaced on the Board of Directors. Curtis Duff was elected Vice President at the board meeting of September 2023.

As Editor of the House of Yoder newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate this issue of The House of Yoder newsletter to Doris Glennadine Livengood Ours. A mere "Thank You" will never be adequate to express the gratitude to you for your interest, guidance, dedication, energy and determination in the endeavor of The House of Yoder.



Doris Glennadine Livengood Ours at age 20.

Doris was born November 25, 1930 at Pinto, MD, daughter of Myron Livengood and Freda M. Yoder (YR26119151). She was the granddaughter of Norman S. Yoder (YR2611915) and Annie Mae (Yoder) Yoder (YR121736.) Annie Mae is the daughter of John S. Yoder (YR12173) and Susanna (Stevanus) (SX3e).

Doris's parents were married at Pinto, MD on October 18, 1922 by Minister Ed Miller. After their marriage they lived in Springs, PA. Myron worked at Miller Machine Works. In 1927 the family, now consisting of a daughter Phyllis at age 3 1/2 years of age moved to Pinto, Maryland and lived on "Pinto Lane". This was on her Grandfather, Norman S. Yoder Farm. Norman and Annie Yoder moved from Springs, PA to the Pinto area in 1907. A son, Paul Myron, and a daughter, Doris Glennadine were born to Myron and Freda Livengood.

Penn Alps first board of directors is organized on July 4, 1958. Myron J. Livengood elected as President of the Board of Directors. He would hold this position until his death in 1970. Doris would also become affiliated with Penn Alps as a Board Member.



Myron J. "Mike" Livengood Photo courtesy Springs Historical Society

"Mike" suffered a heart attack while attending a Penn Alps board meeting. He passed away the next day, May 25, 1970.

The life of Doris and her family were centered around the Pinto Mennonite Church were her father Myron “Mike” Livengood was ordained Deacon and served as a song leader and musical director of a Men’s Chorus, and sang for years in a mixed quartet. Doris states that her father had a beautiful tenor voice. Doris, along with her family were very active in the Pinto Mennonite Church. Her Mother Freda was the church librarian. All services were attended and only an illness permitted an absence. Doris accepted the Lord as her Savior at an early age. She wore a covering to church, where the men sat on one side of the church and the women on the other.



The first Pinto Mennonite Church built in 1926

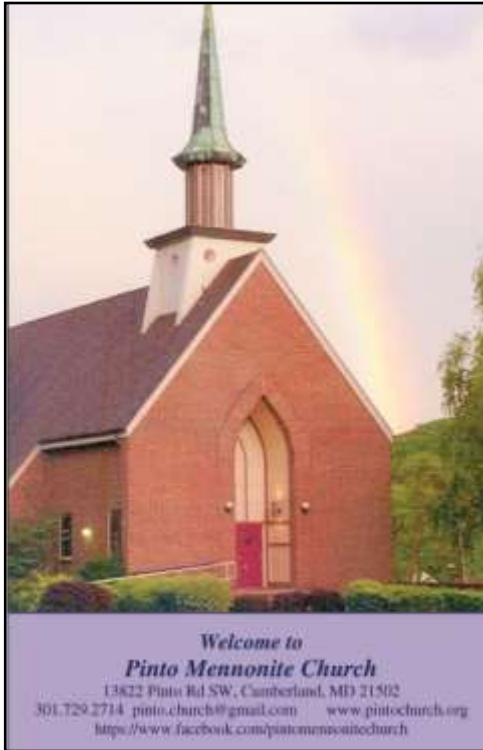
“In 1907 several different Amish-Mennonite families from the Springs, PA and Grantsville, MD areas moved down to the Washington Bottom Farm and worked on the farm. Norman and Annie (Yoder) Yoder Doris’ grandparents), Jonas and Alice (Yoder) Ash, Asa and Amanda (Bender) Schrock, Ephraim and Savilla (Yoder) Blauch collected their families and belongings for the move to Pinto, MD. Prompted by the desire “to better their finan-

cial circumstances.” Norman Yoder was the supervisor of the farm. Though surrounded by fertile fields and hills planted in orchards, these families felt the separation from their Mennonite and Amish brothers and sisters,. The journey of 30 miles was too far for pastoral care and regular worship with their home congregations. So they found fellowship among the Methodist of short Gap, West Virginia and Rawlings, MD. But by 1917 when a new school was built near the Washington Bottom Farm, home of the Yoders, the Mennonites helped organize a Sunday School and worship services there.

