



# The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

## Members banquet kicks off KCHS season

The 14th annual KCHS members banquet was held on April 27 at the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. Guests sat at tables adorned with floral centerpieces made by Carol Brubaker and were served by local volunteers, including several KCHS board members.

After dinner, Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner recognized the volunteers who had worked more than ten hours in 2009, and pointed out the many who had worked a remarkable number of hours. Of special note was Bernice Nussbaum with 1,040 hours. Steiner also noted several new volunteers, as well as volunteers who are no longer able to work due to declining health or who have passed away.

Auctioneer Joseph Mast teased and coaxed members as they bid on various items, many of them handmade. A surprise auction item that appeared at the last minute was a loaf of Bessie Nussbaum's homemade bread which sold for \$70. The auction brought in more than \$2,200, with Lynn Sommer's Fraktur print selling for \$700.

Gordon Amstutz shared his collection of slides of vanity license plate with the guests as a devotional and prelude to the grand opening of the 2010 Heritage Center display, *Kidron Collects*. Following the banquet, many banquet attendees enjoyed viewing the display.



Sarah Geiser, one of KCHS's youngest members, views Carol Haven's collection of kitchen primitives.



Everyone is having a good time as auctioneer Joseph Mast playfully prompts bidders into digging a little deeper into their wallets for the privilege of taking home one of Wade Wilcox's matted prints.



Jason Nussbaum investigates Raymond Steiner's advertising pen display—a mere fraction of his entire collection.



## From the Director's Desk by Prudy Steiner

A daily practice of our ancestors was to be frugal, and many of us still are today. We at the Historical Society also believe in being frugal, which led to the decision that the board and I have agreed upon.

Over the years our mailing list has grown to be quite large. It is a blessing to have so many friends who take an interest in the work of KCHS. However, fewer than half of the people on this long list are members or supporters.

The obvious conclusion in our current economy and given the cost of producing and sending out our quarterly newsletters, is that it is time to take a serious look at this list. Our plans are to cut it back to include only those who are members or have recently been involved in our society in some way.

This will not be an easy or fun process since it involves the removal of many of our local friends and family members. This is the last *Bit o' Vit* that many of you will be receiving unless you make an effort to reconnect with our KCHS before we mail the next issue in October. I, along with the board, hope you choose to partner with us in keeping our heritage alive.

## Sonnenberg Village update

This has already been a busy year. B.E. Hofstetter Excavating began work on a drainage system and the installation of a rain garden. The rain garden will be in the center of the village and was designed by Rebecca Little and OARDC. Other gardening work has been taking place at the village entrance, alongside Hackett Road. The same group of volunteers who planned and installed that landscaping area has also planted a garden near the cabin.



The Akron Black Stockings Base Ball Club will be returning to Kidron to face local teams on August 14.

The Lehman Spring House was moved into the village in May (see opposite page) and work on the foundation is set to begin. Finishing touches on the Tschantz Log Cabin are also expected to take place this summer. Other summer plans include installing underground natural gas and electric lines throughout the village.

Plan to attend the homecoming on August 14 for a fun afternoon of baseball and food in Sonnenberg Village. It will be a good opportunity to see all work that is taking place. Details are listed on page 4.

## Recently Accessioned

1908 photo of Barbara Moser's farm sale, donated by Ann (Kratzer) Groh

Toy cupboard, donated by Mary Rose (Sommer) Garman

Late 1940's photo of the Saurer Blacksmith Shop, donated by Ronald Rex Raber

Kidron Mennonite Church's records of their mission work at Dillonvale, donated by Cora (Mrs. Carl) Gerber

Nut Tree advertising items (mug, bag clip, note pads), donated by Ray & Joan Nussbaum

## Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Doris Begly—Glendale, Ariz.  
Amos and Erma Geiser—Dalton  
Scott and Nicole Myers—Orrville  
Keith and Bev Schloneger—  
Dundee  
Paul and Janie Snoddy—Wooster  
Lyle Troyer—Wellington

Want to continue receiving the *Bit o' Vit*? Renew your membership or join KCHS to stay current on KCHS happenings!

Visit our website at  
[www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.kidronhistoricalsociety.org)

## Annual SAGA meet- ing hosted in Kidron

The annual Swiss Anabaptist Genealogical Association (SAGA) meeting was held at the Kidron Park Community Building on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Fifty-five persons, the largest group ever, attended from Ohio, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Chairperson Troye Kauffman welcomed the group. Kidron Community Historical Society hosted the event under the direction of Roger Geiser. Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner brought greetings from the KCHS.

Several local speakers were on the program. James O. Lehman introduced his new Sonnenberg Mennonite Church Cemetery book project. Raymond Leisy gave an update on the Sonnenberg Village historic restoration project and Bob Geiser explained more about SAGA behind the scenes.

In the afternoon many of the participants toured the Heritage Center. This was a great networking opportunity for those who do genealogical work, and a chance to share the work of KCHS.

## Sonnenberg Village grows, one road trip at a time



Above: The Lehman Spring House raised up on blocks, next to its original site. Right: Heading up Schneck Hill on Zuercher Road, toward Sonnenberg Village. Below: The spring house arrives at its new home. It is now located to the west of its long-time companion, the Lehman House.



Thank you to our April, May and June volunteers!

Dean Ab-Hugh  
 Ada Amstutz  
 Judy Amstutz  
 Esther Falb  
 Nancy Ganyard  
 Anna Gehman  
 John Gehman  
 Amos Geiser  
 Glenford Gerber  
 Ann Groh  
 Glen Groh  
 Carolyn Haas  
 Gail Johnson  
 Nancy King  
 Eileen Lehman  
 John Lehman  
 Don Miller  
 Bill Moser  
 Clarence Neuenschwander  
 Curt Nussbaum  
 Gloria Nussbaum  
 Bernice Nussbaum  
 Bessie Nussbaum  
 Delvin Nussbaum  
 Heinz Peter  
 Rosa Peter  
 Janet Sprunger  
 Bud Steiner  
 Jean Steiner  
 Clayton Steiner  
 Walter Steiner  
 Cindy Strubbe  
 Carol Yoder

## Thanks to our members banquet sponsors!

Bob Graber Auctioneer	Kidron Town & Country Store
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G & G Farms	LE Sommer, Kidron, Inc.
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Kidron Kars, Inc.	Weyrauch's Pharmacy
Kidron Supply	

## In memoriam

Anna Sommer Amstutz volunteered from 1997-2006, putting in almost 100 hours as she passed 100 years of age. Emma Gonter volunteered a total of 256 hours. Both Emma and Anna were avid quilters and always happy to meet people. At age 95, Myron Martin had put in 144 hours and still wanted to volunteer. He was knowledgeable about genealogy and always willing to help out. Their willingness to greet, meet and inform our visitors will be missed.

**Kidron Community Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 234**  
**Kidron, Ohio 44636**  
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 kidronheritagecenter@hotmail.com

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Summer 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*

**Mark your calendars**  
**Third Annual**  
**Sonnenberg Village Homecoming**  
 Saturday, August 14, 2010

11:00 music

12:00 and 2:00 baseball games:  
 local teams vs. Akron Black Stockings

Sonnenberg Mennonite Church food trailer

Schloneger's Homemade Ice Cream

Bring your family and your lawn chairs

**Kidron-Sonnenberg  
 Heritage Center**  
 13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

**HOURS**  
**JUNE–AUGUST**  
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER**  
 Thursday 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**