



## The Kidron Community Historical Society Newsletter

### Archaeology professor explains cemetery restoration process at annual meeting



Dr. Kardulias is an award-winning professor of archaeology at the College of Wooster.

The KCHS annual meeting on February 24, 2009, was a meeting of past and present. Dr. Nick Kardulias of the College of Wooster explained the process of mapping and restoring historic cemeteries. The mapping process will begin for the Pioneer Cemetery sometime this spring under the supervision of Dr. Kardulias.

In the business portion of the meeting, president Wayne Liechty led the process of re-electing Board members Fritz Sprunger, Leora Gerber and J. Augspurger for three-year terms. Treasurer Rich Nussbaum reviewed the financial position of KCHS and noted that, despite hard times, the society's finances remain stable. Refreshments and a time of fellowship followed the meeting.

### Annual members banquet and auction coming soon

The 2009 KCHS members banquet and auction will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building. Invitations will be mailed in early April to lifetime members and annual members who have paid their 2009 dues.

After the meal, members will be updated on the progress of Sonnenberg Village. Also, the 2009 annual display *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors* and the Smithsonian Institute traveling display *Between Fences* will be introduced by Ray and Allyson Leisy.

The annual auction will follow. For a list of auction items, see page 3. CommuniTree items will not be sold at this time, but instead at an auction in October. At the end of the evening, guests will be invited to visit the annual display at the Heritage Center.

### *Good Neighbors Make Good Fences* and *Between Fences* exhibits to open

We live between fences. We sometimes barely notice them, but they are dominant features in our lives and in our history. Thousands of styles have been invented, millions of miles have been produced and countless rivals have seized post, rail, panel and wire to stake their claims. Built of hedge, concrete, wood and metal, the fence skirts our properties and is central to our landscape. In fact, it is said that the first man-made object on Earth observed from space is a fence... The Great Wall of China.

The newest exhibit at the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center will open to the public and members following the members banquet on April 28. The exhibit will feature the history of fencing in Kidron and the surrounding areas of Wayne County.

The *Between Fences* traveling exhibit from The Smithsonian Institution will be incorporated into the local exhibit from October 19 to November 18. Special expanded hours will be set to accommodate the Smithsonian Exhibit.

*Between Fences* will enlighten us who live surrounded by these familiar objects whose history and meaning we hardly suspect. The display reveals how

*See Fences on page 3*



The Kidron Fence Gang: foreman Fred Amstutz, "Big Jake" Bixler, Walter Amstutz, Floyd R. Saurer, Henry Kraus, and Phillip Lehman. The gang, photographed in November 1912 by Noah Sommer, was responsible for maintaining fences along the railroad.

## Recently Accessioned

Blanket chest inscribed “Elizabeth Gerber 1852,” donated by the Herman Gerber family

Kidron Town & Country playing cards, donated by Don Yoder

*Amish & Amish Mennonite Genealogies* written by Gingerich & Kreider, donated by Kent Richard

Show towel, donated by the Marvin Miller family

Three ledgers from the D.A. Sommer Store, donated by Claren Sommer

Vegetable grater, bought at the Simon Nussbaum sale

*Wildcat Banks and Broken Banks of the Wayne County Frontier*, written and donated by Ray Leisy

Pin cushion, donated by Joanna Liechty

*Sugar Creek Township Schools* manuscript by Frank McAdams, donated by the Dalton Historical Society

Pillow with an eight-point star quilt patch made by Anna Gerber, donated by Celia Lehman

## Welcome New Annual, Lifetime and Heritage Club Members

Bob and Martha Junkin–Wooster  
Cliff and Sandy Neuenschwander–  
Dalton

Len and Janet Nussbaum–Shreve  
Lyle Nussbaum–Apple Creek  
Kim J. Torgler–Orrville

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**Members will receive  
invitations to the 2009  
Members Banquet soon.  
Be sure to join if you  
haven't already!**

## A resource to share with the community



Over the decades, the Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center has assembled an impressive collection of research material. Genealogies, notebooks detailing life in Kidron from baseball teams to the fire department to one-room schools, newsletters, maps, and resources about the history of the Amish and Mennonites are just some of the items in our library. Many of these items are rare, custom-created or expensive to own privately. Additionally, we provide access to extensive genealogy databases on our library computer. We welcome visitors to make use of our collection. Together, these items tell the story of our community. It is a story worth both preserving and sharing.

