

HOSTING AT THE HOUSE OF YODER by Frederick Tillery

Having moved from Kansas to Shipshewana, Indiana in 2003, I started working at the Menno-Hof as a host and tour guide. Menno-Hof is a non-profit information center that teaches visitors about the faith and life of Amish and Mennonites. While at Menno-Hof, I met a couple from Canada, and they told me about Haggai Institute in Maui, HI. The Haggai Institute is a internationally and interdenominational worldwide network of Christian Leaders, men and women ordained and lay, trained in advanced evangelistic communication and managerial techniques to “reach their own people for Christ”. I applied and was selected for three months stay. While there, I met a couple, Karen and Larry Graber, who hosted the Miller House and School at Spruce Forest Artisan Village many years ago. They told me they could just picture me hosting at Spruce Forest. I took them up on the offer and began hosting The House of Yoder during the summer of 2006. The time spent hosting only brought me back in 2008 for another six months. Everyday I enjoy meeting people of all walks of life and those of different parts of the world. After viewing The House of Yoder, these people share with me great stories of their childhood times relating to many things in the house. I’m able to use these great stories to interact with other visitors with the same past experiences. The House of Yoder expresses the rich and deep roots of the Yoder family of days gone by and still today. Hosting gives me the chance to share the Amish and Mennonite beliefs and answer questions. I see myself as a greeter and in interpreter, also a good listener to those who just need someone to talk to.

It is very gratifying to hear people say, “Beautiful building....wonderful!” When my day is over and the doors are locked, I walk down to the basement. A cozy apartment is there with all the comforts of home. What I enjoy most is the peace and quiet. What brings me back to host is meeting people, working with good Christian people, and being in good company of Christians concerned for one another. I highly recommend hosting The House of Yoder for couple and single people, long-term or short-term.

Editor’s note: For more information on becoming a host for The House of Yoder, please contact Paul H. Yoder. 507 Hemlock Drive, Grantsville, MD. 21536 or by phone: 1.301.895.5411

- Mr. Frederick Tillery

Board of Director of The House of Yoder

Our first in a series of “Meet the Board of Directors” of The House of Yoder, Doris Ours, President of the Board of Directors has graciously consented to be our first guest. Thank you Doris for allowing our House of Yoder newsletter readers get to “meet” you!!

When the “Yoders” received an invitation to build a house at Penn Alps, Spruce Forest Artisan Village, I was one the Yoders present to accept the challenge. Being a Yoder through my mother, Freda Yoder Livengood, daughter of Norman and Annie Yoder, I got involved in the designing, planning, and building of the house.

Pinto, Maryland, was the spot where I was born, grew up, and where my husband, Harold W. Ours and I lived the first ten years of our married life. Our daughter, Glenna Dene, was born while we lived here. In the late fifties we built a home in the Short Gap, West Virginia area. My husband’s death, in 2000, greatly affected our lives but I still live in our home place of 50 years.

Our family is small- our daughter Glenna and husband Ian Kanner and one grandson James Curry Coleman, born to her first marriage with James D. Coleman.

After Glenna entered school, I continued my education, earning a B.S. in Education at Frostburg State University and my M.A. at West Virginia University. My profession was as an elementary teacher and an elementary principal for 26 years.

The Pinto Mennonite Church has been central to my life. There I attended with my parents and I have been actively involved in the teaching and music of my church.

My father, Myron J. Livengood and I have both served as president of Penn Alps. I remain on the Board of Directors. This association helped direct me to the pursuit of The House of Yoder endeavor.

Doris’s Family Line:

Grandfather: Norman S. Yoder (YR2611915)
Born 1-24-1875. Died 12-3-1945. Married (Grandmother) Annie Yoder (YR121736), daughter of John S. and Susan Stevanus Yoder. Born 4-24-1882. Died 10-9-1963.

Mother: Freda Yoder born 4-6-1900 in Springs, PA. Died 6-27-1982. Married Oct 18, 1922 to Myron Livengood, born 1-6-1898. Died 5-25-1970. Three children:

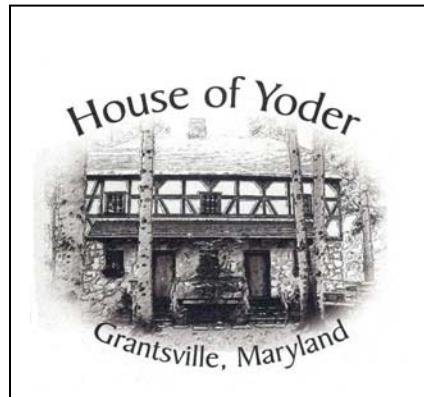
Phyllis, (YR261191511) born 2-6-1924 Springs, PA

Paul Myron (YR261191512) born 11-10-1927 Springs, PA

Doris, (YR261191513) born 11-25-1930 Pinto, MD. Married Harold Ours 10-11-1947. Harold was born 4-24-1921.



