



Volume 22

Spring 2010

Issue 2

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Members banquet and auction will kick off KCHS 2010 season

The Kidron Community Historical Society's annual members banquet will be held on Tuesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. Invitations were mailed in early April. If you did not receive an invitation and you believe you should have, call 330-857-9111. This year's auction items are listed on page 3.

Caution: Display under construction!

Spring is in the air, which means it's time for the Heritage Center to reopen. On April 1 at 11:00 a.m., the center will open its doors for 2010.

Construction of the new annual display, *Kidron Collects*, a unique assortment of collections, has begun. Nearly thirty Kidron-area residents have agreed to loan all or part of their collections to KCHS for the duration of the exhibit. Each collector is creating a unique display of their items and providing written explanations of their items for those not acquainted with their hobby.

Some collections that will be on display include canes, lemon juicers, pottery cookie jars, pens, thimbles, post cards, John Deere farm toys, Watkins products, intarsias, glass bottles, trivets, miniature sewing machines, accordion-shaped pins, remembrance cups, Peanuts memorabilia, business cards, baseball cards, watch fobs, Franklin Mint model firetrucks, antique glassware, unusual tools and collectible cars.

A word of warning to the early birds: because so many people are involved, creating the display may still be a work in progress. Director Prudy Steiner says, "It's our goal to have everything in place by April 27, when we have the grand opening of the display after the members banquet."

Be sure to see this beautiful and fascinating collection of collections.



Antique art glass, a horse's head cane, a Peanuts Christmas tree skirt, collectible Dodge vehicles, and watch fobs are just a few of the items in the *Kidron Collects* display.

President Lincoln fellowships with members at KCHS annual meeting

The Kidron Heritage Center was the scene of an unprecedented presidential visit on February 23, 2010. Making the visit especially rare was the fact that the president in question, Abraham Lincoln, has been deceased for more than 140 years.

The KCHS 26th annual meeting featured Abraham Lincoln impersonator Gerald Payn who dramatized the events of April 14, 1865, as he and Mrs. Mary Lincoln were on their way to the Ford Theatre in Washington, D. C., to watch the production of *Our American Cousin*. The president was looking forward to a restful evening before beginning to formulate plans to restore the United States to brotherhood and to work toward a future without the division of slavery. As history shows, he never had the chance to develop and implement those plans due to fellow theater-attender and assassin John Wilkes Booth.



KCHS member Roger Geiser chats with Lincoln impersonator Gerald Payn following the annual meeting.

The 45 KCHS members and guests who attended the meeting also executed the business of the society by approving the minutes of the 2009 meeting and the treasurer's report as well as re-electing Wayne Liechty and Glenn Gerber to three-year terms on the board of directors.

KCHS president Wayne Liechty announced that a fundraising initiative to develop Sonnenberg Village would be launched soon. He also thanked director Prudy Steiner, the other board members, volunteers and members for their efforts to advance the work of the society.

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Virginia Cassady–Dover
Geiser Electric, Inc.–Orrville
Joyce Gerber–Dalton
Tammi Rex–Apple Creek
Marge Robinson–Wooster

There's still time! If you haven't submitted your 2010 annual dues, be sure to do so immediately so you don't miss the member's banquet!

Due to the increasing costs of printing and mailing, KCHS needs to reduce the mailing list to include only members and those who have recently donated to or been involved in the work of our society.

If you are a member or regular supporter who would like to help us save by viewing the *Bit o'Vit* online at www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org rather than receiving it in the mail, please call us at 330-857-9111 or email Prudy at kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com.

Visit our website at
www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org

Sonnenberg Village fundraising campaign leader appointed

Sonnenberg Village is an ambitious project; that was clear from the start. Now KCHS is ready to take another step toward accomplishing the goal of a restored, historic village. In April, a campaign to fund the fulfillment of the Sonnenberg Village dream will begin under the leadership of Kidron resident Milt Troyer.

Milt brings a number of gifts to this position: administrative experience, organizational ability, interpersonal skills, a wide network of friends and acquaintances, dedication to the work of KCHS and a love of the community. He and his wife Ann have been long-time members of KCHS and have been involved in the society in various ways over the years.

One of Milt's first tasks will be to assemble a team to coordinate various components to the fundraising campaign. He will also be meeting with the Sonnenberg Village Planning Committee to set financial goals.