## Not a member yet? Now is the time!

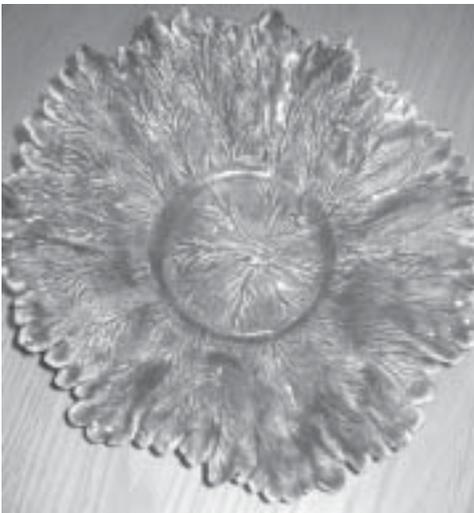
KCHS is blessed to have many friends—more than 1200—who keep up with the work we do. Knowing that so many people are interested in what we are doing is encouraging and invigorating. Some of these friends are, and have long been, members, and we thank you for the financial support that represents.

We are asking non-members on our mailing list to consider becoming members of KCHS. Membership dues represent a significant source of income for our society, and an opportunity for us to continue our important work. Joining the society gives members access to important information through our annual business meeting in February and our members banquet in April.

Visit  
**[kidronhistoricalsociety.org](http://kidronhistoricalsociety.org)**  
to see past newsletters,  
CommuniTree auction items,  
and other interesting things  
about KCHS.

## Members banquet auction list

Pottery made by Nicole Myers  
Stitched felt pillow made by Carol Brubaker  
One of 50 original Sonnenberg 1994 Diamond Centennial commemorative mugs  
Card tricks quilt 43" x 52" donated by Colleen Hewitt and quilted by KSHC volunteers  
Pottery made by Jim Spires  
Heirloom Garden Package by Karen Geiser  
Kidron Fence Gang photo framed by J. Augspurger (see page 1)  
Advertising item



Nicole Myers' pottery bowl, "Evergreen."

## Fences continued

tightly the fence is entwined with politics, industry, and daily life. Fences, like barns, are tools that embody a culture and its values. By understanding both historic and contemporary fences, we gain a fuller understanding of ourselves as Americans.

Why did we build fences? What were they like? Who were some of the people who built them? What were they for? How did they affect our life and our relationships with each other? The Kidron-Sonnenberg Heritage Center 2009 exhibits address these concerns.

If you haven't already entered the photo/drawing, and essay/poem contests, there's still time. Entries will be accepted through May 30 and will be on display until December 31, 2009. For details, call 330-857-9111.



## Updated Rules for *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors* Contests

### Essay/Poem Contest:

- Must fit on a single 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper
- One entry per person

### Photograph/Drawing Contest:

- Entry must depict an existing or previously existing fence in Wayne County, Ohio
- One entry per person
- Photographs may be black and white or color
- Photographs must be 8" x 10"
- Drawings must be 8 1/2" x 11"
- People, animals, etc., may be included in the photograph or drawing

## 1933 teacher keepsake quilt comes back to Kidron

Siblings Beth Kirchhofer Hampshire and James Kirchhofer donated a keepsake quilt to KCHS in October, 2008.

The 72" x 82" friendship quilt was presented to their mother, Florence Tschantz Kirchhofer, by her primary students from the #11 Kidron School in 1933. Florence taught in Kidron from 1931 until 1935 when she married Clair Kirchhofer.

The quilt is made up of 42 blocks, 40 of which are stitched with the names and birth dates of 47 students. Approximately half of the students named on the quilt are still living. KCHS invites these former students and their families to find their names on this touching keepsake made for a beloved teacher.



The Florence Tschantz Kirchhofer quilt is stitched with the names of 47 students and their birth dates, which range from 1920 to 1926.

**Kidron Community Historical Society**  
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**330-857-9111**  
**kidronheritagecenter@yahoo.com**

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April 2009



**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

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.

**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!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Upcoming Events**

**Members Banquet & Auction**

April 28, 6:30 p.m.

Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Building

**Deadline for *Good Fences* entries**

May 30, 2009

**Sonnenberg Village Homecoming**

August 2009

**CommuniTree Auction**

October 2009

***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**