



Volume 20

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Issue 4

The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

Sonnenberg on the move

The Sonnenberg Village Planning Committee has been hard at work since July. A new drainage line, more than 900 feet long, has been put in across Central Christian School's field used for Relief Sale parking, through what will be the Sonnenberg Village parking lot and north to Hackett Road. This line, installed by volunteers, will stop water backups in the fields and along the road. Additionally, an entrance and temporary drive have been created from Hackett Road onto the Sonnenberg Village property. Grants for the pond have been applied for through the Clean Water Act. Finally, after more than a year of planning, progress at Sonnenberg Village will soon be visible.

The Tschantz (Schantz) family, under the direction of Abe Troyer, has begun to reconstruct the Tschantz Log House on its new site. They hope to finish by late October. Aden Mast has loaded the Lehman House for transport and moved it to Zuercher Road. The Lehman House's voyage down Zuercher Road and west along Hackett Road to Sonnenberg Village will hopefully happen yet in October. Contact Heritage Center Director Prudy Steiner at home (330-857-1927) or at the Heritage Center for updates and details.

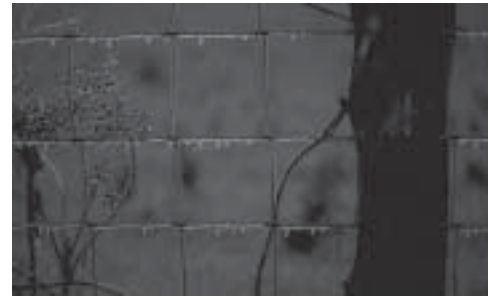
At the Floyd R. Saurer Blacksmith Shop, all the tools in the building have been photographed in place as Floyd left them. Volunteer Fred Hershberger, who is overseeing the dismantling of the Blacksmith Shop, plans to begin tagging and storing the tools so the building can be dismantled and moved.

We regret that we had to cancel the Sonnenberg Village Homecoming due to weather. We could not reschedule it since many of the participants had conflicts. We are already planning the 2009 Sonnenberg Homecoming for August.

If you would like to become more involved in the future of Sonnenberg Village, either as a volunteer or as a patron, please contact the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111.



On October 13, the Lehman House began its trek to Sonnenberg Village.



The Smithsonian, Robert Frost and Boundary Markers

The Smithsonian Institute's traveling display, "Between Fences," will be at the Heritage Center in November and December 2009. To coordinate with this event, the KCHS annual display will explore the fences of Wayne County.

To add insightful material to our display, KCHS is sponsoring two contests. The entries of these contests may be used in the 2009 annual display, "Good fences make good neighbors." The title comes from Robert Frost's poem "Mending Wall."

Contest 1 asks, "Do fences make good neighbors?" Answer this question in a written essay of at least 200 words or an original poem (responding to "Mending Wall" is acceptable).

Contest 2 is the best depiction of a fence in Wayne County. Photographs, paintings, drawings and other representations of fences are sought. Entries will need to identify the location of the original fence.

Entries should be submitted by March 1 to be eligible for a prize. Watch for more information about this opportunity to be involved in the 2009 exhibit.

Recently Acquired

Thank you to everyone who has donated artifacts to our Society. Following are just a few of our donors and artifacts.

1. A vintage bee smoker, donated by Fred and Carol Brubaker
2. The original 1819 land deed purchased by Ullerick Lamon (Ulrich Lehman) and Isaac Sommers, donated by the Irvin and Idella Geiser family
3. Kidron Mennonite Church offering plate made by E. P. Gerber, donated by Ann Gerber Miller
4. Kidron Merchants and Riceland Indians scorebooks, donated by Leland Kratzer via his son Robbin Kratzer
5. An Adam Bixel fraktur that reads "God Bless Our Home," donated by Dave and Leora Gerber
6. Road sign that reads "Entering Kidron, an energetic Swiss Community," donated by Don and Ruth Lehman
7. The top of the Third Sonnenberg Church's podium made by and signed "Fred Geiser 1907," donated by Myron and Gladys Amstutz
8. A feather tick, donated by John Slater

As you prepare for the holidays, keep your eyes open for things that no longer have a place in your home, that might have a place at the Heritage Center. Please be sure to identify people in photos you wish to donate.

Last call for CommuniTree

CommuniTree has been an inspiring, unique display. The destructive storm of June 2006 motivated numerous members of our community to acts of creativity and generosity. But time is running out to see these beautiful works on display.

The newly made items on display will be auctioned in 2009 to raise funds for the KCHS Endowment Fund. Come see the display and decide which items you can't wait to bid on!

Goodbye, good friends

KCHS lost two good friends and workers in recent months.



All of us at the Heritage Center will truly miss one of our valued volunteers: Grace Steffen Bytheway. Grace suffered a stroke in October of 2007 and died on June 15, 2008. According to our records, she logged more than 400 hours as a volunteer since the Center opened in 1994. Grace had roots in the Kidron area and a true love of telling others about her heritage. Our

sympathy goes to her family.

Kenny Gerber (1924-2008) was a pro. This was true whether "shooting" fraktur art, restoring old family photos, or capturing community celebrations on film. Details such as lighting, focus, exposure, and shading were important. As an historical society, we would like to say, "Thanks Kenny! Your fine photography made us look good." We will do our best to preserve those "moments in time" so meticulously recorded by you for future generations to enjoy.



Kenny "shooting frakturs" for KCHS in 1991.

Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Valeda Bezanson— Fort Myers, Fla.
Olin and Kathleen Brillhart—
Orrville
Tony and Judy Estrada— Apple
Creek
Tim and Karen Keny—Columbus

Consider an end-of-
year gift to KCHS,
along with your
2009 renewal!

Holiday Shopping at KCHS

The KCHS gift shop has many interesting and unique items that would make wonderful Christmas presents. Among our new books are *Test of Faith: The Jacob Hochstetler Story* and the new book written by James O. Lehman and Steven M. Nolt titled *Mennonites, Amish, and the American Civil War*. For a complete list of items for sale in the gift shop, call or write the Heritage Center or send an e-mail to Prudy Steiner at KidronHeritageCenter@yahoo.com.

Looking for evidence of the Kidron Railroad

Railroad tracks passed through Kidron from 1901-1927. On July 28, 1910, 425 "excursionists" from the Kidron area went to Cleveland, the "city on the lake." It must have been quite a party!

KCHS would like to document this part of the past in greater detail. Did you or anyone you know ride on the Kidron Railroad? Or might you have, or know someone who has, a picture of the depot or platform area in Kidron? If so, please call the Heritage Center at 330-857-9111.



Fall Activities of Yesteryear

Kidron Korner
by Celia Lehman



“Then your apples all is gathered, and the ones a feller keeps
Is poured around the celler-floor in red and yeller heaps;
And your cider-makin's over, and your wimmern-folks is through
With their mince and apple-butter, and they souse and sausage, too!”

Do you recognize these lines? They come from the poem written by James Whitcomb Riley. As a teenager I was asked to recite by memory the complete poem, “When the Frost is on the Punkin” to the young peoples’ literary society. That memory led me down the path of remembering fall activities of my youth.

John Gehman and I were talking about all the activities that autumn brings. One activity in particular consumed his attention in the fall: making souse and sausage. It went something like this:

The day before butchering a pig, it was slaughtered, then dunked in scalding hot water so its hair could be scraped off. After removing its head, the carcass needed to hang on a tripod to cool and drain overnight.

In the morning, the process became a family affair. It was work to cut the carcass into hams, shoulder, and bacon slabs; separate the meat from the fat skin; and render the fatty tissue into lard in a hot, cast iron kettle. The kettle was stirred with a wooden paddle stick. The lard was then pressed out in a lard press/sausage stuffer which had two sized plates. This created lard and cracklings.

Meanwhile the women cleaned the casings. Then, to make the sausage, they took ground meat and used the lard press spout to crank the meat into the prepared casings.

To make pudding meat, they cooked the kidney, heart, tongue, liver and saved the liquid which became the base of scrapple. The recipe called for corn meal, buckwheat flour and pudding meat. This was put into tin bread pans and sealed with lard, cooled, and put upstairs. When ready to prepare, it was sliced into 3/8 inch slices.

On the second day, they took the pork loin, sliced it, fried it, then either put it into cans to boil in a canner or in crocks sealed with lard. The meat was seasoned with salt and pepper.

Next came the preservation of hams, bacon and shoulders. This was a lengthy process. Some used brine, others used a long table with salt and worked it into slabs of meat. These slabs were hung in the smokehouse for about a week on long wires to keep rodents away. It was necessary to keep working salt into the meat for the next few weeks.

Souse was made using the pig knuckles that had lots of gelatin. The meat was cooked and put into a mold. From the pig’s stomach came tripe cut into 3/4-inch to one-inch strips. This was cooked and put into pickling brine.

Gehman finished his recollections with a smile. “By now 90% of agriculture has changed. It has become more diverse.” I thought, “You’re right. But we still enjoy eating those delicious hams, bacon and sausages!”

Thanks to our July, August and September Volunteers

Ada Amstutz	Ann Groh	Bill Moser	Janet Sprunger
Esther Falb	Glen Groh	Richard Moser	Bud Steiner
George Falb	Carolyn Haas	Clarence Neuenschwander	Jean Steiner
Priscilla Falb	Gail Johnson	Bernice Nussbaum	Walter Steiner
Nancy Ganyard	Eldon King	Bessie Nussbaum	Cindy Strubbe
Anna Gehman	Eldon Kornhaus	Curt Nussbaum	Sandi Suttle
John Gehman	Eileen Lehman	Gloria Nussbaum	Meg Wilkins
Amos Geiser	John Lehman	Delvin Nussbaum	Carol Yoder
Roger Geiser	Shirley Lehman	Heinz Peter	
David Gerber	Keith Martin	Rosa Peter	
Glenford Gerber	Don Miller	Ella Rohrer	
Leora Gerber	Glenn Miller	Fritz Sprunger	

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

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Board Members

President Wayne Liechty
 Vice President
 Treasurer Richard Nussbaum
 Secretary Gloria Kaufmann
 Membership Chairperson Leora Gerber
 Board Members Glenn Gerber, 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. A reminder will be sent when annual memberships become due each January.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Type of Membership _____
 General Donation _____

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



Tschantz descendants and helpers laying the foundation for the Tschantz Log Home. Upper level: Grayden Tschantz, Kyle Groves, Nancy Tschantz, Lynnette Tschantz Groves; Lower level back: Aaron Gresser, Larry Raber; Lower level front: a family friend, Dale Tschantz, Gregg Gresser.

**Kidron-Sonnenberg
 Heritage Center**
 13153 Emerson Road • Kidron, Ohio
HOURS
SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER, APRIL–MAY
 Thursday and Saturday
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CLOSED JANUARY, FEBRUARY and MARCH
JUNE–AUGUST
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday
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Call 330-857-9111
for group tours or special arrangements