



The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

2007 Display: Frakturs and Illuminations



A fraktur with illumination on display at the Heritage Center.

People throughout history often commemorated life's milestones by producing works of art. Since its beginnings in the 1820s, the Kidron Community has been a part of this tradition, often in the form of frakturs with colorful illuminated drawings commemorating births, marriages and deaths. Not only are these items works of art, but family treasures which preserve our heritage.

In recognition of the importance of family and these beautiful heirlooms, "Celebrations and Memories: Frakturs and Illuminations" will spotlight how

we have celebrated and remembered family milestones. We are interested in displaying birth, marriage and death certificates as well as other frakturs and illuminated art our community has generated. These items may be stand alone pieces or bound in albums and family Bibles.

If you are willing to share your item, knowing that it will be carefully displayed and protected during the exhibit, please call Prudy Steiner at 330-857-1927 and tell us what you are willing to share with our community.

Gather 'Round the CommuniTree

Calling all woodcarvers, woodworkers, craftspeople and artists! Support the Kidron Community Historical Society while doing something you enjoy!

Woodworking has been a part of life for many Kidron-area residents for generations. From the original settlers of the 1820s to the Sonnenberg furniture makers of the 1850s to the modern-day homebuilders and carpenters, working with wood has been a necessity, a pastime and a way to make a living.

The KCHS is asking our community woodworkers and artists to contribute to the featured display upstairs in the *see CommuniTree page 2*

Welcome To Our New Director!

A conversation at the bloodmobile in Kidron was the critical moment. From there, it was not long until the KCHS had hired a new director.

Prudy (Kratzer) Steiner began working as the director in August and recalls that conversation with a laugh. She and Wayne Liechty were talking about what KCHS needed in a director and Prudy thought, "That might be fun."

Prudy discussed the position with a number of people, including former director Bruce Detweiler Breckbill. She received a lot of affirmation as a candidate for the position.

Wayne Liechty smiles when he recounts the process. "We've been on course and traveled slowly. When [Prudy's] name came up, we did some checking and all our findings were positive." He went on to say, "We're very excited Prudy's coming on board."

Prudy grew up in Kidron as the daughter of Loyal and Rosa (Nussbaum) Kratzer. She recently completed seven years as the athletic secretary at Central Christian School where she says she learned a lot. She and her husband, Dean, live near

see Welcome page 2



Prudy Steiner, the new director.

CommuniTree continued
Heritage Center during 2008.

The featured display, called CommuniTree, will involve woodworkers, fallen timber, and lots of creativity. Although 2008 seems like a long way off, this project is a unique endeavor and it is going to take time and your help.

On Thursday, June 22, 2006, high winds brought down dozens of trees in the Kidron area. Many of these were large trees that had been part of our community for decades. Beginning as saplings possibly hundreds of years ago, these trees made up an important part of our community, providing us with shelter, shade, fruit and nuts, recreation, and ultimately, wood.

Ray and Allyson Leisy, KCHS members and volunteers, envisioned how to celebrate the history of our community by using these old trees and the creativity of the people in our region. The CommuniTree project will celebrate all that these trees have given to us over the years and continue their legacy.

We have harvested the logs from some of these fallen trees and are waiting for artisans to use them in a creative manner. We will cut the logs into approximate sizes that will meet the needs of woodworkers, craftspeople and artists. These artisans will use the wood to create

useful or decorative items which will make up the CommuniTree display during 2008 at the Heritage Center.

At the Members Banquet in April 2009, we will sell these items at the fund-raising auction and the proceeds will be deposited into the KCHS permanent endowment fund – the final piece of the continuing legacy of the fallen trees. We will use only the interest the fund generates to perpetuate the projects of the KCHS. In that way, we will commemorate forever the memory of the many varieties of trees and the workers who contributed their labor.

Volunteers will cut and dry the wood and a celebration to distribute the wood will be underwritten by a KCHS member. This allows all proceeds to go to the KCHS.

If you are interested in being involved in this project, call Wayne Liechty (330-857-3681) or Prudy Steiner (330-857-1927) before December 31, 2006. Give them a description of the item you will make, the kind of wood you wish to use, and the dimensions of the wood you need. The wood will be distributed to the artisans by May 2007, and the finished pieces should be brought to the Heritage Center by February 2008.

We will continue to update you on this exciting and fun project for the whole community.

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Ted Bergman–Dallas, Texas
Julia Brickner–Ottawa, Ohio
Kathryn Hamsher–Orrville, Ohio
for son and daughter Keith and Kathleen
Arthur B. Neuenschwander–Forest, Virginia
Dean and Prudy Steiner–Dalton, Ohio
Aylana Worthen–Smithville, Ohio

It's not too late to renew your 2006 annual membership if you haven't already done so!

Welcome continued

Kidron and have three sons: LaMont, who lives and works in Goshen, Ind.; Sheldon, a senior at The College of Wooster; and Tyler, a sophomore at Hesston College (Kans.).

When Prudy completed her last day at Central, she had no idea what was next for her. But now she says, "There's a reason things happened in this order. I'm where God led me."

