The National Yoder Reunion

October 19-22, 2006

submitted by Lonnie Yoder

226 Yoders and Yoder descendents gathered at Grantsville, Maryland on October 19-22 for a National Yoder Reunion hosted by a committee composed of area Yoders. Attendees came from many states including California, Florida, Kansas as well as Ontario, Canada. The reunion began Thursday evening with a get-acquainted reception where music and storytelling were the highlights. Friday morning's program included two enactments—one of a local trapper and the other of George Washington. The history and dedication of the House of Yoder were also included in the Friday morning program. Friday afternoon was highlighted by the Yoder Show and Sale where nearly 40 pieces of primarily Yoder art were auctioned. Many attendees used the afternoon to tour the completed Yoder House in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village.

Friday evening a banquet and program was held at the Salisbury, PA Fire Hall. Singing by an acapella ensemble preceded an informative presentation by Chris Yoder, editor of the Yoder Newsletter, on the various lines of Yoders as well as the current Yoder DNA project which is proving helpful to increase the understanding of Yoder genealogy.

Saturday morning, three buses of attendees (143 in all) took the Yoder Tour beginning at Grantsville and driving north through the Casselman and Brothers Valleys, passing and stopping at various sites of Yoder interest. Lunch was served at the VFW in Berlin, PA. After lunch, Yoder sites in the Glades and Stony Creek areas north of Berlin were visited. The tour ended with a stop at the Flight 93 Memorial site near Shanksville, PA.

On Saturday evening attendees gathered at the Maple Glen Mennonite Church where Virgil Yoder gave a slide presentation on Yost Yoder and family of Steffisburg, Switzerland. The reunion came to a meaningful conclusion on Sunday morning as over sixty persons gathered for a worship service in the Yoder House. Nathan Yoder spoke on the theme "Telling Our Story as God's Story."