Doris Ours, President,
Board of Directors of
The House of Yoder



THE HOUSE OF YODER ANNUAL MEETING

November 1, 2008 will be the date for The House of Yoder annual meeting. Registration: 9:30a.m. until 10:00 am. A short business meeting will be held, with the election of board members. This year's key note speaker will be Sylvia Yoder. Sylvia is the daughter of Gerald Yoder, Woodbury, PA, a House of Yoder board member, who provided the genealogy lab and computing hardware which resides in The House of Yoder. Sylvia's presentation, "Ensuring the Legacy" will focus us on the future-building on our extraordinary success- to make certain that our heritage is not just preserved in The House of Yoder but engages new generations and our communities to ensure that our efforts live and grow. An independent consultant, Sylvia resides in Paoli, PA, outside of Philadelphia, and provides The House of Yoder website.

NOTICE OUR NEW LOOK?

For a number of years Lonnie Yoder, from the Seminary at E.M.U. has been sending out a newsletter for The House of Yoder. Lonnie was in charge of publicity and did a good job of providing the newsletter. Because of heavier responsibilities at the Seminary, Lonnie has asked to be relieved of this responsibility.

Mayla Yoder has been asked to pick up this work. There is some conversation about revising the newsletter, which means that it may take a different form.

An ongoing need is to keep information of what is occurring at The House of Yoder and also in the Village to the persons interested in these happenings.

If you have any ideas or contributions that you would like to share with The House of Yoder Newsletter, please contact Mayla at 2274 Salco Road, Berlin, PA. 15530 or phone: 1-814-267-3383 and e-mail at mhyoder@msn.com.

HEAR YE!

HEAR YE!



NOVEMBER ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

1ST Saturday of November 10:00a.m. till noon. See article at left. Singing, Business Meeting, Election of Board of Directors.

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

1ST Weekend in December, Friday and Saturday. Volunteers decorate The House of Yoder, welcome guests, and serve popcorn to our visitors. The House of Yoder is beautifully decorated for the Christmas Holiday. The Village has a live Nativity also.

The House of Yoder welcomes all volunteers and visitors!!

The House of Yoder Web Site

Yes, we have our own web site for The House of Yoder! Please check it out at:

www.houseofyoder.org

If you have any suggestions or information that you would like to have published on the web site, contact webmaster@houseofyoder.

JOSEPH JODER (YR12a4)

Joseph Joder (YR12a4) was born on September 13, 1797, to David Yoder and Jacobina, (Justina) Esh. David was a grandson of the “Widow Barbara”. He grew up in Mifflin County PA, married and reared a family of seven daughters and one son. His wife was Catherine Lantz. He farmed in Mifflin and Juniata County, and also taught school.

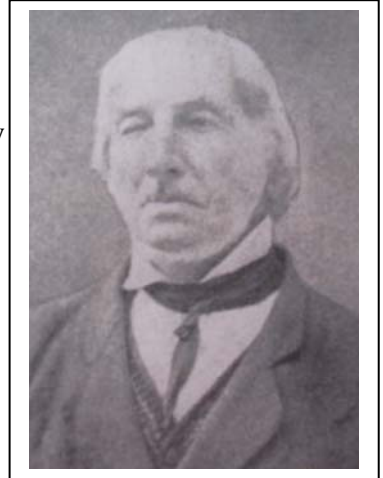
In the early spring of 1848 he departed with his family for the region of central Illinois. Traveling by canal and tramway, known as the “Pennsylvania System,” to Pittsburgh, where they took passage on an Ohio River steamboat, *Belle of the West*, to St. Louis and there transferred to another boat which took them up the Illinois River to Pekin. From here about the middle of May the Joder family was hauled overland by wagon to the Mennonite community in the vicinity of the present village of Congerville. The Joder family was temporarily domiciled with the family of Christian Ropp, a prosperous farmer and Mennonite preacher.

By autumn 1848, the Joders were ready to sell out to Mr. Ropp, who wished to add to his holding, and they leased a farm a few miles distant and west of the then county seat town of Versailles, often visited by Lincoln on his circuit court junkets. Mr. Joder cherished the memory of Lincoln, whose acquaintance he made in those years. Here the family remained for five years, when in 1854 they purchased a farm on the prairie about eight miles to the southeast and fourteen or fifteen miles from Bloomington. Here the Joders lived till 1862, when the family grown to maturity, the son and five of the daughters married and settled on farms round about, they made one more move.

Mr. Joder, bought an eighty- acre farm three miles to the southeast in Dry Grove Township, McLean County and nearer Bloomington. His wife died in 1863, and his widowed daughter, Miriam, Mrs. Jonas Kauffman, became his housekeeper and homemaker. Retiring from active work, he could now gratify his fondness for study and cultivate his talent for writing.

The ten years immediately following were the most productive in all his literary efforts.

Mr. Joder died on the last day of the year, 1887 and on January 3, 1888, his body was laid to rest in the family lot in the Lantz Cemetery, two miles southeast of the present town of Carlock.



Joseph Joder’s violin was

handed down through Joseph’s daughter Sarah (Joder) Yoder, through granddaughter Sarah Frances (Yoder) Knapple, to great grandson Francis Yoder Knapple. The grandson of Francis Knapple offered it on eBay and it was purchased by the Yoder Newsletter. It is on loan by Chris Yoder, for display at The House of Yoder. The violin has a Stradivarius label, but it is not an original. It was made by one of the many families of violin makers in Saxony, Germany. It is not presently in playing condition.



Above: Joseph Joder’s violin.

Many thanks from The House of Yoder to Chris Yoder and the Yoder Newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to share such a wonderful piece of history!!