In 1917, Pinto was recognized as a “mission station” by the Southwestern (PA) Mennonite Conference with Ed Miller in charge. Revival series were held, converts made, congregational status encouraged and discussions of a permanent meetinghouse took place. But the people of Pinto were not yet ready and their designation as a full church was put on hold for seven years.

In 1924 an eighteen-day revival series led by John Grove of Greencastle, PA resulted in about 40 confessions, half of them new members. Not everyone in the community was thrilled by the unique teachings of these Mennonite believers. One service was broken up early by a cross burning on a nearby hill. A Bible conference and revival services in the next two years brought in more converts and it was seen that attendance at the small school meeting was beyond capacity.

Increasing attendance and new programs prompted the fellowship to add space to their sanctuary, and eventually in 1972 a new church building was built. “



The new Pinto Mennonite Church built in 1972

Sadly, the original Pinto Mennonite Church,



which had been used as The Corinthian Center, was destroyed by fire on August 14, 2010.



Grandparents of Doris Livengood Ours

Norman Solomon Yoder (YR2611915) and his wife, Annie May (Yoder) Yoder (YR121736). Norman was born January 24, 1875 and died December 3, 1945. Annie was born April 24, 1882 and died October 9, 1963. They were married March 16, 1899. Norman was hired as manager of the 2,400 acre Washington Bottom Farm located across the Potomac River in West Virginia. This farm was taken over by the government in World War II and was then, and still is ABL (Allegany Ballistic Laboratory) and recently in 2014 Orbital ATK. Norman managed the farm for eleven years and then in 1918 parents Myron “Mike” and Freda Livengood, along with daughters Doris and Phyllis and son Paul “Bud”, moved into the third house on Pinto Lane from the Grandpa house. The house was covered with weathered wood and in need of repair. Mike and Freda launched into a major remodeling effort

to modernize and make a comfortable, enjoyable home for their family. At the same time, M.J. Livengood and his brother-in-law Walter N. Yoder became partners and established the L&Y Plumbing Co. of Pinto, MD. They specialized in steam heating and plumbing. This business grew and employed many of the local men. When World War II broke out, Walter joined the services and Myron (Mike) bought out his share of the business. He was still working full time when he died suddenly on May 25, 1970 at the age of 72. The business continued under the management of his son-in-law, Harold W. Ours.

Doris—the younger years

Doris, the youngest child born to Annie and Myron (Mike) Livengood was born November 25, 1930 in Pinto, MD. She joined two other siblings: Phyllis, born February 1924, in Springs, PA and passing away April 13, 2015, and brother Paul Myron, born November 10, 1927 in Springs, PA. and passing away November 23, 2014 in Pinto, MD.

Doris attended Cresaptown (MD) Elementary School. She loved school and was one of the top students of her class. She loved her teacher, Miss Bender, but was not too “keen” to Mrs. Peters, her second grade teacher. Doris was made to stand in the corner by Mrs. Peters and one time had to draw a circle on the chalk board and stand with her nose in the center of the circle! She only attended half days of school, leaving at noon, because of the overflow of students. When the new building was built, she attended all day. Doris sang and was also the school pianist at

Cresaptown. She directed music at age eleven. Her father had her practice in front of a mirror. Doris also attended Eastern Mennonite High School in Harrisonburg, VA. She lived in the dormitory there.

At age fourteen, when her sister Phyllis married Winston O. Weaver, Doris was a junior brides maid. While the nuptials were being read, Doris had her eyes on Winston’s best friend and groomsman, Harold Wenger Ours. Little did she realize that in 2 short years, at “nearly 17 years of age” Doris and Harold would themselves be married on October 11, 1947, only a few weeks away from her 17th birthday! The wedding was performed at The Pinto Mennonite Church by Pastor Chester Helmick. I can only imagine the readers surprise at Doris’ parents allowing her to marry at such an early age. But her parents loved Harold and thought if they did not allow Doris and Harold to be married with their blessing, perhaps Doris and Harold would find their own way of being together. And here’s another surprise.....Harold had been engaged to another girl when he met Doris, but Harold heard his then fiancé say “damn” and broke off the engagement!

Doris attended Eastern Mennonite School in Harrisonburg, VA. She was in her Junior year when she and Harold married. Before they were married, she was not permitted to leave campus, so her Dad would cover her in the back seat of his car, and sneak her out to see Harold. She had to do her school work by correspondence for her senior year.