This campaign will offer contributors the opportunity to sponsor specific projects at the village or to contribute more generally. One area of immediate need is cash flow to fund projects scheduled to take place in 2010.

If you are interested in assisting with the campaign or would like more information about donating, contact Milt at 330-857-9111.



Milt Troyer is ready to start raising funds for Sonnenberg Village.



The Plum Tree Story

Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman

A few weeks ago Eileen (Mrs. Freeman) Lehman shared a story her mother-in-law, Edna Lehman, told her about Elmer Steiner's family living in rural Kidron about 1915. It demonstrates "living in peace with all people" so well that I asked permission to print it here.

The Steiner family had worked hard doing Saturday work and preparing for Sunday. Mother Steiner noticed during the afternoon that the plums on the tree in their yard were ripe and ready to be canned. But plums keep well on the tree, so she decided they could wait.

The family was returning home from the Sunday morning church service at Sonnenberg Church when Mother Steiner noticed that the plums on the tree had been picked and they were nowhere in sight.

The family ate their Sunday meal together and then Mrs. Steiner announced that she wanted to go visiting in the afternoon. This was not unusual because Sundays were good visiting times. But where she chose to go was unusual. She wanted to visit a specific family. As she suspected, they were canning plums when she arrived. She happily joined in to help can the plums.

Not one word was spoken about the theft of the plums after that day. But many years later the children of the culprit family attended the funeral of Mrs. Steiner. They spoke about the plums and how ashamed they had been about what happened. They also said the Steiners always treated them with love and respect and friendliness, despite the incident.

Elmer Steiner, who was around ten years old at the time of the incident, told Eileen that he had almost forgotten the incident because his mother never talked about it after that. She truly modeled grace and forgiveness to her family and community.

Members banquet auction items

Wade Wilcox 10" x 15"
matted print

Jim Spires pottery vase

Quilter's basket

Karen Geiser heirloom
garden package

Nicole Myers pottery mugs
and flying pig bank

Bob Romey intarsia

Sonnenberg package

Glenford Gerber Swiss pear
wooden bowl

Kidron advertising item

and more . . .



Recently Accessioned

Child's dress, slip, and cap, donated by Doris Lehman Cartwright

Sarean Lehman scrapbooks, donated by John Lehman

Buggy warmer, donated by Eunice Beyeler Brenneman

Old identified photos of Nussbaum relatives, donated by Delvin Nussbaum

Family genealogy books, donated by Shirley (Mrs. Bradley) Lehman

Early 1900's crazy quilt pillow and pencil box, donated by Marilyn (Zuercher) Scotti

Swiss cow bell, donated by John and Janet Sprunger

Wooden snow shovel, donated by Oren and Catherine Gerber

1875 leather wedding boots, donated by Esther Falb

#10 Sonnenberg School photos, donated by J. Augspurger

Kidron prepares for SAGA

On Saturday, May 1, the Kidron Community Building will be the site of the 2010 Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA) annual meeting. The event begins at 8:15 a.m. with coffee and donuts. The meeting is open to everyone.



Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636
 330-857-9111
 kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization Postage Paid Kidron, Ohio 44636 Permit No. 5

Spring 2010



Board Members

President Wayne Liechty
 Vice President Glenn Gerber
 Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
 Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
 Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
 Board Members Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
 Director Prudy Steiner
Bit o'Vit Editor Kris Nussbaum

Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$15
 Husband and Wife Annual Member \$25
 Organization Annual Member \$35
 Individual Life Member \$250
 Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

**Annual memberships are due every January.
 Thank You!**

The Kidron Community Historical Society of Kidron, Ohio, founded in 1977, operates under the nonprofit charter granted by the State of Ohio. Your tax deductible gifts will help secure the future of the Historical Society and give you a part in preserving the heritage of this unique community.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

Send checks to Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636

Upcoming Events

Heritage Center 2010 opening
 Thursday, April 1, 11:00 a.m.

Members Banquet
 Tuesday, April 27, 6:30 p.m.
 Kidron Mennonite Fellowship Building
 followed by the grand opening of the
 2010 annual display

SAGA meeting
 Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m.
 Kidron Community Building

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio
HOURS

APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

Thursday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

JUNE–AUGUST

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH

**Call 330-857-9111
 for group tours or special arrangements**