Thanks to Wayne Liechty and Leora Gerber for taking on most of the responsibilities of this position in the interim. This work has represented countless unpaid hours for both. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

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• **Have you visited the**
• **Kidron Database at**
• **www.omii.org lately?**
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Logs from one of the victims of this summer's storm.

CommuniTree Timeline

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| June 22, 2006 | Storm drops dozens of trees in Kidron area |
| September, 2006 | CommuniTree idea is born |
| December 31, 2006 | Deadline for wood requests |
| January, 2007 | Wood cut and dried |
| May, 2007 | Wood distributed to artisans |
| February, 2008 | Finished wood items brought to Heritage Center |
| April - December, 2008 | CommuniTree display in Heritage Center |
| April, 2009 | CommuniTree display items sold at Members Banquet auction with proceeds deposited into KCHS permanent endowment fund |

Kidron Korner

Looking into the 20-plus autograph books stored away at the Heritage Center, I was intrigued by what I found. As far back as 1891, autograph books were full of colorful lithographs and German script. By the early 1900's, the rage was photos of the autographer, though still using German verses. Then I looked at the script. Whose eyes wouldn't light up when you read these lines?

*I wish I were a China cup
From which you sip your tea.
And then I'd know that every
Sip would be a kiss for me.*

Katie, I love you, Katie I do. O Katie, believe me, because it is true.

*If you love me as I love
The sharpest knife drew
Can never cut our love in two.*



Some showed creativity.

*down and you if
and you love you
up will I love
Read see that me.*

A few lines from a bashful friend.

Others were full of advice.

*May your life be like arithmetic,
Your joys added
Your sorrow subtracted
Your blessing multiplied
And you cares divided.*

*May your life be like a piano:
Upright, grand and square,
Always in tune.*

*Four things come not back to man:
The sped arrow, the spoken word,
The past life, the neglected opportunity.*

Some used Bible verses.

*Wisdom is the principle thing
therefore get wisdom and with thy
getting, get understanding. Jer. 33:3*

*In all thy ways acknowledge Him
and He shall direct thy path. Prov. 3:6*



The later editions had little sayings tucked in the corner of the page. They went something like this:

Yours 'til . . . the horse flies, . . . the paper waits, . . . the mountain peaks in the window and sees the salad dressing, . . . the tennis courts, . . . Niagara falls, . . . the catfish gets kittens, . . . the butter flies, . . . the sky falls, . . . the cellar steps.

Fun verses shine through.

*A ship is often lost at sea
For want of tar and rubber.
A fellow often lost his girl
By talking to another.*

*I like butter.
I like jelly.
I like a boy
With a big fat belly.*



The last page always caught my attention.

*When on this page
You chance to look,
Think of me and
Close this book.*

*Way back here
Clear out of sight,
I'll write my name
Just for spite.*

*I thought, I thought,
I thought in vain.
At last I thought,
I'd sign my name.*

By Celia Lehman

Thanks to our July, August and September Volunteers

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Ada Amstutz | Don Geiser | Gail Johnson | Bill Moser | Janet Sprunger |
| Anna Sommer Amstutz | Em Geiser | Vera Jeanne Keil | Richard Moser | Bud Steiner |
| Clif Bushnell | Roger Geiser | Eldon King | Paul Neuenschwander | Jean Steiner |
| Grace Bytheway | David Gerber | Eileen Lehman | Bernice Nussbaum | Cindy Strubbe |
| Esther Falb | Melva Gerber | Shirley Lehman | Delvin Nussbaum | Sandi Suttle |
| George Falb | Ann Groh | Vernon Lehman | Heinz Peter | Meg Wilkins |
| Priscilla Falb | Glen Groh | Joan Martin | Rosa Peter | Carol Yoder |
| Anna Gehman | Carolyn Haas | Myron Martin | Ella Rohrer | |
| John Gehman | Carol Haven | Don Miller | Fritz Sprunger | |

Kidron Community Historical Society
P.O. Box 234
Kidron, Ohio 44636

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October 2006



Board Members

President Wayne Liechty
 VicePresident Paul Neuenschwander
 Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
 Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
 Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
 Board Members Fritz Sprunger, J. Augspurger
 Director Prudy Steiner

Membership Fees

Individual Annual Member \$ 1 5
 Husband and Wife Annual Member \$ 2 5
 Organization Annual Member \$ 3 5
 Individual Life Member \$ 2 5 0
 Heritage Club Member \$1000 or more

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

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

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. A reminder will be sent when annual memberships become due each January.

Send your check to: Kidron Community Historical Society • Box 234 • Kidron, OH 44636 • Phone 330-857-9111

Calendar of Events

Now to February 28

*Accepting frakturs for 2007 display
 (see page 1)*

December 7, 2006

*Lehman's Old-Fashioned Christmas
 Heritage Center Open 6-8 p.m.*

December 31, 2006

*Deadline for requesting wood for Communitree
 project (see pages 1 and 2)*

January, 2007

2007 Annual Memberships Due

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**

13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio

HOURS

JUNE-SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, APRIL-MAY

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