Doris Livengood and Harold Ours, on their wedding day October 11, 1947

Harold Wenger Ours

Harold Wenger Ours was born April 24, 1921 in Rockingham, Virginia, son of Russell Frederick "Fred" and Marie Elizabeth (Wenger) Ours. Harold's siblings were: Charles, Richard, Doris, Lois Ann and May Louise. Harold graduated from Eastern Mennonite High School, Harrisonburg, VA in 1940. Doris and Harold lived in an apartment at her parents home the first ten years of their married life. Their daughter Glenna Dene was born on December 18, 1953 while they still lived at the apart-

ment. In the late fifties Doris and Harold built a home in the Short Gap, WV area.

Harold worked for the Elwood Weaver Hatchery. After his marriage, Harold worked as a book keeper for his father-in-law, Myron J. Livengood in the L&N Plumbing industry.



Harold Ours, Photo may have been taken while at his time with UNRRA

Shortly before their marriage, while Doris was living at the dorm at Eastern Mennonite High School, in Harrisonburg, VA Harold traveled to Danzig, Poland with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, (UNRRA) transporting horses to worn -torn areas. "Delivering Hope to a war-torn World"



Harold's plane that he was flying at the age of 20.

These “Seagoing Cowboys” made about 360 trips on 73 different ships. Most of the ships were converted WWII cargo ships with added cages and horse stalls. The Heifer’s for Relief project was started by the Church of the Brethren in 1942; in 1953 this became Heifer International. In the wake of the destruction caused by WWII. The historical peace churches in the United States (Church of the Brethren, the Society of Friends, or Quakers, and the Mennonites) sponsored relief missions to war-ravaged Europe. These relief missions usually took the form of transporting farm animals (such as heifers, horses, mules, chicks, goats, sheep, rabbits and pigs) by transatlantic ship, to Poland and other countries where much of the livestock had been killed in the war. The men who tended the animals aboard these ships were called seagoing cowboys. The seagoing cowboys delivered to Albania, China, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Ethiopia, Greece, Italy, Poland and Yugoslavia. A total of 239,377 hoofed animals were transported. The manure that was generated by the animals on the ships was highly sought after to be used as fertilizer in the war ravished ground.

After their daughter Glenna started school, Doris continued her education, earning a B.S. in Education at Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD and her M.A. at West Virginia University. Doris was an elementary teacher and an elementary principal for 26 years. She had been accepted into the doctoral program, but decided it was more important to take care of her family, so never continued. Doris

started teaching at Short Gap, WV Elementary School. She taught kindergarten, first, second, third and fourth grades. She would teach for half of the day, then spend the other part of the day as principal.



L-r: Phyllis Livengood Weaver-Hearn, Mother Freda, Doris, brother Paul

Reminiscing's of her Father by Glenna:

“When Daddy was a younger man, he was very musically talented. He would play the guitar and have a harmonica strapped to the guitar. Grandmother Ours was not as appreciative of his musical talents, thinking it was the work of the devil. So to honor his Mother, Daddy took a job at a newspaper, where the printer malfunctioned, slicing almost all of his fingers off. He was able to receive medical treatment, but was not able to save all of his fingers. He lost 4 fingers. And so, Daddy’s musical career came to an end.”

Photo at right: June 3, 2023 Doris age 92, at her home at Short Gap, WV (Keyser, WV) meeting with the Board of Directors of the House of Yoder.



Doris, with Grandson James Curry Coleman and husband Harold Ours.



Home of Harold and Doris Ours, Short Gap, WV

As Editor of the House of Yoder Newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to try to express my most sincere gratitude and Thanks to Doris for her dedication, leadership, guidance, friendship and Christian Love as you supported this dream of a House of Yoder. Your many hours of dedication to the completion of The House has come true.

Mayla H. Yoder, Editor



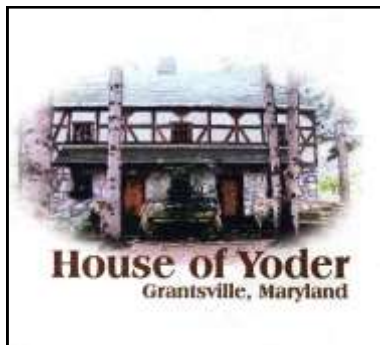
Present day House of Yoder Board of Directors: l-r Mark Yoder, Berlin, PA; Curtis Duff, Oakland, MD; Daisy Yoder Duff, Oakland MD; Isolde Yoder Porter, Grantsville, MD; Heid Yoder, Oakland, MD; Esta Moreland Yoder, Winchester, VA; Doris Livengood Ours, Keyser, WV; Harvey L. Yoder, Bellville, PA; Keith Yoder, Winchester, VA. Missing was Lowell Bender, Accident, MD. Photo by Mayla Yoder, Editor

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